

SPORTS DIGEST

Stars score silver in Barrie

The Stouffville-Markham atom Stars girls' hockey team skated home with the silver medal from the recent Barrie Sharks Tournament after suffering a 4-1 loss to Aurora in the title game.

Backed by strong netminding from Cassandra McNichol, who was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player, the Stars reached the final after posting wins over Chatham 3-2, Durham 3-0 and host Barrie 2-1.

Scoring for the Stars were: Hayley Hughes five goals, two assists, Mackenzie Mannine three goals, one assist, Bethany Holeschek one goal, Corliss Bean, Jaime Sparks and Karis McRae one assist.

Also contributing to the club's success were: Samantha Rucinsky, Bailey Gummy, Robyn Laing, Julie Ingratta, Danielle Littlejohn-Roberts, Natalie Geiger and Deanna Parry.

Spirit to hold hockey camp

The Stouffville Spirit will combine with the Ultimate Hockey Development School to hold the 2000 Christmas Minor Hockey Camp at the Rec Complex from Jan. 2-5, 2001.

The camp is to feature on ice instruction by Spirit Junior A players with an emphasis on skills development and fun. The camp is limited to 60 skaters and an unlimited number of goalkeepers. Applications must be received by Dec. 1 at the Spirit office at the Rec Complex. Or call 642-2123.

Ball accepts offer to play hockey at St. Lawrence

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Sports Editor

Two years ago Jimmy Ball was disappointed in being passed over by Ontario Hockey League clubs during the first day of the annual priority selection draft.

These days however, the 17-year-old defenceman with the Markham Waxers' Provincial Junior A Hockey League club has a much happier outlook.

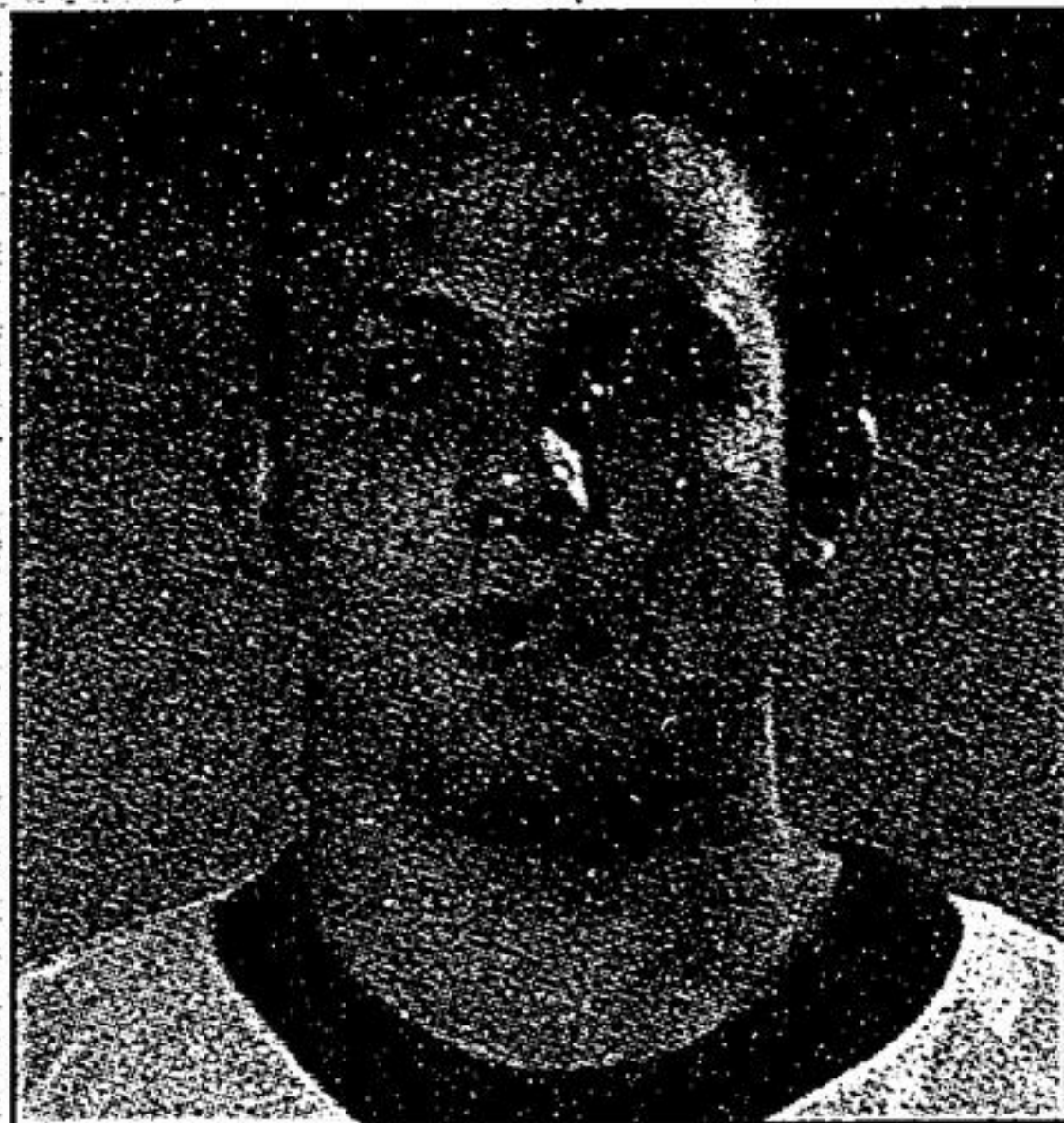
Last week, the six-foot, 208-pound Markham native signed an early letter of intent to attend school and play hockey next fall at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

