

HIGH SCHOOLS: York Region girls basketball playoffs

Spartans sidelined at buzzer

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior girls' basketball team were left to wonder "What if?" after their York Region Athletic Association tier one playoff game against the visiting Markham District High School Marauders Monday.

What if the Spartans had performed in the manner which they did in the fourth quarter for the entire 32 minutes of their contest.

If so, the Spartans might have good reason to be celebrating and

preparing to advance in the post-season.

Instead, their season came to a disappointing conclusion after a frantic fourth-quarter rally fell short in a 49-47 loss.

"It was almost like a penny dropped," said Spartans head coach Sharon MacFarlane on how her players responded after they trailed 28-19 at the half and 41-29 entering the final quarter, "Our graduating players said 'if we want to keep the season going, let's go'."

"I thought in the final quarter we would pull it (a victory) out."

Capitalizing on several Maraud-

ers' turnovers, the Spartans whittled away at their deficit and their efforts eventually paid off as they took a 47-45 lead with 11 seconds remaining in regulation time.

But before the game ended, the Marauders capitalized on two free throw opportunities to tie the score.

On the ensuing in-bounds play, the Spartans committed an untimely turnover and the Marauders scored what would be the game-winning basket on a shot from the low post as the buzzer sounded.

"The kids were disappointed ... it was a tough way to lose," MacFarlane said. "But Markham was aggressive and they had balanced scoring, they presented issues for us."

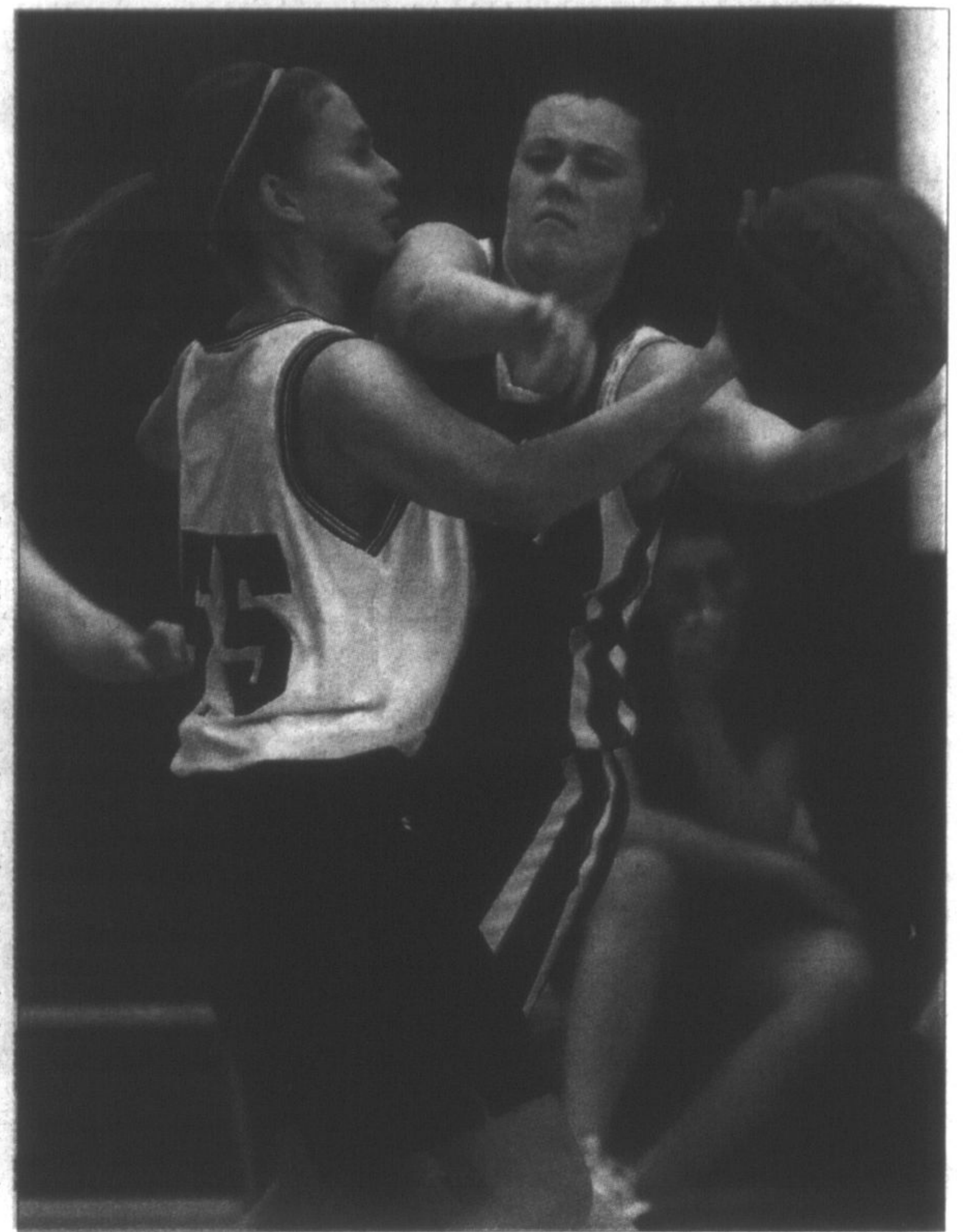
Brooke Kiatipis led the Spartans' offence with 25 points while Brittany McKay added 16.

