

# Barrie Colts pleased to corral Sgarbossa in 3rd round

*GM surprised productive  
'Canes centre lasted that long*

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

An absolute steal. That's how Scott Melee described Michael Sgarbossa's third-round acquisition in Saturday's OHL Priority Selection. While being drafted 54th overall — to the Barrie Colts — was hardly a disappointment, the minor midget Hurricanes head coach had banked on his offensive cornerstone being taken significantly higher.

"My reports were that Michael should go from 19th to 30th overall. I was surprised he lasted as long as he did," said Melee.

Sharing those sentiments was Colts general manager Gregg Carrigan, who'd expressed interest in Sgarbossa throughout the 2007/08 season but expected him to be gone

by the time their third-round pick rolled around.

"We figured we'd have to step up in the second round if we wanted him, but the guy we took second plays a different role," noted Carrigan, whom Milton's longtime junior hockey fans will remember as the architect of the Merchants' championship success during the late '90s. "We were pleasantly surprised to get him when we did. He's a character player who really impressed us in his interview."

Despite missing six weeks early in the season with a broken wrist and then having to wear a protective brace for another month or so upon his return, the 15-year-old centre led the Hurricanes with 53 goals and 51 assists in 61 games.

As if breaking the 100-point plateau wasn't impressive enough, the assistant captain — and only Milton-area player taken in this year's draft — proved himself to be a big-game performer.



Michael Sgarbossa

He stood out in a number of tournaments and capped a stellar season with three goals and a pair of helpers in four games at this spring's OHL Cup.

"We finished the season having played 14 games in 16 days, and for Michael to have produced like that at the end of such a hectic run is a real testament to his competitiveness," Melee said. "He's a winner and showed up in every big game for us. Along with his big numbers, he's very dedicated to his defensive responsibilities. He'll thrive under (Barrie head coach) Marty Williamson."

Added Carrigan, "I saw him in the OMHAs and OHL Cup and he really played well in those big games. Along with being a skilled offensive player and always seeming to know where his teammates are out there, he's just a great competitor."

Barrie's GM was no doubt encouraged by his third-round pick's track record of team success. Along with leading this past season's Hurricanes to a remarkable 57-11-7 record, Sgarbossa now has six OMHA medals under his belt, including the bronze secured in March.

"Whenever you've got two guys who are close in skill, you always want the one who knows how to win," remarked Carrigan.

One of six Hurricanes drafted Saturday, the five-foot-10-inch, 160-pound forward seemed quite pleased to be taken by the Colts.

"I'm pretty happy. They're (Colts) a good young team," he said.

With most of Barrie's forwards due back next season, Sgarbossa will be hard-pressed to crack the lineup right away — although Carrigan likes his confidence and feels he could be one of the wildcards at this fall's camp.

"I can see him really challenging some guys."

# Strong national debut for young blackbelt

*Wisniewski takes bronze  
in sparring in Calgary*

Daniel Wisniewski certainly didn't take a 'just-happy-to-be-here' approach to his recent national debut in Calgary.

As JSC Taekwon-Do Club's first representative at the Canadian Junior Championship, the 12-year-old Miltonian showed strongly among the preteen division in both poomsae (forms) and sparring.



Daniel Wisniewski

Efforts in the latter event earned the young blackbelt his first national medal, with a two-match split giving him the bronze among a highly-competitive field of seven combatants.

While not quite accustomed to administering or absorbing head shots — an area he hadn't really focused on before — Wisniewski kicked things off with a rather decisive three-round victory over a B.C. opponent.

"I did pretty well. He didn't score any points in the last round," recalled the JSC student, who's been studying taekwon-do for about five years now.

From there the local youth was upstaged in a hard-fought match with a fellow Ontario competitor.

Making the trip out west, club student/assistant instructor Carrie Cater said she was thoroughly pleased with Wisniewski's performance — especially given the circumstances.

"I was going to be Daniel's coach,

but when we got there they wanted an insane instructor's fee, so another Ontario master took him on and I ended up watching from the stands," said Cater, who heads to B.C. later this month for the national team trials — which holds a berth to international competition this summer. "He was a little afraid at first but did really great. He showed a lot of poise and concentration."

