

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

A Vaughan Vipers player uses his stick to impede the progress of Spirit of Stouffville forward Brad Clubine (right), in Thursday's Provincial Junior A Hockey League exhibition contest at the rec centre. The Spirit prevailed 6-4.

A Spirited preseason win

The Spirit of Stouffville ended its Provincial Junior A Hockey League preseason schedule on a positive note with a 6-4 win over the Vaughan Vipers at the rec centre on Thursday.

The Spirit scored four goals in the games' first five minutes and led 4-2 after the first period, then survived a second-period comeback attempt by the Vipers to carry a 5-4 advantage into the final 20 minutes.

Mike Tucciarone, Justin Graham, Drew Roberts, Dave Zelasko, Kevin Edgar and Jason Ellis each scored once for the Spirit.

"We played well," said Spirit head

coach Brian Perrin. "We had a rough second period when we let them back into the game. But we played a strong third."

The coach credited veteran goalkeeper Corey Lloyd's sharp work in the net as a key to the win. He also praised his team's defensive efforts.

Perrin said that while this coaching staff wants the team to focus on defence, they're also looking for the forwards to finish off their plays in the opposition end. "We're creating scoring opportunities, but we're not finishing them off. But the kids are still getting used to each other."

Duo complete triathlon

A Stouffville brother-in-law tandem completed a gruelling national ironman triathlon in British Columbia on Aug. 30.

Tyler Townend and Raphael Dube, both 31, managed to finish near the middle of the pack as over 1,700 triathletes contested the Subaru Ironman Canada Triathlon, emblematic of the Canadian ironman championships, in Penticton.

The pair endured 37°C temperatures as they negotiated a course that included a 2.4-kilometre swim, a 180-km cycle, and a 44-km marathon.

Townend finished 816th, completing the course in a time of 13 hours and 20 minutes. Dube was 1,009th overall.

No sports spells frustration at SDSS

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
CORRESPONDENT

Seven out of eight equals a shutout as the start of the school year came with the prospect of no sports programs at Stouffville District Secondary School.

With secondary school teachers province-wide protesting a Ministry of Education decree increasing teaching time from six to seven classes out of eight, students returned to school Tuesday to find no extra-curricular sports programs in the works. The cancellation applies to school teams as well as the popular lunch-time intramural athletics programs.

"Basically as far as sports is concerned it's physical education classes," said boys' physical education department head Dave Connell. "Our union leaders have advised us that extra-curricular activities of all sorts are out of bounds."

Sheila Coleman, who is girls' phys ed head, suggested ministry initiatives have left no time for running sports programs once considered a given at the school.

"The emphasis seems to be on the classroom," she said. "With a small school like ours there are not enough teachers to cover classes if a teacher has to leave to coach a basketball game."

Connell said there is nothing in place across York Region for inter-school sports leagues for the 1998-99 school year.

"The York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) is in limbo," said Connell. "There were no meetings held last spring, so there are no schedules made up. Nothing's in place. Even if we were to find an interested coach, there are no convenors."

AN AIR OF OPTIMISM

But while there was no action in the gym outside of regular phys ed classes, there was hope the sports blackout may eventually be lifted.

Veteran phys ed teacher and coach Jim Fletcher said settlements occurring in other Ontario boards are proving the issue regarding time spent in the classroom can be resolved.

"The fact that the London board and the Near

Members riding high at Cedar Valley

A trio of Whitchurch Pony Club riders posted top three finishes at the recent 1998 Ontario Pony Club Tournament of Champions held at the York Equestrian Centre in Cedar Valley.

Rohan Sajani was a member of the first-place finishing Central Ontario first team in the novice division of the tournament's Eastern Canadian Show Jumping Championship. Sajani was aboard Tickle-Me-Grover.

North Board settled gives me hope," said Fletcher. "Hopefully we'll do it too."

Connell suggested Education Minister Dave Johnson's agreement to waive certain conditions of the ministry's new regulations in an attempt to resolve ongoing labour disputes might represent a light at the end of the tunnel.

But he said the minister's statement goes far from solving the problem as school boards would still have to come up with the extra funding required to enable teachers to return to the old six out of eight regimen.

"It's easy for him to say that, but he's still putting the onus on the school boards. I just don't know what's going to happen."

UNHAPPY TEACHERS

The teachers said they are not happy with a school year that includes no sports.

"It's (coaching sports) been part of my life for the past 26 years," said Fletcher.

"I don't know what to say," lamented Coleman. "There's definitely a lot of hope that we're going to go back to the way things were."

Connell said the curtailment of the athletics program at SDSS is chagrined by staff and students alike.

"For active athletes and for coaches, it's the worst thing that could happen."

"The staff is very frustrated," said Coleman. "People would love to be coaching and getting back into intramurals."

However, its as much as the teachers can do to keep up with their increased workload, she said.

While not happy with the teachers' decision to curtail school sports, students were reluctant to blame their mentors.

Vickie Vanvakidis, a Grade 11 student, said ministry funding cuts are responsible for the stoppage of the sports program, which, she said, is affecting everybody.

"It's the people who are cutting funding to education who are to blame."

George Papazoglou, also in Grade 11, suggested the new Grade 9 students will be affected the most by the lack of athletics offered at the school.

"It sucks. These kids coming here are expecting sports at high school and there are none."


Papazoglou felt the school board is to blame.

Laura Valenta and her mount Junior Mack rode with the third-place Central Ontario second squad, which placed third in the same event.

Valenta was in the winner's circle once again when she was second in the novice division of the tourney's Central Ontario Regional Championships.

Julia Luxemburger, riding Duchese of York, was third in the same event.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



ANDREA TARRY
Unionville Skating Club member Andrea Tarry achieved gold level status recently by attaining her skills and dance badges.

A Grade 11 student at Markville Secondary School, Tarry has been a member of the Unionville Skating Club since she was six years of age.

Tarry has also skated with the Unionville precision team for eight years as a member of the Junior Elite Express.

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