

# ***2008-2009 SPARTANS GIRLS HOCKEY***

**Friday, February 27**

## **Provincial championships at Stanstead**

### **Howard S. Billings (8-1)**

The semi-final began poorly for the Spartans with the visitors getting on the board first on a hard, high shot to the stick side. The girls then dominated play and were rewarded for their effort in the second period. Both goals were the result of dynamic cycles with Olivia Demerchant and Taylor Cote scoring from the slot. The passes were provided by Kayhla Violano and Eastlyn Bellamy. Noemie Potvin scored early in the third, before Eastlyn Bellamy put the game out of reach with an unassisted, short-handed goal. The Bellamy goal seemed to cut the legs out from under the South Shore school as the Spartans scored four more times. Olivia Demerchant completed her hat trick with two more. Taylor Cote got her second and tournament all-star, Brittany Sharman rounded out the scoring. After conceding an early goal, Lindsay Smith shut the door the rest of the way.

### **Alexander Galt (1-3)**

The Spartans picked a bad day to play one of their worst games of the year, as they fell to their arch-rivals, Alexander Galt, after having beaten them in four successive games. Galt opened the scoring when Erica Porter was allowed to skate down the middle of the ice and blast a slapshot into the top corner. A terrible turnover in the defensive zone led to a crucial goal by Melissa McIver. To make matters worse the Spartans were playing on the power play at the time! Eastlyn Bellamy responded almost immediately after the penalty had expired to give the Spartans new life. As was often the case this year, Taylor Cote provided the pass. During the third period, Galt assured the victory with a goal on the power play. The game was chippy and penalty-filled. However, neither team was able to create much on the power play, notwithstanding the goal which Galt finally scored with the man advantage. The Spartans were particularly inept at gaining the zone and setting up, twice squandering five-on-three situations. As in all of the games between the two schools this season, neither team was able to establish a clear advantage, although I felt Galt played better team defence and deserved the victory. Katie Booth played an outstanding game in the Galt goal, making several key saves. The absence of Kim Theriault, especially on the power play, proved to be a significant factor in the loss. This year, the Spartans played their best hockey when they moved the puck and played team defence which was clearly not the case on this day. Congratulations to the girls from Galt who showed that they wanted it more than the Stanstead.

- Coach Mac

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**Sunday, February 22**

## **Ontario Hockey Academy (2-8)**

A disastrous first period saw the Spartans totally dominated by the fast skating, highly skilled side from Cornwall. By the end of the period, the visitors had established a 5-1 lead, with the only bright spot being a very long shot by Eastlyn Bellamy which completely fooled the surprised keeper. Although the visitors continued to dictate the play, the Spartans began to play more disciplined defence and created some good scoring chances. During the second period, the lead was reduced to 5-2 on a wrist shot by Kayhla Violano after a quick counter attack organized by Sharman and Bellamy. Goaler Lindsay Smith played a great game as the visitors had a significant advantage in both the play and the scoring chances. Unfortunately, the Spartans stopped playing four minutes before time had expired and the game turned into a rout. A turnover behind the net led to the sixth goal and some poor rush defence led to the final two tallies.

When the opposition is better in every aspect of the game, which was the case today, a team has to rely on its defensive playing system and create quick counterattacks to keep the game close. The most talented team does not automatically win!! The loss was particularly disappointing in that the girls played without discipline and determination for extended periods in the game, leaving Lindsay Smith at the mercy of the opposing forwards far too often. Time to get back to playing as a team with three big games this week!!

- Coach Mac

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**Wednesday, February 18**

## **Spartans capture banner**

The Spartans ran their current winning streak to eight with a 4-2 win over archrival Alexander Galt. The win was the third in succession against the Lennoxville school and assured the girls the league title. Outstanding defenceman Brittany Sharman opened the scoring with an end-to-end rush, finishing with a deke to the backhand which gave Katie Booth no chance. It was the third time in four games that Sharman has scored the opening goal.

The Spartans continued their early domination and extended their lead when Taylor Cote, standing to the right of the Galt goal, batted an Eastlyn Bellamy offering out of mid-air. The Pipers responded on a power play in the eleventh minute when a shot deflected in off a Stanstead defender. Lindsay Smith was screened and had no chance on the play.



Galt came out strong to begin the final two frames and could have scored the equalizer but for the outstanding play of senior goaltender Lindsay Smith. Three minutes into the second period, Eastlyn Bellamy's long distance knuckleball hand-cuffed a surprised Galt keeper, and found its way into the top corner. The rest of the period was hotly contested with both sides creating excellent chances.

The early decision fell in the fourth minute of the final frame on the power play. Kim Theriault won a faceoff to Noemie Potvin, who then found an unmarked Brittany Sharman on the right point. Brittany moved to her left and blasted a low shot just inside the far post. Some careless play by the overconfident Spartans led to Galt's short-handed marker midway through the final period and added a measure of suspense to the game. Although they pressed furiously in the final minutes, the visitors could not solve Smith who made several key saves to preserve the victory and the banner.

