

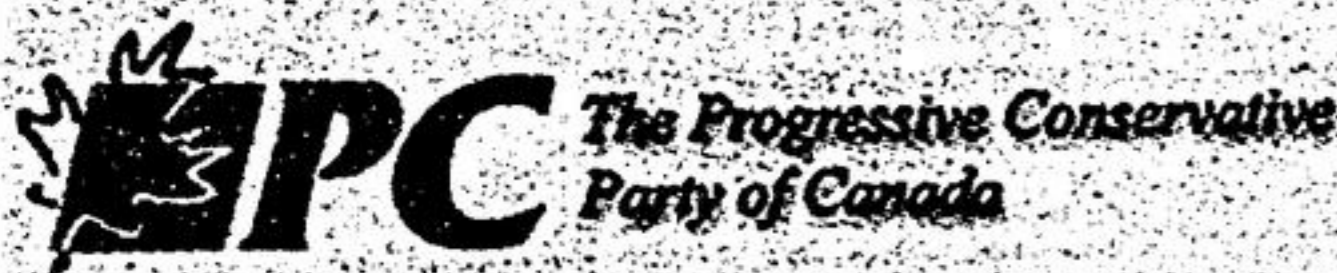
Pearce's team ninth at Sydney

John Pearce and his mount, Jamco's Vagabond, were part of the Canadian show jumping team that finished ninth this week at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

The 40-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville resident and his 15-year-old

mount posted scores of 12 and 20, the latter being the second-round drop score.

Germany captured the gold medal while Switzerland took the silver and Brazil the bronze in the 11-team competition.



Notice of Annual General Meeting and Election of Executive for the Federal Riding of Markham

Date: Thursday, October 12

Time: 7:00PM Registration - Cash Bar

Location: The School Restaurant, 14th Ave, between Warden and Kennedy, South side.

Special Guest Speaker

The Honourable David Tsubouchi MPP
Solicitor General for the Province of Ontario

Registration and membership renewal starts at 7:00 PM

We extend a special welcome to all new members and returning Progressive Conservatives.

No Spirit in effort against Raiders

A listless effort and penalties send Spirit to second straight loss

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

No flow, no finish no flourish. Throw in a Spirit lineup depleted by injuries, the flu bug and suspensions, and some untimely penalties and you've got the story as the Stouffville Spirit dropped a 5-3 decision to the Wexford Raiders in Thursday's Provincial Junior A Hockey League game.

The Spirit trailed 3-2 after a lacklustre first period, but tied it up early in the second.

But the host squad couldn't generate any sustained offence the rest of the way while penalty problems opened the door for the Raiders to net the winner late in the middle period.

The Raiders clinched things with a late goal into an empty Spirit net just seconds after Spirit centre Michel Bond drilled a point blank shot right into the yawning catching glove of Raiders goalie Rob Garrick as the Stouffville crew mounted a last-ditch effort to pull even.

"In close games you've got to finish your scoring chances," said Spirit assistant coach Craig Donovan.

Donovan also pointed to a string of three straight Spirit penalties in the second period that led to the Raiders' winning goal on a power play. It came after the Spirit had been forced to play two

men short for a minute and a half.

The Raiders had three power play goals in total. Spirit defenceman J.D. Smithson, who picked up his fourth goal of the season as well as an assist to tie him for the club scoring lead, agreed with Donovan.

"We just fell short. We had no flow. The penalties in the second period killed us and we couldn't get any momentum going."

Greg Seguin scored the first Spirit goal in his first game of the season after returning from injury. Michael Tucciarone notched his fifth of the year.

"We just couldn't finish," said Tucciarone. "The opportunities were there but we couldn't bury them."

The Spirit were without forwards Chris Large and Jon Smyth, who are out with injuries, as well as standout defenceman Justin Graham, who had the flu. Nevin Hamilton was serving the second game of a suspension for hitting from behind.

"It's no excuse, but we had to use a lot of different line combinations," offered Donovan. "But you've got to play through that."

Donovan had high praise for the Raiders, who play out of the league's South Division.

"Wexford's the best team we've seen so far this season," he said.

The Raiders held a 34-24 edge in shots on goal. It marked the second loss in a row for the Spirit after three straight victories. Stouffville downed the Peterborough Bees 6-3 in the Annual College Weekend at Mississauga last Friday, then fell 6-4 to the Newmarket Hurricanes Sunday in Newmarket.

The Spirit were to visit the Parry Sound Shamrocks last night.

They return home to host the Aurora Tigers Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Raiders have options to ponder

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Sports Editor

Winning just three games this season and making an early first-round exit from the playoffs has not been a trait of the Markham Raiders men's football team in recent years.

The Raiders were the new kids in the New York Football League this season, after being perennial contenders in the Northern Football Conference. Raiders head coach Bill Ptolemy felt the education his players received on the field outweighed the complacency his players were experiencing.

"Our team was slipping due to a lack of competition (in the Northern Football Conference)," Ptolemy noted. "We wanted to do this to see if we could turn our team around to get better and I think we did that."

"It was a great learning experience. I thought we picked it up toward the end of our season," he noted in his club's final two outings against the Buffalo Warriors, which resulted in losses of 14-8 and 8-6.

With the helmets and shoulder pads placed in

storage until next season, Ptolemy revealed he will assemble with the players and coaches later this fall to see which direction the team will take next year.

"The football itself is better as is the calibre of play," Ptolemy said of his club's first-year exposure to the New York Football League. "We had difficulty in dealing with some of the U.S. rules like the red zone offence and the shorter end zone."

"But the one thing we learned this year was that Americans play hard-nosed, smash mouth football. And when it's over, there's no complaining. You shake hands and it's done."

While the Raiders learned how players south of the border approach the game, Ptolemy noted the league could use a lesson in its organizational skills. He noted that during the season a team from Ohio had dropped out and the schedule had to be revised in midseason.

But in defence of the league, he said it's just completed its third year and is experiencing some "growing pains."

Ptolemy hinted a possibility exists the Raiders could return to their old stomping grounds in the Northern Football Conference next season.

"We'd consider coming back, but nothing is iron clad."

Minor novices win third straight title

The Markham Vitality Suites - Longman's Dodge minor novice

AAA Waxers continued its winning ways by capturing their third championship in as many weeks with a 4-1 win over the Oakville Rangers in the title game of last weekend's Richmond Hill Early Bird Tournament.

Backed by strong netminding from Nicholas Manoukas, the Waxers reached the final after defeating the Richmond Hill Stars 6-0, the Windsor Spitfires 9-2, and the Rangers 4-1.

Scoring for the Waxers were: Jamie Kendra eight goals, four

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assists; Nicholas Halkidis five goals, six assists; Joseph Cramarossa five goals, four assists; Evan Bruno one goal, seven assists; Sam Carrick one goal, five assists; Joseph Luongo one goal, three assists; Connor Kennedy one goal, two assists; Billy Lovatsis one goal, one assist; Christopher Colangelo two assists; David McGarry, Michael Duncan and Michael Hergott one assist.

Kooymans Masters race

Jerry Kooymans ran off with

the masters division title of last weekend's Scotiabank Toronto Half-marathon after completing the 21.1K course in 1:11:17.6.

Overall, the Markham resident finished 19th in a field which saw a total of 2,734 runners complete the course.

Another Markham runner, John DeFinney, finished first in the 50-54 age group and was 56th overall with a time of 1:18:58.9.

Joseph Kamau of Kenya won the race in a time of 1:04:02.4.

Kooymans had already assured himself of finishing on top of the masters division standings having captured the title at the prior event, the Montreal 10K.

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