

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS

Big decisions to make as Spirit camp winds down

Stouffville Spirit officials will have plenty of opportunities to make their final pre-season assessments of the junior A hockey club.

The Spirit plays five games in four days starting tonight at 7:30 when the Mississauga Chargers visit the Stouffville Arena.

The Spirit, North Conference finalists in the Provincial Junior A league last season, opens the regular season next Thursday at home to the Newmarket Hurricanes.

There are still training camp cuts to be made, especially at forward, and a goaltender to name to the regular season roster.

SPIRIT HAUL IN MUSKIES

The Spirit won its first exhibition game of the year last Thursday, 5-4, over the Lindsay Muskies in Stouffville.

The Spirit opened up a 3-0 lead then trailed 4-3 before coming back to win in front of 150 fans.

Doug Henderson scored the game winner with 3:56 to play and had two assists. Grant Buckley, David Del Zotto, Lee Maxwell and Justin Teakle had singles. Carson Devine assisted twice.

The Spirit is in the weekend St. Mike's Shootout tournament in Toronto. After playing the Markham Waxers tomorrow at 4 p.m., it faces the Georgetown Raiders or St. Michael's Buzzers



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Stouffville Spirit forward Mike Comisso (left), skates against defenceman Ian Brunt in a c-stride drill that the players were going through last Saturday at the Stouffville Arena. The Spirit is winding down their training camp by playing five exhibition games in a stretch of four days starting tonight when they host the Mississauga Chargers at 7:30 p.m. The home opener is next Thursday.

Saturday afternoon.

That night, the Spirit plays at Mississauga. Stouffville completes the pre-season with a Sunday afternoon game at Lindsay.

The heavy schedule will see the Spirit use several players from its junior C affiliate, the Uxbridge

Bruins.

The Spirit's biggest challenge is replacing its top five scorers from last season.

Gone from last year's team are top pointgetters Kevin Jarman (University of Massachusetts), Mike Sullivan (Clarkson University), J.D. Smithson (over-

age), Mike Forgie (Wayne State University) and Ian Staal (University of Guelph). Jarman (Columbus) and Sullivan (Los Angeles) were NHL draft picks this year, a first for the Stouffville organization.

Other players at Ontario Hockey League camps this week

include Andrew Dennis (Barrie), Mark Versteeg-Lytwyn (Guelph) and Jon D'Aversa (Sudbury).

Steven Carota returns in goal, leaving one spot to fill.

Mark Mitchell, Felice Turano and Ian Brunt are back on defence. Stouffville's Grant Buckley, who played for the Spirit four years ago, returns after three years in the OHL.

Also signed on defence is Daniel Maggio, from the Toronto Red Wings minor midgets.

LOCAL FLAVOUR UP FRONT

At forward, Stouffville residents Jordan Mabley, Michael Lombardo, Gale Tanaka and Kevin Hayward return. Michael Comisso and Ty Raine are also back up front.

York-Simcoe Express midget teammates Shane Baxter and Kevin Lord are signed, as are Mississauga midget products Carson Devine and Justin Teakle.

SPIRITED NOTES: A dispute between Hockey Canada and USA Hockey kept American players off the ice at junior camps in Ontario late last month. Two American hopefuls who watched workouts in Stouffville one weekend have been allowed on the ice after an interim agreement was reached. The Spirit hosts its second annual Terry Fox Run car wash Sept. 13 at Houston Ford. The run goes the next day from the Stouffville Arena.

Gibbons claims fourth checkered flag of CASCAR campaign

Peter Gibbons and the Canadian Tire team showed the meaning of Labour Day last weekend at Delaware Speedway and their efforts were rewarded with a record fourth victory of the CASCAR season in the Great Canadian 300.

Beginning the 300-lap feature event in 16th place, the Stouffville-area resident made a couple of mechanical adjustments and a tire change with his Canadian Tire

Chevy on the first two stops.

As the race unfolded, Gibbons manoeuvred his way towards the head of the pack and by the 200-lap mark was in the top five.

Following the team's final pit stop for two fresh tires, Gibbons returned in second position. With 20 laps remaining, Gibbons took the lead, but the final verdict wasn't decided until the final lap as he withstood a late challenge from Mark Dille.

"What more can I say about my team," a jubilant Gibbons said.

"We battled an ill-handling race car all weekend and these guys kept making changes and we came away with this win."

Among other results, the Stouffville-based Team 3 Red entry manned by D.J. Kennington finished sixth.

Starting the race in sixth, Kennington took the lead by lap 118 and remained in contention

until lap 220 when he brought his Snap-on Tools/Castrol Canada intrepid into the pits for fuel and a right rear tire and rejoined the field in eighth place.

Kennington had made his way to sixth when he felt something break in the car as it slid high in the first corner. Kennington babied the car for the remaining 30 laps and brought it home in sixth place.

With this finish, Kennington

narrowed the deficit between himself and second-place Kerry Micks to 18 points and 73 from leader Don Thomson Jr., who has 1,648 in total. Gibbons occupies sixth place.

The CASCAR Super Series Schedule resumes Sept. 21 at Peterborough Speedway for the Leeland 200 event.

SAVE UP TO 60%

CALLAWAY

GREAT BIG BERTHA IIP TITANIUM WOODS

ODYSSEY "WHITE HOT" PUTTERS

VARIOUS MODELS OF IRON SETS

NEW SHIPMENT DIRECT FROM CALLAWAY

RAM "ACCUBAR"

MEN'S RIGHT HAND 11-PC. SET, GRAPHITE WOODS

NOW ONLY \$199⁹⁹

RAM "ZX TOUR"

LADIES RIGHT HAND 11-PC., GRAPHITE SHAFTS

Reg. \$599⁹⁹ NOW \$249⁹⁹

ETONIC SHOE BAG

INCLUDES CEDAR SHOE TREES, BRUSH & PAIR OF LACES

Reg. \$59⁹⁹ NOW \$44⁹⁹

WILSON "FAT BOY"

427CC DRIVER UST PROFORCE SHAFT

Reg. \$249⁹⁹ NOW \$119⁹⁹

CALLAWAY

TITANIUM WOODS DRIVERS & FAIRWAY WOODS

NOW ONLY \$274⁹⁹ NEW SHIPMENT



NEW ADDRESS

DiMarco Golf CLEARANCE CENTRE
8312 McCOWAN RD. www.dimarcogolf.com 905-479-5077