

Sports & Leisure

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King family figures well with Spirit



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

Stouffville has its own version of Larry King live, and it goes on every Thursday night at the Rec Centre.

That's when the father of Spirit of Stouffville super-centre Darcy King takes clip board in hand and charts everything of any conceivable statistical significance at Spirit games.

Larry, who along with Darcy and the rest of the King clan reside in Barrie, has been serving as a statistician for the past seven years.

He started out keeping stats for his other son Darryl for four years when the older sibling was playing minor hockey.

After Darryl, now 18, hung up the blades to pursue a more academic way of life, Larry took pen and clip board in hand and followed Darcy and his Barrie AAA major bantams as they skated all the way to an OMHA championship in the 1995-96 season.

They had pulled off the same feat the year as a minor bantam outfit, no small thanks to Darcy's considerable scoring and playmaking talents.

DAD VOLUNTEERED HIS SERVICES

When Darcy signed on to bolster the Spirit as a fresh faced 16 year old in the fall of 1996, Larry volunteered his statistical services.

And I'm sure Darcy, who moved back home after being billeted in Stouffville his first season with the Spirit, is quite happy to have someone share the drive back to Barrie after yet another night of putting in some 30 minutes of ice time.

Larry charts home and road games, keeping track of goals, assists, power play goals, game winning goals, shots on goal by each player, plus minus figures, shooting percentage, goalie stats, total shots for and against, scoring streaks, etc. etc.

After each game, he enters all his new data into a special program on

his home computer.

But while Larry keeps his stats up to the second, he can't say the same for the Provincial Junior A Hockey League in general.

That's why he wasn't able to tell me just where Darcy and his equally prolific linemate Kevin Edgar stood in terms of overhauling Eastern Conference scoring leader David Deeves of the Collingwood Blues after Darcy and Kevin racked up five and four points respectively in the Spirit's win over the Ajax Axemen at the Rec Centre on Jan. 8.

Darcy, whose big night left him with 30 goals and 53 assists, may well have been sitting atop the points race. Edgar was right behind with 29 goals and 50 assists.

As for shooting percentage, Darcy lights the lamp 19 per cent of the time he takes aim, while Edgar has a 17 per cent rate. Geoff Keillor is the most deadly Spirit gunner, with a healthy 23 per cent shooting percentage. These stats are, of course, courtesy of Larry.

SON SETS GOAL

In the meantime Darcy, who collected 68 points last season as a Provincial league rookie, set 100 points as his target for this campaign.

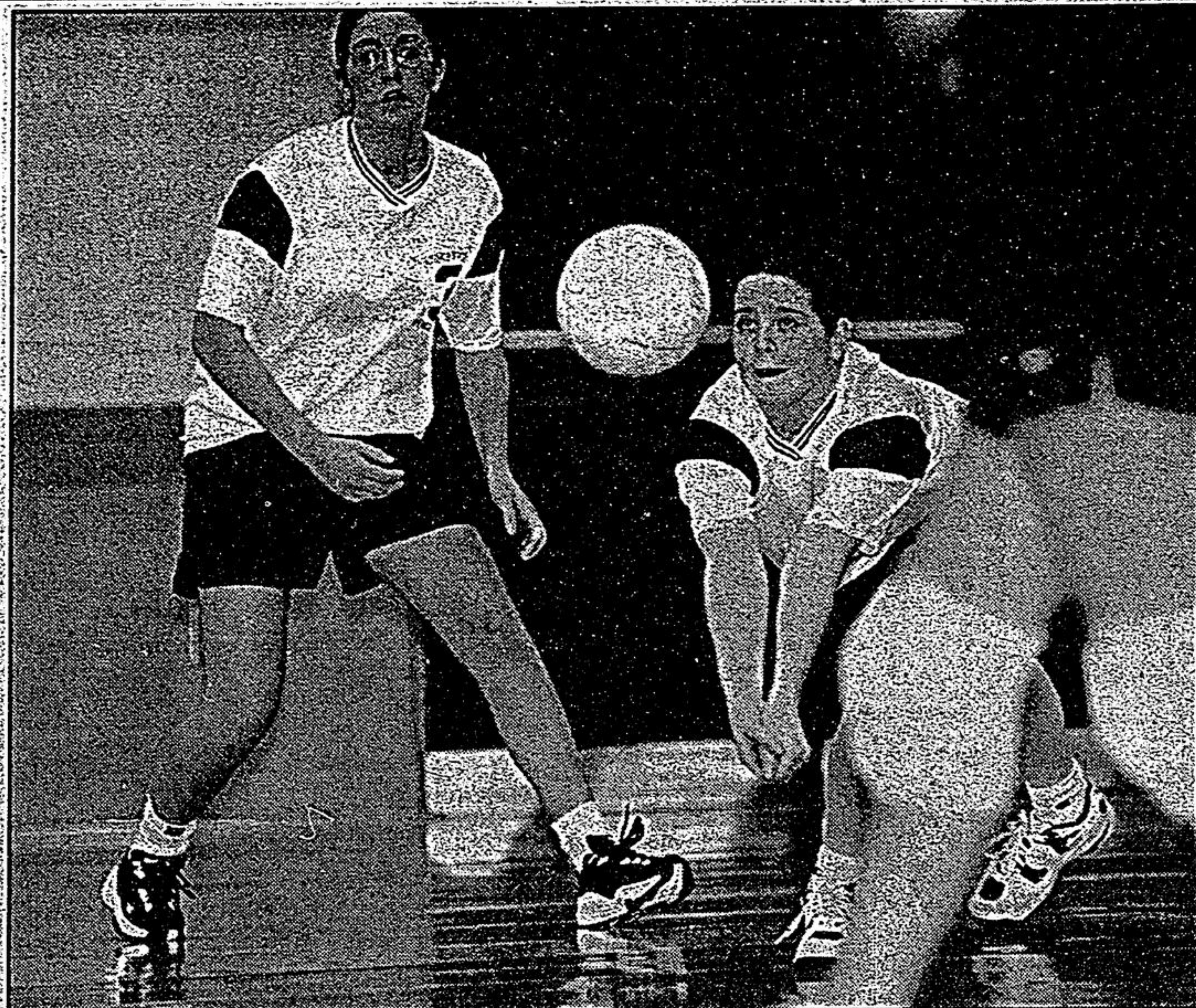
With 12 games to go as of Jan. 8, he should make that even if he ventured out onto the ice without his stick!

