

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

## SPORTS

Jonathan Cristini of the Stouffville Spirit slips between Newmarket Hurricane defenders Riley Brand and Josh McQuade in the Spirit's 4-3 overtime loss in Newmarket Tuesday. The Spirit hosts the Orangeville Crushers at the Stouffville Arena tonight.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Spirit not dismayed by O.T. loss

**LAST WEEK:** Saturday - won 5-0 against Seguin Bruins; Tuesday - lost 4-3 in overtime against Newmarket Hurricanes. Now 27-12-5-59 on season, fourth place in North Conference.

**COMING UP:** Tonight vs. Orangeville Crushers, 7:30 p.m.; Friday at Huntsville-Muskoka Otters, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at Seguin Bruins, 2 p.m.

**GAME NOTES:** The Newmarket Hurricanes defeated the visiting Stouffville Spirit 4-3 in overtime in Tuesday's rescheduled Provincial Junior A Hockey League contest originally slated to be played Dec. 16. But if points were rewarded for moral victories, the Spirit might have claimed the two instead of the one earned in the overtime loss. What pleased Spirit general manager Tom Milne was the performance of netminder Wes Annis, who was given the starting assignment when regular goalkeeper Trevor O'Neill had to miss the game due to family matters. Obtained from the Durham Fury earlier in the season, Annis gave a good account of himself in stopping 22 of 26 shots and gave the Spirit a chance to win the game.

With the Spirit nursing a 3-1 lead just past the midway point of the third period, the Hurricanes rallied with two unanswered goals, including one by Jake



McClelland on a power-play effort at the 16:21-mark to force overtime. The five-minute extra session did not last long as the Hurricanes' Brian Soso took the only shot on net and scored at the 1:26-mark to end the game. Tyler Gubb, Ethan Werek, on a power-play effort late in the second period, and Corey Trivino, each scored once for the Spirit. The Spirit directed 36 shots on Hurricanes goalie Matt Milne, son of Spirit general manager Tom Milne. The loss incurred by the Spirit snapped a three-game winning streak and was their second overtime setback in three outings this season. The win by the Hurricanes also enabled them to win the regular season series over the Spirit four games to two.

The Spirit entered Tuesday's game after

a 5-0 win over the visiting Seguin Bruins last Saturday. A power-play goal by Patrick McEachen in the first period staked the Spirit to a 1-0 lead after 20 minutes. Second-period goals by Jonathan Cristini and Matt Viola enabled the Spirit to pad their advantage to 3-0 through 40 minutes.

The Spirit iced the game in the third period when Darren Archibald and Viola, with his second, each scored once to round out the scoring. Trivino also collected two assists. O'Neill stopped all 28 shots directed his way to post his sixth shutout of the season. That mark tops all goaltenders in the league. The Spirit directed 55 shots on the Bruins' goal.

**NOTEBOOK:** The Spirit played both games without captain Randy Johnston, who remains out indefinitely with an upper body injury. Forward Dustin Laren was injured in the second period of Tuesday's game and did not return.

Trivino continues to lead the Spirit in scoring with 16 goals and 45 assists for 61 points. That places him in a tie for 26th in the league's overall scoring race. Werek is the club's second-leading scorer with 23 goals and 36 assists for 59 points. That puts him in 34th place in the league's overall race.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** "Wes (Annis) played a great game," Milne said. "He did everything we asked of him. The job of a backup is to give a team a chance to win and he did just that even though he hasn't played a lot for us.

"At the end of the day we still got a point and psychologically we know we can play with Newmarket."

Milne felt the difference in the game was the performance of his son, Hurricane goalie Matt Milne, along with his club's power play, which only generated one goal in six opportunities, and discipline that produced a late penalty that Newmarket capitalized on to score the game-tying goal to force overtime.

"Matt stood on his head," Milne said of his son's performance. "It's an awful feeling when I have to face him. But he's the enemy. When we were up 2-1, I wished the game could have ended there."

**INSIDER:** For live scoring and updates, go to [pointstreak.com](http://pointstreak.com)

For more on the Spirit, go to: [stouffvillespirit.com](http://stouffvillespirit.com) Listen live to Spirit games at [WhiStleradio.com](http://WhiStleradio.com)

-Mike Hayakawa

## Juveniles earn split in OMHAs

The Stouffville juvenile Clippers took the good with the bad last weekend in the first two games of their OMHA round-robin playoff series.

The Clippers began the series on a low note, dropping a 1-0 verdict against East Gwillimbury Saturday in Stouffville.

Playing host to Nobleking Sunday, the Clippers got two goals from Nathan James and singles from Landon Wideman, Nick Stratos and Jimiel Selmanovski to skate off with a 5-1 win.

Eric Gainsbrook collected two assists while Devin Paynter, Kyle Miller, Stratos and Steve Brown each had one.

The Clippers resume playoff action Feb. 8 at Nobleking and then play at East Gwillimbury Feb. 10.

The top two teams from the round-robin will meet in a best-of-seven with the winner advancing to play Peterborough or West Quinte.

### Atom AEs sweep East Gwillimbury

The Stouffville atom AE Clippers swept their Ontario Minor Hockey Association first round, best-of-five series against East Gwillimbury Friday with an 8-0 win at the Stouffville Arena.

