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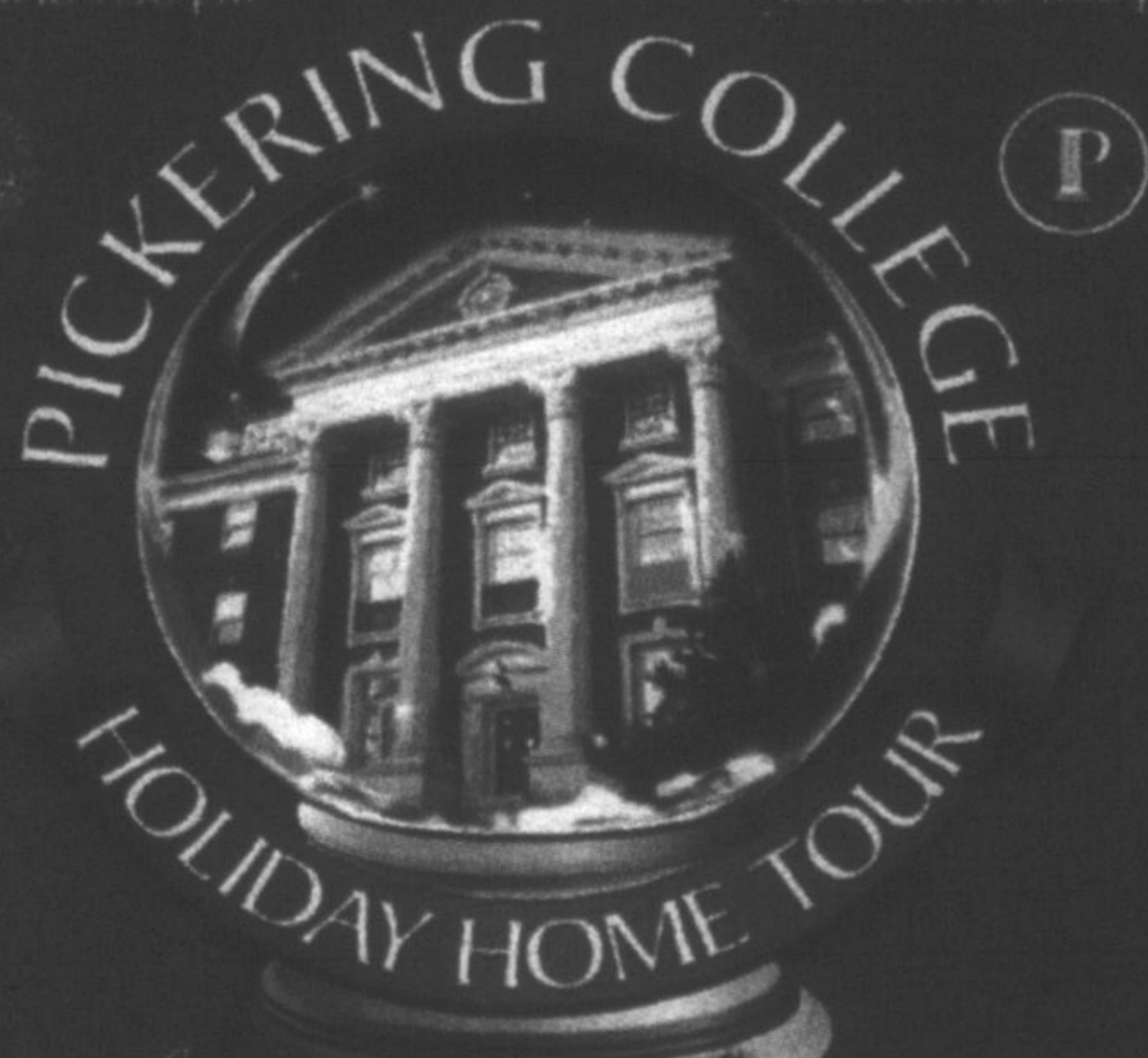


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SPORTS: Jr. A hockey notebook

Coach misses another Spirit win

LAST WEEK: Sunday: Stouffville Spirit 7 vs. Huntsville Otters 1. Spirit record: 12 wins, one overtime win, one shootout win, six losses, one shootout loss, two overtime losses, 31 points. Third place in North Division of Ontario Junior Hockey League.

COMING UP: Friday: Stouffville at Aurora Tigers, 7:30 p.m., Rogers TV. Sunday: Orangeville Flyers vs. Stouffville at Stouffville Arena, 2:10 p.m. WhiStle Radio.

GAME NOTES: Mark Savery is an assistant coach with the Stouffville Spirit. But when pressed to take over the head coaching reins in a pinch, the Stouffville resident has acquitted himself quite nicely. Such was the case Sunday when Savery replaced head coach Craig Donovan, who was on a business trip, for the second time this season. As in his first outing behind the bench, Savery's stint was successful as the Spirit routed the visiting Huntsville Otters 7-1 at Stouffville Arena.

Having claimed two of their three outings so far this season against the Otters, the Spirit jumped out to a 3-0 lead after one period on goals from Billy Lovatsis, Trevor Carrick and Kory Kennedy. The Spirit added to their cushion in the second period on a goal by Christian Finch. After the Otters scored what would be their lone tally of the game just 17 seconds after Finch's tally, the Spirit restored their four-goal bulge when Chris Porter scored just past the midway mark. Returning to action after serving a two-game suspension, Lovatsis took over in the third period when he deposited his second and third goals of the game to round out the scoring. Spirit netminder Dalton McGrath stopped 22 of 23 shots. The Spirit directed 37 shots on the Otters' net.

