

Newcomer makes impact in Spiritland

Ryan Oliver made an immediate contribution to the Stouffville Spirit Thursday.

In his first game with the Spirit since being acquired from the Wellington Dukes, Oliver, 18, was named Farmer Jack's player of the game in a 2-2 tie with the Collingwood Blues in Provincial Jr. A Hockey League action at the Stouffville Arena.

Simon Gysbers' deflection off two players with 11 seconds to play in the second period was the last goal of the game. Randy Johnston had the Spirit's other goal.

Both goalies, the Spirit's Dan McWhinney and Collingwood's Arawn Garbutt, were outstanding.

Oliver, who joined the Spirit Tuesday, came close to signing in Stouffville last season.

The Whitby resident opted for Wellington, an affiliate of the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds who picked him in the fifth round of the 2004 Ontario Hockey League draft.

"When I didn't make (the Greyhounds) this year, I thought it would be better to be at home," he said.

"Stouffville's my team, we have a

great group of guys and this is a great town.

Oliver had 15 points in 19 games with Wellington this season before requesting the trade.

The Spirit, which played at Pickering last night, is at Wexford Sunday night.

All games are broadcast at whistleradio.com

The Spirit will be on the WhiStle Radio entry in this afternoon's Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade.

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

Sun shines bright in speed skating race

Kevin Sun led a contingent of Markham Speed Skating Club competitors by winning a gold medal from the first Ontario Cup race in Cambridge.

Entered in the Charlie division, Sun, 11, placed first in the A final in the 22-metre, 500m and 66m distances and second in the 333m, to capture 748 out of 800 points to win the overall title.

Among other Markham entrants, Chester Roxas also raced in the Charlie division and finished eighth.

Cameron Mitchell, 9, placed fifth in the Delta division.

Alexandra Ianculescu, 14, was 12th in the Foxtrot division.

Tunney saves the day

Hannah Tunney's goal with three minutes remaining in regulation time and strong goaltending from Kimberley Keller enabled the Markham Stouffville peewee B Stars girls' hockey team to salvage a 1-1 tie last Saturday against the Vaughan Flames.

Emily McMahon and Nicole Wannop assisted.

SPORTS DIGEST

AE Novices tie one on

Cody Leonard and Tritan Thompson scored once to enable the Stouffville novice AE Clippers to earn a 2-2 tie against host Innisfil in York Simcoe minor hockey league action Sunday.

Jackson Newlands, Braden Clarke, Joey Hutton and James Merksamer each had one assist for the Clippers, now 2-16-1 on the season.

The tie by the Clippers was preceded by a 4-2 loss to the host Markham Waxers last Saturday.

Thompson and Daniel Renzoni scored for the Clippers.

Ladies sweep event titles

Several rinks representing the Unionville Curling Club advanced to the finals of the Energizer Toronto and District Ladies Bonspiel.

A rink skipped by Andrea Kerr was the senior runner-up. Other team members included Chris Trought, Barb Otani and Carolyn Northcott.

Also in the senior division, Fran Allan's rink of Janet Stover, Dawn Webb and Lynne Holt was third event winners.

In the ladies division, Ann Azlen's foursome of Elly Stam, Maureen Ramsden and Andrea Sumison was third event winners.

