

SPORTS

Spirit inflicts Capital punishment at arena

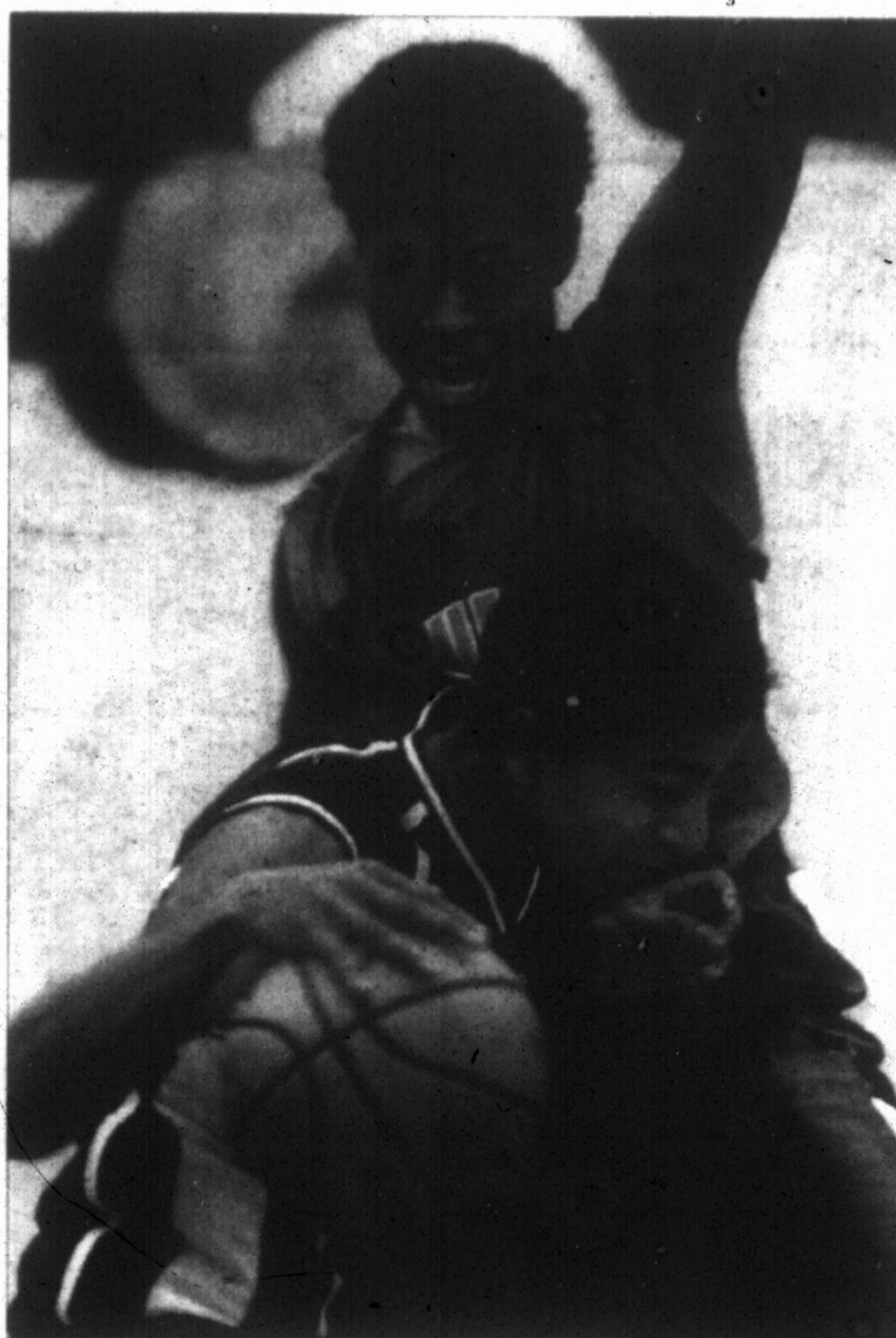
Chris Porter scored two goals and had one assist to lead the Stouffville Spirit to a 6-2 win over the Brampton Capitals in Ontario Junior Hockey League action at the Stouffville Arena Thursday.

The Spirit, which has earned at least one point in each of its last 11

outings, outshot the West Division cellar-dwelling Capitals 44-27.

The win by the Spirit moved it into a tie for second place in the North Division with the Markham Waxers. The Spirit has two games in hand.

After concluding the 2011 portion of its schedule against the Waxers Friday, the Spirit resumes play Jan. 5 when it hosts the Aurora Tigers at 7:30 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville Spartan Rashawn Riley (top) and Unionville Wolf Adirian Nadarajah bang bodies during the Wolves 60-31 win during York Region high school senior action in Unionville Wednesday.

Volleyball team one to watch

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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When Tara LaBar assembled her Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans junior girls' volleyball team for the York Region Athletic Association tier one campaign, she had guarded optimism about her grade 9 and 10 players.

Her starting six included four players with club experience.

So far, the Spartans have met LaBar's expectations as they occupy first place in the East Division standings, having won all four of their matches.

A big factor in the Spartans' early-season surge has been the performance of their two Grade 9 middle players, Lauryn Renzella and Kayla Clennen. The club players are also their tallest on the court.

Manning the power positions are Sarah Schouten and Hayley Desjardins, Grade 10 students who have played club ball.

The setters are Grade 10 setters Liz Van Zven and Jenna Russ, who attended Bill Crothers (Unionville) last year.

"The wins include a road match against Crothers, an elite athlete institution, won 2-1 (23-25, 25-13, 15-11) by the Spartans.

"It's been an exciting year so far," the coach said. "We have a great group of girls who are keen, hard working, talented and committed. That's a great combination.

"Hopefully this team will be an OFSAA-bound team down the road."

The Spartans are scheduled to resume league play Jan. 12 at Bur Oak (Markham).

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