And what has Darcy got to say about Edgar, his 19-year-old linemate who has already doubled last year's points production?

"He's the biggest surprise of the season," Darcy says, following up with the ultimate tribute. "He's probably the best player I've ever played with."

It would appear that Darcy, who at 17 seems certainly headed for even better things, will likely be wearing Spirit colours for another season yet.

He's currently in Grade 12 in Barrie, and while he could conceivably grab a hockey scholarship at an American college next year, Larry says his son will likely stay put, as he's more than happy with coach Dan Larmer and staff.



RETURN TO SENDER: Stouffville District Secondary School's Lillian Boyd (far left), looks on as teammate Kari Sandiford attempts to return this ball to her Markville Secondary School opponents during this YRAA senior girls' volleyball game at Father Michael McGivney Catholic High School on Monday. Stouffville won this match with Father McGivney 2-0.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Spirit grounded by Eagles

The Spirit of Stouffville suffered their own power outage Tuesday night in Bowmanville, but it had nothing to do with the weather.

The Spirit surrendered seven goals in a span of 14 minutes in the middle period, wiping out an otherwise stellar performance as they fell 8-5 to the host Eagles in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League con-

test. "It was just one of those cases where the light went out, then went back on again," lamented Spirit head coach Dan Larmer. "It was a different bunch of guys in black shirts out there for the first 14 minutes of the second period," lamented Larmer. "It was probably the worst 14 minutes we've played all season."

Frustrating Larmer even more was the fact that his team played like world beaters the rest of the evening. "We played an outstanding first period, maybe our best of the year. And we dominated them

in the third." The Spirit led after 20 minutes, but trailed 8-3 after the disastrous second stanza. They came back with a pair in the third but it was too late. Darcy King, Phil Barski, Geoff Keillor, Dave Zelasko and Randy Stolic had the Stouffville goals. Defenceman Craig Guiliani earned two assists. For King, it was his team leading 31st of the season.

The Spirit host the Aurora Tigers today at 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Centre. The Stouffville squad travels to Collingwood to face the Blues on Friday.



Whalers harpoon Senators in SAHL action

Tom Brown counted the game's only two goals to back up the shutout goalkeeping of Bob Wagg as the Whalers downed the Senators 2-0 in Stouffville Amateur Hockey League Over 40 Division action Jan. 2 at the Rec Centre.

In other games, the first-place Blues added to their huge lead when Gregg Tamlin scored twice to key a 4-1 win over the Maple Leafs.

Bruce Gibbon and George Sled had the other Blues goals, while Sled and Rick Glen each

earned two assists. Charlie Ramsey had the lone Leafs goal.

The Flyers got two goals from Brent Stachel in a 3-1 victory over the Ducks. Jim Sutton added the third Flyers tally, with John Beal replying for the Ducks.

In the other game, Don Lloyd was a two goal man for the Black Hawks, while Dean Tremaine and Terry Weatherill scored for the second place Lightning, as the teams played to a 2-2 tie.

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