

SPORTS

The puck stops with McWhinney in net

Spirit goalie allows one goal in pair of Provincial Jr. A wins

Dan McWhinney could have thanked a goaltending guru or recited a few well-worn clichés.

Instead, the Stouffville Spirit net-minder kept it simple.

Eating right and getting plenty of sleep earned major assists for his hot play last week in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League.

McWhinney stopped all 37 shots the Couchiching Terriers threw at him Friday night in Orillia.

Brock Ouellet's powerplay goal midway through the game gave the Spirit (3-2-1-1), who countered with 20 shots on net, the 1-0 win.

The night before, McWhinney earned the victory in a 4-1 decision over the Collingwood Blues in Stouffville.

One goal over 120 minutes of play is huge in a league more famous for high-scoring contests.

"It's nice to have it happen so

early in the season," said McWhinney, who joined the Spirit from the Aquasabon River Rats in northwestern Ontario 13 months ago.

"I'm just making sure I'm focused and in the zone. I can't be playing drowsy. I'm getting the sleep I need and eating properly."

The lone 20-year-old on another young Spirit roster, McWhinney is from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Spirit head coach Dan West "wasn't very happy with either (McWhinney or fellow goalie Steve Filippelli)" in the early going.

"That was Dan's win for sure Friday night," said West. "He made some huge saves late and handled a lot of shots. He definitely stepped up and now we'll see if he can keep it going."

The Spirit hosts defending league champs St. Michael's Buzzers (6-2-1-0) tonight at 7:30 at the Stouffville Arena and visits Collingwood tomorrow.

SPIRITED NOTES: St. Mike's leading scorer is Mike McKenzie (nine goals, 13 assists), son of TSN hockey commentator Bob McKenzie. Mike, who also played for Oshawa and Bowmanville in the OPIHL, has a scholarship to St. Lawrence for next year. So does the Buzzers' No. 1 goalie, Kain Tisi...Markham Waxers (9-1-0-0) used an ineligible player at the start of the season and should forfeit five of those wins, the Collingwood Blues claim. The player, Josh Reinecke earned a seven-game suspension at the end of the GTHL season last spring and should serve those games this year, Collingwood said in a letter of protest. The Waxers and Reinecke deny any knowledge of the suspension. No word from the league brass yet.



DAN MCWHINNEY: Spirit goalkeeper attributes his recent success to remaining focused

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

Minor bantam Clippers tame Colts to claim tourney

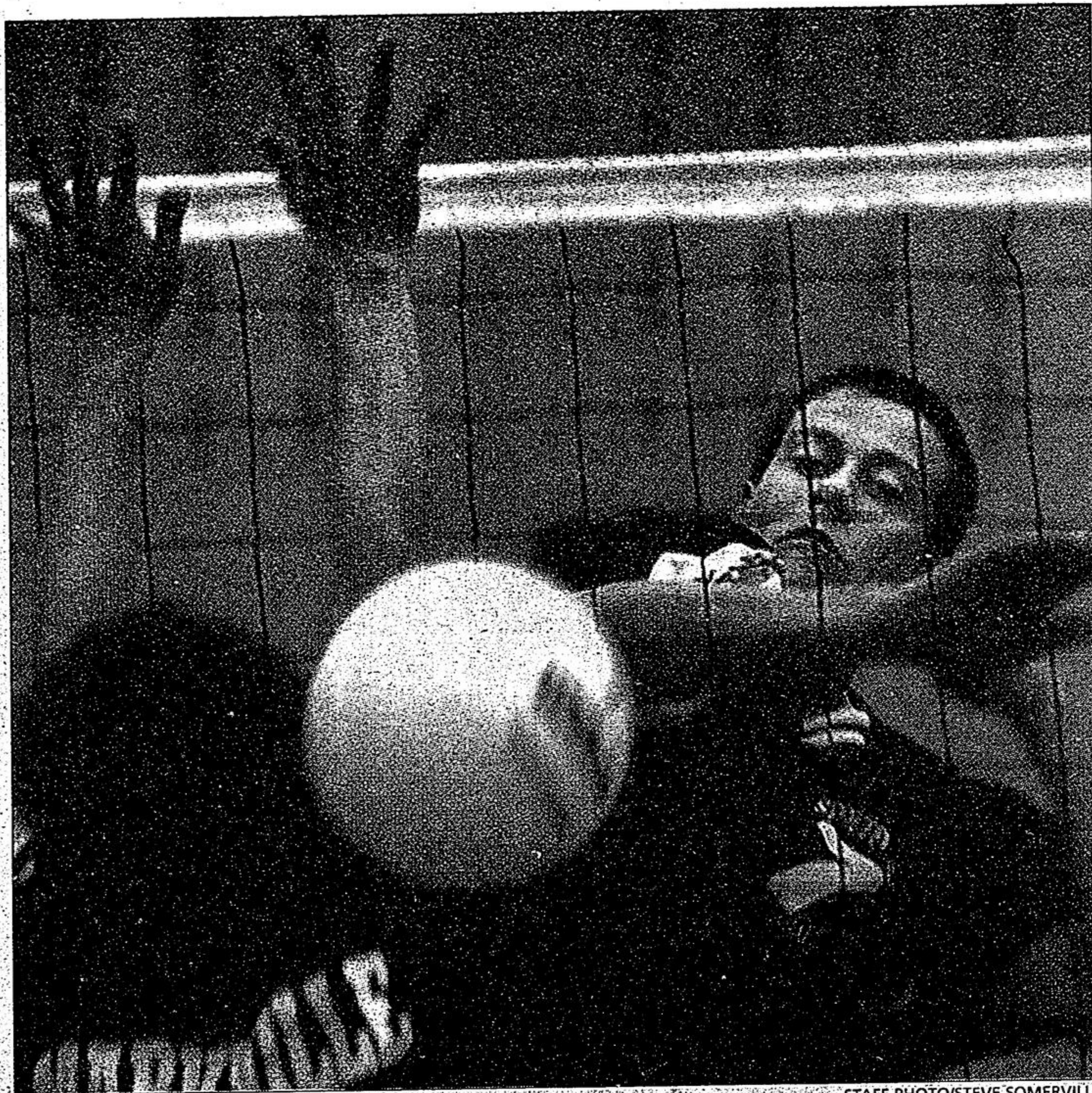
The Stouffville minor bantam A Clippers skated off with the gold medals by defeating the Barrie Colts 4-3 in the championship game of the Markham Waxers Early Bird minor hockey tournament.

