

Silver lining in Germany for Knox

Liz Knox was a member of Team Canada's under-22 women's hockey team that settled for the silver medal at the MLP Cup tournament after falling 2-1 to Sweden in the final in Ravensburg, Germany.

Prior to the gold medal game, the Stouffville native and Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks' netminder led Team Canada to victories over Switzerland 7-0 and Finland 3-0.

Knox was replaced in the Swiss game half way through after Canada had scored four of its goals.

Knox played a total of 151 minutes during the tournament, allowing two goals on 47 shots.

The loss by Team Canada in the final snapped an 11-game winning streak at the tournament.

It had not lost since falling 6-4 to Germany in the final game of the 2006 tournament, a game that also took place in Ravensburg.

Fire alarm cuts event short

Ryan Nelson scored two goals to propel the Stouffville minor peewee Clippers to a 4-2 road win over Orillia in Ontario Minor Hockey Association action last Saturday.

Aidan Clifford and Mitch Witherspoon added single tallies for the Clippers.

Cody Leonard, Jordan Brillinger, Jeremy Hughes, Liam McMahon and Quinton Volpe each earned single helpers.

The victory bolstered the Clippers' record to 19-6-3.

The Clippers will conclude regular season play Jan. 19 against Aurora.

The Clippers competed in the recent Bell Capital Cup in Ottawa and recorded one win, one tie and one loss.

SPORTS BRIEFS

During the tournament, the Clippers also took part in a skills competition and finished first in two events and second in another.

The Clippers were to have competed in two other events but they were cancelled because someone pulled the fire alarm in the arena.

Brunton delivers keynote speech

Golf guru Henry Brunton became the first Canadian since 1988 to deliver a keynote presentation at the recent PGA Teaching and Coaching Summit at Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The Stouffville resident and Royal Canadian Golf Association national men's coach and Canadian PGA Master Professional, delivered his presentation on high performance coaching for juniors to more than 400 golf instructors from around the world.

Brunton's speech detailed his experiences as Canadian national coach as well as designing and building his Strive for Excellence program for competitive junior golfers at his Thornhill-based Eagles Nest Golf Club headquarters.

The program has been a model for coaching junior golfers across North America.

The last Canadian to speak at the conference prior to Brunton was the late Ben Kern when it was first held in Dallas, Texas.

- Mike Hayakawa

Spirit deals two veterans

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

The Stouffville Spirit might be wallowing in the cellar of the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Central Division standings.

But, in an attempt to bolster its roster in preparation for the playoffs, the Spirit were busy on the trade front this week. The Ontario Junior Hockey League's trade deadline is set for today at 9 p.m.

With two cards remaining at their disposal, the Spirit used one Wednesday when they dealt forward Matt McCann, 20, to the Peterborough Liftlock Stars for the playing rights for 18-year-old forward Jordan Forfar.

A Sutton native, Forfar had 13 goals and 19 assists in 35 games with the Stars and will finish this season with them before reporting to the Spirit next season.

"He's a hard-working, tough forward," Spirit head coach Mark Joslin said of the five-foot, 10-inch, 180-pound Forfar.

McCann was the Spirit's leading scorer with 20 goals and 41 assists in 41 games.

Another move completed an earlier transaction in which the Spirit received forward Declan Gunovski from the Couchiching Terriers.

As part of a three-way deal involving the Collingwood Blues, the Spirit dealt veteran defenceman and team captain Myles Gomes to the Phillips Division-leading Terriers.

The Spirit also received forward Shawn Poitras, 19, from the Blues. The six-foot, one-inch, 190-lb. Poitras began this season with the Toronto Junior Canadiens.

"He's a skilled left-shot forward who can play all three forward positions and he has lots of speed," Joslin said of Poitras, who sat out Thursday's game against the Red Wings in serving a one-game suspension.

Gomes and McCann are both 20 and in their final season of junior eligibility. The trades enabled them to go to teams that are contending in their respective divisions, Joslin said, acknowledging they will be missed.

"Both were good team guys, who worked hard and were always committed," he said.

Second-year defenceman Pat McEachen will serve as the new team captain.

The Spirit had one card remaining as of yesterday and were looking for a defenceman, Keith Pandovski, Spirit president of hockey operations, confirmed.

Juniors upset leaders with young lineup

For the first half of the Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season the Stouffville Spirit were finding ways to lose games.

Lately, though, they've been finding ways to win as evidenced by a 6-5 come-from-behind shootout win over the Hamilton Red Wings at the Stouffville Arena Thursday.

