



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Stouffville Spirit forwards Ethan Werek (8) and Corey Trivino battle in front of Villanova goalie Patrick Stafford during the Spirit's 8-3 win Thursday. Werek and Trivino are on NHL watch lists and will attend Boston University

Spirit captain to pro camp in Carolina

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Fans at the Stouffville Arena may have seen the last of starry Randy Johnston Thursday night.

Only the second five-year player in franchise history, Johnston will play for the Spirit tonight in Seguin and leave next week for North Carolina and a try-out with the Charlotte Checkers of the East Coast Hockey League.

"This has been like home to me," he said, looking around the recently remodeled home dressing room after the Spirit's 8-3 win over Villanova of King City Thursday. "If I do sign (with Charlotte), I'll definitely miss it here."

Ditto for his teammates and fans.

The Newmarket resident, who played briefly in the Ontario Hockey League, has been the Spirit's perennial scoring king. The captain the last two seasons, he scored the overtime goal that brought the first North Conference title to Stouffville in 2006.

The Spirit (3-2-2) scored four unanswered power-play goals in a fight and penalty-filled third period Thursday, although one goal was clearly offside.

Veteran Mark Sullivan and rookie Darren Archibald had two goals each for the Spirit. Dustin Laren had a goal and three assists.

Johnston scored the final Spirit goal, fittingly.

WEREK SCORES IN DEBUT

Tom Kokelj and Ethan Werek, in his first Jr. A game, had the others.

Werek, a first round pick of Kingston in this year's OHL draft, injured a knee in a pre-season game. He and sophomore forward Corey Trivino were buzzing all night. Both are on NHL watch lists and have committed to scholarships at Boston University.

Villanova goalie Patrick Stafford was injured in a second-period scrum after making an outstanding save and had to be helped from the ice.

NOTES: J.D. Smithson was the other five-year player in Spiritland. The Spirit hosts Orangeville, coached by Hall of Famer Dale Hawerchuk, Thursday. Spirit grad Kevin Jarman was sent from Columbus NHL training camp to the Syracuse Crunch of the American Hockey League. Mike Sullivan, Jarman's teammate in Stouffville, is at camp with the AHL's Iowa Stars, Dallas' top farm team.

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