The Clippers reached the final after defeating the Waxers AEs 16-0, battling Ajax to a 2-2 draw and defeating Caledon 6-1 and Aurora 2-1 in a semifinal tilt.

Scoring for the Clippers in the tournament were: Tyler Barber eight goals, two assists; Lloyd Davis four goals, five assists; Peter LeBuffe four

goals, four assists; Ethan Manninen three goals, two assists; Scott Miller, Jake Woolnough and Ryan Brown two goals, four assists; Peter Wideman two goals, one assist; Chris Chekay one goal, four assists; Jesse Godin one goal, two assists; Dylan Deveaux one goal; Brent Hewlett three assists; Brad Sutherland one assist; Ben Singh and Eric Lee shared goaltending duties.

Coaching the team were Andy Cartwright, Joe Sutherland and Bernie Deveaux.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Justin Reesor spikes the ball past the outstretched arms of a Markville Secondary School Mavericks' player in Monday's York Region Athletic Association senior boys' volleyball action at Markville. The Spartans won the match 2-1.

Spartan juniors rule scrum

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans junior boys tackled the Ontario Rugby Association 7's tournament title last Thursday at Fletcher's Field in Markham with a 24-0 win over Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School in the championship final.

Joe Beare scored two tries for the Spartans while Chris Boake and Dylan Stewart each had one. Matt Raguseo booted two converts.

The Spartans cruised to a 3-0 record in round-robin play and proceeded to defeat All Saints (Whitby) 27-5 in quarter-final action and Simcoe District Secondary School 41-0.

Spartans' co-coach Rob Edmondson felt the club's success stemmed from its defence, which surrendered just one try in the tournament. He also credited the club's overall enthusiasm that has been evident since practices began last month.

"This is an exceptional group of players. They work hard and they're a dedicated group," he said.

Among results posted by other Spartan teams, junior B entry won one of three games.

The bantam Spartans

advanced to the semifinals before suffering a 20-10 loss to eventual tournament champion Barrie Central Collegiate.

Comprised of first-year Grade 9 students, the bantams suffered a 15-5 loss to Cardinal Newman High School (Toronto) before rebounding to post wins over Dr. Norman Bethune High School (Scarborough) 22-0 and Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate (Scarborough) 15-12.

The Spartan seniors reached the quarter-finals before bowing out to eventual tournament champion Barrie Central 38-0.

The Spartans suffered a 10-5 first-round loss to Dunbarton High School (Pickering) but rallied to defeat Kincardine Secondary School 22-17 and Leaside High School 39-0.

The Spartan senior, junior and bantam rugby teams will return to Fletcher's Field Oct. 13 to play in a 10's tournament.

Seniors spike Mavericks

After losing a two-straight set last week to Markville Secondary School, the Spartans senior boys' volleyball team gained a measure of revenge Monday by handing the host Mavericks their first loss of the

York Region Athletic Association tier one east division season with a gruelling 2-1 (17-25, 25-18, 16-14) victory.

Any momentum gained from that victory would be lost later on when the Spartans fell 2-1 (23-25, 25-20, 15-11) to Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy.

The split placed the Spartans' league record at 2-2.

In junior action, the Spartans suffered their first loss of the season Monday with a 2-1 (25-20, 23-25, 15-13) setback to the Mavericks. However, they came back to defeat Father Michael McGivney 2-0 (25-16, 25-19).

Now 3-1 on the season, the Spartans are tied for first place in the tier one east standings with the Mavericks.

Spartan seniors caged

The Spartans senior girls' basketball team tipped off the regular season last week with losses to St. Theresa of Lisieux (Richmond Hill) 41-24 last Tuesday and 38-24 to Richmond Hill High School last Thursday.

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