Slow starts plagued Stouffville for most of the regular season.

"If we played with the intensity that we showed in the fourth quarter for the entire game, we might have won."

"For whatever reason, we made up 12 points in the final four minutes. When they wanted to play, they played."

MacFarlane praised the leadership of her graduating veterans, including Kiatipis, McKay, Demi Chalkias, Haley Preston and Amy Schlusser.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

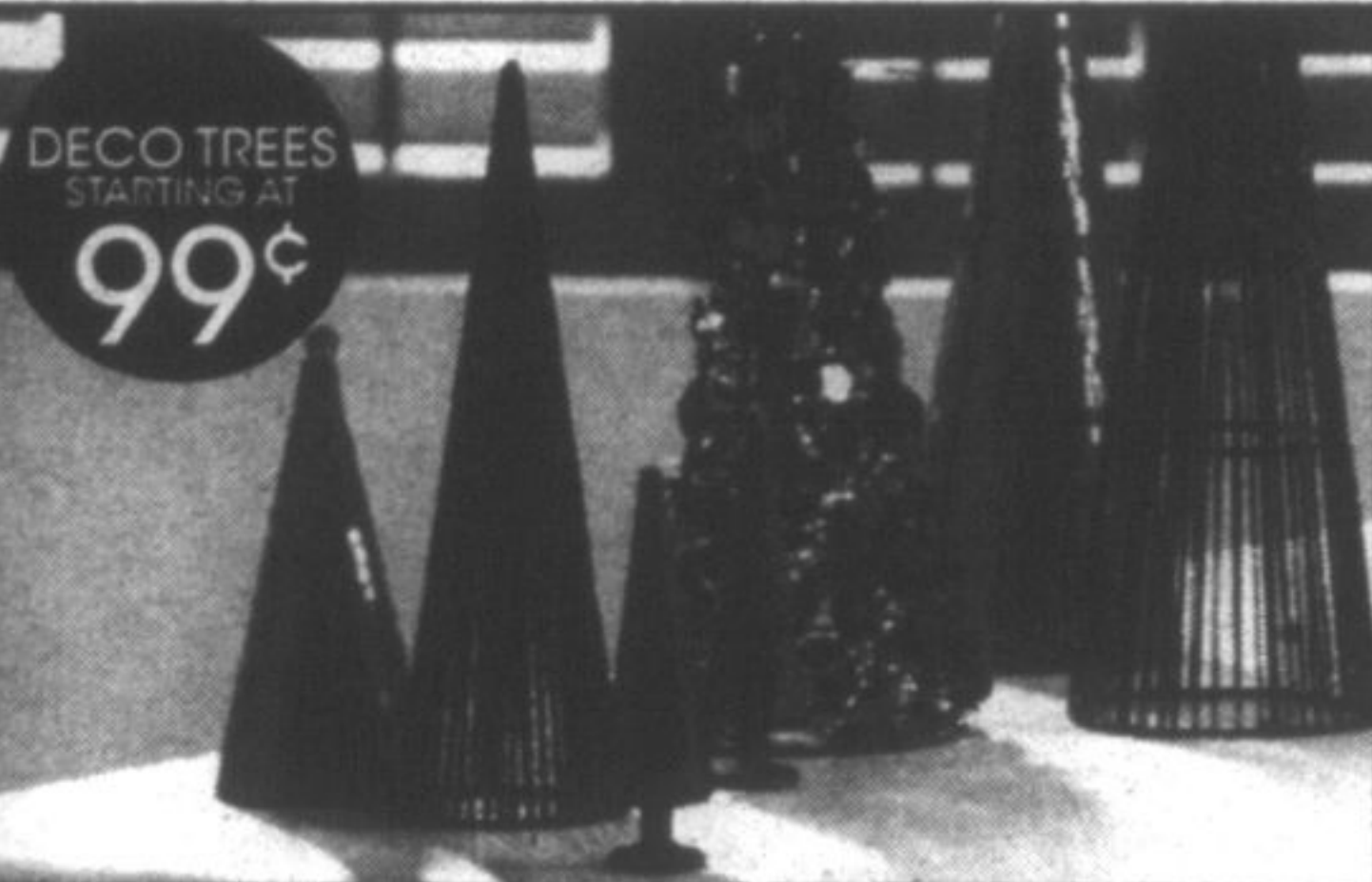
Stouffville Spartan Nicole Thompson (left) battles Markham Marauder Heather Brewer during Markham's 49-47 win in the opening-round of York Region playoffs at Stouffville Secondary Monday.

