



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville resident Andrew Lowrie, 16, sinks a putt on the fifth green during Monday's first-round action at the Canadian Junior Golf Association Stouffville Ontario Junior event at the Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Entered in the 14-16 age group class, Lowrie carded a two-round total of 186 (88-98).

## Markham junior golfers rule the Maples' links

Three Markham-area residents concluded the final round of their Canadian Junior Golf Association tour on a positive note by winning their age group divisions at the CJGA Stouffville Ontario Junior event at the Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club on Tuesday.

Unionville's Christine Ryckman, 15, carded a two-round total of 168 (81-87) on the 5,650-yard, par 73 course to win the girls division.

In the boys' 13 and under group, 11-year-old Humphrey Yeung of Markham shot a two-round total of 146 (72-74) on the 5,890-yard, par 72 course to take top honours.

Unionville's Mike Matunin, 17, captured the boys' 17-18 division with a two-round score of 147 (74-73) on the 6,450-yard, par 72 course.

Among Stouffville entrants in the boys' 14-16 division, Chris Sorichetti, 16, shot a 162 (79-83) and was tied for ninth place. Kevin Hayward, 16, fired a 168; Michael Pickering, 16, 171; Andrew Lowrie, 16, 186 and James Castle, 14, 188.

In the boys' 17-18 group, Stouffville's Brett Lawson, 18, fired a 161 (81-80) and was tied for sixth place.

The two-day event had 132 junior golfers from Ontario, British Columbia and the United States take part.

# Spirit makes moves...deal Smyth, Eliopoulos and Bond

BY JIM MASON  
Staff Writer

Three big-name players with the Stouffville Spirit last season got their wish and were dealt to other Ontario junior A hockey teams last week.

Jon Smyth, George Eliopoulos and Michel Bond each played two years for the Spirit.

Smyth was sold to the Ottawa Junior Senators of the Central Junior A Hockey League. Eliopoulos goes to the St. Michael's Buzzers in Toronto, while Bond has been sold to the Milton Merchants. Stouffville, St. Michael's and Milton are in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League.

Smyth, 19, a Markham resident, told team officials last spring he wanted to attend college and live with relatives in the nation's capital this year. Smyth, who had 32 points in 28 games last season and was dominant in the playoffs, has accepted a scholarship to Colgate University in New York starting in 2002.

A resident of Markham, Eliopoulos, 19, was disappointed he didn't get an NCAA Division I scholarship after several schools showed early interest in him.

"Basically, it was just time for me to move on," Eliopoulos told the *Tribune*. "I feel I had a good two years in Stouffville but I feel I should have moved on to the college ranks by now. But I also want to say I had a great time in those two years. I love the fans."

Eliopoulos had a 3.34 goals against average, while playing in almost two thirds of the Spirit's games last season. He was a late cut of the St. Michael's Majors of the major junior Ontario Hockey League before coming to Stouffville two years ago this week.

"George had the capability to be the best goalie in our conference last year," said Spirit general manager Ken Burrows. "But you have to prove it to get a scholarship. I don't think he did that last year but I think he can this year because he has something to prove."

Eliopoulos re-injured a knee this week in an exhibition game against Milton and is expected to undergo surgery shortly.



MICHEL BOND

Ex-Spirit star gets wish with trade to Milton Merchants.

Bond, a fan favourite at the Rec Complex the last two seasons, didn't return calls.

But Merchants' general manager Nick Slawson told the *Milton Canadian Statesman*, "(Bond's) a highly skilled, highly involved player."

Bond, 20, led the Spirit in scoring and was team MVP two years ago.

The 5-foot-8, 190-pound Hearst product dropped to second in team scoring last season (22 goals, 41 assists), but was named a player of the month in the Provincial League and played in the league all-star game.

"It was time for (Bond) to go," said Burrows. "We knew we would be a young team and we want to play all four of our lines again. Michel didn't agree with that and asked us to trade him."

"The bottom line is that this is a developmental league. We're not just going to play two lines."

Burrows said a busy summer of recruiting has paid off handsomely. New players from as far as Thunder Bay and Pembroke, including transfers from other junior teams, have been signed.

"We've got kids who want to be here," said Burrows. "Take Jamie Coghlan, a highly recruited defenceman from the Toronto Young Nats Air Canada Cup midget team. He wants to play here and will drive to practice and games here from south Etobicoke to do it."

Spirit training camp continues at the Rec Complex in Stouffville this week.

The Spirit hosts Collingwood on Sept. 6, and Lindsay on Sept. 8. Both games start at 7:30 p.m. The Spirit plays in Collingwood Sept. 7 and at Lindsay Sept. 9. The Spirit won its first exhibition game, 3-2 over Streetsville. Stouffville's own Jordan Mabley scored the winning goal in overtime.

The Spirit opens the regular season at home to Couchiching on Sept. 13.

**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING:** The Spirit's other goalie from last season, Thomas Lee, is at training camp with the Erie Otters. The OHL team drafted the Port Perry resident last year...big Eric Boonstra, who looks impressive this fall, returned to the Spirit from the Owen Sound Attack camp Wednesday. The OHL team had no openings at right wing this year...Spirit players will again take part in the Terry Fox Run in Stouffville, Sept. 16, from the Rec Complex.

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