



7 Jim Thomas and Liz Fraser on opening night for 19th annual festival.

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Spirit players make history at NHL draft

BY JIM MASON
Staff writer

A day after being picked in the NHL draft, it was back to reality for two Stouffville Spirit Junior A Hockey players.

A few hours after taking a flight home from the draft in Nashville, Tenn., Kevin Jarman was writing a religion exam at Cardinal Carter High School in his home town of Aurora.

Mike Sullivan was working in the shop at Betz Pools in Stouffville Monday morning, taking ticket orders from co-workers.

"Yah, everyone's bugging me for seats and even private boxes for NHL games," laughed the Stouffville District Secondary School grad.

COLUMBUS; LOS ANGELES

Kevin was picked in the third round (103th overall) by the Columbus Blue Jackets. Mike was taken by the Los Angeles Kings in the eighth round (244th).

The 18-year-old linemates are the first players in the eight-year history of the Spirit franchise to be drafted into the NHL. They represent half of the four players drafted from the 62 teams in the Ontario Hockey Association's junior A and B leagues.

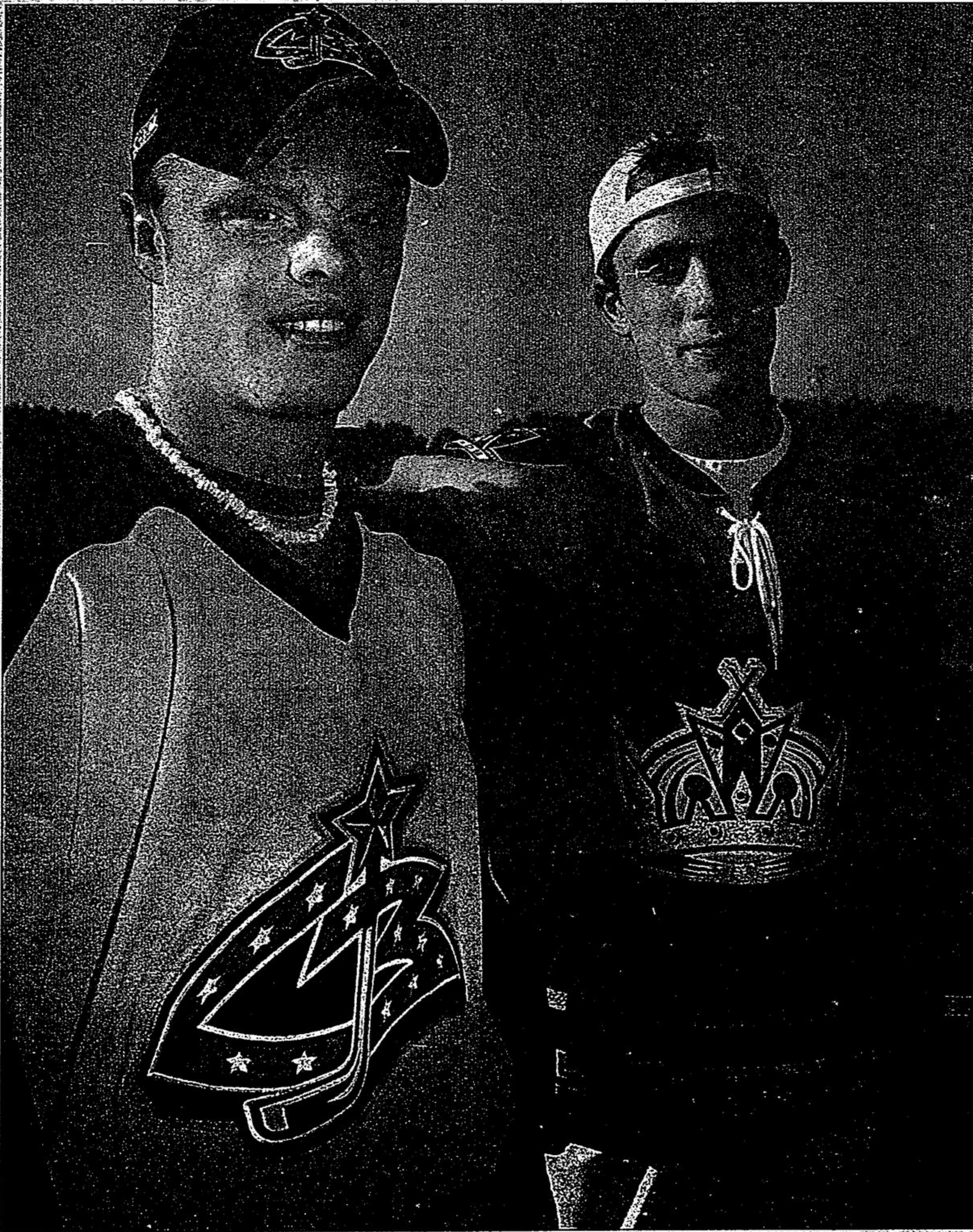
NHL scouts, a rarity at Spirit games in past years, were common place last season.

"It says a lot about Kevin and Mike because they really worked hard," Ken Burrows, general manager of the Spirit, said. "As a team, we tell our kids if they work hard, they'll achieve goals a lot of people will tell them they can't reach."

Kevin was MVP of the Spirit last season and Mike rookie of the year and playoff MVP.

Kevin sat through the first day of the draft before being the second player picked on Day 2.

It was a long day, Saturday



Stouffville linemates drafted

Kevin Jarman (left) of the Stouffville Spirit Junior A Hockey Club was selected by Columbus in the fourth round and linemate Mike Sullivan was picked by Los Angeles in the eighth round Sunday at the NHL draft in Nashville. The players were doing dryland training for the upcoming season Tuesday at the Connell-Franklin track next to the Stouffville Arena.

STEVE SOMERVILLE PHOTO

See NHL, page 13.

See WEST, page 16.

WEST NILE

Musselman's Lake mosquitoes first with virus in Canada this year

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

York Region's unenviable record of firsts with West Nile virus this year may have more to do with an aggressive surveillance campaign than the region being particularly susceptible to the disease, the associate medical officer of health says.

Dr. Hanif Kassam doesn't deny York, along with Peel, Halton and Toronto, have become Canadian hot spots for the virus.

At the same time, the virus appears to be making inroads into cottage country. A dead crow, discovered north of Barrie this month, tested positive for the virus.

But Dr. Kassam credited the region's education, promotion and monitoring program with uncovering several incidents of the virus in York.

On Monday, he announced a mosquito colony found in Whitchurch-Stouffville is the first in Canada to test positive for West Nile this year.

On April 15, Canada's first dead crow carrying the virus in 2003, was discovered near Leslie and Mulock streets in Newmarket. A second crow was found in early June in Aurora.

Earlier this month, a Richmond Hill man was believed to be Canada's first human case this year, although he was eventually cleared of the illness.

"I think we actually have a very good surveillance system," Dr. Kassam said at a news conference Tuesday, explaining why York continues to lead the way in unearthing cases.

He pointed out surrounding regions have been only days



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