

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

## SPORTS

## Mennos swept out of Aurora

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

The Stouffville Mennos can put the bats and gloves into storage for another year after being swept by Aurora Shoeless Joe's in their best-of-three Oshawa City and District Fastball League semifinal series.

The season ended for the Mennos Tuesday with a 5-1 loss in Aurora.

Aurora hurler Todd Martin proved to be the difference surrendering just three hits while striking out 15 Mennos.

The Mennos got off to a good start in the contest when leadoff hitter Rich Burkholder singled.

But from there, Martin retired the next 20 Mennos' batters before Greg Dalgarno singled and Scott Eyre doubled to drive in their lone run in the seventh inning.

Aurora scored a run in the second inning, two in the third and two in the fourth.

Mennos' starting pitcher Byron Baranieski went four innings and gave up all five runs.

Dalgarno came on in relief.

While disappointed in the second-round exit, Mennos manager Art Burkholder was pleased with the club's effort during the season.

He also praised the support they received during the year from residents who attended their games at Memorial Park.

"It was amazing the number of Stouffville folks who referred to something about the Mennos that they had read in (the Sun-Tribune). The fans were loyal," he said.

## STEPPING OUT AT SDSS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville Spartan Christine Barkey sidesteps the ball and stick of Richmond Hill Mackenzie Mustang Sasha Kulesh in opening-day action of York Region high school girls field hockey at Stouffville District Secondary School Monday. The teams tied 0-0 on the new playing field at SDSS that opened last week. For more information, see story on page 19.

## Last-place Spirit vows changes after fourth straight loss

**LAST WEEK:** Friday - lost 8-5 against St. Michael's Buzzers; Sunday - lost 4-3 against Toronto Junior Canadiens (Governor's Showcase game in Bowmanville); Monday - lost 5-4 against Cobourg Cougars. Record: one shootout win, one shootout loss, five losses. Last place in Central Division.

**COMING UP:** Tonight vs. Wellington Dukes at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m.; Friday at Wellington Dukes, 7:30 p.m.

**GAME NOTES:** For the Stouffville Spirit, it's a good thing the Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season has just begun. The Spirit is mired in a four-game losing funk. The most recent took place Monday in Cobourg as the Spirit fell 5-4 to the host Cougars. With the score tied at 1-1 through 20 minutes and 3-3 through 40, the Spirit took a 4-3 lead on a power-play goal by Matt McCann. But the Cougars rallied for

two goals, including the game winner with just 19 seconds remaining in regulation time to win the game. Matthew Neal, Dustin Laren and Jarred Seymour, on a power-play effort, accounted for the other Spirit markers. The loss by the Spirit was similar to what they experienced the day before when they fell 4-3 to the Toronto Junior Canadiens during the league's Governor's Showcase event in Bowmanville. The Spirit took a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes only to see it evaporate in the second period when the Junior Canadiens scored three unanswered goals to take a 3-2 advantage. McCann delivered a power-play goal at the 22-second mark of the third period to tie the game. But the Canadiens scored what would be the game-winning goal just before the midway point of the period on a power play to claim the two points. Jason Heyden and Evan Bruno, on a power play, had the other Spirit goals. The Spirit outshot the



Canadiens 35-32.

Playing in Toronto last Friday against the St. Michael's Buzzers, the Spirit got off to another good start only to end up on the short end of the final tally in an 8-5 loss. Nursing a 4-2 lead after one period, the Spirit saw their advantage dissipate in the second period as the Buzzers stormed back to outscore them 4-1 and take a 6-5

advantage. The Buzzers added two more goals in the final period, including one into an empty net, to round out the scoring. McCann scored twice while Massimo Lamacchia, on a power play, Laren and Neal each added singles. The Buzzers outshot the Spirit 33-18.

**NOTEBOOK:** Former Spirit forward Darren Archibald had an auspicious debut with the Barrie Colts, scoring a goal and collected an assist in a 3-1 win over the visiting Mississauga St. Michael's Majors in Ontario Hockey League action Sept. 18.

Spirit general manager and associate coach Mark Joslin anticipates defenceman Reed Smith (charley horse) will be back in the lineup before the end of the week. On an ominous note, the Spirit leads the Central Division in penalty minutes with 164.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** "We're not as bad as our record shows. Right now, we're find-

ing ways to beat ourselves. We've had some great periods in which we've played. But we're not playing three complete periods of hockey. We're making mental mistakes at crucial times. A lot of it is the veterans who are making the mental errors. That's unacceptable and it's frustrating," Joslin said.

Joslin vowed roster changes are expected, possibly in time for tonight's home game against the Wellington Dukes.

"We've got to make some changes and we will to make things better," he said. "We can't continue to watch the kids beat themselves. Fortunately, we play over 50 games in the regular season and there's still time to turn things around."

**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)

Mike Hayakawa

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