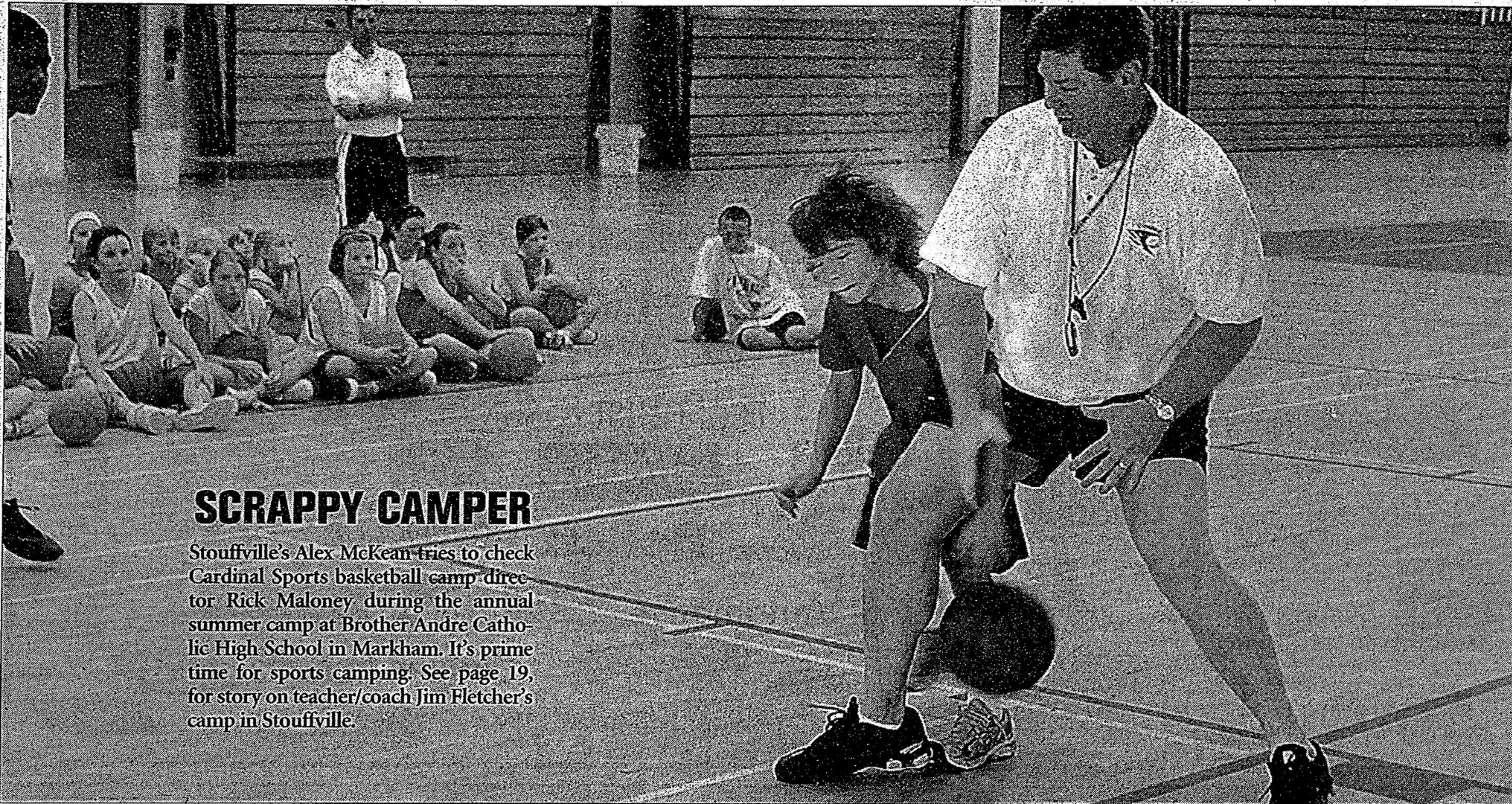


SPORTS



SCRAPPY CAMPER

Stouffville's Alex McKean tries to check Cardinal Sports basketball camp director Rick Maloney during the annual summer camp at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham. It's prime time for sports camping. See page 19, for story on teacher/coach Jim Fletcher's camp in Stouffville.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Spirit re-signs 13 players, deals goalie for D-man

'Good chance to win our division': GM

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

The Stouffville Spirit doesn't open training camp until Aug. 14.

