

Late lapse zaps Spirit

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Entering the Central Canadian Hockey League season, Stouffville Spirit head coach Craig Donovan felt his club's biggest weakness might be the blueline.

Things appeared fine until the third period of Game 7 Thursday when the Bowmanville Eagles feasted on untimely Spirit defensive miscues that produced five unanswered goals and sent the Spirit reeling with a 7-3 loss.

"For the first two periods and early in the third period I thought we took the play to them," Donovan said. "But all of a sudden ... they scored five goals on nine shots. (Bowmanville) had loose guys getting free in our zone.

NINE SHOTS, FIVE GOALS

"Take away that time and we had the game under control. We played the way we wanted to play."

The Spirit scored the game's first goal courtesy of a shorthanded effort from Andrew Doyle, his first junior A tally.

After the Eagles tied the game at 1-1 before the end of the period, the Spirit regained the upper hand

on a goal by Chris Chiste. The Eagles countered with a goal to tie the game at 2-2 before the Spirit took their third lead of the contest on a goal from Greg Whittle before the period concluded.

Donovan was also upset with his power play, which went 0-for-10.

THANKSGIVING DATE

With the Spirit not scheduled to play their next game until Oct. 8 when they host the Dixie BeeHives, Donovan will have plenty of time to rectify what ails the club.

The Spirit's East Division record is two wins, two shootout wins and three losses. The Eagles are tied in first place with the Markham Waxers in the East Division.

The Spirit will celebrate their Thanksgiving Day game against the Markham Waxers on Oct. 12 by offering free admission to local minor sports team players who show up wearing team jerseys and are accompanied by a paying adult. Game time at the Stouffville Arena is set for 2:30 p.m.

For more on the Spirit, log on to: www.stouffvillespirit.com

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Periodic maintenance inspections allow us to nip existing problems in the bud before they become major. Even though your owner's manual may tell you that your spark plugs are good for 160,000 kms, winter driving with its cold engine temperatures and rich fuel mixtures can foul spark plugs. Even one spark plug firing intermittently will decrease fuel economy dramatically. Sandy says "With our extreme climatic conditions, it's wise to have your engine analyzed every 60,000 kms and spark plugs replaced as required to maintain engine power, performance, dependability & low emissions."

With no relief at the gas pumps in the near future and our fuel prices hovering around a \$0.89 per litre, or are you ready, \$4.06 per gallon, we can only alter our vehicle use minimally. So, what we have to do is make our vehicles as efficient as possible. There are many ways of doing this. Today's vehicles are computer controlled. There are sensors directly involved with fuel control. There are more sensors than these, but here are a couple of examples. The engine coolant temperature sensor, senses engine operating temperature. If the sensor becomes defective, the sensor would detect a false reading. If it detected a low reading, the signal sent to the computer would increase the amount of fuel from the injector to the cylinder needlessly, therefore causing a rich mixture, and a waste of gas. An engine thermostat opening too soon, will cause the same problem.

Fuel consumption is also regulated by the oxygen sensor in the exhaust system. This senses rich or lean mixtures and is controlled by the computer. It cycles rich to lean depending



on what the computer needs for vehicle operation. For example, when we accelerate, we need a rich mixture. If the sensor cycles slowly, it cannot regulate the fuel programme fast enough, therefore wasting gas.

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