

Minor hockey, baseball clubs make presence felt in 1997

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Stouffville's minor hockey clubs, who participated in tournaments all across the province, experienced a successful campaign in 1997.

The year started with second-place finishes for Stouffville's major novice, major bantam, and midget Clippers in the Silver Stick Tournament in Brampton.

January also brought victory to the Birkett and Hassard minor novice team at the East Gwillimbury tournament, while the Stouffville Stars intermediate girls' hockey squad rounded out a month of tournament victories with a sweep of a one-day tournament in Peterborough.

In February, the Bouwmeister Land-

scaping midget Clippers handed reigning champions Huntsville their only A-level defeat on their way to the semi-finals of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships. Meanwhile, Stouffville native Jason Reesor helped lead his Guelph Gryphons to their first-ever University Cup championship, adding two goals to their victory over the New Brunswick Varsity Reds.

March was a stellar month for the Birkett Hassard minor novice Clippers. After going undefeated in the March Break Tournament at the Recreation Centre, they won the prestigious Timmy Tyke Tournament, held at Maple Leaf Gardens, for the second year in a row. Also this month, the Edwards Murphy major bantam Clippers took the gold at the sea-

Sports

son-ending Little NHL competition.

April saw Stouffville teams reach the top of their fields, with the Stouffville novice selects being the North York Hockey League's divisional champions, while the Bouwmeister Landscaping club won the Markham Midget Spring Tournament. The Williamson Motors Jets captured the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League 30 and over championship, with goaltender Randy Osbourne contributing three consecutive shutouts.

The 1997-98 hockey season opened in October with a gala celebration at the Recreation Centre celebrating the Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's 50th anniversary.

Local hockey teams started strong in September, with the Edwards Murphy bantam Clippers and the IDA major novice Clippers taking the gold in tournaments in Dundas and St. Thomas, Ontario, respectively.

The Mutual Group juvenile Clippers started their season off with 13 straight wins, as well as a tournament gold in Pickering.

The victory in November's Mississauga Hornets Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League Tournament went to Stouffville's Smalley Christmas Tree minor peewee Clippers, while their minor atom counterparts travelled to Cobourg to bring home a tournament victory.

The Print Service midget Clippers took the title at the WSMHA December tournament.

A GOOD YEAR ON THE DIAMOND
Stouffville's softball clubs did us proud this year, turning in consistently strong showings throughout the season.

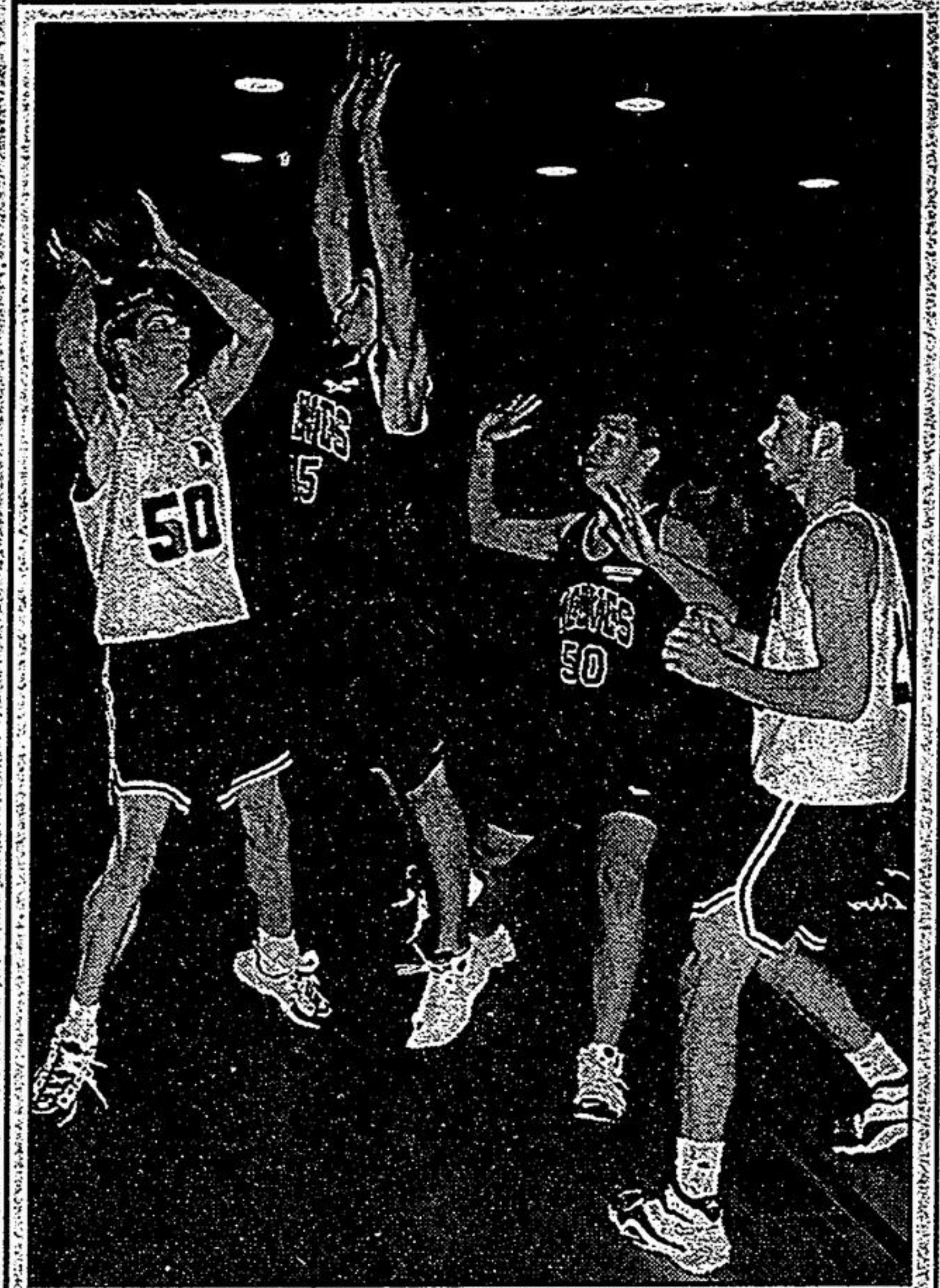
The Stouffville Stallions mite boys got the season rolling with an undefeated sweep of the May tournament in Waterford.

