

Who says you can't turn back the hands of time?

It's oft been said that history repeats itself.

I believe it.

It was 53 years ago when I cut my teeth, as a newspaper journalist, writing sports.

In January, 2001, this career came full circle. I recommenced submitting sports stories to The Tribune, The Sun and occasionally the Markham Economist and Sun.

Admittedly, I accepted the challenge with feelings of fear and trepidation. Is it possible to turn back the clock? Will anyone care?

Encouraged by editor Jim Mason and sports editor Mike Hayakawa to "give it a try", I recycled my ambition.

It's been a rewarding experience. But I couldn't have done it alone.

The sports fraternity and sorority have been marvellous to lighten my assignment load.

Initially, submissions were run-of-the-mill stuff like outdoor ice rinks; skiing at Dagmar and Lakeridge; skating at Cedarena; ladies league hockey and alley bowling.

Reader reaction was ordinary, not indifferent but not exceptional.

So I hit on a different tact. Where are athletes of yester-years? What are they doing now?

To find out, I contacted Jim Rehill, the most accomplished physical education instructor in the annals of Stouffville District Secondary School. Rehill, backtracked his memory bank and provided a list of names of past



Jim Thomas

outstanding sports achievers.

For me, the rewards have been two-fold: former athletes willing to tell their stories and readers eager to learn their successes.

Like fastball achievements of Joanne (Woods) Steel; pitching prowess of Jim Chilvers; football leadership of Mike Feasby; basketball brilliance of Jim Hill, Lloyd Graves, Eugene Reesor and Linda (Moffat) Stapleton; and the coaching skills of Cliff Dunkeld, Peter Sanderson, Howie Burkholder and Jerry Ratcliff.

There were more: Dave Connell, Andy Cartwright, Donna Harris, Dianne White and Julian Franklin (sports leaders); Bert Baker, Roger Stover, Frank Jago and Bob McNeil (hockey); Sean McQuigge, (refereeing); Michael Pride, Cindy McNeil; Maureen (Ferguson) Patterson and Cheryl (Simpson) Hockley (figure skating); Gord Eckardt and Bob Stover (baseball); Stan Newmarch, Katelyn Button and Jacquie Harris (downhill skiing); Marnie (Minaker) Hayden, (gymnastics); Alfons Rubbens (soccer); Al Piette and Marcia

Wagg (umpiring); Bruce Rodin, Laurie Buckland; Mary (Sled) Lucas and Nicole Ellis (volleyball); Erika (deBruyn) Sayers, Zoe Liadis, Nicole Ongman, Rhiannon Stephenson and Jan Viljoen (swimming); Liz Sled, Kim (Lewis) Reesor; Linda and Brenda Hachey (cross-country); Jonathan Hermanson and Lindsay Thompson (golf); Fred Watson, Allan Bacon, Donna (Skinner) Jones, Kitty Cashman, Linda (Wright) Wagg and Shelley (Smith) Spang (track and field); Kirsten Fraser (hockey); Marg (Brignall) Schell, Mike LaFleur, Jessica Harris, Pearl Coleshill, Jon Ferguson and Paul Matheson (fastball); Sherry Hartnett (field hockey); Gary Grant (curling); Lucas Barry (water skiing); Maureen (Kamps) Fretz (shot put); John Bodnar, Jonathan Macri, Dan McMullen and Simon and Andrew Smith (auto racing); Ted Medley, Barb Melhuish and Glenn Jackson (alley bowling); Matt and Mike DeVries (wrestling); Heather Penny, Kristina West, Alyshia Higgins, Kimberley Hord, Jessica Wilcock, and Samantha McDonnell (synchronized skating); Fred Robbins, (running); Bonnie Burlton (equestrian) and more.

There were sad stories as well like the deaths of Bob Bangay, Chuck Parsons, Lloyd Pascoe and the racehorse Cam Fella.

For me, 2001 was an incredible year, a year I'll never forget.

Hopefully, I've recalled athletic achievements of those who should never be forgotten.

Zoon, Mok lead Spirit to 8-1 victory

Kyle Zoon was nervous before his homecoming Tuesday night.

But after allowing a goal in the opening minute, the Stouffville Spirit's rookie goaltender shut the door on the North York Rangers.

The Spirit went on to win its fourth straight game, 8-1, at the Uxbridge Arena. The contest was postponed Oct. 25 due to a power outage at the Stouffville Arena.

The Spirit is now 21-14-5-1 and in fourth place in the North Conference of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League, three points behind the Aurora Tigers.

Zoon, 16, grew up in Uxbridge before his family moved to Unionville five years ago. He started playing goal as a nine-year-old at the Uxbridge rink.

