

Boys advance

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' basketball team advanced to Friday's York Region Athletic Association tier two quarter-finals after winning their first-round playoff game over Maple High School 47-38 Tuesday.

Adam Prokop led the Spartans offence with 10 points.

The Spartans will host St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School of Woodbridge, which won its first-round game over Markville Secondary School 74-55.

Tip-off is slated for 4 p.m.

Spartan girls ice first place

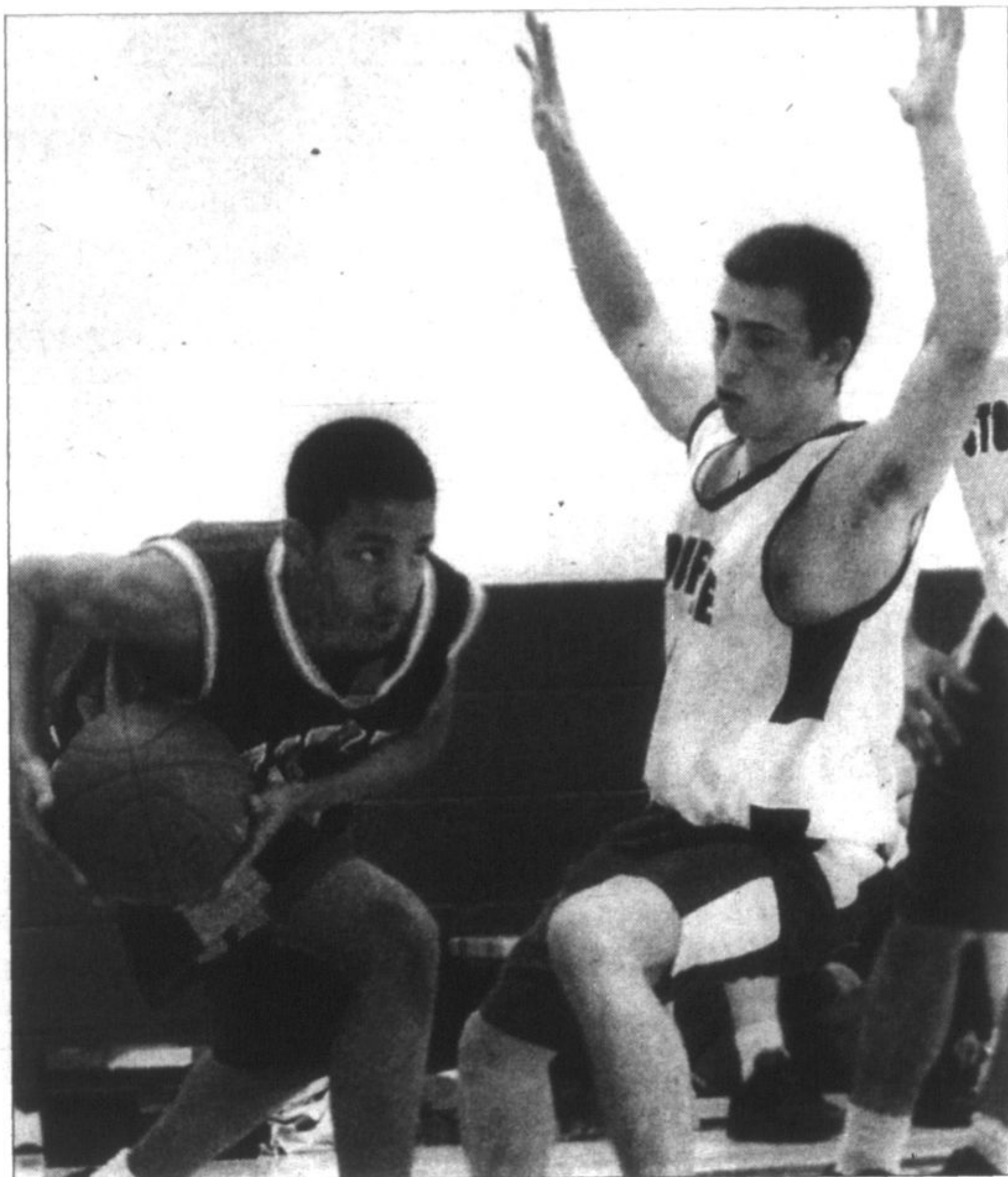
The Spartans girls' varsity hockey team clinched first place in YRAA without even hitting the ice.

But they were forced to wait for the outcome of Monday's contest between the Markham District High School Marauders and Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals.

With the clubs battling to a 1-1 tie, the Marauders and Spartans finished with identical first-place records at 6-0-2.

But based on the league's tiebreaking formula of goals for minus goals against divided by goals against, the Spartans won out and claimed first place.

The playoff schedule is yet to be announced.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Maple's Kamar Marsh tries to get around Stouffville's Alex Mangotich in York Region basketball playoffs at Stouffville Tuesday. Stouffville won 47-38.

Tanaka a natural in Alabama

Cale Tanaka, a Stouffville resident and forward with the University of Alabama-Huntsville Chargers, was named the College Hockey America Conference's Offensive Player of the Week for the period ending Feb. 3.

In his sophomore year at the NCAA Division 1 school, Tanaka, 21, notched the club's first natural hat trick since Nov. 11, 2002.

