

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Markham Waxers' defenceman Michael Sipidias (far left) was a little late in trying to thwart Stouffville Clippers' forward Josh Montesano (background) from getting his shot off on goalkeeper Justin Skinner during first-round action Friday at the Stouffville Clippers hockey tournament at the Stouffville Arena. While Skinner stopped this shot, the Clippers proceeded to win the game 6-0 and the division title with a dramatic 3-2 win over Trenton in Sunday's final.

Minor bantam Clippers save their best for last to win tourney

Benoit's goal with six seconds remaining gives home team title

Nolan Benoit's shorthanded goal with six seconds remaining in regulation time propelled the Stouffville minor bantam Clippers to their second straight Stouffville Clippers hockey tournament title with a dramatic 3-2 win over Trenton in Sunday's final at the Stouffville Arena.

After a scoreless first period, the Clippers took a 1-0 lead after two periods on a goal by Kurtis Hulshof. But Trenton responded with two goals in the third to take a 2-1 lead.

With less than one minute remaining and the Clippers pulling their goalie for an extra attacker, Steve Demelo scored with 48 seconds remaining to

even the count and set the stage for Benoit's heroics.

GOOD START SETS TONE

The Clippers got off to a good start in the tournament Friday when they received a strong netminding effort from Jake Robinson to down the Markham Waxers 6-0.

The second game was an intense affair against the Pickering Panthers with Dylan Seymour netting the winner on a shorthanded effort to lift the Clippers to a 3-2 win.

With first place in the division on the line, the Clippers then faced Trenton and fell 4-2.

SEMIFINAL BERTH

The Clippers, however, secured second place in the division and faced Clarington in one semifinal.

Backed by a stellar netminding performance from

Sean Gibson, the Clippers prevailed 4-0.

Scoring for the Clippers in the tournament were: Hulshof four goals, seven assists; Steven Demelo four goals, five assists; Lee Averill three goals, four assists; Seymour and Benoit three goals; Chris Tambos and Denver Gray three assists; Josh Montesano two assists; Ryan Brown one goal; Philip Wood and Tommie McLeod one assist. Other players that contributed to the club's success were Lawson Mann, Zack Stevens and Anthony Zambri.

In other tournament action, three other Stouffville entries advanced to the championship final. The peewee Clippers fell 3-0 to Bradford while the peewee AE Clippers were edged 3-1 by Aurora and minor midget Clippers lost 2-1 to Clarington.

Atom Clippers lose a heartbreaker

The Stouffville atom A Clippers advanced to the final of the Weston Hawks AA tournament before they were edged 3-2 in overtime by the Kensington Valley Rebels.

Supported by spectacular goaltending from Connor Timewell, the Clippers battled the Georgetown Raiders to a 2-

2 tie in their first game.

The Clippers then dropped a 2-1 decision to the Rebels before rallying to blank the host Hawks 10-0 and qualify for the championship final.

Scoring for the Clippers in the tournament were: Craig Hasler three goals, four assists; Cody Towsey three goals, two

assists; Alex Popper two goals, three assists; James Lovett and Tommy Stevens one goal, three assists; Will Brown and Mitchell King one goal, two assists; Brad Harley one goal, one assist; Jordan Barkey one goal; Trevor Carrick and Adam Kostandoff two assists; Brandon Hughes one assist.

Spartans hope to hoop it up at OFSAA

Senior cagers defeat Ajax school for berth after power failure

Four years is a long time between visits for the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior girls' basketball team to an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations tournament.

The Spartans, however, don't have to wait any longer as they are in Belleville today to participate in this year's OFSAA AA playdowns.

The Spartans qualified after they defeated the Denis O'Connor Catholic High School Chargers (Ajax) 53-44 in last week's OFSAA qualifier at G.L. Roberts Collegiate in Oshawa.

Trailing 25-19 at the half, the Spartans rallied behind the play of six-foot Grade 12 centre Erin Button, who scored 19 of her game-high 22 points.

Acknowledging that her club opened the contest with some jitters, Spartans head coach Sharon MacFarlane felt Button's second-half performance was a critical turning point in the contest.

'KEEP SHOOTING'

"We talked at the half and I said to Erin to settle yourself down and keep shooting, and she made the shots. They couldn't stop her and everyone seemed to jump in on Erin's enthusiasm," she said.

MacFarlane though, was quick to credit the play of Grade 11 point guard Pearl Coleshill, who in addition to scoring 13 points, did a good job in distributing the ball to other players when Button was well defended.

"Pearl made sure everyone got the ball. She moved the ball well and that was important," MacFarlane said.

One moment that concerned MacFarlane came with seven minutes left in the game when a power outage darkened the school. With a 10-minute break before power was restored, MacFarlane was worried her club might lose momentum.

But such was not the case.

The Spartans, who are unseeded at OFSAA, face second-seeded General Amherst District High School of Amherstburg in their first-round game.

Spartans spiked at OFSAA tournament in Clinton

The Spartans senior boys' volleyball team ran into some formidable competition at last weekend's OFSAA-AA tournament in Clinton.

Entering the tournament as the seventh seed, the Spartans got off on the wrong foot when they suffered a 2-1 loss (20-25, 26-24, 15-12) to 15th seed Hamilton District Christian High School 2-1.

REBOUND FOR WIN

But the Spartans rebounded to defeat 10th seed Lester B. Pearson High School (Burlington) 2-0 (25-15, 25-12).

The Spartans then met the second seed and eventual champion Francis Liebermann High School (Scarborough) and were defeated 2-0 (25-16, 25-19).

The Spartans concluded pool play with a 2-0 (25-16, 25-12) win over Kincardine Secondary School.

By placing third in their pool, the Spartans were relegated to the consolation round where they eliminated by dropping a 2-0 (25-23, 26-24) decision to South Grenville District High School (Prescott).

For more information on the OFSAA tournament, log on to: www.ofsaa.on.ca

Spirit sets out to make clean sweep of Blues

Aurora Tigers blank third-place Jr. A team

The Stouffville Spirit and Collingwood Blues will get to know each other very well over the next 24 hours or so.

The Provincial Jr. A rivals have a home-and-home series starting tonight at the Stouffville Arena. Game time is 7:30.

The teams meet again tomorrow at the historic Eddie Bush Memorial Arena in downtown Collingwood.

The third-place Spirit (14-12-0-1) is 2-0 against the sixth-place Blues

(6-21-2-0).

An uninspired Spirit team lost its only game last weekend, 4-0 to the Aurora Tigers Friday in Aurora.

Netminder Dan McWhinney held the Spirit in, allowing only one goal during a first period that saw the Spirit outshot 17-4.

Ex-Spirit forward Gale Tanaka had a strong game for Aurora, with a goal and an assist.

SPIRITED NOTES: The Spirit will take part in Saturday's Kinsmen Santa Claus parade, along with head coach Brian Perrin, Whitchurch. Stouffville's 2004 sports person of the year.