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# Aurora cries foul over Spirit victory

From page 1.

Munro sprawling to the ice, well behind the play in the Stouffville defensive zone.

Predictably, Tigers head coach Jerome Dupont was livid in his post-game summation.

"Say what you want, it was a (expletive) joke," fumed Mr. Dupont, several minutes after the conclusion of the series' third overtime game. "It's a part of the game where (referees) put the whistle in their pocket and then to call that after all the stuff that gets let go... I'm disgusted."

"It's frustrating to get these inconsistencies and guys trying to dictate the outcome. It takes the enjoyment out of the game. The biggest problem for hockey at this level is the inconsis-

tency of officials."

Having shared the same frustrations that Mr. Dupont experienced during his tenure with the Spirit, Mr. Burrows felt an infraction could easily have been called late in regulation time that led to Stouffville resident Brandon Walker's tying goal that eventually forced overtime.

"If you check the tape when Aurora tied the game, one of our defence gets picked. So, OK, I don't know what happened on the penalty in overtime. They could easily have called a penalty just before the tying goal."

"But we were the better team and we proved it," Mr. Burrows said.

Despite his frustration, Mr. Dupont saluted Spirit netminder Dan McWhinney who stopped 57 of 60 shots in the 83-minute affair. In overtime, the Tigers held a 24-9 edge and 17-5 in the second overtime period.

In the final two games, Aurora pumped an even 100 shots at the netminder from Sault Ste. Marie.

"We fought to the end and had our chances, but McWhinney was the star of the series," Mr. Dupont said. "He was outstanding. I don't think he allowed a bad goal."

You won't get an argument from Mr. Burrows.

"Our goalie was better than their goaltending," he said.

Joel Sheppard, who joined the Spirit in an off-season trade from the Newmarket Hurricanes, revelled in the moment. And he had good reason after scoring his fifth goal in four games on a power-play effort that had put the Spirit ahead 3-2 in the third period before Mr. Walker sent the contest into overtime.

"It's a real good time on everyone's face," Mr. Sheppard said upon conclusion of the game. "From the beginning of the year, our long-term goal has been to win the North. For 11 years of history, they've never been this far, so to be part of it feels great."



**KEN BURROWS:** Spirit general manager praises team and goaltender for championship win.

Mr. Sheppard checked in on the pivotal call.

"It was a gutsy call by the referee. But it was blatant."

Trailing 1-0 after one period, the Spirit rallied to take a 2-1 lead entering the third period on a power-play goal by defenceman Steve Kapolnas and Mr. Johnston.

But the Tigers evened the count in the third period on a goal by Fraser Smith and set the stage for the late-game dramatics.

The Tigers forced Game 6 by claiming a 2-1 victory Friday night in Aurora when Mr. Smith scored at 3:06 of overtime.

Mr. Sheppard scored the Spirit's lone goal on a power play in the first period, which was tied at 1-1.

The series resumes Saturday at Oakville's Dominion Twin Rinks, 1410 Ninth Line, at 7:30 p.m. The remaining games were still to be scheduled as of press deadline.

For more on the Spirit, log on to [www.stouffvillespirit.com](http://www.stouffvillespirit.com)

—with files from John Cudmore

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A limited number of live audit or opportunities will be held at the Vaughan City Playhouse on Wed., April 24 and at the Stephen Leacock Theatre in Georgina on Thurs., April 27. All other applications are due on Friday, May 26, 2006, 5pm.

To book your live audit or for more information contact Marjorie Prosser at 905-713-1043 or [marj.prosser@yorkregion.com](mailto:marj.prosser@yorkregion.com)