As in the previous three encounters, the margin of victory was slim, with neither team giving an inch. The playoff final next week should be another great episode in this long-time rivalry. Congratulations to everyone on the hard-fought title!

- Coach Mac

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## Spartans dominate play

### **Pingree (8-0)**

The lady Spartans got off to a slow start with Lindsay Smith having to make some good saves against the visitors from the Boston area. However, once Kim Theriault broke the ice, the girls took over the game and created numerous scoring chances. Theriault, Brittany Sharman and Eastlyn Bellamy all finished with two goals and an assist to share the offensive spotlight. Noemie Potvin and Olivia Demerchant each had a goal and an assist, while Charlene McKinnon had two assists. The Spartans were able to score both on the power play and the penalty kill to continue their season-long domination on special teams.

### **Pingree (4-1)**

The visitors made a more determined effort on Sunday, holding the Spartans to a narrow 2-1 lead after two periods. Abby Vanluvender opened the scoring batting in the rebound of Olivia Demerchant's hard wrist shot. Pingree's response was almost immediate as they capitalized on a serious defensive breakdown in front of the Spartan net. The goal seemed to give the Boston girls some life and Lindsay Smith had to be sharp on several occasions. Although they dominated play, Stanstead had to work hard for the remaining three goals, two by Eastlyn Bellamy and the other by Olivia Demerchant, on the way to a well-deserved win.

### **BCS (11-0)**

The final meeting of the year against BCS went the way of the first three. The young and inexperienced Crusaders were no match for the fast-skating, skilled Spartans, who controlled the puck throughout the game rather than trying to score on every rush. Scoring was evenly distributed with Malda Alami, Noemie Potvin, Eastlyn Bellamy scoring twice with single goals going to Gabrielle Archer, Kayhla Violano, Kim Theriault, Olivia Demerchant and Michelle Baillargeon. Theriault also added four assists.

This week was an excellent opportunity to play the entire bench and the girls responded well, with everyone contributing to the three victories. These games extended the girls winning streak to seven games and their record to 20-12-5. The team seems to have found its stride at the right moment with league and provincial finals fast approaching!

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### **February 7-8**

## **Perfect weekend on the road**

### **Portsmouth Abbey (8-2)**

A long ride to Rhode Island contributed to a slow start for the Spartans, but that could not deter one of this year's most convincing wins. Brittany Sharman opened the scoring on an end-to-end rush in the first minute of the game. Notwithstanding their total domination, the girls left the ice tied 1-1 after 15 minutes. Kim Theriault restored the lead in the second, but Abbey responded to tie the game for a second time. However, their hope was short-lived as the Spartans scored six unanswered goals, including a natural hattrick by Eastlyn Bellamy, who also added a fourth goal. Kim Theriault scored her second goal of the contest in the third and Taylor Cote also scored and added three assists on Bellamy's goals.

The difference in the game was clearly the depth of the Stanstead team, which was able to roll three lines for most of the game. Lindsay Smith did not have a lot of work, but had to be sharp on several Abbey counter-attacks.

Special thanks go out to the Portsmouth school for the invitation to supper before the game. Both the food and the camaraderie were great.

### **Newton Country Day (5-2)**

The Saturday contest began much like the Friday game with Brittany Sharman going end-to-end to get the Spartans on the board. The first period proved to be one of the girls' best this season, as they hemmed the host side in their own zone with some very aggressive, disciplined forechecking. Before the end of the frame Kayhla Violano extended the lead on a nice pass from Taylor Cote. Newton got one back against the flow of the play, before Kim Theriault restored the two-goal lead on a clever passing play with Sharman and Demerchant. In the third period, Violano notched her second of the game from Bellamy and Nadeau. Eastlyn Bellamy put the game out of reach midway through the period on another three-way passing play, this time with Demerchant and Baillargeon. The home team rounded out the scoring late in the third period on a determined effort which split the Stanstead defence. As in the Portsmouth game, Lindsay Smith experienced long periods of inactivity, before suddenly being called on to make several good saves. She was particularly sharp at the beginning of the third, with the Spartans clinging to a 3-1 lead.

All things considered, this weekend was one of the finest this year. The girls played very intelligent hockey, spreading the ice and moving the puck. Many of the goals were the culmination of four or five quick passes. Always strong in the transition game, the Spartans also did a terrific job of creating back-door lanes and cycling the puck behind the opposition goal. As has often been the case this season, the penalty kill did not allow a goal, clogging the neutral zone and not allowing the opposition to gain the zone. With a month left in the season, the team seems to have found its stride and will be tough to beat the rest of the way!

