

SPORTS

Minor peewees can sweep semis

OMHA A-level series continue here Friday

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

The minor peewees are the Stouffville Clipper team that's the closest to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association A finals.

Five Clipper teams are competing in the OMHA semis.

Several games were snowed-out Friday night. Teams who lost home-ice advantage are fighting to have the schedule changed.

The minor peewees lead Belleville two games to none in their first-to-six-points series. A win or two ties in the three games scheduled for Stouffville this weekend will put the Clippers into the championship final.

The Clippers won 2-0 Saturday and 3-2 Sunday at historic Memorial Arena in downtown Belleville.

Game 3 will be played Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Stouffville. If necessary, Game 4 would be played Saturday at 7:40 p.m. and Game 5 Sunday at 6:10 p.m.

The winner meets the survivor of the Amherstburg and Brampton semifinal. Brampton leads two games to none.

Juveniles win, tie with Quinte; Game 3 Friday in Stouffville

The juvenile Clippers opened their semifinal with Quinte West with a 2-2 tie and a 4-3 win.

Jimiel Selmanovski and Chris Normandeau scored in Saturday's tie game. Landon Wideman assisted on both goals.

Kurt Brillinger and Kyle Miller had a goal and an assist in Sunday's win.

Jeff Gibson and Devin Paynter had single goals. Wideman earned three assists.

The juveniles need at least a win and a tie to advance.

The series resumes Friday at 8:40 p.m. in Stouffville and with Game 4 Saturday in Quinte. Game 5 would be played Sunday at 7:40 p.m. at the

► Go to omha.net for more playdown updates.

Stouffville Arena.

The winner will play Pelham, which swept Southpoint in the western semifinal, for the OMHA title.

Bantams split with Trenton thanks to Tait's OT heroics

Steven Tait's second goal of the game, in overtime, gave the bantam Clippers a 5-4 win over Quinte West Sunday in Trenton to tie their series at 1-1.

Tait had the only Clipper goal in Quinte West's 4-1 win in the first game Saturday.

Game 3 will be played Friday at 8:55 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena. The fourth game is set for Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in Trenton and Game 5 Sunday at 4:10 p.m. in Stouffville.

Atoms on the ropes

The atom Clippers needed at least a tie last night at the Stouffville Arena to keep their OMHA semifinal with Port Perry alive.

The home team has won the first three games.

Stouffville won the opener 4-3 and then lost 5-2 and 5-0.

If necessary, Game 5 would be played tonight in Port Perry and Game 6 Saturday at 6:10 p.m. in Stouffville.

