

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS



PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

FOLLOW THE FLYING PUCK

Country Style's Ryan Dunlop keeps a close eye on the puck that went into the air from a faceoff during Saturday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association novice house league contest at the Stouffville Arena. Dunlop scored two goals in his club's 4-1 win.

Ducks make big waves in Markham swim competition

A 10-member contingent representing the Stouffville Ducks Swim Club was a splash hit at the Markham Aquatic Club's 21st annual Winter Invitational Swim Meet at Centennial Pool.

Jake Silverthorn, 11, led the way with two firsts in the 100m butterfly and 100m individual medley. He also finished second in the 50m and 100m butterfly, fourth 200m freestyle and sixth 100m freestyle.

Beth Wideman, 16, posted two thirds in the 50m freestyle and 200m freestyle, three fourths in the 100m and 200m breaststroke and 200m individual medley and was sixth 100m freestyle.

Lauren Wallis, 17, had three fifths in the 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and 200m individual medley and three personal best times.

Bethany Philpott, 15, was fifth in the 400m freestyle, sixth 100m breaststroke and 100m butterfly, seventh 100m backstroke, ninth 200m individual medley, 11th 50m freestyle and 14th 100m

freestyle.

Dylan Cook, 9, attended his first meet and was fourth in the 50m backstroke, fifth in the 50m breaststroke, sixth in the 50m freestyle and 100m individual medley, seventh in the 100m breaststroke and 12th in the 50m butterfly.

Jaime Silverthorn, 8, finished fourth in the 50m backstroke, fifth 50m butterfly, sixth 100m individual medley, ninth 50m freestyle, 10th 100m breaststroke and 11th 50m breaststroke.

Jaimee Mellor-Hill, 12, recorded five personal best times and placed fourth overall in the 400m freestyle.

Dana Kennedy, 12, swam in her first meet for the Ducks, with three personal best times and a 15th place effort in the 100m backstroke.

Kevin Boehnke, 14, placed 12th in the 100m breaststroke and 15th in the 200m individual medley.

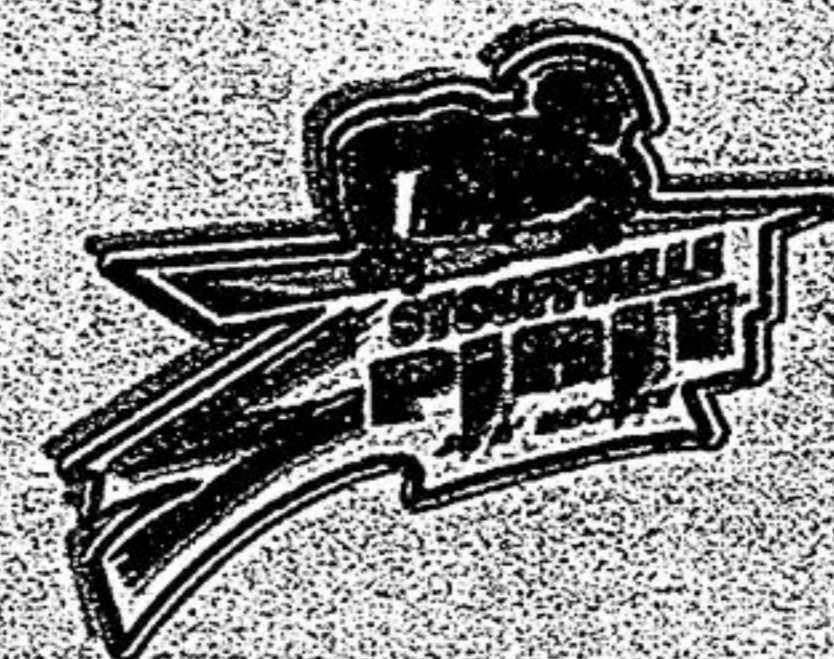
Carter McGhie, 13, posted all personal best times and placed 16th in the 100m backstroke.

Third-place Spirit prepping for next week's playoffs

LAST WEEK: Saturday — lost 2-1 vs. Newmarket Hurricanes.

