

SPORTS

Smithson's heroics propel Spirit to victory

Overtime goal is his first in five years as member of Stouffville Junior A squad

J.D. Smithson has done a lot of things as a member of the Stouffville Spirit.

But on Thursday, he recorded a first.

Smithson's second goal of the game, at the 2:36-mark in overtime, gave the Spirit a come-from-behind 4-3 win at the Stouffville Arena over the Ajax Axeman. The win boosted the Spirit into third place in the North Conference of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League.

Smithson, the first five-year player in the Spirit's eight-year history, has now scored 49 goals and totalled 204 points in 207 games with the franchise. But Thursday's goal was his first in overtime.

The 20-year-old Seneca College stu-



J.D. SMITHSON: Is expected to leave Spirit later this fall to try out with Calgary pro lacrosse club.

dent, who lives in Maple, could be lost to the team for the rest of the season later this fall.

Smithson heads to the training camp of the pro lacrosse Calgary Roughnecks next month. He was a third-round pick of the second-year franchise this fall.

"Calgary has said I have a shot," said Smithson, who played junior A lacrosse for the Toronto Beaches. "I just have to prove that I can play at the pro level at camp."

On Thursday, the South Conference Axemen jumped out to a 3-2 lead while controlling play in the first two periods. Ex-Spirit winger Eric Boonstra had one of the Ajax goals.

Stouffville dominated the third, tying the game and forcing overtime.

The Spirit outshot the Axeman 48-35, including a 20-7 margin in the third period.

Konrad Breutsch and Mike Sullivan, had the other Stouffville goals.

The Spirit hosts second-place Newmarket today at 7:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville District Secondary School's Lindsay Hermanson watches her tee-off during Tuesday's York Region Athletic Association girls' golf championships at Rolling Hills Golf Club in Gormley. Hermanson helped the Spartans' golf team to a second-place finish in the team event.

Local high school golfers are on par at region championship

Markham and Stouffville-area teens help their teams to strong finishes

When the school year began in September, Jim Buie had no intentions of running a golf team at Markham District High School.

But after a group of students approached him early in the academic year and asked about the possibility of forming one, Buie had a change of heart.

The decision proved to be a fortuitous one. The Marauders junior boys' entry earned a share of this year's York Region Athletic Association title along with Cardinal Carter Catholic High School after carding a 317 on the Rolling Hills Golf Club's Championship Course in Gormley on Tuesday.

Andrew Gillis led the Marauders' fortunes with a six-over 78 followed by Matt Carthy at 79, Jason Dunlop and Brett Pearl, 80 and Cameron Maclean, 84.

"The guys were pretty eager to form a team and they asked me to get one going," recalled Buie. "You could tell by the interest that there were some good golfers at the school so we held a Markham District High School Open early in the year to see who would represent the school."

Buie thought his charges

would be in the hunt for the title and believes their demeanour on the links was an asset.

"They knew their skill levels and they knew that if they played well they could compete (for the championship)."

Stouffville District Secondary School was third with a 338. Team members included James Castle, Adam Craig, Justin Hitchen, Zac Popper and Corey Robert.

Spartans coach Steve Kinsella was happy with the end result. "They played well and had fun, that's the main thing," he said.

In the senior boys division, which was held at Station Creek Golf Club in Stouffville, the Markville Secondary School Mavericks finished third in the team division.

Led by Alvin Yeung's two-over-par 72 — which was good for third in the individual competition — the Mavericks carded a 323 and were 13 shots behind first-place St. Robert Catholic High School.

Also competing for the Mavericks were Mike Matunin with a 78, Neil DeGray, 85, Andrew McCron 86 and Stefan Turchet 87.

While pleased with the team's effort, head coach Earl Fritz noted frigid weather conditions early in the morning and course conditions on the greens were challenging.

"It was tough, especially on

the greens as they were all being aerated. When the kids were putting the balls were bouncing. It was difficult for everyone."

In the girls division, which was played at Rolling Hills Golf Club's par-70 Challenge Course, the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans earned a second-place finish in the team championship bracket.

The Spartans team of Lindsay Hermanson, Lyndsay Thompson, Joanne Crymble, Brooke Acton and Katie DiTosto carded a 382 and was eight shots behind first-place Thornhill Secondary School.

Individually, Hermanson was the top golfer for the Spartans and finished fourth in the individual competition with an 11-over-par 81. Thompson recorded a 94 while Crymble had a 100, Acton 107 and Di Tosto 142.

Spartans coach Maureen Weaver was pleased with the effort her charges gave.

"Everybody wanted to win, but they were pleased to finish second. We had two girls in the top 10 and four in the top 12 individually," she cited.

The Markville Secondary School girls finished fourth with a 492.

Team members included Lauren Usami — who had a team-best 92 — Andrea Jones, Courtney Parker and Ariel Mendlowitz. Christine Hartnol, another team member, was injured and could not play.

Christine Ryckman of Unionville High School carded an 84 and was sixth in the individual competition.

Atom Stars shine in preseason

The Markham-Stouffville atom BB Stars girls' hockey team tuned up for its upcoming regular season by winning three of five preseason tilts.

After opening its slate with a 2-1 loss to Keswick, the Stars edged Scarborough 2-1 on goals from Josee Daoust and Carly Henderson.

Erin Murphy, Sarah Schell and Lynn Kennedy drew assists.

The Stars then dropped a 3-0 decision to Keswick before turning the tables to blank Whitby 2-0 on two goals from Murphy.

Nicole Wannop and Kaitlyn Mullett drew assists.

With Murphy, Wannop and Henderson each scoring once, the Stars concluded their preseason with a 3-1 win over Leaside.

Vanessa Spataro collected two assists while Daoust, Schell and Wannop had singles.

Katie O'Hagan and Hannah Tunney handled goaltending duties. Also helping the club's cause were Brittany Drew, Jaymi Schell, Samantha Unitas, Selby Tunney, Rachel Mathieu and Emily O'Shaughnessy.

Clippers settle for second

The Stouffville major peewee A

SPORTS DIGEST

Clippers advanced to the finals of the recent Whitby Wildcats Thanksgiving Tournament before earning a silver medal in a 4-1 loss to Syracuse, New York.

Jamie Gregory scored the lone Stouffville goal.

After losing its first game to the Ajax Knights, the Clippers received a two-goal effort from Kyle Cussion and one from Matt Raguseo to blank the Georgina Blaze 3-0.

Backed by a four-goal effort from Jeff Kavluk, Stouffville routed the Westhill Goldhawks 7-0.

Gregory added two goals and Chris Boake, one.

Kavluk continued to find the range as he delivered a hat trick while Boake scored once in a 4-1 win over the Simcoe Warriors in the semi-finals.

Also providing major contributions for in the tournament were the defence pairings of Luke Bartell and Matt Raguseo and David Hooper and Brad Maxwell.

Dylan Stewart and Greg Outram-Kuzma were outstanding in net throughout the four-day event.

Contributing to the club's offensive output were Malcolm Forbes, Alex Gregerson, Limiel Selmanovski and Jonathon Stansfield.

