

SPORTS

Spirit hopes youth will serve up first win of season

Stouffville hosts Aurora Tigers tonight

And the Stouffville Spirit thought it had a young team last year.

The roster that went to the finals of the North Conference of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League last March was downright ancient with an average age of 18.4.

This year's squad averages 17.4. Few players are worried about voting in this fall's twin spin of elections in Ontario.

There are other concerns. Growing pains, if you will.

The Spirit lost its first two games of the season last week, 6-5 to Newmarket and 9-5 to Aurora.

"We've got a lot of rookies (12 on the 24-player roster) and once they gel, we'll be better off. The little errors are turning into big mistakes," Spirit head coach Brian Perrin said.

"Still, it's the vets who aren't showing what they should, the second-year guys are who this team depends on."

Aurora, the two-time defending conference champ, visits the Spirit tonight at the Stouffville Arena.

Aurora, with an average age of 19-plus last year, has at least 10 20-year-olds in the lineup this season.

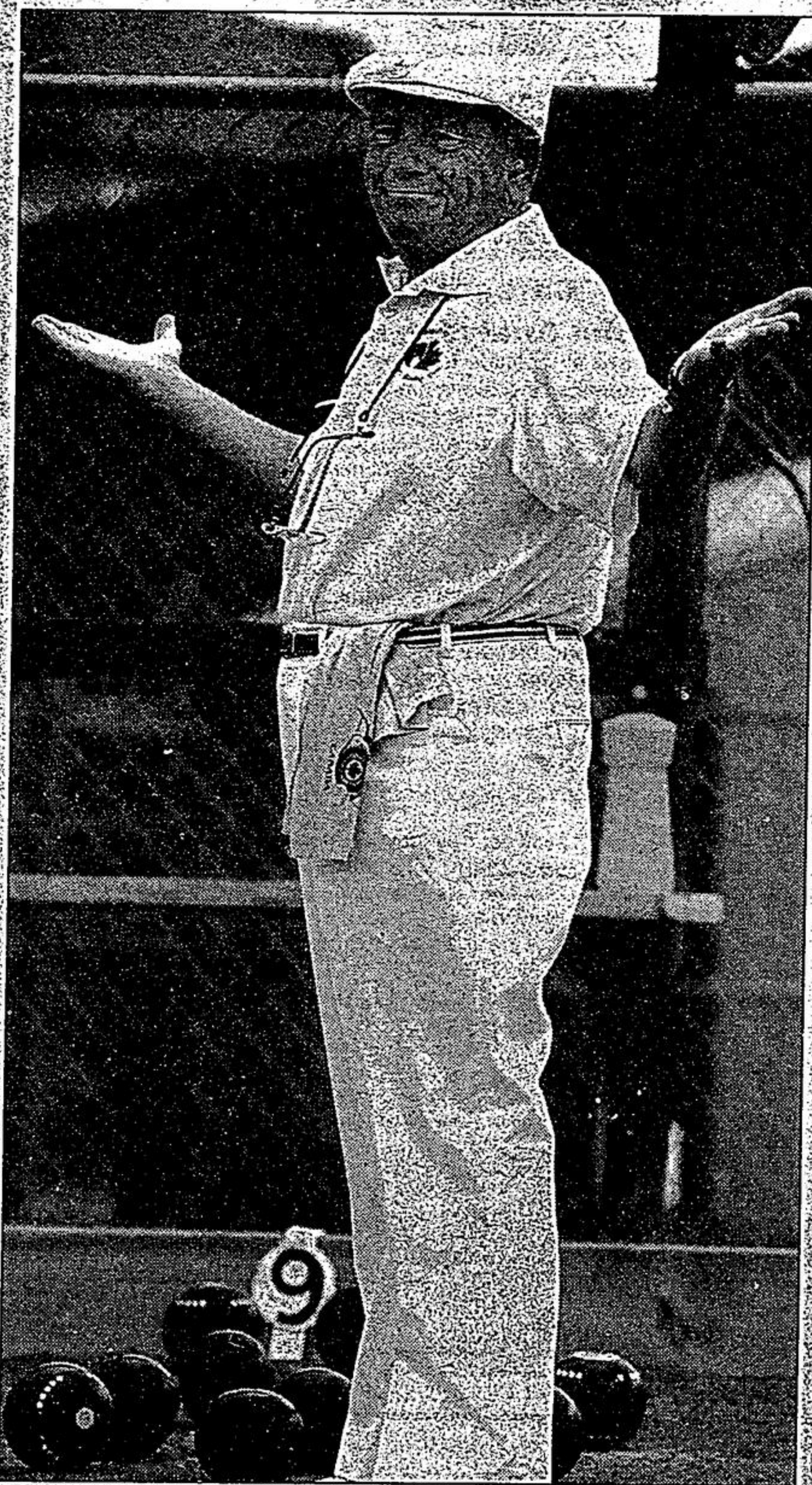
For its part, the Spirit became even younger on the weekend, signing 15-year-old goaltender Neil Conway.

