

# Minicucci skates off with conference MVP award

*Parry Sound Shamrocks rally to edge Stouffville 6-5 in overtime*

BY JIM MASON  
Editor

Anthony Minicucci arrived in Stouffville three years ago as a 150-pounder fresh out of bantam hockey.

He's now a dominant, high-scoring power forward drawing plenty of attention from U.S. colleges and opposing teams alike.

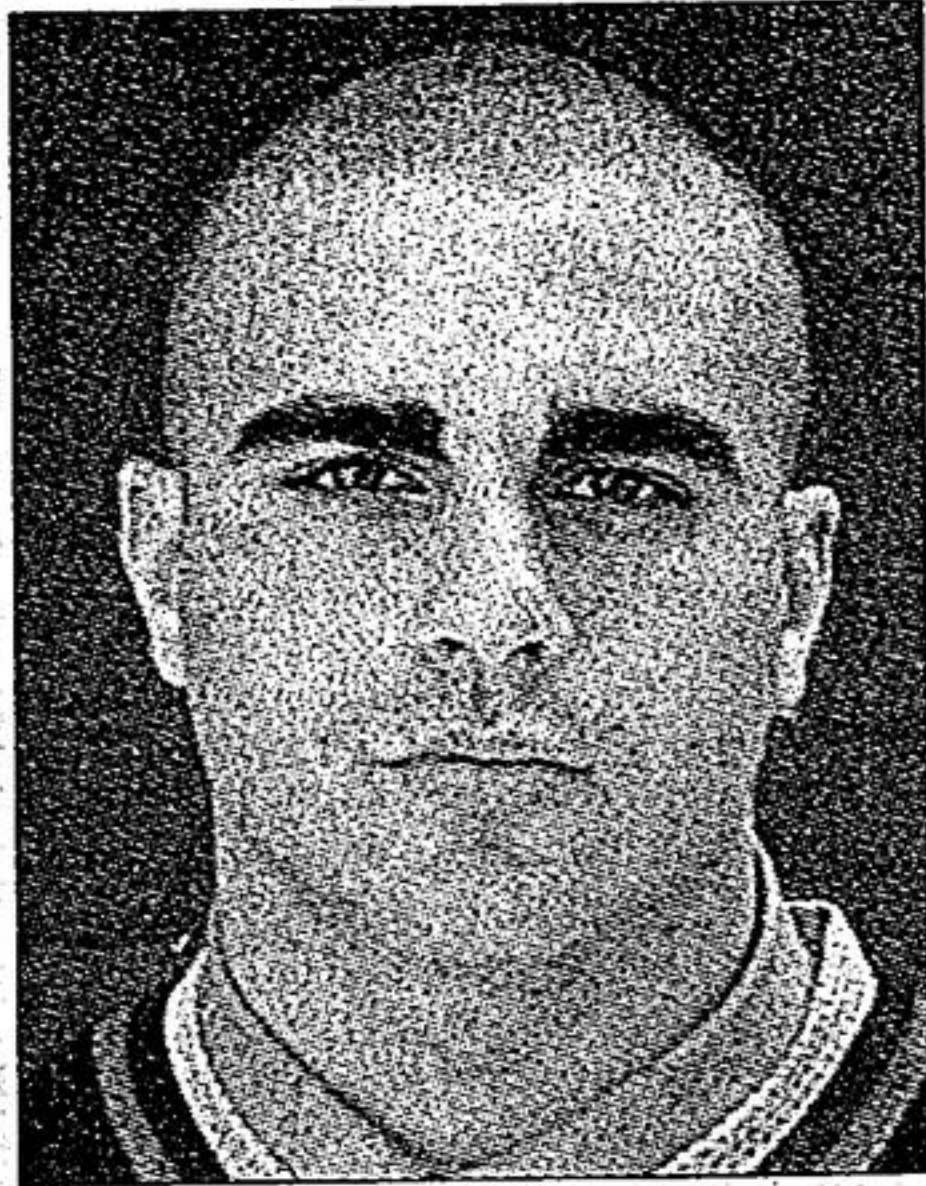
The Stouffville Spirit captain was named most valuable player of the North Conference of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League for the 2001-2002 season on Thursday.

The third-year centre from Maple, Ont. was voted MVP by the conference's general managers Wednesday night.

"Anthony means a lot to our team, and we're pleased for him," said Spirit general manager Ken Burrows.

"It's nice to see the other teams we compete with recognize his play, too."

Minicucci, 18, has 37 goals and 42 assists in 42 games this



**ANTHONY MINICUCCI:** Earns recognition from rival teams in north conference.

season.

