

# Stouffville draws first blood in series with Collingwood

Instead of his customary No. 15, maybe Anthony Minicucci should have skated around the Stouffville Arena with a target on his back Thursday night.

The Stouffville Spirit captain was heavily shadowed, bumped and generally harassed by members of the Collingwood Blues during Game 1 of the teams' Provincial Junior A Hockey League playoff series.

Minicucci played through most of it, scoring a goal and adding two assists to lead the Spirit to a 7-2 win in front of 350 fans. The North Conference MVP was named Brimell Toyota/KIA of Agincourt player of the game. He also picked up five minor penalties, three for unsportsmanlike conduct and one each for roughing after the whistle and high sticking.

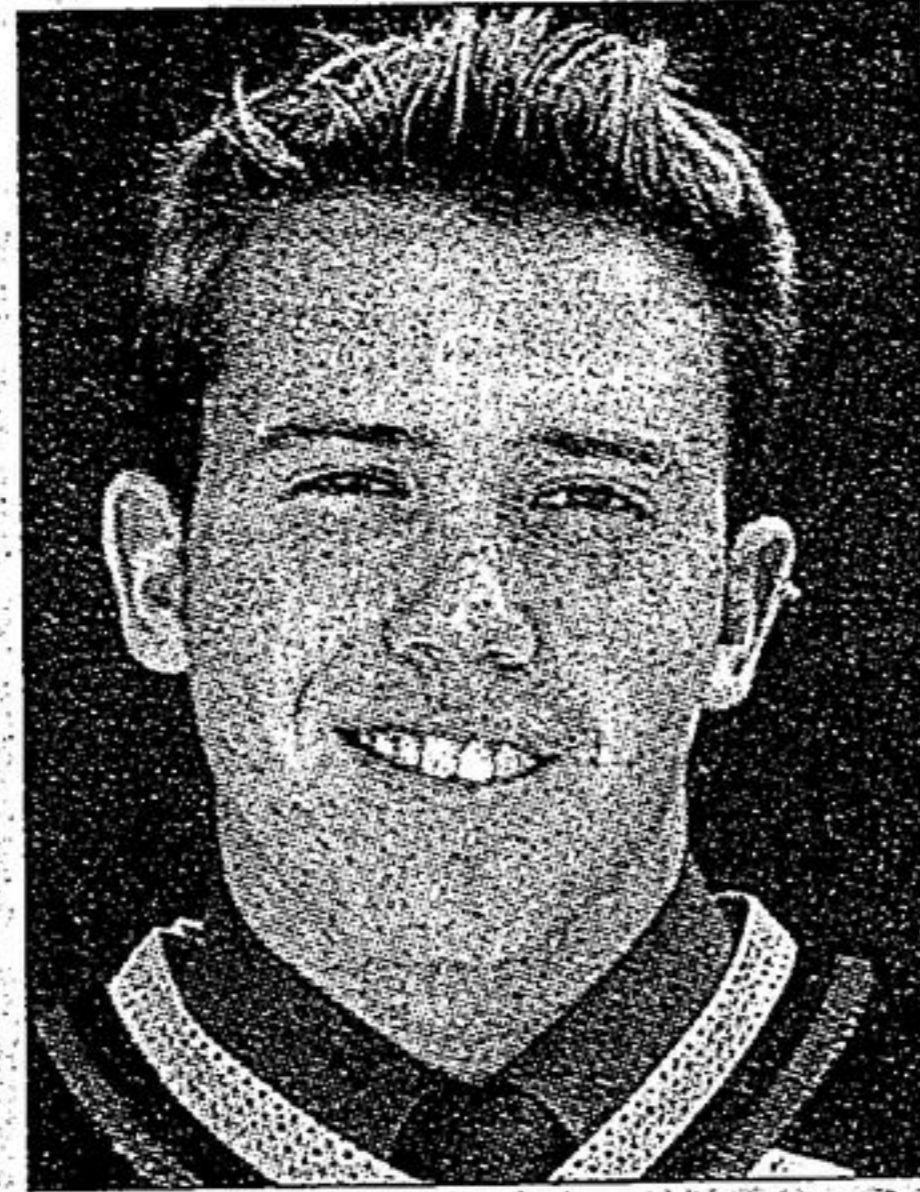
"Yah, they were on my case," said Minicucci, an 18-year-old in his third year with the Spirit. "But I just have to fight through that. I can't let them get under my skin."

