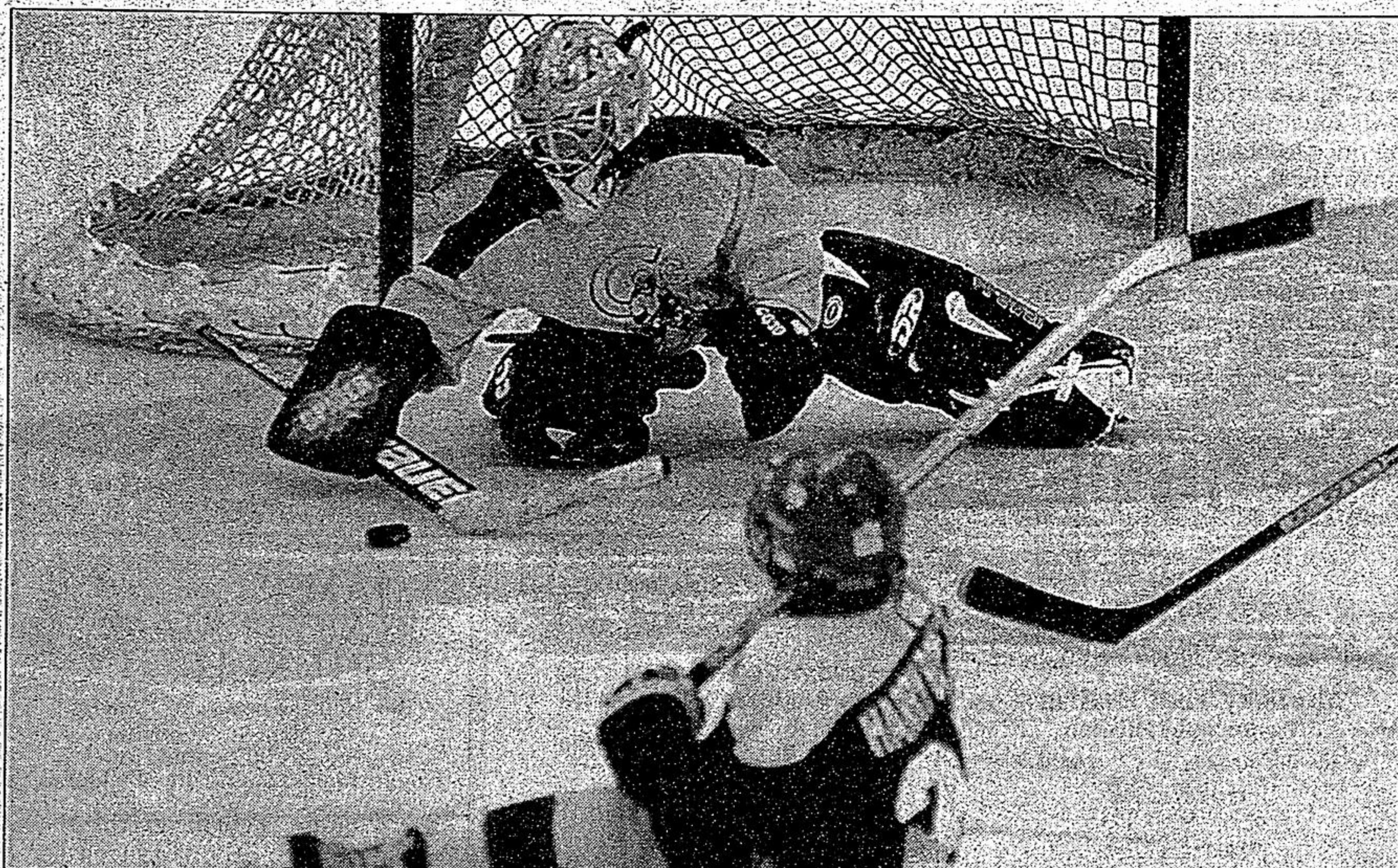


# SPORTS

## BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Goalie Robyn McFee of Tim Hortons makes a save against a seated Jessica Tyson of Team Harry Bowes during Markham Stouffville Girls Hockey atom house league hockey action at Angus Glen Community Centre in Markham Saturday.

## Juveniles rebound from near-extinction

Prior to the start of the 2006-07 Ontario Minor Hockey Association season, it appeared Stouffville would not field a Clipper juvenile rep club.

With just eight players showing up for pre-season auditions, prospects weren't encouraging. But somehow, the troops rallied around the flag and the Clippers iced a club.

These days, the Clippers are glad they decided to remain afloat.

With three 16-year-olds, almost unheard of at the juvenile level, along with a cast of 18- and 19-year-olds, the Clippers have made their presence felt.

At the Silver Stick regional tournament in Mooretown, the Clippers advanced to the final before they were edged by Harrow 1-0.