"It was difficult at the start of the game," he said. "I still come back to Uxbridge a lot. And all of my family and a lot of friends

were watching. It looked like it was all downhill after that first goal."

It wasn't.

The Rangers scored the only goal of the first period, 34 seconds in, and dominated much of the first frame.

But it was the Rangers that were on the slippery slope after that. The Spirit scored four times in each of the final periods.

Defenceman Jeff Mok netted a hat trick on a night Spirit blue-liners would score six goals.

"I think that's my first since minor peewee or maybe even atom," Mok said of his three-goal game.

Mok and Zoon were named KIA of Agincourt/Brimell Toyota players of the game.

Cam Black, Ian Dowhos, Michael Commisso, Garrett McCrea and Kevin Jarman scored the other Spirit goals.

The Spirit hosts the Couchiching Terriers, tonight at the Stouffville Arena and visits Couchiching Friday night.



KYLE ZOON

Spirit goalie's homecoming a success.

MINOR HOCKEY REPORT

Clippers, Uxbridge tie one on

Matthew Dunlop scored three goals to help the Stouffville mite select Clippers salvage a 4-4 tie with Uxbridge in a recent minor hockey contest.

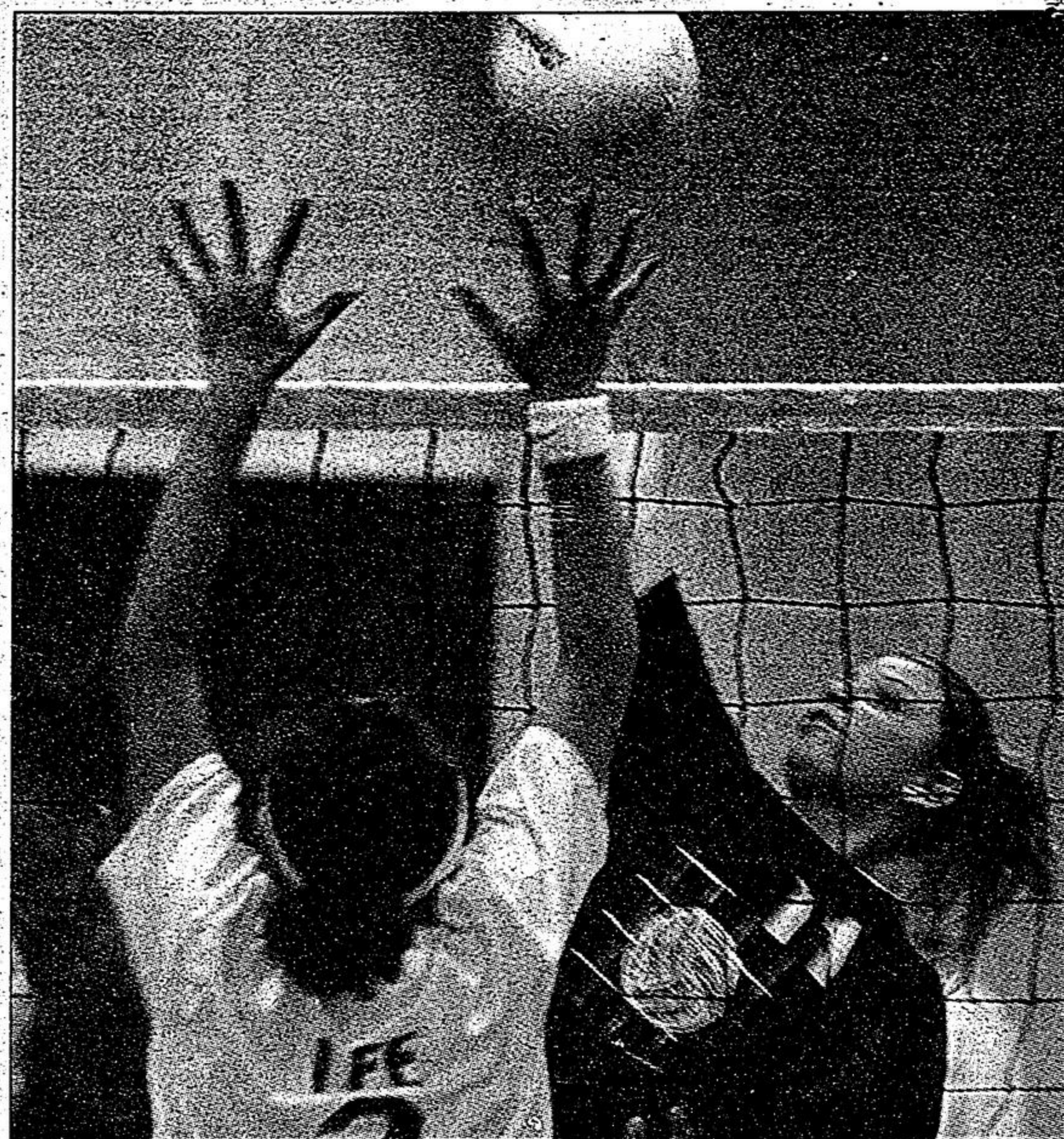
Chad Burrows added a goal and assist while Ryan Bauer and Connor Miller each drew two assists.

