

# SPORTS

## Sullivan awaits word on future

*Prospect-heavy  
L.A. Kings may cut  
Stouffville native loose*

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

For Mike Sullivan, Aug. 15 could represent a turning point in his aspiring professional hockey career.

On that date, the 22-year-old Stouffville resident and recent Clarkson University graduate figures he will know with what team he will make his professional debut.

An eighth-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Kings in 2003, the former Stouffville Spirit forward remains their property. However, the Kings haven't offered him a contract yet.

This situation has been tough on Sullivan.

But he remains optimistic his agent, George Bazos, will get something done.

"I've asked for my release from them about a month ago, but they haven't given it to me yet," Sullivan said. "But I think I'll get it, even though I'm still on their reserve list until Aug. 15."

The Kings have an ample supply of prospects, so Sullivan thinks he would fit in better in another organization. Several minor league teams have been talking with his agent.

"It would be better to be with a team that has less prospects and provide more of an opportunity to move up," Sullivan said.

If Sullivan is granted his wish to move on, he plans to stay in North America. Going to Europe is not an option for the time being.

"If you're playing in Europe, your name gets kind of lost," he said. "It's definitely better for me to stay here in North America."

Compiling eight goals and nine assists in 39 games in his final season with the Clarkson University Golden Knights, Sullivan also earned his degree in entrepreneurship.

Sullivan has been working out in Richmond Hill with former Spirit personal fitness trainer Randy Smith. And with no contract signed yet, Sullivan has been working part time with Betz Pools.

"I'm definitely keeping busy," he said.

In the meantime, Sullivan insisted he's not worried what his professional playing future holds.

"Something good will come. Things happen for a reason," he said.



Golden Knight Mike Sullivan doesn't necessarily want to be a King. While his agent talks to Los Angeles, the player wouldn't mind a chance to play on a team with less young talent competing for roster spots.

## Mennos come up empty at Meaford ball tournament

*Drop two of three  
to make early exit*

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

The Stouffville Mennos travelled to Meaford for a tournament last weekend and won just one of three games in the double elimination fastball competition.

Playing Orangeville Saturday, the Mennos were ready to blow the doors wide open in the first inning after loading the bases with none out.

However, they failed to score and in the end, it came back to haunt them in a 6-2 loss.

Not only did the Mennos' bats go silent, costly defensive miscues offset a good pitching effort by Jay Nesbitt, who took the loss after giving up five runs in five innings.

Paul Boynton, who was called into service by the Mennos for the tournament after some regular players were unable to attend, pitched the final two innings and surrendered one run.

The Mennos scored in the fourth inning on doubles by Mark French and Byron Baranieski, along with a fielder's choice and sacrifice fly by Jeff Boadway.

Buoyed by a four-hit, four-strikeout pitching performance from Baranieski and a three-run homer from French, the Mennos rebounded from that loss later that afternoon to rout the Simcoe Moose 6-1.

Rich Burkholder also swung a hot bat for the Mennos, as he collected four singles.

What momentum the Mennos gained was lost

Sunday morning when they were eliminated in a 9-8 decision to Rockford.

The Mennos scored one run in the second inning and then endured a horrendous Rockford second, giving up eight runs on six hits, one walk and two errors.

Baranieski was the starting pitcher for the Mennos and took the loss.

Boynton came in to relieve Baranieski in the second inning and finished the game, after giving up just one more run.

*... costly defensive  
miscues offset a  
good pitching effort  
by Jay Nesbitt*

Buoyed by a single from Boadway, triple from Bob McCulley, triple by Kris Burkholder, a hit batsman and double by Shawn Boadway, the Mennos scored four runs in the fourth inning to cut the deficit to 8-5.

After Rockford scored a run in the sixth to pad its lead to 9-5, the Mennos scored three more runs in the seventh when Rich Burkholder and Nesbitt each reach base with singles.

After Baranieski followed with a double, Jeff Boadway and McCulley each had singles. With runners on base, the Mennos had a chance to tie the game but Kris Burkholder hit a scorching line drive that was snared by the pitcher to end the game.

The Mennos were scheduled to resume play in the Oshawa City and District Fastball League tonight at Bradford.

## Aug. 15 is May day

You've got a date with Stanley, Stouffville.

The itinerary for the Stanley Cup visit Aug. 15 has been set.

Stouffville native Brad May is bringing the cup home for an afternoon of public events.

A parade along Main Street, starting at the Tenth Line, begins at 1 p.m.

It goes to the Community Safety Village in Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on Stouffville Road around 1:30 p.m.

You will have plenty of opportunities to take pictures of Brad and the cup.

While autographs won't be possible due to time constraints, autographed photos of Brad and the cup, courtesy of The Sun-Tribune and Markham Economist & Sun, will be distributed free of charge.

Admission is free. Bruce's Mill will open at 12:30 and you can bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day at the park, Brad's brother, Daryl, said.

—Jim Mason



**HOUSTON**

**SERVICE SPECIAL**

Includes: lube, oil and filter change, tire rotation and Multi-point inspection with Quality Care Report Card

Starting from **\$39.99** + taxes

**10% OFF**

Brake Repairs

(For the month of August, Parts & Labour)



**HOUSTON FORD LTD. 5786 Main St., Stouffville**  
**905-640-4541 www.billhoustonford.com**



**GENUINE FORD PARTS & SERVICE**  
We Service All Makes and Models!