

# Defending provincial champions work O.T. to win hometown event

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

You won't hear any complaints from Jamie Hewitt any time his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys hockey team records a victory.

But if the club keeps having to rally in the late going, such as in Thursday's semifinal and final of the Spartan Invitational Early Bird Tournament, there could be concern.

The comeback was capped by a dramatic 4-3 overtime win over Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate (Scarborough) in the title tilt at Stouffville Arena.

Hewitt acknowledges his club can't rely on winning games in this manner each time out, even if they sport a strong returning cast of players that was on last year's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA championship squad.

"I hope that trailing in the third period won't be a habit," he said.

After winning their first two games of the tournament Wednesday, 6-3 over Westmount Collegiate (Thornhill) and 4-2 over last year's finalist from Bishop Macdonnell (Guelph), the Spartans finished atop their pool Thursday when Jamie Wise recorded a hat trick in a 3-2 win over Anderson Collegiate (Whitby).

Facing arch rival Brother Andre Catholic High School Car-

dinals in a semifinal encounter, the Spartans got a goal from Scott Van Allen in the second overtime for a 2-1 win and berth in the final.

Wise scored the first goal for the Spartans, who entered the third period trailing 1-0.

In the final against Sir Oliver

*'I hope that trailing in the third period won't be a habit.'*

Mowat, it was Luke Bartell's turn to be the hero as he scored in overtime to give the Spartans the victory and tournament title.

Wise scored two goals, including a power-play marker that tied the game as the Spartans overcame a 3-1 deficit entering the third period. Paul Geiger added the other goal.

"Our kids just never gave up," Hewitt said. "They deserve all of the credit. They worked hard. They showed a tremendous amount of character. It was a gut check effort."

Entering the final, Hewitt was concerned his charges might be at a disadvantage considering they were taken to the limit by the Cardinals, who won last year's OFSAA AAA bronze medal.

Sir Oliver Mowat, meanwhile, breezed into the final with a 7-0

trouncing of Westmount Collegiate in their semifinal encounter.

Adding to Hewitt's concern were some untimely injuries, leaving him with just eight forwards entering the third period of the final.

He was quick to praise the grit of those who were able to play, along with the work of his defence and goalie Sean Gibson.

