

Spirit drops 9th straight

If hockey games weren't 60 minutes in duration, the Stouffville Spirit might not be occupying the cellar of the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Central Division.

Brief letdowns have hurt. Such was the case Thursday when the Toronto Junior Canadiens dealt the Spirit its ninth straight loss, a 5-2 decision at the Stouffville Arena.

The Spirit has won three of its 25 games this fall.

With the score 1-1 through 20 minutes, Toronto scored twice in the second period, including one on the power play, to take a 3-2 lead entering the final frame.

A power-play goal by Spirit defenceman Myles Gomes at the 1:54-mark of the third period cut the deficit to within a goal.

But Toronto answered with two goals from Jared Docking.

Evan Bruno had the first Spirit goal on a power play.

"We just can't play 60 minutes of hockey and that hurts us," said Spirit general manager and head coach Mark Joslin. "For the most part I thought we played great. But we're finding ways to lose. The guys get a little nervous when they make mistakes and they're magnified."

The Spirit play road games Sunday in Toronto and Monday in Hamilton.

-Mike Hayakawa

SDSS juniors open playoffs with win

SPORTS BRIEFS

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans junior girls' basketball team won their first-round York Region Athletic Association tier one playoff game over Richmond Hill High School 37-17 at home Wednesday.

Spartans' centre Annalise Mathers was high scorer for the Spartans with 12 points.

The Spartans advanced to yesterday's quarter-final where they were to face Aurora High School at Bill Crothers Secondary School in Unionville.

Should the Spartans win, they would advance to today's semifinal at noon at Crothers. The final will tip off at 5 p.m. at Crothers.

In senior girls' action, the Spartans saw their season end when they lost their first-round playoff game to host Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School (Newmarket) 50-25 Wednesday.

Brother Andre wins tourney

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' hockey team were three and out at their annual Spartan Invitational Tournament Wednesday and Thursday at the Stouffville Arena.

The Spartans lost their first game to Eastdale Collegiate (Oshawa) 4-0

and then battled Bishop McDonnell (Guelph) to a 4-4 tie. Concluding pool play against St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic High School (Richmond Hill), the Spartans fell 4-1.

"We do have lots of work ahead of us," said SDSS coach Jamie Hewitt.

"Our power-play was clicking and our goaltending was good. But we didn't score an even-strength goal the entire tournament and we had some lapses for about four- or five-minute spurts and it's tough to generate scoring chances when you have that."

Brother Andre Catholic High School (Markham) won the tourney with a 2-1 win over Sir Oliver Mowat High School (Scarborough).

For more on high school sports, log on to: www.yraa.com

Ducks make splash in Barrie

Several members of the Stouffville Ducks swim team posted solid results at their first competition of the season last weekend.

At the Meridian Aquafest Swim Meet in Barrie, newcomer Dominik Hykel, 9, placed fourth in the 100-metre backstroke, fifth 50m backstroke and seventh 200m freestyle.

Gladys Moraru recorded a two-second improvement in her 50m backstroke and a nine-second reduction in her 100m breaststroke.

Cassie Beach, 12, broke the six-minute mark in her debut in the 400m freestyle, finishing in 5:58.60.

Krista Bradshaw posted a three-second decline in her 100m fly for a 10th place finish.

Mackenzie Moyer attained six personal best times and improved her 200m backstroke by 30 seconds. Also recording six personal best times was Victoria Wicks.

Alison Romano and Jonathan Williams rounded out the pack, placing 18th in the 200m backstroke and 19th in the 400m freestyle, respectively.

"It's not always easy to get personal best times so early in the season," said new Ducks head coach Nick Rottmann. "We had 81-percent personal best times this weekend. I'd say that's quite the way to start the season."

For more information on the Ducks, go to www.ducksswimming.ca or call 905-888-9994.

Carrick on Ontario U-17 team

Stouffville's Sam Carrick was one of 22 players chosen Thursday to be on the Ontario roster that will compete at the 2009 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in British Columbia next month.

The 16-year-old has four goals and five assists in 18 games this season with the Brampton Battalion. He was Brampton's first-round pick in this year's Ontario Hockey League draft.

The tournament goes from Dec. 29 to Jan. 4 in Port Alberni, B.C.

Entries include five regional Canadian squads and teams from Finland, Germany, Slovakia, Russia and the United States.

Carrick played for Stouffville District Secondary School.

His older brother Jake is a second-year forward with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds of the OHL.

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Hospital Expansion & New East Markham Community Centre

When: NOVEMBER 17, 2008
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Markham Stouffville Hospital Auditorium
381 Church Street, Markham

Who: Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti,
Markham Stouffville Hospital CEO Janet Beed
Members of the community, Markham
Members of Council, staff members from
the redevelopment teams.

Please print the parking pass available at www.msh.on.ca for complimentary parking on November 17th

Markham Stouffville Hospital, in partnership with the Town of Markham, is hosting a Community Forum. We invite you to learn more about the hospital's expansion as well as the building of a new East Markham Community Centre. Together, we will create a health and wellness campus for the residents of Markham, Stouffville and the surrounding communities.

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Saturday, November 15, 2008
Daytime Tour: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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