

Japanese women's hockey team hoists flag in Stouffville

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

They hoisted the Japanese flag over the Stouffville rec centre to welcome the visiting Japanese National Women's Hockey Team over the weekend.

The Japanese team is combining practice sessions at the rec centre with banquet appearances around town this week as it prepares for the upcoming World Women's Hockey Championships.

The Japanese entourage arrived in town Friday to begin its final training camp leading up to the April 3-9 international showdown in Mississauga.

FACING OFF AGAINST U.S.

The visitors, who are being hosted by the Stouffville-Markham Girls Hockey Association, are to face off against the United States national women's squad Saturday at the rec centre in an exhibition match that promises to be the highlight of the 10-day camp.

The Japanese crew is also scheduled to play the Scarborough AAA women's team Thursday night at the rec centre at 7 p.m.

The team will travel to Pickering tomorrow night for a warm up match with the Durham women's senior AAA team at Delaney Arena.

Residents will also be able to watch the visitors practice tomorrow, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the rec centre.

But while the Japanese are here primarily to pre-

pare for the global competition in Mississauga, the town is opening its doors to greet them. The players were guests of honour at a special dinner hosted by the Stouffville Lions Sunday night at Latcham Hall.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson put on a lunch in honour of the team Monday at the Stouffville Legion Hall, while the St. James Presbyterian Church Women held a dinner for them Monday evening.

The squad is to attend a luncheon to be put on by the Japanese class at Stouffville District S.S. Wednesday.

"Everybody's offering to do things," said SMGHA president Dianne White. "It's just great."

White heaped praise on Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association executive member Anne Salvagna for helping make the visit by the Japanese team that much more memorable. She said Salvagna was instrumental in organizing several of the dinner dates.

"She's been incredible, and she's done it all out of the goodness of her heart."

The Japanese women also plan local sightseeing while they are here.

"They're going to Markville Mall Tuesday (today). They wanted to go shopping."

Saturday's game between Team Japan and the U.S.A. gets under way at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased during Thursday night's game at the rec centre or at the door.



STAFF PHOTO/SIGERD WITTEVEEN

SETTING HIS SIGHTS

Unionville High School's Daniel Brenner (foreground) takes careful aim at his target as he tries to earn a berth on the school's archery team during try outs Friday.

Sharples skips team to Masters' title

Markham resident Jim Sharples and his Royal Canadian Curling Club team of Brian Longley, Joe Gurovka and Art Lobel captured the 2000 Canadian Open Masters Curling men's championship Saturday with a 5-3 win over Benno Korte's rink from Saskatchewan in the final at Cloverdale, B.C.

Sharples' rink, which represented Ontario, reached the final after going undefeated in the seven-team event with a 6-0 record.

This was the first year that Sharples took part in the Masters' championship. Last year, he finished second in the seniors final.

Marauders ice girls' hockey crown

SPORTS DIGEST

Andrea Skinner's goal two minutes into overtime ignited the Markham District High School Marauders girls' hockey team to a 3-2 win over Cardinal Carter in the York Region Athletic Association championship game last Thursday in Aurora.

Trailing 2-1 late in regulation time, a goal by Candace Moxley enabled the Marauders to tie the game and force overtime.

Leslie Hurlburt staked the Marauders to a 1-0 lead.

The Marauders advanced to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships, which begin tomorrow at York University.

The Marauders will face Humberstone in its first game at 8:30 a.m. and then face St. Mary's (Cobourg) at 2:30 p.m. On Thursday, the Marauders conclude pool play against St. Michael's (Niagara Falls) at 9 a.m. The first-place finisher in the pool advances to the playoffs.

"It was pretty exciting," said Marauders head coach Ron Hurlburt of the game. "We weren't sure if we could do it. But we talked about it before the game and I said 'you never know when you'll get back here at this stage. Just take a kick at the can and enjoy it.'"

"I give our girls full credit. They didn't panic. They came through with the win," said Hurlburt, who coaches the team with Lisa Henneman.

Waxers earn silver

The Markham Waxers super 7 tykes skated off with the silver medal from the recent Pickering Select Tournament after suffering a 2-0 loss to Brampton in the final.

The Waxers lost their first game to Brampton 3-1. But backed by strong netminding from Nicholas Manoukas and Daniel Fitzgerald, the Waxers rallied to defeat Pickering and Stouffville by identical 3-1 scores and reach the final.

Scoring for the Waxers were: Jamie Kendra two goals, two assists; Joseph Cramarossa and Nicholas Halkidis one goal, two assists; Billy Lovatsis, Connor Kennedy and John Waylett one goal; Adam Nanji, Sacha Naji and Connor Blasby one assist.

The club also received strong defensive play from: John Constantinidis, David McGarry, Michael Duncan, and Michael Hergott.

Minor peewees advance

The Stouffville Electricians Union Local 353-Fair Insurance Brokers Ltd.-Cobequid Life Sciences minor peewee Clippers advanced to the second round of the York Simcoe playoffs after winning its best-of-five first-round series over Innisfil in four games.

After losing the first game 4-2, the Clippers rallied to win the next three by scores of 4-2, 5-2 and 3-2. Scoring for the Clippers were: Alex Bruno four goals, three assists; Kevin Rainbow two goals, one assist; Mark Sullivan one goal, four assists; Daniel James one goal, three assists; Cameron Allan one goal, two assists; Trevor Greenham, James Castle and Nathaniel Martin one goal, one assist; Matt Mulder and Brook Stachel one goal; Kyle Buckley and Landon Wideman one assist.

Winstonettes gym dandy

The Winstonette Gymnastics Association Level 3 entry were in top form to capture the Level 3 team title at the recent Bluewater International Gym Meet in Sarnia.

Megan Rowland, Charonne Thomas and Cassie Ussel competed against 28 other gymnasts from clubs across the country to take top honours in the team event.

In the High Performance senior division, Richelle Simpson placed 12th overall in a field of 27 athletes. Jennifer Simbudas and Tiffany Kwan placed 15th and 25th, respectively.

Carolyn Travers delivered a medal-winning performance in her vault, bars and floor routines to finish second overall in the Level 2 category.

The Winstonettes Gymnastics Association will host the Metro East third Provincial Qualifying Meet to be held April 8 and 9.



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642-9334
(next to Stouffville Chrysler)

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