COMING UP: Today, vs. Toronto Thunderbirds 7:30 p.m. at Stouffville Arena...Saturday, vs. Markham Waxers, 7:30 p.m. at Markham Centennial Arena...Sunday, vs. Aurora Tigers 2:30 p.m. at Aurora Community Centre. End of regular season.

GAME NOTES: The Stouffville Spirit's remaining three regular season games mean little, if anything, in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League standings. The Spirit (24-9-9-4) is all but locked into third place in the North Conference and will almost certainly meet the seventh-place Seguin Bruins in the first round of the playoffs starting next week. The Newmarket Hurricanes defeated the Spirit 2-1 in front of almost 500 fans at the Stouffville Arena Saturday to snap the Spirit's point streak at seven games. All goals were scored on the power play in a game rarely played with both teams at full strength. Newmarket took 22



penalties and the Spirit 21. Rob Groom gave the Spirit a 1-0 lead in the first period. The Spirit outshot Newmarket 38-30. Second-place Newmarket leads the Spirit by five points.

INSIDER: Tonight is Glad Park Public School night with the Spirit. Players were scheduled to visit the school, across from the Stouffville Arena, today. Simon Gysbers, injured on a hit from behind Saturday, was at practice Tuesday. Markham Stouffville Hospital is a guaranteed winner in Saturday's game. The Spirit and Waxers have a friendly wager going, with all money going to the hospital. The Waxers and

St. Michael's Buzzers are tied for first in the South Conference. Both teams have two games left.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "We're happy with how things have gone," said rookie head coach Dan West. "But we still want to move forward in this final week and finish on a positive note. And there are some goals we set at the beginning of the season that are still within reach."

"We want to be prepared and ready to go when the playoffs start."

There's an outside chance of a Huntsville-Stouffville first-round series.

"It doesn't really matter," said West. "They're both good teams who have improved a lot since Christmas and beaten us. It should be exciting."

RECORD: 24-9-9-4. (See standings on page 26.)

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

Spartan girls excelling in sports, classroom

Seven Grade 12 students seen as special group

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Stouffville District Secondary School has a circle of seven.

They are all in Grade 12; all of one age; all A-plus students and all excellent athletes.

Samantha Batten, Pearl Coleshill, Jessie Harris, Liz Knox, Winnie Law, Laura Moller and Samantha Sheridan are the pride and joy of staff physical education instructor Sharon MacFarlane.

MacFarlane is held in the same high regard.

"In my 21 years of teaching, I've never seen their equal," says MacFarlane. "They're a very special group."

Not only are they proficient athletically and academically, but also diligent, kind and generous, she notes.

Although some graduated from different elementary schools, they've known each other either as competitors or teammates since kindergarten.

"We played with and against each other during our early years but bonded at the high school level," said Harris.

Each brings something different to each sport, she added.



PHOTO/JIM THOMAS

Dubbed as the circle of seven, Grade 12 Stouffville District Secondary School student-athletes Liz Knox (from left), Samantha Batten, Pearl Coleshill, Laura Moller, Jessie Harris, Samantha Sheridan and Winnie Law, have earned high praise from physical education teacher Sharon MacFarlane (foreground).

"There was a chemistry between us," said Coleshill.

Their main games are volleyball, basketball, fastball, soccer and hockey.

Following graduation, all plan to go on to college or university. Coleshill hopes to attend Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., on a fastball scholarship. A proficient hockey player who plays in goal, Knox has her heart set on a university hockey scholarship.

On the strength of their skills, the Spartans advanced to Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations competition in soccer and basketball, and while unsuccessful in

championship bids, "it was a thrill just to get that far," Coleshill said.

The girls said much of what they have accomplished could be credited to the leadership provided by MacFarlane.

"She inspired me to do more than I ever would have on my own," said Moller.

"She's like a mother to us," added Sheridan.

"Thanks to her, every day was a lesson in life," said Knox.

While distance could be a factor, the circle of seven, is confident it will be reunited one more time when SDSS holds its graduation night next fall.