The Spirit forced a shootout after overcoming a 4-1 deficit through 20 minutes and 5-4 through 40.

Dustin Laren scored the lone goal of the third period on a power-play effort that tied the game after regulation time expired.

After a scoreless overtime, the contest went into a shootout where Laren and Hamilton's Tim Revell traded goals.

The outcome was finally decided when Declan Gunovski, the Spirit's seventh shooter, scored.

It marked the first time this season the Spirit recorded a win against the Central Division-leading Red Wings. It also marked the Spirit's third win in four outings.

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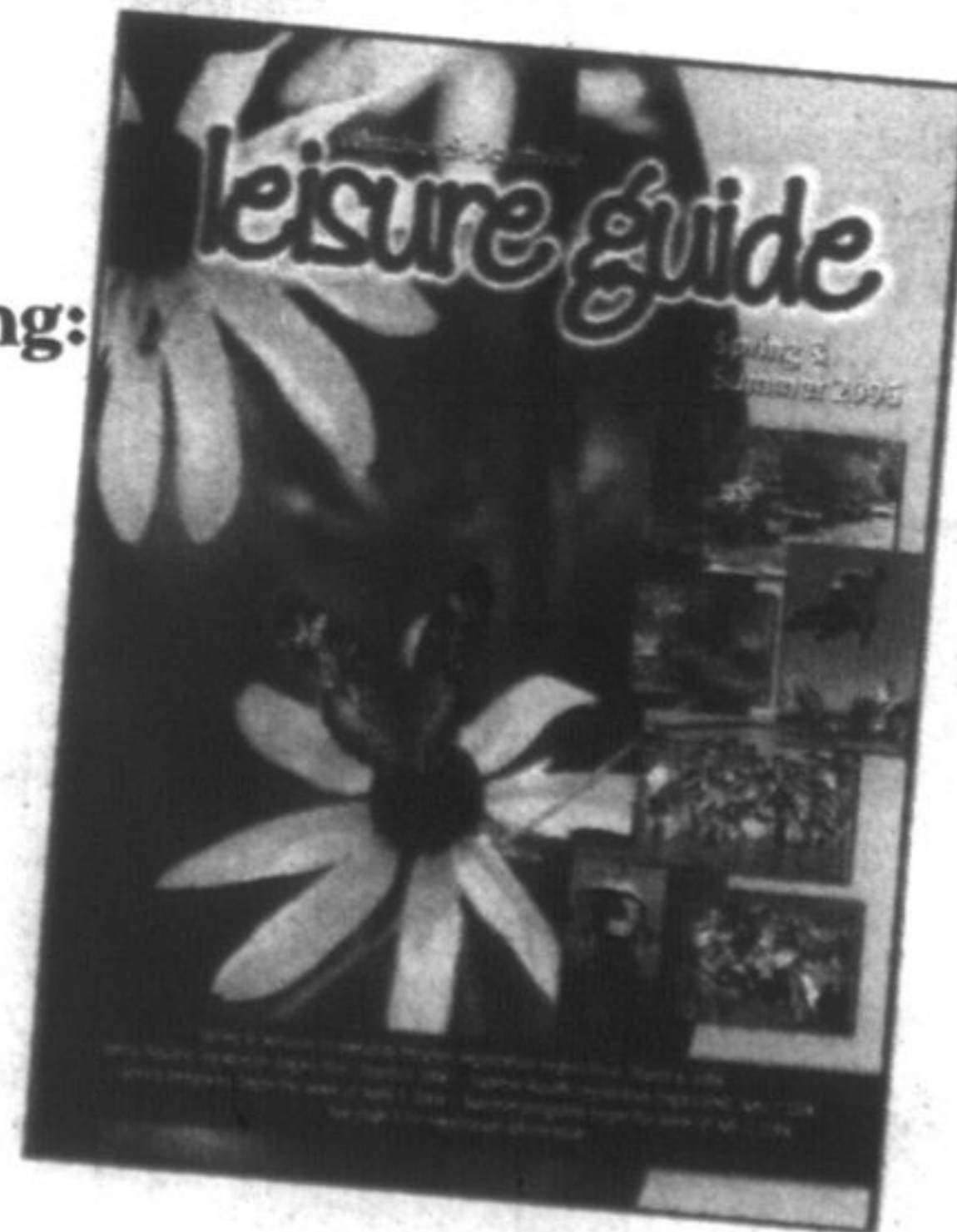
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