

**SPORTS:** Spirited on-ice effort pays off at rec centre on Thursday

# Spirit tame Tigers

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

The Spirit of Stouffville responded to a sentence of hard time with their best effort of the season Thursday night at the rec centre.

The Spirit, who were sent out on the ice without pucks for a grueling skate Monday after a woeful loss to the North York Rangers two nights earlier, went from chumps to champs with a convincing 6-1 win over the Aurora Tigers in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League contest.

"I think it was the best 60 minutes we have played all year," summed up Spirit assistant coach Ken Burrows.

Craig Donovan, the Spirit's other assistant coach, agreed.

"Everybody contributed to the win, all 20 players," said Donovan.

The Spirit went on the attack early, jumping out into a 2-0 lead while outshooting the visitors 15-2 in the opening period. They added two more in the second, then struck for another pair in the third before the Tigers spoiled Andrew Harper's shut out bid with 16 minutes left in the game.

Dave Zelasko scored twice for the Spirit, giving him 15 goals on the season, second best on the team. Phil Barski bounced back after a two-game mini-slump with a goal, his 13th, and two assists, edging him up towards the top of the Central Conference scoring lead once again. Jason Read netted a power play marker, his second goal in two games since joining the Spirit last week.

Brendan McCann potted his sixth of the campaign on a short handed effort. Newly acquired defenceman Dan Oshell scored in his Spirit debut.

## Local players help Waxers

Two local residents played prominent roles in helping the Markham Waxers AAA novices record victories over Oshawa and Richmond Hill in recent Ontario Minor Hockey Association action.

In a 4-3 come-from-behind win over Oshawa, Matthew Easter scored once.

In a game against Richmond Hill, Easter delivered a natural hat trick and an assist in a 6-2 win for the Waxers.

Chris Hamm contributed to the two wins by playing well on the blue line.

Both players attend Summitview Public School.



