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# Spirit grad set for Quebec debut

Gomes, ex-teammate take alternate route to major junior

BY JOHN CUDMORE  
Staff Writer

Ever since they were overlooked in the Ontario Hockey League draft, the focus for Andrew Eastman and Myles Gomes has been securing an education through hockey to the south.

Turns out they could well have been looking in a more easterly direction.

As it happens, both players are expected to make their debuts tomorrow night when the Moncton Wildcats open their Quebec Major Jr. A Hockey League season against the Acadie-Bathurst Titans after securing packages that will ensure their future schooling needs.

### MONEY FOR SCHOOL

The key for the former York Simcoe Express teammates, both defencemen, was the inclusion of education packages for four years at a Canadian university.

The packages kick in if the players do not sign pro contracts.

Eastman, a Sharon resident, couldn't resist the lure of playing in the Canadian Hockey League, despite

apparently having a scholarship locked up to attend Niagara University. He found himself in a no-lose situation.

"Moncton had been approaching me in the summer and I kept pushing them off saying I was going the scholarship route," said the 19-year-old, a member of the Aurora Tigers national championship squad last season who chose the Wildcats over the NCAA school. "Even at camp, I was thinking if I didn't like it, I could pull back. But once I got there, I was OK with it. I told Niagara if I was going to school, they were the one, but I think they were disappointed. It was a tough decision, definitely."

Like Eastman, Gomes was undrafted out of the midget ranks and was stickhandling for an NCAA package. But with nothing serious on the table following two seasons with the Stouffville Spirit, the Whitchurch-Stouffville resident convinced himself the QMJHL was his best option.

Still, he struggled with the decision during the early part of the off-season.

"I don't know why there was no (OHL) interest," said Gomes, also 19, of the OHL draft three summers ago. "I just took it as a sign that it



**MYLES GOMES:** Former Stouffville Spirit defenceman signs with Moncton Wildcats

wasn't my time to go.

"Part of the plan was to come back (to Stouffville) and have a really strong season and get more notice. This was definitely out of the blue. Maybe the fact it was so random threw doubt in my mind. At first I wasn't taking it that seriously but then I looked into it further."

Eastman said the reputation of Moncton coach Danny Flynn for moving players on to the next level was the pivotal factor in his decision. Flynn was an assistant on Ted Nolan's staff last season with the New York Islanders and worked with

the former NHL coach of the year previously in Moncton two seasons ago and prior to that in Sault Ste. Marie.

Eastman said once he was not drafted, his focus shifted to the NCAA option.

"When I didn't get drafted, I started thinking the scholarship route," confirmed the defence-minded defenceman. "I never really talked to anybody so I wasn't that disappointed. I just figured it was time to take the scholarship route. My school is paid either way for four years and that's the same as a scholarship."

Both players plan to take courses at Mount Allison University.

### ATTEND MOUNT ALLISON

Landing in the Q is clearly not an option either player would have foreseen long ago and it's a spot where few Ontario players venture. But it was an offer no OHL team was willing to match, Eastman said.

"I was approached, but the best offer was (an education package) for two or three years, not all four, so I guess they weren't that interested in me," Eastman said. "It's definitely thrown me for a spin, it's almost like going back on my word to myself. Almost, but not quite."

Stouffville Churches Welcome You

**STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
6853 Main Street  
Sunday, September 16, 2007  
10:00 a.m.  
"Ministry to the Whole Person"  
- Pastor Paul Hilsden -  
Kidville for ages 2 - Grade 8  
Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
Illuminate - Grade 9-12  
Wednesday at 7:00 pm  
Kidz Club - Ages 5 - Grade 5  
Junior Youth - Grades 6, 7 & 8  
Call church at 905-640-5696 for information  
www.spckids.ca

**Parkview Village**  
12184 Ninth Line South, Sunday,  
September 16th, 2007  
John & Anne Rush  
International Speaker  
7:00 pm

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163  
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale  
Info@stouffvilleuc.ca  
Sunday, September 16th, 2007  
10:30 am Worship Service  
Children's Worship & Baby Fold  
& Youth Spirit  
Guest Speakers:  
UCW  
EVERYONE WELCOME  
Website: www.stouffvilleuc.ca

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville  
The Rev. Canon Robert Shields  
The Rev. Jason Prisley, Associate  
(905) 640-1461  
Sunday, September 16th  
Services at 8am & 10am  
Nursery & Church School  
at 10am  
Friday, September 21st  
Floor Hockey in the  
Great Hall at 7am  
Come & See  
www.stouffvilleanglican.ca  
e-mail: admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca

• Sunday, Sept. 23, Special reflection by Tom Harpur  
• Sunday, Sept. 30th, Blessing of the Animals 1:00 pm, Heritage Centre parkette  
**Pathways** is a vibrant and fresh spiritual community helping people find their own answers to today's life and faith questions. All are welcome!  
**Pathways** meets on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at Heritage Centre 17 Anna Russell Way, Unionville  
More info? www.pathwayschurch.ca or 647-400-0673

Welcome to  
**ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister  
6432 Main St. Stouffville  
Phone - 905-640-3151  
email: st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca  
Sunday, September 16  
Service of Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
followed by a  
prayer-walk through town  
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Saturday, October 27  
Fall bazaar  
9:30 to noon  
"A Friendly Family Church"

**BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH**  
13660 Ninth Line N.  
(905) 642-4414  
Rev. Peter Pallant  
Sunday, September 16, 2007  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service  
6:30 p.m. - Evening Service  
Sunday, September 16, 2007  
12:30 p.m. - Sunday School Picnic  
Everyone Welcome

Sunday Service  
10:00 am  
at Middlefield Collegiate  
525 Highglan Ave., Markham  
**HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL**  
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Senior Pastor Dave Teruel



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**Springvale Baptist Church**  
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
905-887-5651  
www.springvale.org  
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming  
Youth & Family: Jay Sandiford  
Student Ministries: Alex Street  
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell  
Counselling Services: Karla Kamerman  
September 16th, 2007  
9:45 am  
Celebration Service  
Pastor Bob Flemming  
11:11 am  
Sunday School for all Ages  
6:00 Pm  
Fellowship Groups in homes