But there's already a sense of anticipation with the Provincial Junior A Hockey League club as it signed 13 returning players at Shoeless Joe's Tuesday for the 2007-08 season.

They include goalkeeper Trevor O'Neill, defencemen Corey Fulton, Tom Kokelj, Trevor Smith and Daniel Spivak and forwards Josh Domingues, Mike Foy, Tyler Gubb, Mark Sullivan, Corey Trivino, Donovan Munro, Randy Johnston and James McIntosh.

First-year general manager

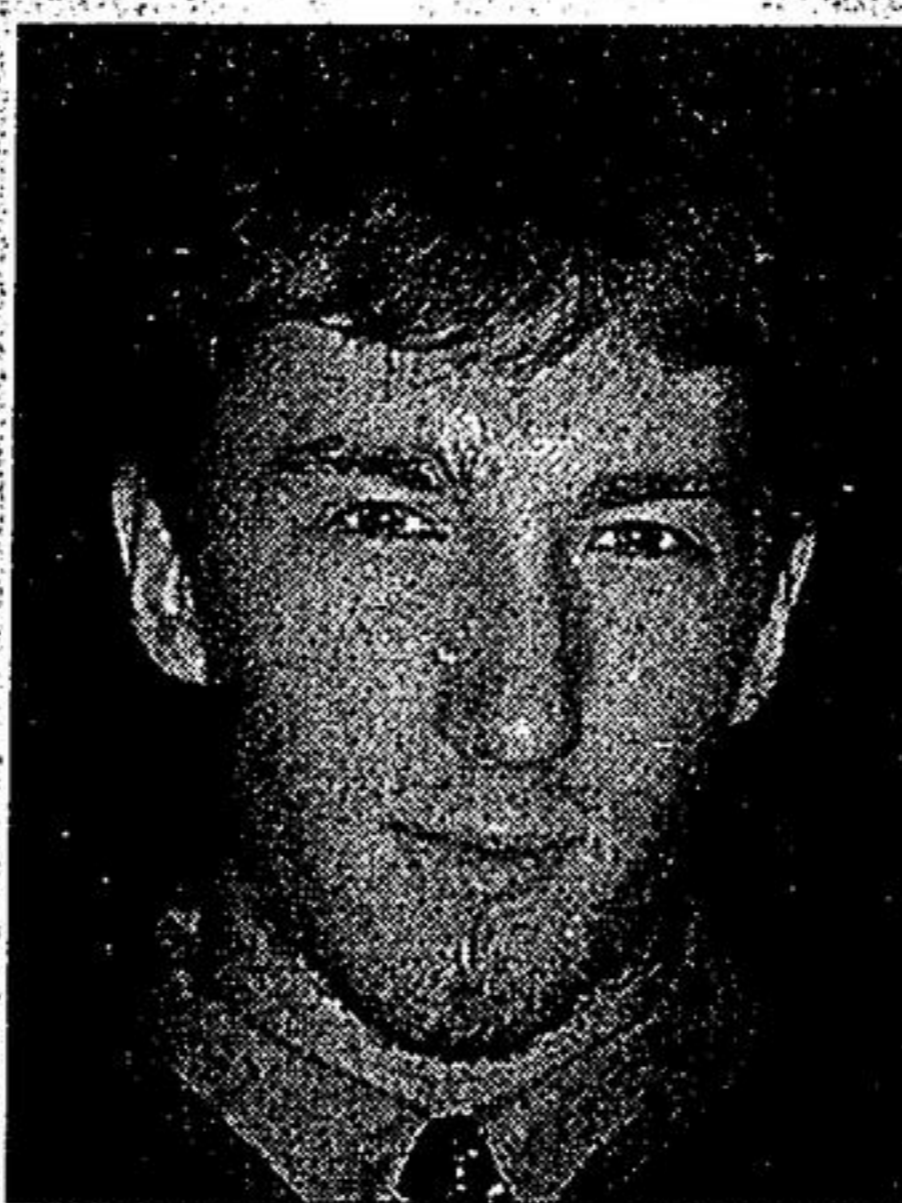
Matt Gibson couldn't be happier with the returning cast from the roster club that finished second in the North Conference last season and reached the conference final before losing to the eventual national champion Aurora Tigers.