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**Wednesday, February 4**

## **Is the Galt jinx really dead?**

### **Alexander Galt (3-1)**

As we entered the dressing room before the game, team captain Lindsay Smith said, "I don't have many fond memories from this rink." The smile at the corner of her mouth and the twinkle in her eyes made me believe that was then and this is now. Early on, it became obvious that she was intent on creating some better memories in what could be her last game in the BU rink. Although the Spartans appeared hesitant and unsure of themselves in the early going (what else is new), Eastlyn Bellamy got us on the board first on a hard high shot which gave Katie Booth little chance. As usual, her partner in

crime, Taylor Cote, did much of the hard work to set her up. However, Galt responded immediately, winning a puck behind the net and walking in front to score. No need to worry. This team likes to make their not-so-kind old coach suffer a little before playing their best. With these Spartans, the key in many games, including the last outing against Galt, is to stay close until they can hear the music and start to dance. In this game, the music came on, loud and clear in the second period and the Spartans began to boogie. With the girls in firm control, Taylor Cote grabbed a loose puck to the right of the goal and rammed a high hard one under the bar. Needless to say, Eastlyn Bellamy had a lot to do with the puck being loose at that particular moment.

With a one-goal lead, Lindsay Smith was not about to add to her repertoire of bad memories and slammed the door firmly shut with some excellent saves. Late in the third, Kim Theriault spread the icing on the cake with a truly “sick” move that left a Galt defenseman and their always reliable goaler sprawled on the ice while she deposited the cookie in the jar. No cookie for you!! Game over and some pleasant memories for Lindsay “cheddar” Smith!!

A win or a tie at home will give the girls the ETIAC banner for the first time in five years. Girls, it’s time to eradicate all those bad memories!! Next game let’s try a little harder to listen for the music!!

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**January 23-24**

## **Spartans bow in semi-final at Home Invitational**

### **Lower Canada College (6-0)**

The girls' opening game of the Stanstead Invitational began on a positive note with a 6-0 drubbing of LCC. The Spartans rolled their entire lineup in anticipation of a tough game against Winchendon later that evening. Kim Theriault with 3 goals and 2 assists and Brittany Sharman with a goal and 2 assists dominated the show offensively. Olivia Demerchant and Noemie Potvin scored the other goals, while Kayhla Violano had a pair of helpers. Lindsay Smith and Emily Norris combined for the shutout.

### **Winchendon (1-4)**

Getting behind early has been a real malaise for this year’s Spartans and this game was yet another example. Winchendon roared out of the gate, got the puck behind the Stanstead defence and exerted a furious forecheck which carried them to a 4-0 first-period lead. The first two goals came on rebounds of point shots, the result of poor deep coverage. As is often the case, the Spartans awoke from their slumber and began to compete in the last two periods. In the third, Eastlyn Bellamy took a pass from Brittany

Sharman, skated the length of the ice and fired a hard low shot between the pads of the opposing keeper. Unfortunately, it was far too little, far too late. Winchendon, who went on to win the tournament with relative ease, was clearly the better team on this day.

### **Lac St. Louis Selects (2-4)**

As in the previous game, Stanstead conceded the first goal. However, the response was quick in coming when Michelle Baillargeon took a pass from Eastlyn Bellamy in the slot and fired a quick wrist shot to the stick side. Lac St. Louis responded twice before Kim Theriault gave the Spartans renewed hope on a pass from Noemie Potvin. The visitors put the game away late in the third period. The Spartans never gave up, but quite obviously had nothing left in the tank. The absence of Taylor Cote, out with a concussion, was a significant factor in the disappointing finish.

Congratulations to Kim Theriault, Michelle Baillargeon and Brittany Sharman for their player-of-the-game awards. Kim was also named Stanstead's tournament all-star and I felt that Brittany Sharman was the tournament's top defenceman, although no such award was given.

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**Wednesday, January 21**

## **Spartans finally beat Galt**

### **Galt (2-1)**

It has been several years since the Stanstead girls have been able to best arch-rival Galt, including the first meeting of the season when they fell 3-0 in Lennoxville. The visitors opened the scoring in the first period on a breakaway, set up by a great vertical pass between two Spartan defenders. After the opening tally, Lindsay Smith and Katie Booth took over with great displays of goaltending, as both teams created excellent scoring chances. As the game progressed, one could sense that the Spartans were beginning to wear down the Pipers, whose best players had played almost without rest. The third period was played exclusively in the Galt zone, with Katie Booth making one spectacular save after another.

Undaunted by the heroics of Galt's keeper and with singular purpose, the girls continued to assault the visitors' goal. They simply were not going to be denied. Finally with two minutes remaining, Kim Theriault, who had played an outstanding game, solved Booth and tied the game from in close. Not content with a single point, the Spartans continued to press. With seconds remaining, Kim Theriault found Michelle Baillargeon at the point. Her shot along the ice somehow found its way through the crowd in front of the goal and

to the back of the net. With just 3.2 seconds showing on the clock, the drought had officially ended. It was time to drink from the chalice of victory! Congratulations!

