

# NHL, college coaches at free seminar

Whitchurch-Stouffville minor hockey coaches are invited to a free coaching seminar at the Angus Glen Community Centre in Unionville Sept. 17.

The guest speakers will include Dave Smith, head men's coach at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., and Jay Woodcroft, an assistant coach with the San Jose Sharks who played for the Markham Waxers Jr. A club in 1995-96.

Smith will speak on the topic "Connecting Systems" and Woodcroft on "Coaching to Win".

Those in attendance are eligible to receive CEP points towards the renewal of their coaching certification.

For further information and to book your spot for the event, contact Mike Gouglas, Markham Waxers minor hockey association director of hockey development and coach mentorship, at 416-453-2066 or e-mail him at: mgouglas@waxers.com

# Netminding Spirit's biggest question as opener looms

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
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For the Stouffville Spirit, the fact-finding mission is over.

Starting tomorrow it's time to see if the Spirit have conjured up the proper ingredients during training camp and the pre-season to defend their Ontario Junior Hockey League title when they begin their regular season against the Kingston Voyageurs at the Stouffville Arena at 2:30 p.m.

With several veterans from last season's championship club lost to graduation, the Spirit hopes it has found able replacements to fill the void.

Jeff Perrin, Spirit first-year head coach, thinks they have.

"We got done what we wanted during the preseason and I think we've made the right decisions for the most part," said Perrin, who served as an assistant coach with the Spirit last season. "Now it's time to get the guys playing the best they can play."

Despite entering Sunday's opener after losing their last five preseason tilts, which included a 6-2 setback against the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots at the Stouffville Arena Thursday,

Perrin said the regular season represents a new chapter.

"From the practices and pre-season games that we had, the guys are slowly getting used to doing the things that need to be done."

"The next two to three weeks, they've got to really get things right and not make the same mistakes over and over. Hopefully things will work themselves out."

**KINGSTON HERE TOMORROW**

Perrin thinks the strength of this year's team is along the blueline where he has three veterans back in Matt Heffernan, Robert Powers and Sean Power. This cast could be bolstered if Josh Chapman returns from the Sarnia Sting's camp.

Perrin has been impressed with the group of rookies they signed, including Nathaniel Halbert, who served as a call-up last year, Whitchurch-Stouffville residents Josh Carrick and Matt Dunlop and Brett Sharples, a 15th round draft pick of the Kingston Frontenacs from the Barrie Colts minor midgets in the 2011 OHL priority selection.

"The young guys we signed have all played well," Perrin said. "As a group they should be solid."

Up front, the Spirit have four

returnees, so far, in team captain Thomas Tsicos, assistant captain Alex Botten, Dylan Savory and Brandon Gaudette.

A possible fifth veteran, Stouffville resident Mike Robinson, is at the Niagara IceDogs OHL camp.

New to this year's cast of forwards are: Stefan vonEngelbrechten, Mac Ward, Chad Burrows, Justin Wain, Taylor Joseph, Joseph Deveny, Brandon Pantaleo, Mike Morgan, Cory DeRose and Jacob Bauchman, a 20-year-old who played last season with the Georgetown Raiders.

"There's plenty of speed and skill," Perrin said of the forwards. "The one thing we're not doing though is finishing. Hopefully, it's just a little collective slump."

The biggest dilemma facing the Spirit is in goal. Especially if incumbent Knick Dawe, 19, does not return from the Sarnia Sting.

"We don't know what Knick is doing yet," Perrin said yesterday. "If he's not back for a while we've got to figure things out."

Rookie GianLuca Palmieri will get the start tomorrow if Dawe's not back. Palmieri played half of Thursday's preseason finale and stopped 12 of 15 shots.

The goaltending picture became

a little clearer when the Spirit released Brendon Tidman.

The North Division also includes the Newmarket Hurricanes, Aurora Tigers, Lindsay Muskies and Pickering Panthers.

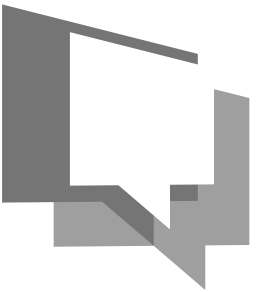
The Spirit will also play regular season games against entries from the East Division including the Voyageurs, Whitby Fury, Trenton Golden Hawks, Wellington Dukes and Cobourg Cougars.

**PAIR AT SARNIA STING CAMP**

"Sure, there might be a bit of added pressure since we won the title last year," Perrin said. "But you've got to be realistic in that you're almost starting all over. You want to get back to where you were but you've got to realize it'll take a bit of time to get there with all of the new faces that we have."

"But that's the challenge and excitement about being in this game, to get the team back from where you came from."

On a separate note, the Spirit made a couple of transactions during the preseason in sending forward Vince Cerone to the Oakville Blades for cash and Leonard Dziemienko to the St. Michael's Buzzers for cash.



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