Buoyed by solid netminding from Adam Davis, the Clippers opened the tourney with a 3-0 win over Fort Erie.

Jon Wonch scored a goal and added an assist while Kurt Brillinger and Luke Mabley added single tallies. Jeff Gibson, Landon Wideman, Steve Brown and Davis earned assists.

The Clippers then faced Innisfil and received a two-goal effort from Gabe Barnett to win 4-3. Mabley added a goal and one assist and Jeff Gibson one goal.

## HOCKEY NEWS

Wonch, Josh Spang, Len Spiteri and Jimiel Selmanovski had single helpers.

Facing Thorold in their third contest, the Clippers gained a measure of revenge against the team that eliminated them from last year's Silver Stick by posting a 3-1 win.

Wonch, Barnett and Spang scored. The same two clubs met again in a semifinal that was extended into overtime before the Spirit prevailed 3-2.

Spiteri potted the game-winning marker while Mabley and Gibson accounted for the other Clipper goals.

Barnett, Wonch, Selmanovski and Kyle Cussion earned assists.

In OMHA preliminary playdown action last weekend, the Clippers won two games against Innisfil, 4-2 Saturday and 5-4 Sunday.

Goals were scored by Wonch, Barnett, Spiteri, Connolly and Mabley. Shawn, Gibson and Adam Davis split

goaltending duties.

The series continues with Stouffville hosting East Gwillimbury tomorrow at 9 p.m. and Innisfil Sunday at 8 p.m.

### Girls golden in Scarborough

The Markham-Stouffville midget A Stars brought home the gold from the Scarborough Ice Trials Girls Hockey Tournament by edging the Bluewater Hawks 1-0 in overtime in the title match.

Marti Hawkins scored the game-winning marker one minute into the extra session. Melissa Mullet helped preserve the win with a solid netminding.

The Stars began the tournament with a 3-1 loss to the Hawks, but they responded with a 1-0 win over Gloucester-Cumberland and a 2-1 victory over Etobicoke to earn a spot in the semis.

Backed by the goaltending of Tiane Jenkins, the Stars edged the New Jersey Colonials 2-1 to set up a rematch against the Hawks in the final.

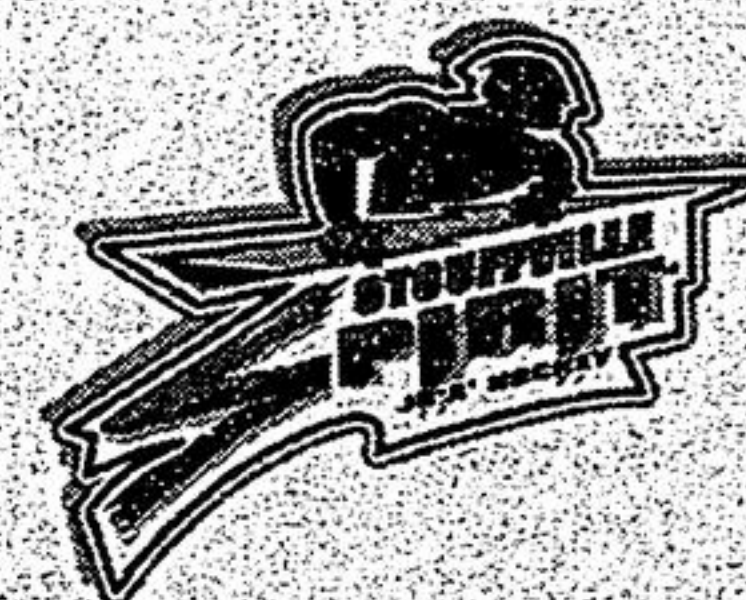
Other players include: Mel Anderson, Meghan Burnett, Liz Lennon, Jessica MacKay, Karis McRae, Rachelle Nasello, Christie Pawluch, Devon and Erin Robertson, Taya Venedam, Stefanie Zamperin and Jessica and Karli Ziegler.

## Second-place Spirit preps for playoffs

**LAST WEEK:** Friday - lost 4-3 against Aurora Tigers. Now 26-16-2-2 on season, second place in North Conference of Provincial Jr. A Hockey League.

**COMING UP:** Tonight vs. Orangeville Crushers at Stouffville Arena (final regular season home game), 7:30 p.m.; Friday at Orangeville Crushers, 7:30 p.m.; Monday at Vaughan Vipers, 7:15 p.m. (final regular season game).

**GAME NOTES:** For a while it looked as if the Spirit might be able to hand the North Conference-leading Aurora Tigers a rare setback right in their own backyard when the two clubs squared off Friday at the Aurora Community Centre. After the Spirit took a two-goal advantage early into the second period, the Tigers rallied to



resume skating in practice this week. For the time being, Spirit head coach Dan West said Acton's status remains a week-to-week proposition. On a positive note, West was pleased with the return of forward Josh Domingues to active duty last Thursday after being out since late August with a leg injury. West felt Domingues acquitted himself quite nicely.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** "We were right there with them. It was tough for us but I thought we battled all the way. The effort was there and I was happy with it," West said of his club's performance against the Tigers. "I think we're a more confident team playing Aurora with that effort. I'm sure they'll be in the North Conference final and we have plans to be there, too. We know we can compete with them in their building."

