

PUCK DROPS ON NEW SEASON



Katia Pelowich (from left), Ethan Harera and Rhys Patterson take part in Stouffville minor hockey tryouts for the 2011-12 minor atom AA's this week.

STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

SPORTS: UFC 129 at Rogers Centre next Saturday

Pierson in tough with new fighter

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrgm.com

After having one opponent drop out from his scheduled UFC 129 fight earlier this month, Sean Pierson has a new rival to face at the Rogers Centre in Toronto next Saturday.

And it's one the 35-year-old Stouffville resident and welter-weight mixed martial arts fighter holds with great respect.

Jake Ellenberger, a 26-year-old resident of Omaha, Neb., is six-foot, 170-pounds. He enters the sold-out card with a 24-5-0 mark.

Pierson, who is the same size and sports an 11-4-0 record, predicted Ellenberger will present a far greater challenge than Brian Foster, 27, who was forced out of the card after being diagnosed he had a brain hemorrhage during an Ontario Athletics Commission-mandated MRI that is part of a pre-fight medical.

"He's a good opponent and dangerous," Pierson said of Ellenberger. "He has far more experience than what Brian (Foster) had."

"Jake (Ellenberger) is a top-20 fighter in the world. To fight Jake is a huge step up for me. If I can win it would vault me up in the rankings."

Pierson said the key will be who can control the fight.

"He's good at going the distance and I'll have to try to counteract that," Pierson said.

For more updates on UFC 129, log on to: www.ufc.com

Atom BB Stars ice title at world's biggest tourney

The Stouffville-Markham atom BB Stars skated off with the gold medal from their division of the 44th annual Brampton Canadettes Tournament after defeating the Scarborough Saints 2-1 in last weekend's championship final in Brampton.

The Stars won the title after winning their round-robin pool with a 3-0 victory over the Burlington Barracudas and a pair of 1-1 ties against the Aurora Panthers and Scarborough Sharks.

Advancing to the semifinals, the Stars edged the Pittsburgh Penguins elites 2-1.

Coached by Dave Bender, John Ananiadis, Brian Tjeng and Mark Travoto, team members included: Theodora Ananiadis, Brianna Arnold, Natasha Athanasakos, Georgia Bender, Isabella Bigioni, Ella Bonfield, Kaitlyn Fung, Caitlin Giannis, Clair Haty, Shannon Hollands, Court-

ney Mark, Samantha Partridge, Sophia Peters, Jamie Tjeng, Tia Trovato and Kaitlyn Yearwood.

The Stars medalled in three tournaments this season and won the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League regular season title.

The event is the world's largest female hockey tournament.

Spartans take tune-ups

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans boys' rugby teams tuned up for their York Region Athletic Association regular season opener next week by playing their final tuneup matches Tuesday.

The Spartan seniors and juniors visited perennial powerhouse Brock (Cannington).

In the senior match, the Spartans received one try apiece from Paul Geiger, Max Muir and Patrick Tapiero in a 15-10 win.

In the junior game, the Spartans utilized their regulars in the first half against Brock's regulars and trailed 5-0 at the half.

With both clubs employing reserves in the second half, the Spartans received single tries from Matt Dunlop, Kevin Palma, Brendan Callaghan and Vince Malandrino while blanking Brock to emerge with a 20-5 win.

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