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**January 16-18**

## **A busy up-and-down weekend**

### **BCS (10-0)**

Friday evening the Spartans travelled to BCS to play the very inexperienced league opponent. The game was decided quickly with five unanswered goals in the first period, after which the girls were content to control the puck. Gabrielle Archer, with a hat trick, led the attack. Other scorers were Megan Martin with two, Michelle Baillargeon, Kim Theriault, Eastlyn Bellemay, Kayhla Violano and Hailey Nadeau.

### **Northfield Mount Herman (1-1)**

Early Saturday morning, our girls headed south on the I-91, intent on avenging 1-0 loss to NMH in November. An ill-fated stop at the world's slowest Pizza Hut resulted in a very late arrival. Notwithstanding the fact that they had eaten just 40 minutes prior to the puck drop, the girls enjoyed a great start and dominated play through most of the first period. However, Northfield got on the board first on a knuckleball that went off Lindsay Smith's shoulder. The goal was clearly against the flow of play, but with the host goalkeeper in great form, it began to look like another 1-0 loss. Finally, in the third period, the girls were rewarded for their determined effort and domination when Brittany Sharman converted a pass from Kim Theriault. It was clearly not the best scoring chance of the period but beautiful nonetheless. Lindsay Smith turned in another solid game with several key saves to preserve the tie.

### **Winchendon (1-3)**

The host team came out flying and threatened to run away with the game early as they scored two first-period goals and dominated play with a very strong forecheck. The absence of super pest, Taylor Cote, who sat out with a suspected concussion, contributed to the poor start, especially since she wanted to play and coach Mac wasn't willing to risk further injury. The second period proved to be a much different story as the short-handed Spartans suddenly came to life and carried much of the play, creating numerous terrific scoring chances. When Eastlyn Bellamy stripped an unsuspecting defender of the puck and deposited it in the top corner after deking to the backhand, a positive result seemed very possible. The girls continued to create chances, particularly Eastlyn Bellamy, whom the visitors seemed incapable of stopping, but simply couldn't finish. Unfortunately, with five minutes remaining, Winchendon put the game out of reach on a hard shot from the

blueline. In fairness to our hosts, we have to admit that they had the better of the play in the hard-fought contest and deserved the win.

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**January 9-14**

## **Spartans struggle in the new year**

### **Kent 's Hill (1-3)**

A four-hour bus ride through the beautiful lakes region of Maine contributed to a slow start, which saw the home side score on each of the first two shifts. Their domination continued through the first 10 minutes of the game, after which the Spartans began to skate and move the puck. Their efforts were rewarded at the seven-minute mark of the middle frame when Brittany Sharman and Noemie Potvin combined on the power play to set up Olivia Demerchant in the slot. The goal seemed to energize the girls who carried the play throughout most of the remainder of the game. Unfortunately, they were unable to convert their many excellent scoring chances, particularly in the last minute with a sixth attacker on the ice. Ten seconds from time, Kent's Hill put the game away with an empty-netter.

### **Hebron (2-5)**

The Spartans enjoyed a much better start to their second game of the weekend but were not rewarded for their effort, and the home side opened the scoring in the sixth minute. The period was well-played and even until the final minute of the period when Hebron scored two goals in 11 seconds. A better second period resulted in a power play goal by Brittany Sharman on an end-to-end rush. She surprised the keeper with a quick shot through the wickets. Hebron put a dagger in the Spartans' comeback hopes, scoring on a counterattack with 15 seconds remaining in the period. It was all the more discouraging as the Stanstead girls had applied constant pressure and created several great scoring chances in the preceding minutes. Hebron defended their three-goal advantage until the last minute when the Spartans scored another power play goal. Michelle Baillargeon battled for position in front of the net and was able to bang in the rebound of Brittany Sharman's hard, low point shot. Ten seconds later, the hosts responded with their fifth goal. Interestingly, four of Hebron's five goals were scored in the last minute of the periods, perhaps due to the fatigue of playing the game with only two blocks the entire weekend.

### **Kimball Union (2-4)**

For the third consecutive game, the Spartans dug themselves a deep hole by conceding the first three goals. Notwithstanding the fact that five players were unable to make the trip due to exams and illness, the girls battled hard to claw their way back into the game. Midway through the second period, the girls' determined effort was rewarded when Kayhla Violano capitalized on a beautiful three-way passing play with Eastlyn Bellamy and Hailey Nadeau. Finding herself alone on the right boards, she fired a hard, low slapshot which found its mark. However, the hopes for a comeback were quickly dashed with the home side responding immediately to restore their three goal cushion. In the final period, Eastlyn Bellamy drew the Spartans within two when she converted a pass from Kim Theriault. Although the girls pressed throughout the final frame, this was the only goal that they could create and fell for the third time in a week. Turnovers and poor defensive coverage led to all four of KUA's markers.

