

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Stouffville Clippers' Zack McMahon eyes the puck next to Bradford Bulldogs goalie Kurtis Linton during minor peewee A division action in the Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association tournament at Stouffville Arena Saturday. The teams tied 3-3. The Clippers won the championship game, 4-3 over Bradford, Sunday.

Minor peewees take title thanks to last-minute goal

Midget Clippers also champs at Stouffville tourney

Two Stouffville Clippers rep teams skated off with top honours from last weekend's Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association minor peewee, minor peewee AE, midget, midget AE tournament at the Stouffville Arena.

The Clippers minor peewee A entry received a goal by Connor Miller with just 51 seconds remaining in regulation time to edge Bradford 4-3 in last Sunday's championship final.

Ryan Peterson tied the score at 3-3

with his second goal of the game with 4:58 remaining in regulation time. Zach McMahon accounted for the other Clippers' marker.

In reaching the final, the Clippers defeated Agincourt 6-0 and Woodstock 5-0 and tied Bradford 3-3.

Advancing to the semifinal, the Clippers blanked Ajax 2-0. Bradford reached the final after downing West Hill (Scarborough) 5-0.

In the midget A group, the Clippers received a two-goal effort from Mitchell Raithby and stellar netminding from Brad Whittingstall to shut out East Gwillimbury 4-0 in the title tilt.

Pat Salvagna scored the eventual game-winning marker and Matt

Raguseo also scored once.

The Clippers reached the final after posting victories over Leaside 5-0, Bracebridge 1-0 and East Gwillimbury 1-0.

In semifinal action, the Clippers nipped Pickering 2-1 while East Gwillimbury edged previously unbeaten Bradford 2-1.

In other tournament finals, Lorne Park (Mississauga) won the midget AE title with a 3-2 win over Caledon in a shootout.

Georgetown won the minor peewee AE crown with a 1-0 victory over Whitby in the title tilt.

A total of 32 teams took to the ice for the three-day event.

Intimidation tactics can't halt Spirit's '07 winning streak

LAST WEEK: Friday - won 6-4 against Pickering Panthers. Now 21-14-2-2 on season, second place in North Conference.

COMING UP: Tonight vs. Seguin Bruins at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m.; Friday at Orangeville Crushers, 7:30 p.m.

GAME NOTES: The Spirit extended its winning streak to three games last Friday with a 6-4 win over the host Pickering Panthers. But it didn't come easy. The Spirit trailed Pickering 4-2 in the second period before captain Randy Johnston got down to business. The Provincial Junior A Hockey League's North Conference player of the month for November scored once and assisted on two others to ignite the Spirit offence. James McIntosh netted a pair, including an empty-netter. Defenceman Trevor Smith netted the game-winner at 15:33 of the third period. Donovan Munro and Corey Fulton accounted for the other goals. Mark Kubicz picked up the win in goal.



