

# SPORTS

## Mennos limp into tonight's home opener

BY JIM THOMAS

The Stouffville Mennos are alive, but not well.

Although several key players are sidelined with injuries, they had hoped to assemble a team for yesterday's Oshawa City and District Fastball League regular season opener in Aurora.

Tonight's home opener at Memorial Park against the defending league champion Oshawa Ravens is an 8:30 p.m. start.

Playing for the Ravens will be a familiar

face in Paul Koert, a Stouffville native and lefthanded pitcher who has played for the national and junior national teams.

### EVANS, BARANIESKI BACK ON MOUND

The Mennos will count on the pitching prowess of Scott Evans, Byron Baranieski and newcomer Bob McCulley, with veteran Paul Boynton available if needed.

Dale Boadway will complete the battery.

The infield lineup includes Brad Clubine, Rich Burkholder, Jeff Boadway, Scott Eyre and

Terry and Rob Reesor. Patrolling the outfield will be Shawn Boadway, Kris Burkholder and newcomer Darcy Enosse.

On-field managers will be Howie Burkholder and Mike Boadway.

Art Burkholder will handle the off-field chores with Rich Burkholder in charge of tournament play.

### FACE TOUGH LEFTHANDER

"The home opener could be tough with Paul Koert on the mound," Art Burk-

holder said. "Some of our players have never faced a southpaw pitcher of his calibre. We'll have to take it game by game."

Eleven teams make up the league this year, including two teams from Oshawa and Scarborough, the Toronto Indians, Markham, Bradford, Lake Simcoe, Newmarket, Bradford and Stouffville.

For more information on the league, go to [ocdfl.ca](http://ocdfl.ca)

## Friends shun OHL for U.S. college hockey scholarships

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them all the same thing; that Ethan was going to the NCAA. We're 100-per-cent committed to Boston University."

Ethan's stock rose after he picked up four game MVPs during the OHL Cup minor midget tournament last month.

"It was flattering to go in the first round," said Ethan, who skated at the Spirit's rookie camp in Stouffville Saturday. "Kingston's a great town and a great team, but we committed to go the college route last year."

The Frontenacs did not return calls from The Sun-Tribune, but general manager Larry Mavety, in a prepared statement Tuesday, said, "We are in discussion with the family."

He told the Kingston Whig Standard he was unaware Ethan may not report after speaking to the Werek's before the draft.

The 6-foot, 170-pound centre, the first York Region player taken in the draft, had 128 points in 55 games for the Toronto Marlies' minor midgets last year.

A student at Pickering College in Newmarket, he drew considerable interest from U.S. colleges last season, including Boston, Michigan, Northeastern, Vermont, Princeton and Harvard.

Stouffville's Bobby Hughes graduated from the Frontenacs this spring, signing with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes.

The Werek's live in Goodwood, northeast of Stouffville.

Patrick, who played minor midget for the North York Rangers last season, was spotted by Maine head coach Tim Whitehead at a camp last month. Harvard, UMass, Princeton and Northeastern were also interested.

The Stouffville resident also played defence for Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham last year.

Ethan and Patrick met as four-year-olds playing in the house league of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association. Patrick's father, Dan McEachen, was the coach and Ethan's dad the sponsor.

They played select hockey in Stouffville, then moved on together to the Markham Waxers and Richmond Hill Stars. They went their separate ways in the Greater Toronto Hockey League four years ago.

Their families celebrated the college commitments together and with friends Saturday in Stouffville. All that's stopping an on-ice reunion in Spiritland this fall is Patrick's release from North York.

Both players were influenced by older players,

including cousins. Jamie Sokolsky, Ethan's cousin, played in the OHL, including time in Belleville under Mr. Mavety.

"Jamie and others have said if they could do it all over again, they would go the college route," Ethan said. "Being around the Spirit with my dad, I heard the players who came back from school always say what a great experience it was."

Patrick's cousin, Mike Sullivan of Stouffville, graduates this weekend after four years at Clarkson University in New York. He was drafted by the NHL's Los Angeles Kings as a member of the Spirit.