James Merksamer scored twice and collected two assists to ignite the Clippers' offence while Liam Timewell and Quintin Volpe each added a goal and one assist.

Josh Carlin, Braydon McNeil, Jackson Newlands and Ryan Daniels each scored once. Luke Burkholder, Daniel Renzoni, Nick Rabito and Aiden Clifford each earned one assist.

Trevor Beaudoin collected the shut-out and received a stellar defensive effort from Tyler Moffat and Tritan Thompson.

The Clippers opened the series Jan. 20 with a 3-2 overtime win at the Stouffville Arena.

Trailing 2-0 entering the third period, the Clippers rallied to force overtime with goals from Timewell and Volpe with six seconds remaining in regulation time.

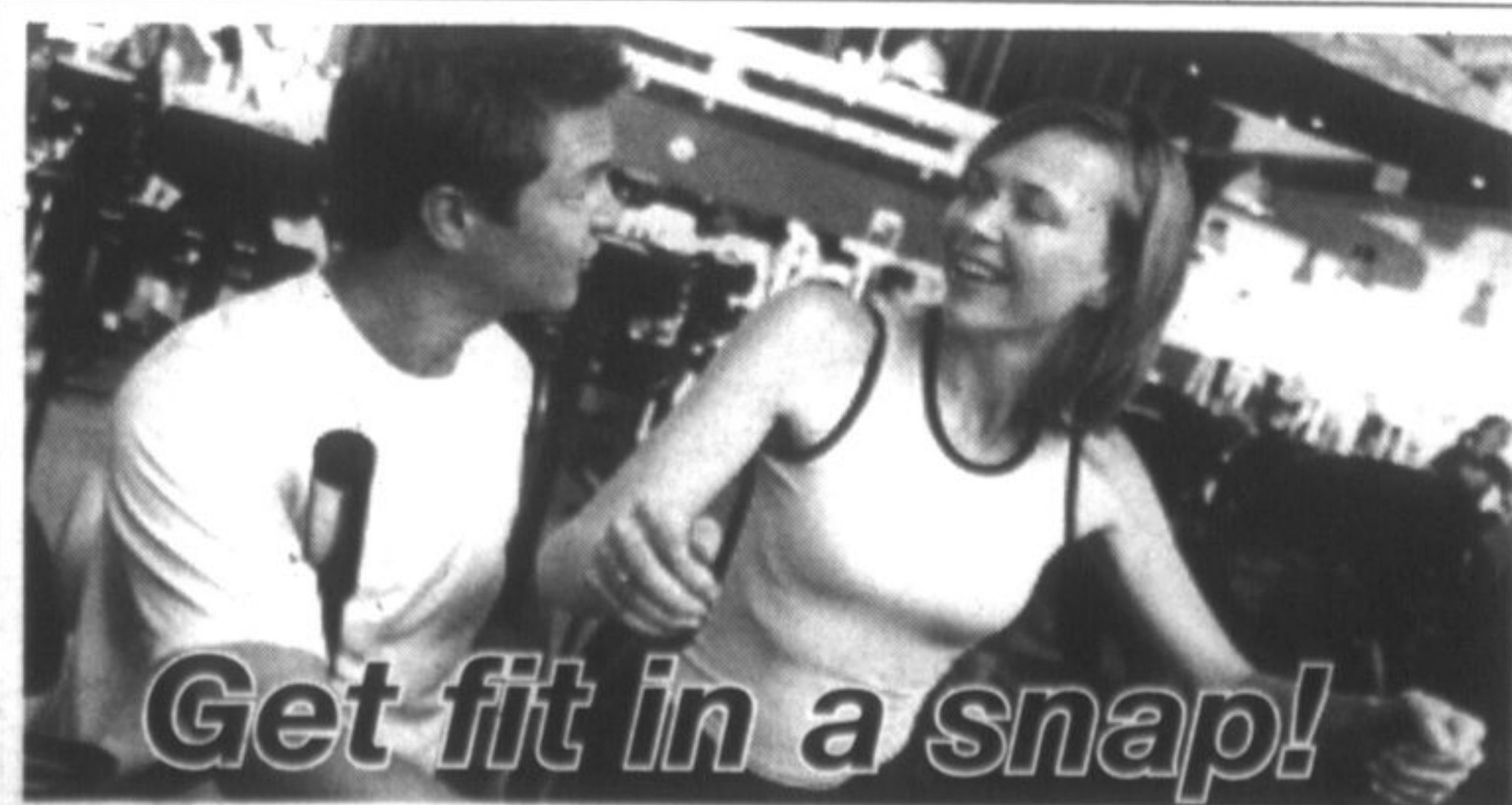
Jake Espey potted the game-winner in the extra session.

The Clippers then took a stranglehold on the series Jan. 23 when they skated off with a 3-2 road win.

Espey, Volpe and Carlin each scored once for the Clippers, who were forced to come from behind on two occasions.

The Clippers will advance to the quarter-finals and face the Newmarket Redmen. Dates have yet to be announced.

For playoff updates, to [omha.net](http://omha.net)



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