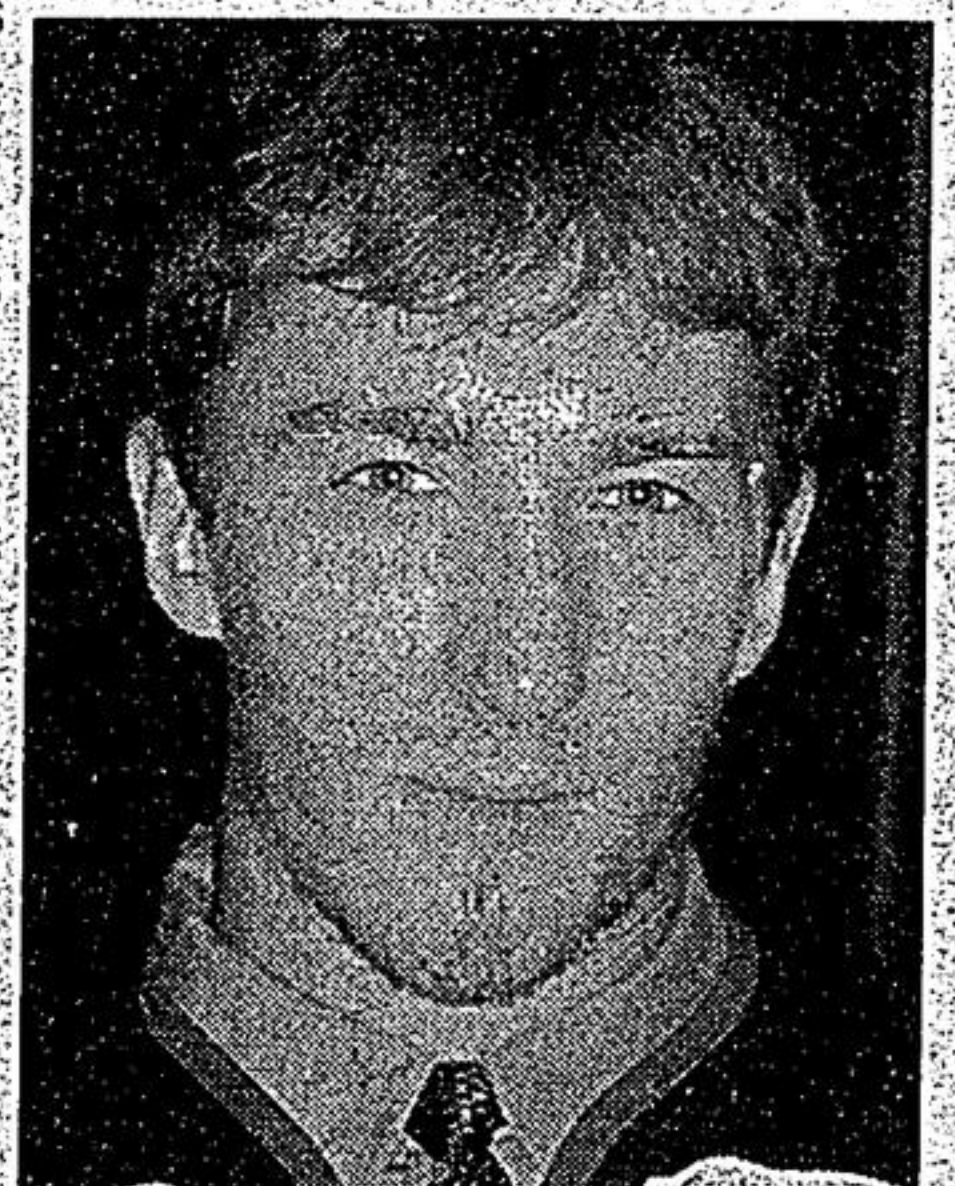
The win by the Spirit enabled them to sweep the two-game series over Pickering as they claimed the first game 3-2 Dec. 2 at the Stouffville Arena.

NOTEBOOK: The Spirit played Friday's game without forward Joel Sheppard, who was out with the flu. Spirit head coach Dan West expects Sheppard to be back for tonight's game. Also missing Friday was veteran forward Will Acton, who incurred a mild concussion in last Thursday's game on his first shift of the contest. West said Acton's situation is day-to-day. Forward Josh Domingues has been skating in full equipment. But no decision has been made about his debut.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "Friday's win (against Pickering) was a character one for our guys," West said. "Pickering tried to intimidate us. It was an emotional game for our guys and I thought we answered the bell."

In explaining the club's three-game winning streak since Christmas, West said the club has been paying attention to doing little things right.

"We had some tough one-goal losses just before Christmas. But now the guys are working a little harder and we're looking at it as a new approach to the new year."



INSIDER: For live scoring and updates, go to pointstreak.com. Most games are broadcast live at whistleradio.com. Spirit grad Dan McWhinney, now with Fort Wayne of the United Hockey League, registered his first professional shutout last weekend. Junior A teams across Canada had until midnight yesterday to finalize their deadlines. Rosters had to be trimmed to 23 players. There was little trade activity, as of Tuesday night. Playoffs begin the week of Feb. 8.

RANDY JOHNSTON: Spirit captain led to team to comeback victory in Pickering last weekend.

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

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