

Bantams off to perfect start

The Stouffville major bantam Clippers are making an early statement in Ontario Minor Hockey Association regular season play after winning their first four contests.

Starting the year with victories over East Gwillimbury 10-1 and Schomberg 8-2, the Clippers reeled off two more wins last weekend.

Playing host to Beeton Sept. 22, the Clippers received a two-goal effort from Connor Cadaret and one from Robbie Acton in a 3-2 win.

Brett Hembruff, David Beloff, Taylor Clifford and Steven Tait each collected one assist.

Playing in Bradford the following day, the Clippers were buoyed by a two-goal effort from Tait in a 4-0 win.

Josh Machesney and Curtis Crago, with a shorthanded marker, each added single tallies. Chris Smith, Beloff and Kyle Sauro collected one assist apiece.

Novices breeze to Early Bird championship

The Stouffville novice A Clippers got their season off to an auspicious start after skating off with the gold medal from the Markham Waxers Early Bird Tournament.

The weekend was capped with an 11-3 pasting of Whitby in the championship final at the Canlan Ice Rinks in Scarborough.

Entering the tournament with regular season wins over the Aurora Tigers 6-0 and Barrie Colts 4-1, the Clippers opened the tournament with a resounding 10-0 victory over the Clarington Toros.

They followed up by posting 5-2 wins over Bradford and Orillia. Securing a spot in last Sunday's semifinal, the Clippers defeated the host Waxers 4-1 to earn a berth in the final.

Coached by Mike Sear and assisted by Steve McCusker and Dave Barss, team members include forwards Kieran Beaudoin, Miller Boothby, Mitchell Butler, Taggard Clark, Kyle Kincaide, Vaughn McCusker, Jackson Mistelbacher, Steele Rodin, Luke Sear and Gerrit Tiemersma.

Playing on the Clipper defence were Adrian Addante, Rhys Barker, Tim Barker, Simon Horner, Matthew Hunt and Austin Meillunas.

Jack Yasuda and Parker Strupp shared netminding duties. Team trainer is Rhod Hunt and team manager Tamara Meillunas.

Domingues bounces back from break to crack Owen Sound Attack lineup

Tough choice to leave Stouffville for Spirit grad

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Early season with the Owen Sound Attack of the Ontario Hockey League has been far more enjoyable for Josh Domingues this year than last.

The Markham resident and Stouffville Spirit graduate broke his right leg after falling awkwardly in a fight with defenceman Zach McCullough in a scrimmage a year ago.

"At least I'm not lying in a hospital bed," the 18-year-old said, laughing.

