

SPORTS

Practice pays off for tyke champs

90 skates for 'little guys' lead to York Simcoe minor hockey title

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Practice does make perfect.

In the case of the Stouffville tyke B Clippers, practice during the early portion of the season eventually paid off when they skated off with the York Simcoe title after disposing of the Unionville Jets in four games in their best-of-five or first-to-six-point final series that concluded with a 3-2 win in Unionville.

Jacob Rintjema scored the game-winning marker in the third period while Blake Frost and Nicholas Olidis added single tallies.

Michael Hary, Stephen Tulk and Tristan Meiliunas added one assist each.

SEVEN- AND EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS

"The young kids certainly did well," Clippers head coach Peter Erdelsky said of his group of seven- and eight-year-olds. "We had a great year."

In accounting for the success his team had this season, which included a 10-1-1 mark in league play, Erdelsky attributed it to the hours they logged on the ice in September and October.

"At the start of the year we went hard on the ice, maybe 22 to 23 times in September and October," he said. "We had around 90 or so skates in that time and the kids also played in their regular house league."

"That ice time showed from the start of the year."

From the onset of the season, Erdelsky felt he had a special group



of players to work with.

Especially since they exhibited a willingness to work on their on-ice skills.

"We knew we had a special team with a special set of kids. They were all driven," Erdelsky said.

Erdelsky also praised the work of his staff which included assistant coaches Brad Boston, Craig MacInnis and Peter Hary and team manager Julie Williams.

"She's the one that put all of this together and donated a lot of her time," Erdelsky said of behind-the-scenes work Williams put in.

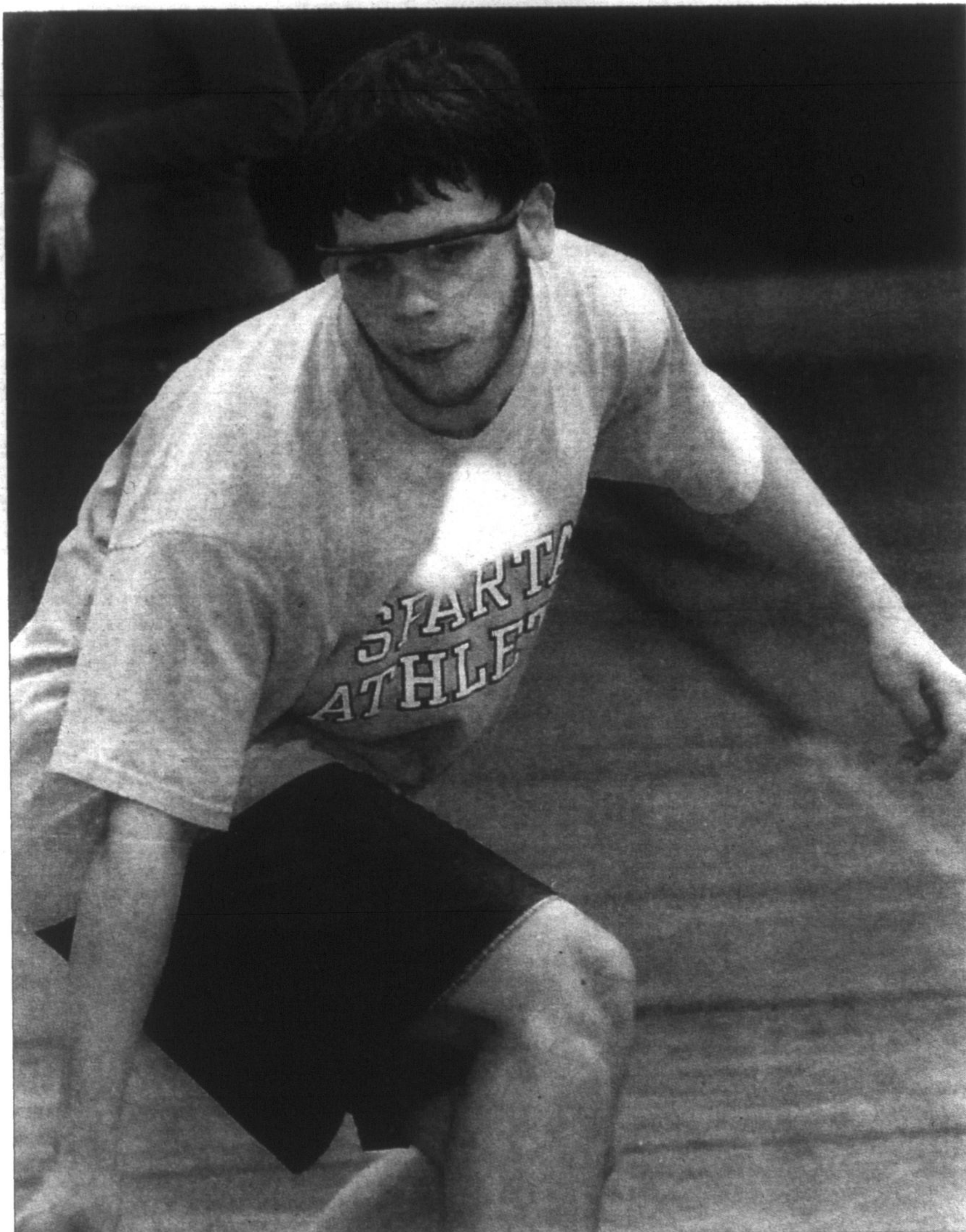
Recently completing his fifth season of coaching in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, Erdelsky predicts four or five of his players will move into the AAA ranks next season.

PLAYERS, COACH TO AAA

As for himself, Erdelsky will also be moving to AAA, the highest level of minor hockey in Ontario, to coach novice next year in Lindsay with the Central Ontario Wolves organization.

The tykes will be honoured, along with the two other York Simcoe championship teams from Stouffville and three Ontario Minor Hockey Association title teams, at a municipal parade and ceremony in June.

TO THE MAX



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

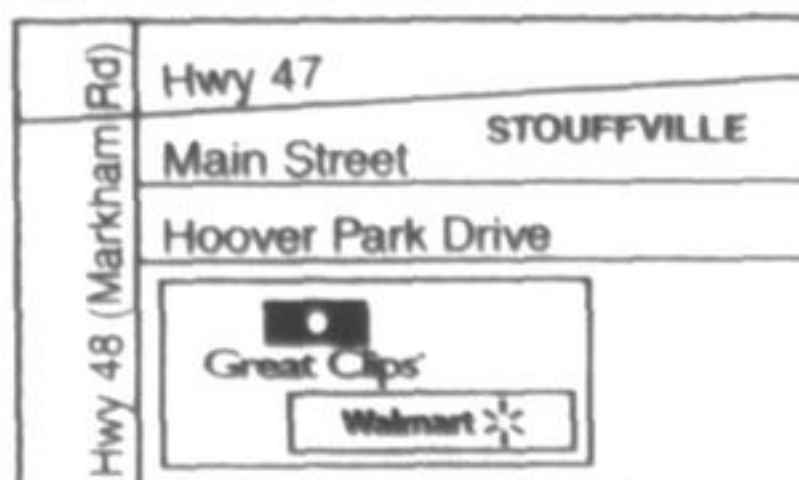
Stouffville Secondary's Max Muir wisely lets one go wide as he and partner Paul Geiger defeated a pair from St. Augustine during the area high school badminton tourney at Milliken Mills Friday.

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