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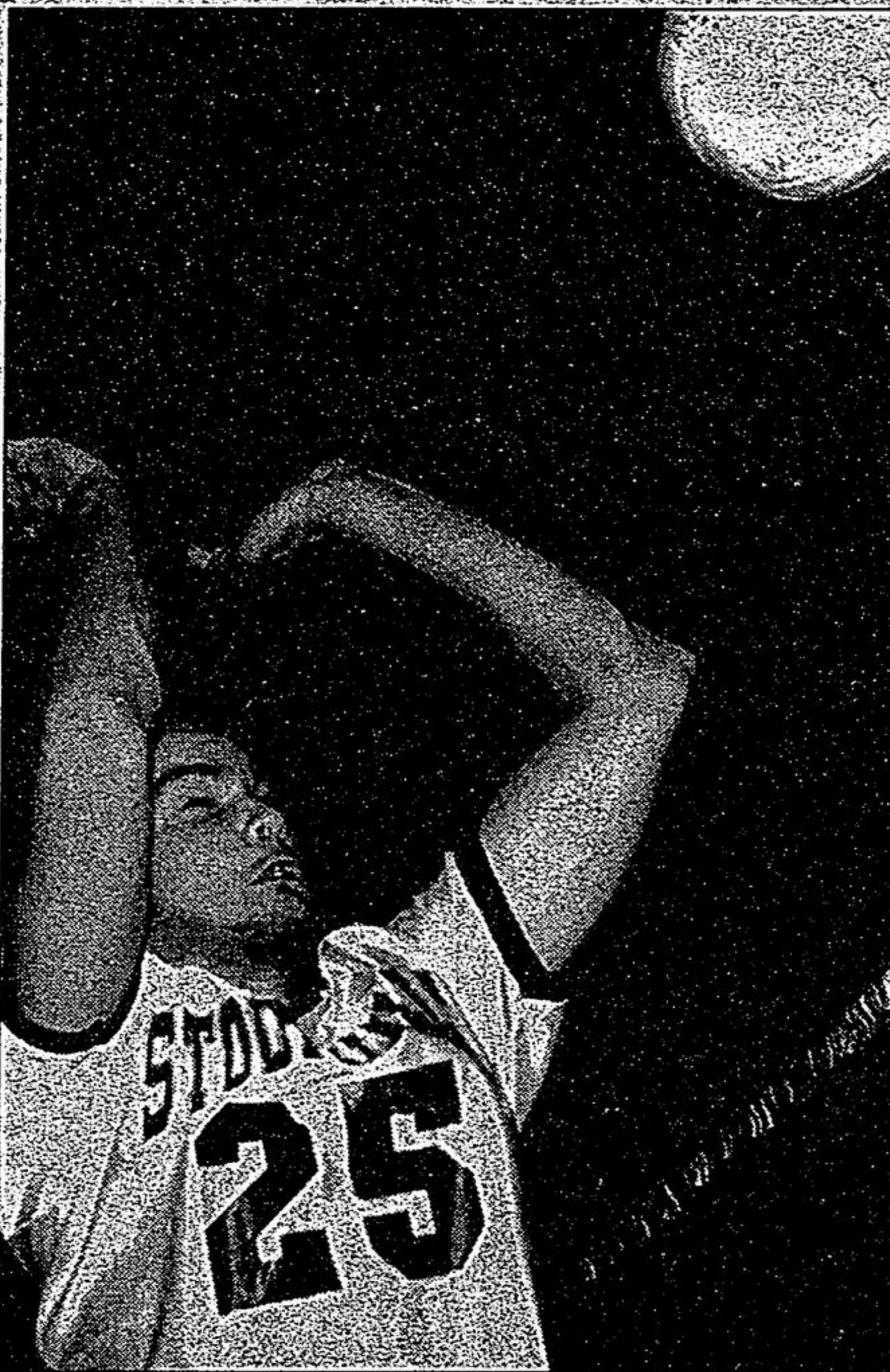
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STAFF PHOTO/SIGERD WITTEVEEN

J. Davis of the Stouffville District Secondary School junior boys volleyball team blocks a blast from over the net from Middlefield Collegiate Institute in a game Thursday at Middlefield. The MCI squad took the match 2-0.

Soccer club looks to past to form new executive

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club has drawn from its golden past as part of an overall renewal to meet the new millennium.