INSIDER: Spirit defenceman Brennan Serville was a member of the Canada East team that settled for the silver medal at the 2010 World Junior A Challenge in Penticton, B.C. after they suffered a 6-4 loss to the United States in Sunday's final. For the U.S. it marked the third straight year they won the gold medal.

The Spirit players will be at Boston Pizza Nov. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. to assist in raising funds and awareness, on behalf of the York Region Children's Aid Society.

On the injury front, rookie Mike Robinson remains day to day with a lower back injury. Defenceman Daniel Fitzgerald has been given the green light to resume skating. Rookie forward Robbie Acton rejoined the club for Sunday's game after a two-game suspension.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "Maybe it was the speech I gave before the game," a laughing Savery said of his brief success as head coach. "Really though it was a solid effort from top to bottom. It was nice to get out to a good lead early and not give it back."

In addition to their good start, Savery felt their overall speed gave the Otters problems. Losers of three of their last four outings, the Otters trail the Spirit by one point for third place in the North standings.

Savery also felt another factor in their success was the momentum the club gained after rallying from a three-goal deficit to edge the visiting Aurora Tigers 7-6 in overtime last Thursday.

"This is the tightest group I've been around," Savery said. "The overtime win Thursday was big. The guys are pumped right now. They're ready to go. The veterans that we have with guys like Jack Caradonna are blending in well with the young guys like Drake Caggiola."

Lovatsis' instincts combined with his shot can give goaltenders fits, Savery said. Since joining the Spirit from the Villanova Knights, Lovatsis is averaging one point per game.

"He goes where he has to go, near the crease and when he shoots the puck, it's a hard shot. It's like a pro shot," Savery said.

For more, go to: www.stouffvillespirit.com

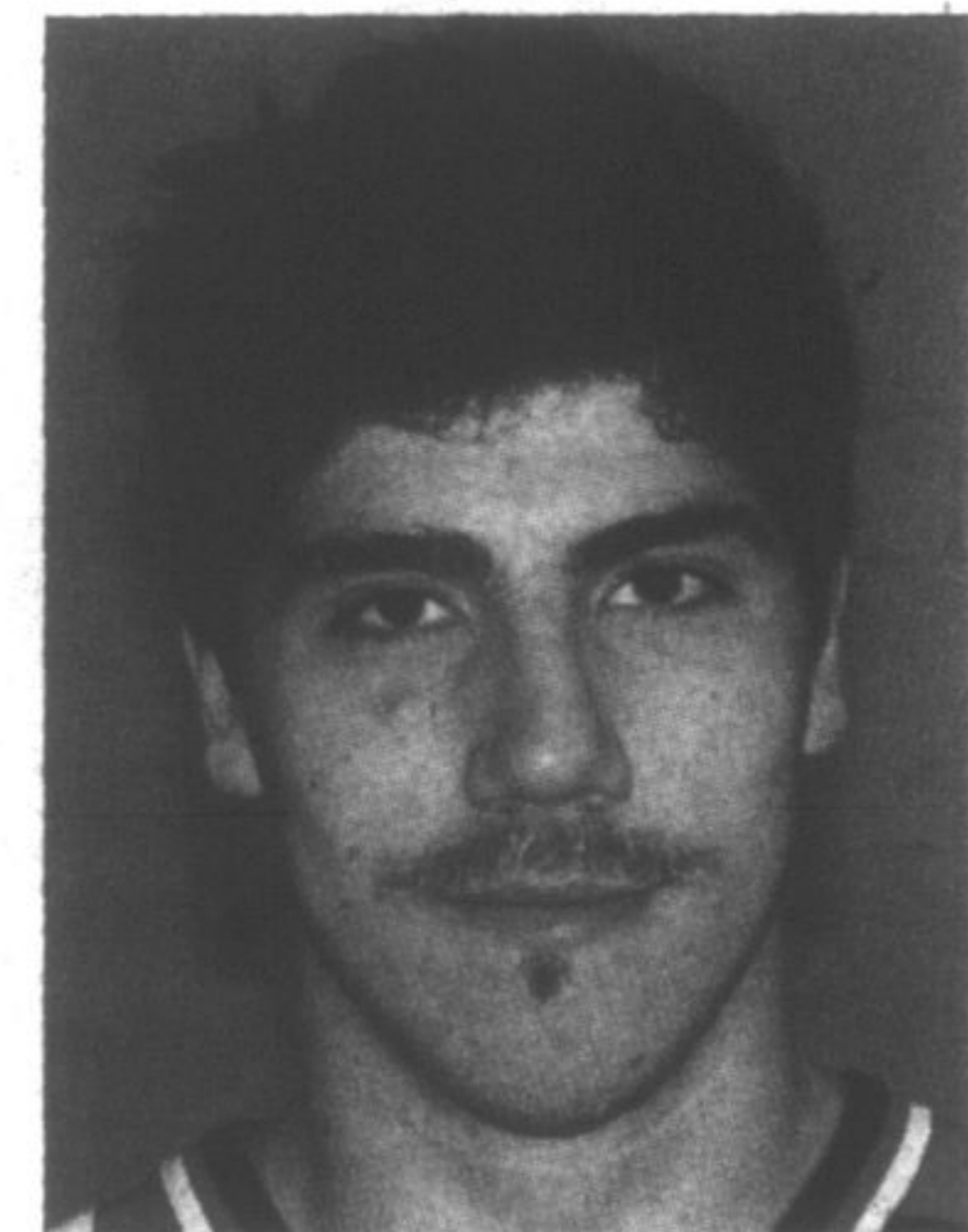
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