Those attributes no doubt served him well during poomsae competition, where despite not medaling the Guardian Angels seventh grader delivered one of his best-ever efforts among

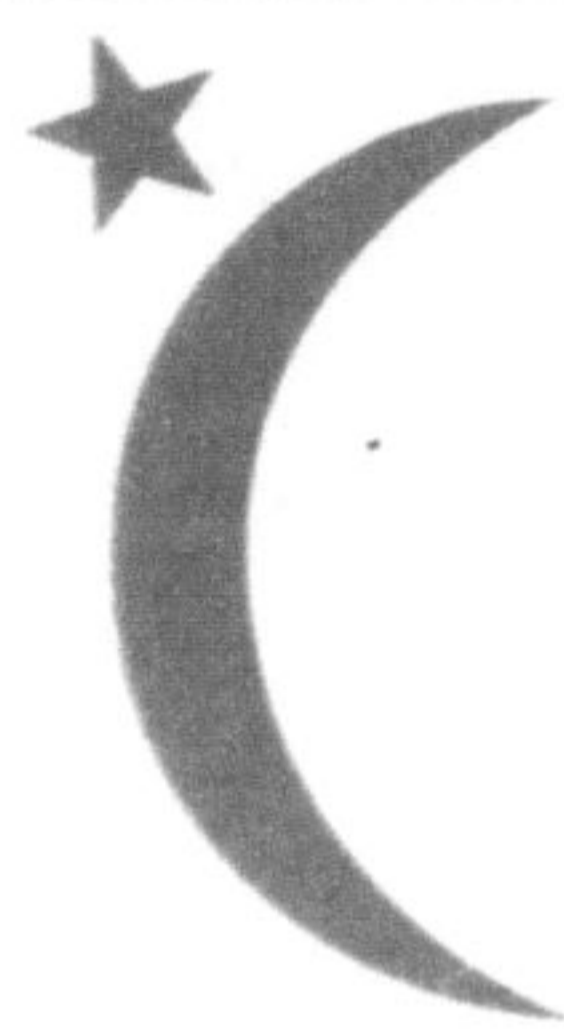
a group of nearly two dozen.

"His technique and timing between moves has really improved, and you could see that out there," said Cater.

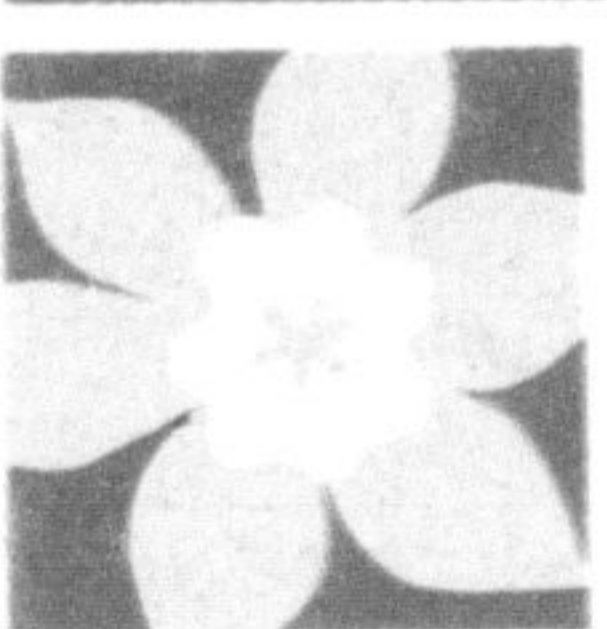
Added Wisniewski, "I was happy with how I did."

While organizers made a late decision to pull his age group — believing it to be a little too young for national competition — fellow JSC member Austin Edison also made the trip to Calgary as a learning experience.

Like Wisniewski, the nine-year-old medaled in both poomsae and sparring at this spring's provincial championships.



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Teams are still being accepted for the third annual Aidan Teague/Mac Kids Charity Softball Classic, held at local diamonds from May 30 to June 1.

The tournament will include both co-ed and men's teams — as well as a homerun challenge and silent auction — and proceeds will go to the neo-natal intensive care unit at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton.

To sign up a team or make a donation, e-mail teeger@sympatico.ca or visit [www.aidanteague.com](http://www.aidanteague.com).

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