"I was kind of heartbroken when that happened," recalled Ball, a Grade 12 student at Brother Andre Catholic High School, of being spurned away by OHL clubs at the draft two years ago. "It was a shock at first, but it was better for me in the long run. My schooling is a lot more important."

"Once (St. Lawrence) offered (the scholarship) to me I couldn't say no." Ball noted his interest in attending St. Lawrence University took place in February when he went down there to tour the campus and met the coaches.

"After watching one of their games they offered me (the scholarship)," Ball recalled. "I said I would wait until I got home to talk it over with my parents."

Currently in the process of recovering from a partially separated shoulder he suffered in a game against the Huntsville Wildcats in early October,



JIMMY BALL: Waxers defenceman is glad to go the collegiate route with his hockey future

Ball was impressed with the St. Lawrence campus

"It's a beautiful place. It's in a small town and the people there love hockey. I think it'll be a good place for me," said Ball, who hopes to major in kinesiology.

Waxers' head coach Russ Herrington was pleased to see the Skating Saints pursue Ball and feels he can make an immediate contribution.

"He's as good as anybody that I've coached. As a defenceman he's good at rushing the puck. He's like a running back in football where he can explode through the hole and he shoots the puck hard."

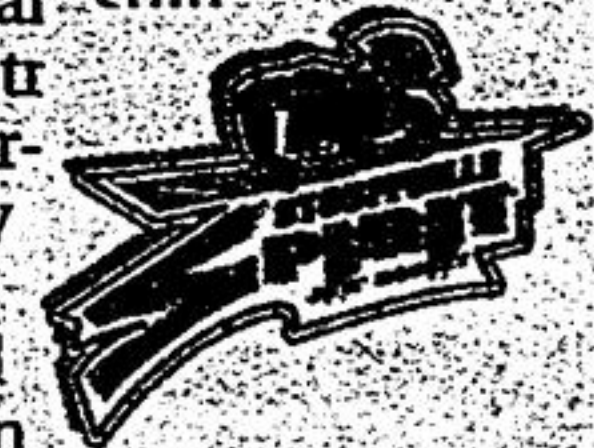
"I think St. Lawrence is awfully lucky to have him."

First-place Spirit hot on home ice

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Stouffville Spirit head coach Brian Perrin doesn't believe in playing favourites.

But Michael Tucciarone, Michel Bond and Alain Veilleux took full advantage of their regular Thursday to propel the Spirit to an 8-4 triumph over the Ajax Axemen in an interlocking Provincial Junior A Hockey League game at the Rec Complex.



Tucciarone and Veilleux each netted a pair of goals, and Bond chipped in with a solo. The trio accounted for 13 points in total as Bond and Tucciarone each had three assists to go with Veilleux's two.

In recording its 10th straight win on home ice, the Spirit vaulted past the Newmarket Hurricanes into first place in the North Conference with 40 points. The Hurricanes were blanked 3-0 by the Couchiching Terriers Thursday.

Spirit head coach Brian Perrin acknowledged the outstanding performance of his big gunners could have led him to briefly reconsider his season-long policy of playing all four of his forward lines in every game.

"That was the type of game where they (Tucciarone, Bond and Veilleux) could have been double shifted," said Perrin. "But we kept to our philosophy of playing everyone so we can be ready for the playoffs."

The Spirit led 2-1 after the first period on goals by Nevin Hamilton and Tucciarone. After the Axemen tied it early in the second, the Spirit broke loose for four straight goals before the visitors could respond with a power-play marker late in the period. Eric Boonstra, Veilleux, Tucciarone and Jon Smyth, on a power play, clicked for the Spirit. Bond and Veilleux turned it into a rout in the third. Tucciarone's third goal of the game was not counted as the referee did not see it drop behind the Ajax goalie. The Spirit fired 43 shots at the Ajax net while Thomas Lee faced 32 shots in the Spirit goal.

The Spirit will host the Durham Wolves on Thursday. The Spirit's Dec. 2 home game with Newmarket has been moved to Richmond Hill's Elgin Barrow Arena due to scheduling problems at the Rec Complex.

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