The Spirit will likely open the playoffs next Thursday at home. If the regular season ended today, they would play the East Conference's Lindsay Muskies in Round 1.

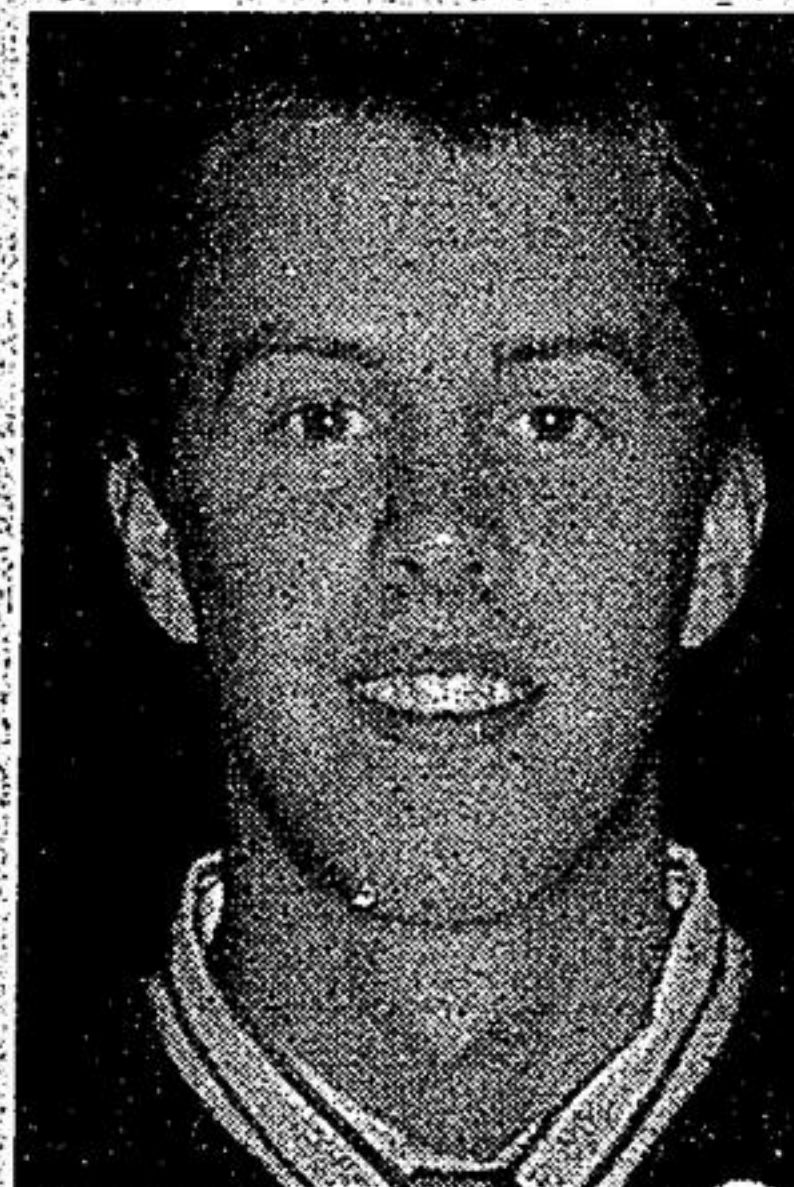
**INSIDER:** For live scoring and updates, go to [pointstreak.com](http://pointstreak.com). For live play-by-play, go to [whistleradio.com](http://whistleradio.com).

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

*'I'm sure (Aurora) will be in the North Conference final and we have plans to be there, too. We know we can compete with them in their building.'*

win 4-3. A first-period goal by Mike Foy staked the Spirit to a 1-0 lead through 20 minutes. Donovan Munro then scored 98 seconds into the second period to propel the Spirit to a 2-0 advantage. But the Tigers erupted for three unanswered goals before the period came to a close to take a 3-2 advantage through 40 minutes. The Spirit fought back to tie the game early in the third period on a power-play marker by Randy Johnston. But a power-play marker by Paul Zanette at 13:11 proved to be the game winner for the Tigers. The Spirit outshot Aurora 34-26.

**NOTEBOOK:** On the injury front, Spirit forward Will Acton's return to action remains uncertain. The Stouffville resident and third-year Spirit veteran, who had suffered a concussion last month, was scheduled to visit a specialist Monday to determine if he could.



**WILL ACTON:** Spirit forward remains on Jr. A team's injured list.

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