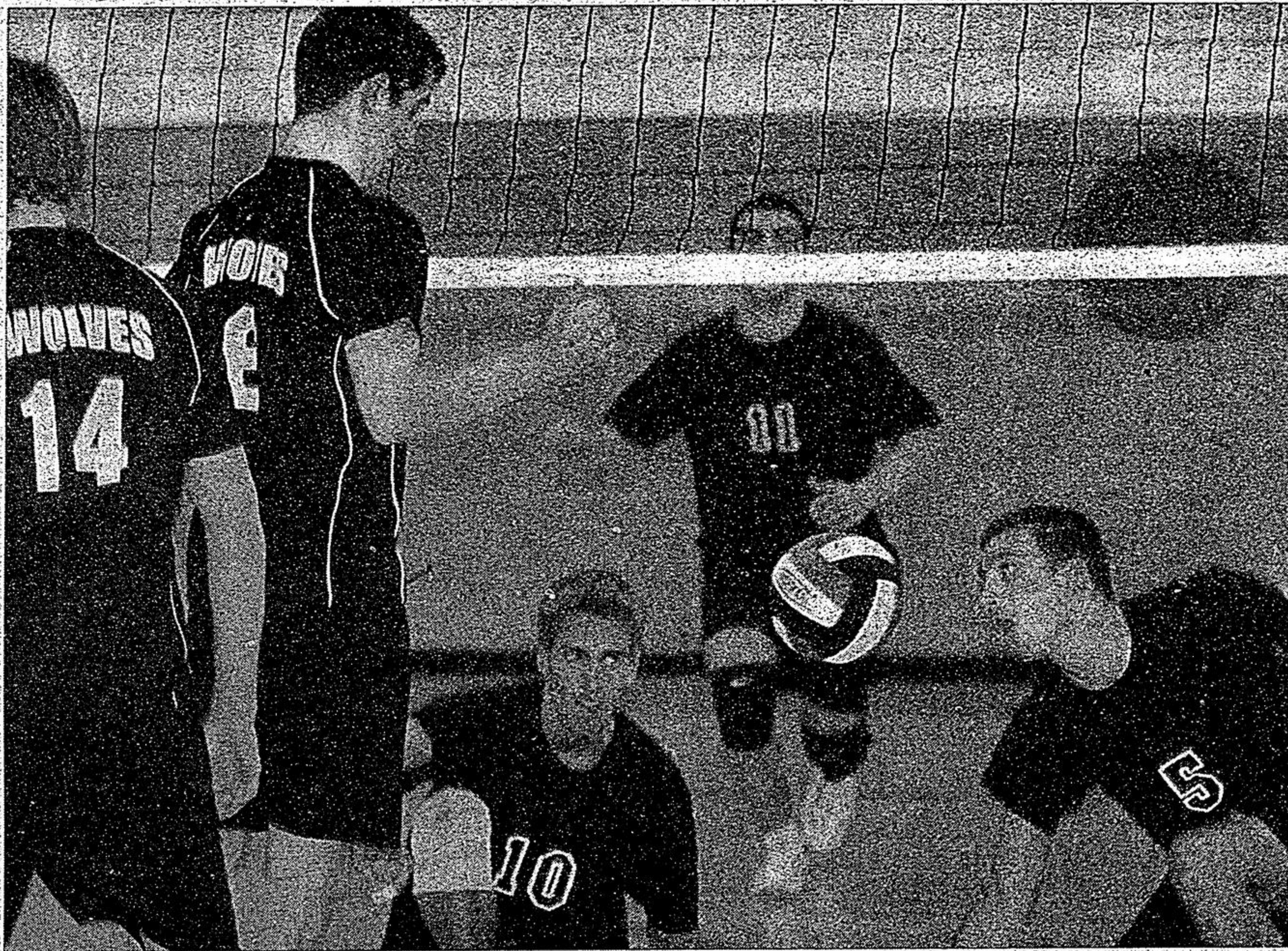


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville District Secondary School's Fred Bell (10) and Alex Mennotich (5) dig out the ball against Unionville Wolves Rocky Man (14) and Jordan Mees (8) in the York Region senior boys Tier 1 volleyball tournament at Toronto District Christian High School in Woodbridge Tuesday. Stouffville lost, but hopes to advance to the Ontario AA tournament.

Girls keep home-court advantage

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Stouffville District Secondary School's junior girls' basketball team made full use of home court advantage Tuesday in the York Region Athletic Association tier two quarter-finals.

Playing host to Community Hebrew Academy Toronto (Vaughan), the Spartans prevailed 53-36.

Emily Aprile led the Spartans with 11 points while Brooke Kiatipis and Dayle Wilkinson, who was named the team's most valuable player in the game, each added 10.

"We missed a few layups early on, but our passing was good and we ran our fast break well," Sandy Bush, Spartans' co-coach with Jack Hammond, said of her club's performance.

Bush was also quick to credit the play of Demitria Chalkias, who hauled down numerous rebounds.

The Spartans face the Unionville

High School Wolves in today's semifinal at Stouffville at 4 p.m. The Wolves defeated St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School (Maple) 33-30 in their quarter-final Tuesday.

