

SPORTS

Summitview girls cage area hoop title

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

The Summitview Public School Stingers are the new York Region Area East Elementary School Intermediate girls basketball champions.

The entry, considered tournament underdogs, defeated Whitchurch-Highlands 27-15 to take the title last Friday. Other participants were Glad Park, Orchard Park, Ballantrae and Dickson's Hill.

Summitview, co-coached by Heather Campbell, Don Connor and Corey Trute, went undefeated, knocking off Whitchurch-Highlands twice, Ballantrae and Glad Park.

The Summitview roster included - Liz Knox, Pearl Coleshill, Maddie Wilkinson, Jamie Sparks, Rachel Kadi, Shida Dastoom, Deanna McKay, Julie Hayward, Jessie Harris and Elise Feltis.

Each member of the championship team received a ribbon. A pennant will hang in the school's gymnasium.

"We weren't expected to win," Campbell said, "our girls really worked hard." She described star players Liz Knox and Pearl Coleshill as amazing.

Today, Summitview is playing Boxwood Public School of Markham for the York Region district title.

Stouffville minor novices, minor atoms reach tourney semis

The Stouffville minor novice and minor atom Clippers advanced to the semi-finals of a tournament which they hosted last weekend at the Stouffville Arena before bowing out with losses.

The minor novice Clippers opened the tournament with a 5-0 win over Whitby before dropping a 5-3 decision to Acton. The Clippers rallied to rout the Agincourt Canadians 6-1 and gain a berth in the semi-finals before dropping a 1-0 decision to the eventual champion Uxbridge Stars, who edged Woodstock in their gold-medal tilt.

The minor atom Clippers posted victories over the Agincourt Canadians 5-3, Nickel Centre 2-1 and Kitchener 2-1 before exiting the tournament with a 3-0 loss to Woolwich, who dropped a 6-1 decision to Brantford in the final.

The novice Clippers began the tournament with wins over the Markham Islanders 6-2 and Peterborough 4-1 before concluding their participation with a 3-1 loss to Oshawa. Waterloo won the novice title with a 3-1 win over Pickering.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

TAKING A HARD FALL ON THE ICE

Stouffville Clippers Robert Ianuzzo (foreground) sends an Agincourt Canadians' player to the ice during a minor atom contest in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's tournament at the Stouffville Arena last weekend. The Clippers won the game 5-3. See story, this page, for more.

Tanaka nets O.T. winners in Quebec City, Silver Stick finals

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Nothing beats the thrill of an overtime goal.

Ask Mats Sundin. Ask Steve Thomas. Ask Mario Lemieux.

Ask Cory Tanaka. Yes, 13-year-old Cory Tanaka, a Grade 8 student attending Glad Park Public School knows the feeling.

At the recent Silver Stick Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan, he scored the game-winning goal in overtime to propel the Richmond Hill Stars to AAA title.

And to prove it was no fluke, the Stars' centreman fired the overtime winner when the Stars defeated the Boston Eagles 1-0 in the Peeewe AAA division final of the recent 43rd annual Quebec peeewe hockey tournament in Quebec City.

Initially a player in the Whitchurch-Stouffville minor system, Tanaka moved up to AAA at Richmond Hill eight seasons ago, first in novice, then atom and now peeewe. His coach is Jerome Dupont, a former defenceman with the Toronto Maple Leafs and Chicago Blackhawks.

With the game scoreless and overtime counting down, Tanaka grabbed a loose puck inside the Richmond Hill blueline, skated around one Boston defender

and fired a bullet between the netminder's pads.

Following the goal, all pandemonium broke loose, recalled Cory's father, Ron.

"The place went crazy; Cory was mobbed," Ron said, "it was quite a scene." Both Ron and wife Kim were seated in the stands. A principal at Oak Ridges Public School, Kim was unable to take time off to attend mid-week games but made the trip down for Sunday's finale.

The Quebec peeewe tournament is the largest of its kind in the world, hosting teams from as far distant as Russia, Mexico and Czechoslovakia as well as across Canada and the United States.

Although Cory is part of his school's volleyball and basketball teams as well as an enthusiastic snowboarder, hockey is his favourite sport.

The Stars' division includes Markham, Barrie and Ajax. The team also participates in tournaments at Sudbury, Port Huron,

St. Catharines and Toronto. They won the minor peeewe AAA title last year and the minor atom AAA championship two years earlier.

So far this season, Cory's rolled up a total of 130 points.

Brandon Walker, also of Stouffville, plays on the same team.

Richmond Hill won all six of its Quebec tournament games. The fact one loss meant all was over, put a lot of pressure on the players, Ron said. He estimated the Colisee crowd for the concluding contest at close to 10,000.

"To see our son score the winning goal has to be the thrill of a lifetime; an incredible feeling," he said.

In addition to a team trophy, each player received a medal and a ring.

Because an older son, Cale, plays bantam AAA, also with Richmond Hill, Ron is on the road as many as six nights a week watching his sons play hockey.

Cory's been skating since age four. When not involved in regular games, the boys practice on a large backyard rink prepared and maintained by their father.

What lies ahead? Like many aspiring pucksters, Cory has another goal in mind, to play in the NHL.

Keith Acton made it. Why not Cory Tanaka?



CORY TANAKA

Stouffville teen scores big goals for AAA peeewe Stars.

Macri in Mexico to open new CART season

Having finished fifth last season in his rookie campaign in the CART Toyota Atlantic series racing championships and second for rookie of the year honours, Jonathan Macri is not going to rest on those laurels as the 2002 season begins this weekend at the Fundidora Park road course in Monterrey, Mexico.

Over the last month leading up to this weekend's first race, the Gormley native has logged

five test sessions with Bill Fickling's P-1 Racing team in their Swift 008a vehicle at Buttonwillow and Willow Springs, California.



Noting that his trial runs were successful, Macri also found the time to test the new Swift racing machines.

Macri is extremely curious to see how the new Swift racing machines will compare to the older models.

"We tested the Swift 008a and made some changes," revealed Macri. "But I also had the chance to test my teammate Dave Cutler's new Swift 014a. The new car handles really well in high-speed corners, but it seemed that the lap times were pretty similar between the two cars so I'm hoping to be competitive for the first few races," said Macri.

Racing for the first time in Mexico along with the rest of his rivals, Macri is excited with the prospects and predicts the upcoming race will be highly competitive. The key, he said, is to get this season off on a positive note with a good performance for the P-1 Racing team.

"Hopefully, we'll be competitive. It's the first race so putting in a clean, solid performance will be important.

"I'm really happy to be back with P-1 Racing. We have a full season of successful team-building to fall back on so we should be really competitive this season. I'm also really grateful that NTN Bearings Corporation of Canada, Miller Genuine Draft, Battlefield Equipment Rentals, Mopal Construction Ltd, Baldhead Systems Inc, Con Lawn Construction-Landscaping, and Cobra Power Inc. are behind me and my racing efforts with their generous sponsorship."

This weekend's Atlantic schedule begins with a test session today, followed by the first official practice session tomorrow. Qualifying begins on Saturday morning followed by the race at 3 p.m.

The race will be televised on a same-day tape-delay basis on the SPEED CHANNEL at 9:30 p.m. eastern.