

# Points streak on line tonight in Spiritville

**LAST WEEK:** Saturday: Stouffville Spirit 5 vs. Huntsville Otters 4 (shootout). Spirit record: seven wins, one overtime win, one shootout win, one loss, three overtime losses, 21 points, second place in North Division.

**COMING UP:** Today: vs. Aurora Tigers at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m. Saturday: at Oakville Blades, 7:30 p.m. Sunday: vs. Newmarket Hurricanes at Stouffville Arena, 2:30 p.m.

**GAME NOTES:** When the Stouffville Spirit gets into a shootout, head coach Craig Donovan thinks his club has better than a 50-50 chance of winning. With skilled shooters and experienced netminding, Donovan knows those are the essential ingredients required to win the nerve-wracking sessions.

Such was the case Saturday when the Spirit and Huntsville Otters went into a shootout in Cobourg as part of the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Governor's Showcase Weekend event. With Spirit netminder Jon Hall stopping all three Otters' shooters and rookie forward John Najafi making good on his shootout attempt, Stouffville prevailed with a 5-4 victory. The Spirit got off to a good start in the contest as goals by Thomas Tsicos and Alex Botten, on a power-play, vaulted them to a 2-0 lead through 20 minutes. But in the second period, the Otters capitalized on four power-play opportunities and deposited four goals to take a 4-2 lead into the dressing room.

The Spirit, however, rallied in the final period when Christian Finch scored twice to tie the game and force overtime. With no scoring in the five-minute extra session, the contest was decided during the shootout. The Otters outshot the Spirit 38-33. The win by the Spirit was their second in three meetings against the Otters so far this season.

**INSIDER:** The Spirit has gained at least one point in each of their last 12 contests. The only game to date in which the Spirit failed to garner one point was in their opening game loss to the Otters.

In the league scoring race, Finch continues to lead the way with 11 goals and 16 assists in 13 games. With numerous U.S. collegiate coaches in attendance during Showcase, Donovan had discussions with several reps who put a number of players on their recruiting radar.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** While questioning some of the calls that went against them leading to four unanswered goals by the Otters and trailing entering the final period, Donovan was quick to praise his club's resolve.

"Give our guys credit, they didn't give up and played hard," Donovan said.

Tonight's home game against the Aurora Tigers is the fourth meeting between the clubs. The Spirit has won two while losing one in overtime.

"We play in a tough conference where anyone can beat anyone on any given night. Aurora is playing a lot better than what they did a year ago," he said.

If the Spirit hope to continue its points streak, Donovan hinted they have to take advantage of what he feels is a relatively inexperienced Tigers' defence.

Playing on the road Saturday against the Oakville Blades, a team that lost to the Wellington Dukes in last year's final, Donovan said they still possess plenty of experience.

"We have to play with a lot more responsibility in our own zone. It could be a low scoring game," he said.

For more on the Spirit, go to: [www.stouffvillespirit.com](http://www.stouffvillespirit.com)

## SPORTSBOARD

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### HOCKEY

#### Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association Stouffville Clippers

##### Preewee AE

OCT. 5: Stouffville 7 (Mark Rossi, Adam Belme 2, Paul Assal, Tommy Paul, Jack Bender, Anthony Rustico) vs. Orillia 1. OCT. 8: Stouffville 6 (Anthony Rustico, Tommy Paul, Mark Rossi, Adam Belme, Paul Assal, Hunter Joffile) vs. Schomberg 1. OCT. 15: Stouffville 5 (Paul Assal 2, Mark Rossi, Adam Belme, Anthony Rustico. Shutout by Eric Proszanski). Clippers in second place with 5-1-2 record. Next game Saturday vs. Barrie at Stouffville Arena, 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at Georgina.

##### Major bantam AE

OCT. 12: Stouffville 3 (Mario Rosano, Jaston Mistelbacher, Braydon McNeil) vs. Richmond Hill 2. OCT. 14: Stouffville 4 (Tritan Thompson, Tyler Wright, Justin Pelowich-Pickup, Braydon McNeil) vs. Schomberg 2. OCT. 16: Stouffville 7 (Quintin Volpe 2, Tyler Wright, Cody Leonard, Jason Mistelbacher, Jackson Newlands, Justin Pelowich-Pickup. Shutout by B.J. Ivanowski) vs. Markham 0. OCT. 17: Stouffville 9 (Jake Espey 2, Braydon McNeil 2, Justin Pelowich-Pickup, Quintin Volpe, Jackson Newlands, Jason Mistelbacher, Cody Leonard) vs. Markham 2.

##### Minor peewee

OCT. 8: TNT 4 vs. Stouffville 2 (Brydon Jewett, Rhys Garlough). OCT. 12: East Gwillimbury 2 vs. Stouffville 1 (Rhys Garlough).

##### House league

###### Atom

OCT. 1: Independent Planning 7 (Scott Hoover, Josh Rundle, Michael Fang, Jacob Hodges, Mitchell Risto (2), Caleb Labelle).

vs. east48 1 (Jack Pesut), Canadian Tire 1 (Dylan Sunstrum) vs. Stouffville Toyota (Max James), Royal Canadian Legion 5 (Liam Clements, Cole Murchison (2), Jordan Lewis, Bowen MacLean) vs. Cascades Recovery 0. OCT. 8: Royal Canadian Legion 5 (William McCormick, Sam Roy, Bowen MacLean, Cole Rizzo, Cole Murchison) vs. Independent Planning 2 (Owen McKnight, Michael Fang); Cascades Recovery 4 (Joseph Métauro, Jordan Ianuzziello 2, Grady Clark) vs. Stouffville Toyota 3 (Max James, Aric Nunes, Mason Koitsan); Canadian Tire 4 (Aiden Nasevski) 4 vs. east48 1 (Jack Pesut).

#### Stouffville-Markham Girls Hockey House league scores Oct. 16-17

Novice Division: Yellow Timbits 4 (Makiah Brazee-Taylor 2, Amanda Fantini, Claire Essex) vs. Red Timbits 1 (Isabella Froggatt); Orange Timbits 2 (Sofia Syed, Anastasia Drikos) vs. Blue Timbits 0.

Atom Division: Airbase Services 3 (Amanda Morelli, Lauren Smith, Annika Nerling) vs. Re-Max Asif Khan 2 (Emma Gunatunge, Alyssa Bogle); Southwire Canada 3 (Sylvie Bunka, Olivia Black, Shannon Johnston) vs. Sportacular Events 3 (Mackenzie Hedges, Samantha Wong, Sarah Allinson).

Preewee/Bantam Division: D.G. Consulting 7 (Jessica Dobbin 2, Madeline Li 2, Gabrielle Martinez, Christina Lucas, Emily Hu, A. Kam) vs. Tower Hill 1 (Julia Allinson).

Midget Division: Todd Brothers 2 (Shannon McCormick, Vanessa Santoliri) vs. Entertainment One 1 (Rose Wideman); Stouffville Fish n Chips 4 (Megan Simone 2, Claudia Guarnes, Annamaria Avarino) vs. Pace Savings 1 (Rebecca Empringham); H.M.V. 4 (scorers unknown) vs. Moller Insurance 3 (Alisha Hirp, Kylee Terpleton 2).

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