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### **December 19-21**

## **Girls win Tilton Tourney... and Mr. Mac gets a new look**

The Stanstead Spartans rode the hot goaltending of Lindsay Smith and a solid defensive effort to their second tournament victory in 2008. Brittany Sharman, Michelle Baillargeon, Hailey Nadeau, Megan Martin and converted forward Kayhla Violano were rock-solid in front of Smith, winning countless one-on-one battles and killing off numerous penalties. The forwards also lent a helping hand with their tireless commitment to defence. The lone goal conceded during the three-game tournament came during a 3-on-5 power play against a very talented Kuper's Academy. Offensive stars were Eastlyn Bellamy (5 G and 1 A), rushing defenseman Brittany Sharman (2 G and 3 A), Kim Theriault (2 G and 1 A) and Noemie Potvin (3 A).

### **Berwick Academy (3-0)**

The girls came out very aggressively against Berwick, with Kim Theriault opening the scoring early on a nice three-way passing play with linemates Olivia Demerchant and Noemie Potvin. The Spartans continued to press during the first 20 minutes, adding two more goals, both by Eastlyn Bellamy on passes from Brittany Sharman and Abby Vanluvender, respectively. With goals against as the tie-breaker, the girls concentrated on limiting scoring chances the rest of the way, thereby preserving Smith's shutout.

### **Kuper's Academy (3-1)**

The Spartans were up early Saturday morning for an 8 a.m. game against a young but talented side from Kirkland, Quebec. With both teams having won their openers, this

game would decide who advanced to the championship game. Once again, Kim Theriault opened the scoring on passes from Sharman and Potvin. However, the Spartans' momentum was broken by penalties and Kuper's was able to tie the game on a two-man advantage. It was at this point that the dynamic duo of Eastlyn Bellamy and Taylor Cote took matters into their own hands, with Cote setting up Bellamy for the game winner, before banging in the insurance goal on a rebound of a Bellamy shot. Both sides had excellent scoring chances throughout the game, but neither was able to gain a clear advantage and the game hung in the balance until the final buzzer. Lindsay Smith proved to be the difference, making several great saves, particularly during the numerous penalty-killing situations.

### **Tilton School (4-0)**

A 4-2 loss in early December was fresh in the minds of the very determined Spartans as they took to the ice for the championship game against the host team. The Lady Rams came out strong, carrying the play in the early going. After weathering the early storm, the Spartans got their transition game going and created several excellent scoring chances, only to be thwarted by Tilton's talented goalkeeper. Smith was also on her game, playing brilliantly, particularly on two 5-on-3 situations. The game remained tied until a power play in the eighth minute of the final period, when Brittany Sharman set up Eastlyn Bellamy at the point. Bellamy's laser beat the Tilton keeper high on the stick side. As usual, Taylor Cote was battling for position in front of the Tilton goalkeeper and provided the screen. The game remained hotly contested until six minutes from time when Bellamy added her second goal of the game and fifth of the tournament. Brittany Sharman put the game out of reach with two goals in 24 seconds. The first was a well-designed power play with Hailey Nadeau passing the puck to Noemie Potvin, who then found Sharman moving into the slot. Sharman's top corner shot gave the Tilton keeper absolutely no chance. The second goal began with goaltender Lindsay Smith making a save and pushing the puck to Sharman who skated the length of the ice before snapping the puck into the top corner once again.

By shearing the Tilton Rams in the final, the girls also earned the right to shear Mr. Mac's moustache at the first assembly after break. The boys' team tried for 11 years, without success, to win its own tournament and the right to shave the moustache. After winning the TCS tournament, the girls asked for the right to play for the elusive moustache in the Tilton Tournament. Who would have thought that they could pull this off?? For the first time in 40 years, Mr. Mac's upper lip will again see the light of day! Congratulations, girls!

- Coach Mac

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## **Week 5 - Girls drops two**

### **Alexander Galt (0-3)**

After playing their best hockey of the season at TCS this past weekend, the Spartans came out flat against a well organized and very determined team from Galt. The Pipers stifled the Spartan attack with smothering defence, winning most of the one-on-one battles en route to a 3-0 victory. The game was even throughout, with the winning goal resulting from missed coverage on a defensive zone face-off. The final two goals should have been disallowed for flagrant crease violations which gave Lindsay Smith no chance to make the save. However, once again Galt displayed the aggressiveness that was totally absent from the Spartan game and they were rewarded for their grit.

It has been four long years of futility since the Stanstead girls last defeated Galt. During these years, the Pipers simply had better players, which is certainly not the case at the moment. I hope that everyone realizes that we were beaten simply because they wanted it more than us.