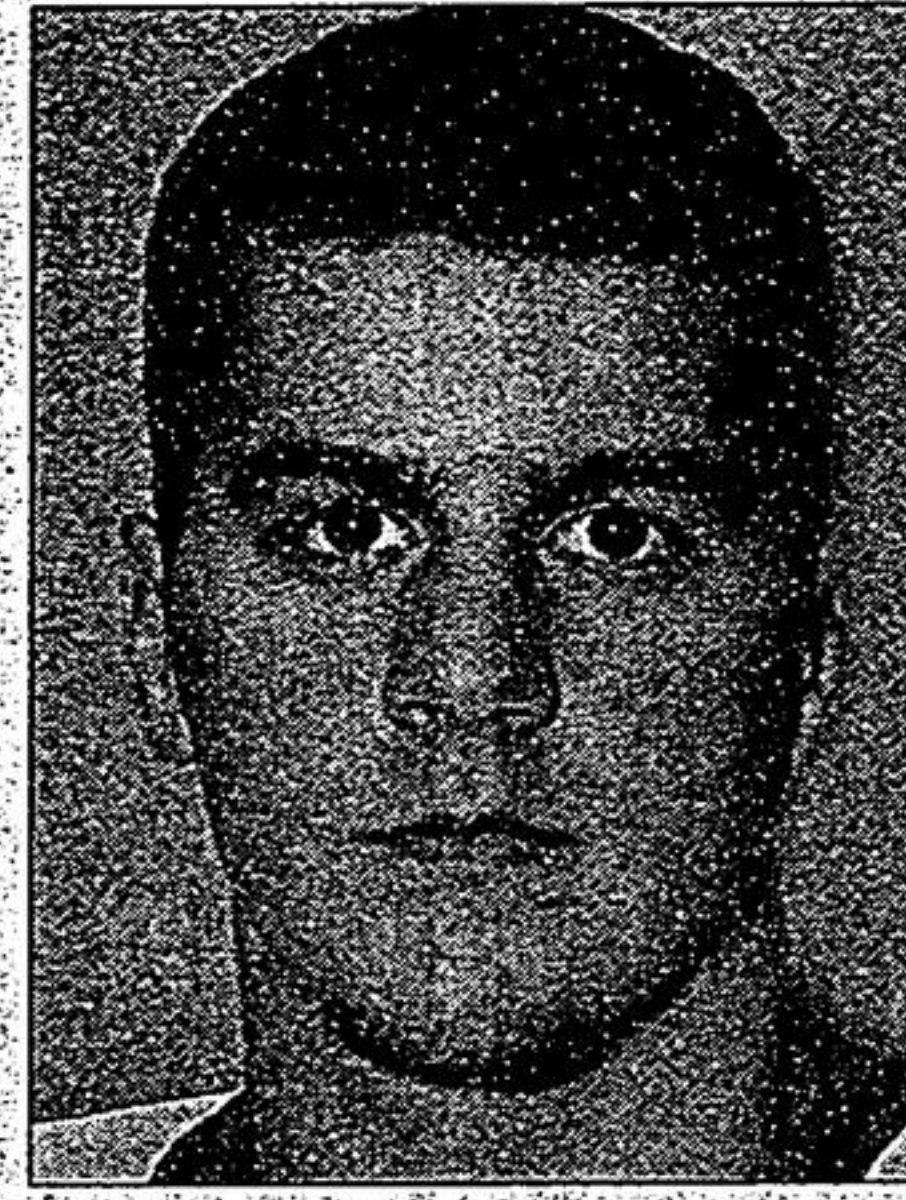
The setback made him even more determined to get back on the ice as quickly as possible.

"Throughout the whole year, I was working hard to get back to focusing on playing hockey and to get to the level that I was at prior to the injury," he said.

Domingues made a return late last year, playing in five regular season and 13 playoff games.

During the off-season, Domingues pushed himself even further under personal trainer Ben Davis, who operates Hyperfit in Markham. Under Davis' supervision, Domingues worked out six days a week and was on the ice four times a week.

While feeling he is back to where he was before his injury, Domingues had reached a crossroads entering the season as to where he wanted to play.



JOSH DOMINGUES: Stouffville Spirit graduate is with Owen Sound of the Ontario Hockey League.

Domingues received a hockey and educational package from the Attack, a team which made him their fifth-round pick in the 2005 OHL priority selection, that was too good to turn down.

"It was an extremely tough decision to make," Domingues said. "Stouffville was such a good organization. But I have a chance here (in Owen Sound) to be a top two or three-line player and you can't pass that up."

To date, Domingues hasn't let the Attack down.

During pre-season, he was on the club's first unit and played on the power play and penalty-killing units.

"I'm getting a good chance to play," Domingues said. "And I think so far I've

exceeded even my own expectations." Dale DeGray, first-year Attack general manager, has been pleased with the manner in which Domingues acquitted himself thus far in the preseason and feels he's been the club's most pleasant surprise.

He has a goal and two assists and is a plus-three in five games for the Attack.

"He came into camp in good physical condition and was ready to go," he said. "He's got some skills and grit to his game. He's the type of kid who wants to make things happen. I like the way he plays. He'll do fine."

"He's gotten his skating in a better position to play in the OHL. When I talked with Mike Futa (the former Attack GM), he had him pencilled in to make the team last year. He came into camp and didn't know if he wanted to come at first. But he's come in here and done a great job."

While studying business at the Georgian College campus in Owen Sound, Domingues still holds out hope that he can fulfill his dream of playing in the National Hockey League.

"Sitting out my (NHL) draft year was tough," Domingues said. "But hopefully, if I work hard enough, I'll get drafted. For now though I'm playing a game that I love."

NOTES: Goaltender Neil Conway, another Spirit product, was in his fourth year with the Attack before being released last week...former Spirit scout Ian MacLellan is head scout and assistant general manager of the Attack.

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