

SPORTS: Neighbouring centres meet for first time in Provincial Junior A Hockey League action at rec centre



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Spirit of Stouffville goalkeeper Cory Lloyd sprawls on the ice to make a save as defenceman Jason Ellis takes the puck out of harms way in Thursday's Provincial Junior A Hockey League contest against the Markham Waxers at the rec centre. The visiting Waxers won the game 7-3.

Spirit remain optimistic despite third straight loss

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
CORRESPONDENT

Spirit of Stouffville captain Jason Ellis is promising better days ahead.

Ellis was forced to watch from the rec centre stands for the final two periods as the visiting Markham Waxers hung a 7-3 defeat on his teammates in a Provincial Junior A Hockey League contest Thursday evening.

Ellis was banished for checking from behind just 15 minutes into the game, insisted the Spirit's third straight defeat is nothing to be too concerned with this early in the season.

"It's just a bump in the road," said Ellis. "The guys have got to feel each other out a bit. There's absolutely no doubt in my mind we'll finish in the top four this season," he predicted. The Spirit hung tough against the Waxers for the better part of two periods. The host squad held onto a 2-1 lead until Markham's



JASON ELLIS

Spirit captain not ready to push the panic button.

Andrew Robillard squared things on a three-on-one break. Rob Mazzuca gave the visitors the lead later in the period, with the Waxers sealing the win with four goals in the third.

FAILURE TO CAPITALIZE

Spirit head coach Brian Perrin said it was a matter of failing to capitalize on his team's offensive opportunities in the first 40 minutes of play.

"We had lots of scoring chances in the first and second periods but we didn't finish them off," said Perrin, who suggested a combination of experience and breaks enabled the Waxers to run off with the game in the third.

"They (Markham) got a soft goal to make it 4-2 early in the third and things just didn't go our way after that. Markham has more experience and it showed in the third."

The teams traded first-period goals with Markham's Daniel Sisca opening the scoring before Kevin Edgar came back to tie it from Dave Zelasko and Phil Barski.

It was Borsch's 11th assist in six games.

Zelasko put the Spirit ahead on a pretty play five minutes into the second as the Spirit took advantage of a rare Waxers defensive lapse. Assists went to Mike Michéff and Brendan

McCann. McCann, who plays centre and wing, was acquired from the Aurora Tigers earlier in the week in a trade for defenceman Phil Vito.

The Waxers virtually closed the door on the Spirit offence in the third, extending their lead on goals by Lawne Snyder, Sisca, Kevin Tompkins and Chris Petracco.

The height of frustration for the Spirit came when, trailing 5-2 with four minutes to play, they failed to capitalize on a golden opportunity that saw them hold a two-man advantage for a minute and a half.

Justin Graham finally clicked from McCann and Ryan Stovold, but only after Tompkins had scored for the Waxers into an empty Stouffville net when he intercepted a Spirit pass on his way out of the penalty box.

Perrin said it's a matter of saying focussed as his team looks to improve on their record, which sunk to two wins and four defeats with the loss.

"We just have to work through it and stay positive."

The Spirit were to play the Durham Huskies on the road last night before taking on the Wexford Raiders tomorrow evening in Scarborough.

The Stouffville club returns home to face the Shelburne Wolves on Oct. 8.

Minor atom Clippers win home opener

SPORTS DIGEST

Warren Tayles, Luke Mabley and Adam Craig were the marksmen as the Stouffville minor atom Clippers downed Orillia 3-1 in their recent home opener.

Chris Normandeau, Steve Brown, Taylor Campbell and Nick Jago had assists for the Clippers, who got stellar goalkeeping from John Harmsen.



Harmsen earned a shutout the following night as the Clippers repelled the Cedar Hill Rebels 14-0.

Eric Gainsbrook netted a hat trick. Mabley and Craig each scored twice and added four assists. Brandon Jupp collected two goals and an assist.

Other goals came from Jago, Chris Schell, Luke Harris, Campbell and Normandeau. Schell, Brown, Chris Stewart and Tayles also had assists.

Bantams win three straight

Hat tricks by Ryan Jackson and Travis McMaster helped the bantam Clippers to three wins last weekend.

Jackson netted a trio, to go with a solo by Jean Bourqui, in a 4-1 home ice triumph Friday.

Richard Mulder, Ben Crawford, McMaster and Chris Carruthers clicked in a 4-3 Clippers triumph over Uxbridge in Saturday's exhibition contest at the rec centre.

McMaster scored three times,

with Bourqui and Carruthers adding singles in the Clippers 5-1 road win over Whitby Sunday.

Mulder and Carruthers each earned four assists while Robert Anderson had two. Dylan Harrison, McMaster, Crawford, Justin Amyotte and Bourqui were credited with singles.

Richard Lynn and Scott Davis shared goaltending duties.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



LIISA SCARANO

Liisa Scarano is a member of the Unionville Skating Club where she recently completed her Gold Dance and her Senior Silver Freeskate. She is also a member of the Junior Precision Team. This year she hopes to concentrate on obtaining her Gold Freeskate and her Level 1 Skills A Grade 10 student at Brother Andre. Liisa is also a member of the B.A. Girls Varsity Rugby Team who finished first in York Region and 6th in Ontario.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA
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FRIDAY OCT. 16 8 pm Durham
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*SUNDAY OCT. 4 1 pm
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Autographs: Meet your 98-99 Markham Waxers Junior "A" Players at the Game

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THIS SUNDAY OCTOBER 4th
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The Toronto Maple Leafs Farm Team

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