



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEEN

WATCH THE BIRDIE

Brother Andre Catholic High School's Aiden Fitzpatrick watches his putt drop in for a birdie on the Gormley Green Golf Club's par three, third hole during Wednesday's York Region Athletic Association championships. Fitzpatrick carded an eight over 80 in the senior boys' division. Josh Dean of St. Robert Catholic High School won the senior boys' title after shooting a 73. Cardinal Carter Catholic High School won the senior boys', junior boys' and girls' titles.

Cardinals' playoff hopes put on hold

Markham's Brother Andre Cardinals football team took a step backwards in its quest to earn a playoff berth Thursday after suffering a 30-11 loss to the host Newmarket High School Raiders.

The loss dropped the Cardinals' record to 1-3 in the York Region Athletic Association standings while the Raiders improved its record to 3-0 and are in a tie with the Markham District High School Marauders for first place.

Chris Bruce scored a touchdown for the Cardinals, who held an 11-10 halftime lead. Kevin Reider added a convert, single and 35-yard field goal.

Cardinals head coach Branko Mihaljevic said two turnovers in the third quarter, which the Raiders converted into touchdowns, took the wind out of his club's sails.

"If we play four quarters I thought we could win. But we didn't. We played a darn good first half. We were moving the ball well in the first half. But then our offence shut down in the second half."

With just two games remaining on its regular season schedule against King City Secondary School on Oct. 27 and Woodbridge College on Nov. 2, Mihaljevic conceded his team will be hard pressed to earn a playoff berth.

"With three wins we might squeak into the playoffs. But we need to find a way to win and we have to get some help."

Spirit tames Terriers

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

You've got to be good to be lucky. The Stouffville Spirit combined artistry on offence and strong netminding with a couple of fortuitous bounces to defeat the Couchiching Terriers 7-5 at the Rec Complex Thursday.



The Spirit scored three goals in the third period, two with the help of lady luck, to break a 4-4 deadlock.

George Eliopoulos was brilliant in stopping all but one of the 21 Terriers shots levelled at him in the final 20 minutes.

Michael Tucciarone broke the tie just past the mid point of the period when he outdeked Terriers goalie Richard Fournier before flipping the puck behind him.

Doug Orr caught a break when he swooped in to knock home his own rebound after Fournier lost the puck to put the Spirit ahead by two.

The Terriers came back to within a goal on a power play marker with two minutes to play, but moments later, Andrew Francone clinched things on a breakaway after gobbling up a long flip pass from Dan Oshell, who also had a goal to go with his assist.

Michel Bond tallied twice (including a shorthanded marker) and Alain Duchesne once. The Spirit led 3-2 after the first period despite being outshot 19-6.

Head coach Brian Perrin had high

praise for Eliopoulos, who faced 50 shots in total.

"George made the big saves. That's what we need. Without him we won't succeed. He's the key to our whole hockey team."

While pleased with the win, Perrin said his team has to tighten up its defensive play.

"Couchiching outshot us by a large margin, but we got the win and that's what counts at the end of the season. I think we have the best offence in the league, but we have to improve our play when we don't have the puck."

Stouffville hosts the Huntsville Wildcats tonight at 8 p.m., then travels to Wexford to play the Raiders Sunday.

Spirited notes: Winger Alain Veilleux is to have an MRI to assess a herniated disc in his back. Jon Smyth has resumed skating with the team after sitting out since early October with a knee strain. Winger Chris Large is still grounded by mononucleosis.

Hurricanes edge Waxers

The Markham Waxers paid the price after getting off to a slow start in Thursday's Provincial Junior A Hockey League road contest against the Newmarket Hurricanes.



The northern conference-leading Hurricanes scored a goal in the first period and two on its first two shots in the second to skate off with a 3-1 win over the southern conference leaders.

Bobby Fitkin scored the lone goal for the Waxers with just under three minutes left in the third period.

"We came out flat and we just went downhill from there," lamented Waxers head coach Russ Herrington. "It was disappointing and unacceptable. But it could have been worse."

The Waxers came out of the game a little bruised as Jason Fraccaro reinjured a knee and Jason Young hurt his back. Both are out on a day-to-day basis, Herrington reported. As well, defenceman Jimmy Ball did not dress due to an injury.

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