Founding WSSC members and past presidents Alfons Rubbens and Martin Johansson have come back on board as part of a beefed up executive that includes new president Victor Szabo.

Szabo was vice-president in charge of mini-soccer in the former WSSC executive. The new executive, which was sworn in at the recent WSSC annual meeting, also includes Joe Caldeira as past president, Stacey Callaghan, who was returned as treasurer, Carole Sherwood as secretary, Charlie Rustico as vice-president in charge of mini-soccer, George Theodore as vice-president in charge of the boys' division, Jackie Burkart as vice president in charge of the girls' division and Alfons Rubbens, vice-

president in charge of competitive (rep) teams. Johansson is to represent the club's needs to the town.

Szabo said Johansson plans to push for more support from the town in terms of soccer facilities.

"Martin pointed out that unlike virtually every community in Ontario the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville does not provide a single municipally owned field for soccer and historically has cancelled committed fields for soccer in favour of other uses," Szabo said. "The club is looking forward to have Martin help place soccer back on the municipal agenda."

Szabo said the club would benefit from the experience and soccer knowledge of Rubbens, who was the WSSC charter president. "Alfons brings an impressive soccer background as a successful competitive coach and publisher of Inside Soccer magazine," Szabo said.

Coach firm on no-fighting policy

The emphasis will be on peacekeeping, playmaking and home grown talent as the Stouffville juvenile Clippers set to defend their Ontario Minor Hockey Association and Ontario Hockey Federation AAA crowns.

With only six returnees in the fold, the Clippers will be sporting a new look as they take to the rec centre ice surface for Sunday evening home games.

But while most spots on the roster will be filled by newcomers, the players will be no strangers to those who have been following the local rep hockey scene the past few years.

"We're just going with Stouffville kids," said Dave Boyd, the 12-year veteran Stouffville rep hockey coach who is returning after a one-year sabbatical to take over from Lee Burton as the team's head coach.

Boyd said he worked the phones upon taking the coaching position in an attempt to convince most of the best 19 to 21-year olds in the Stouffville area to join the team.

The result was an 11-player harvest of Clippers players from years gone by.

"Some of them played house league last season, or weren't even playing," Boyd said. "But they came running back."

Returning from last year's team are defencemen Mark Meyers and Kyle Harrison, goalkeeper Carmen Auciello and forwards Brett Boyd, Tyler Markle and Andrew Hutchison.



Bruce Stapley

New recruits include forward Kevin Hackert, who was with the Uxbridge Bruins last season and Dan Tardella, who sat the past few years out while helping coach the midget Clippers. Ian McDougall, Tyler Armstrong and Chad Kerswill, all played with the 1998-99 midget Clippers.

Boyd's defence corps is almost identical to the one he had when he coached the 1997-98 midget Clippers all the way to the OMHA finals. Harrison, Meyers, Chris Howland, Kerswill and McDougall all played defence on that team.

"I'm happy with that," Boyd said.

Boyd plans to take a tough stand against fighting and the taking of unnecessary penalties by his team. "It was this same philosophy that caught the attention of the minor hockey world when employed by his OMHA finalists midget Clippers in 1997-98."

"It's something I've always preached to my players, no fighting," Boyd said.

"I hate it. As far as I'm concerned

losers fight in hockey while winners play the game and exhibit their skills."

Ironically, it was a brawl that broke out near the end of the 1997-98 midget Clippers OMHA semi-final series clinching victory that contributed to their defeat in the Ontario finals.

Three Clippers players were suspended for their part in the rumble, which Boyd claimed was precipitated by the opposition's frustration with losing the series.

"It was ugly, and it cost us the championship."

Boyd feels it's no coincidence that European hockey players are taking over from Canadians as the premier players in professional hockey as the Canadian game continues to cling to the Don Cherry "knock em down, drag em out" approach to the game.

"I watch Don Cherry and I just laugh," Boyd said, who is hopeful the OMHA will get serious about putting a stop to fighting.

But Boyd admits his pacifist thrust can be a lonely crusade.

"I brought it up to the instructor at a coaching clinic last weekend and he just looked at me funny. But I just said that's the way I am."

Boyd realizes there are times when fights are inevitable, especially with players in their teens and early 20s.

"There's going to be some fights. But if we can keep it down to a minimum I'll be happy."