

# Markham girls kick up a storm for Humber

*Adriana Cataldo and Joanna Vitale helped the Humber College Hawks women's soccer team soar to new heights on the pitch this season*

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Sports Editor

When the Humber College Hawks women's soccer team went on the attack this season, head coach Vince Pileggi said it began from the back through midfielder Adriana Cataldo and finished with striker Joanna Vitale.

With the two Markham residents touching the ball on numerous occasions this year, the Hawks soared to new heights.

In just their fourth season on the pitch, the Hawks claimed

their first Ontario Colleges Athletic Association title and advanced to the recent Canadian Colleges Athletic Association championships in Oshawa where they finished fourth in their debut.

Pileggi acknowledged much of what his club accomplished this year would not have been possible without the two Brother Andre Catholic High School graduates.

And the OCAA and CCAA reinforced Pileggi's assessment by bestowing the pair with several awards.

A second-year general arts student and Hawks co-captain, the 20-year-old Cataldo was named to the OCAA all-star team for the second straight year and gained a berth on the CCAA all-star team and all-tournament team. She was also named the Most Valuable Player in the Hawks' 1-0 win over St. Thomas College of Fredricton, N.B. in the second game of the tournament as she accounted for the lone goal.

"It feels good," Cataldo said of the awards she received. "I wasn't expecting it at all. It came as a complete surprise."

First taking to the pitch when she was 5, Cataldo felt much of what she did last season served notice to rival clubs this year in which she contributed seven goals in 10 regular season outings.

"I think last year helped me. I did well and coming in this year, all of the coaches knew me and I had a good season this year."

"She's the heart and soul of our offence," Pileggi said of Cataldo's presence. "Our only loss this year came when Adriana was injured. That tells you how important she is. Everything we do goes through her."

A first-year business administration student, Vitale, 19, earned Most Valuable Player honours in the OCAA title game after scoring all three goals in the Hawks' 3-0 win over Mohawk College.

During the regular season, Vitale scored a league-high 15 goals in 10 games. That feat also garnered her a spot on the OCAA all-star team. Vitale was also named the CCAA player of the month for October.

"I was surprised," the soft-spoken Vitale said of the accolades attained this year. "There were a couple of other play-

ers that could have gotten there too," she felt.

Playing the game since she was 9, Vitale's appearance at Humber College was in part due to the influence of Cataldo. In addition to playing high school soccer where they helped the Cardinals win one provincial bronze medal, the pair toiled with Scarborough Azzurri two years ago.

Upon enrolling at Humber College, Vitale was quick to point out that playing the striker position was something she did not envision. For the Hawks, the move turned out to be a blessing.

"Normally, I play midfield. But they needed a striker and I hadn't played that position in about three or four years. For me to get 15 goals was kind of surprising," she said.

Despite not bringing home a medal from the recent national championships, the pair tried to accentuate the positive in what was a memorable season.

"Sure it was disappointing," Vitale said of their finish at the championships. "But just making it there was good. It was a lot of fun."

"Considering last year where we lost in the OCAA final 3-2 to Mohawk, it was a very good year," added Cataldo.



**ADRIANA CATALDO**

Midfielder named a CCAA all-star



**JOANNA VITALE**

First-year striker led OCAA in goals scored

# Stouffville playing a Spirited brand of hockey

*The Spirit of Stouffville are three games above the coveted 500 mark and have held their own against the more competitive clubs in their conference*

At this juncture of the regular season, a first- or second-place finish in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League's northern conference might be a bit out of reach for the Spirit of Stouffville.

But after that, the sky remains the limit.

Winning four games and earning a tie in its last six, the Spirit are above the 500 mark at 13-10-2-0.

Presently tied with the Collingwood Blues for fourth place, the Spirit trail the third-place Aurora Tigers by just two points. The Blues and Tigers though, have games in hand on the Spirit.

"We've been playing pretty well," Spirit head coach Brian Perrin acknowledged after his club defeated the Blues for the first time this season last Thursday 6-3 at the rec centre. The Spirit followed that effort on the road with a 3-3 tie against the Huntsville Wildcats the following evening and a 7-5 loss to the Newmarket Hurricanes on Sunday.

"This conference is such that on any night one team can beat the other. Some teams got off to a faster start than us. Now, on any given night we can beat any one. And at the same time we can get beat," said Perrin.

In explaining his club's recent surge, Perrin feels the club has made a commitment to playing better defensive hockey and capitalizing on its extra strength advantages. Through the club's first 10 games, the Spirit power-play scored just four goals in 61 chances. However, in the last 97 oppor-

tunities, they've delivered 31 goals.

Perrin, however, warns there's still plenty of room for improvement with his youthful squad, which has been afflicted by the injury bug. Andrew Francone, Will Chang, Sean Scully, Daniel Speer and Chris Large are on the sidelines with an assortment of ailments. With the exception of Large, who is day-to-day, the remainder are out indefinitely.

How the Spirit fare over the next stretch, which includes a game tonight against the Tigers at the rec centre at 7:30 p.m. and a road game tomorrow at North York, could depend on the contributions they receive from their reinforcements.

Of the call-ups, Perrin has been particularly pleased with the performance of centre Trevor Sedore.

"He's played about the best of the guys that we've called up. He's a good offensive hockey player," Perrin said of Sedore, a call-up from the Georgina Ice junior C club.

Perrin acknowledges he can get away with using the call ups for a short period of time. But in the long haul, he remains concerned.

"It'll be hard to lose as many guys as we have for a long stretch."

In the win over the Blues, Anthony Minicucci notched two power-play goals for the Spirit, who held leads of 2-0 through one frame and 5-1 after two. Sean Scully, Jon Smyth, Mike Fiume and Michel Bond added singles.

The Spirit ran into some hot goalkeeping against the Wildcats and trailed 2-0 after one period. Whittling their deficit to 2-1 after 40 minutes, the Spirit rallied in the third to force a scoreless overtime.

Scoring for the Spirit were Daniel Speer and Smyth on power-play efforts, and Bond.

In a physically-played contest at Newmarket, Smyth delivered two power-play markers for the Spirit, who trailed 3-1 after one period and 4-2 through two. J.D. Smithson added an extra strength marker while even-strength tallies came from Fiume and Sean Speer.

"I thought we put up a good effort," Perrin said of Sunday's loss. "They got an early lead and mentally it might have hurt us."

"But right now we're building for the playoffs. Hopefully by that time we'll be peaking."



**BRIAN PERRIN**

Spirit coach happy with club's effort in recent outings

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