

SPIRIT NOTEBOOK: Ex-Tiger, Terrier joins Jr. A team

Stouffville coach looks for better finish with Whitby tonight

LAST WEEK: Sunday: Whitby Fury 5 vs. Stouffville Spirit 1. Spirit record: 11 wins, three shootout wins, 11 losses, one shootout loss, 29 points. Three-way tie for fourth place in East Division.

COMING UP: Tonight: Whitby Fury vs. Stouffville Spirit at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m. Friday: Stouffville at Upper Canada, 8 p.m. Monday: Stouffville Spirit at Cobourg Cougars, 7 p.m.

GAME NOTES: Although the Stouffville Spirit lost their second straight game last Sunday to the host Whitby Fury 5-1, head coach Craig Donovan wasn't visibly upset. His club directed 45 shots on the Fury net,

including several quality scoring opportunities. Apart from the one shot that lit the red light, Donovan noted a number of other shots struck goal posts, the crossbar or the goalie's pad or glove and strayed away from crossing the goal line.

The Fury jumped out to a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes and padded it to 4-0 until rookie defenceman Brennan Serville scored on a power-play opportunity to cut the Spirit's deficit. That would be as close as the Spirit would get as the Fury added one more goal in the final frame. The Fury directed 37 shots on Spirit rookie netminder Joseph Chemello.

INSIDER: The Spirit played Sunday's game without Andrew Doyle, who was out with an undisclosed minor injury. Donovan hopes to have Doyle back in time for today's rematch with the Fury at the Stouffville Arena.

The Spirit acquired forward David Milne from the Couchiching Terriers of the Ontario Junior A Hockey League for cash last week. Milne, 19, began this season with the Aurora Tigers before he was dealt to the Terriers and had two goals and six assists in 16 games. Spirit general manager Kenny Burrows wanted the six-foot, one-inch, 200-pound Milne for killing penalties and

adding depth to their forward units. In another separate move, the Spirit dealt defenceman Ian Chapman to the North York Rangers for cash. Burrows noted the Rangers were looking for a defenceman and since Chapman would not be among the Spirit's top four blueliners, he became expendable.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "I thought we dominated the play for most of the game and we played well enough to win," Donovan said of Sunday's game. "If we weren't getting scoring chances like we did I'd be worried. But we were getting chances to score."

"But all of our lines had chances to score.

I hope for the same kind of effort (tonight) we had Sunday. We just need to finish our chances."

The only other change expected for tonight's game will see the return of Kori Coelho between the pipes.

"We've been getting good goaltending all year. I just wanted to try to shake something up when I put Joseph (Chemello) in Sunday. But Kori will be back in goal Thursday," Donovan said.

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

- Michael Hayakawa

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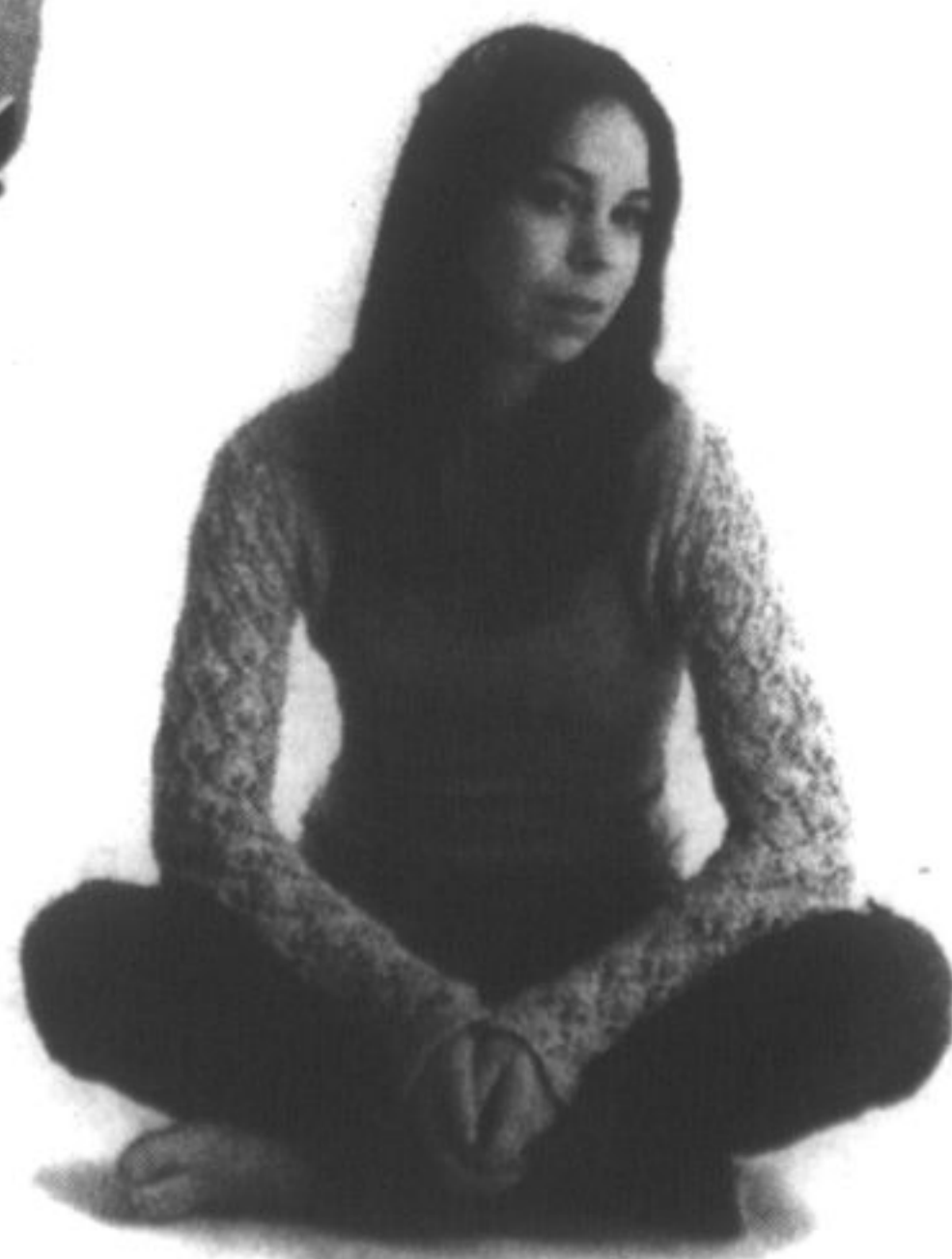
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