

Hurricanes storm out to take Game 1 from Spirit

Best-of-seven series resumes tonight at Stouffville Arena

Somewhere between arriving home from Orillia Tuesday morning and travelling to Newmarket Thursday, the Stouffville Spirit lost its groove.

A listless Spirit squad fell 8-4 to the Newmarket Hurricanes to open their best-of-seven North Conference semifinal. Game 2 goes tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

Newmarket, which outshot the Spirit 39-30, held period leads of 3-1 and 6-2.

The Spirit got as close as 6-4, midway through the third.

"If we play with more emotion, we'll be fine," said Spirit general manager Ken Burrows. "And we have to get our power play going."

Pat Lee had two goals to go with singles from Randy Johnston and Ty Raine.

Rob Groom and Michael Lombardo had two assists each.

Dan McWhinney started in the Spirit net but gave way to Steve Filippelli.

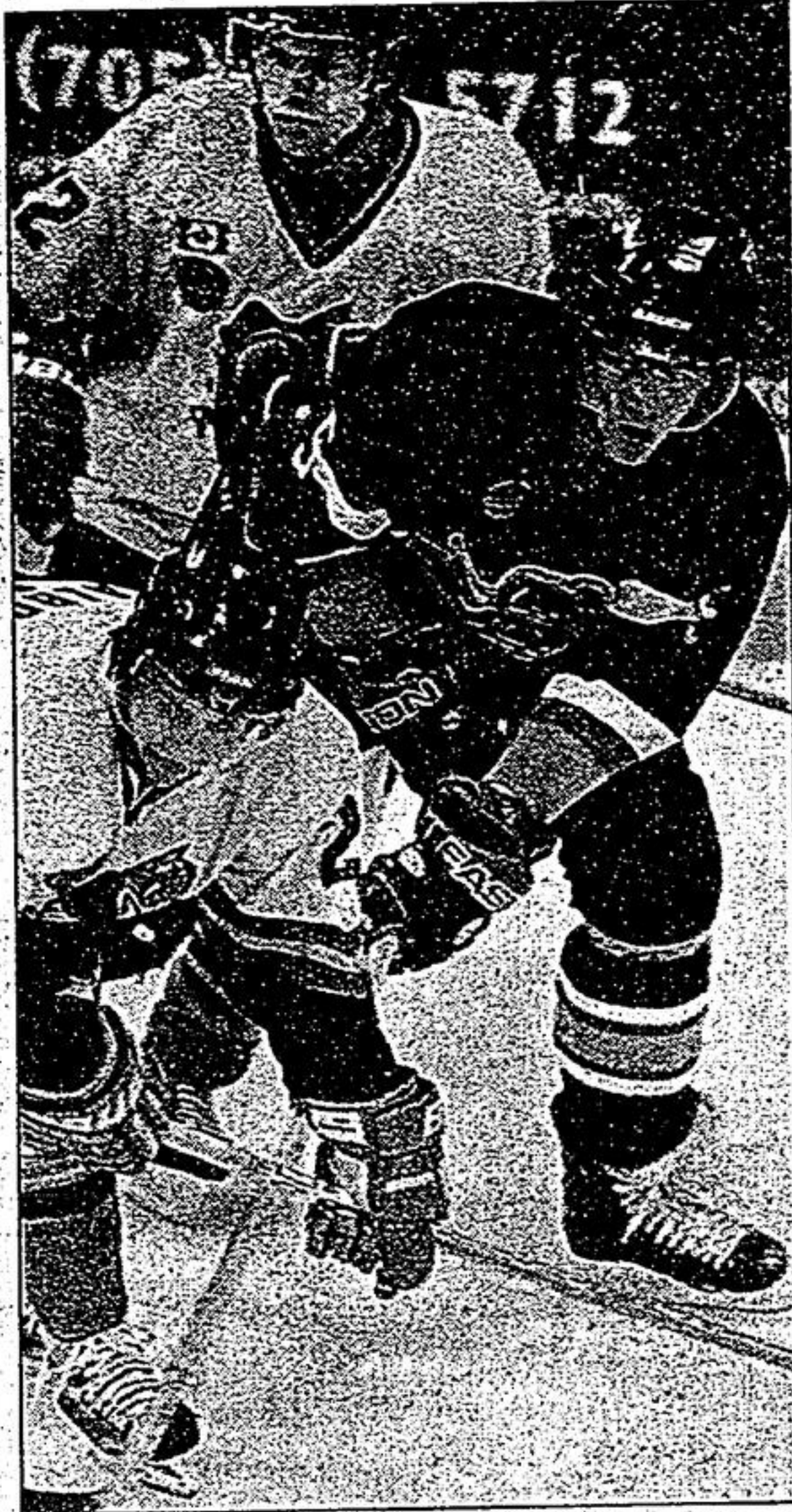
INJURED LIST GROWS

The already sizable Spirit injury list added at least one more veteran player. Power forward Jake Van Allen left Thursday's game and did not return.

"Injuries aren't the problem," Burrows said. "We just weren't in it emotionally (for Game 1)."

The remainder of the second-round series includes:

- Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m., at Newmarket.
- Sunday, March 6, at 7:30, at Stouffville.
- Monday, March 7, at 8:30, at Newmarket.*
- Tuesday, March 8, at 8:30, at Stouffville.*
- Thursday, March 10, at 7:30,



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Stouffville Spirit forward Carson Devine (centre) gets tangled between Newmarket Hurricanes' Dan Falbo (25) and Chris Gill (22) during Thursday's first game of the North Conference best-of-seven semi-final series. The Hurricanes prevailed 8-4.

at Newmarket*
* if necessary

For more information on the series, log on to www.stouffvillespirit.com or www.ohahockey.org/playoffs/a/jra.htm

Junior Spartans cage YRAA tier two title

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans are court kings.

They captured the York Region Athletic Association tier two junior boys' basketball title Wednesday with a 33-31 win over the Cardinal Carter Catholic High School Celtics (Aurora) in Markham.

Matt Briggs was high scorer for the Spartans with 11 points.

For the Spartans, the title capped off a year in which they finished the regular season in second place with a 5-3 mark.

Before this season, the Spartans had won only a handful of games prior to head coach Jeff Fong's arrival at the school this year.

"Our first goal at the start of the year was just to win one game," he said. "We did that and then we won a silver medal in a tournament and we just got

better by playing better teams in other tournaments. Then we started to hit our stride by the playoffs."

Other players who contributed to the club's success were centre Warren Dodd, guards Kyle Law and Tyler Kiatipis and forwards Adam Prokop and Justin Balik.

Hockey team eliminated

The Spartan senior boys' hockey team saw its rein as YRAA champions come to an end Thursday when the Cardinal Carter Catholic High School Celtics (Aurora) swept the two-game total point quarter-final series with a 4-3 win at Stouffville Arena.

Justin Hitchen, Trevor Greenham and Adam Craig scored for the Spartans.

The Spartans, however, still qualify for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA playdowns in Windsor starting March 30.

Girls win playoff opener

Laurie McLellan scored three goals while Hayley Hughes scored twice to lead the Spartans girls' hockey team to a 7-0 win over visiting King City Secondary School in Thursday's YRAA quarter-final and a berth in next week's semifinals.

Cassie Sparks and Jamie Sparks each added singles. Liz Knox posted the shutout.

As of press time, the Spartans did not know who they would meet in the semifinals.

For more information on high school sports, log on to: www.yraa.com

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