To be successful we have to learn the following:

*Hockey is a team sport*, which is why we have playing systems and assign players different positions. In every situation, every player has specific responsibilities. To win consistently, the whole must always be greater than the sum of the parts!

*Hockey is a very physical sport*, which is why we wear so much equipment. Every player must be willing to pay the price to win the puck, block shots, take hits and dominate in front of both goals. If you never get hurt, you are probably not trying hard enough!

Our best wishes go out to Galt's outstanding forward, Melissa MacIver, who was seriously injured in an accidental collision late in the game.

### **Tilton (2-4)**

Lapses in the defensive zone and unnecessary penalties continued to plague the Spartans in their most recent outing in Tilton. Despite demonstrating a clear territorial advantage and having more shots on goal, as well as the better scoring chances, the girls suffered their second loss in as many nights. On three of the four goals, we had control of the puck and could not exit the defensive zone. We also did not do a good job of clearing rebounds after Lindsay Smith had made the initial save. On the positive side, the girls spread the ice effectively and moved the puck very well, creating numerous chances. Unfortunately, poor shooting and two very hot Tilton keepers limited the Spartans to just two goals. The last three minutes were spent on the power play where we created more than enough chances to earn the tie. Stanstead goals were scored by Olivia Demerchant who banged in a rebound after a great individual effort by Kim Thériault and Brittany Sharman on a pass from Kayhla Violano. Brittany also had a great chance on the backhand late in the game

but was robbed on a sensational pad save. We now break for exams but are looking forward to the Tilton Tournament, December 19 and 20.

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**November 29-30**

## **Spartan girls win TCS Invitational Tournament**

### **Trinity College School (3-1)**

Not even a 6:30 departure, followed by a six-hour bus ride and half a season of "One Tree Hill" could slow down the high-flying Spartans who played some of their best hockey of the season in a win over the heavily favoured host school. Lindsay Smith was outstanding, allowing just a power play goal and making several key saves throughout the game. Although TCS created a lot of traffic in front of her goal, Lindsay invariably found a way to find the puck and did a great job of controlling her rebounds. With her family cheering her on, Eastlyn Bellamy proved to be the offensive hero with a pair of goals, both assisted by her dynamic linemate, Taylor Côté. Kim Thériault iced the game in the third period with a top corner blast from the left side.

### **Lakefield (12-0)**

In their second game of the tournament the Spartans put on a clinic, scoring early and often against an over-matched side from Lakefield. From start to finish, the girls entertained the fans with a display of precision passing and puck control, scoring many highlight reel goals. Once again, Eastlyn Bellamy was the offensive standout with 4 goals and 2 assists. Others with multiple point games were: Kim Thériault (2 G and 2 A), Olivia Demerchant (2 G and 1 A), Taylor Côté (1 G and 2 A), Noémie Potvin (1 G and 2 A), Kayhla Violano (1 G and 1 A) and 11-year-old phenom Megan Martin (1 G and 1 A).

### **St. John's Ravencourt (4-2)**

Having virtually assured themselves first place in the tournament, the Spartans may have underestimated the well-coached, very determined girls from Manitoba, who refused to quit even when down 2-0 and 3-1 to the talented Spartans. The absence of Brittany Sharman, who injured her shoulder in the first game and again against Lakefield, also contributed to the team's difficulties. In the end, special teams proved to be the difference as the girls scored a power play goal and a short-handed goal and killed off numerous penalties. As has often been the case this year, the dynamic duo of Taylor Côté and Eastlyn Bellamy provided the offensive punch, with each recording two goals and an assist. Côté drew special praise from the Eagles' coaching staff for her tireless effort and determination, as well as the ire of a very cantankerous referee who penalized her four times for her over-exuberance. Kayhla Violano did a terrific job filling in for Brittany



Sharman on defence. Both Michelle Baillargeon, who made a terrific pass on Bellamy's decisive short-handed goal, and Charlene McKinnon have made the transition from forward to defence look easy and are two of the main reasons why the Spartans have become so difficult to score on of late (only seven goals conceded in the last six games).

The Spartans' record now stands at 7 wins, 4 losses and 4 ties and they are riding a six-game undefeated string in which they have registered five wins and a tie.

Once again, Mr. Mac's moustache is up for grabs at the prestigious Tilton Tournament on December 19 and 20. The boys tried to win the big one for 11 years, but the pressure was too much! Could a group of girls addicted to "One Tree Hill" break the curse of the elusive moustache??? It's about as likely as Brook joining a convent, but I like their pluck!! Go for it girls!!

