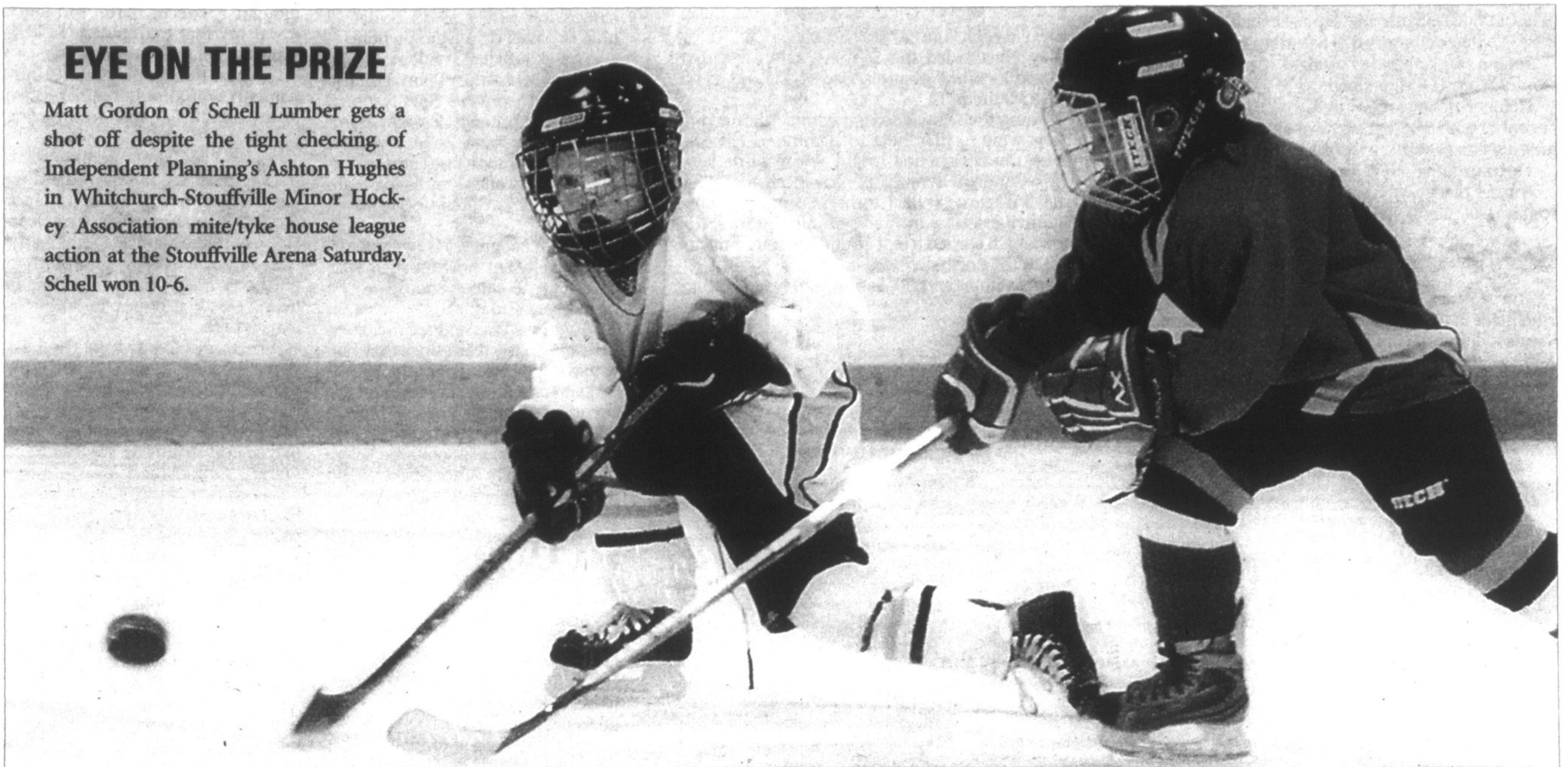


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

## SPORTS

## EYE ON THE PRIZE

Matt Gordon of Schell Lumber gets a shot off despite the tight checking of Independent Planning's Ashton Hughes in Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association mite/tyke house league action at the Stouffville Arena Saturday. Schell won 10-6.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

## Spirit drops pair, deals defenceman

**LAST WEEK:** Friday - lost 5-1 vs. Markham Waxers; Monday - lost 5-2 vs. Cobourg Cougars. One win, two shootout wins, two shootout losses, 18 losses for eight points. Last place in Central Division.