Bouclair HOME SEE WHAT'S NEW IN TODAY'S FLYER

Stouffville

1040 Hoover Park Drive,
Stouffville, ON, L4A 0K2
Tel: (905) 640-7985

DECO TREES
STARTING AT
99¢

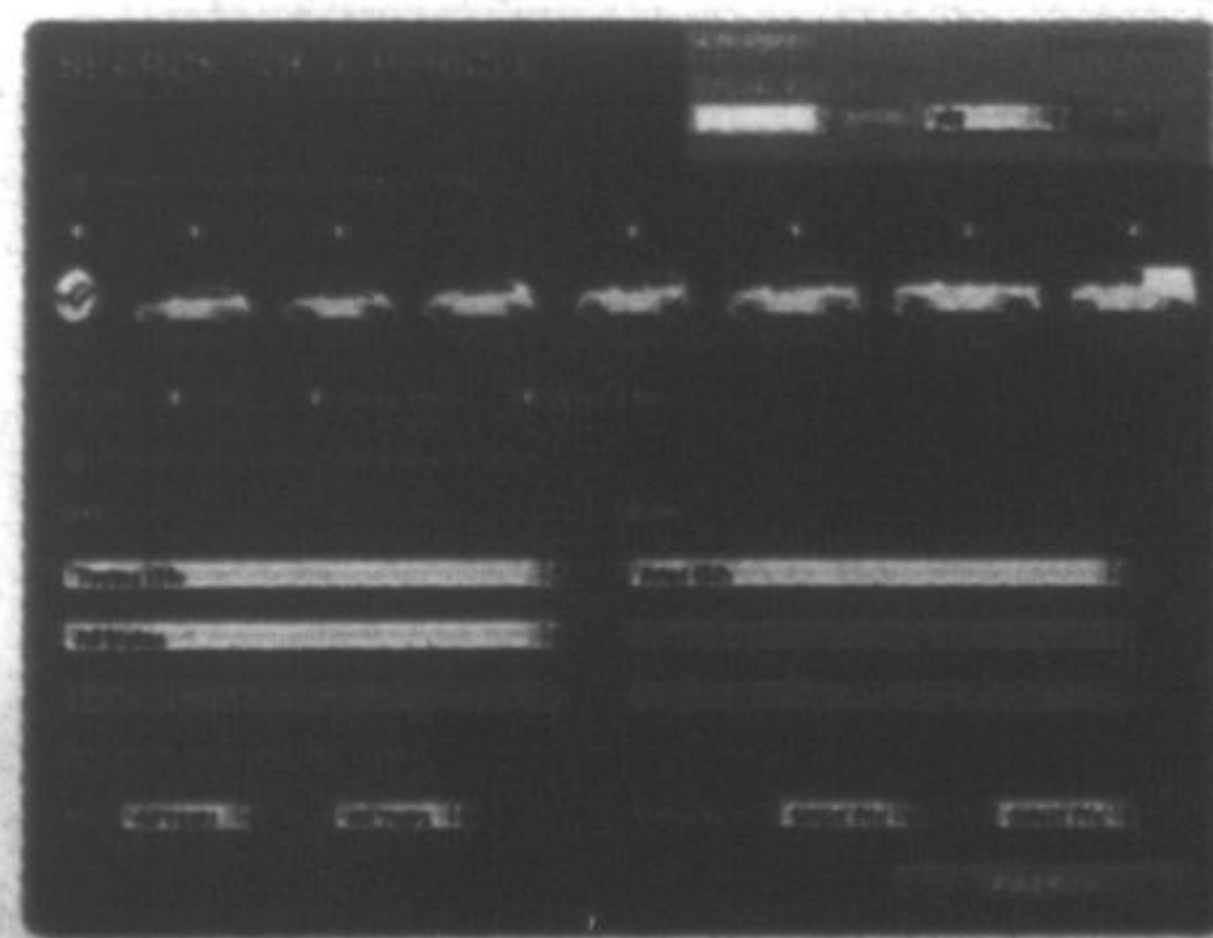


THE KIDS COLLECTION

It's easy as 1, 2, 3...

STEP 1

Search tens of thousands of vehicles.



STEP 2

Refine your search by proximity, makes, models, price and more.



STEP 3

Review detailed vehicle descriptions and 360° views of each vehicle.



Find your perfect vehicle
at **Wheels.ca.**



Wheels.ca

Find Your Car. Fast.