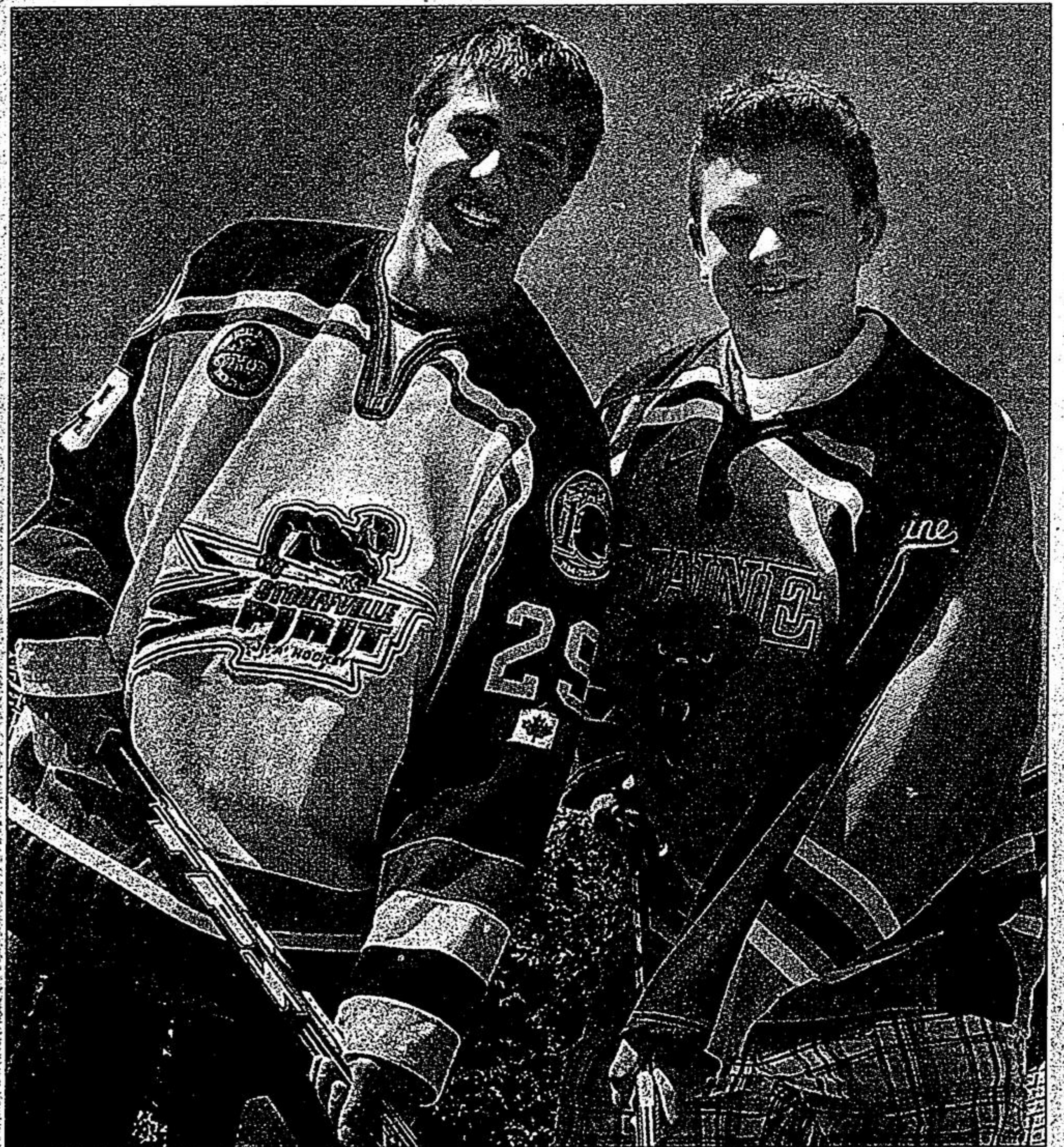
"Mike was a big influence," Patrick said. "I knew he had a great time over his four years there."

Pat hopes to play with another cousin, Mark Sullivan, with the Spirit next season.

Both players are honour roll students, who attended many Spirit games as youngsters. Michel Bond, a goal scoring machine from Hearst, Ont., billeted with the McEachens during his two years with the Spirit.

"I think we both always wanted to play (for the Spirit)," Ethan said. "But, it was more of a dream before this year."

For more on the draft, go to [ontariohockeyleague.com](http://ontariohockeyleague.com)



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Ethan Werek (left) and Patrick McEachen hope to play together with the Stouffville Spirit Jr. A team next season. They've accepted scholarships to U.S. schools starting in 2009.

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