The complete list of North Conference award winners includes:

Most Valuable Player - Anthony Minicucci (Stouffville)

Best Defenseman - Andrew Morris (Couchiching) and Nick Rombough (Newmarket) (tie)

Coach of the Year - Ray Flaherty (Couchiching)

Most Gentlemanly Player - Chris Gill (Newmarket)

Most Improved Player - Sean Burke (Couchiching)

Rookie of the Year - Luke Dubbin (Couchiching)

Minicucci had a big night

again Thursday at the Stouffville Arena in its contest against the Parry Sound Shamrocks, but not large enough to stop a big-time Spirit collapse.

Stouffville led 5-3 with less than a minute to play but allowed the Shamrocks to score twice in regulation, including the tying goal with four seconds to go.

Parry Sound scored the winner, banking a puck past goaltender Kyle Zoon off a Spirit forward, with 50 second left in overtime.

The Spirit was scheduled to play in Parry Sound in the rematch last night.

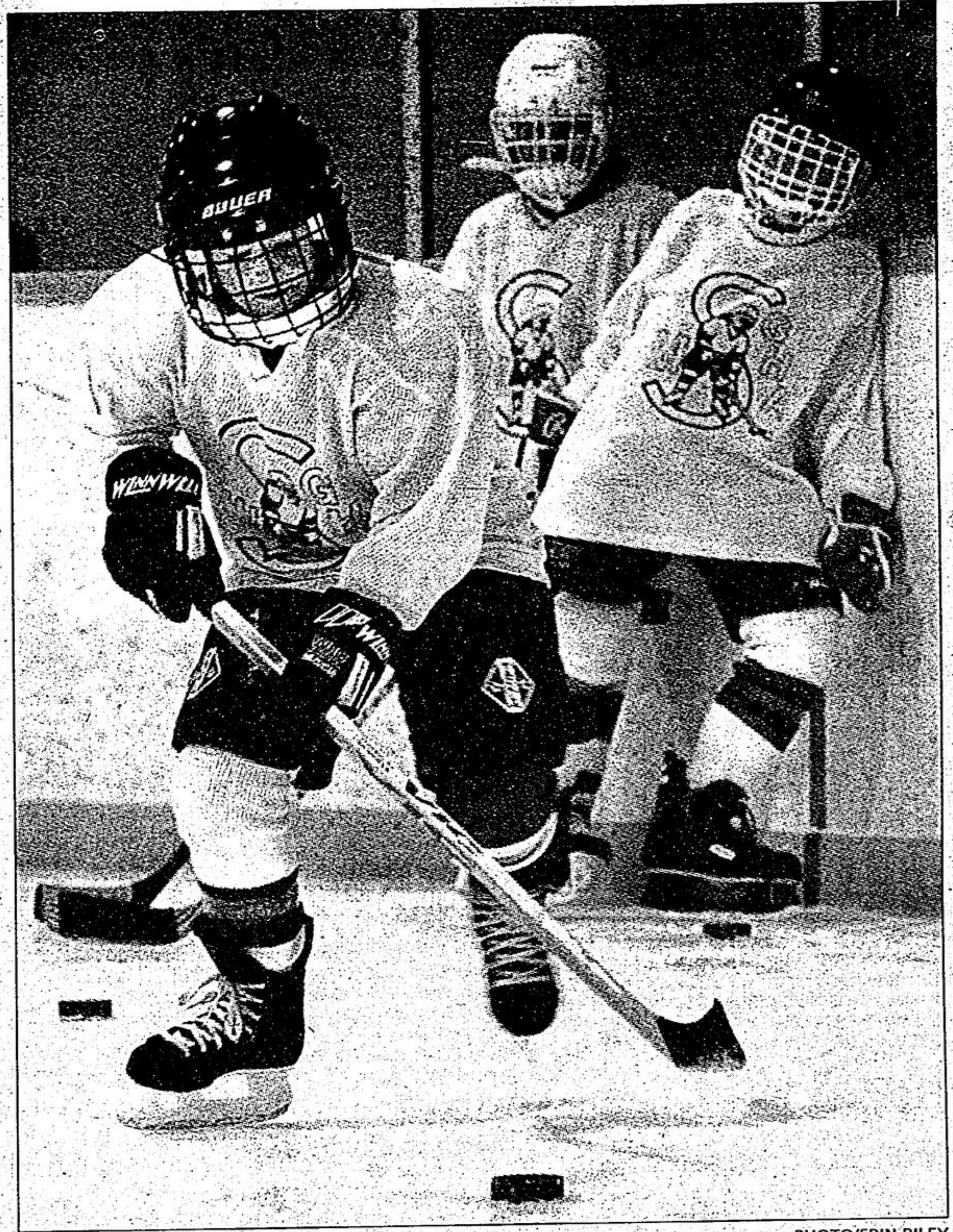
Stouffville finishes off its regular season with three games next week.

