

SPORTS

Jr. A team welcomes sniper Johnston back

Spirit battle St. Mike's to 2-2 tie, plays host to Aurora Tigers tonight

If Randy Johnston was upset, he wasn't showing it.

Johnston returned to the Stouffville Spirit Sunday after being released by two Ontario Hockey League teams this fall.

The 6-foot forward was arguably the best Spirit player on the night, scoring once in a 2-2 tie with the St. Michael's Buzzers in Provincial Jr. A Hockey League action in Toronto.

He hadn't even practised with the Spirit before playing, referring to one linemate later by only his number.

The Newmarket resident had 33 points in 41 games as a rookie with the Spirit last season. He was called up for two games with Ottawa 67's, the OHL team that drafted him in 2003, and seemed like a sure thing to stick there this year.

But when Ottawa acquired overage centre Brad Bonello from Peterborough Oct. 18, Johnston knew his days as a fourth-liner were numbered. After nine games, he was placed on waivers.

The Barrie Colts picked him up for two games, only to put him back on waivers. The Spirit welcomed him back with open arms.

Still, the Colts have promised him a spot, minimum third line, next year.

"It was a minor letdown (coming back)," he said. "But you have to take what life gives you."

"I like Stouffville and Stouffville likes me and I get to play with some close friends here."

The Spirit outshot the Buzzers



RANDY JOHNSTON: Spirit forward was disappointed when Barrie Colts and Ottawa 67's placed him on waivers.

51-28 Sunday. St. Mike's tied the game in the last two minutes of regulation, forcing overtime.

Mark Boyce scored the other Spirit goal.

Dan McWhinney was solid in the Spirit goal.

The Spirit hosts Aurora tonight then visits Couchiching tomorrow and Newmarket Sunday afternoon. Aurora and the Spirit have split their season series to date, winning one game each.

SPIRITUALLY: A pre-game Remembrance Day ceremony tonight, featuring members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459, will honour Canadian war veterans. There were several NHL scouts, including hall of famer Guy Lapointe of the Minnesota Wild, at Sunday's game to watch St. Mike's superstar Andrew Cogliano. St. Mike's plays in Stouffville Dec. 18.

For more information on the Spirit, log on to www.stouffvillespirit.com

Senior Spartans spike berth in YRAA playoffs

Busy SDSS hosts St. Andrew's in OFSAA AA qualifier

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' volleyball team gained a berth in the York Region Athletic Association tier one tournament after capturing the Central Zone title at Alexander Mackenzie High School in Richmond Hill.

The Spartans, who finished second in regular season play behind Mackenzie, opened the four-team tournament with a 2-1 (25-22, 27-29, 15-13) win over Cardinal Carter Catholic High School (Aurora).

The victory vaulted the Spartans into the title game where they defeated Mackenzie 2-0 (25-22, 25-14).

Both teams, however, will advance to the tournament at Toronto District Christian High School Nov. 15 starting at 9 a.m.

The tournament will be comprised of the top two finishers in each of the four YRAA divisions. The top two finishers from this event will advance to the YRAA final at Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket Nov. 19.

The Spartans will have little time to celebrate as they will host St. Andrew's College (Aurora) Friday in an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA qualifier at 3:30 p.m.

The winner of this game will earn the OFSAA berth. This year's OFSAA playdowns will be held Nov. 26 and 27 in Clinton.

In tuning up for the zone playdowns, the Spartans took part in two tournaments and came away with a win in the Thornlea classic last Friday and a second-place effort at their own event Saturday.

At the Thornlea event, the Spartans defeated Unionville High School 2-1 in the final.

Spartans' setter and team captain Alan McGrath was voted the tournament's most valuable player.

In Saturday's tournament at Stouffville District Secondary School, the Spartans faced Toronto's Neil McNeil in the championship final and were edged 2-1. McGrath once again garnered most valuable player honours for the Spartans.

Millennium Cup weekend

Former Spartan volleyball players who wish to take part



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' Gavin Howe spikes this ball past a Cardinal Carter Catholic High School opponent in Tuesday's YRAA Central zone playdown senior boys' volleyball match at Alexander Mackenzie High School in Richmond Hill. The Spartans prevailed 2-1 and proceeded to defeat the host club 2-0 to advance to Monday's YRAA playoffs at Toronto District Christian High School.

in this year's Millennium Cup tournament Saturday at Stouffville District Secondary School can still register.

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and will run till 2:30 p.m.

Those interested should e-mail Jim Fletcher at fletches@direct.com or phone 905-985-3489.

Hoops team in playoffs

The Spartans senior girls' basketball team will take to the hardwood court today for its first-round elimination playoff game against host Maple High School.

The Spartans, who finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Southeast Division along with Markham District High School and Brother Andre Catholic High School at 2-4, were relegated to fourth place based on points for and against.

Maple finished first in the Southwest division with a 6-0 mark.

Hockey tourney in town

The Spartans senior boys' hockey team will play host to an eight-team tournament starting today at the Stouffville Arena.

The Spartans began the tournament with games today against Eastdale Collegiate (Oshawa) and Iona Catholic High School (Mississauga).

On Friday, the Spartans conclude pool play at 8 a.m. against Sir Oliver Mowat Secondary School (Scarborough).

The semi-finals will begin at noon and final at 3 p.m.

Other York Region schools taking part include Brother Andre Catholic High School (Markham) and Alexander Mackenzie High School (Richmond Hill).

Minor peewee Clippers earn five of six points

The Stouffville minor peewee Clippers reeled off two wins and a tie in recent OMHA minor hockey action.

Backed by solid goaltending from Travis Gibbs, the Clippers blanked East Gwillimbury 2-0 Sunday.

Josh Machesney and Lyndsay Burrows scored. Steven Tait drew one assist.

The victory came on the heels of a 2-0 win over Barrie Saturday.

Sal Rabito posted the shutout while David Beloff had a goal and one assist and Machesney accounted for the other Stouffville goal.

Last Wednesday, the Clippers battled TNT to a 4-4 draw.

Tait scored twice while Jeff Leuschner and Robbie Acton each added singles.

Curtis Crago, Beloff and Connor Cadaret were each credited with one assist.

Novice AE Clippers rout Pickering

Taylor Peterson scored three goals to ignite the Stouffville AE novice Clippers to a 5-1 victory over Pickering in a recent minor hockey tilt.

Matt Armstrong and Zack

Bousquet each added singles. Cody Femia and Adam Doren had one assist apiece.

With the victory, the Clippers improved their league record to four wins, five losses and two ties.