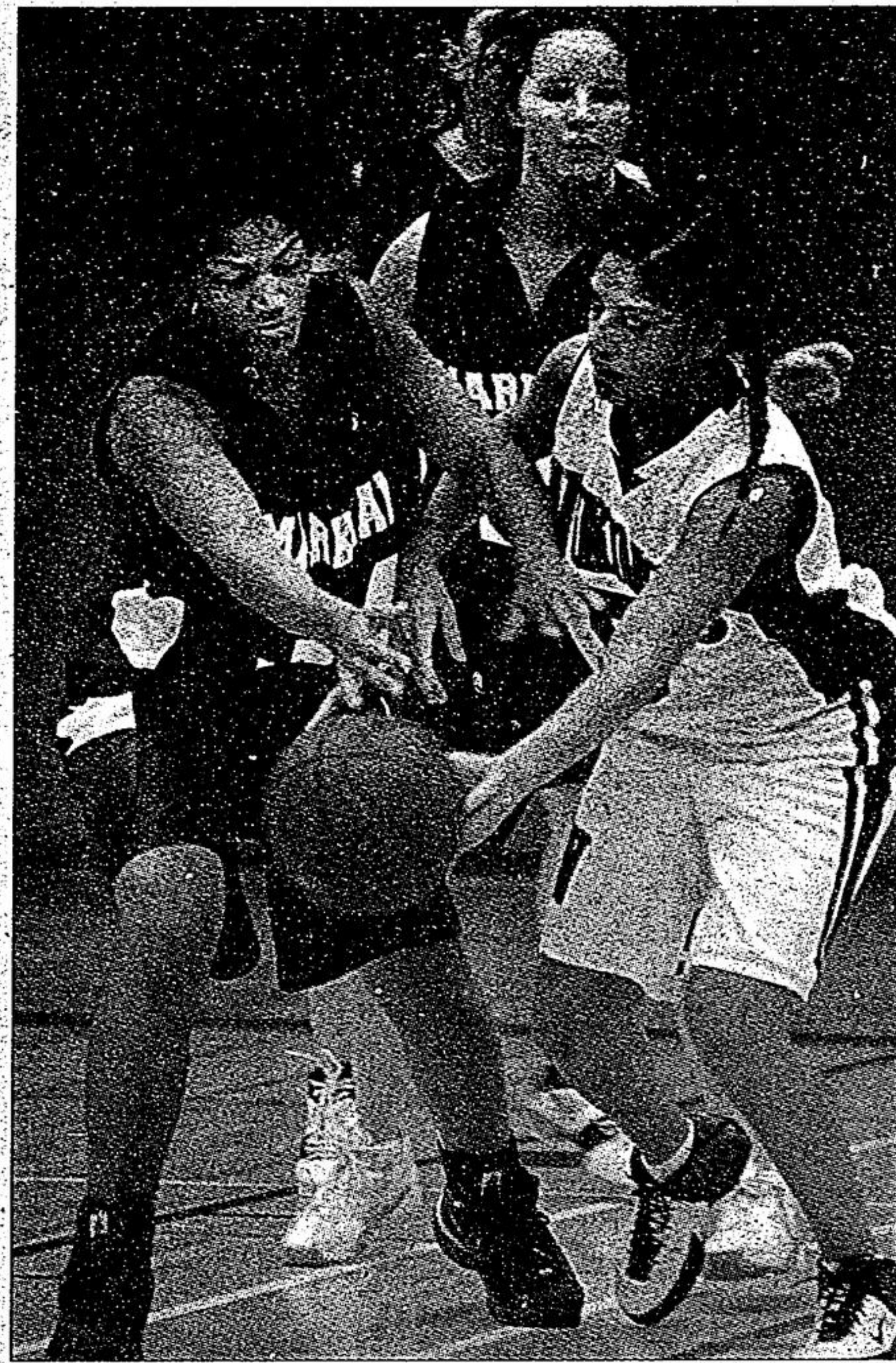
Mary Gellard's rink of Gail Beveridge, Vera Wilkins and Terri Savoury won the fourth event.

Rugby players earn honours

Markham Rugby Club men's first members Matt Phinney and Colin MacLean have been named to the Ontario Rugby Union's Mitre Marshall Division postseason all-star team.

Phinney, 23, played second row and MacLean, 20, was primarily a centre.

Both players are Markham residents and graduates of Markham District High School.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

GAME OF GIVE AND TAKE

Markham District High School Marauders' Margaret Lamptey (left) tries to take the ball away from Waterloo Collegiate Vikings' Kelsey Rodericks during Thursday's OFSAA girls' AAAA first-round basketball contest at Richmond Green Secondary School. The Vikings won 54-31. Markham's Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals lost 45-36 to Michael Power-St. Joseph's (Toronto) Thursday. The provincial championships conclude today at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in Aurora with the semifinals at 10 a.m. and noon and finals at 6 p.m.

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