The Collingwood Blues play in Stouffville Thursday, then host the Spirit the next night in Collingwood.

The first-place Newmarket Hurricanes play in the season finale next Saturday in Stouffville at 8:30 p.m.

As part of that game's festivities, the 1952 Stouffville Clippers Ontario Hockey Association Senior B championship team will be honoured.

The Spirit and Blues will likely play each other in the first round of the playoffs starting the week of Feb. 6.



PHOTO/ERIN RILEY

## PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT

Decorating @Home's Vanessa Spataro goes through a puckhandling drill prior to her novice club's Markham-Stouffville Girls' Hockey League houseleague contest Monday at the Stouffville Arena.

# Atom Waxers ice International Silver Stick title

The Markham Brandon Group-Canadian Asphalt Industries-CMC Excavation AAA atom Waxers captured the 2002 International Silver Stick championship last weekend with a 3-2 double overtime win over Detroit Honeybaked at Sarnia.



In reaching the final, Markham posted wins over the Chicago Young Americans 5-1, Cleveland Barons 5-3, Detroit Compuware 3-1 and Team Illinois 4-2 in the semi-final.

In addition to capturing the title, the Waxers also came home with the Bob Leclair Memorial Award.

The award is given to the atom team displaying the honourable qualities of good discipline, attitude, ability and conduct as well as general all-around good sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

A total of 46 atom squads in the various tournament divisions were

considered for this award.

Coached by Paul Titanic, team members include Kevin Carr, Daniel Marchione, Jack Caradonna, Cameron Gaunce, Gary Teskey, Mathew Maione, Steven Stamkos, Cody Hodgson, Matthew Tipoff, Peter Rodrigues, Jonathon Simone, David Titanic, Clayton McCaw, Jeffrey Vanderlugt and Kelly Geoffrey.

Stamkos was named to the tournament all-star team.

### Islanders win Detroit tourney

A goal by Scott Mackay just 11 seconds into overtime propelled the Markham pee-wee



AA Islanders to a 2-1 win over the Muskegon, Michigan Chiefs in the championship final of the recent Detroit Sports Weekend International Tournament in Detroit, Michigan.

Trailing 1-0 with four minutes left in regulation time, Markham

## SPORTS DIGEST

tied the score and forced overtime on a goal by Thomas Hanson.

In reaching the final, the Islanders posted wins over the Parma Heights (Ohio) Wings 9-2, Livonia (Michigan) Knights 6-0 and Chelsea (Michigan) Chiefs 7-1.

Scoring for the Islanders were: Mackay six goals, two assists, Jeffrey Valadao four goals, three assists, Bruce Anthony two goals, five assists, Brandon Klein three goals, three assists, Derek MacKenzie three goals, two assists, Andrew Sands two goals, three assists, Ryon Greer a goal and four assists, Thomas Hanson a goal and three assists, Bryan Guertin four assists, Paul Galea three assists, John Grieve a goal and a helper, Graham Collinge and Bryan Sands two assists, Alex Case and Evan Sinukoff one assist apiece.

Jesse Rubinoff and Steve Toth each won two games in goal, while Toth earned a shutout.

Valadao was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. The team is coached by Jeff Case, Bill Hanson and Jim Mackay.

### Junior Titans hoop it up

The junior boys' basketball team from Markham's newest Catholic high school St. Augustine, captured the Brother Andre tournament last weekend with a 69-45 victory over the Mary Ward Catholic High School Wolverines (Scarborough) in the championship final.

Francis Wills had 15 points for the Augustine Titans.

The Titans began the tournament with a 67-37 win over Holy Cross. Robert Ruivo led Augustine with 21 points.

Facing the Markville Secondary School Mavericks in their semi-final game, the Titans received 18 points from Shane Attersley en route to a 65-35 win. Wills was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

### Girls in Sync

The Markham Synchro Skating Club's Mystical Majestics and Midnight Majestics skated off with first-place finishes at last weekend's Niagara Synchro Skating Invitational Competition in St. Catharines.

The Mystical Majestics were first in the Gold Final of the Junior Festival while the Midnight Majestics were first in the Open Festival.

Complete names of those on both teams can be found in Scoreboard.

### Clippers experience bad luck

The Stouffville mite Clippers paid a price for hitting several goalposts as they came out on the short end of a 4-2 decision against Richmond Hill last Friday.

Wesley Cowie and Connor Miller each scored once for Stouffville. Matthew Dunlop earned two assists while Josh Carrick and Devin King each had one.

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