

Interest growing for upcoming Czech game

Czech Republic all-stars to play Spirit juniors at Rec Complex on Jan. 2

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Ticket sales are brisk for an international hockey game being played on Tuesday in Stouffville.

The first-place Stouffville Spirit junior A hockey team will play the touring Czech Republic all-stars on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Complex.

"The interest from the community has been great," said Spirit co-president Vic Wilson. "People are obviously keen to see international hockey."

The game is being sponsored by KIA of Agincourt and Brimell

Toyota.

The Czech team kicked off a 13-day Ontario tour of junior A, B and C centres with a 5-3 loss to the Newmarket Hurricanes on Boxing Day in Newmarket.

The Czech team is comprised mainly of players from the Havirov club, which finished fifth in the Czech elite division last season.

The team is led by hot prospect Martin Beck, a left winger on the national under-19 team.

The 26-7-2-2 Spirit is tied for first place in the North Conference of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League with Newmarket.

"So much is made of how European hockey is taking over," said Spirit head coach Brian Perrin. "This is a chance for our guys to see for themselves — and see if we can beat them."

Tickets are \$10 and on sale at Boyd's Source For Sports and the Rec Complex.

The Czechs played in Norwich



GEORGE ELIOPOULOS: Stopped 28 shots for undermanned Spirit in 3-2 win over Collingwood Blues

last night. They're in Timmins tomorrow and Iroquois Falls on Saturday.

Other stops on the tour are Streetsville, Chatham and Bramalea.

SPIRIT TO SHOWCASE TALENT

The Spirit start its break from its regular schedule today at the Newmarket Showcase Tournament. The Spirit plays the Sault Ste. Marie Thunderbirds at 11:15 a.m. and the Toronto St. Michael's Buzzers at 6 p.m.

Both games will be played at the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket.

The Spirit plays the Burlington Cougars tomorrow at 11:15 a.m. at the Sharon arena. Playoffs in the 28-team tourney begin tomorrow afternoon with the quarterfinals.

The semifinals will be played Saturday at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. at the Ray Twinney.

The championship game starts at 7:30 p.m.

The tourney is a feeding frenzy for scouts from U.S. colleges, Canadian universities and Ontario Hockey League teams.

Several Spirit players hope to play college or university hockey

next season.

"All of the schools I've talked to will be there," said Spirit goalie George Eliopoulos, who is looking most seriously at Notre Dame and Colorado College. "After Christmas, you know where you stand with these schools."

ELIOPOULOS HOT IN SPIRIT WIN

Eliopoulos was at his best Friday in Collingwood, pacing the short-staffed Spirit to a 3-2 win over the hometown Blues.

Eliopoulos stopped 28 shots while the Spirit managed only 18 at Collingwood's Dana Bannerman. Both Blues' goals came while they had a two-man advantage.

Jon Smyth, Anthony Minicucci and Greg Seguin, with the winner, scored for the Spirit.

The Spirit was without captain Dan Oshell (league suspension for fighting) and high-scoring forwards Michel Bond, Brad Rebic and Alain Veilleux, all home for the holidays.

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HOCKEY

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey House league

ATOM
DEC. 6

MASH 5, Canadian Rail Car 1

MASH: Scott Laws 3 goals, S. McConomy, N. McMurchy, Rail Car: D. Cairns.
Legion 459s 7, Stanton Electroplating 5.
Legion: Trevor Robert and Tyler McLean 2 goals, Jeff Bassett, Steven Aceti, Brendan Trenouth.
Stanton: Dexter Sibley 2 goals, A. Turner, M. Ramsbottom, M. Sutherland.
Superior Water 9, Lyons Graphics 4.
Superior: Sean Garrett 4 goals, Alex Powell, Kyle Elieff, Aaron King, Chris Gerrard, Lyon: Jeff Devine 2 goals, Josh

Adams, Scott Bolton.
DEC. 16
Legion 459 5, Canadian Rail Car 0.
Legion 459: Jeff Bassett 3, A. Turner, D. Goad, Shutout: Brent Waterman.
Stanton Electroplating 6, Superior Water 6.
Stanton: David Morawietz, David Brunwell, Dexter Sibley, David Stanton, Mark Van Oosten, Michael Stanton.
Superior Water: Sean Garrett and Kevin Seymour 2 goals, David Bell, Kyle Elieff.

Lyons Graphics 5, MASH 0.
Lyons: Jeff Devine and Brandon Cowie 2 goals, Tim Boudreault, Shutout: Jon Kirby.
BANTAM-MIDGET-JUVENILE
Patti-Lynn Interiors 8, Houston Ford 7.
Patti-Lynn: Shawn Barton 6 goals, 1 assist, Jason Davis 1 goal, 1 assist, Eric Van Oosten 1 goal, Mike Rhynold 3 assists, Matt Cushing 2 assists, Jeremy Cushing 1 assist.
Houston: Jeremy Guest and Mike Pennanen 3 goals, 1

assist, Josh Archer 1 goal, 1 assist, Jonathan Painter 2 assists, James Wood, David Schickedanz 1 assist, Giles Chev-Olds 10, Houston Ford 7.
Scorers unavailable.
Patti-Lynn Interiors 6, Rick Wannop Developments 3.
Patti-Lynn: Shawn Barton 4 goals, Dave Cuddie 1 goal, 1 assist, Eric Van Oosten, Wes Jackson, Mike Norms, Chris Hubbards 1 assist.
Wannop: Mike Vandervoort 2 goals, Mike Sutton 1 goal, Andrew D'Annunzio 1 assist, Ryan Jones, James Bays, Jason Maier, Dan Cherkas 1 assist.

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