

Waxers add scoring punch

Forward Mike Scheu acquired in deal with Buffalo Junior Sabres

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

David Kostuch and Mike Scheu were supposed to be roommates and teammates this season for the Canisius College Golden Griffins men's varsity hockey team.

While the two players won't be attending the Buffalo, N.Y.-based school until the fall of 2007 due to academic matters, they will be teammates this year with the Markham Waxers.

The Waxers acquired the rights to Scheu, a 19-year-old Buffalo, N.Y. native, from the Buffalo Junior Sabres of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League's Western Conference Wednesday for an undisclosed amount of cash.

"We're ecstatic to get a player of his calibre. He's an impact player," Joe Cornacchia, Waxers general manager, said. "He's quick, he can read the ice and he's a high-energy type of player. He will fit in well with our skating style and with the rule changes this year, the empha-

sis will be on speed."

Playing in 39 regular season games last season with the Junior Sabres, Scheu was their leading scorer with 20 goals and 14 assists. Acquired part way through the season by the Streetsville Derbys, he had seven goals and six assists in 12 regular season tilts and played with them in the RBC Cup before his playing rights were reverted back to the Junior Sabres.

In a pre-season game Wednesday, the Waxers and Newmarket Hurricanes put in a little overtime in Newmarket before the host club emerged with a 5-4 win. Jonas Schell, Tyler Quinn, Daniel Torres and Derek Axel each scored once for the Waxers.

The Waxers will open its 2006-07 Provincial Junior A Hockey League regular season Sept. 8 when they host the Durham Fury, formerly known as the Oshawa Legionaires, at Centennial Arena at 7:30 p.m.

Keeping in tradition in playing the majority of its home dates on Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., the Waxers will play a 49-game unbalanced schedule.

For more on the Waxers, log on to: www.markhamwaxers.ca

McWhinney opts to turn pro

Former Spirit goalie turns down university offer

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Dan McWhinney has a goal in life.

For the 21-year-old former Stouffville Spirit goalie, he wants to take his hockey career as far as he can.

In doing so, it required a big decision recently on the Sault Ste. Marie native's part. That was to forego a financial package offer this fall to attend the University of New York at Oswego, an NCAA Division Three school and opt for a professional contract where he recently signed a one-year deal to go to Fort Wayne, Ind. and play for the Fort Wayne Komets of the United Hockey League.

"Knowing I had a chance to play Division One, to play Division Three would have hurt my confidence. I felt it would be like me knowing I could play for the Spirit but would be playing Junior B hockey," explained



DAN MCWHINNEY: Has signed a contract with Fort Wayne Komets of the United Hockey League

McWhinney. "I want to play at the highest level possible."

Compiling a sparkling 2.60 goals against average in 31 consecutive playoff games last season with the Spirit and backstopping them to the Provincial Junior A Hockey League's North-West Conference title, McWhinney said the opportunity to turn pro was generated in part through a resume and DVD video his parents had assembled of him and distributed to various

professional clubs.

As well, McWhinney's performance this past summer in Vernon, B.C., in which he was one of 38 finalists in the upcoming reality hockey television show Making the Cut - Last Man Standing, received positive feedback from Mike Keenan, Florida Panthers general manager, and Jack Birch, Panthers' director of hockey operations, who were involved with the show.

Returning to Stouffville about one week after filming, McWhinney fielded calls from the Komets and from other UHL clubs including the Kalamazoo Wings and Flint Generals.

"Fort Wayne called me a lot," McWhinney said. "They presented me with the best opportunity."

Slated to report to camp Oct. 2, McWhinney hopes a good season with them will allow him to be picked up next season by an American Hockey League club.

At the same time though, he intends to continue his education by taking correspondence courses.

"School is important, but right now my passion is hockey," he said.

Local road rally team wins first race

The Planet Motorsport rally team of Markham resident John Vanos and Stouffville resident Alan Ockwell claimed its maiden victory recently in Ontario Performance Rally Championship (OPRC) by winning the fourth round event at the Galway Cavendish Forest Rally near Buckhorn.

Coming off a pair of third-place finishes at the last two events, the win vaulted Vanos, 24, to the top of the OPRC drivers' championship and places Ockwell, 24, in a tie for the lead of the co-drivers' standings. The team's next race is Sept. 8-9 in Quebec at the Rallye Défi Sainte-Agathe/Duhamel.

Gajan takes second in CJGA Nike event

Gajan Sivabalasingham shot a 21-over par three-round 237 (76-83-78) to earn a second-place finish in the boys' 13 and under division at last week's

Canadian Junior Golf Association's Nike Golf Junior Championship at Lionhead Golf and Country Club in Brampton.

The 12-year-old Markham

resident and Mandarin Golf Club member finished 11 shots behind Kristopher Kowalchuk of Burlington, who had a 227 (81-70-76).

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