

# SPORTS

## Clippers on cusp of OMHA title

Minor midgets up 2-0 after Windsor weekend

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

For the Stouffville minor midget Clippers, it's two down and one to go.

Travelling to Windsor, the Clippers won the first two games of their best-of-five or first-to-six-point Ontario Minor Hockey Association A-level final series against the Riverside Rangers last weekend.

The Clippers can wrap up the series when the third game is played Saturday at the Stouffville Arena at 7 p.m. The fourth game, if necessary, would go Sunday at 3 p.m.

In Saturday's series opener, the Clippers received an overtime goal from Daniel McMahon, his second of the game, to emerge with a dramatic 7-6 win.

With the faceoff deep in Riverside territory, Connor Cadaret won the draw and fed the puck back to McMahon, who drilled a point-blank screen shot that eluded the Riverside goalkeeper for the winning tally.

The Clippers held a 5-3 lead entering the third period before Riverside erupted with three unanswered goals within the first two minutes to take a 6-5 advantage.

That proved to be a wake-up call for the Clippers. David Beloff scored to send the game into overtime.

Taylor Clifford, Steven Tait and Chris Smith gave the Clippers a 3-1 lead, but Riversiders made 3-3 after one.

### FOUR-GOAL GAME FOR MACHESNEY

The Clippers regained the lead in the second with Kyle Raymer and McMahon scoring to take a 5-3 advantage.

"Early penalties seemed to unsettle us and while we eventually won it in overtime we never appeared to be playing with much confidence," Clippers head coach Don Easter said.

The second game Sunday was a stark contrast, as the Clippers cruised to a convincing 9-1 win.

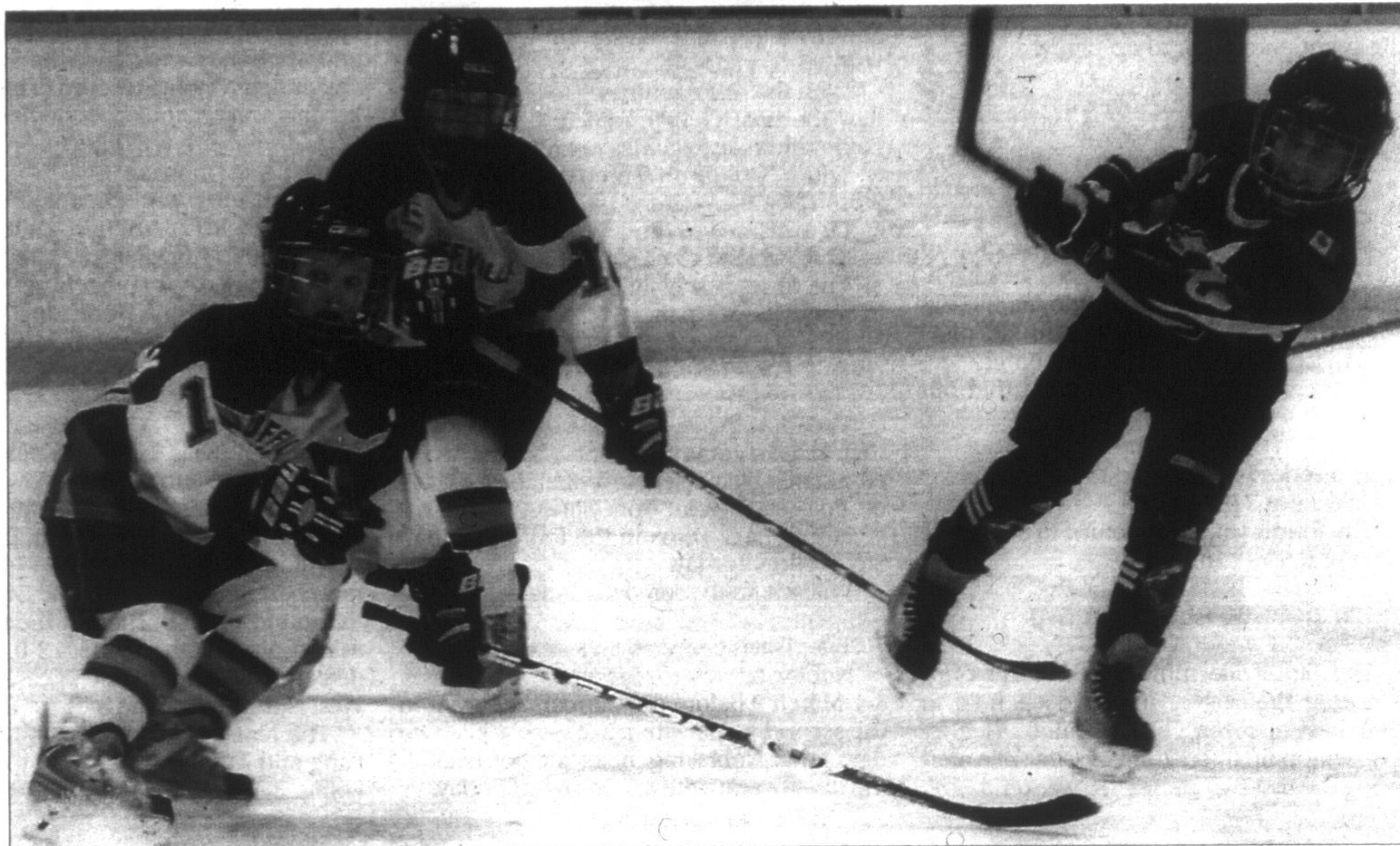
Scoring the game's first three goals within the first three minutes, the Clippers jumped out to a 6-0 advantage entering the second period and were never threatened.

Josh Machesney had four goals, including three in the first period and another on a penalty shot. Smith, McMahon, Dalton Mills, Tait and Beloff had singles.

"Having a two-games-to-nothing lead and coming back to Stouffville for two games is certainly better than if the situation were reversed," he said. "But having said that, we have some injuries and suspensions to key players to deal with so we're not taking anything for granted."

"I expect (Riverside) will regroup this week and we'll see a much more determined effort from them Saturday."

## KNIGHT WATCH



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville Clippers Aiden McKinney (left) and Ryan Alden watch as Nobleking Knight Anthony Bastianello gets off a shot during York Simcoe novice semifinals in Stouffville Saturday. The Knights eliminated the Clippers with a 4-1 win.

## No shot at provincial three-peat for SDSS boys

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' hockey team was hoping for a call from the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations before the start of March break.

It never came.

After being eliminated in the semifinals of their York Region playoffs, the Spartans held hope up until last weekend they might get a berth at the Provincial AA tourney in Peterborough next week.

That was, if one team that qualified for

the OFSAA AA playdowns dropped out. It didn't happen.

Technically, the Spartans, who are the two-time defending OFSAA AA champions, should be the YRAA representative as they were the lone AA-entry team in this year's 18-team York Region loop.

However, when the Spartans had to make their OFSAA declaration by Dec. 1, 2008, head coach Jamie Hewitt elected not to enter his team, which then sported a not-so-spectacular 3-11-4 record.

"We didn't want to go to OFSAA by default," Hewitt said. "You want to go in as a true champion."

But during the stretch run of the

schedule and in the postseason, the Spartans played some of their best hockey.

When the Spartans won the first of their two consecutive OFSAA titles, Campbellford was a late replacement and was given the 20th and final seed.

"We would have been willing to take that 20th seed," Hewitt said. "But at the time we made our decision (back on Dec. 1) we weren't resentful and to this day we still think we made the right decision."

"We knew it would have been a long shot. Hindsight is 20-20. If we knew back then what we know now, we wouldn't have done it (turn down AA declaration)."

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