

Four Spirit players involved in auto mishap; no serious injuries

Mabley, Staal, Commisso and Dowhos treated and released from Newmarket hospital after Stouffville Road collision

BY JIM MASON
Editor

Four members of the Stouffville Spirit Junior A Hockey Club were injured in a two-vehicle collision in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville early Monday night.



IAN DOWHOS: Felt fortunate to come away with only minor injuries. Three players suffered concussions.

Jordan Mabley, Ian Staal, Michael Commisso and Ian Dowhos were en route to a concert by pop sensation Britney Spears in Toronto when the sport utility vehicle they were in collided with another truck at the intersection of Stouffville and Kennedy roads.

All four were treated and released that night from Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket.

Mabley, Staal and Commisso, who make up a forward line for the Spirit, all suffered concussions as well as other injuries.

Dowhos, a defenceman, had cuts to both knees. Their vehicle was totalled.

"It was very scary," said Dowhos. "We were very lucky. Someone was watching down over us."

Staal and Dowhos, are from Thunder Bay while Commisso is from Schreiber, another community in Northwestern Ontario.

Mabley is from Stouffville.

Staal and Mabley are 17 years old. Dowhos and Commisso are 18.

The four injured players are expected to miss at least one week of action.

The Spirit plays the Parry Sound Shamrocks tonight at 7:30 and the Huntsville Wildcats on Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Both games are at the Stouffville Arena.

Smooth sailing for mite select Clippers in win over Uxbridge

The Stouffville mite select Clippers sailed off with an easy win last Friday in its contest against the Uxbridge Stars as they cruised to a 7-1 win.

Chad Burrows scored twice for the Clippers while Devin King and Matthew Dunlop each had a goal and one assist.

Wesley Cowie, Ryan Bauer and Josh Carrick added single goals.

Curtis Kennedy was credited with two assists while Brett Thomson, Joel Leuschner and Nicholas Robb each had one.

Prior to that game, the Clippers gave the Unionville Jets a run for their money in a game played on Oct. 26 before coming out on the short end of a 4-3 decision.

Dunlop delivered two goals for the Clippers while Cowie added one.

Bauer earned an assist.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

THE BALL STOPS HERE

Milliken Mills Secondary School's Yvette Szeto has her forward progress impeded by some good defence from Stouffville District Secondary School's Leah Leonhardt in Tuesday's YRAA junior girls' basketball game at Stouffville District Secondary School. The host Spartans won the game 27-15 and improved their record to 3-7.

Former Spirit player sent packing to Brampton

Stouffville's Grant Buckley got his wish Tuesday.

The Mississauga IceDogs of the Ontario Hockey League traded Buckley to the Brampton Battalion in exchange for another defenceman, 6-foot-6 Travis Parent, and an eighth-round choice in the 2002 OHL draft. Buckley and Parent, a native of Michigan, went first and second overall, respectively, in the 1999 OHL bantam draft.

Buckley, a graduate of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, asked for a trade from the sad-sack IceDogs two weeks ago.

Buckley, who is 6-foot-2 and 200 pounds, played the 1999-00 season with the Stouffville Spirit of the Provincial Junior A League and had seven goals and 19 assists for 26 points in 47 games, while registering 96 minutes in penalties. IceDogs coach Don Cherry scouted Buckley at two Spirit games in 2000.

Last season, Buckley appeared in 61 games for the IceDogs and scored two goals and added 10 assists for 12 points and had 67 minutes in penalties.



GRANT BUCKLEY: Stouffville resident asked to be traded from Mississauga IceDogs of the Ontario Hockey League.

Buckley played eight games with Mississauga this season and had one goal and two assists for three points with six penalty minutes. Buckley turned 18 on Oct. 24, and will be eligible for the NHL Entry Draft in 2002.

Senior Spartans hold court down the stretch run

SDSS hoops team prepares for playoffs after ending regular season on winning note

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior girls' basketball team concluded its regular season on a strong note by winning their last four York Region Athletic Association games, including Tuesday's finale against the visiting Milliken Mills Secondary School Knights 43-22.



Andrea Meyer was high scorer for the Spartans with 11 points.

Finishing its regular season in fourth place in the south division with an 11-3 mark, the Spartans reeled off victories last week against Toronto-Waldorf 56-22, Unionville High School 49-18 and Holy Cross Catholic High School 42-36. The Spartans also took to the hardwood floor for an exhibition tilt against Richmond Hill High School and prevailed 37-27.

Hannah Flemming was high scorer for the Spartans in their victories over Toronto-Waldorf with 26 points and Richmond Hill, 16. Katelyn Button had 13 points for the Spartans in their win over Unionville.

The Spartans are expected to host a first-round playoff game on Monday or Tuesday against the fifth seed from the north division.

Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt is happy with the way his charges have performed down the stretch run.

"We're coming along," he said. "But we do have lapses. We tend to start slow and in a one-game elimination that concerns me."

"The girls have done well and we're looking forward to the playoffs."

If the club is to succeed in the post-season, Hewitt feels his club must play good defence.

"If we don't play good defence it affects the rest of the team. We feed off of our defence," he cited.

Another aspect that has Hewitt smiling is the contribution received by players other than Flemming, who has led the club in scoring for most of its games.

"Lately our scoring has been spread out and that's good to see," he noted.

On a separate note, with the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association introducing a AAAA level for its senior girls' basketball championships this season, the Spartans have declared their intention to go AAA. Because of this, the Spartans will host Port Credit High School in a AAA OFSAA qualifier on Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. The winner of this game will go to the OFSAA AAAA playdowns in Ottawa from Nov. 29-Dec. 1.