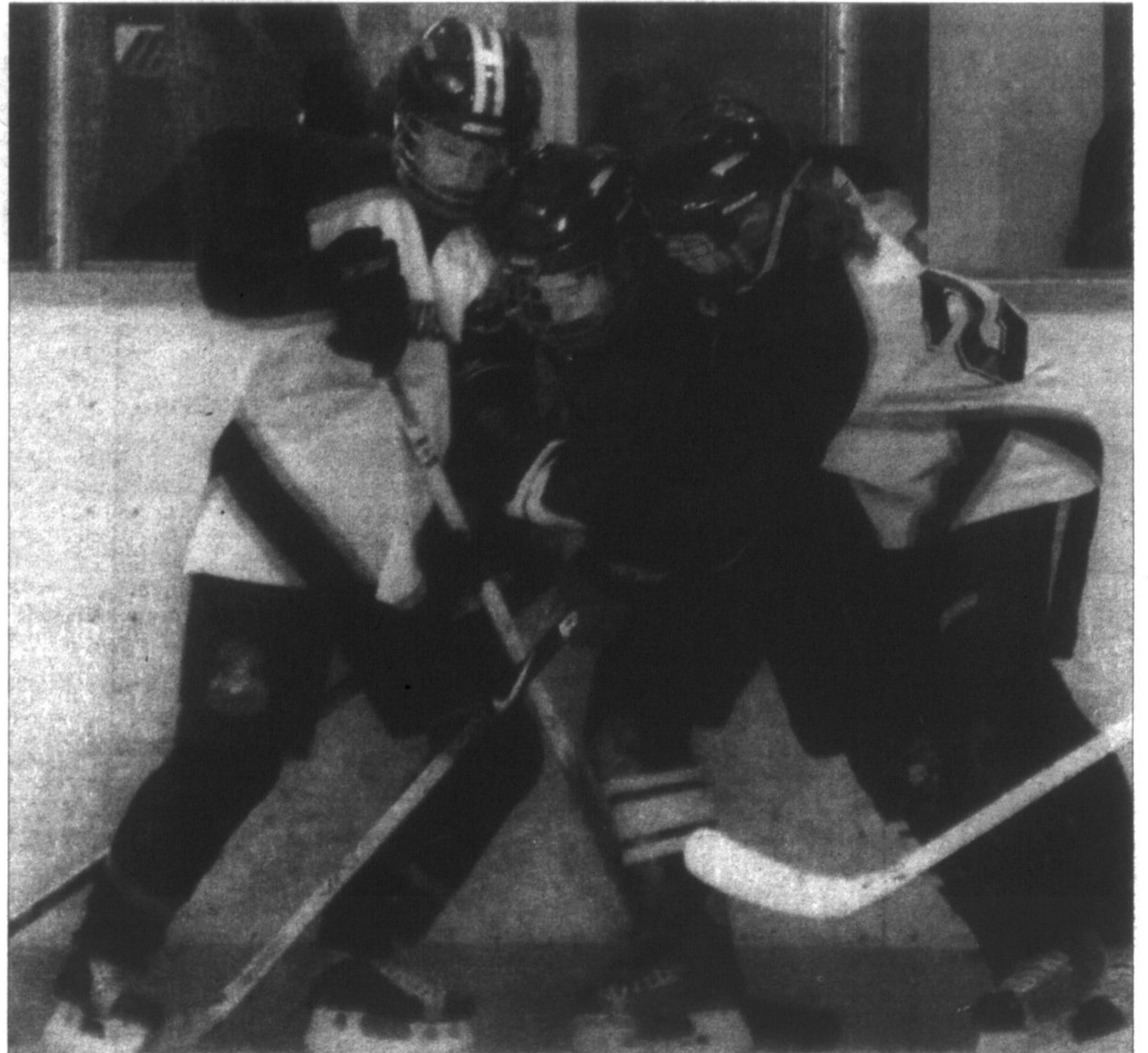
Minor midgets down 2-0 heading for Cobourg

The minor midget Clippers lost 5-4 in overtime at home Saturday to open their OMHA semifinal with Cobourg.

Cobourg won again, 5-2 in Stouffville Sunday.

The third game in the first-to-six-points series is tonight in Cobourg.

If necessary, Game 5 would be played Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in Stouffville and Game 6 Sunday in Cobourg.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Newmarket Sacred Heart players sandwich a Stouffville Spartan during Tuesday's York final in Stouffville.

Spartan girls drop York Region final

BY JOHN CUDMORE
Staff Writer

Newmarket's Sacred Heart Crusaders claimed their second York Region Athletic Association varsity girls hockey championship Tuesday with a 3-2 victory over the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans before a boisterous crowd at Stouffville Arena.

Alex Elkerton received credit for the winning goal when a Stouffville defenceman inadvertently banked a pass in off the Spartans' net-minder to break a 2-2 tie early in the third period.

Goals by Ann Marie Lewis and Kiely Barnett rounded out the Sacred Heart offence.

Heather Hughes and Vanessa Spataro scored for Stouffville.

Claiming the title, the Crusaders knocked off the previously unbeaten Spartans after ending

the Markham Marauders' unbeaten season in the semifinal playoff series.

It was the third straight season the Spartans have been league finalists. They lost to Markham in last year's final.

Stouffville is two-time defending Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations champs in the A/AA division.

The only year they won York Region, in 2005, they lost the OFSAA final.

"Hopefully, that bodes well," Stouffville head coach Brian Shankman said. "But hats off to Sacred Heart. They played real well and won."

The large crowd may have rattled the Spartans, he said.

"The girls were jittery, with all the fans there, and got off their game," he said.

A disallowed goal didn't help. "In the girls' minds, the game was tied," he said.

And from the other bench?

"I think our girls wanted it more," said Crusaders' head coach Rob Adduono. "We're more team-oriented this year. I think that's why we were successful."

Both teams are headed for OFSAA championships in Pembroke next month.

Sacred Heart will play in the AAA/AAAA grouping for larger schools.

Stouffville will re-group after March break and play exhibition games with Uxbridge Secondary, which is going to the OFSAA AAA/AAA tourney.

"We should be highly ranked at OFSAA," Shankman said. "We won't be sneaking up on anyone."

- with files from Jim Mason

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