

SPORTS

Goalie hopes change of scenery will help

Spirit acquires rookie netminder from Markham Waxers

Mark Kubicz just wants to play. The Thornhill goaltender will get his wish Friday with the Stouffville Spirit.

Kubicz, 18, was purchased by the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League team from the Markham Waxers Friday. Markham, the first place team in the South Conference, had three goalies and Kubicz was the odd tender out.

The move was precipitated by second-year Spirit goalie Steve Fillipelli's request for a trade earlier in the day. Fillipelli was 1-2-1 with a 3.37 goals against average and .853 save percentage this season. As of Monday night, he had not been traded.

Kubicz was 2-1-0 in Markham with a 2.67 GAA and a .918 save percentage. He arrived late to Waxer camp after an extended stay as a walk-on with the St. Michael's Majors of the Ontario Hockey League. He remains the third goalie

on the Majors' roster for call-up purposes.

He helped backstop the Waxers AAA midget team to an OMHA AAA championship last spring.

"I'll be able to get some playing time here, with only two goalies," Kubicz said after practice Monday, where he was told he'll start in Huntsville Friday.

"This is a hard-working team with a lot of energy all of the time. And everyone gets along here. I'm getting more relaxed here all the time, with the joking around and stuff."

Kubicz met his new teammates Saturday afternoon on the bus to Seguin, south of Parry Sound.

The Spirit beat the hometown Bruins 2-1 on goals by Randy Johnston and Shawn Frank.

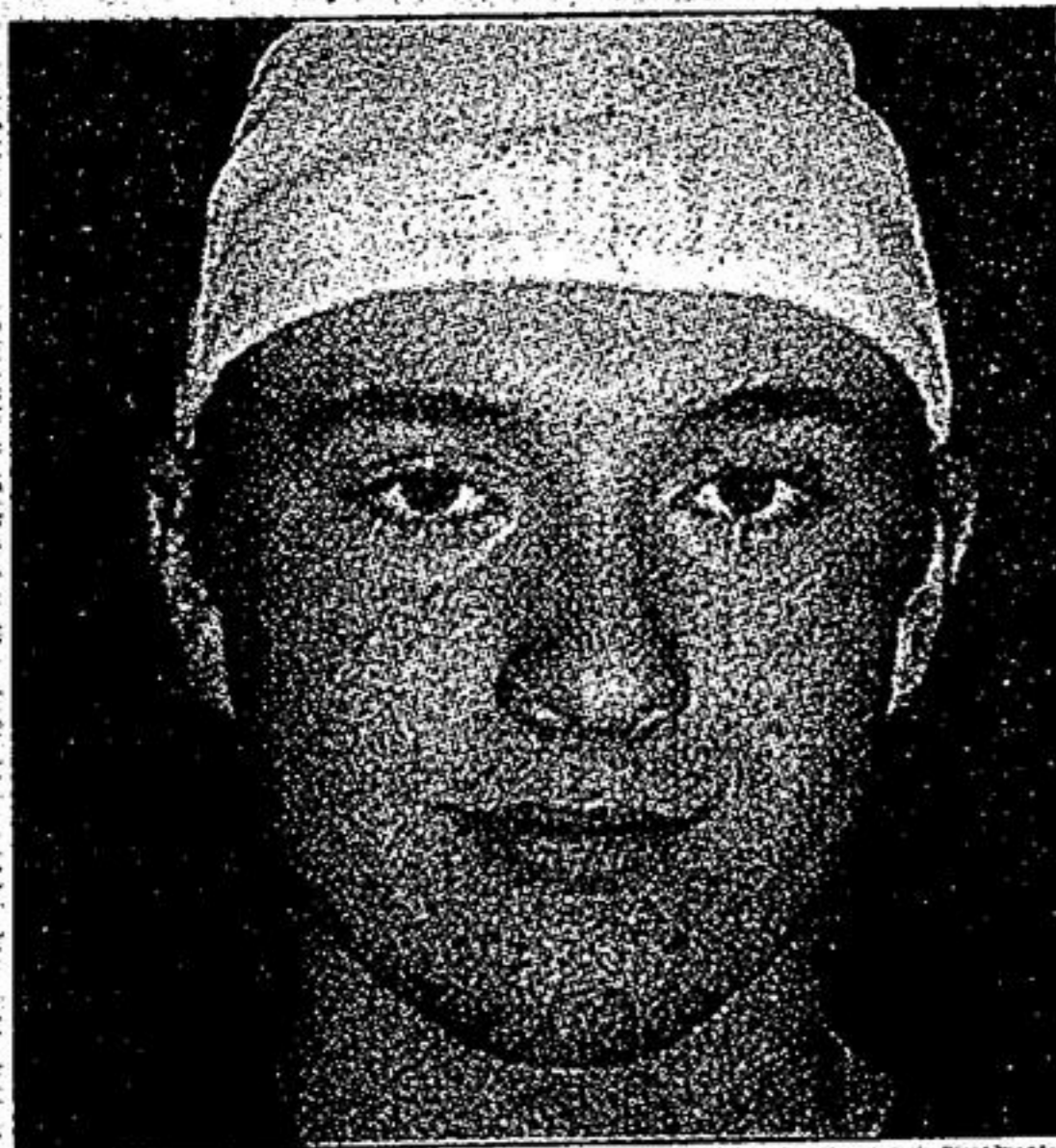
Dan McWhinney, who is 9-4-1 in the Spirit goal this season, earned the win.

