

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans celebrate winning the York Region boys hockey title in Markham Monday.

Spartans work O.T. for title

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Stephen Moller's eyes lit up as he saw the loose puck and the open net.

Then, the Stouffville District Secondary School forward lit up the scoreboard at Mount Joy Arena in Markham with a goal that won the York Region high school senior boys' hockey championship Monday afternoon.

Moller's goal 2:42 into overtime lifted Stouffville's Spartans to a 4-3 win over Markham's Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals in the one-game championship final.

"The puck was sitting right there," said Moller, after being mobbed by his teammates under the arena score clock.

"I just had to chip it in."
Moller, who plays club hockey for the Stouffville Clipper A midgets, has scored a couple of other overtime winners for the Spartans this year.

"But this one's a bit bigger," he said. Stouffville, which killed off a five-on-three situation in the third period, was playing with two extra skaters in overtime thanks to a pair of Brother

'They never quit. They've been the same way all year'

Jamie Hewitt
coach of Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans

Andre minors.

Sault Ste. Marie Greyhound draft pick Jack Carrick's second goal of the game, with 12.74 seconds to play in regulation, tied the score at 4-4 for Stouffville and sent the game to the extra period.

Dennis O'Shaughnessy had the other Stouffville goal.

Brad Whittingstall made several big saves in the Stouffville net.

"They never quit," Stouffville coach Jamie Hewitt said of his Spartans. "They've been the same way all year."

Hewitt called time out late in regulation. The diagrammed play fell apart, but his direction of "go to the net" paid off on the tying and winning markers.

Steve Carroll, Mike Kotsopolous and Ryan Goodridge responded for Brother

Andre, which has a sizable student population from Stouffville.

Both teams advance to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships in Oshawa, March 22-24.

Stouffville, which finished second in the East Division with a 5-2-1 record, will 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 for larger schools.

Cardinal coach Dave Turner admitted his team had chances to ice the game late while leading but failed to capitalize.

There was also a Cardinal goal called off that spectators at the north end of the rink thought should have counted.

"This (loss) will help us going to OFSAA," he said. "I feel very good about our team."

It was the first time the schools have met in the York playoffs.

Brother Andre dominated the regular season series between the schools.

For more on the provincial championships, go to ofsaahockey2007.com

Spirit underdogs in North final

The Stouffville Spirit opens the North Conference final tomorrow night as underdogs.

They're not complaining about the role.

All three members of the Rogers TV panel of Jr. A experts, including ex-Markham coach Russ Herrington, have picked the Aurora Tigers to beat the Spirit in as few as five games.

The series opens tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. The second game in the best-of-seven goes Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

The defending North champion Spirit swept playoff series against Cobourg and Collingwood to reach the final, while Aurora blew out Buffalo in four straight and needed six games to knock off a pesky Newmarket Hurricane squad.

It's the regular season that separates them. The Tigers went 44-4-1 to the second-place Spirit's 28-16-3-2 and are ranked No. 1 in Canada.

Still, Spirit head coach Dan West notes his team beat Aurora, took them to overtime and played them tough in all but one game.

"We'll focus on our team and the things we need to do in this series," he said. "We'll have to be a physical team because we know how skilled a team they are."

Captain Randy Johnston caught one game of the Newmarket-Aurora series.

"Aurora always has a good team," he said. "They like to shoot the puck a lot and we have to be aware of blocking shots."

Remaining games in the series include:

Tuesday, March 13, at Aurora, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 15, at Stouffville, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 16, at Aurora, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 18, at Stouffville, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, March 19, at Aurora, 7:30 p.m.

* if necessary

Singing the Blues

Johnston scored at 5:12 of double overtime Friday in Collingwood to give the Spirit a 2-1 win and a series sweep over the Blues.

Will Acton had the other goal, his sixth of the series. Trevor O'Neill earned his seventh win of the playoffs.

Golden boy returns

The Spirit lineup is at full strength, with the return of Corey Trivino Sunday. He won gold with Ontario at the Canada Games Friday.

Trivino had five points during the tourney in Whitehorse. Ontario assistant coach Paul Titanic praised Trivino's work ethic.



Corey Trivino holds his gold medal from the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. The Stouffville Spirit forward and the under-17 hockey team defeated Manitoba in the gold medal game Friday.

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