

New coach fine-tuning SDSS basketball team

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Over the last three years, Conrad Hamilton has worked at Stouffville District Secondary School and three local elementary schools as their technology support technician.

This year, Hamilton has taken on the added role as head coach of the Stouffville Secondary Spartans senior boys' basketball team.

Call him a court technician. Working with just two returning players, Hamilton has his charges to where they have bought into his system of play.

Although the Spartans lost their first two York Region Athletic Association contests, they reeled off three straight victories. Those included a 49-46 road decision over the Brother Andre Cardinals, last year's YRAA junior champions, 49-46 last week.

BROTHER ON RAPTORS TV

Earlier this week they downed the host Bur Oak Bears 46-42 Monday and the visiting St. Augustine Titans 80-56 Wednesday.

The three wins bolstered the Spartans' East G Division third-place record to 3-2.

"The guys have pulled it together," said Hamilton, whose brother Sherman is an analyst on the Raptors TV network. "The big thing is that they're getting accustomed to each other's style of play and they're understanding what they have to do on the court."

Hamilton said the recent success can be attributed to the performances of several players. Among those are his returning veterans in guard-forward Adam Prokop, who scored a team-high 11 points in their win over Bur Oak, and small forward Brodie Atkinson.

He's also pleased with the play of several first-year seniors including combo guard Nick McEwen and forward-centre Jeremy Brownridge.

As a bonus, the presence of combo guard Tim Duxtater, a transfer from Huron Heights in Newmarket who led them in their win over St. Augustine with 29 points, has been a blessing.

"Our key guys have been stepping up," Hamilton said.

While happy with the club's development, Hamilton was quick to note his charges still have a lot to learn if they hope to continue their upward climb in the standings.

"The guys are feeling what it's like to work hard and to win games," he said. "They're learning to play their own game and not let the opposition's style dictate the game."

His team might be better suited to being in the tier two circuit once the teams are separated into their appropriate competitive levels after the Christmas break.

"It would be a challenge if we're in tier one. But it's not a negative. For the guys to play better they need to play against good teams and to utilize what they do in practice to make them better players we would welcome it," he said.

The Spartans were to resume league play yesterday against St. Augustine (Markham).

Juniors caged twice

The Spartan junior boys' basketball team continues to search for their first win of the season after they dropped a pair of games this week.

The Spartans began the week with a 64-32 road loss to the Bur Oak Bears Monday and then fell 70-49 to the visiting St. Augustine Titans Wednesday. The losses dropped the Spartans' record to 0-4.

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

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SPORTSBOARD

mhayakawa@yrmg.com

HOCKEY

Stouffville Markham Girls House league

Dec. 6
NOVICE: Blue Timbits 1 vs. White Timbits 0; Green Tier Two 7 vs. Red Tier Two 0.
ATOM: Tim Horton's 3 (Miranda Sharp 2, Kassandra King) vs. TimberCreek 1 (Alessandra Miceli); ReMax 2 (Leah Cannon, Anjana Dhiman) vs. McDonalds 2 (Emily Boston 2). PEEWEE: Entertainment One 4 (Rhyena Miller 3, Miranda Harper) vs. Mr. Electric 3 (Emma Li 2, Gabriella Francis); Unionville Motors 2 (Marina Bettencourt, Keeley Shantz) vs. Pace Savings 2 (Danielle Warr, Jessica Tyson). BANTAM: ATC Corral 6 (Hallie Wannop 3, Kylee Templeton 2, Jessica Burr) vs. Southwire 2 (Lauren Jeffs,

Jessica Ng); Stouffville Fish N Chips 4 (Emily Hamilton, Melissa Simone 2, Michelle Menzies) vs. Styles of Creation 3 (Olivia Smith 2, Gillian Wilson).
Dec. 7
NOVICE: Green Tier Two 4 vs. Red Tier Two 0.
Dec. 8
PEEWEE: Mr Electric 2 (Laura Davidson, Laura da Rosa) vs. Unionville Motors 0; Pace Savings 4 (Danielle Warr 2, Tanis Melvin, Paisley Murray) vs. Entertainment One 2 (Madison Frechette 2). BANTAM: ATC Corral 4 (Kylee Templeton, Jessica Burr, Christina Dunec 2) vs. Styles of Creation 2 (Gillian Wilson 2); Stouffville Fish N Chips 2 (Emily Hamilton, Jessica Weir) vs. Southwire 1 (Lauren Jeffs). MIDGET: Stouffville Lions 3 (Leanne Sanders, Courtney Gibson, Kelsey McGuckin) vs. Moller Insurance 2