The winner of the Spartans-Wolves semifinal will face the winner of the other semifinal between Sir William Mulock and Newmarket High School for this year's gold medal at 8 p.m. at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Bush thinks the Spartans can earn a second straight trip to the final.

"If we play our game and our shooters are on I think we have a good chance to win," she said.

Volleyballers eye OFSAA berth

The Spartan senior boys' volleyball team fell short in its bid to win the YRAA tier one title Tuesday in playoffs at Toronto District Christian School in Woodbridge.

But they have a second life.

The Spartans hope to qualify for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA playdowns and can do so by winning its three-team round-robin Thursday. To do so, they must defeat host St. Jean de Brebeuf and Sutton District High School.

The Spartans have faced both teams and feel confident they can prevail. But, Spartans' head coach Steve Jimmo remains cautious.

"On paper I think we have what it takes to win. But we'll have to see what team shows up. The kids know it. We've got to play our game," he said.

In Tuesday's YRAA playoffs, the Spartans fell 2-0 to Toronto District Christian and split two games with Unionville High School and St. Jean de Brebeuf before they were eliminated.

Toronto District Christian and Sacred Heart Catholic High School (Newmarket) will meet in Friday's YRAA final at Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill.

Spirit welcomes back medallists tonight

LAST WEEK: Saturday - won 5-2 against Aurora Tigers. Now 11-6-3-25 on season, fifth place in North Conference.

COMING UP: Today vs Collingwood Blues at Stouffville Arena, 7:35 p.m.; Saturday at Orangeville Crushers, 7:30 p.m.

GAME NOTES: The Stouffville Spirit entered Saturday's home tilt against the defending national champion Aurora Tigers on a three-game losing streak, but head coach Dave D'Amazio said it wasn't for a lack of effort. The first-year Spirit bench boss has been pleased with the way they've competed in those setbacks. This despite the absence of Ethan Werek, Corey Trivino, Daniel Spivak and James McIntosh, all of whom were with the Canada East team at the World Junior A Challenge in British Columbia. But in Saturday's game, the hard work finally paid dividends when the Spirit snapped its slump with a 5-2 win over the Tigers. After a scoreless first period, the Spirit seized a 2-0 lead through 40 minutes on goals by Tyler Gubb and Randy Johnston. After the Tigers scored the first goal of the third period to cut their deficit, Gubb notched his second of the game to restore the Spirit's two-goal advantage. The Tigers kept the final outcome in doubt when they scored a goal to cut their deficit back to within a goal. But the Spirit put the game on ice when Johnston, with his second of the game, and Mike Foy scored before the final buzzer sounded. Defenceman Patrick McEachen collected two assists.

NOTEBOOK: Prior to the start of tonight's game against the Blues, the Spirit will conduct a pre-game ceremony to honour of Werek, Spivak, Trivino and McIntosh in bringing home a silver medal from the World Junior A Challenge. Canada East were runners-up for the second year in a row after falling to defending tournament champions Canada West 4-1 in Sunday's final in Trail, B.C.

Collingwood is 5-17-2 and in seventh place in the nine-team North. The Blues top scorer is Jeff Blackburn with nine goals and eight assists. Former Spirit general manager Ken Burrows is in his first year as GM in Collingwood.



GENERALLY SPEAKING: "The effort was there and we got the results," D'Amazio said of his club's performance Saturday. "Our veterans had been leading by example. But (Saturday) we got a couple of breaks and just put the puck in the net."

D'Amazio felt Johnston's performance was critical to the final outcome.

"Randy had struggled a bit over the last few games, but (Saturday) he was relaxed and that was the ultimate deciding factor.

"It sure helps when you can score."

D'Amazio praised the work of other veterans, including Mark Sullivan, Donivan Munro and Tom Kokej.

"They led the way and set the example for the rookies," D'Amazio said.

The Spirit incurred no serious injuries Saturday and expects all hands ready for tonight's game against the Blues.

ALUMNI WATCH: Spirit grad Mike Sullivan scored two goals and was named a game star as his Idaho Steelheads defeated the Alaska Aces 7-1 in front of 4,621 fans Saturday in Boise. Sullivan is in his first pro season after four years at Clarkson University in New York. His brother, Mark, and cousin, Patrick McEachen, are on this year's Spirit roster. Idaho, in the East Coast Hockey League, is the AA farm team of the Dallas Stars.

INSIDER: Listen to Spirit games at whistleradio.com. For live scoring and updates, go to pointstreak.com.

For more on the Spirit, go to stouffvillespirit.com. Aurora and Newmarket meet tonight on Rogers TV (Ch. 63).

— Mike Hayakawa



If you know a young person, aged 6 to 17, who is involved in worthwhile community service, a special person who is contributing while living with a limitation, a youth who has performed an act of heroism, or a 'good kid' who shows a commitment to making life better for others, doing more than is normally expected of someone their age - help us recognize their contribution - nominate them today!

Nominations are now being accepted for the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards

The strength of our community lies in solid citizens. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders.

Follow the leader... leading by example

Nominations will be accepted until December 28, 2007

Contact this newspaper or the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 905.639.8720.

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