Stouffville, Richmond Hill minor novices all even

The Stouffville minor novice Clippers received two-goal performances from Robbie Acton and Connor Cadaret to defeat the Richmond Hill Stars 5-3 last Saturday and evened their first-round York-Simcoe minor hockey playoff series at one game apiece.

Curtis Craggo added the other Clippers' goal.

Steven Tait earned four assists.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

SDSS SPIKING IT RICH

Stouffville District Secondary School's Andrea Meyer (right), spikes the ball over the net against a Father Michael McGivney Academy of Markham defender in Monday's YRAA senior girls' volleyball game at Unionville High School. The Spartans won the match 2-0 and then defeated the host Wolves 2-1.

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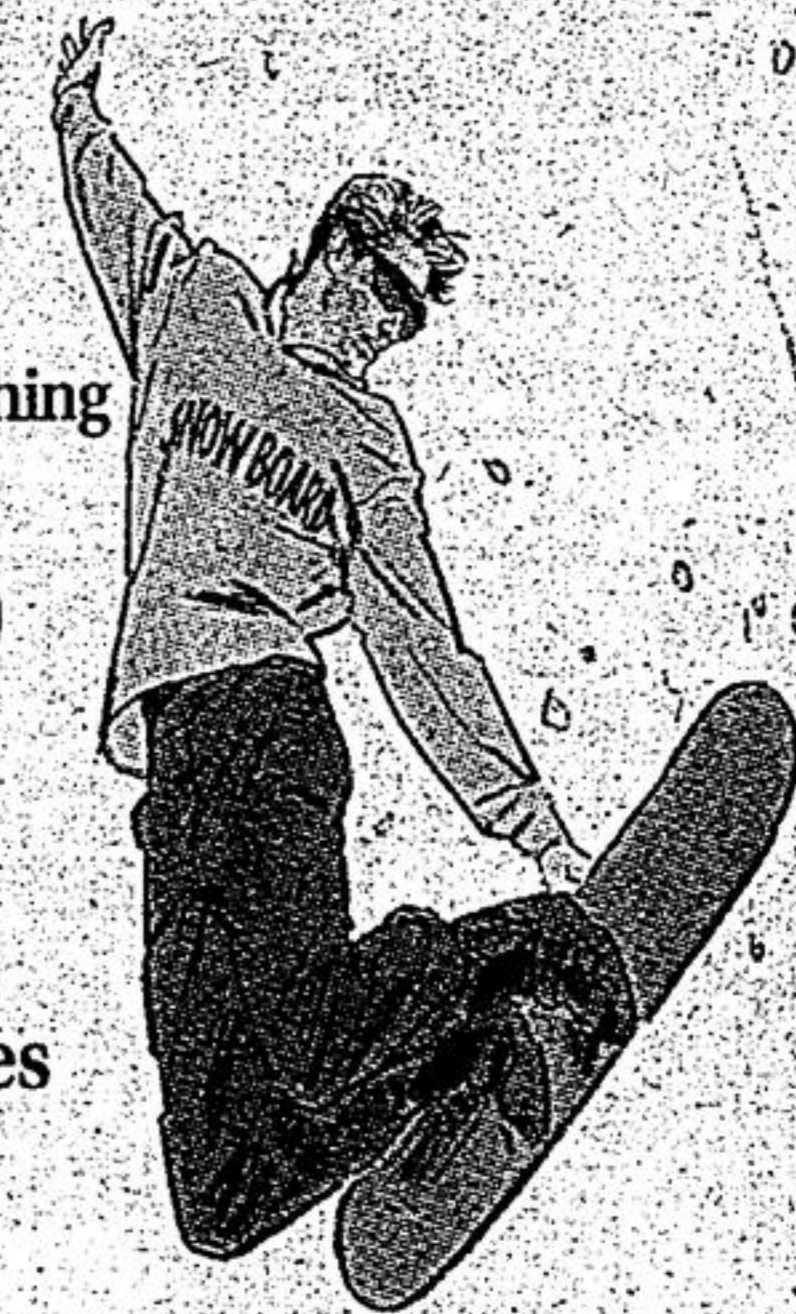
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