Little Tiger eighth in tourney debut

Gajan Sivabalasingham carded a two-round 13-over par 157 to finish eighth in last weekend's Canadian Junior Golf Association Worlds Qualifier at Wolf Run Golf Club near Janetville.

Competing in the Boys 14 to 16 age group division, the 14-year-old Stouffville resident and Mandarin Golf Club member fired rounds of 76 and 81 and finished 11 shots off the pace set by Taylor Pendrith, 16, of Richmond Hill who had a two-over par 146).

For Gajan, a former Markham resident who was given the moniker Little Tiger, it marked his first tournament appear-

ance of the season. Check out www.cjga.com for more on the CJCA.

Who is our Best Sport?

The Sun-Tribune is seeking nominations for Whitchurch-Stouffville's Sports Person of the Year.

Tell The Sun-Tribune about a coach, manager or executive member you know that is making a difference by volunteering in our sports community. Supporting material and testimonials appreciated.

Label nominations "Sports Person of the Year" and mail/deliver to:

6290 Main St., Stouffville, L4A 1G7 or e-mail: stouffvilleawards@yrmg.com by June 15.

> Award to be presented during Strawberry Festival, June 25 to June 29.

> > For more information call: Jim Mason at 905-640-2612

Sun-Tribune

Tanaka hopes cup trip is memorable

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA Staff Writer

Cory Tanaka is living a moment of which all junior hockey players.

The 19-year-old Stouffville resident is playing in the Memorial Cup, emblematic of major junior A supremacy. It starts tomorrow in Kitchener.

Tanaka will have to wait until Saturday when his Belleville Bulls open against the Western Hockey League champion Spokane Chiefs at 4 p.m.

The Bulls earned the right to compete after reaching the Ontario Hockey League final before losing to the host Kitchener Rangers 4-1 in Monday's seventh game. With the OHL hosting this year's Memorial Cup, it was granted two berths.

"Sure we felt bad about losing to Kitchener. But we've just got to keep our heads up," Tanaka said. "It sure feels pretty good to be going to the Memorial

This is Tanaka's third year with the Bulls, who acquired him during the 2005-06 season from Plymouth where he launched his OHL career in 2004-05.

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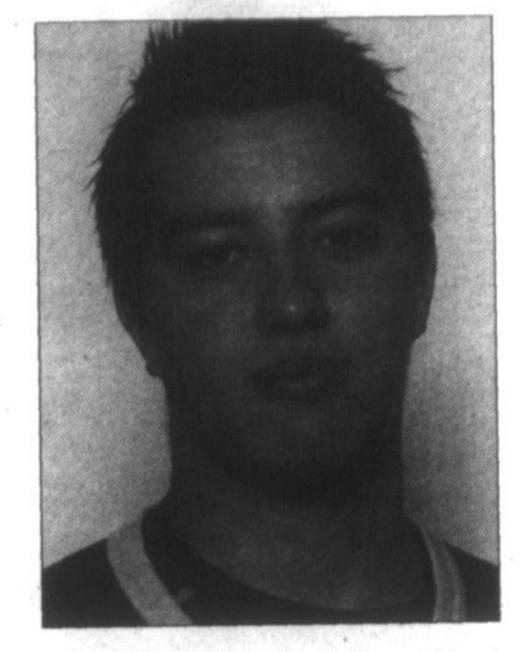
advertised in our current flyer

(ending May 23rd)

will not be available.

We apologize for any inconvenience

this may have caused.



CORY TANAKA: Stouffville resident and his Belleville Bulls begin play in the Memorial Cup Saturday.

He knew they could make a serious run because of the team's veteran presence.

"With the number of returning main core guys we had back from last year's team I had no doubt we could reach the OHL final," Tanaka said.

"We just worked hard and played a good team game. We followed our system of solid defence and capitalizing on scoring chances."

The five-foot, 10-inch tall, 184-pound forward enjoyed plenty of individual glory after compiling personal highs in regular season goals with 13 along with 38 assists in 68 games.

He also recorded a team-best +33 in the plus/minus ratings during the regular season.

During the postseason, Tanaka amassed eight goals and six assists in 21 games and had a +7 plus/minus rating. Making Tanaka's feats more remark-

able is he did it while playing with vari-

Check out chl.ca for more on the cup.

ous linemates. During the playoffs, he skated on a line with Adam Perry and Jan Mursak.

"I feel that I had a good year. I worked hard and capitalized on what chances I've been given," he said. "But my individual statistics do not matter."

The Bulls must shrug off the disappointment in losing to the Rangers and refocus their efforts, he said.

A rematch with the Rangers in the final, would be the ideal match-up, he said, adding he knows Gatineau (the Quebec champions) and Spokane have their own ideas.

"We've just got to play our game and do what we need to do to win and play the way we can play," he said. "Everyone is confident and we know we're a good

His older brother, Cale, just finished his second year with the University of Alabama Huntsville Chargers team.

When not on the ice, the younger Tanaka takes business courses at Loyalist College in Belleville and just finished his second year.

But with one more year of junior eligibility, Tanaka said he would like to return to the Bulls as an over-ager.

"Right now, I'm just taking things one day at a time," he said.

While Tanaka is the lone Stouffville resident in the Memorial Cup, the Rangers have a former member of the Stouffville Spirit on their roster, Mike

The 20-year-old forward played with the Spirit during the 2003-04 Provincial Junior A Hockey League season.

The Memorial Cup games can be viewed on Rogers Sportsnet.

Sun-Tribune

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