The Cleveland, Ohio-area product was playing midget for a Pittsburgh team. He joins second-year netminder Steve Carota, who started in both losses.

At Aurora Friday, the score was tied 3-3 near the midway point of the game.

Rookies Mark Boyce, Jake Van Allen, Randy Johnston and Simon Gysbers plus second-year forward Ty Raine scored for the Spirit.

SPIRITED NOTES: Former Spirit player Sean Scully left Stouffville's camp earlier this month to sign with Aurora. He played the last three seasons with the Ottawa 67s of the Ontario Hockey League. Kevin Edgar, who set Spirit scoring records in the late 1990s, has signed a pro contract with New Mexico of the Central Hockey League. He played the last four seasons at York University for coach Graham Wise of Stouffville. Houston Ford hosts its second annual Meet the Spirit barbecue at the Main Street dealership Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. Free food and plenty of free prizes.



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEEN

So what else is new?

Paul Muir throws up his arms in disbelief after he and teammate Alan Badgery delivered bowls towards the jack at the recent Ken Prentice Dundee Wealth Management Trophy men's pairs event at the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club.

Field hockey teams tune up games on SDSS field

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans girls' field hockey team plays host to a preseason tournament today.

The one-day competition will feature 15 high school teams from the York Region Athletic Association.

Spartan coach Scott Croucher notes the tournament will enable teams to assess their talent before making any roster moves.

The Spartans begin their regular season Sept. 26 when they host Aurora at 4:30 p.m. Two other games will be played prior to that match, including York Region champion Brother Andre Catholic High School against

Newmarket High School at 2:30 p.m. and Dr. G.W. Williams (Aurora) vs. King City Secondary School at 3:30 p.m.

SERVING UP A MILLENNIUM CUP TITLE

Stouffville District Secondary School's annual Millennium Cup volleyball tournament will be held at

the school on Nov. 8.

Any former Spartan volleyball players interested in participating can

contact Jim Fletcher at 905-985-1542 or e-mail at fletcher@idiirect.com.

Please leave names of participating team members, graduation year, phone number and e-mail address.



YORK REGION ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Masters swim club hopes to make waves

New club to train at Lebovic Leisure Centre

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

The Stouffville Masters Swim Club is making a splash at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

The organization, called Master Ducks, is headed by Nancy Black of Aurora. Her Stouffville assistant is Yorrick Tong, head coach of the Junior Lifeguard Club.

The age range for membership is 20 and older. The season extends from September through June with fees as follows: \$360, (one time per week); \$600, (two times per week); \$720, (three times per week) and \$820, (four times per week).

The program promotes physical fitness, competition, motivation and fun.

More than 70 swimmers have signed up for the 2003-2004 season including 10 from Stouffville. These are: Peter and Charlotte Woessner, Bill and Elaine Osborne, Joan McCullough, Al ZanHerpt, Sherry

Remnat, Jeff Nelson and Patricia Paz-soldam.

Competitive meets will be held locally at North York, Brantford and London.

The provincials are scheduled for Etobicoke in April, 2004; the nationals in Edmonton, May, 2004 and the worlds, also in Edmonton in 2005.

"It's the only sport people can do till they're 100 years old," said Black, a two-time medal winner at the World Masters Swimming Championships.

The average age range is 35 to 50, but younger and older participants are welcome, she said.

Fitness workouts are Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:45 to 10 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.

A program called Cardio-Wake-up, is held Friday mornings from 6:30 to 7:30.

The only equipment required is a swimsuit and goggles.

Brochures and membership information are available at the Lebovic Leisure Centre, 30 Burkholder St., Stouffville.

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