

Werek hopes to bring some Spirit to the rec centre

The hapless plight of the Toronto Argos hasn't gone unnoticed by Zeev Werek.

The rookie co-owner of the Spirit of Stouffville recently suffered through another dismal performance by this year's Canadian Football League pat-sies.

The Goodwood resident who purchased the Spirit along with Richmond Hill's Larry Goldberg midway through last season, was part of a SkyDome crowd announced at 10,000, but which was less than half that in reality.

Werek is well aware of how tough it was for the Spirit to draw good crowds on a consistent basis through their first five seasons in the league until the team's Cinderella run in the playoffs late last winter.

It was standing room only in the rec centre when the Spirit swept the Aurora Tigers in round one, then managed the unthinkable by ousting the mighty Newmarket Hurricanes in a six-game set.

Werek and Goldberg are determined to make the rec centre the place to be on Thursday nights this Provincial Junior A Hockey League season.

"We believe Stouffville is a hockey town," said Werek. "But



Bruce Stapley

the town wants a team that is respectable," he added.

Werek encountered numerous area residents during the off-season and all were singing the same tune.

"We had so many outstanding comments from people who said they had run into their neighbours, their friends or their teaches at those playoff games and that it was so much fun."

The bottom line, he said, is that the Spirit's coming of age served to bring Stouffville together in the same way junior and senior hockey teams once did.

The winning was great, he said, but the most important thing was seeing the community come out and support them.

Spirit general manager Dieter Schmidt knows what it's like to

be part of a junior hockey club that has the community on its side. In his years with the Hurricanes organization, he watched as Newmarket area residents packed the Ray Twinney Centre to watch the perennially successful home squad. He hopes last season's playoff crowds were a sign of things to come. He also expects Werek and Goldberg to take a proactive approach to luring the crowds.

"Just like in Newmarket, the big thing is promotion. You have to do whatever you can to make sure the name Spirit of Stouffville is in the forefront."

Schmidt feels the team has become more community involved. More players are coming to play from neighbouring towns like Richmond Hill while players from further away are living in town with billets and attending school here. That means the players can come to Stouffville more easily for community events.

The Spirit will be hoping for a hint of the kind of support they can expect this season when they take to the ice tonight for their first of two pre-season games against the Vaughan Vipers. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the rec centre.



Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association

P.O. Box 976, Stouffville, Ontario, L4A 8A1

SELECT 2000-2001 TRY-OUTS

COST: \$7.00/hr.

TEAM	DATE	DATE	DATE
MITE Bruce Averill 640-8921	Wed. Sept. 6th 6:55 pm Pad B	Sun. Sept. 10th 7:00 pm Pad A	Mon. Sept. 11th 4:55 pm Pad B
TYKE John Trempe 642-6298	Wed. Sept. 6th 5:55 pm Pad B	Sun. Sept. 10th 1:55 pm Pad B	Mon. Sept. 11th 5:55 pm Pad B
NOVICE Brian Harley 642-4871	Wed. Sept. 6th 7:00 pm Pad A	Sun. Sept. 10th 5:55 pm Pad B	Mon. Sept. 11th 6:55 pm Pad B
MINOR ATOM For information 642-2795	Wed. Sept. 6th 6:00 pm Pad A	Thurs. Sept. 7th 6:00 pm Pad A	Sun. Sept. 10th 3:00 pm Pad A
ATOM Ken Paterson 642-1387	Wed. Sept. 6th 7:55 pm Pad B	Sun. Sept. 10th 12:55 pm Pad B	Wed. Sept. 13th 7:00 pm Pad A
MINOR PEEWEE Steve Schell 640-6920	Thurs. Sept. 7th 6:00 pm Pad A	Sun. Sept. 10th 3:55 pm Pad A	Wed. Sept. 13th 7:55 pm Pad B
MINOR BANTAM Ron Schell 640-4822	Wed. Sept. 6th 8:55 pm Pad B	Sun. Sept. 10th 4:00 pm Pad A	Wed. Sept. 13th 8:00 pm Pad A
MIDGET Bob Davis 640-3587	Tues. Sept. 5th 10:00 pm Pad A	Sun. Sept. 10th 4:55 pm Pad B	Tues. Sept. 12th 10:00 pm Pad A

Final Registration: Aug 31st at 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

• Sept. 6th ~ 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED BEFORE TRYING-OUT

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