

## SPORTS

## CLIPPERS SHUT OUT IN TOURNEY



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville midget Clipper Alex Gregerson and East Gwillimbury Eagle Mark Fullerton collide along the boards during Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association tournament Saturday at the Stouffville Arena. Stouffville teams failed to make a final in all four divisions. Champions include Port Perry (midget A), Georgina (minor midget AE), Markham (peewee AE) and Whitby (minor peewee AE).

## Spivak 5th Spirit player with college deal

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

Stouffville Spirit defenceman Daniel Spivak has his future mapped out once this Provincial Junior A Hockey League season concludes. At least for the next four years.

The 19-year-old Thornhill resident has accepted a scholarship from Rochester Institute of Technology. He will enrol at the New York school in the fall and play for their varsity hockey team.

## ROCHESTER SCHOOL

He joins teammates Corey Trivino and Ethan Werek (Boston University), Pat McEachen and Jarred Seymour (Cornell) who have already signed U.S. college deals.

"It sure feels great," Spivak said. "At least I will have another four years of hockey and to have the opportunity to play at a higher level. Hopefully, from there I can continue to

move on.

"And I get a chance to start my schooling again."

A fourth-year player with the Spirit, he has attended York University and played with the Israeli national team.

Discussions with the coaching staff at RIT began in earnest just prior to the World Junior A Challenge late in 2007.

"When I got back from B.C. I went to visit their campus and they continued to follow up with me. It was just after the Huntsville game (Dec. 20 at Stouffville Arena) when they came up to see me play and they talked with my parents and myself and made the offer," he said. "It's a great deal."

What intrigued Spivak most about the school was the atmosphere on the campus and excitement surrounding the fortunes of the school's hockey program.

"The school has no football. Everything is

centered around hockey. They get a lot of support. The stands are full with standing room only and they have a band playing at all of their home games. The school is also growing with new buildings and housing. It's a real nice campus," he said.

With two key defencemen graduating, he will get a good opportunity to step in and get quality playing time.

## COACHES HAD FAITH

Spirit head coach Dave D'Amazio couldn't be happier for Spivak and felt he was well deserving of the opportunity to continue with his hockey career at the collegiate level.

"We knew Daniel would be a player. He can play at the next level. It was just a matter of exposing him to the right people and give him a chance to play under different conditions. Once he got that exposure he sparked interest."

## Spirit still minus 2 star forwards

**LAST WEEK:** Thursday - won 4-2 over Orangeville Crushers ...Friday - won 5-2 over Collingwood Blues.

**COMING UP:** Today vs Aurora Tigers at Stouffville Arena, 7:35 p.m.... Saturday vs Villanova Knights, 7:35 p.m. at York University.

**GAME NOTES:** The Spirit trailed Orangeville 2-1 midway through Thursday's game before scoring three straight goals, including an empty-netter. Mark Sullivan, 20, led the Spirit with two goals and an assist. Captain Randy Johnston had two assists. Jonathan Cristini had a four-point week, including two goals in Collingwood. He has 16 points in 10 games since joining the Spirit. Trevor O'Neill earned both wins to improve to 19-8-1, with a 2.87 GAA and .905 save percentage.

**NOTEBOOK:** The Spirit welcomes Ethan Werek back to the lineup tonight. He helped Ontario win gold at the World Under 17 championships in London, Ont., last weekend. Star forwards Johnston and Corey Trivino are injured and not expected to play this week.

The Spirit's Darren Archibald was to participate in the Future Stars game last night in Orangeville. The game featured players from each of the four conferences with 1990 and 1991 birth dates who were undrafted by Ontario Hockey League teams.

Today is trade deadline day in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League. The Spirit has one open player card to fill and is contemplating a few moves.

The Spirit will visit the Newmarket Hurricanes for a rare Tuesday night regular season game Jan. 29 in a rescheduled game, postponed by a snow-storm on Dec. 16.

Aurora Tigers forward David Morley is the grandson of Stouffville's Wilf and Nelda Morley. He has accepted a scholarship to Nebraska-Omaha for the 2010 season.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** "Consistency is what we're shooting for heading for the playoffs (next month)," head coach Dave D'Amazio said. "We've been sporadically good and sporadically not so good. We're closing the gap on (fourth-place) Couchiching (who are five points up) and with a few big wins could close in on Aurora (third place and eight points ahead)."

**RECORD:** 22-11-3

**INSIDER:** For live scoring and updates, go to [pointstreak.com](http://pointstreak.com)

Listen to Spirit games live at [whistleradio.com](http://whistleradio.com)

-Jim Mason



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