

Nine periods 'decide somebody's season'

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with them," Spirit head coach Craig Donovan said. "We've played a pretty good series, except for the first period of Game 3. That period put us behind the eight-ball.

BALAS IN, CAGGIULA OUT

"I still think there is a lot of hockey ahead. It would be a mistake for (Newmarket) to think there isn't. Potentially there's nine periods left. That's not much time to decide somebody's season.

"I'm not surprised the series is close. At the outset, I thought it had a good chance to be 2-2."

The teams traded goals late in the first period as Matt Neal opened the scoring for Stouffville before Morgan Bonner answered

for the Hurricanes.

Sedore suggested the Hurricanes have re-discovered their groove after adjusting to the Spirit tempo on the heels of a grind-it-out opening round series against the Orangeville Flyers.

"We had to match their work level, then came up against a skilled team like Stouffville. I think it caught us off guard," said Sedore, who was once head coach in Stouffville. "Our guys know from their playoff run last year that they have to come to play every game and what it takes to do that."

DIFFERENT TEMPO

Meanwhile, Hurricanes' regular season scoring leader Kevin Balas is expected back in the lineup after sitting out the third and fourth games due to a suspension for a head checking penalty

Ontario Junior Hockey League Quarter-final

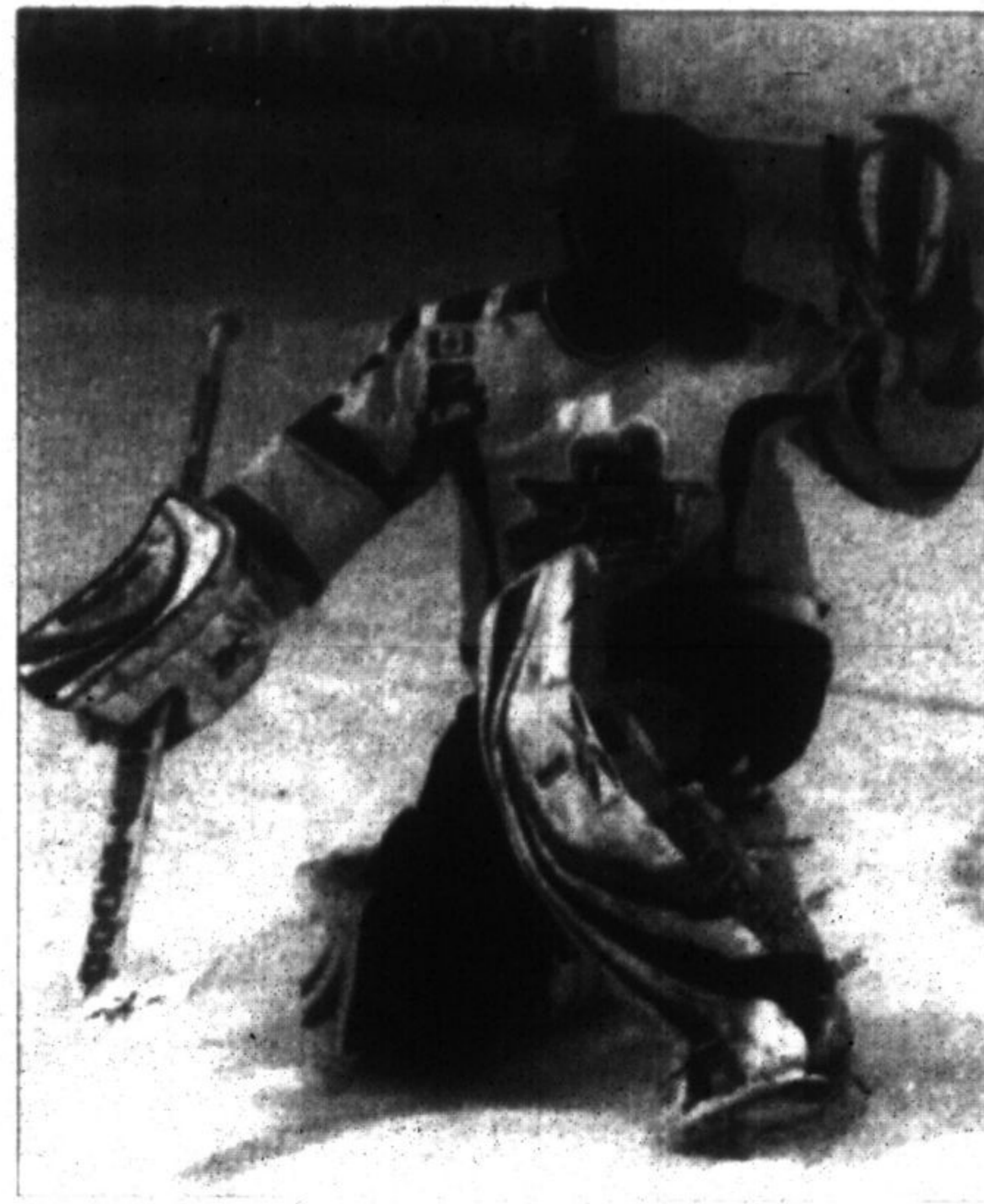
Newmarket Hurricanes (1) vs. Stouffville Spirit (5)

