

SPORTS

Veteran Spirit team opens training camp Saturday

Weekend sessions open to public from noon to 3 p.m.

Things could be crowded when the Stouffville Spirit Jr. A hockey team opens training camp this weekend.

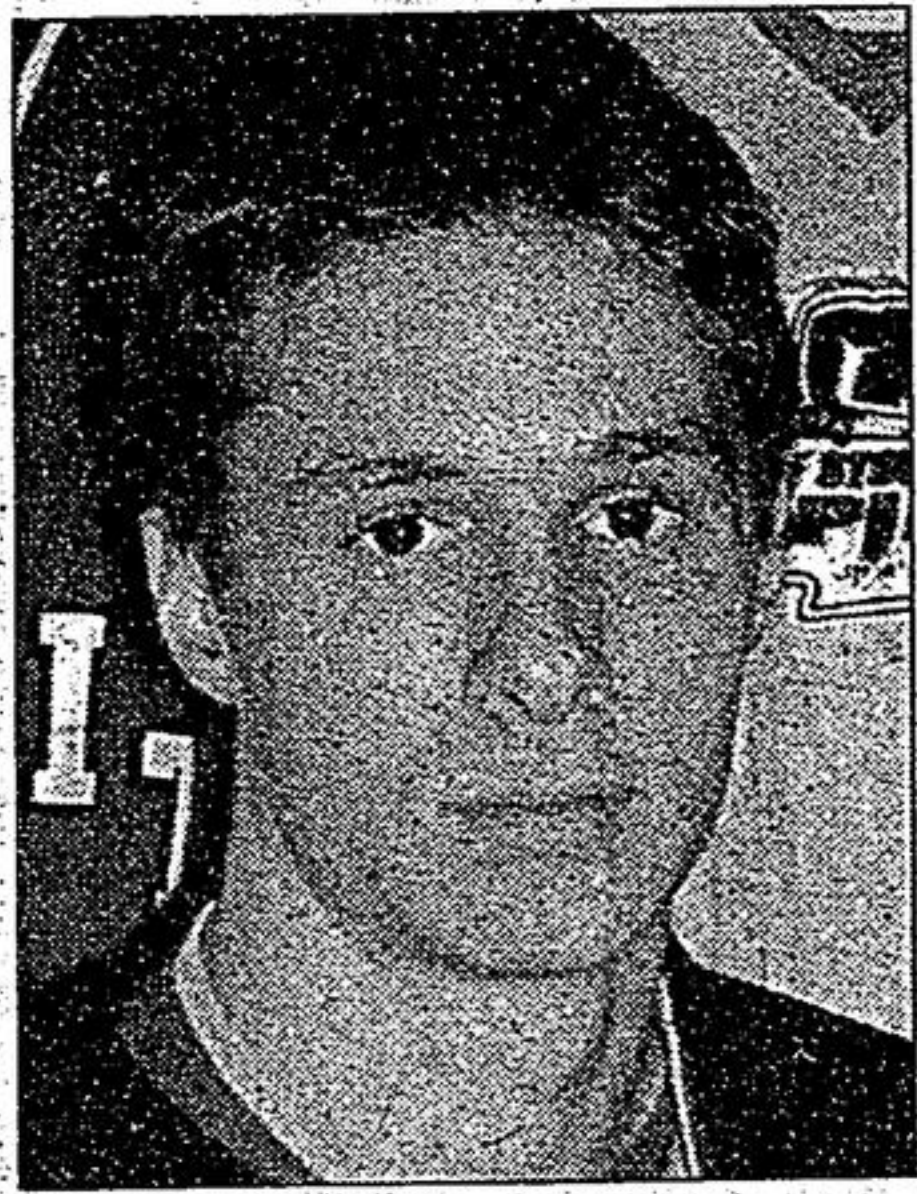
As many as 20 returning players plus a strong crop of rookie hopefuls are expected at the Stouffville Arena.

Rookie head coach Dan West and assistants Pat Madigan and Matt Gibson will prepare the team for its Sept. 15 home opener with the Newmarket Hurricanes.

