

Hockey school founder can't get enough of kids

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

It might be assumed that as a school teacher, Kent Nobes would be relieved when he can get away from dealing with youngsters during any holiday break.

Far from it. During most vacation periods, Nobes continues to teach youngsters.

Rather than doing it in the classroom, though, his lectures and demonstrations are for young hockey players.

Being involved with hockey instruction and teaching over the last 12 years, Nobes created the KWN

Hockey and Education Schools five years ago and worked with various teams in the GTA.

This year, Nobes, a 30-year-old teacher at the new Harry Bowes Public School, will bring his school to the Stouffville Arena during the Christmas holiday break, from Dec. 22 to 24.

Nobes is as a former assistant general manager for the Stouffville Spirit who played at Brock University in St. Catharines and professionally in England.

The school will be divided into two sessions with one for youngsters between the ages of seven to nine who are in rep and play up to the

AA level.

The other session is tailored for youngsters between the ages of 10 to 13 who are in rep to the AA level.

Both sessions, Nobes said, will entail what he describes as explosive skating and fundamental skill development.

"It will be an upbeat, high tempo school with high quality instruction from each of the instructors," he said.

Aiming to have a maximum 25 players for the first session and 22 for the older group, Nobes said the ratio of players to instructors will be in the five-to-one range. Thus, players should receive plenty of personal attention.

Instructors assisting Nobes includes Matt Gibson, former Spirit general manager and assistant coach who now coaches a Stouffville minor hockey team; Kelly Nobes, head coach of the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's team; Jeremy Murphy, former player at the University of Western Ontario; and David Brown, a Stouffville resident who played minor hockey with the Stouffville Clippers and Uxbridge Bruins.

While there's an influx of hockey schools, Nobes feels his offers some uniqueness. Mostly in that it will take place during the school break when youngsters might have less to do.

"The response and feedback from

community members has been great and everyone involved is supportive and energized," he said.

Although the two schools are close to 99-per-cent full, Nobes said there's still time for people to register their youngsters.

Nobes will also run a March break session, an April Pre-Tryout Hockey School and a two-week school in early August to prepare players for the upcoming season.

As well, he will offer a team instruction school.

For further information on the KWN Hockey and Education Schools, call 416-722-1665 or e-mail: kwnhockey@yahoo.ca

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