



Gormley resident Dan McMullen, shown here with a Formula Renault 2000 vehicle he tested recently for the Phillips Motorsports team near Calgary, could be racing in the newly formed Fran-Am Championship series this year. McMullen has been competing this year in the French National Formula Series in France.

McMullen hopes to be racing at home soon

Race car driver Dan McMullen has been putting the pedal to the metal in France where he's competing in the French National Formula Series.

But recently, the Gormley resident has been setting his sights on racing closer to home in the newly formed Fran-Am Championships in North America.

McMullen took a giant step towards that objective recently after conducting a test run of a Formula Renault 2000 vehicle for the Phillips Motorsports team at Race City Speedway near Calgary.

During the test run, Phillips Motorsports team representatives were impressed with how McMullen handled their vehicle under various conditions.

As well they were impressed with his ability to communicate valuable information on the car's behavior to them.

Based on his audition, the Phillips team is hoping to arrange McMullen's schedule so he can enter as many Fran-Am Championship races as possible.

More importantly though, they hope find the required funding to make it happen.

If all goes well, it is hoped that McMullen will be in a Fran-Am car for the first time at Mosport, just north of Bowmanville, on Aug. 16-18 in conjunction with the ALMS race there.

This would mark McMullen's home racing debut as a professional driver.

Following that event, the Phillips Motorsports team would like to have McMullen behind the wheel at the inaugural Molson Indy Montreal race the following weekend.

With the layout of the schedules in France and in North America it is also possible that McMullen could compete in several more rounds of the Fran-Am Series.

McMaster credits athletics at SDSS for enhancing his life

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Travis McMaster says he'll never forget the past five years at Stouffville District Secondary School.

The 19-year-old OAC grad claims involvement in sports, including rugby, hockey and volleyball, created for him a positive atmosphere he'll remember all his life.

Stouffville District Secondary School will also remember him. He and Shane Timms, also an OAC grad, were co-winners of the 2002 Male Athlete of the Year award, an announcement he describes as a big surprise.

"I knew I was one of eight nominees," he says, "it's an honour."

McMaster says he's happy to share the award, since he and Timms have been long-time close friends.

"It's nice for us both," he notes.

McMaster, formerly of Bradford, moved with his family to Whitchurch-Stouffville, five years ago. His parents, Dan and Melannie McMaster, are veterinarians.

McMaster attended Pickering College in Newmarket, from Grades 4 through 8.

"Pickering College wasn't big on sports," McMaster recalled. "Academics was more its thing."

At SDSS, he came into his own. In

his final year, both the rugby and volleyball teams, with whom he played key roles, advanced to provincial championships.

At the rugby final in Waterford, Stouffville won the consolation prize. In volleyball, at Sudbury, it claimed the best sportsmanship award.

Jim Fletcher coached the volleyball team. Jamie Hewitt, Kevin Julyan and Steve Shantz shared rugby coaching duties.

McMaster describes Fletcher as "awesome."

"Hockey has always been my favourite sport," McMaster recalls.

"I probably wouldn't have played volleyball at all if it hadn't been for Mr. Fletcher. He encouraged me to give it a try and I'm glad I did."

McMaster will be enrolled in an honours kinesiology course at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

He's looking forward to one last time at SDSS when he returns to attend commencement exercises this November.



TRAVIS
MCMASTER

Was honoured to be MVP nominee.

Spirit fined by OHA for inviting York Region prospects to camp

Stouffville owes \$1,000 each to Markham Waxers and Newmarket Hurricanes

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Over the last few months Markham Waxers junior A hockey club general manager Larry Herrington had been waging a war against the Stouffville Spirit.

On Monday, Herrington felt like he won the battle.

Herrington's concern with the Spirit, a rival team in the Provincial Junior A circuit, stemmed from recruiting.

He accused Stouffville of "tampering" with 11 bantam and midget-aged prospects who played in Markham and are the Waxers' first right of refusal under recruiting rules governed by the Canadian and Ontario hockey associations.

The players were sent letters inviting them to the Spirit's rookie camp in April, a no-no under league rules.

