

Spirit spare no mercy against Axemen

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Ajax Axemen turned the hatchet on themselves Thursday night at the Rec Centre. The visitors took an endless series of penalties over a 10 minute span in the second period, with the host Spirit of Stouffville pouncing for four power play markers to break a 1-1 tie on their way to an 8-2 triumph.

It was the 14th win of the season for the Stouffville squad, their highest victory total in three seasons of Provincial Junior A Hockey League play.

Darcy King, Kevin Edgar and Jeff Marshall were the point men for the Spirit. King scored a goal and added four assists, while Edgar and Marshall each scored once while setting up a trio of markers. King and Edgar are second and third respectively in the Eastern Conference scoring race, just behind David Deeves of the Collingwood Blues.

King downplayed his playmaking prowess for the game, suggesting that the Ruddock Division's hapless cellar-dwelling Axemen were less than a formidable opponent.

"Hey, even Marshall had four points," he joked about the Spirit captain.

Spirit head coach Dan Larmer was equally nonchalant.

"There's not much to say after a win like that," said Larmer. "It was a good effort."

Spirit general manager Clive Moody noted the continuing resurgence of his team's power play.

"They were value for the victory," said



HE SCORES! Spirit of Stouffville players Darcy King (24) and Kevin Edgar (17) look on as the puck goes past a fallen Ajax Axemen goalie Patrick Herman and into the net during Thursday's Ontario Hockey Association Provincial Junior A contest at the Rec Centre. The Spirit of Stouffville won the game 8-2.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON

Moody. "It was nice to see the power play working."

Eight players shared the Spirit scoring. Brian Fish opened the scoring in the first period, with the host team holding onto the 1-0 lead until the Axemen tied it on a shorthanded goal short-

ly after taking a seven-minute penalty five minutes into the middle period. But the Spirit power play came to life three minutes later with Edgar netting his 29th. Dave Zelasko, Geoff Keillor and Jeff Marshall followed with power play scores, giving the Stouffville crew four

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goals in less than five minutes. King counted his team leading 30th of the season before the period was out to send the Spirit into the third leading 6-1. Rickey Rideout made it 7-1 with his second of the campaign in the third, before losing a tooth with seconds left in the game. Scott Martin collected his eighth to round out the scoring.

The Spirit held a healthy 53-32 advantage in shots on goal, outshooting the Axemen by a whopping 29-5 in the one sided second period. Former Stouffville Clipper Andrew Harper picked up his second win in the Spirit net, looking sharp when tested.

The win left the Spirit five points behind the Lindsay Muskies in their pursuit of the fourth and final Phillips Division playoff spot. King expressed confidence his team is equal to the task.

"We've got a lot of games we can win coming up. If we play the way we can, we'll make the playoffs."

Moody said he's still looking to make the right deal to help the Spirit's playoff push before today's trading deadline.

"There's lots of balls up in the air, but there's no point making a trade just for the sake of making a trade," said Moody.

The Spirit are to host the Kingston Voyageurs if the Ruddock Division leaders can get out of Kingston today at the Rec Centre. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Bantams ice tourney title and two league wins

Two league victories and a tournament title. That's the take on the Edwards Murphy bantam Clippers in recent action.

The Clippers won all three games played to take the hardware at the recent Uxbridge tournament as goalkeeper George Papazoglou stopped 15 shots and two breakaways in the third period of a 3-1 win over Orono in the final.

The Clippers started off the day with an 8-2 win over Erin, then blanked the host squad 2-0 in game two. It was the Clippers second tourney win of the season. Dave Brown had four goals and four assists for the Clippers. Ryan Fontanna had four goals and three assists. Other point getters were Lucas Williams one goal, two assists; Matt Sullivan one goal, three assists; Casey Maude and Matt Prentice one goal, two assists each; Ryan Jones one goal, one assist; Jeremy Morris two assists; Mike Vandervoort and Dylan Harrison one assist each.

