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Town's best sport loves a challenge

Mike Humphreys to receive Sun-Trib award

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Mike Humphreys firmly believes it's better to give than to receive.

Sacrificing a good portion of his idle time to be actively involved in minor amateur sports in Whitchurch-Stouffville, whether it be as a coach or administrator, Humphreys felt his time could be best served by assisting and in watching others around him succeed.

But when the 25th annual Strawberry Festival officially kicks off July 1, the 47-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville resident will be the one on the receiving end of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune's Sports Person of the Year award for 2009.

The presentation is scheduled to take place in Memorial Park at 6 p.m.

"It wasn't something I was thinking about receiving. It totally caught me off-guard," Humphreys said.

He said the award could easily have been given to others just as deserving.

The award ranks right up there with one he received from the Big Sisters of York in 2001 as their Volunteer of the Year, he said.

"In a small town like Stouffville, there's a lot of people who could have received the award and a

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THURSDAY FOCUS

Stouffville product Ethan Werek can't wait to hear his name called at the NHL draft this weekend



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Ethan Werek, 18, started his hockey career at the Stouffville Arena as a Clipper rep player 13 years ago. The Stouffville Spirit graduate, who now plays for Kingston in the Ontario Hockey League, will be in Montreal for the NHL entry draft starting tomorrow night.

The NHL beckons

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA AND JIM MASON
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One more sleep. For Ethan Werek, this weekend can't come soon enough.

It will be a moment the 18-year-old Stouffville-area resident has been waiting for since he began playing competitive hockey in Stouffville as a five-year-old.

On Friday or Saturday, Werek is expected to hear his name called out by a National Hockey League club when the league conducts its annual entry draft in Montreal.

The first round, which goes tomorrow night, is Werek's dream destination. Some draft prognosticators have him picked as a late first-rounder. Many have him going in the second round.

Check out our video feature with Ethan Werek on yorkregion.com

A forward with the Kingston Frontenacs of the Ontario Hockey League and a member of Canada's under-18 team, he was ranked 32nd among North American skaters by the league's Central Scouting bureau in their season-ending report.

In completing his rookie season with the Frontenacs this past year, the six-foot, two-inch, 195-pound Werek amassed 32 goals and 32 assists in 66 regular season contests.

The year before as a member of the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Stouffville Spirit, Werek amassed 29 goals and 41 assists in 37 regular season contests. He started playing in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association then jumped to AAA and played for

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