

# Spirit comeback falls short in double overtime setback

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When the Stouffville Spirit suffered a heartbreaking 5-4 double overtime road loss against the Whitby Fury in their Ontario Junior Hockey League tilt Sunday, it was not for a lack of effort.

But missing four regulars, including forwards Beau Binnie, Justin Bennett and Jack Varga, along with defenceman Connor Evans, certainly did not help mat-

ters for the North Division-leading Spirit.

Despite having a four-game unbeaten streak snapped, Spirit head coach Jeff Perrin applauded his club's grit.

"I thought we gave it a good effort," he said. "It was a tough, they scored in overtime and we didn't. We had the lead late twice but couldn't hang on. Whitby is a good team."

Speculating his club might have given Whitby a little too much

respect entering their game and last playing six days earlier, Perrin felt those factors might have attributed to a slow start in which they trailed 2-0 after the first period before Tyler Kulba, Max Novick and Josh Argier scored to give the Spirit a 3-2 lead after two periods.

After Whitby opened the scoring in the third period to tie the game, rookie Thomas Tinnmouth scored to put Stouffville back on top.

But 39 seconds later, Whitby got the equalizer that set the stage for

overtime.

Winning their sixth straight game, Whitby outshot Stouffville 47-34.

Gaining one point and sporting a 9-2-1-1-20 record, the Spirit will host the defending league champion Trenton Golden Hawks at the Stouffville Arena Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"We have to win the battles and try to stay out of the penalty box. We have to outcompete them," Perrin said of the keys to their next

game.

On the personnel front, Perrin anticipates Varga, who was in Los Angeles to attend a family function, and Bennett (recurring minor injury) will return for their next game.

Evans and Binnie though, remain out indefinitely.

The Spirit will also be without leading scorer Kyle Thomas, who received a two-game suspension for a head contact infraction during the first period of Sunday's tilt.

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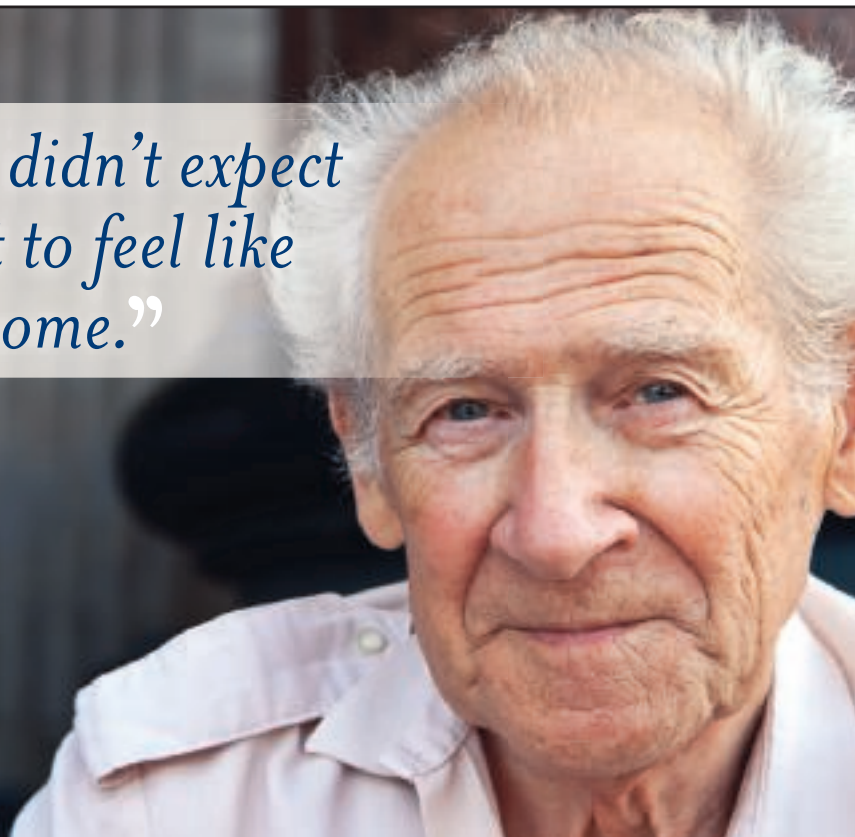
"In a nutshell, I'd have to say that our children always arrived home wanting to eagerly return the next day! Their curious minds always wanted to learn more!"

Luisa Angheloni



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