

# Power outage zaps SDSS

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In playing against good teams, you have to capitalize on what scoring opportunities are presented and avoid taking costly penalties.

Especially if your team is attempting to stave off elimination as was the case with the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans junior boys' hockey team.

Down one game to none in their best-of-three York Region Athletic Association final against the defending champion Bill Crothers (Unionville) Colts, the Spartans realized they had to play a near-perfect game when they met at Angus Glen Community Centre in Tuesday's second game.

Failing to cash in on a couple of good early scoring chances and taking an untimely penalty in the second period ultimately hurt the Spartans as the Colts capitalized on that man advantage opportunity and added two more goals in the third period to blank the Spartans 3-0.

"We just came up short," said Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt. "During the first period, we missed a couple of good scoring chances and you don't get many scoring opportunities against those guys and then we give up a power-play goal with just 12 seconds left in the penalty."

"Bad penalties always hurt and that one did," he said.

Not helping matters for the Spartans during the series was their inability to score when they enjoyed the odd-man situation.

Citing his club had 10 power-play opportunities during the two games in the final, Hewitt revealed they generated just one goal.

That came back to haunt the Spartans.

*'Our whole focus is to get to OFSAA in 2013.'*

"Our power play is usually working at around 40 to 50 per cent. It certainly was a bad time for our power play to go quiet," Hewitt said.

Despite coming up short in the YRAA final, which was a first for Hewitt in the 12 years that he's been a head coach at Stouffville, he feels the future will be bright for his club.

Next season, he intends to return a team to the senior ranks as 15 to 16 of the 21-player roster will move up.

"The exciting part is that we have a great group of kids, they're very mature and well behaved and they were great ambassadors for the school and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville," he said.

"They got a taste of what senior hockey was like having played in four senior exhibition games. Our whole focus is to get to OFSAA in 2013."

# Carr takes long route to provincial event

For Melissa Carr, it was mission accomplished.

The 18-year-old Stouffville resident skated off with a score of 30.04 in the Senior Silver Ladies event at the 2011 Central Ontario STARskate Championships in Brampton last month.

That score enabled Carr to win her division.

More importantly, the Stouffville Figure Skating Club member qualified to represent the Central Ontario Section at this weekend's Trillium STARskate Championships, a provincial level competition in Mississauga.

"It feels amazing," said the Grade 12 Stouffville District Secondary School student. "It was always a dream and goal of mine to be able to go to all-Ontarios, but sometimes I doubted that it was something that I could accomplish. I couldn't believe I actually won and now I am so excited to move on to the next competition."

It didn't happen overnight. "I like to think that I've always been a hard worker. I love skating so much and

that's a big reason why I've always put so much time and effort into it. I've always put everything I have into skating and I try to use every minute I have on the ice the best I can."

Janet Williams, Carr's coach, was quick to concur.

"A dream is just a dream, but a goal is a dream with a plan and a deadline," she said. "Melissa set her goals and always demonstrated an uncommon ability to focus on the task at hand, every year progressing in her technical skating ability and on competition day she performed one of her personal best competitive skates and made her goal a reality."

Carr isn't making any predictions.

"Mostly, I am beyond excited for this weekend," she said. "I can't wait to get my Team COS jacket and to be able to experience being at this level of competition. I am a little nervous, but my goals are to skate my program to the best of my ability and really try to enjoy every moment of it."

-Michael Hayakawa

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