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**STONEY CREEK
MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

HOME OF THE WARRIORS





Solid C has to do for Spirit

By LARRY MOKO
The Spectator

THE JUNIOR B hockey disappointment is now just water under the bridge for Stoney Creek.

The community organized team in this town is still stunned by the Ontario Hockey Association's rejection of its bid to re-enter league competition as a Junior B franchise. But organizers have accepted their fate.

They're only wish at the moment is for everyone to catch the Spirit.

Beginning with the home opener tomorrow night at 7 against Flamboro Gamblers, the Stoney Creek Spirit will compete in the Niagara District Junior C Hockey League this season.

It marks the return to junior ice wars for Stoney Creek after a one-year absence.

The club was last known as the Warriors and it played under the ownership of Lou Popovic in the Junior B ranks.

"We wanted to come back at the Junior B level," said Spirit general manager Bob Clark.

"I think the OHA was worried about our financial statement. They probably figured in the long term that we should go out and prove ourselves capable of organizing in this new concept."

Stoney Creek's other opponents during the 44-game schedule this season will be Chippawa Merchants, Grimsby Kings, Dunnville Terriers, Glanbrook Rangers, Dundas Blues and Rockton Real McCoys.

There are 11 Stoney Creek residents on the roster and seven are from east-end Hamilton. They'll wear red, black and white sweaters sporting the historic landmark of the Stoney Creek monument on the logo.

Nick Urquhart is the head coach.

Spirit won three of four exhibition games and Clark said about 200 people attended the last pre-season home start.





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Spirit rally ties game

Thompson nets game-tying goal

By CHRIS CHEHOWSKI
Special to The News

Sometimes a tie can be as important as win.

This was the case when the Stoney Creek Spirit and their Junior C opponents, the Flamboro Gamblers, skated to a 5-5 tie last Saturday night at Stoney Creek Arena.

The contest was a rematch of the Spirit's opener on Sept. 25 when the Gamblers beat Stoney Creek 13-5.

The game started out with both teams hitting, and it was clear from the outset that the game was going to be physical.

Mike Neptune got the Spirit on the scoreboard first near the five minute mark of the first period. Mike Arnold, stationed behind the Flamboro net, passed the puck in front to Neptune who put the puck past Gamblers' netmin-

der Jonathan McDoorlingy.

The Spirit increased their lead a minute later when Mark Mobberley took a pass from behind the net and deposited it into the Flamboro goal to give Stoney Creek a 2-0 advantage.

The Gamblers scored four unanswered goals in the second period to jump out to a 4-2 lead. Chris Crevier opened the Flamboro scoring when his shot from the faceoff circle eluded Spirit goaltender Ray Lippett. Less than a minute later, Lippett stopped Justin Davis' shot, but Kevin Umansky slid the rebound past for a goal.

Paul Talbot and Chris Henderson added the other two second period goals.

Spirit rally

The Spirit scored late in the period to narrow the deficit to 4-3 when Eugene Farago passed to Shawn Chrvala

who beat McDoorlingy.

Early in the third period, Flamboro took a 5-3 lead when Umansky scored his second goal of the evening, knocking a puck loose in the slot past Lippett.

Stoney Creek rallied with under 10 minutes to play in the contest when Neptune recovered the puck in the Gamblers' zone and fired a shot which trickled under the Flamboro netminder.

Rob Thompson scored the eventual game-tying goal when he snapped a shot past McDoorlingy into the top corner of the net. Lippett and the Stoney Creek defense kept the Gamblers' offense silent for the rest of the game to settle for a 5-5 tie.

The Spirit takes on Dundas Saturday night at the Stoney Creek Arena in a 7:15 p.m. start.





Provincial sports. . .

STONE CREEK — Peter Banks scored a goal and picked up a pair of assists as Stoney Creek Spirits tied Caledonia Corvairs 6-6 last night in **Niagara District Junior C Hockey League** exhibition action.

Mark Mobberley, Mike Ault, Brian Armes, Eugene Farago and Ian Chennell also scored for Stoney Creek while Gary Gosse, Chuck Richardson, Jason Sykes, Brad Zimmerman, Jamie Honacher and Shawn DeCosge answered for Caledonia.

Spirit led 3-2 after one period but trailed 6-5 after two.

Stoney Creek is at home versus Dunnville Terriers Saturday. Game time at Stoney Creek Arena is 7 p.m.