

Spartans must win playoff opener

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' hockey team will begin defence of their York Region Athletic Association title Thursday when they take to the road for a game against Father Bressani Catholic High School (Woodbridge).

The game, which is a first-round, single-elimination contest, will be played at the Al Palladini Community Centre at 1:45 p.m.

The Spartans concluded the regular season in fourth place in the East Division with a 2-4-2 mark. Father Bressani finished second in the West Division with a 7-3-0 mark.

Stouffville won the Ontario A-AA championship the last two seasons.

Peewees await next opponent

The Stouffville peewee Clippers made quick work of their first-round playoff opponent in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playdowns.

The Clippers, many of whom won an OMHA title as minor peewees last spring, swept Nobleking in three games concluding with a 2-0 win at the Stouffville Arena Jan. 23.

The Clippers won the first game 3-0 Jan. 21 and the second game the following day 6-1 on the road.

Scoring for the Clippers in their first round series win were: Mitchell Smith three goals, two assists; Spencer Roberts two goals, two assists; Matthew Avoledo four assists; Cody Femia and Chris Cadaret three assists each; Justin Dube and Evan Smith one goal, two assists; Joshua Burkholder one goal, one assist; Eric Zambri and Chris Jarrett one goal each; Jack English, Matt Carrick and Bobby Lamirande one assist each. Jake Murray posted two shutouts while Cam Nowikow played in goal for the Clippers' second-game win.

Concluding the regular season in first place with a 25-0-5 mark, the Clippers await their second round opponent.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Atom Clippers lose heartbreakers

The Stouffville atom A Clippers came close, but fell short in their first two contests against Orillia to determine home round seeding in the York Simcoe playoffs.

In the first game at Orillia last Saturday, Justin Bennett and Jake Rodgers each scored once for the Clippers in a 3-2 loss.

Tyler Brown earned one assist.

Returning to Stouffville for their second game Sunday, the Clippers received a hat trick from Carson Weeks in a 5-4 loss. Rodgers accounted for the other Stouffville goal. Bennett and Jackson Savery each earned two assists while Alex Tashos and Michael Palladino had one apiece.

Knox honoured at provincial event

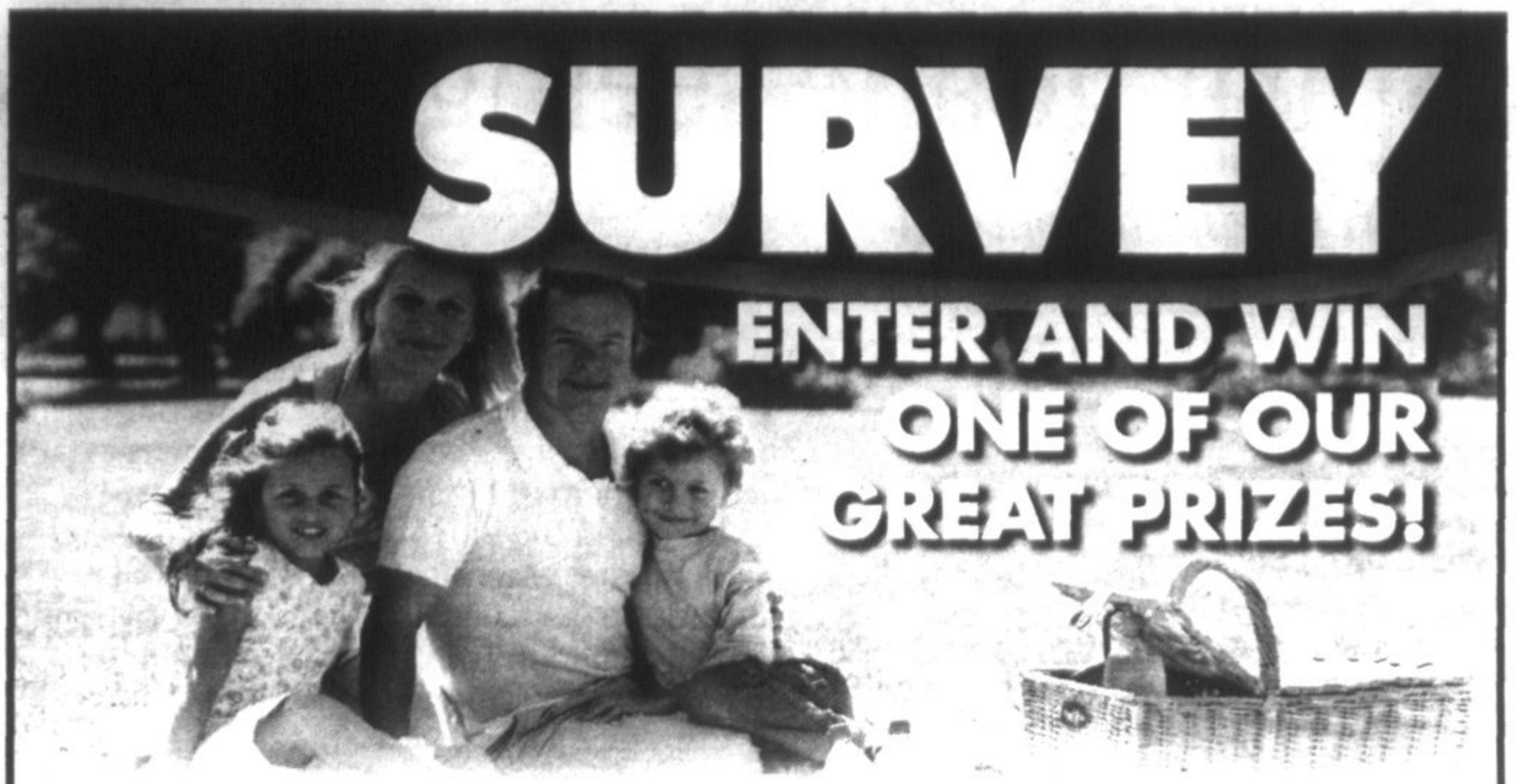
Liz Knox is one of the top female student-athletes from across Ontario who will be honoured at the Ontario University Athletics sixth annual Women of Influence Luncheon in Toronto Feb. 10.

A Stouffville resident and Stouffville District Secondary School graduate, Knox is a third-year student and starting goalkeeper for the Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks' women's ice hockey team. Knox has also played for the national team program.

In addition to her academic achievements and on-ice success, Knox has been involved in Laurier's Healthy Hawk program, speaking to local elementary students about the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

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