(Best-of-7)

Game 1 — Stouffville 8, Newmarket 2 ... **Game 2** — Stouffville 3, Newmarket 0 ... **Game 3** — Newmarket 4, Stouffville 1 ... **Game 4** — Newmarket 3, Stouffville 2 ... **Game 5** — Sun. March 13 at Newmarket, 4:30 p.m. ... **Game 6** — Tue. March 15 at Stouffville, 7:30 p.m. ... **Game 7** — Thur. March 17 at Newmarket, 8 p.m.

Series tied, 2-2.

against Stouffville's Drake Caggiula in Game 2. Caggiula remains sidelined with a concussion.



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Stouffville Spirit goalie Jon Hall watches a puck hit the net during the Newmarket Hurricanes' 3-2 win at the Stouffville Arena Thursday. The teams meet tomorrow in Newmarket and Tuesday in Stouffville.

CLIPPERS OPEN OMHA MIDGET FINAL AT HOME TODAY

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association midget A championship series opens today in Stouffville.

The Stouffville Clippers host the defending champion Amherstburg Stars in a rematch of last year's final starting tonight at 5 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena. Game 2 goes tomorrow at 4 p.m. at the Clippers Sports Complex.

The first-to-six-points series resumes next Saturday and, if necessary, Sunday in Amherstburg, near Windsor. Game 5 would be played March 26 in Stouffville and a sixth game the next day in Amherstburg.

Amherstburg swept the Brampton Battalion in the western-Ontario semi-final series, while Stouffville defeated the Ajax Knights six points to four on the eastern side of the province.

Both teams have already qualified for the five-team Ontario Hockey Federation championship tournament, which Stouffville will host April 8 to 10.

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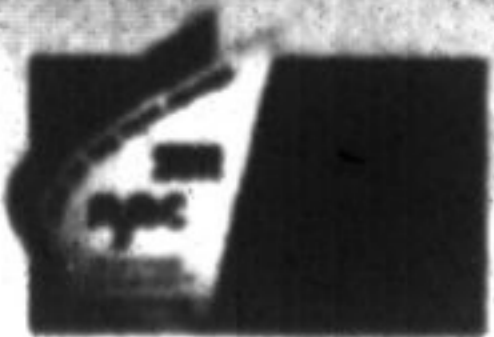
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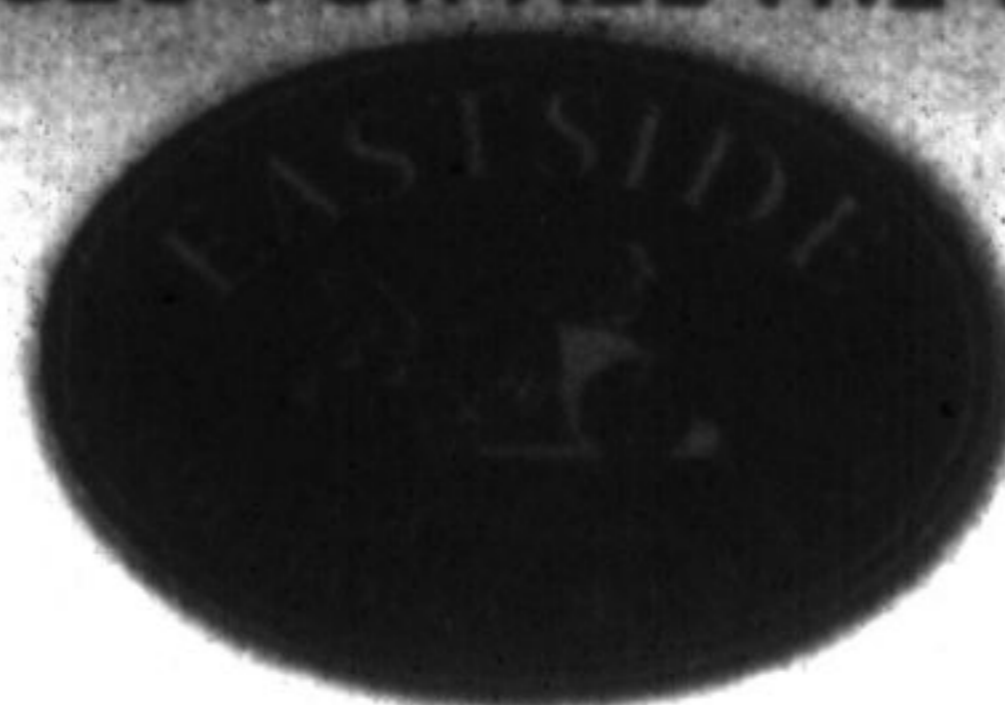
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