

Spirit used to coming back

Game 5 of semifinal Sunday in Stouffville

BY JOHN CUDMORE
Staff Writer

Been there, done that. Not that Dan West is eager to see his Stouffville Spirit go to the comeback well too many times, but it is reassuring to know your team can perform under pressure.

The Spirit took the first step toward another possible series comeback Thursday night, scoring a 5-2 victory over the visiting Oakville Blades in the third game of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League semifinal series.

Despite the win, Stouffville trailed the best-of-seven series 2-1 in games, entering Game 4 last night at Oakville. The fifth game of the series is slated for Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at Stouffville Arena.

"There's no panic," said West, whose teams has rallied from deficits in two of three series during these playoffs, including an 0-2 hole against the Newmarket Hurricanes in the North Conference semifinals before rallying to win four straight games. "You don't want to get in that situation, but it's good to know you know you can handle it."

"We're in the fourth round and have played (21) games. By this time, you know, we're you can test yourself and how to handle certain situations."

"We felt we hadn't been involved enough in the series and wanted to prove to ourselves it is a battle."

Mind you, the Blades are no



DAN WEST: Stouffville Spirit coach says his Jr. A hockey team hasn't panicked during 2006 playoff run.

strangers themselves to comebacks having bounced back from a three-one deficit against the highly favoured Milton IceHawks in second-round West Conference play to pull the biggest upset of this spring's playoffs.

However, with nine straight Oakville wins since their turnaround against Milton, the Spirit needed something to stem the tide.

"This was huge. It puts us back in the series," said Stouffville forward Donivan Munro, who scored twice to lead his side. "I think we all we needed to do was to come out and show we wanted it more. Going down three-nothing would have been rough to come back from. Now we got full momentum and need to play another 60 (minutes) in their barn."

The Blades appeared to be little like a team on a roll in recent weeks.

"I don't like to say it, but probably things started to come easy for Oakville," said West. "Hockey doesn't work that way. It's hard to win 10 in a row in the playoffs. We wanted to work hard and make it tough on them."

Predictably, Blades' head coach Don Edwards was not at all thrilled by the play of his side which fell into a 2-0 hole early in the first period and trailed 2-1 and 4-2 at the intermissions. Stouffville held a 48-42 edge in shots on goal, including 19-8 in the final period.

"It's not what they did, but what we did and that was to not follow our game plan," said the former NHL assistant coach and goaltender, munching quietly on a post-game slice of pizza.

"We knew it was going to be a tough series. No series is easy so we have to get back to our principles. We have to get back to our game plan and keep things simple. Our guys played too much one-on-one. When we play as a team we have success. When we don't, we have trouble."

Jake Van Allen, Joel Sheppard and Rob Groom also scored for Stouffville. Trevor Elliott and Daniel Calitri responded for the Blades.

Oakville forward Daniel Calitri was assessed an intent to injure penalty during a fight with the Mark Sullivan with a minute to go when he flung his helmet past the head of the Stouffville player. Sullivan, who rarely fights, landed the first solid blow to the delight of many of the 825 in attendance.

"Research advances continue to grow"

We are on the threshold of a new era in cancer research. We're really confident that we will beat cancer. Dr. Robert Phillips

LET'S MAKE CANCER HISTORY

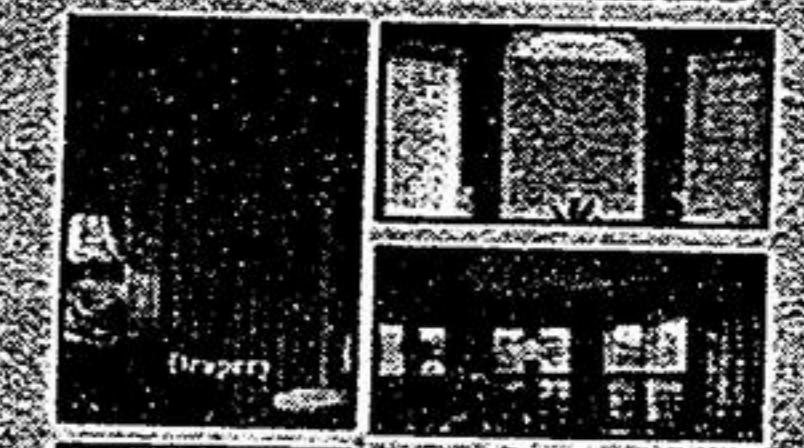
Canadian Cancer Society Société canadienne du cancer

For information about cancer services or to make a donation 1-888-939-3333 www.cancer.ca

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Tribune

BLINDS, SHUTTERS & DRAPERY FACTORY DIRECT

• FREE ESTIMATES •



VINYL-TEK
UP TO 70% OFF

THE BLIND AND SHUTTER FACTORY INC.

100 Carrier Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 5R1
Tel: (416) 745-1539 Fax: (416) 745-2241
Toll Free: 1-866-745-1539

Learning Disabilities?

If you or your child suffers from LEARNING DISABILITIES then attending this free symposium may be the most important thing you do this year. You will discover the true cause of these conditions and natural solutions and options you can use right away to overcome them.

Many children and adults with ADD and Dyslexia have seen significant improvement without medication. Dr. Turner is an international speaker and lecturer who has been featured on the *Dini Petty Show*, *National News*, *Canada AM*, *CFTO News*, *Marilyn Denis CITYLINE* and *Riley Live*. He will present a free symposium on Thurs. April 6 at 7:30 pm at the Stouffville Health Centre, 6219 Main Street. Call 905-640-4440 to reserve your seats today!



It would be a getaway in your own backyard.
If your backyard had a spa in it.



Visit www.thecounty.ca and you'll find all sorts of ways to primp and pamper yourself in Prince Edward County. You'll find spas offering traditional and hot stone massages. You'll also find more holistic ways to recharge, like Tai Chi, Ayurvedic treatments and Yoga. And, of course, you can also visit wonderful galleries, great restaurants and fantastic wineries. All just two hours east of Toronto. Visit our website to find out more.

Win a great Getaway at Claramount Inn & Spa.

Valued at over \$1000 with a two night stay that includes meals, spa treatments and cookery class. Enter online to win!

Getaways from
\$110
pp dbl



Version française disponible à www.thecounty.ca