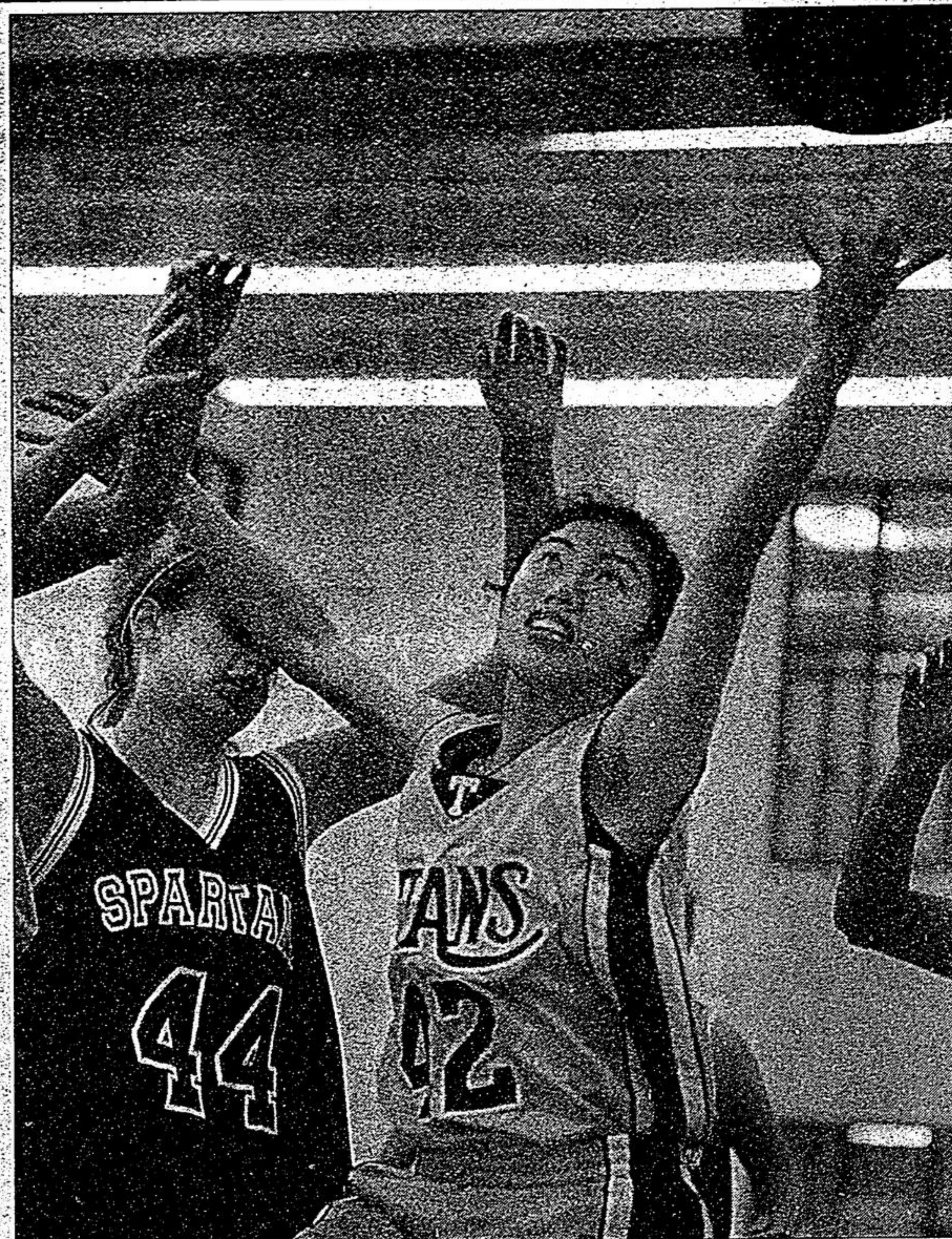
"We will be depending a lot on Sean this year," he said of his veteran netminder.

Another aspect that pleased Hewitt was the work of his special teams. In particular, their power play as it accounted for seven of their 19 goals during the tournament. In each game, the Spartans scored at least one extra strength marker.

As well, Hewitt couldn't find enough adjectives to describe the play of Wise, who scored six of his club's nine goals in their three games Thursday. As well, the Grade 11 student set up both overtime winning goals.

"He's a special player. I haven't done anything to make him better. A lot of it is his natural ability," Hewitt said of Wise, whose father Graham is the head coach of the Ryerson University Rams men's hockey team.

The Spartans will open league play Nov. 19 when they host Unionville High School at 2:30 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## TWO MINUTES FOR ELBOWING?

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartan Haley Preston gets an elbow from St. Augustine Titan Samantha Yang as they go after a rebound in junior girls first round playoff action at Stouffville Tuesday. Stouffville won 42-26.

## Girls invade SDSS

Eight York Region high school junior girls basketball teams will be hooping it up at Stouffville District Secondary School Tuesday for the York Region Athletic Association tier two quarter-finals.

The action begins at 3 p.m. with Sir William Mulock Secondary School (Newmarket) facing Toronto District Christian School.

At 4:45 p.m., Newmarket High School will play St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School (Vaughan); the host Spartans will face Community Hebrew Academy Toronto (Vaughan) at 6:15 p.m. Rounding out the day will be Unionville High School and St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School (Maple) at 8 p.m.

The four winners will advance to the semifinals Nov. 15 at Stouffville District Secondary School at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The final, also at Stouffville District Secondary School, will take place at 8 p.m.

### Senior girls advance

The Spartans senior girls' basketball team advanced to the YRAA AA tier one final with a 34-23 road win over Richmond Green Secondary School in semifinal action Thursday.

Amanda Deacon was high scorer for the Spartans with 12 points.

The Spartans will take to the road Tuesday to face Sutton District High School.

The winner will host the Lake Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association AA champion for the right to participate in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA playdowns.

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