

SPORTS: Local skater finishes 13th at nationals

Pride learns valuable lesson

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
CORRESPONDENT

Michael Pride got a taste of the big time over the weekend in Ottawa.

Pride went up against the best senior men's skaters in the country at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships.

When it was all over, the 21-year-old Stouffville resident came away with some much needed experience, a renewed sense of awe for a national icon, and a good feeling about his overall performance.

Pride, who has a long association with the Stouffville Figure Skating Club, placed 13th out of 15 in the top men's category.

He admitted to being sub par in his short program Thursday night.

But he regained his form in Saturday's long program.

"It's not uncommon (to fall short in the short program)," Pride suggested. "It's hard to come out in front of all those people and keep your form. But I was pleased when I came back for my long program."

While missing a few elements of his long program, Pride said he was able to

remain in control throughout.

"I didn't quite do everything I wanted to do. But when I missed things I came right back and got the next thing. I stayed focused."

He was cheered on by upwards of 50 friends and relatives at the Ottawa Civic Centre.

Pride said he was in awe of Elvis Stojko's long program performance that gave the Richmond Hill native yet another national gold medal.

"I couldn't believe that. It showed what he's capable of."

He said he benefited from being grouped with Stojko and second-place finisher Emanuel Sandhu, also of Richmond Hill, during practice sessions held throughout the week.

"That really helped me. It pushed me the whole week. The practices were amazing."

The national competition puts a wrap on Pride's banner first season as a senior skater. He plans to take a week off before returning to the ice to resume training.

"I've got some new programs and some new jumps. I want to start working on next year."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

FLIPPING OUT OVER YOU

Charlene Morris uses a major outer reaping throw to put classmate Wayne Copp on the mat in the Stouffville Martial Arts Class at the rec centre on Monday. The students are getting ready for the second annual Stouffville Martial Arts Championships to be held on June 19 at the rec centre.

SPORTS DIGEST

Spirit, Rattlers postponed again

First it was an abundance of snow, then a lack of striped shirts as the Spirit of Stouffville had its game with the Thornhill Rattlers postponed for the second time Tuesday night at the rec centre.

A mix up in the Ontario Hockey Association offices meant there were no referees for the game, which was originally postponed due to a snowstorm Jan. 14.

Spirit officials are trying to arrange another make up date.

The Spirit held a two-hour practice after Tuesday's game was called off. They will be looking for their third win in four games in their season series with the North York Rangers when the two teams face off at the rec centre today at 7:30 p.m.

Softball clinic at SDSS gym on Fridays

Pitchers and catchers are invited to get the jump on the upcoming softball season by taking part in a series of indoor clinics hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (WSSA).

The clinics are to be held on Friday nights beginning this week at the Stouffville District Secondary School gymnasium.

A program for squirt age players (12 and under) will take place from 7 til 8 p.m. The pee wee and above players go from 8-9 p.m.

The sessions, which are open to male and female players, are to run throughout the winter. The cost is \$1 per session.

Some sports to resume at SDSS

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
CORRESPONDENT

The lights are about to start shining once again for extracurricular sport in the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) gymnasium.



But it will depend upon teachers' willingness to volunteer, and how much relief is available to cover teachers' classes when they are coaching, as to just how bright the lights will shine.

With Monday the date when teachers went back to teaching six periods out of eight every two days - down from 6 1/2 periods - it had been hoped the school's sports program could be resurrected after being shut down since last spring.

But SDSS boys' physical education head Dave Connell says it's not that simple.

While plans are in place to restore the popular lunch time sports program and the gym may remain open several nights a week for recreational badminton and volleyball, it's still uncertain whether SDSS will field school teams for York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) play for the remainder of the school year.

"The bug bear with school teams is on-calls," Connell said in reference to the school's shortage of available teachers to cover classes of teacher-coaches who must leave to take their teams to games. "We're one of the smallest schools in York Region."

Connell said the school has only three or four teachers who can cover at any given time.

"They have to be available for teachers who are ill or at meetings as well as for sports coverage," Connell noted.

He cited sports coverage traditionally has made up two thirds of on-call duty.

Other schools in York Region, and across the province, can draw on a bigger teacher pool for their on-calls, he said, making it easier for them to attend and host tournaments.

He said unless the school gets teacher relief or supply teachers to do on-calls it will be a problem to have school teams at SDSS.

Another factor complicating the school teams issue is that department heads haven't been given back the extra period they once had for co-ordinating extracurricular and school team programs.

Connell said that situation could be confused even more next year as there is talk of implementing a new system that would see just one department head for boys' and girls' physical education.

The school currently has separate heads for boys' and girls' physical education.

Connell said there would likely be a limited number of school teams for the spring season.

"It's too late for the second (winter) season. But there are some indications there are going to be some teachers volunteering for sports like badminton and track and field."

THE MARKHAM WAXERS JUNIOR "A" HOCKEY CLUB
"Tradition, Heritage, Community"
Over 60 years of Junior Hockey

"SHOOT" FOR THE MONEY!
A CHANCE TO WIN \$1,000 AT FRIDAY'S GAME

FRIDAY FEB. 5th 8:00 P.M. Wexford Raiders
FRIDAY FEB. 12th 8:00 P.M. Stouffville Spirit

"VALENTINE'S DANCE & FINAL LEAF GAME"
Saturday February 13, 1999 Party, Dance,
for tickets call: (905) 946-1190 or (905) 294-2699

Email:waxers@inforamp.net
Website:www.inforamp.net/~waxers

HEY KIDS!

MAKE SOME EXTRA MONEY!
We are looking for carriers in the following areas...

Landmark Court	Silverflower Ave.	Ambleside Cres.
Macphail Court	Kreighoff Ave.	Maple Lane
Canterfield Close	Lunar Crescent	Main St. Unionville
Fredricton Road	Hughson Drive	Danbury Court
Montgomery Ct.	Swansea Road	Pavillion Street
Calderbridge Cres.	Worsley Court	Cambourne Court
Billy Joel Crescent	Kerrigan Cres.	Lloyd Street
Longwater Chase	Village Parkway	Townson Road

If you don't see the street that you live on in the list above, you can still call our office and arrange to have your name put on our waiting list. Who knows? Maybe your street will be the next to need a carrier. Call today!

Markham.....905-294-8244 Stouffville.....905-640-2100

We are also looking for adults with reliable vehicles to deliver to selected routes in the Markham, Unionville, and Milliken areas. Call the number above and ask for Dan.

LEUKEMIA RESEARCH FUND CANADA

PLEASE HELP!
1110 Finch Ave. W., Ste. 222, Toronto, Ontario M3J 2T2
Tel. (416) 661-CURE (2873) Fax 416-661-3840

ONLY RESEARCH CAN CURE LEUKEMIA
ONLY EXCELLENCE IN CANADIAN RESEARCH IS FUNDED BY LRF

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune.