

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS

Acton's
return
lifts
SpiritScores second goal
on borrowed skate

Will Acton scored two goals — one on a borrowed skate — and Mark Sullivan netted the winner and an assist as the Stouffville Spirit defeated the Collingwood Blues 3-1 in Collingwood Tuesday.

The Spirit leads the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League North Conference best-of-seven semifinal series 2-0.

Game 3 goes tonight in Stouffville at 7:30 p.m.

"It's nice to finally contribute after sitting out and watching for so long," said Acton, who returned to the lineup last Thursday after six weeks on the injured list.

Acton and Sullivan are both Stouffville natives and graduates of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association.

Acton broke a skate in the second period, borrowed one from injured teammate Peter Driikos and put it on in the stands before notching the insurance goal with 27 seconds to play.

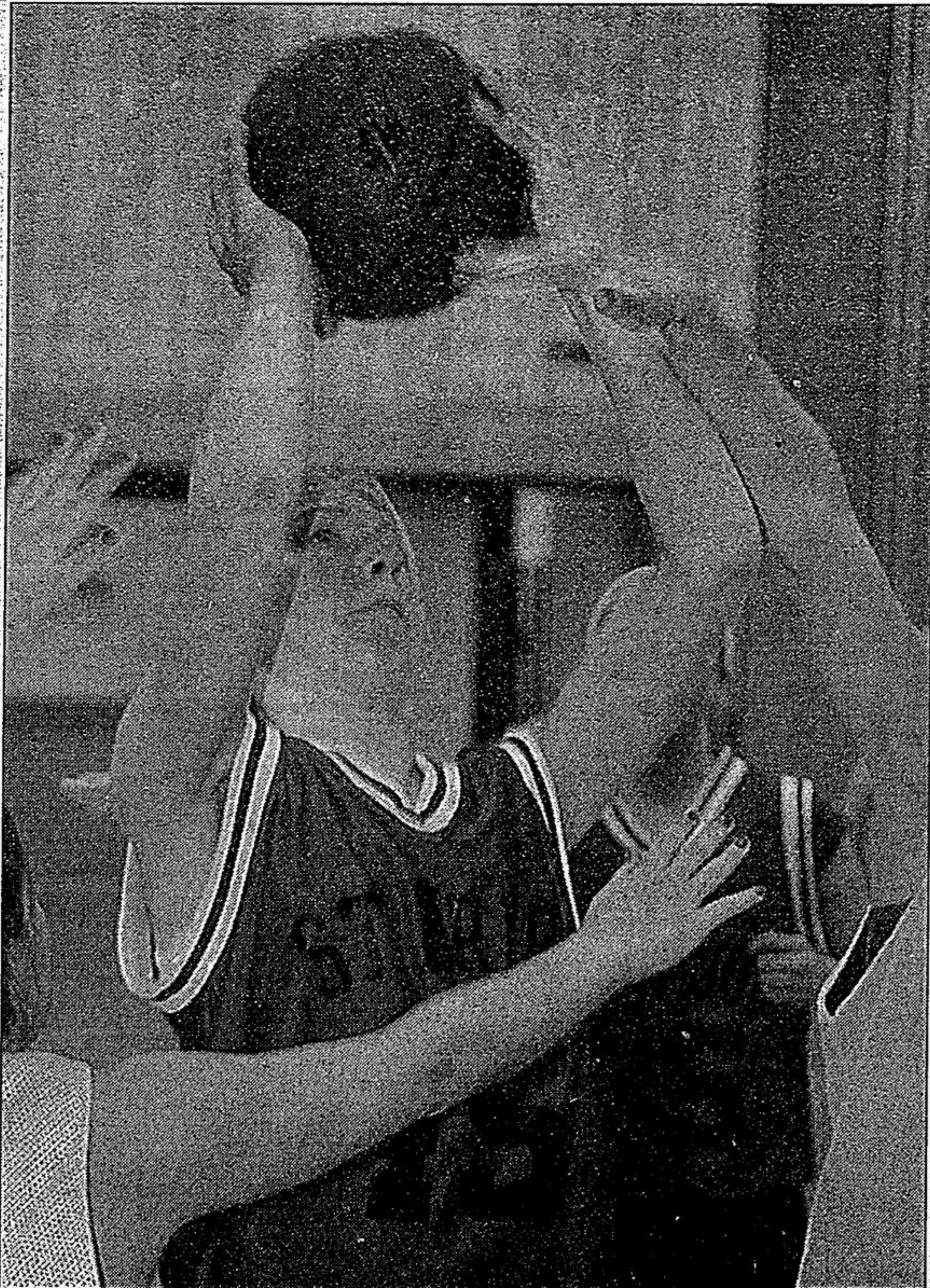
Captain Randy Johnston assisted on both Acton goals.

