

SPORTSBOARD

E-MAIL: sports@theliberal.com

HOCKEY

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor

HOUSE LEAGUES

NOVICE

OCT. 27

Lionel's Pory Farm 6 (Matt Johnson 2, Joseph Devery 2, Suzanne Dickie, Brandon Wagg) vs. Kytch Machines 0; Burrows Landscaping 7 (Aaron Pettifer 3, Darryl Thomson 3, Nicolas Munro) vs. MASH 7 (Joshep Acquaviva 3, Evan Malcolm 2, Matthew Tomasi, Taylor Clifford); MultiService Electric 7 (Jason Hiltz 2, Robert Spencer 2, Brittany Drew, Joel Glueckler, Craig Hasler) vs. The Cutting Edge 7 (Jay Averill 4, Jonathan Wiseman, Lukas Leso, Brandon Zielonko); TechData 2 (Christopher Jupp 2) vs. Schell Lumber 2 (Mitchell King, Michael Benacquista).

NOV. 3

The Cutting Edge 12 (Brandon Zielonko 3, Jay Averill 3, Lukas Leso 2, Jordan Barky 2, Mitchell Price 2) vs. Burrows Landscaping 5 (Darryl Thomson 3, Aaron Pettifer 2); Schell Lumber 9 (Mitchell King 3, Michael Benacquista 2, Eric Casey, Tyler Heffernan, Clint Brunelle, Sarah Schell) vs. Kytch Machines 1 (Stuart Ellis); MASH 2 (Evan Malcolm 2) vs. Lionel's Pory Farm 6 (Trevor Carrick 4, Suzanne Dickie, Matt Johnson); MultiService Electric 7 (Jason Hiltz 2, Madison Brown 2, Brittany Drew, Robert Spencer, Craig Hasler) vs. TechData 7 (Dylan Shankland 3, Iir Selmanovski, Josh Whitehead, Kyle Ross, Christopher Jupp).

Markham-Stouffville Girls

HOUSE LEAGUE

NOVICE

The Toronto Star 2 (Taryn Deasley 2) vs. Decorating @ Home 0; Unionville Motors 6 (Selby Tunney 2, Lynn Kennedy 2; Samantha Key, Allison Neville) vs. Absolute Precision 1 (Hilary Sherrard).

ATOM

Stevenson Inc. 10 (Stephanie Dovaston 3, Alexandra Topp 2; Brittany Convery, Brittany Horan, Christie Pawluch, Whitney Slightham) vs. Patti-Lynn Interiors 0; Toromont CAT 2 (Samantha Ruinsky 2) vs. Moller Insurance 0.

PEEWEE

Markham-Stouffville Credit Union 2 (Jade Penna 2) vs. Jones Pools 0.

SENIOR

Noma Cable Tech 5 (Lauren Gainsbrook 3, Margo Izemis 2) vs. Schickedanz Brothers 0; Boyd's Source for Sports

5 (Courtney Frame 4, Kelly McDowell) vs. Shoppers Drug Mart 3 (Danielle Arnold, Kimberley Bound, Carrie-Ann Brown).

Stouffville Amateur League

STANDINGS OF NOV. 1

OPEN DIVISION

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
National Sports	4	0	2	10
All-Weld Co. Ltd	4	1	1	9
Schell Lumber	3	2	1	7
Boyd's Sports	3	3	0	6
Beaumarc Printing	2	3	1	5
Burrows Landscaping	2	3	1	5
Gold Team	2	3	1	5
Pendesign	2	3	1	5
Jen-Dan Limited	2	4	0	4

Miller Waste Systems 2 4 0 4

OVER 35

Houston Ford	5	0	1	11
Melair Transport	4	0	2	10
Painters Edge	4	1	1	9
Williamsons Motors	3	1	2	8
Bully Boys Sports	3	2	1	7
Steve&Liz No Frills	1	2	3	5
B.Phillips Steeplejacks	1	4	1	3
Jones Pools	1	4	1	3
Nicastro Landscaping	1	5	0	2
Dermoddy Insurance	1	5	0	2

SENIOR DIVISION

Royal Le Page	4	1	1	9
VEC Cartage	4	1	1	9
Blue Team	4	2	0	8
K.May Real Estate	2	3	1	5
Stevens Large Tree Sales	1	4	1	3

Ratcliff still has a lot of fun with hockey and softball

What goes around, comes around.

In hockey, Jerry Ratcliff is playing against some of the 'boys' he once coached.

In softball, he's managing a team on which his 14-year-old son is a player.

Such is the dedication and endurance of a man highly respected in both sports.

Born in Whitchurch-Stouffville, the site of the present Christian Blind Mission, Ratcliff received his elementary education at Hillcrest Public School on Kennedy Road.

While in Grade 7, Ratcliff donned big goaltender pads and placed himself between the pipes, a position he retains today.

A backyard pond in summer became a backyard rink in winter, bringing would-be Gordie Howes and Rocket Richards from miles around, including Stouffville's Keith

Acton, Doug Todd and Doug Feasby.

Ratcliff doesn't lay claim to athletic heroism at Stouffville District Secondary School.

"I was never quite good enough to make the big teams," he remembers. "Besides, living in the country, I had to catch a bus for home."

He participated in most intramural sports, however.

Following graduation in 1970, he enrolled in a two-year radio and television course at Ryerson University.

On his return from an eight-month trip to Europe and Australia, Harry Schell of Schell Lumber Ltd. invited him to join the company staff "for maybe a couple of months". That was 27 years ago.

It was through this association, he became involved in minor league ball.

"One evening, Harry (Schell)



Jim Thomas

brought a set of bags to my house with the comment, 'you're coaching tonight'."

Thus began a commitment that would see this club win an all-Ontario championship in 1978.

Ratcliff admits he's had a lot of managerial help along the way including Ray Steel, Sandy Schell Kennedy, Bob Dart, Peter Sanderson and Wayne Emmerson.

He claims the team benefitted

from having many of the same players several seasons including: Mark Fockler, Randy and Gary Grant; Brad Steel, Chris Jackson, Rick Sooley, Steve Spang, Steve Schell, Dave Dart, Mike Lafleur, Glenn Gibson and Rob McBeth.

The addition of Jim Chilvers, described by Ratcliff as, at that time, one of the best pitchers in Ontario, was a big plus for the club.

In a best-of-three final against Kirkland Lake, Stouffville won 5-0 and 5-1.

For a period of seven years, he coached a girls' house league team on which daughter Michelle, now 18, was a player. This past season he helped Dave McVicar with a boys' house league club. Son Glenn, 14, was a member.

Ratcliff's motto has always been "have fun."

"This is what house league's all about and it's where I want to be,"

he says.

It's satisfying, Ratcliff says, that many of those he once coached, have returned to coach another generation, both in hockey and ball.

Ratcliff has seen the game from both sides.

For many years he worked as an umpire alongside Al Piette, Cliff Dunkeld and Cliff Bass.

He was also one of the original Buttermakers when that team was organized in 1979.

But hockey remains a 'first love'. He joined the Stouffville Amateur League in 1980 and is back for another season - still in goal.

"If I get past the warm-up, I'm okay," he jokes.

At 49, Ratcliff shows no signs of slowing down.

"I've been lucky," he says, "the players have been great and so have the parents. I've been in the right place at the right time."

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