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**Friday, November 28**

## **Bishop's College School (10-0)**

The Stanstead girls dominated a very inexperienced league opponent and could have won by a much larger margin. As soon as the difference in talent became obvious, the Spartans concentrated on controlling the puck rather than trying to score goals. Seventh grader Julia Gilpin led the way with a hattrick. Other girls scoring for the first time this season were: Abigail Vanluvender, Hailey Nadeau, Gabrielle Archer, Olivia Demerchant and Meghan Martin. Eastlyn Bellamy had two goals and two assists, while Kim Thériault set up six of the ten goals. Seventh grade goaltender Emily Norris, earned the shutout and has yet to be scored on in five periods of hockey.

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## **Spartans Week 3**

**Holderness (0-3)**

After a very strong first period, the reality of a sixth road game in seven days showed its effects, and for the third time this season the girls were unable to find the back of the net. A well-organized Holderness team kept the Spartans off-balance with their aggressive forechecking and was able to capitalize on coverage mistakes in our defensive zone. The girls fought hard to the very end, hitting a goal post late in the game. Down 2-0 with a little over a minute remaining, goaler Lindsay Smith was removed for a sixth attacker. After missing an excellent opportunity to draw within one, Holderness gained control of the puck and iced the game with an empty-netter. My congratulations go out to the team, which had been soundly thrashed in Holderness last season, for showing that they can now play at this level. We are looking forward to our return match in February.

### **Kimball Union (2-2)**

With many fans looking on, the Spartans were determined to put on a good show for Stanstead College's Parents' Day. The additional pressure of a big crowd contributed to some sloppy play early in the game. After the slow start, defenseman Brittany Sharmann combined with Kim Thériault and Olivia Demerchant to net her team-leading fifth goal of the season. Shortly thereafter, a miscommunication on a penalty kill left a KUA forward alone in front of our goal and the power play tally that knotted the game at one. The lead was restored on a third-period power play when Kayhla Violano made a great back door pass to Eastlyn Bellamy who shot the puck on net where the opportunistic Taylor Côté banged in the rebound. Unfortunately, the joy was short-lived as some lax play in the defensive zone led to the equalizer. Both teams battled hard and the result seems fair, with KUA holding the advantage early and Stanstead clearly in control at the end.

### **Vermont Selects (4-2)**

As was the case against KUA, the Spartans started the game slowly, falling behind 2-0 to a fast-skating, skilled Vermont side that totally dominated the early going. However, the usual strong play of goaltender Lindsay Smith bought the Spartans the time they needed to find their game. Midway through the second frame, Taylor Côté converted a beautiful three-way passing play with Kim Thériault and Michelle Baillargeon, firing a shot from the slot just inside the post on the stick side. The goal seemed to revitalize the girls who played their finest hockey of the year in the third period. Kim Thériault narrowly missed tying the match when she undressed three Vermont defenders before ringing a shot off the post. On the same shift, Côté scored her second of the game, battling for position in front of the Vermont goal and bashing in a rebound. Once again, Kim Thériault was credited with an assist. A great pass to Kayhla Violano in the slot, after some determined play behind the Vermont goal by Olivia Demerchant and Abby Vanlucender, produced the game-winner. Late in the game, Taylor Côté completed her hattrick with an end to

end rush on a penalty kill. After beating a defenseman and shooting the puck on net, Taylor dove head-first for the rebound, scoring the most spectacular goal of the season.

### **Upcoming games**

The Spartans play their first league game against BCS on Friday, before travelling to Port Hope, Ontario to face Trinity College School, Lakefield, and St. John's Ravencourt in a weekend tournament. Our road warriors will be up at the crack of dawn to make the six hour ride for the 2 p.m. start time. This will involve way too many episodes of "One Tree Hill" for coach Mac, who may counter with an hour of Italian rock star, Zucchero or possibly Andrea Boccelli.

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**November 13-16**

## **Spartans Connecticut/Massachusetts trip**

### **Northern Lights (0-1)**

After a five-hour bus ride the Spartans faced a team that included Renata Mastna, a Czech National Team member who attended our Stanstead summer camp. The girls showed the effects of the trip with a sub-par first period but gradually took over the game and really dominated the last two periods. Despite a clear edge in shots on goal and scoring chances, we were stymied by some excellent goaltending. Their winning goal, a shot from the point, must have had eyes, as it passed through a crowd of players in front of our goal to find the top corner on the short side.

### **Guilford (4-0)**

In the second game of our 5-in-5 weekend, the Spartans totally dominated a good Connecticut high school team. Former Polar Bear Kayhla Violano gave her family something to cheer about with a pair of goals. Eastlyn Bellamy and Olivia Demerchant also had two-point evenings, with a goal and an assist and two assists respectively. Taylor Côté scored the other goal. This game marked the debut of 12-year-old Emily Norris, who played the final two periods and had to make a couple of good saves to preserve the shutout.

