

SDSS over Brother Andre in O.T. in final again

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

It was deja vu all over again in Thursday's York Region boys high school hockey final.

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans defeated Markham's Brother Andre High School Cardinals 4-3 in overtime at the Stouffville Arena.

ONLY LOCATION CHANGED

Stouffville also beat Brother Andre in sudden death in the 2007 championship final played in Markham.

Stouffville stormed out to a 3-0 lead after two periods only to have Brother Andre fight back with three straight of its own in the third.

"It certainly wasn't easy," an elated Spartans' head coach Jamie Hewitt said of his club's accomplishment.

The Spartans seized a 1-0 lead in the first period on a goal by Malcolm Forbes with just 51 seconds remaining in the 10-minute stanza.

Just 74 seconds into the second period, Sam Carrick scored to pad the Spartans' lead to 2-0.

And with just 42 seconds remaining in the frame, Scott Van Allen scored on a breakaway to give the Spartans what appeared to be a commanding 3-0 lead after two periods.

But the Cardinals' power play, which failed to capitalize on a couple of two-man advantages in the second period, finally clicked in the third as Ryan Goodridge and Steve Carroll scored just 68 seconds apart to cut the Spartans' lead to 3-2.

With 66 seconds remaining in regulation time, the Cardinals got the equalizer from Stouffville resident Evan Bruno and set the stage

for O'Shaughnessy's heroics.

Despite nursing a three-goal lead entering the final 15 minutes of regulation play, Hewitt had an inclination the Cardinals would find a way to get back into the game.

"We knew Brother Andre wouldn't quit. They're too good a program and too well coached," he said.

GOALIE GIBSON SHINES

Hewitt felt his club's ability to score two goals within the final minute of the first and second periods, was the turning point.

"Those two goals were huge," he said.

But, at the same time, he was quick to praise the work of net-minder Sean Gibson, who foiled the Cardinals' shooters, especially in the first two periods when they enjoyed several extra-man opportunities.

"That was his best game of the year, especially in the first two periods," Hewitt said. "In the third period he did what he had to do."

Despite the loss, Cardinals head coach Dave Turner said his club, which has been offensively challenged during the season, was able to rally in the third period to tie the game and force overtime.

"I thought we had our chances to win. But this was a great confidence builder for our kids and we take this as a positive going to Ottawa for OFSAA," Turner said. "Give our kids credit, they believed in themselves."

Both teams will play in next month's provincial championships in Ottawa.

Stouffville is the defending A/AA champs, while Brother Andre won bronze in the AAA/AAA tourney for larger schools last year.

High school puck notes

More tidbits from Thursday's York Region senior boys' final at the Stouffville Arena:

• There's goaltending in those genes. Stouffville boys goaltender Sean Gibson is first cousin of Courtney Humphreys, starting goalie with the Spartan senior girls. The female final has Stouffville hosting Newmarket Sacred Heart Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

• For more on the OFSAA championships both Stouffville teams will play in, go to ofsaa.on.ca

• A quartet of Stouffville residents have a chance to bring a York title back to Brother Andre. Lloyd Davis, Ben Singh, Kevin Stevens and Shawn Hulshof and the junior Cardinals play Richmond Hill's St. Theresa of Lisieux Lions Monday at 2:30 p.m. at Elgin Barrow Arena in the deciding game of their best-of-three. Davis had a hat trick, including the winning goal in triple overtime in the first game.

—Jim Mason

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