

Goalie thwarts former team

Red-hot O'Neill downplays payback in Spirit victory

Trevor O'Neill could have been excused for gloating.

But the suddenly red-hot netminder for the Stouffville Spirit was doing anything but Thursday night at the Stouffville Arena.

O'Neill was named first star as the Spirit defeated his old team, the Markham Waxers, 4-1, in a Provincial Jr. A Hockey League contest.

It was the fourth straight win for the Spirit (18-9-1-2), with O'Neill in goal all four times over an eight-day stretch.

O'Neill, 18, played goal for the Waxers for two seasons before being dealt to the Spirit this fall.

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He was spectacular, as the Spirit was outshot 38-32.

"That may have been a little different," he said of playing his old team. "But it's another two points for us."

The Keswick resident, who struggled at times early in the season, put his recent



TREVOR O'NEILL: Goals against average of 1.50 during four-game winning streak for Spirit.

success down to "just getting the bounces we weren't getting before."

Randy Johnston scored twice, giving him 23 goals and 46 points in 29 games. He also picked up a gash to the face, courtesy of an errant Markham stick.

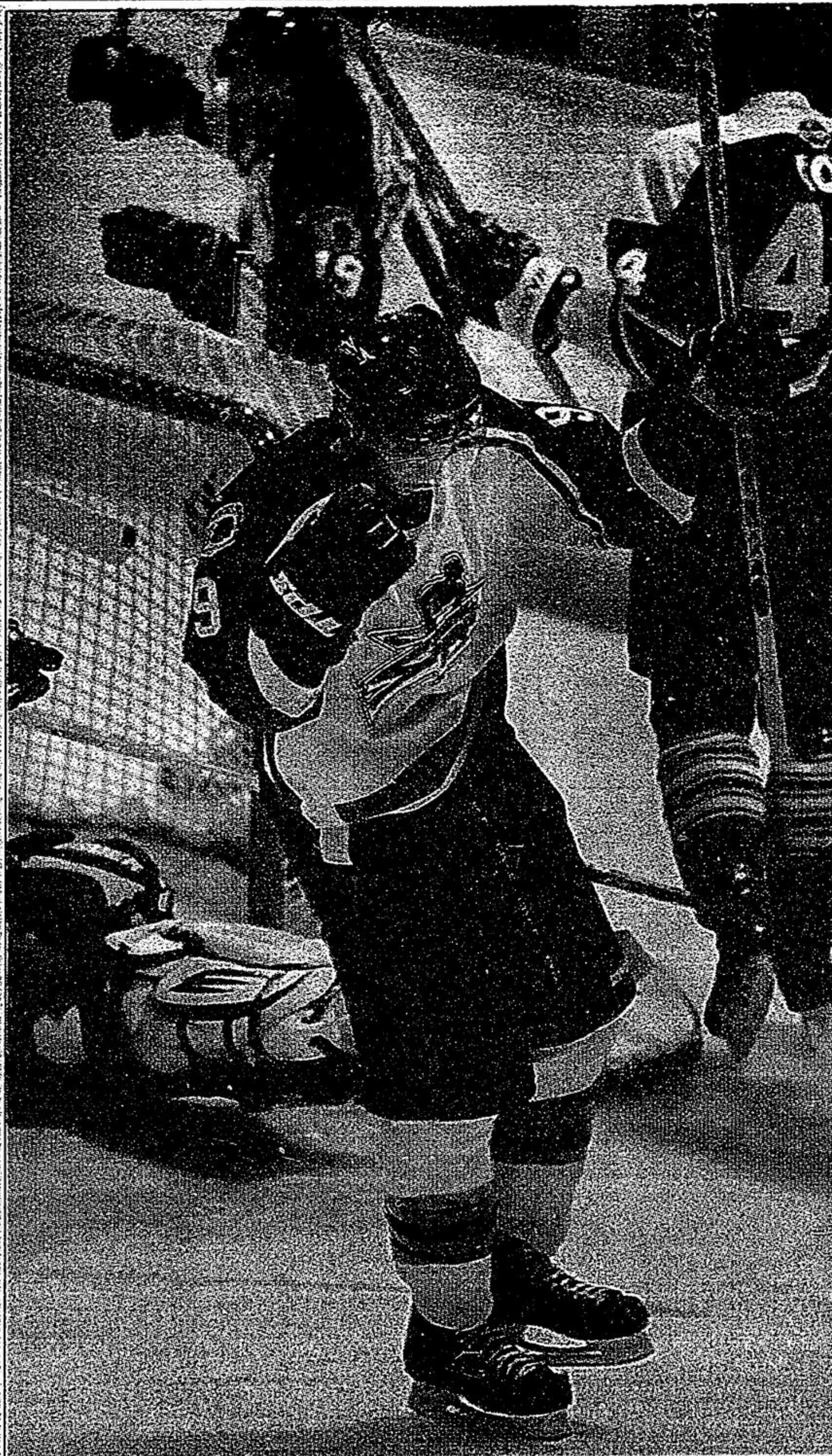
James McIntosh and Corey Fulton had the other Stouffville goals.

