

# SPORTS

**HOCKEY:** The Spirit of Stouffville saw its provincial junior A hockey league season come to an end on Friday

## Blues sweep away Spirit in three

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

The Spirit of Stouffville ran out of time, chances and players as they were swept in three games in its first ever Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League playoff series with the Collingwood Blues.

The Blues clinched the set with a 4-1 win Friday in Collingwood.

The win enabled the first-place finishing Blues to remain unbeaten since Dec. 2.

"It was a learning experience," Spirit head coach Brian Perrin noted. "We were up against a team with a lot more experience. The better team won."

Perrin said his team was full measure in holding their own with the Blues in the series.

"They were disappointed they lost. But deep down they knew they gave it the best they could. You can't take anything away from them."

The coach said the Spirit just didn't have enough time to finish what they started.

"I wished we had three more weeks in the regular season to iron out the rest of the wrinkles," Perrin said after taking over the team in the fall. "It took a while for the players to get used to us. But we really started to come together after the trade deadline (in January)."

The Spirit won eight of their final 12 regular season games.

Perrin said his team's chances were diminished when defencemen Justin Thickins, J.D. Smithson and Beau Llewelyn missed most of the series.

Forward Will Chang couldn't play because of a sore shoulder Friday, while



**BRIAN PERRIN**  
Said loss was a learning experience

Dave Zelasko, who had the lone Spirit goal Friday, left the game with a broken leg. Goalkeeper Rob Zago was playing despite an injury.

"That really hurt us. We needed all our players."

In Friday's game, the Blues took a 2-0 first-period lead on a pair of power-play markers. They led 3-1 going into the third.

The Collingwood series marked the first ever Provincial league playoff experience for all Spirit players except Kevin Boyle and Brendan McCann.

"They can take that experience along with them into next season," Perrin said.

The Spirit coach felt his team will be able to benefit from this year's experience.

"We have a lot to build on. A lot of the guys are looking forward to next season. The next big step is to go further in the playoffs."

Perrin and assistant coaches Craig Donovan and Ken Burrows all plan to be back next season.

However, veteran players Kevin Edgar, Zelasko, Boyle and Scott Martin will be too old to play next year, the coach said most of the others should be back.

"A lot will depend on the OHL draft and university scholarships. But we should have the majority back."

He said the club is already scouting players, with contacts assessing talent as far away as Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.

Perrin said Stouffville has become a more attractive destination for junior talent after the Spirit's improved performance on the ice this year.

"We're a lot more respectable organization now. That's only going to help us recruit talent."

Team owner Ed Hakonson is dedicated to the club's ongoing improvement, Perrin pointed out.

"Ed's giving us every opportunity to make a formidable franchise."



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

### FOILED AGAIN

Associates forward Brennan Trennouths (centre), tries to poke the puck that Giles Chevrolet Oldsmobile goalkeeper Matthew Benincasa already has smothered under his glove during action in Saturday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association novice house league playoff contest at the rec centre.

## Canada Games medals for Hulshof, Chee-a-tow

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

It was high drama in Corner Brook, Nfld. as Stouffville athletes laid claim to a gold and a silver medal in Friday's individual judo championships.

Kerry Lynne Hulshof was awarded the title in the women's under 39-kilogram category when the judges ruled her the winner after her championship final bout with a Prince Edward Island opponent ended up tied in points.

Kyle Chee-a-tow came home with the silver medal in the men's under-50 kg, falling short in a final match that saw him up against a familiar old foe.

For Hulshof, a 13-year-old Grade 8 student at

St. Mark's Catholic School, the narrow win in the gold medal match left her with a perfect record of eight wins against no defeats for the week. Her six victories in the Women's Team Championships earlier in the week helped her Ontario team to a gold medal.

Hulshof's gritty triumph in Friday's individual final was in sharp contrast to the bout between the two fighters in the team competition.

"The first time I fought her it was over in a couple of seconds," Hulshof said after executing a perfect choke hold to win the first bout between the two eventual finalists.

Hulshof was elated with her victory.

"I was so excited," she said of the medal presentation that followed her win.

Chee-a-tow had seven wins against just one loss on the week, with his six victories in the Men's Team Championships helping Ontario to the silver medal.



**KERRY LYNNE HULSHOF**  
Wins gold at Canada Games

See SHEFFIELD, page 16



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