The Spirit hosts exhibition games Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 at 7:30 both nights.

The public is welcome at all training camp sessions including this Saturday and Sunday's which run from noon to 3 p.m.

On a separate note, defenceman Simon Gysbers has accepted a scholarship to Lake Superior State University



SIMON GYSBERS: Spirit defenceman accepts hockey scholarship from Lake Superior State University.

in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The good news for Spirit fans is that the six-foot, four-inch, 200-pounder will play a third year in Stouffville.

Named defenceman of the year in the North Conference of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League in 2005, Gysbers, 18, will attend Lake Superior start-

ing in September, 2006.

"I liked Lake State a lot when I visited the school this spring. The players I met and the message from the coaches just felt right. I'm really looking forward to playing there. They want me to help the other players in Stouffville and just get ready," he said.

"This is wonderful and deserving for Simon," said Spirit GM Ken Burrows, who signed Gysbers two years ago. "He did the extra work, listened, worked in the gym with Randy (Smith, Spirit strength and conditioning coach) and it paid off."

Named the Spirit's most sportsmanlike Spirit player as a rookie, Gysbers is a graduate of the North York Canadiens minor midget program. The Oak Ridges resident was drafted in 2003 by the Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League.

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

Stouffville boys squad Storms off with provincial softball crown

Ball team is first local mite entry to win OASA A title

The Stouffville Storm mites did something last weekend no other Stouffville mite softball squad has accomplished.

That was to capture an Ontario Amateur Softball Association A title.

The Storm accomplished that feat by defeating Kitchener 11-9 in last Sunday's final tilt in Orleans.

Matthew Dunlop ignited the Storm's offence by going three for three at the plate including a home run.

Josh Burkholder also hit a round tripper for the Storm.

The Storm also received timely defensive efforts from catcher Chris Jupp, who assisted in two put-outs at home plate including one in the first inning and one in the fourth inning that prevented Kitchener from generating any runs. He also threw out a base runner trying to steal second.

Troy Connor entered the game in the fourth inning allowing only one run while striking out six in four innings of work to help the Storm clinch the title.

The Storm began the double knockout tournament in impressive fashion by mercy-ing Campbellford 18-2.

Jupp propelled the offence with two home runs and six RBIs.

Burkholder and Johnathan Colley each contributed one home run.

The Storm then faced the Napanee Express and prevailed 10-5.

Burkholder went four for four with two RBIs.

Connor and Matthew Morrow combined to strike out 18 Napanee batters.

The win gave the Storm an automatic berth into the final.



Members of the Stouffville Storm mites display the OASA banner and plaque they captured in Orleans Sunday with an 11-9 win over Kitchener in the final.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Steady under pressure

Stouffville resident Adam Craig, 18, calmly sinks this putt for par on the 12th hole at Station Creek Golf in Gormley at the Canadian Junior Golf Association Junior event. Craig finished 10th in the Boys' 17-19 division with a two-round 160 (83-77). Tae-Woo Kim of Mississauga won the division title with a 145 (76-69).

Storm junior mites field bronze

The Stouffville Storm junior mites brought home the bronze medal from last weekend's Ontario Amateur Softball Association championships after suffering a 9-2 loss to the host Orleans Rebels in the semifinals.

The Storm split games in qualifying play Saturday, dropping their opener 13-3 to the Napanee Express but rebounding to defeat the Rebels 13-9.

These results enabled the Storm to qualify for Sunday's semifinal where they met the Rebels in a rematch.

Jeremy Hughes and Kevin Matthews split the pitching duties for

the Storm and combined for 37 strikeouts in the three contests.

Ben Sear and Jackson Savery with multiple hits and Taylor Peterson, with an extra base hit, propelled the Storm's offensive attack.

Also making timely contributions were Stone Macaulay, Braeden Halse, Ryan Dunlop, Cameron Flemming, Tyler Simcoe and Jacob Rendall.

Hughes and Matthews joined Flemming to capture the team throwing accuracy skill competition.

Sear took part in the hitting skill competition and came away as the winner.