Referee Sean McQuigge, the Stouffville native who also refs major junior games in the Ontario Hockey League, called 49 minutes in penalties and gave out five misconducts, four of them to Collingwood. The Spirit scored four powerplay goals.

"I think this could be a very chippy series," said Minicucci. "But then again, (Collingwood) may not play that way again — they have to win now."

Game 2 was to be played last night in Collingwood.

The third game goes Thursday in Stouffville with Game 4 next Friday in Collingwood. If necessary, Game 5 would be played a week from Sunday at



**JORDAN MABLEY:** Stouffville minor hockey product scored two goals in 7-2 win that opened post-season.

3:30 p.m. in Stouffville.

Curtis Cribbie was sharp in goal for Stouffville, who outshot Collingwood 40-33. He drew a loud ovation in the second period, after coming out of nowhere to rob a Collingwood shooter left alone at the crease.

The Spirit led 4-1 after one period and 5-2 after two.

A pair of Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey products had two-point nights. Jordan Mabley scored two goals and Mike Sullivan, who was called up from the Uxbridge Bruins junior C team, had a pair of assists.

Ex-Markham Waxer Mark Mitchell, Bill Brothers, J.D. Smithson and Unionville resident Garrett McCrea had single goals. Smithson and Kevin Jarman each picked up two assists.

# Senior Spartans cage Wyverns in tournament final

## SPORTS DIGEST

The Stouffville District Secondary School senior boys' basketball team held court at its Spartan Basketball Classic on Wednesday after capturing the championship with a 51-35 win over the Woodbridge College Wyverns.

Shane Timms, Tim Lowrie and Tyler McMaster each had 14 points for the Spartans, who held a 25-10 halftime advantage.

Jake Anderson came off the bench to hit two three-point baskets and Derek Konga hauled in several key rebounds at both ends of the court.

In reaching the final, the Spartans won their opening game over the Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals 38-26.

Lowrie was high scorer with 16 points while Timms added 15.

Facing the Uxbridge Secondary School Tigers in their second game, the Spartans got 18 points from Timms and 11 from Lowrie to emerge with a 50-36 win and berth in the final.

Spartans head coach Jim Fletcher was ecstatic with the effort his club put in as they prepare to host Monday's York Region Athletic Association tier two quarter-final game against Toronto District Christian School at 4 p.m.

"We played a real disciplined game and we played as a unit," said Fletcher, who coaches the team with Steve Shantz. "Defensively we helped each other out well and our fast break was strong. And we got some strong outside shooting when we needed it. We have a number of people who can hit threes. Things are coming together."

Timms was named the tournament's most valuable player.



### Strikers take second in indoor final

In their first season of indoor soccer play, the Unionville-Milliken Big G Strikers reached the under-14 Girls Ontario Indoor Cup Championship game at the Coffee Time Soccer Centre in Vaughan before suffering a 4-2 loss to the Mississauga Dixie 88's.

In reaching the final, the Strikers received solid netminding from Liana Tome and Genevieve Kalentzis to post 1-0 victories over the Brampton Brams United Rangers and North Mississauga Panthers. The Strikers proceeded to battle the Sudbury Indoor Soccer Club to a 1-1 tie and record a 2-0 win over the Kanata Rovers before dropping a 5-0 decision to the heavily favoured Mississauga Dixie 88's.

Advancing to the semi-finals, the Strikers defeated the Kitchener Spirit 2-1.

Scoring for the Strikers were: Breanne Grant three goals, Katie Shifman and Sheree Spencer two each; Michelle Jatz and Shaelyn Culleton one.

Strong performances were also provided by: Samantha Ainsworth, Corinne Babiolakis, Mary-Anne Babiolakis, Samantha Cawkell, Sarah Christiani, Laura Colangelo, Maddie Wilkinson, Jennifer Wong, Andrea Vasilopoulos and Heather Amadori.



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