The Spirit (10-3-2-3) remains in third place in the North Conference. See standings on page 27.

The Spirit hosts the Huntsville Muskoka Otters tonight at 7:30 at the Stouffville Arena, then visits the Otters tomorrow night and Newmarket Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

SPIRITED NOTES: The Spirit dealt former captain Michael Lombardo to the Aurora Tigers Friday...Stouffville Branch 459 of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Spirit will mark Remembrance Day with pre-game ceremonies tonight...Spirit grads Jonathan D'Aversa (Sudbury Wolves) and Mike Duco (Kitchener Rangers) will play for the Ontario Hockey League all-star team in the 2005 ADT Canada-Russia Challenge this month in Kitchener and Peterborough...WhiStle radio is expanding its Internet broadcast of Spirit games to include away contests, starting with tomorrow's game in Huntsville. Go to whistleradio.com

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



MARK KUBICZ: Played in three games this season with Markham Waxers, winning two and had a 2.67 goals against average.

Lebuffe's heroics propel Clippers to tournament title

Peter Lebuffe's goal with just four seconds remaining in overtime staked the Stouffville minor bantam Clippers to a 3-2 victory over Windsor in the title tilt of a Fort Erie tournament.

In reaching the final, the Clippers defeated Windsor 2-0, lost to Port Credit 7-3 but rebounded to rout the Scarborough Sabres 8-1.

That record was good enough to propel the Clippers to the semifinals, where they routed the Downsview Beavers 7-1.

Scoring for the Clippers in the tournament were: Lebuffe five

goals, six assists; Lloyd Davis four goals, two assists; Ryan Brown four goals, two assists; Jake Woolnough two goals, two assists; Dylan Deveaux two goals; Tyler Barber two goals, two assists; Jesse Godin one goal, two assists; Peter Wideman two goals, one assist; Brent Hewlett one goal; Ethan Manninen three assists; Josh King, Chris Chekay and Brad Sutherland two assists each.

Eric Lee and Ben Singh split time in goal for the Clippers, who sit atop the Ontario Minor Hockey Association standings with a 10-3-1 record.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Sean Hoey, 10, receives a congratulatory handshake from Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Sue Sherban, along with the rest of his Stouffville Storm mite provincial A softball championship teammates last Saturday at the EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church during the town's recognition of athletes ceremony. Local sports teams and individual athletes who had earned provincial or national honours over the last three years were recognized.

