

# Stouffville kids clash on ice in high school playoffs, again

*Underdog SDSS, Brother Andre meet for third straight season*

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

Is it true good things come in three's? The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' hockey team hopes there's validity to that adage when they open a York Region Athletic Association tier one semifinal series Wednesday.

The Spartans' opponent in the best-of-three is the team they defeated in the York final the last two seasons, the arch-rival Brother Andre Cardinals.

Only this time around, the Markham school appears to be the far superior team on paper having finished first in the East Division with a 6-1-1 mark. Playing in the same division, the Spartans finished fourth with a 2-4-2 mark.

The Cardinals won both head-to-head encounters.

The two teams also met at the Sir Oliver Mowat Tournament in Scarborough with the Cardinals prevailing in a shootout.

"It's definitely a good rivalry," Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt said of the meetings the two clubs have had over the last few years.

There are also neighbourhood bragging rights at stake. Brother Andre's roster always includes Stouffville residents, many of whom play on rep teams with some of the Spartans.

Hewitt acknowledged his team will face an uphill battle this time around.

"I've always said that Brother Andre would be the team to beat. They won our division this year," he said.

If the 12th-seeded Spartans hope to pull

off the upset against the second-seeded Cardinals, Hewitt said a couple of things must fall into place.

For starters, he said they must receive some timely goaltending from Chris Pennanen.

"He's good," Hewitt said of his Grade 12 netminder. "He'll have to give us a steady game and he has that potential. He's had a great year for us."

Since the Christmas holiday break, Hewitt says his players have begun to grasp a new system.

"If we play our system and be smart in our own end I feel we have a chance," Hewitt said.

### NEIGHBOURS, TEAMMATES MEET

Despite sporting a sub .500 record, Hewitt was quick to note playing in the highly competitive East Division, which also includes another semifinalist in St. Theresa of Lisieux (Richmond Hill) and Markham, who were eliminated in a quarter-final series, has brought out the best in his club.

"To play Brother Andre, Markham District High School and St. Theresa of Lisieux, every game is tough. You've got to battle and be ready and prepared to face them," he said.

The Spartans will host the second game Feb. 24 at the Stouffville Arena at 1 p.m.

If a third game is required, Brother Andre would host it at a date and time yet to be determined.

The winner of this series will face the victor of the other semifinal series pitting St. Theresa of Lisieux and Sacred Heart Catholic High School (Newmarket).

For more on high school sports, log on to: [www.yraa.com](http://www.yraa.com)

# Peewees win Quebec tourney opener

The Stouffville peewee Clippers got off to a good start at the 50th annual Quebec Pee-Wee International Hockey Tournament by winning their first game over Trois-Lacs Phoenix (Quebec) 4-1 in Quebec City Friday.

Evan Smith scored the lone goal of the first period at the 40-second mark to give the Clippers a 1-0 lead. The Clippers' Chris Jarrett scored the lone goal of the second frame.

After Trois-Lacs cut their deficit to within a goal in the third, the Clippers got unanswered goals by Bobby Lamirande and Chris Cadaret.

Matthew Carrick, Robert Armstrong, Eric

Zambri, Spencer Roberts, Lamirande and Josh Burkholder assisted.

Cam Nowikow was in net.

The Clippers resume play Monday against the Connecticut Wolves at 8:50 p.m.

More than 2,000 players from 16 countries are playing in five divisions. Close to 1,000 graduates of the tournament have gone on to play in the NHL. A Clipper team won a division title at the storied tournament in 1986.

For more, including live scores, go to: [touroipee-wee.qc.ca](http://touroipee-wee.qc.ca)

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### Spirit gets date Valentine's eve

Will it be the Wellington Dukes or Markham Waxers?

For the Stouffville Spirit that was the million-dollar question facing them as they waited to find out who they would be facing when the Ontario Junior Hockey League Central Division playoffs commence.

They found out last night (after our deadline) who they will play. (Go to [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) for updates.)

Occupying last place in the Central Division, the Spirit will play the first-place team. The Spirit had a say in their fate as they concluded their regular season yesterday at the second-place Markham Waxers.

The Waxers moved to within one point of the first-place Wellington Dukes after defeating the Dukes in a shootout 4-3 Thursday in Markham.

The Dukes were to conclude their regular season in Toronto against the St. Michael's Buzzers last night.

A Dukes win or Waxers loss would have the Spirit playing Wellington. A win by the Waxers and loss by the Dukes would award Markham first.

"It doesn't matter who we play. They're both great teams and are well coached. We just have to show up and play every game," Spirit head coach Mark Joslin said.

Spirit general manager Ken Burrows said if his club plays Wellington they would start the series on the road Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

If the Spirit play the Waxers, the series would begin Monday at Markham Centennial at 7 p.m. The Spirit has home ice Thursday and next Saturday, but was still trying to procure a third home night.

For more go to: [stouffvillespirit.com](http://stouffvillespirit.com)

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