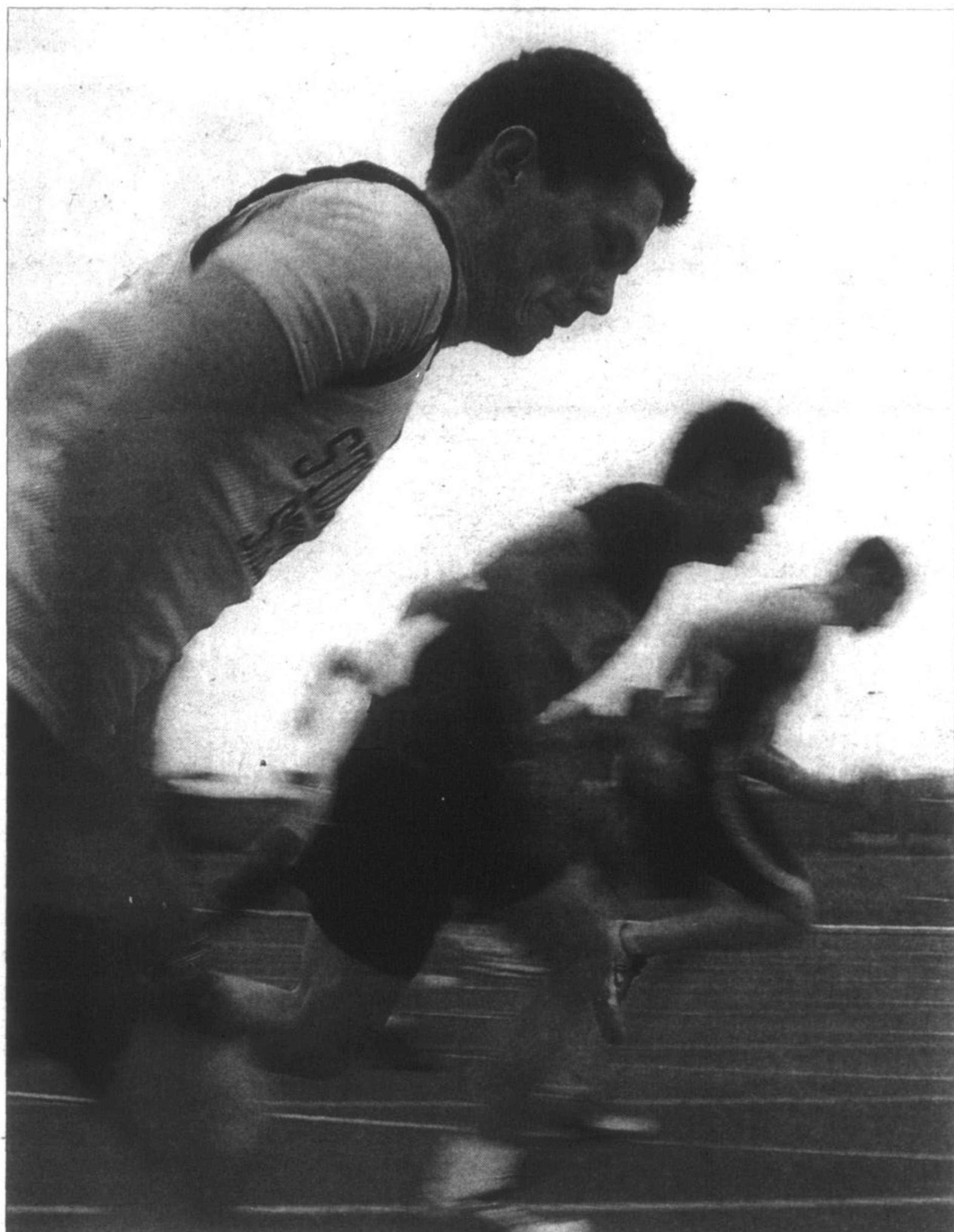


SPORTS

TAKE OFF, EH



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

John Snider of Stouffville District Secondary School leaves the start in a 100m race at the Cardinal Carter Track Classic at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke last Thursday.

No. 1 pick joins troops

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

In the days leading up to last Saturday, Sam Carrick sat on pins and needles.