In recording his feat, Tanaka brought the Chargers back from a 5-3 deficit en route to a 7-5 road victory over Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh Friday.

The five-foot, nine-inch, 180-pound Tanaka got the hat trick started with a pair of shorthanded goals in a span of 48 seconds. He then scored the game-winning goal with 40 seconds remaining as the Chargers picked up their first conference win.

Tanaka played junior hockey for the Aurora Tigers and Stouffville Spirit.

Del Zotto earns January honours

Michael Del Zotto's performance on the ice in January did not go unnoticed.

The 17-year-old Stouffville resident and second-year defenceman for the Oshawa Generals was named by the Canadian Hockey League as the draft prospects player of the month for January in the Ontario Hockey League.

Del Zotto collected seven goals and 14 assists for 21 points in 13 games in January. Among his totals were a pair of four point games and was a plus-six last month.

The five-foot, 11-inch, 208-pound defenceman was rated 14th among North American skaters in the mid-term rankings released by National Hockey League's Central Scouting last month.

He has 13 goals and 50 points in 46 games this season.

Each month the CHL and NAPA Auto Parts recognizes the top draft eligible player from each of the three leagues in the CHL for the upcoming 2008 NHL Entry Draft based on their play over the course of the month.

Each winner will be recognized at a future home game and will be presented with a NAPA Auto Parts prize pack.

The draft will be held in Ottawa in June.

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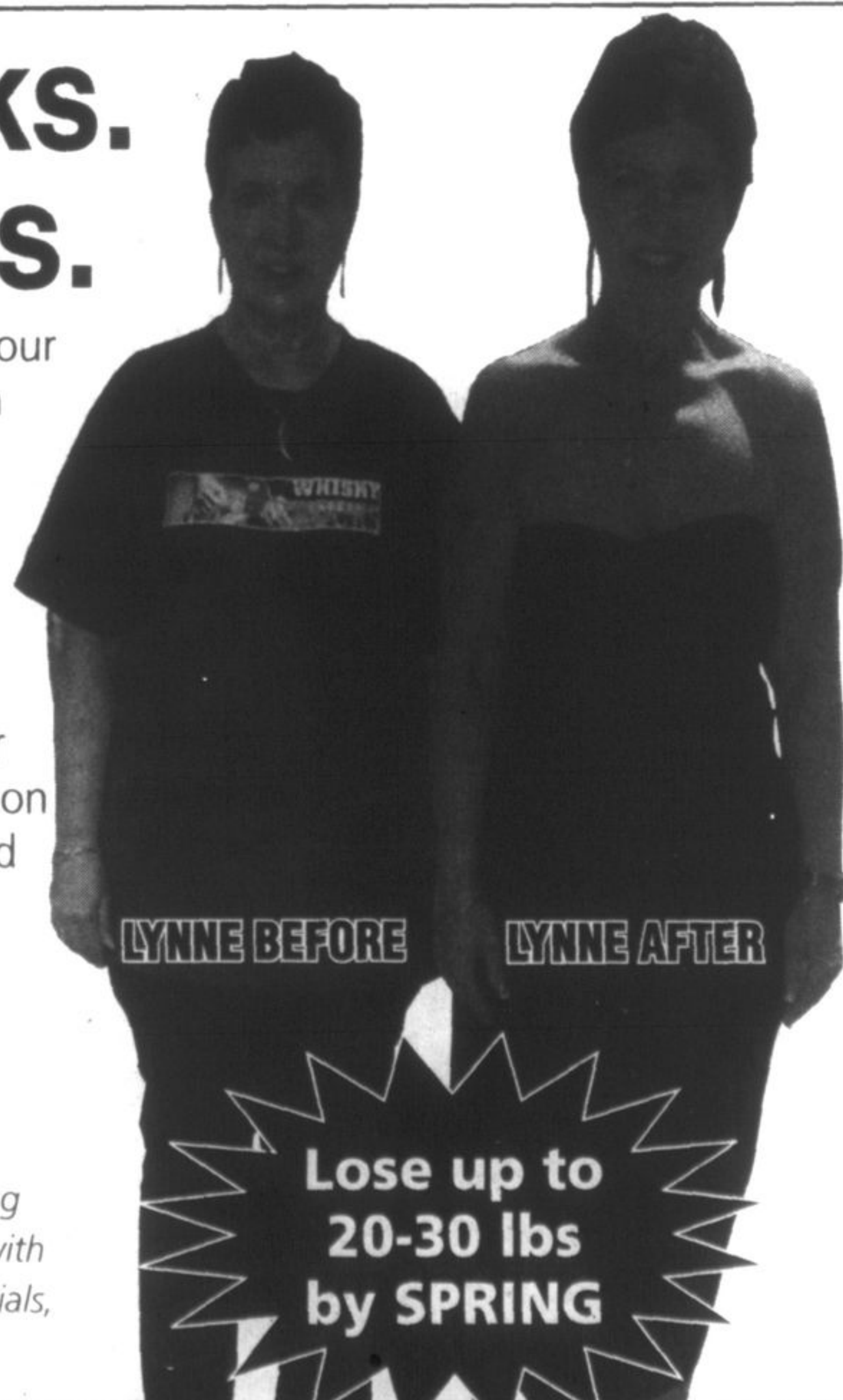
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