

CIS grad helping SDSS hockey girls make jump this year

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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When Brian Shankman elected to ice his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans varsity girls hockey team in the highly competitive York Region Athletic Association tier one circuit this year, some players questioned his sanity.

After all, it's been four or five years since the Spartans last competed in tier one.

This season though, the Spartans veteran head coach felt the timing was right to make the bold move in facing the likes of perennial powerhouses of Bill Crothers and Aurora.

While one game doesn't constitute an entire season, the Spartans' 2-2 tie against Aurora in their regular season opener at the Clippers Sports Complex last Thursday

might provide a ray of hope.

Especially after they overcame a 2-0 deficit through one period before getting goals from Emily Wood, on a slapshot from the point, and Abbie Bauman along with timely saves by Paton Melvin.

"Maybe we were a little jittery in the first period, but we seemed to get better in the second and third period," Shankman said. "And we were forced to kill off three minors in the game. I was pleased."

Last season, when after playing just two games in tier two before the provincial public school teachers' labour situation arose and shut down the remainder of their schedule, they were 2-0.

Shankman saw the potential.

There's also depth, including three solid forward lines.

"The last time we were in tier one we got pounded and didn't win

a game. But that was because we didn't have players," he said. "Last season, I had a team with about four or five strong Grade 9 players at that time and now that they're in Grade 10, I had a good feeling we would be a better team."

PROMISING START

"We sure won't improve by playing weaker opponents. The tier one game is a lot faster and to play higher calibre teams they will improve. If we get beat, so we get beat. But it's good for the girls to improve and to have fun."

Shankman also accentuated the positives to his team of playing tier one by noting it's the only route to take if they have aspirations on possibly competing at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations playdowns.

Another factor that spurred

Shankman into making the jump to tier one took place off the ice with the presence of some assistance he's receiving on the bench this year.

With Christina Davis new to the school teaching staff and team, Shankman noted she played the game at the collegiate level while attending St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S.

"She has brought in some new ideas for our team and I'm taking a back seat during practices.

"She's been a great help and she's someone with a hockey perspective that I haven't had working with me in a few years," Shankman said.

With six teams in the YRAA tier one and the top four making the playoffs, Shankman said their club's goal is to be one of the select teams to qualify for the postseason.

For this to happen, Shankman hopes his senior Grade 12 players in team captain and defenceman Laura Monk along with forwards Mackenzie Harrington and Ellen Brown will provide the leadership required on and off the ice.

So far, he said, they've been doing the job.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm with this team and the girls are coachable. I'm happy with this team. They have a lot of heart and they're quick.

"I'm quietly confident we will improve and get better as the season goes on. Right now we're going in the right direction," Shankman said.

After a road game against St. Maximilian Kolbe (Aurora) yesterday, the two teams will have a rematch at the Clippers Complex Monday at 3 p.m.

STOUFFVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6528 Main St., Stouffville
905-640-2561
Pastor Jim Amy

Sunday Worship
11:00 am

The first Sunday of Advent.
Come and share the journey!
www.stouffvillechristianchurch.ca

springvale
BUILDING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
905-887-5651

Sunday, December 1st
10:00am
Communion
Celebration Service
Ed Fontaine

11:30am
Classes for all ages
www.springvale.org

Stouffville Churches

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6432 Main St., Stouffville
905.640.3151

Wheelchair accessible
Sunday, December 1
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion

Stouffville Pentecostal Church
6853 Main St., Stouffville
905.640.5696

Sunday Service @ 10 am
Sunday School for Kids!
Everyone Welcome!

Lead Pastor: Jeff Laird
Children's Pastor: Lori Attack
Youth Pastor: Ian Harley
Counselor: Bonnie Borchardt

Stouffville Christian Fellowship
A Church in a Beautiful Countryside
Pastor Walter Robbins

Sunday Service
10:30am
Lunch to follow

860 Conc. 8, Clarendon
905-649-2812

Sunday, December 8
Old fashioned Christmas 6 p.m.

Appreciation The Student Music Scholarship committee
thank the community for its concert support.

Over \$6,000 raised for school music programs
A friendly family church

STUDENTS!

Kid's Club (JK- Gr. 5) - Wed. @ 6:30pm
Jr. High (Gr. 6-8) - Tues. @ 6:45pm
Sr. Youth (Gr. 9-12) - Fri. @ 7:00pm
Young Adults (18-30) - Sun. @ 7:00pm

www.spcfamilly.ca

in2one Sunday Service at 10:00 am

www.in2one.ca
416-898-4774
19 on the Park
19 Civic Avenue, Stouffville

in2one Women
"Once Upon A Christmas"
Counting down to Christmas with Advent Calendars
Have a "fairy tale" Christmas this year!
November 30, 7:30-9:00pm

A Church Of The Christian And Missionary Alliance In Canada

Christ Church Stouffville
Anglican Church of Canada
254 Sunset Blvd., 905-640-1461
www.stouffvilleanglican.ca

Sunday December 1st
8:00 am & 10:00 am Eucharist
Church School & Nursery at 10:00am

Monday, December 2nd
Senior's Christmas Lunch 11:00am

Saturday, December 7th
Breakfast with Santa 11:00am
Filipino Christmas Party & Fundraiser 5:00pm

Tuesday December 10th
Quiet Christmas Service 7:00pm
ALL WELCOME! COME & SEE

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line N.
(905) 642-4414
Rev. Peter Pallant

Sunday, December 1
9:30 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship Service
6:30 pm - Evening Service

Christmas Banquet
Friday, November 29
Everyone Welcome!

恩泉浸信會
Stouffville Grace Baptist Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:45AM
Chinese/English/Children Service
(中/英文及兒童崇拜)

@ Oscar Peterson Public School
850 Hoover Park Dr., Stouffville

CHURCH OFFICE (教會辦事處)
(647) 547-3618
32 Jamesway Cres., Stouffville
admin@stouffville-gbc.org
www.stouffville-gbc.org

Stouffville United Church
Building Spirits, Building Lives!

Rev. Nancy Waterman
34 Church St. N. • 905-640-1163
info@stouffvilleuc.ca

Saturday November 30
8:30a.m. Woman's Community Christmas Breakfast

Sunday December 1 Advent 1
10:30 am Worship Service

Open the Stable Door:
Make Room for Jesus

Friday December 6,
Living Nativity,
7:45 in Prayer Garden
followed by a Christmas Open House in the Auditorium

Everyone Welcome!
www.stouffvilleuc.ca

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL DRAMA BY CHOIR, CAST & ANIMALS

"ECHOES OF CHRISTMAS"
Written & Directed by Doris Pilkey

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2013
- 7:30 P.M. -

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2013
- 2:30 P.M. -

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2013
- 6:30 P.M. -

Donations accepted for "Street Connection"
MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH
5438 Major Mackenzie Drive East, Markham
905.294.5081