**COMING UP:** Tonight vs. Toronto Junior Canadiens at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at Toronto Junior Canadiens, 7:30 p.m.; Monday at Hamilton Red Wings, 7:30 p.m.

**GAME NOTES:** Spirit general manager and head coach Mark Joslin acknowledged he has a few more grey hairs of late. One possible explanation has been the play of his Ontario Junior Hockey League club as they lost their eighth straight contest Monday against the host Cobourg Cougars 5-2. The Spirit got off to a good start in the game when Matt McCann scored to give them a 1-0 lead that held up through 20 minutes. After the Cougars took advantage of a power-play opportunity to tie the game, the Spirit capitalized on an extra-man advantage to regain the lead on a goal by Craig McDowell. Unfortunately, that would be their last hurrah as the Cougars scored two unanswered goals before the period concluded to take a 3-2 advantage. The Cougars added two more



goals in the final stanza to round out the scoring. The Cougars outshot the Spirit 39-35. The loss by the Spirit came on the heels of a 5-1 drubbing they absorbed last Friday at the hands of the host Markham Waxers. McCann scored the lone goal for the Spirit, who battled the Waxers to a 0-0 tie through 20 minutes before trailing 2-0 after 40. The Waxers outshot the Spirit 58-31.

**NOTEBOOK:** After Monday's contest, the Spirit dealt first-year defenceman Ian Chapman to the Brockville Braves of the Central Junior Hockey League for cash.

The Spirit played Monday's game without the services of forward Jason Heydon and

defenceman Jarred Seymour, who were both injured. Joslin hopes both will be back in the lineup for tonight's home game against the Toronto Junior Canadiens.

The OJHL has announced its all-star games will be held Jan. 21 at the Canlan Ice Sports Arena at York University, hosted by the Villanova Knights.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** "We played an incredible first period. Any time you play on the road and can take a lead and shut the home team down...but just the fact that we're struggling. Every mistake we made was magnified. We only made four or five mistakes in the entire game, but Cobourg capitalized on them," Joslin said.

With the slump, Joslin conceded he's feeling a bit of pressure to try and right the ship.

"There's always pressure. It's a part of the business and I've felt it from above and on myself. But we're not about to panic," he said.

**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)

## 26 minor hockey teams here for weekend tournament

Another minor hockey season is well under way and with it comes the arrival of weekend tournaments.

The Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association will host its annual peewee A, minor bantam A, bantam A, minor midget A and midget A tournament starting Friday and concluding Sunday at the Stouffville Arena.

The host Stouffville Clippers will field teams in each of the divisions. Twenty-six teams from across Ontario will be in Stouffville.

The Clippers bantams will commence play Friday at 9:10 a.m. against Port Perry on Pad A. The Clippers peewees will play Scarborough on Pad B at 9:55 a.m. The Clippers minor midgets will face the Scarborough Sabres in their first game on Pad A at 10:20 a.m. The Clippers midgets will face Whitby on Pad B at 12:20 p.m.

The action resumes Saturday from 9:10 a.m. and continues all day.

The semifinals and finals will take place Sunday starting at 8:55 a.m.

The championship finals will begin with the bantams on Pad B at 1 p.m., peewees, Pad A at 1:10 p.m., minor midget on Pad A at 2:40 p.m. and midget on Pad A at 4:10 p.m.

For more tournament information, go to: [www.wsmha.com](http://www.wsmha.com) or call 905-642-2835.



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