But these days, the 16-year-old Stouffville native is resting a lot easier.

Especially after the Brampton Battalion made Carrick the 15th-overall selection in the first round of the Ontario Hockey League draft.

"I was pretty nervous beforehand," said Carrick, a six-foot, 165-pound centre who played this past season with the Toronto Red Wings AAA minor midgets of the Greater Toronto Hockey League. "I was thinking, 'where will I go? What will happen in the draft?'"

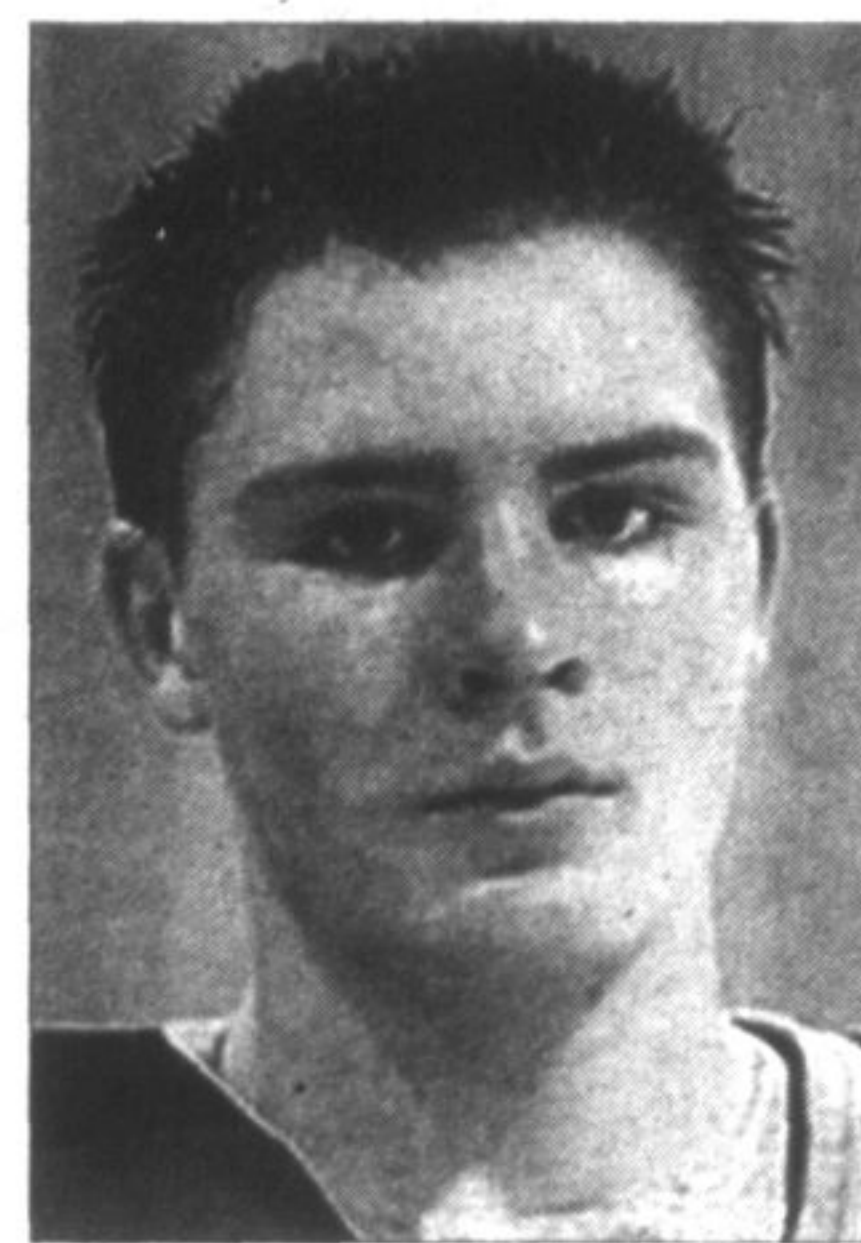
"But when Brampton called out my name, I just threw my arms up in the air and felt relieved," he said.

