

# Rangers' Sterk likes life in the middle

By **JOSH BROWN**  
Kitchener Waterloo Record

Josh Sterk bounces a puck off his hockey stick as he skates toward the goal during practice.

The 16-year-old Kitchener Rangers' rookie smiles as the black disc dances along the blade before letting it fall to the ground and firing it in the goal at the Aud.

There's something different about the Georgetown native of late. He seems like a new person ever since he was moved off the wing to his natural position at centre three games back.

"I feel much more fluid," he said. "I feel like a different player."

The Rangers are undefeated in the trio of games with Sterk centring the third line between Brandon Francisco and Zach Lorentz. He's scored a goal and added an assist and is plus-two over that span. By contrast, Sterk had just two points over his opening 13 games as a winger.

"You can see that he's a much better centre than a wing," said Kitchener head coach and general manager Steve Spott, who selected Sterk in the fifth round of this year's Ontario Hockey League draft.

"We feel he has the talent to become a lead centreman and a very gifted player in this league."

But it's small steps with the rookies. Sterk is get-

ting the Jeff Skinner treatment. The former Rangers' star, now with the Carolina Hurricanes, followed a similar path when he joined Kitchener.

"We started Skinner on left wing to allow him to become more comfortable in the league, take some responsibility away from him and then moved him to the middle," said Spott.

Sterk was eying scholarship rides to Bemidji State and Penn State before being selected by the Rangers. Changing course was easy for the Steve Yzerman fan.

"It was a no-brainer for me," he said. "It is such a great organization."

Adjusting to the league has been challenging.

"The first couple games were tough," said Sterk, who starting playing hockey when he was four years old. "The speed and strength were a lot different. Now I have a feel for it. I'm having more fun."

But more change may be coming. Such is life in the OHL.

Concussed captain Michael Catenacci is on the mend and inching closer to a return. He'll reclaim his spot as the team's top centre and that will create a bumping effect.

Sterk may have to haul back to wing. But that's just fine for the son of a truck company owner. The 5-foot-10, 150-pounder is just happy to be here.

"I just want to play," he said.



**JOSH STERK**

# McKenzie recognized

Continued from pg. 32

Camp during the off-season, receiving some interest from a couple of teams for 2012.

The Golden Hawks were eliminated with a 14-10 loss to the Queen's Golden Gaels in the OUA quarterfinals.

Local resident Elliott Montag, a Christ the King graduate in his third year with McMaster University, also earned OUA Second Team All-Star honours last week. He's the starting centre for the Marauders, who'll be in Moncton to play in the Uteck Bowl against the Acadia Axemen Friday evening, with the winner moving on to play in the Vanier Cup national championship game in Vancouver on Nov. 25.

•••

Accolades were also forthcoming for a couple of GDHS products on athletic scholarships south of the border.

Middle blocker Lindsay McCabe of Syracuse University's varsity women's volleyball team was named to the weekly Big East conference honour roll for her efforts in victories over DePaul and Notre Dame. The 19-year-old sophomore had 11 successful spikes against DePaul and then matched her career high with 17 kills versus the Fighting Irish.

A biology major, McCabe will lead the Orange into this weekend's Big East tournament at Marquette University in Milwaukee as the fourth seed.

Meanwhile, freshman midfielder Justine Rodrigues was chosen for the NCAA Division II Daktronics All-Atlantic Region second team in women's soccer after scoring five goals and adding five assists for Gannon University this fall.

The marketing major had three match-winning goals for the Gannon Golden Bears, who were eliminated in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference quarterfinals, while also serving as captain for Guyana's under-20 women's squad in recent World Cup qualifying.

**MORE SPORTS PAGE 36**

## SANTA TO A SENIOR

For the 7th year, Royal LePage Meadowntowne Realty, invites you to join us in making this Christmas a very special one for the Seniors in the Georgetown & Acton area who are least likely to receive a present during the holiday season.



Please call our office at  
905-877-8262  
to ask how you can  
HELP us by being a  
SANTA TO A SENIOR!



Want to...

## Win with WagJag!

If You Do... we'll give  
**YOU \$5** to get started



...and enter to  
**WIN A STAGE WEST PACKAGE!**

- Accommodation for two for an overnight stay at the Hotel!
- Dinner for two with a SHOW!
- Breakfast for two!



GET YOUR BUSINESS WAG-JAGGING!  
Call us at 905•873•0301

Sign up at [www.WagJag.com](http://www.WagJag.com)  
at WagJag.com  
you'll find AMAZING local deals on:

- Events • restaurants • fashion finds
- activities • adventures • and more

**LOOK FOR OUR WagJag TENT...**



... outside our office in the MALL.  
Come see us to enter and WIN!

280 Guelph Street, (Georgetown Market Place)

## ROBIN BANNON, RMT

cell:

**416-710-4852**

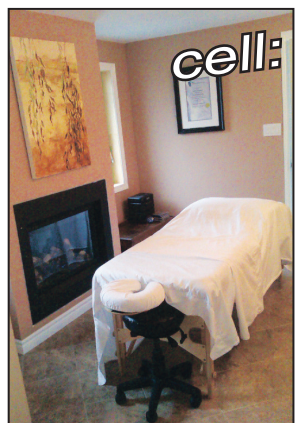
*New Location!*

Come & experience my new spa inspired studio & enjoy your next massage in a warm, tranquil environment next to a cozy fireplace.

**Gift Certificates Available**

**Book NOW - 2011 coverage ends soon!**

- Ease Back, Neck, Shoulder Pain
- Pregnancy Massage
- Carpel Tunnel
- Tennis Elbow
- Girl's Night Out - In Home Parties



New

**31 Irwin Cres., Georgetown**  
By appointment only



Brought to you by  
Your Community Newspaper  
**THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS**

Serving Acton, Georgetown and surrounding areas

**WagJag**

Buy together and we all win!