(Jennifer Bolender, Cassandra Guida); William R Lee CA 3 (Jennifer Lee 2, Rachel Tilner) vs. Shopper's Drug Mart 1 (Samantha Burr).

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association

Novice
Dec. 6
Pace Savings 6 (Sam Atanackovich 3, Brandon Jefferies 2, James Carlin) vs. Royal Canadian Legion 2 (Cole Cooper, Mattheus Roest); Timber Creek 6 (Justin Day 3, Myles Craven, Laird Douglas, Adam Ripp) vs. Country Style 0.
Bantam
Dec. 6
Todd Pools 2 (Matt Mathers, Michael Liscio) vs. Canadian Tire 0; LCE Aviation 1 (Reed Pereira) vs. Michele's Snack Bar 0.



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Dated Dec. 1, 2008

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Spirit hopes to keep streaking

The Stouffville Spirit accomplished something this week it hadn't done so far during the Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season.

It strung together a pair of victories.

Coming off a 4-3 overtime road win Monday against the Cobourg Cougars, the Spirit played host to the co Central Division-leading Wellington Dukes and skated off with a hard-fought 4-3 victory.

Entering Thursday's tilt, Spirit head coach Mark Joslin had an inclination his charges could defeat the Dukes for the first time this season and extend their winning ways.

"I don't know why, but I had a great feeling about the game. The way our young guys played Monday and getting back three of our veterans in Craig McDowell (neck), Jake Delvalle (knee) and Brandon Walker (exams), I liked the feel of our lineup," he said. "I thought we played and we coached to win. The guys sacrificed their bodies. They played a great game against a great team."

After a scoreless and penalty-free first period, the Dukes scored the game's first goal. The lead was shortlived as Walker netted the first of his two goals 32 seconds later on a steal and a wrap-around. The Spirit held the upper hand for the first time in the game on a goal by Matthew Neal.

The Dukes, however, replied with a goal of their own 76 seconds later to tie the game at 2-2 entering the third period.

The Spirit battled back to regain the lead just past the midway point with unanswered goals by Walker and rookie Massimo Lamacchia 49 seconds apart.

The Dukes countered with one more goal before time expired.

The Spirit received solid netminding again from Kori Coelho, who handled 40 of 43 shots.

The Spirit directed 46 shots on the Dukes' goal.

"Wellington is a disciplined team and the league stats showed we had some 300 more penalty minutes than them. I told our guys that we had to match their discipline if we had any chance of winning," said Joslin, whose team received two penalties. "I thought we just played a smart and disciplined game."

In addition to that, Joslin felt his club's ability to quickly counter after the Dukes scored the game's first goal in the second period when Walker notched his first marker, was critical.

"We didn't allow Wellington to outwork us and nothing distracted us," he said.

Sporting a record of two wins, one overtime win, three shootout wins, three shootout losses and 26 losses, the Spirit resumes play Monday in Hamilton at 7:30 p.m. then hosts the Markham Waxers Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

NOTES: The Spirit played Thursday without defenceman Jarred Seymour (knee), who could be back in the lineup late next week, and forward Don Maloney (ankle)...Christopher Chiste was called up by the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League for their 4-0 win over the Brampton Battalion Thursday...Former Stouffville Clippers minor hockey star Sean McQuigge was one of the referees... The Spirit conducted its inaugural Christmas Teddy Bear toss Thursday with fans tossing toys to the ice after the first period. The toys were being donated to needy youngsters... Fans who attended the game also received free Spirit hockey cards courtesy of the York Regional Police. Staff Sgt. Mike Burns, a former Stouffville minor hockey coach and manager, was part of the police procession.

-Mike Hayakawa

Andy Carmanico of



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