Carrick had 40 goals and 30 assists in 55 contests with the Red Wings.

Rumours circulated that the Oshawa Generals were interested. Unfortunately for the Generals, they picked after Brampton.

Carrick wasn't surprised as the Battalion met with him and his family a week earlier.

"We really didn't know what they (the Battalion) would do, maybe if someone was supposed to go higher they might have picked him. But I guess that didn't hap-



SAM CARRICK: Stouffville product selected in first round of Ontario Hockey League draft.

pen," he said.

The younger brother of Jake Carrick, who just completed his first season as a forward with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. The Sault Star newspaper suggested the Hounds pick little brother, too.

The Grade 10 Stouffville District Secondary School student isn't putting added pressure on himself from being a first-round pick or the sibling of an established player.

"I've just got to go out on the ice and play my game. I've got to give it my all on every shift. Hopefully, I'll get plenty of ice time and try to score when I can and help the team any way I can," he said.

The selection was icing on

the cake that was the 2007-08 season. Carrick played a key role in helping the Stouffville Secondary capture its second straight Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations A/AA title.

"It's unbelievable. I can't wait to get started. This (to be chosen in the first round by the Battalion) is just another step toward my main goal of making it in the pros," he said. "This is a year I will remember for the rest of my life."

Stouffville Spirit forward Darren Archibald was taken in the seventh round and 127th overall by the Barrie Colts.

The 18-year-old from Newmarket was a late cut by the Colts last fall, as a free agent.

In the 11th round, the Oshawa Generals chose five-foot, 10-inch, 170-lb. forward Evan Bruno with the 217th selection.

He played minor midget hockey last season with Carrick and the Toronto Red Wings.

The 16-year-old Grade 10 Brother Andre Catholic High School student, who also played high school hockey with the Cardinals, began his career in Stouffville at the mite and tyke levels before going to the Markham Waxers organization for a couple of years and then the GTHL.

For more on the draft, go to: ontariohockeyleague.com

Great expectations as Mennos open fastball season

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

The Stouffville Mennos set the bar at a relatively high level, after advancing to the Oshawa and District Fastball League semifinals before they were eliminated by the Oshawa Ravens last fall.

With a new campaign starting this week, the Mennos feel they have the tools to take things one step further than a year ago.

"We should be better than last year," said Mennos manager Art Burkholder. "The team is young with most players in their 20s. The guys are athletic, most are multi-sport players

and bring a lot of natural talent to the game.

"We're a confident group that isn't easily rattled. Team chemistry has always been stressed and this year will be no different. We are in this together."

There will be no shortage of experience, with as many as 13 players back in uniform.

Pitching, a vital ingredient for any successful team, will be anchored by veterans Scott Evans, Byron Baranieski, Paul Boynton and Jay Nesbitt.

With Dale Boadway returning behind the plate, the rest of the infield will include of shortstop Jeff Boadway, third baseman Brett

Boyd, who returns after spending last year in Australia, first baseman Scott Eyre and second baseman Rich Burkholder.

Patrolling the outfield are centre fielder Shawn Boadway, Curtis Reesor, who is back in the fold after being sidelined all of last year with surgery to repair a broken hand, Kris Burkholder and possibly Mark Burkholder.

The lone newcomer is pitcher-utility man Greg Dalgarno, who was with Scarborough last year but played the majority of his youth ball in Stouffville.

Howie Burkholder is back as head coach while Mike Boadway serves as assistant coach

and Rich Burkholder, assistant manager.

Slated to begin their season yesterday in Aurora, the Mennos are part of five-team North Division that includes Lake Simcoe, Markham and the Newmarket Juniors.

The league's South Division consists of the Oshawa BB Juniors, Oshawa BB Intermediates, defending league champion Oshawa Ravens, Scarborough Juniors and Toronto.

Playing a 24-game unbalanced schedule against teams from both divisions, the Mennos are scheduled to play their home opener May 15 at Memorial Park against the Oshawa BB Juniors at 8:30 p.m.

Markham Ribfest



Vendors Wanted

July 11 • 12 • 13

Markham Fairgrounds

Call
Susan, Judy or Linda

905.294.2200 www.markhamribfest.com