In June, the Betz-Pools midget boys destroyed all comers on their way to a clear victory at a tournament in Guelph.

July saw the Stouffville Sharks bantam boys bring gold home from Niagara Falls, and the Claremont Rebels taking the title in Port Perry.

Stouffville's Cable Tech midget girls advanced to the Provincial Championship in Kingston after taking the crown at Oak Ridge's Provincial Qualifier. The provincial boys' peewee fastball title went to Stouffville, while the Stouffville Sharks closed off their successful season by winning their league's championship tournament. Also victorious at the end of their season was the Stouffville bantam girls' rep softball team, who finished up with a silver in post-season play.

Stouffville was represented at the Eastern Canadian Peewee Softball Championships as Rod Assinck and Ben Bellissimo helped lead the Willowdale Golden Bears to victory in Fredericton, N.B.



OBSTRUCTED VIEW: Stouffville District Secondary School's Danny Jenkin (far left), tries to pass this ball to a teammate but is obstructed by the long arms of Unionville High School's Vinnie Callirie during action in Tuesday's YRAA junior boys' contest at Unionville High School. The host Wolves won the game 65-50. Looking on is Stouffville's Mark Burkholder (right).

Photo by LISA DIAMOND

Bantams end 1997 on a strong note

The Edwards Murphy bantam Clippers concluded 1997 with a hard fought tie and an impressive shutout victory in recent league play.

The Clippers got a hat trick effort from Dave Brown in a 4-4 draw with Markham Dec. 19, with the second and third goals squaring the game in the final minute and 12 seconds. The Stouffville outshot Whitby 48-8 in posting a 3-0 victory on the road Dec. 22. The results upped the Clippers league leading record to 21-2-2.

Brent Meyer had the fourth Clippers goal against Markham, with assists going to: Brown, Justin Heyworth, Ryan Jones, Ryan Fontanna (2) and Lukas Williams. Geoff Dunn, Williams and Matt Sullivan were the marksmen against Whitby. Set ups came from Jones, Meyer, Matt Prentice, Ryan Zonnekeyn and Fontanna.

MINOR PEEWEES COME UP SHORT

The Smalley Christmas Trees/Grey Power Insurance/Stouffville Legion minor peewee Clippers found themselves the victims of unfriendly tie breaking rules at the Vaughan Regional Silver Stick Tournament played over the holidays.

The Clippers finished in a tie for first place with Innisfil in the round robin, but were eliminated when the tourney tie breaking formula ruled against them.

The Clippers started out with a 1-1 tie with Innisfil, then went on to defeat Aurora 4-2 and down Pickering by a 5-2 count.

Brian Taylor had four goals and an assist in the three games, with Stephen Relf collecting three goals and two assists. Other point getters were Nick Hawkins, four assists, Alex Bollo, two assists, Geoff Campbell and Blake Maynard, one goal and one assist each, Mark Sutcliffe, one goal, Mark Carruthers and Chris Flanagan, one assist each, Michael McMannus and Kyle Martin provided outstanding goal keeping for Stouffville. Clippers MVP's for the tourney were Taylor, Martin and Campbell.



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	January 23	8:00 p.m.	Wexford

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