

Spartans have week to bounce back in finals

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To win hockey games it helps if a team plays three solid periods.

That was something the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans failed to do in the first game of their best-of-three York Region Athletic Association tier one junior boys' final against the Bill Crothers (Unionville) Colts that resulted in a 3-2 loss at the Clippers Sports Complex Tuesday.

"We definitely didn't play well," said Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt. "We didn't hit for the first two periods and Bill Crothers are talented. You've got to stop them. We finished our checks in the third period and that's when they struggled."

Hewitt also suspected his club might have taken the Colts a little too lightly as they entered the game with just 10 players.

"The bottom line was that we just didn't come out hard from the start," said Hewitt.

Chad Burrows accounted for both goals for the Spartans, who after a scoreless first period trailed 2-0 through two.

With time winding down, the Spartans had a chance to tie the game when Chris Jarrett took a shot that struck the crossbar with 45 seconds remaining. However, the shot went

up in the air rather than down.

Helping to keep the Spartans in contention was some solid net-minding by Cam Nowikow.

RESUMES TUESDAY

"Cam definitely kept us in the game. He played well," Hewitt said.

With the second game of the series not scheduled to be played until next Tuesday at the Angus Glen Community Centre, Hewitt feels that will give his club sufficient time

to make the necessary adjustments to try and force a third and deciding game.

What Hewitt would like to see is for his power-play units to generate better scoring chances. That, he said, was absent in Tuesday's loss.

"We tried to force things on our power play instead of waiting," Hewitt said. "But I'm not mad at our guys. Hopefully, we learned something from this game and we'll respond."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville Spartan J.R. Newlands gets cross-checked as Bill Crothers Colt goalie Alex McKean gets set to glove the puck during Stouffville's 3-2 playoff loss at the Clippers Sports Complex Tuesday.

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