

Spirit names new coaching staff for Jr. A campaign

Dan West is new head coach

The Stouffville Spirit has unveiled its new coaching staff for the 2005-06 Ontario Provincial Jr. A Hockey League season.

Head coach Dan West will be joined by assistant coaches Pat Madigan and Matt Gibson. Gibson also takes on the role of director of player development.

Ex-NHLer Mike Hough is special assistant coach to the Spirit.

An assistant coach with the Lindsay Muskies last season, West had prior head coaching experience with the Little Britain Merchants Jr. C team and Central Ontario Wolves AAA organization.



DAN WEST: Was an assistant coach with Lindsay Muskies.

The Oakwood resident played in Lindsay before skating in the Ontario Hockey League at Windsor (drafted 54th overall) and Peterborough. He also won a national Tier 2 title in Prince Edward Island and played a year of

pro hockey in Texas.

"I look forward to working with the new staff and members of the community. We will continue the rich traditions established over the last 10 years while bringing some fresh ideas to the table," West said.

A Stouffville resident, Madigan has been a volunteer with the Spirit for much of the team's 10-year history, including last year as an assistant coach.

Gibson, who also lives in

Stouffville, has been an assistant coach for five years in the OPJHL in Ajax, Pickering and Markham.

An Aurora resident, Hough was an assistant coach with the Kitchener Rangers of the OHL. He played 707 games during 14 years in the NHL with the New York Islanders, Florida Panthers and Quebec Nordiques.

Marshall Starkman, Spirit director of hockey operations, said each coach has some good ideas.

"Dan West has enjoyed great success as a player and a coach including winning a Royal Bank Cup in 1997 with the Summerside Western Capitals. He has great passion, a wealth of knowledge and is highly regarded as a 'player's coach'. He is a winner, competitor and strategist and takes great pride in the development and preparation of his players.

"Matt Gibson is an honest, articulate and hard-working coach who knows the north

and south divisions well. As director of player development, he will design an aggressive NCAA promotion and education program as well as spearheading Spirit development camps for rookies and prospects.

"Pat Madigan will anchor our young staff and we're all looking forward to working with him.

"Mike Hough is a character individual who is an absolute pleasure to be around."

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- ✓ Top dress your lawn with a high quality triple mix and compost. Rake into the lawn to a depth of one 1/2 inch.
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