O'Neill, 18, picked up the four wins, sporting a goals against average of 1.50 over the stretch while facing at least 30 shots a night.

The Spirit, which played at Aurora last night, hosts Newmarket Thursday. The game will be broadcast on whistleradio.com.

Thursday's game is Summitview Public School Night.

For more on the Spirit, go to stouffvillespirit.com. For live scoring, go to pointstreak.com.



James McIntosh celebrates his goal as Stouffville Spirit linemate Mark Sullivan circles the net Thursday during the Spirit's 4-1 win over the Markham Waxers at the Stouffville Arena. The Spirit hosts Newmarket Thursday.

STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Del Zotto scores OHL honours

For a rookie in the Ontario Hockey League, Michael Del Zotto has acquainted himself quite nicely so far.

And the effort put fourth by the Whitchurch-Stouffville resident hasn't gone unnoticed. The Oshawa Generals first pick and second overall in the 2006 draft was named defenceman of the month for November.

Del Zotto, 16, led all defencemen in November with 17 points in 11 games. He had five multiple point games during the month, including a four-point contest against Belleville Nov. 5.

A member of the Markham Waxers minor midgets last year, Del Zotto is also second among the league leaders defencemen in scoring this season with 33 points in 27 games.

For more on the OHL, log on to: www.ontariohockeyleague.com.

Christian school 1-2 in tourney

The Stouffville Christian School hockey team took to the ice at the Gravenhurst Hockey Tournament this week and fielded a win in three outings.

Competing against five other Christian schools from Barrie, Muskoka, Holland Marsh, Orillia and Lindsay, the Stouffville school faced a challenge as the rival schools fielded far more experienced rosters with players in Grades 7 and 8.

Comprised of players in Grades 5 to 8, Stouffville lost 5-3 to Lindsay and 2-0 against Barrie, before concluding their stay with a 5-4 win over Holland Marsh.

Brett Hembruff scored twice in the win, including the eventual game-winning tally. Greg Barker, Derek Niessl and Jordan Barkey added singles.

Coached by Greg Roberts and Scott Jones, other team members included Tim Hurlburt, Matthew Whitehead, C.C. Campbell, Spencer Roberts, Christian O'Donnell, Lisa Hurlburt, Jamie Henry, Kurt Niessl, Ryan Boston, Katie Arens, Will Brown, Sal Rabito and Adam McGilvery.

The next tournament for the Stouffville school is in Lindsay Jan. 26.

Smooth sailing for Clippers

Scoring goals has not been a problem for the Stouffville minor bantam Clippers during their past two Ontario Minor Hockey Association outings.

Nor have they had any difficulties in preventing the puck from entering their net. They beat Markham 9-1 Wednesday and Newmarket 5-1 Sunday.

In the win over the Markham Waxers, the Clippers received a two-goal, one-assist effort from Steven Tait, while Josh Machesney contributed a goal and three helpers. Taylor Clifford and Robbie Acton had one goal and two helpers.

Daniel McMahon and Daniel Perry each added a goal and one assist while Joseph Pallidino and David Beloff chipped in with one goal apiece.

Curtis Crago and Connor Cadaret earned two assists and Matthew Miniaci one.

Against Newmarket, Acton led the Clippers' offence with two goals while Tait and Michael Bourgeois each added a goal and an assist and Crago one goal.

Brett Hembruff, Taylor Clifford and Machesney, each earned two assists. The two wins improved the Clip-

pers' record to 15-2-3.

SPORTS DIGEST

Bantam Stars take 2 of 3

The Markham-Stouffville bantam A Stars had a busy three days of hockey last weekend and came away with two wins and a loss in North West Girls Hockey League action.

Playing host to Oshawa last Friday, the Stars received a first-period goal from Nicole Wannop and made it stand in a hard-fought 1-0 win.

Britney Bailey played a solid game in goal to post the shutout.

Taking to the road Saturday for a game in Clearview, the Stars received a stellar netminding effort from Courtney Humphreys, but failed to generate any offence in a 1-0 loss.

The Stars rebounded from that setback Sunday when they played in Cobourg and emerged with a 2-1 win.

Nicole French had both goals.



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