

SPORTS: Juveniles have tough time with Brampton again

# Clippers get even in OMHA final

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

If the first two games are any indication, there's going to be a lot of severely chewed finger nails at the completion of the best-of-seven Ontario Minor Hockey Association juvenile championship final between the Stouffville Clippers and Brampton.



The Clippers came from behind twice to earn a 4-2 win Thursday in Brampton. The victory squared the series at one game apiece.

"Brampton's here to play," Clippers coach Lee Burton said. "We're not going to blow them out."

Trailing 1-0 after one period, the Clippers tied it in the second.

But Brampton regained the lead on a short-handed goal early in the third.

The Clippers evened the count a minute later, then eventually took the lead.

Brad Clubine's goal into an empty Brampton net in the dying seconds clinched it.

Allan Byk, Tyler Markle and Anthony Ruffolo also scored for the Clippers.

For the second straight time, the Clippers had the majority of the scoring chances, outscoring Brampton by a two to one margin.

"We just haven't been able to crack their goaltenders yet," Burton said. "That's what's keeping them in it. We should have beaten them by five or six goals."

Burton said he's optimistic his snipers will start to find the range eventually.

"Hopefully, it's just a matter of time before we break through."

"The guys really played well."

The series resumes with game three at the rec centre tomorrow at 6 p.m. Game four will be played Tuesday night in Brampton.

The rubber is about to meet the road for three Stouffville Clippers rep teams and one select squad.

All four outfits advanced to their respective York-Simcoe League final after posting victories in recent semi-final series.

The minor atom Clippers got a goal from Luke Mabley with 22 seconds left on the clock to earn a 3-2 win over Newmarket Thursday at the rec centre in the deciding game of its best-of-three semi-final.

The Clippers rebounded from a 2-0 deficit to score all three goals in the game's final five minutes.

Adam Craig netted the first two Clippers markers. John Harmsen was solid in net.

The minor atom Clippers took the first game of the semi-finals 3-1 Sunday in Newmarket. But they were edged 4-3 at home Wednesday.

The Clippers will have home ice advantage when it meets Richmond Hill in a best-of-five final. The opener is scheduled for Wednesday at the rec centre at 7 or 8 p.m.

The minor bantam Clippers reached the York-Simcoe final with a 7-1 win over Keswick at the rec centre on Thursday.

The win gave the Clippers a sweep of the six-point set.

Cameron O'Neill and Andy Gibson each recorded hat tricks. Marcus D'Annunzio net-



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Newmarket Redmen goalie Steve Persi lunges at a puck shot by Stouffville Clippers forward Chris Schell in Wednesday's York-Simcoe minor atom best-of-three playoff contest at the rec centre. Although Persi failed to stop this shot, the Redmen prevailed 4-3 and forced a deciding game Thursday.

ted the other marker. Goalie Justin Cheshire had two assists.

The minor bantams, who registered wins of 13-1 and 4-1 in the first two games of the series, begin its best-of-five final against either Newmarket or Aurora early next week.

The midget Clippers will have home ice advantage when it begins its best-of-seven final against Innisfil next week.

The Clippers overcame TNT

three games to one in its semi-finals, clinching the six-point set with a 6-3 win March 13.

Jeremy Heyworth had three goals. Tyler Armstrong picked up a pair, with Ryan Jackson adding a single.

The Stouffville select mites begin its best-of-five final tomorrow in Vaughan. The mites advanced after winning its four-point semi-final with Brampton.

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**COURTENAY STEWART**

Courtenay was a splash hit when she took to the Etobicoke Olympium pool at the recent provincial synchronized swim championships. A member of the Synchro Optima Club, the 14-year-old Markham native finished first in figures and solo in the 14 and under age group. Stewart also took part in the duet with Victoria Dwight, 14, and finished third. In the 14 and under team event, Stewart was a member of the Optima club that finished second to Kitchener.

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**All information will remain strictly confidential!**

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