The Spirit will retain its top four scorers from last season led by Johnston with 35 goals and 34 assists while Trivino was second (24 goals, 34 assists), Sullivan third (12 goals, 28 assists) and McIntosh fourth (19 goals, 19 assists).

Johnston, entering his final year of junior, was the team's captain last season.

Trivino has a scholarship to Boston University for 2008.

"We feel their return will give us a good chance to win our division," he said. "And with the addition of our high-end rookies I think we can be a competitive club."



RANDY JOHNSTON: Team captain and leading scorer returning for final season with Stouffville Spirit.

Johnston and McIntosh are key. "They're two of our top three

forwards and they will be expected to provide leadership to our club. They will be the go-to guys and we will be counting on them a lot," Gibson said.

New faces include defenceman Mike Gillen, who was obtained in an offseason three-way deal that sent former Spirit goalie Mark Kubicz to the Toronto Junior Canadiens of the league's South Conference.

Gillen, 20, played last season with the St. Marys Lincolns of the Western Ontario Hockey League and was their fifth-leading scorer with five goals and 34 assists in 48 regular season matches.

"He will help us with our puck movement and leadership," Gibson said.

In pre-season games, the Spirit will host the Markham Waxers Aug. 25 at the Stouffville Arena at

7:30 p.m. and then go to Lindsay for a game against the Muskies Aug. 26. Lindsay will visit Stouffville Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. The following day, the Spirit will visit the Waxers.

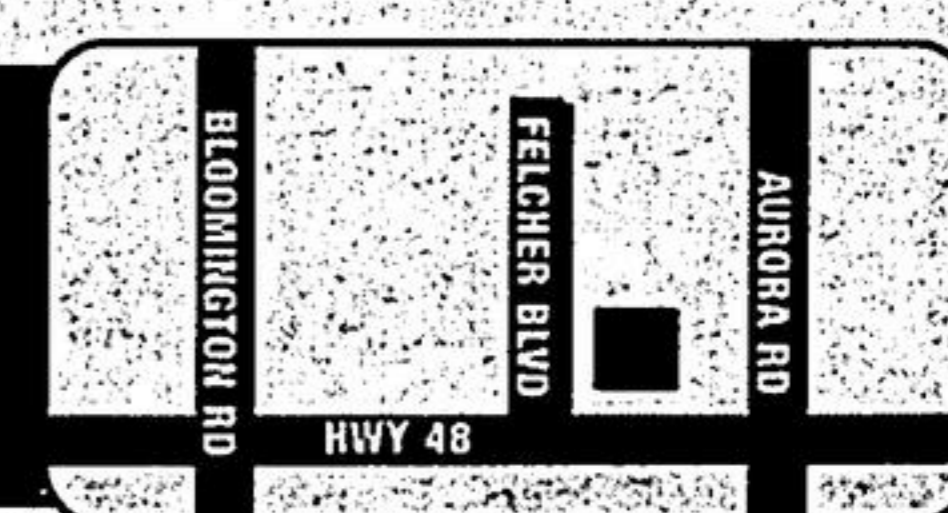
The Spirit is looking for families to billet out-of-town players. For more information, call Gibson at 416-275-7567.

NOTES: Ex-Spirit player Rick Schrank will play Division 3 U.S. college hockey this season at Elmira in New York State. He spent three years in Stouffville before demanding a trade to his hometown Newmarket Hurricanes last season. The Spirit eventually obliged. Goaltender Dan McWhinney, hero of the Spirit's North and North-West championships in 2006, is here training. He had a successful pro season with Fort Wayne of the United Hockey League.

For more on the Spirit, go to stouffvillespirit.com



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