### **Polar Bears U-19 (3-4)**

Game three of the weekend was preceded by an early morning wake-up and a trip to New York City. Neither rain nor a forecast of thunder storms later in the day could dampen the girls' enthusiasm for their true passion, *shopping*. Everyone did what they could to bolster the sagging U.S. economy. The five-hour round trip and three hours of walking

contributed to a slow start. The girls fought back from 2-0 and 3-1 deficits to tie the game on Sara O'Connor's first goal of the year, a hard wrist shot from the slot. Unfortunately, we were victimized by some loose play in the defensive zone and the Polar Bears were able to score the deciding goal late in the game. Once again, senior goaler Lindsay Smith kept us in the game early while we were trying to find our legs. Kim Theriault and Taylor Côté scored the other goals in a very even game that could have gone either way. Eleven-year-old Megan Martin picked up her third assist of the season and continued to amaze her teammates with her solid play.

### **Polar Bears Prep School Team (4-3)**

After a well-needed sleep-in, the girls played their best hockey of the weekend against a very well-balanced and skilled Polar Bear side. The game looked to be over after Brittany Sharmnn combined with Kayhla Violano on a beautiful give-and-go on the power play. It was Brittany's second of the game and gave us a 3-0 lead. Unfortunately, the scrappy Bears had other ideas, scoring three third-period goals in under two minutes to knot the affair at three all. However, the never-say-die Spartans righted the ship and Taylor Côté converted a beautiful pass from Eastlyn Bellamy on a two-on-one rush with under a minute remaining. The top corner shot left the Polar Bear goaler absolutely no chance. Côté also earned assists on goals by Sharman and Theriault.

The perfect day was completed when Cesar and Shirley, Kayhla Violano's grandparents, hosted the girls for some of Shirley's renowned Italian pasta and lemon chicken. The fabulous feast was followed by the singing and dancing of the Stanstead hockey girls. Our sincerest thanks go out to Cesar and Shirley, two of the most extraordinary people that I have ever met. When you are at their home, you can really feel the love!!

### **Northfield Mount Hermann (0-1)**

Another attempt to bail out American retailers, this time at the Holyoke Mall in Massachusetts, preceded our first game of the year against a Division I prep school. Note to self: four hours of walking around a mall is not a good game warm-up! The game began much like the loss following the New York adventure, with Northfield applying a strong fore-check and hemming us in our own end. Once again, it was Lindsay Smith to the rescue, giving us time to find our game. As the game progressed our scoring chances multiplied and their goalers made some truly miraculous saves, particularly off an Eastlyn Bellamy shot that was headed for the top corner after a great Taylor Côté pass on a two-on-one break. The girls also had some bad luck, hitting three goal posts. Like our opening loss, we simply could not convert our numerous scoring chances.

I hope that everyone had fun. I know that I did. I am looking forward to seeing some of the pictures, although probably not all. Special thanks to Mr. Ross, Mrs. Baillargeon and the Violano family. I would also like to thank the families that hosted our out-of-towners on Tuesday.

-Coach McNamara

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**November 1 -2**

## **Spartan girls tie openers**

### **BU vs Stanstead, 5-5 (2-0, 2-1, 1-4)**

In our first game of the season, the girls measured themselves against a much older and more experienced club team from Bishop's University. With only five practices in their legs, the girls played extremely well for 35 minutes, opening a 5-2 lead early in the third period. At this point, fatigue seemed to take over and Bishop's was able to mount a furious comeback and tie the game. They applied a very aggressive forecheck and won the battle in front of our goal, where senior goaler Lindsay Smith was bumped and jostled several times during the final frame.

Offensive stars were newcomers, Eastlyn Bellamy from Sauble Beach, Ontario, with a hat trick on some great individual efforts, and rushing defenceman, Brittany Sharman, with two goals, one of which was a spectacular short-handed end-to-end rush.

### **Vermont Selects vs. Stanstead, 2-2 (0-1, 2-0, 0-1)**

Less than 24 hours after the season opener, the Spartans hosted a talented group of players from various Vermont high schools. The first period was controlled by the visitors who had a clear advantage in scoring chances, but could only manage a single goal due to the outstanding goaltending of Lindsay Smith. However, our girls dominated the second period, earning a 2-1 lead on goals by Connecticut's Kayhla Violano, who also had an assist, and local product Noemie Potvin. Both goals were rebounds off terrific plays by Kim Theriault, who played a great game in both ends of the rink.

Notwithstanding some great scoring chances, the girls couldn't score the insurance goal and paid the price on a third period power play goal by the visitors. Lindsay Smith preserved the tie in the dying seconds with an excellent save of a partial breakaway and was, as always, very solid throughout the game.

All in all, this was a very positive start to the season. The coming week will see us work on defensive zone coverage, as well as forechecking and power play. I expect us to improve significantly from week to week as we install more of our playing system and increase the speed of our play. We are all looking forward to our Connecticut break, when we play six games in six days, as a good bonding opportunity.

Great effort, girls.

- Coaches McNamara & Ross

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