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OUR TOWN • OUR TEAM!

THURSDAY, Jan. 4th



Huntsville Otters

All games 7:30 pm Stouffville Arena

www.stouffvillespirit.com

Holiday break spells relief for struggling Spirit

LAST WEEK: Thursday lost 5-3 against Seguin Bruins; Friday lost 2-1 against Huntsville Otters. Now 18-14-2-2 on season, third place in North Conference.

COMING UP: Tuesday at Durham Fury, 7:45 p.m.; Thursday vs. Huntsville Otters, 7:30 p.m.; Friday at Pickering Panthers, 7:30 p.m.

GAME NOTES: For the Stouffville Spirit, the Christmas break couldn't come soon enough. Playing two Provincial Jr. A Hockey League games last week, the Spirit went down to defeat in both and extended a winless streak to six games. Playing host to the Seguin Bruins Dec. 21, the Spirit fell 5-3. Sloppy clearing and some holiday giveaway specials led to at least three Seguin goals. At the other end, when the Spirit wasn't missing open nets, they were stymied.

Corey Trivino, Joel Sheppard and Will Acton scored for the Spirit, who trailed 4-2 after 20 minutes and 5-3 through two periods. Trevor Smith and Myles Gomes assisted on all three goals. Mark Kubicz started the game in net for the Spirit and was pulled for the final two

periods in favour of Trevor O'Neill. The Spirit outshot the Bruins 42-24. Travelling to Huntsville the following night, the Spirit fell 2-1 to the host Otters. Acton broke Jeff Dawson's bid for a shutout with a goal at the 18:55 mark of the third for the Spirit, who trailed 2-0 after two periods. The Spirit outshot the Otters 35-30.

NOTEBOOK: Trivino was one of 20 players named to the Team Ontario men's under-17 team for the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse Feb. 24 to March 1. The Spirit played the Dec. 21 contest without veterans Randy Johnston and Daniel Spivak, both on the injured list.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "We weren't looking ahead to the Christmas break," insisted Spirit assistant coach Pat Madigan. "I thought we had better jump in our last two games. But it was strictly breakdowns, a couple of little mistakes here and there that hurt us. Seguin, like Huntsville kept coming at us. They didn't give us much ice. We've just got to forget about this (slide). We've only got 14 games left in the regular season. We have a great little team here."

INSIDER: For live scoring and updates, go to pointstreak.com

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

Waxers ride 6-game unbeaten streak into break

LAST WEEK: Dec. 22 vs. Toronto Junior Canadiens 3-0 win; Dec. 23 vs. Ajax Attack 8-2 win; Record 24-12-1-0. Third place in South Conference.

COMING UP: Friday vs. Ajax Attack at Centennial Arena, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at Ajax Attack, 2:30 p.m.; Jan. 8 vs. Vaughan Vipers at Al Palladini Community Centre, 7:15 p.m.

GAME NOTES: The Waxers entered the Christmas break on a positive note after recording victories over the Toronto Junior Canadiens 3-0 at Centennial Arena and the Ajax Attack 8-2 on the road last Saturday to extend their unbeaten streak to six games. Matthew Spezza, playing his third game in net, stopped all 31 shots to post the shutout over the Junior Canadiens; Mark Comacchia, on a power-play effort, and Corey Tamblin, with a shorthanded marker, staked the Waxers to a 2-0 first-period lead. The score remained the same until the third period,

when David Kostuch deposited a shorthanded goal to ice the win. Taking to the road Saturday, the Waxers overcame a 1-0 deficit in the first period with goals from Claudio Cowdrey, his first of four in the game, and Jo Jo Bojanowski to take a 2-1 lead through 20 minutes. Comacchia, Cowdrey with a pair, and Giancarlo Luonio scored unanswered goals in the second to vault the Waxers to a 6-1 lead after 40 minutes. Kostuch and Cowdrey rounded out the scoring for the Waxers in the final frame. The Waxers outshot the Attack 43-22. Kyle Russell handled netminding duties for the Waxers.

INSIDER: The Waxers played the weekend games without the services of veteran forward and team captain Daniel Torres, who was out with an upper body injury. He's listed as day to day.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "The kids are playing real well. They're working hard. We're getting timely goaltending and distributed scoring. All of our guys are contributing and that helps," Waxers head coach Rick Comacchia said.

For more on the Waxers, log on to:
www.markhamwaxers.ca

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