

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

## SPORTS

Spirit gets back to business  
after playing NHL idols*Regular season  
ends this weekend*

It's back to reality tonight for the Stouffville Spirit after some time on Fantasy Island.

Players on the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League team were still buzzing this week over going up against their idols in a cancer charity game Sunday.

The Spirit lost 15-6 to Keith Acton's All-Stars in the Game Of Our Lives II in front of 1,300 people at the Stouffville Arena.

Playing against current NHLers Gary Roberts, Tie Domi, Joe Nieuwendyk and Ed Belfour and several recent retirees was still the talk of the dressing room Tuesday.

"Gary Roberts called me by name at a faceoff," Spirit captain Michael Lombardo, who played with Roberts' brother Greg in a summer league, said. "Then, in the corner, he just picked me and shook me."

Lombardo, owner of several Doug Gilmour jerseys, asked the ex-Leaf to show him one of his faceoff moves in the hallways between periods. Gilmour took him on the ice and gave him a mini-clinic.

"It was unreal," he said.



**MICHAEL LOMBARDO:** Spirit captain says club must treat final regular season games like playoffs.

The Spirit may have received a taste of what they will see in the playoffs starting next week. Dayn Belfour, son of Leaf netminder Ed, played half of Sunday's game for the All-Stars.

His club team, the Streetsville Derbys of the West Conference, is the most likely first-round opponent for the Spirit. That series would likely include home games in Stouffville Feb. 10 and 12, Spirit general manager Ken Burrows said.

Lombardo says the Spirit, which will finish third in the six-team North Conference, must treat its final three regular season games like the post season.

"We have to play hard for 60 minutes and prepare the best we can just like the playoffs were starting (tonight)," he said.

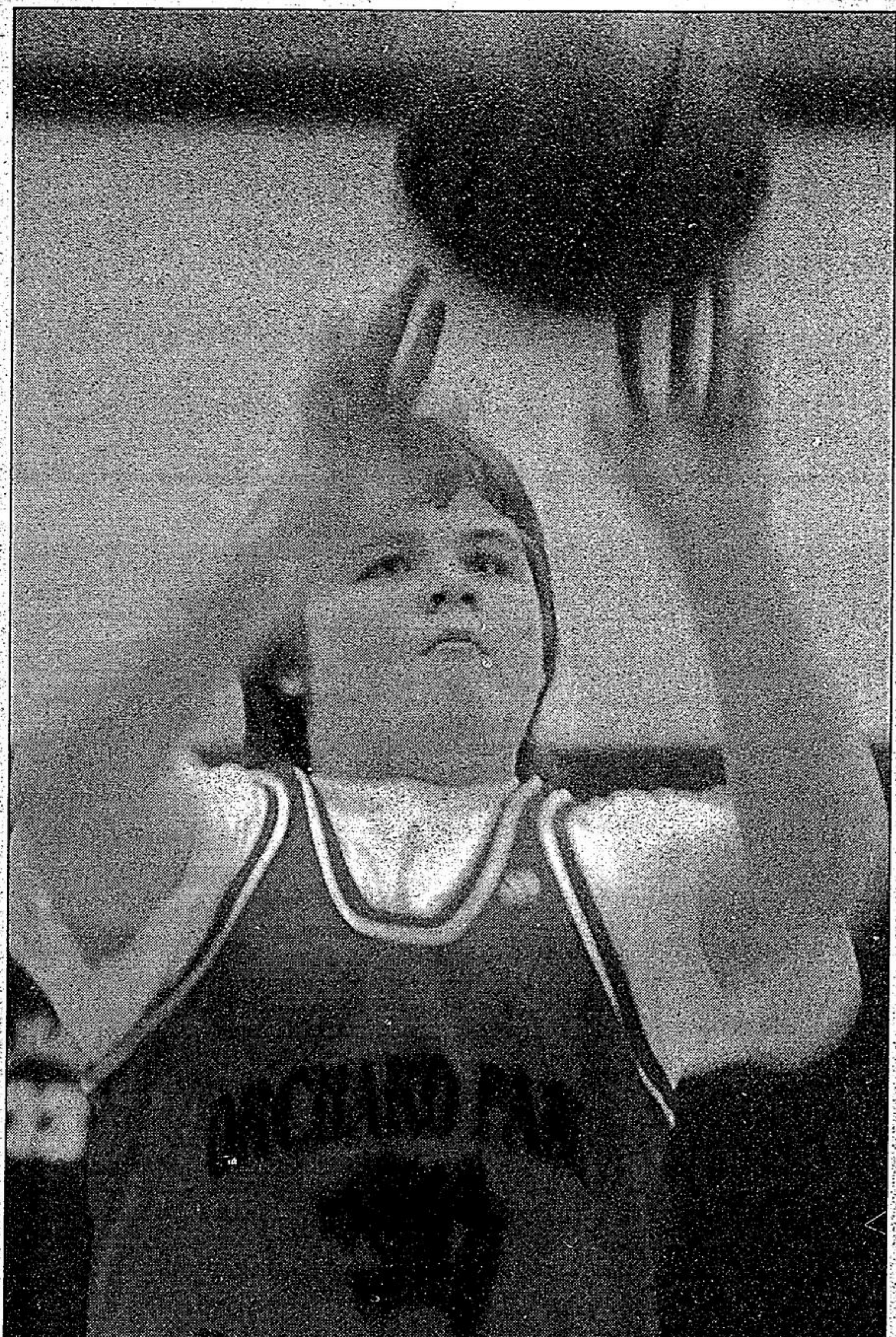
The Spirit hosts first-place Aurora tonight and second-place Newmarket Saturday. Both are 7:30 starts. It finishes the schedule Sunday afternoon at last-place Couchiching. (See standings on page 23.)