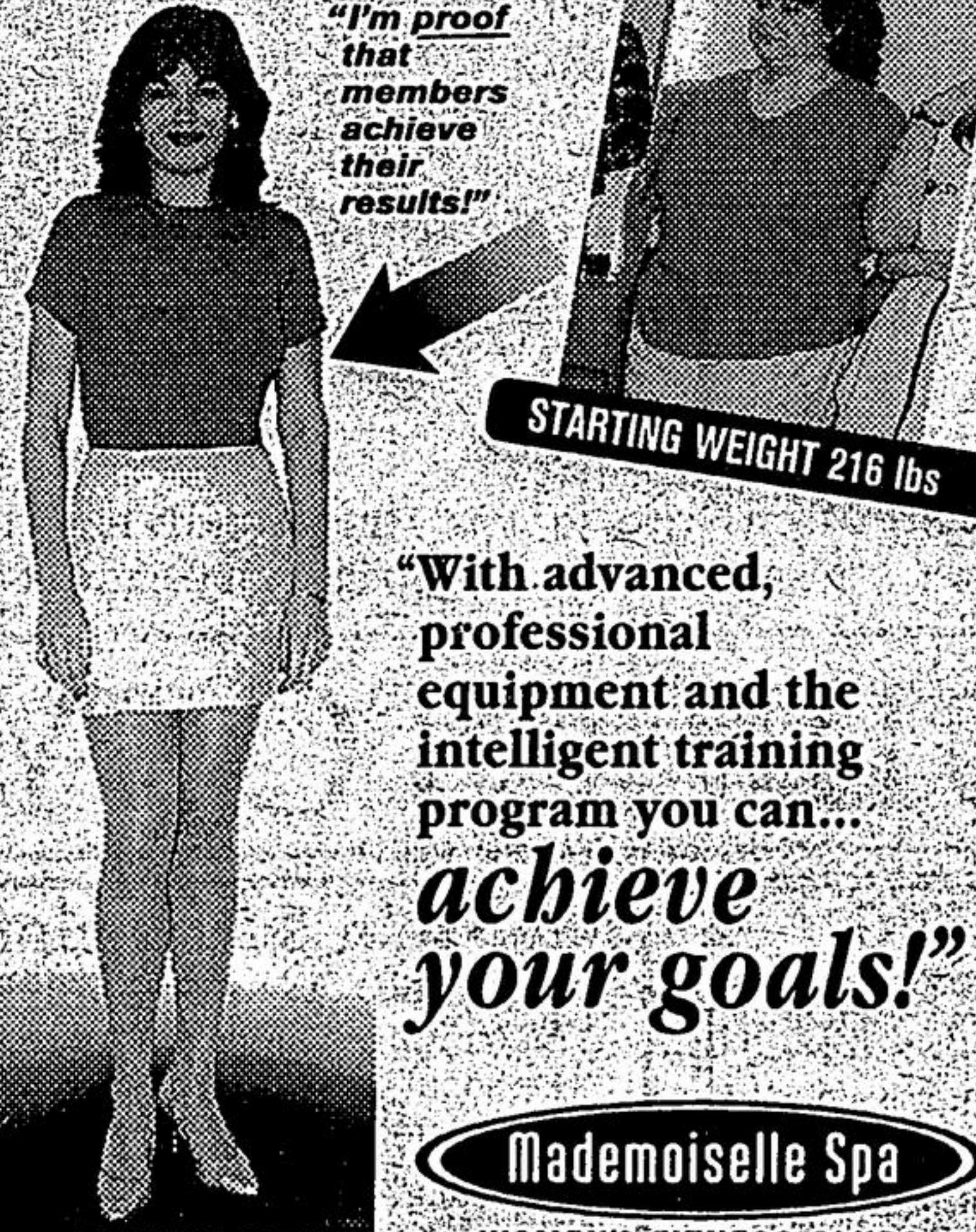
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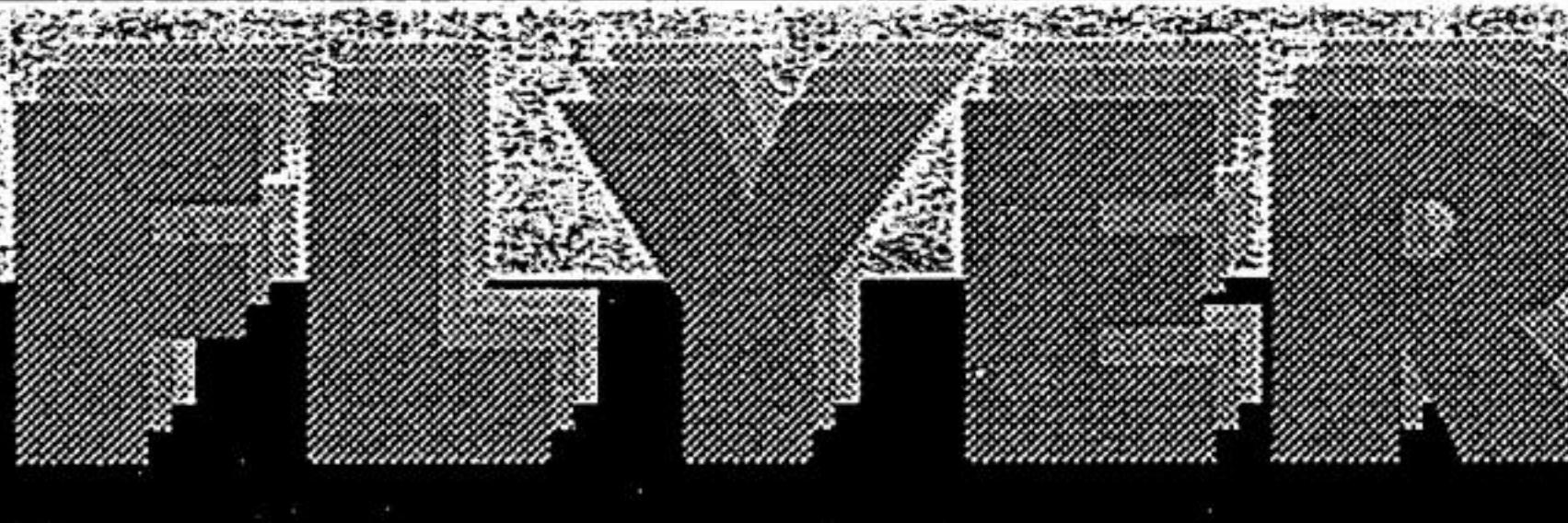
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Kevin Edgar stayed within a point of Barski with a pair of assists.

The win snapped a two game losing skid for the Stouffville club, while spoiling the home town debut of Tigers goal keeper Will Crothers, who had helped the Tigers to a recent mark of seven wins, a loss and a tie heading into Thursday's game.

Crothers, a Stouffville area resident, attended the Spirit training camp before signing with the Tigers at the start of this season.

Spirit head coach Brian Perrin had made his players wear their home uniforms during Monday's punishing skate to remind them of their responsibilities to the home fans. He felt his players got the message. "I think that by the way they played tonight they responded," said Perrin.

However, the coach said consistency is the key to the team's success. "It doesn't mean anything if we play against North York tomorrow night (last night's game versus the Rangers) the way we did against them last Saturday."

McCann said the impressive win was achieved by bottling up the Tigers early in the game. McCann, who started the season with the Tigers, said he told his teammates to "come out flying" in the first period. "We came out and surprised them," said the centremen. "And Harper played really well in goal for us."

Barski also had praise for Harper, while attributing much of his line's success with the addition of Read. The right winger played alongside Barski at centre and left winger Edgar.

"Harper stood on his head," said Barski. "And Read has a pretty good offensive spark."

It didn't take much time for Oshell to fit in on the Spirit defence. The hulking 18-year-old, who stands six foot three and weighs in at 215 pounds, said it was just a matter of adapting to the Spirit style. "I felt good. I had to get used to their system at first, but once I did I was okay."

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