After lodging a formal complaint with the OHA on June 5, Herrington, along with representatives from the Spirit met for a hearing earlier this month.

Based on the meeting, the OHA ruled on Monday in favour of the Waxers.

The league fined the Spirit \$1,000 payable to the Waxers.

As well, Stouffville was forbidden from signing any of the 11 players, and those players can't play on any Spirit-affiliated team.

The Spirit must also provide, within 30 days of notification of the order, to both the Waxers and OHA president Brent Ladds, a list of all Markham Waxer club players who might have received inappropriate letters.

"I'm satisfied," Herrington said. "I would have liked to have seen more money and the coach (Brian Perrin) suspended. But that's from a league-wide hockey standpoint. The message needs to be reinforced."

Not only does the Spirit owe the Waxers \$1,000 but team officials must also pay the same fee to the Newmarket Hurricanes, who lodged a similar complaint against Stouffville.

Acknowledging the problem stemmed from not checking all the letters the club had sent out to potential prospects, Spirit general manager Ken Burrows said he did not wish to antago-



KEN BURROWS: Spirit general manager accepts OHA ruling but says violation "was small potatoes."

nize Herrington. Burrows accepted the OHA's ruling and will not file an appeal.

"We wasted enough time on it. I'm fine with (the ruling). It was my mistake," he said.

Burrows, though, felt the Waxers had taken the issue too far.

"They (the Waxers) claim our recruiting actions were premeditated, but the OHA ruled our actions were not premeditated. It was a mistake and they found us guilty."

"For Larry to take it this far, it's small potatoes as compared with situations other teams have faced."

While the ruling brought a smile to Herrington's face, he still seeks clarification from the OHA on the ruling relating to players deemed to be in the Waxers' club system.

'I understand where Larry Herrington is coming from. But if a kid doesn't want to play in Markham, he shouldn't have to.'

What ultimately caused Herrington to blow a gasket was the case involving Ryan Olidis, one of the prime recruits from the Waxers' major bantams.

Olidis played several games last season with the Waxers on an emergency call-up situation last season.

The 16-year-old forward from Uxbridge did not attend the Spirit's rookie camp but advised Markham of his intention to play for Stouffville this season.

"That's when I said enough's enough," said Herrington. "I will definitely ask the question

for player clarification."

Herrington acknowledged that Olidis, who was a third-round pick of the Barrie Colts in the recent Ontario Hockey League draft, was a player they had high hopes for in the future.

"He would have been a cornerstone for the franchise and we had offered him a spot on our roster last December," Herrington said.

Burrows concurred the friction with the Waxers was in large part due to Olidis, whose name was brought up in the hearings along with Kevin Hayward, a Stouffville resident who was given his release from the Markham minor hockey system and Waxers.

Hayward, the last cut of the Spirit last fall, played for the midget AAA Waxers last season.

"The youngster (Olidis) wanted to play closer to his home and the Spirit schedule is more favourable for him and his family since we play at home on Thursdays and he has a sister who is a swimmer and her time in the pool is on Fridays (the same home night as the Waxers)," Burrows explained.

Burrows thinks the problem in recruiting lies in the rules as governed by the OHA, which he believes are vague.

Ideally, Burrows would like to see the players be given the choice of where they want to go if they wish to pursue their on-ice careers at the tier two junior A level.

"The kids have rights and the family has rights too. It's a free country for them to be allowed to do whatever they want."

"If a kid wants to play hockey on Thursdays instead of Fridays it's his right."

"I understand where Larry Herrington is coming from. But if a kid doesn't want to play in Markham, he shouldn't have to."

"The bottom line is that our league is a developmental league where we should be moving kids to the next level."

"The player in question (Olidis) will be in the OHL two years from now. It's not about controlling minor hockey programs."

Like Burrows, Herrington stresses their league is designed to develop prospects.

He was quick to point out after the third night of their rookie camp, those players who could not make the Spirit were given their written releases to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

Herrington and Burrows said the ball now rests in the lap of Ladds as to who has Olidis' rights.