



ABOVE - Reid Innes, one of the founders of the basketball fundraiser Hoopin' Around the Clock, held on the weekend in Kingsville.

LEFT - Members of the Kingsville Kings hockey team offered a little youth and athleticism to the Town of Kingsville's team in the Hoopin' Around the Clock fundraiser, but it wasn't quite enough to defeat a young team captained by Brandon Taggart. (Southpoint Sun Photos)

## Hoopin' Around the Clock Fundraiser attracts 65 teams

By Pat Bailey

By 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, Reid Innes was looking a little bleary-eyed, but that was to be expected.

Innes, one of the founders of the basketball fundraiser Hoopin' Around the Clock had a good reason for his sleep deprivation — he was busy helping co-ordinate basketball games for 65 teams, featuring about 800 players in Kingsville and Windsor.

For Innes, this was the fourth year for the fundraiser that grew out of his love for basketball.

"It was kind of selfish," laughed Innes. "I wanted to find a way to give back, while doing something I love."

He said the fundraiser got him back in the gym and on the court.

The fundraiser had done a whole lot more than just keep Innes in player form. In its initial three years, Innes said the charity 'tournament' raised \$66,500 for local charities.

Innes said the event is a total team effort. He said he has an amazing group behind him helping make sure

the games go smoothly.

While some games proved to be highly competitive, Innes said there was virtually every level of player on the court over the weekend, from the ones who had never touched a basketball to those who played at a competitive level.

Innes said they did their best to match teams with teams of equal skill, but admitted to a few blowouts over the years.

The event began about 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25 and went well past its 24-hour timeline, with games running until about 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26.

Innes said some businesses and organizations offered up more than one team to allow them to challenge each other and earn office bragging rights.

For the town of Kingsville, Mayor Nelson Santos took to the floor against a group of Kingsville and Leamington players who had been playing pickup ball at the Kinsmen Recreation Complex since they were youngsters.

While the town failed to keep pace with the young legs of their opponents, San-

tos said they scored the most points they ever had, losing 62-49 to the team captained by Brandon Taggart.

"The team played well," said Santos following the game, "we kept pace." But he admitted it was the youthful athleticism of about five members of the Kingsville Kings hockey club that helped keep them in the game.

While it certainly helped out his team, Santos said it also gave the young hockey players a chance to get involved and support the community that supports the Kings.

But it was the 'not so young' legs of Kings general manager and municipality of Leamington employee Andy Dowling who had the hot hand on the court.

Santos said Dowling led all scorers on the town team.

The proceeds of this year's fundraiser will be split between the Neighbourhood Charitable Alliance, the Windsor Cancer Centre (Patient Assistance), the St. Clair College Student Athletics Scholarships program, Windsor Pinoy Athletics and The Bridge Youth Resource Centre.