In league play the Clippers raised their season record to 23 wins, two losses and two ties with wins of 7-2 over Noble King Jan. 2 and Keswick 6-1 Jan. 4. Scorers were Fontanna, four goals, two assists; Brown, three goals, two assists; Williams, three goals, one assist; Brent Meyer, Sullivan, one goal one assist each; Maude, one goal; Geoff Dunn and Ryan Zonnekeyn, two assists each; Vandervoort and Prentice, one assist each.

MAJOR PEEWEES IN TWO FINALS
The Barker Roofing major peewee Clippers

were finalists in two recent tournaments, winning all three round robin games to advance to the playoff round in both competitions.

The Clippers were finally stopped 4-2 by the host squad in the title tilt of the Ajax tourney Dec. 30. The Clippers advanced to the finals with wins of 5-1 over the Toronto Timberwolves, 4-2 over Oshawa, 2-1 against Hamilton and 2-1 over Hamilton Rosedale in the semi-finals.

Clippers MVPs for the tourney were Lucas Hunter, Jesse Miller, Cody Bennett, Andy Gibson and Tyler McMaster.

Point getters were Marcus D'Annunzio, five goals, two assists; Miller, four assists; Robert Hooper, Gibson, one goal, three assists each; Bennett, one goal two assists; McMaster, two goals; Matt Wright, two assists; Josh Brillinger, two goals; Anthony Tsiopoulos, one goal, one assist; Kyle Sandiford and Andrew McKay, one goal each.

The Clippers were flying at their own tournament Jan. 2-4 at the Rec Centre as well. They defeated Keswick 5-2, Aurora 3-0 and Ted Reeve 5-0 to advance to the championship game, where they were nipped 3-2 by Leaside.

Hunter posted both shutouts, while Justin Cheshire was also strong in the Clippers net. MVP's were Hooper, McMaster and Brillinger.

The Clippers relay team of Gibson, Bennett, Wright and McMaster was first in a skills competition.

Clippers scorers were Hooper, three goals, four assists; Miller, two goals, four assists; Wright, three goals; D'Annunzio, two goals, two assists;

McMaster, two goals, one assist; McKay, Sandiford, Tsiopoulos and Gibson, two assists each; Bennett, one goal, one assist; Brillinger and Robert Steckley, one goal each; Mike Cornacchia, one assist.

The Clippers downed Bradford 6-4 in their final league game of the season Dec. 30 as Tsiopoulos and Miller each netted a pair. D'Annunzio and McKay also scored.

SELECTS EDGE MARKHAM

Nicholas Singh scored his second goal of the game on a penalty shot midway through the third period to break a 1-1 tie and send the minor atom select Clippers on their way to a 4-1 win over Markham in a recent contest.

It was the second victory over Markham in one week for the Stouffville squad, which squeaked out a 3-2 win when the two teams met earlier.

Brenden McNeely, with his first goal of the season, and Justin Brugger sealed the Clippers victory after Singh's big score. Assists went to Daniel James, Kurtis Paisley, Singh and Sean Ramsden.

David Hogg clicked twice for the Clippers in the other match with Markham, with Singh potting the third marker.

Assists were earned by James, Brad Hulshof and Ramsden.

The two triumphs enabled the Stouffville squad to maintain their hold on first place in their league standings.

MINOR NOVICES WIN IN A ROUT


Mitchell Rathby netted a pair of goals, while Evan Tsiopoulos set up a trio of goals, to help

power the Birkett-Hassard Insurance minor novice Clippers to a 9-1 rout over Ajax in recent ice action.

Jeff McGuckin, Kyle Miller, Justin Lacey, Nathan James, Simon Kennedy, Ryne Parsons and Matthew Briggs also found the range for the Clippers.

Other assists went to Jeff Gibson, Rathby, Parsons, Miller and McGuckin.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



P.J. YEDON

P.J. Yedon made a major contribution for the Markham Waxers in their recent Metro Junior A Hockey League game with the visiting Durham Huskies.

Centering the club's top line with Frank Littlejohn and Locky Gelinac on the wings, Yedon was credited with five assists in helping the Waxers to a 12-1 rout of the Huskies.

The 5-foot-10-inch, 16-year-old Yedon is in his first year with the Waxers.

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