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Spirit has little time to recover from nightmare

Rematch Sunday after losing opener 6-2 to Newmarket

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Mark Joslin thought it was all a bad dream Thursday night when the Stouffville Spirit lost 6-2 to the visiting Newmarket Hurricanes in their Provincial Jr. A Hockey

League Central Division season opener.

The first-year Spirit general manager and associate coach said everything that could go wrong did.

Unfortunately for Joslin, he wasn't dreaming.

"We just lacked discipline and work ethic," Joslin said. "The guys were nervous. We (the coaching staff) tried to calm them down. But it's the nature of the beast, Fortu-

nately, it's only the first game and we have a long schedule ahead of us."

Trailing 1-0 thanks to a shot that went in off the skate of a Spirit player 40 seconds into the game, Stouffville rallied to tie the game just past the midway point of the period on Massimo Lamacchia's first Jr. A goal.

But with just 42 seconds remaining in the opening stanza, the Hurricanes regained the lead on a short-handed goal by Glen McCarron, his first of two on the night.

Dustin Laren opened the scoring in the second period to even the score at 2-2.

That, however, would be as close as the Spirit would get to the lead as the Hurricanes scored two more times, including one by Stouffville resident Jamie Wise, before the period concluded to take a 4-2 lead.

The Hurricanes added two more goals in the final 20 minutes of a lengthy and penalty-filled affair, complete with multiple fights and calls for head-butting, head-checking, boarding, goaltender interference and checking from behind.

The Hurricanes outshot the Spirit 39-37.

McCarron, the leading scorer (30 goals, 55 assists) and first-team all-star in the Western Ontario Hockey League

(now the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League) last year, surprised the London Nationals in the off-season when he announced he was leaving his hometown team for the Hurricanes.

The 20-year-old, who also saw action with the London Knights of the OHL, picked up the rare Gordie Howe hat trick (goal, assist, fight) Thursday courtesy of a late third period tussle with University of Maine prospect Pat McEachen.

The Spirit had little time to dwell on the game as they were to visit the Markham Waxers last night and play in Newmarket Sunday at the Ray Twinney Complex at 3:30 p.m.

While there were few positives to dwell on, Joslin praised Lamacchia.

"He was one kid who brought it every shift," he said of the five-foot, seven-inch Maple resident. "For a little guy, he played like a giant."

Adam Brown, a 19-year-old Stouffville native who played briefly on defence for the Spirit two seasons ago as a call-up, is with the Welland Junior Canadians.

Brown, who played with the Durham Fury of the Provincial league last year, was recommended to Welland by Mike Foy who also played with both the Spirit and Canadians.

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