The Spirit lost 4-1 in Aurora Friday. Ex-Spirit forward Cale Tanaka led Aurora with a goal and an assist.

The Spirit held period leads of 3-0 and 6-0 en route to a 10-1 pounding of the Ajax Axemen at home Saturday.

Lombardo picked up the hat trick, with Brock Ouellet and Patrick Lee each scoring a pair. Jake Van Allen, Randy Johnston and Cory Battista had one goal each. Steve Filippelli picked up the win and an assist.

For more on the Spirit, log on to [www.stouffvillespirit.com](http://www.stouffvillespirit.com).



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

## Shooting with a steady hand

Paul Higgins of Orchard Park Public School delivers this free throw attempt during last week's annual Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Championship competition at St. Mark Catholic School. Winners of the competition included: Danielle Insley, Ballantrae Public School in the 10-year-old girls' division; Patrick Clause, Ballantrae, 10-year-old boys; Shannon Grant, Orchard Park Public School, 11-year-old girls; James Mcleod, Glad Park Public School, 11-year-old boys; Jennifer Carter, Orchard Park, 12-year-old girls; Jeremy Brownridge, Glad Park, 12-year-old boys; Irina Olarium Ballantrae, 13-year-old girls; Michael Finn, St. Mark, 13-year-old boys and Michael Carvalho, Orchard Park, 14-year-old boys. The winners advance to the district championship at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham tonight at 7 p.m.

## Minor peewees move on

The Stouffville minor peewee Clippers advanced to the third round of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs by defeating Orillia in three straight games, capping it off with a 5-2 win Friday.

Robbie Acton scored two goals while David Beloff and Curtis Crago each had a goal and one assist. Connor Cadaret had the other goal. Brett Hembruff recorded three assists while Elise Acton had two and Josh Machesney one.

Backed by two goals and one assist from Beloff, the Clippers won the series opener 5-2.

Chris Smith and Hembruff each added a goal and one assist while Robbie Acton scored once. Crago, Cadaret, Machesney, Jeff Leuschner and Michael Bourgeois were each credited with one helper.

The Clippers then took a stranglehold in the series with a 5-1 win in the second game.

Crago ignited the offence with two goals while Tait and Machesney each added a goal and two assists and Smith one goal. Beloff and Wesley Brown had one assist apiece.

The Clippers will face Bradford in the third round.

## Swim club splash hit with town youth

*Enrolment growing  
for young Ducks*

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

The Stouffville Ducks swim club, organized three years ago, is still in its infancy, but the membership continues to grow.

At present, 18 are enrolled, 11 in competitive classes and seven in non-competitive.

Affiliated with a club in Aurora, the Stouffville team is coached by club president Reg Chappell. Adam Porteous and Yorick Tong are assistant coaches. Tong is also a deck supervisor, employed by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Swimmers range in age from seven to 17 years. There's also a masters class for adults, 19 years and up with competitive and non-competitive classes available, depending on the wishes of the individual.

"We want to give every child an opportunity to excel," says Tong, "but no boy or girl is pushed beyond his or her physical or psychological limits."



**YORICK TONG:** Swim coach says purpose of the club is to give participants a chance to do well.

Competitions are usually held monthly, says Tong, in Guelph, Barrie, Mississauga, Brampton and Milton.

The four basic tests of skill are freestyle, backstroke, breast stroke and butterfly.

**AMAZING IMPROVEMENT**

Tong describes as "amazing" the improvement he sees in a swimmer even after only one year.

"Our focus is on development," he said. "We want each swimmer to do his best."

But he also wants sessions

to be fun.

"If they didn't enjoy it, they wouldn't be here at six o'clock in the morning," he notes.

Because Stouffville is primarily a hockey town, interest among boys tails off during their teen years, Tong says. Membership is still wide open, he states, with 60 a maximum.

"Of course," he adds, "as the membership grows, we can always add more coaches."

Although the Stouffville Swim Club operates independently from other pool programs, Tong says it receives excellent co-operation from the town.

"They, (the town), are very supportive," he said. "They want the facility to be used."

Stouffville's swim team includes Jan Viljoen, Julia Ewing, Beth Wideman, Bethany Philpott, Jaimee Mellor-Hill, Morgan Brown and Lauren Wallis.

Other club members are Kevin Boehnke, Robertson Brown, Melissa Karwat, Jake Silverthorn, Mary Kate Spencer, Carter McGhie, Dan Flaherty, Alysha McFee, Melanie Eastman-Mills, Melissa Mellor-Hill and Connor Morrow.