Champs honoured by town

They came to reap the rewards of hard work Saturday at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church.

Several sports teams and individual athletes hailing from Whitchurch-Stouffville who claimed provincial or national titles over the last three years were honoured by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville as part of its recognition of athletes awards program.

In hockey, the Stouffville Clippers juvenile team captured the 2004-05 Ontario Minor Hockey Association A title.

Members of that team included Jake Balsdon, Gabe Barnett, Chris Flanagan, Norm Fretz, Jordan Smalley, Andrew Gibson, Shawn Gibson, James Guinane, D'Arcy Jackson, Jordan Mabley, Dana MacDonald, Michael Manson, Todd Nesbitt, Stephen Relf, Nikolas Ristich, David Salvagna, Joshua Spang, Jonathon Wonch, head coach Brent Gibson, assistant coaches Ken MacDonald, Trevor Greenham and Matt Mulder, manager Janice Auld and trainer Joseph Lombardo.

MENNOS WIN ELIMINATIONS

In fastball, the Stouffville Mennos competed in the Eastern Canadian Intermediate A championships in Prince Edward Island in 2004 after winning the provincial elimination championship.

Team members included Byron Baranieski, Steve Townson, Dale Boadway, Shawn Boadway, Brett Boyd, Paul Boynton, Chris Burkholder, Rich Burkholder,

Darren Crawford, Danny Deeks, Scott Evans, Scott Eyre, Tim Lofgren, Terry Reesor, Steve Sayers, coach Howie Burkholder and manager Art Burkholder.

Not to be outdone, the Stouffville Storm mites laid claim to the Ontario Softball Association mite A title.

Among those who toiled for the Storm were: Josh Burkholder, Kerrick Brown, Jonathan Colley, Troy Connor, Matthew Dunlop, Sean Hoey, Chris Jupp, Jordan March, Matthew Morrow, Jamie O'Halloran, Nick Robb, coaches Chris Burkholder, Chris Brown and Mark Morrow.

SKATERS IN SYNC

Earning national and provincial honours was Heather Higgins, who was part of the Markham Synchro Club's Elite Edge skating team that won gold in the provincial championships in Mississauga and nationals in Brandon, Man.

In the same sport, her sister, Alyshia Higgins, and Kimberley Hord represented the Whitby Ice Fyre team that skated at the French Cup in Rouen, France, in 2004 and were silver medallists. The Ice Fyre team is one of only six teams that represented Canada on an international scene in 2004 and 2005.

Kristen King, Caitlin Leger and Gillian Scott were members of a Whitby novice competitive synchro skating team that skated its way to a bronze in the 2004 national championships.

In basketball, Scott Laws was a member of the provin-

cial boys' midget team that won gold at this year's national championships in Calgary.

Carmen Thunem made her presence felt in artistic gymnastics by winning the novice level three gold all-around title and bronze on bars at the provincial championships at Elite Ontario. She was also a gold medallist for Canada at the Shamrock Invitational Gymnastics Tournament in March, 2004 in Norfolk, Va., and a gold medallist in the floor event at the Eastern Canadian Gymnastics championships in May, 2004 in Laval, Que.

Mark Varilov earned provincial honours after winning the 8 and 9 class in this year's provincial triathlon championship.

In martial arts, Lea Sheffield and Tressa Sheffield garnered provincial honours by winning the novice judo championship in their respective age group categories.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

The Sheffield judo school father and daughter tandem of Brent Colclough and Victoria were the 2003 senior provincial and 2005 provincial novice champions respectively.

MacKenzie Moyer earned first-place honours in the 200-metre obstacle in the junior lifeguard telegames in 2004.

Bruce and Bunny Burton choreographed a line dance that was chosen to go to the world's competition of line dancing. It marked the only time in history that a specific line dance would be chosen for a second time to compete in a world's championship.