

# Grade 9 student complete package for OFSAA-bound Spartans

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

Fourteen-year-old Brit-tany Crago, a Grade 9 student attending Stouffville District Secondary School, is the pride and joy of Spartan hockey coaches Brian

Shankman and Dan McConnachie.

The five-foot, six-inch, 125-pound rearguard is also attracting the attention of opposing players, but for different reasons.

"She's awesome," says physical education instructor Tara Labar, "the complete package."

While a defence position wasn't Crago's choice, the move has proved both enjoyable and productive. She's been able to turn offensive

attacks by opposition forwards into offensive assaults of her own.

Crago gave early indication of her athletic skills when, in Grade 4 at Glad Park Public School, she was selected to play on the senior girls' basketball team. In Grade 8, she received the female athlete of the year award, starting in volleyball, basketball, relay and cross-country.

At SDSS, she continues to play volleyball and basketball but hockey is her

favourite sport.

She also captains and centres a line with the Markham-Stouffville Stars.

Crago hopes to continue her hockey career through Grade 12 and eventually attend college or university on a scholarship. Her academic average is 89.9 per cent.

Recently, she was selected as the school's female athlete of the week.

Following March break, the Spartan team will participate in the Ontario Federa-

tion of School Athletic Associations (A/AA) championships in St. Thomas. Ms Labar is already predicting a medal for the team, perhaps a gold. The club captured a silver in 2005.

The Spartans lost the deciding game of the York Region high school championship series, 3-1 to Newmarket's Sacred Heart Crusaders Tuesday in Newmarket.

Sacred Heart will play in the OFSAA AAA/AAAA tournament in London.

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## THE PLAYOFFS!



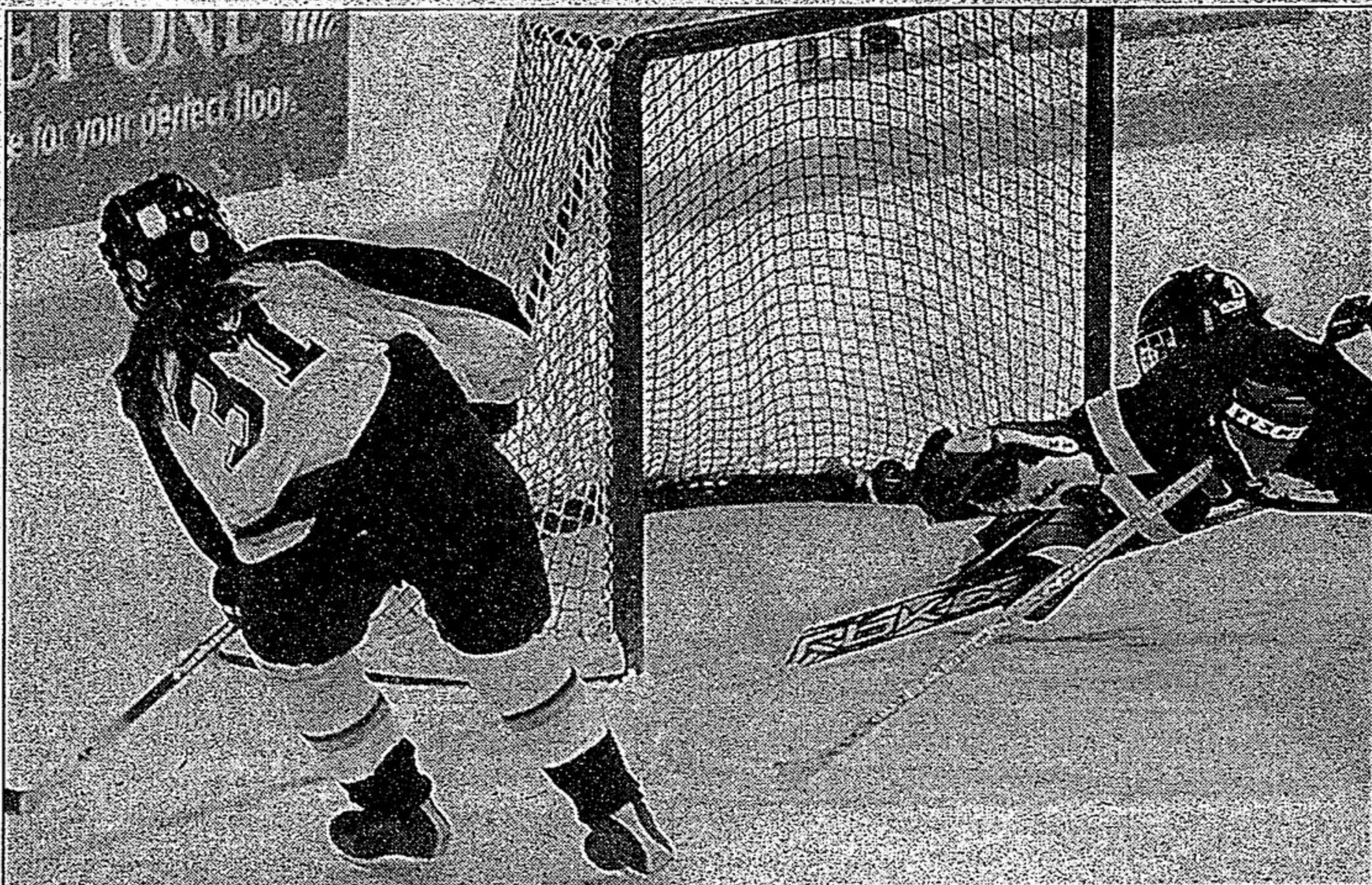
**vs**  
**Aurora Tigers**

Best of 7 North Conference Championship Series  
Home games at Stouffville Arena

**Game 2 - Sunday, March 12 3:30 p.m.**

\*Remainder of series to be scheduled

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Kiely Barnett of Newmarket, Sacred Heart Crusaders scores past the outstretched glove of Stouffville Spartan Liz Knox during the York Region hockey final at the Ray Twimney arena in Newmarket Tuesday. Sacred Heart won 3-1. Both teams will play in provincial championships this month.

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