

Gysbers named conference's top defencemen

Spirit tames Otters 13-3, plays in Thornhill tonight

Stouffville Spirit sophomore defenceman Simon Gysbers didn't pick up a point in his team's 13-3 whitewashing of the Huntsville Muskoka Otters, but he was the happiest person in the Stouffville Arena Thursday night.

Spirit head coach Brian Perrin informed his players in a pre-game speech Gysbers was voted defenceman of the year in the North Conference of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League in a poll of league general managers Wednesday.

"I didn't know anything about it," said Gysbers, sporting a cut to his face courtesy of an Otter stick. "I was surprised, but it felt great."

A 6-foot-4 stay-at-home defender with a big shot, Gysbers marketed himself to the Spirit during his minor midget year with the North York Canadiens. He liked the youth of the Spirit and the opportunities given to rookies.

OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING KEY

"I've got a lot of ice team here over the last two seasons and I worked out all summer (with Spirit conditioning coach Randy Smith)," the 17-year-old from Oak Ridges said of his improvement.

A 2003 draft pick of the Ontario Hockey League's Saginaw Spirit, Gysbers has attracted the attention of U.S. universities. But if he doesn't receive a scholarship offer this year, he'll happily return to the Spirit blue line next season, he said.

Michael Lombardo, who had a five-point night, and Ty Raine had hat tricks as the Spirit dominated Huntsville from

the get-go Thursday.

With the win, the third-place Spirit opened up a six-point lead over Huntsville in the North Conference standings.

Carson Devine had two goals and two assists and Jeff Barbieri three assists. Rob Groom, Brandon Walker, Ricky Schrank, Randy Johnston and Brock Ouellet had singles. Johnston had two assists.

The Spirit, which held period leads of 4-1 and 8-1, outshot the Otters 44-22.

Lombardo and Schrank shared MGH Office Repairs player of the game honours.

The Spirit plays the South Conference Thornhill Thunderbirds tonight at 7:30 at the Thornhill Community Centre and hosts Collingwood Thursday.

For more information on the Spirit, log on to: www.stouffvillespirit.com.

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Atom Stars skate off with tournament championship

The Markham-Stouffville atom BB Stars captured the gold medal from the Scarborough tournament after defeating the host club 2-0 in the title tilt.

After losing their opening game to Scarborough 3-2, the Stars received stellar netminding performances from Jessica Barwell and Ainsley Matulaitis to post shutouts over Durham West 2-0 and Peterborough 1-0 and set up a rematch with Scarborough in the final.

Scoring for the Stars in the tournament were: Jessica Gillham, Samantha Keen and Christine Starke two goals; Laura Wyatt one goal, two assists; Lauren Convery and Hallie Wannop two assists; Laura Penstone, Allison Neville, Hannah Tunney and Clare Buckley one assist each.

The Stars entered the tournament on a positive note as they posted five consecutive league victories against Scar-

borough 7-0, Leaside 1-0, Aurora 7-0 and Whitby twice by identical 4-0 decisions.

Scoring for the Stars in those contests were: Christine Starke and Buckley three goals, three assists; Megan Rushlow and Jessica Gillham three goals, one assist; Keen and Tunney two goals, four assists; Wyatt two goals, one assist; Brittany King, Convery, Neville and Wannop one goal, two assists; Penstone two assists and Kristen Drew one assist.

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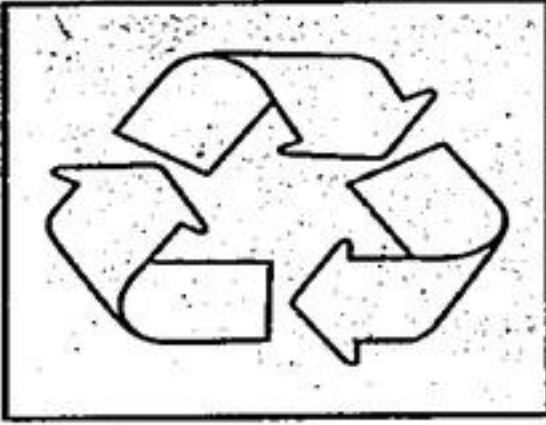
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- acytherm, an entirely new level of rejuvenation of the skin without surgery or injection, effective on the face and body in treating cellulite, stretch marks and hyper pigmentation, as well as lifting of the buttocks and breasts. This newly developed procedure provides immediately visible improved tone and hydration, and younger looking skin.

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