Trevor O'Neill earned his second win of the series and was named game MVP by his teammates. The Blues were outshot 41-29 in front of 480 fans.

Game 4 goes Friday in Collingwood, with the fifth game, if necessary, Saturday night in Stouffville.

Aurora defeated Newmarket 4-3 in overtime Tuesday to take a 2-1 lead in the other North semifinal. Game 4 goes tonight in Newmarket.

HANDS UP



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Peri Scheliga of Stouffville's St. Brigid goes up for a shot in a sea of Markham St. Joseph's arms during final of the York Region Catholic school basketball area championships at Father McGivney Academy in Markham Tuesday. St. Joseph's won 23-18, but both teams advance to regional championships Tuesday in Unionville. St. Brigid won the zone championship last week.

One game for York title

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans varsity boys hockey team has one shot at winning the York Region Athletic Association title.

They play Markham's Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals in a one-game, winner-take-all contest at Mount Joy Arena in Markham tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Because both teams will advance to the Ontario Federation of School Ath-

letic Associations championships in Oshawa, March 22 to 24, a decision was made just to play one game, Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt said.

The Spartans, who finished second in the East Division with a 5-2-1 record, declared to compete in the AA division.

The Cardinals, who finished first in the East with a 6-1-1 mark, will play in the AAAA bracket.

Three teams
in OMHA semis

Over the last five Ontario Minor Hockey Association seasons, Town of New Tecumseth proved to be a nemesis for the Stouffville minor bantam Clippers.

Especially during the provincial playoffs.

Not this year.

The Clippers ended TNT's hex in the fourth round of the best-of-five playoffs by winning the series in four games, climaxed Saturday with a 5-2 victory in Alliston.

Nursing a slim 3-2 lead in the second period, the Clippers gained some breathing room on a goal by Robbie Acton.

An empty net goal by Joseph Palladino on an assist from Acton late in the third period iced the game.

Josh Machesney scored twice while Curtis Crago, Acton and Joseph Palladino had singles. Palladino also had two assist.

In the series opener Feb. 17 in Alliston, the Clippers overcame a two-goal deficit to take the lead late in the contest before TNT rallied to tie the game and score the winner in overtime to skate off with a 4-3 win.

Connor Cadaret scored twice for the Clippers while Machesney had the other goal.

In Stouffville Feb. 20, the Clippers got off to a good start and held on for a 6-4 win to even the series.

Crago had a goal and two assists for the Clippers, who led 1-0 after one period and 5-1 part way through the second before TNT mounted a small rally. Acton, Tait, Cadaret, Machesney and Beloff scored.

In Stouffville Friday, the Clippers took a two-games-to-one lead with a 5-3 victory. Machesney scored twice for the Clippers. Hembruff, Machesney and Smith each added single tallies.

Kyle Pontone played in net for first two games while Gabe Grunwald handled the final two.

The Clippers face Quinte West in the OMHA semis.

Atoms playing Whitty

The Stouffville atom A Clippers captured their second straight OMHA York-Simcoe championship Saturday with a 6-4 victory over the Bradford Bulldogs.

Chris Jarret scored twice for the Clippers while Owen Pearce, Josh Burkholder, Mitchell Smith and Robbie Armstrong each added singles. In the opener, the clubs battled to a 2-2 tie.

Chris Cadaret scored a goal and added an assist while Evan Smith added the other marker.

After Bradford won the second game 7-4, the Clippers came back to even the series with a 4-2 win.

Mitchell Smith scored twice for the Clippers while Burkholder and Spencer Roberts chipped in with single tallies.

The Clippers then took the upper hand in the series by winning the fourth game 4-3.

Evan Smith, Mitchell Smith, Burkholder and Armstrong scored.

Jake Murray and Cam Nowikow split netminding duties throughout the series.

In winning the series, the Clippers will now advance to the OMHA eastern semifinals and face Whitby in a best-of-five series that began yesterday in Whitby. The Clippers return to Stouffville Arena for the second game Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Juniors open at home

For the Stouffville juvenile Clippers, the waiting is over.

The Clippers open the best-of-five semifinal tomorrow against Trenton-based Quinte West in Stouffville at 9 p.m.

The series will resume in Quinte for the second and third games Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. The fourth game will be played in Stouffville March 9 at 9 p.m. Quinte would host a fifth game March 10 at 8 p.m. A sixth game would be played March 11 in Stouffville.

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