

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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SATURDAY FOCUS

Stouffville anthem singer set for competition finals at ACC

Star-spangled audition

Scholarship winner, 14, working on U.S. anthem

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

The season is over for the Stouffville Spirit Jr. A Hockey Club, but not for its anthem singer.

Jennifer Thunem, 14, is a finalist in the Real Canadian Anthem Search, a competition for southern Ontario teenagers sponsored by Loblaw's Companies Ltd. in conjunction with the Toronto Maple Leafs and Raptors.

The Grade 9 student at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill and seven other finalists will sing the Canadian and U.S. anthems for celebrity judges at the Air Canada Centre Monday.

Check out our video report at yorkregion.com

The winning soloist will sing the anthems at the Leafs-Philadelphia game April 3 and receive \$1,000 in prizes and \$2,000 for the charity of their choice.

You can go to superstore.ca before Monday to vote for your favourite.

Singers entered by uploading their video or auditioning in person at Ontario Superstores. Jennifer, one of 160 entries, sang at the Aurora store.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville resident has been a member of the Aurora Opera Company for five years and participated in many musical theatre and opera productions under the coaching of Sarah Kyle.

A member of St. James

See SINGER, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Jennifer Thunem, 14, works on the Canadian and American national anthems at her family's Whitchurch-Stouffville home Thursday. The Stouffville Spirit anthem singer is a finalist in the Real Canadian Anthem Search at Air Canada Centre Monday. You can see her perform tomorrow at Stouffville United Church.

Dynasty on ice? SDSS girls repeat as Ontario hockey champions

Third straight medal at provincials in Trenton

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

The winner and still Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations A/AA girls hockey champions, the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans.

The defending provincial champions and this year's No. 1 seed repeated Thursday by defeating No. 7 seed Bishop Tonno's Catholic Secondary School Titans (Ancaster) 5-1 in the title tilt in Trenton.

Is that a female hockey dynasty in the works at Stouffville's only high school?

It's the third straight OFSAA medal for the Spartans, who won silver two years ago.

The Spartans dominated the tourney, winning all six games, while scoring 25 goals and allowing four.

In the final, Cassandra Britton scored twice for the Spartans, who nursed period leads of 2-0 and 4-0. Hayley Hughes, her sister Heather Hughes and Karli Ziegler added singles.

"It's really thrilling, it feels awesome," Spartans' co-head coach Brian Shankman said of his club's repeat gold-medal winning performance. "The girls came out smoking

and they were overwhelming."

The Spartans left the Trenton/Belleville area immediately after the game to celebrate the win back in Stouffville.

Shankman, who coaches the team with Dan McConnachie, felt the difference throughout the tournament was depth.

"Every team that we faced had a couple of strong players. But I told our girls throughout that no one has our depth or team speed. No one could stay with us," he

The girls came out smoking and they were overwhelming.

said. "The girls won all of the little battles. They just wanted it."

The Spartans received a shutout earlier in the day from Grade 9 student Courtney Humphreys in a 5-0 semifinal victory over No. 4 seed Trinity College (Port Hope).

Jamie Sparks, Heather Hughes, Hayley Hughes, Brittany Crago and Dayle Wilkinson scored.

About the only challenge put upon the Spartans came in Wednesday's quarter-final contest against No. 2 seed Notre Dame College

See SECOND, page 8.

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