

Werek gladly accepts call to national Jr. hockey camp

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Ethan Werek received a telephone call late last week at his Stouffville-area residence he wasn't exactly expecting.

But it was one he didn't mind fielding at all. Werek received an invitation to attend the Canadian National Junior Hockey Team development camp.

Having just completed his second season with the Kingston Frontenacs of the Ontario Hockey League, the 19-year-old Stouffville-area resident was one of 24 forwards and 41 skaters overall who will attend the camp in St. John's, Nfld., in early August.

Comprised of players born in 1991 and 1992, the camp is the first step towards formulating Team Canada that will compete in the 2010-11 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championships in Buffalo, N.Y., starting in late December.

"It was a pretty exciting call," the six-foot, two-inch, 200-pound Werek said. "It was a nice way to start the weekend."

Compiling 30 goals and 33 assists in 57 regular season games this past season with the Frontenacs, Werek said he talked with Team Canada assistant coach and Windsor Spitfires head coach Bob Boughner for about five to 10 minutes on what was expected of him prior to reporting to camp.

"He just wanted me to come to camp in shape and to perform to the best of my ability," Werek recalled of his conversation with the ex-NHLer.

That shouldn't be a problem for the Stouffville

Spirit graduate as he's working out daily under former NHL star Gary Roberts at his Uxbridge gym in preparation for the New York Rangers rookie camp at the end of the month.

During last year's National Hockey League entry draft, Werek was the Rangers' second-round selection.

While the national development camp will be Werek's first work with the junior national team, it's not the first time he's represented Canada on the international stage.

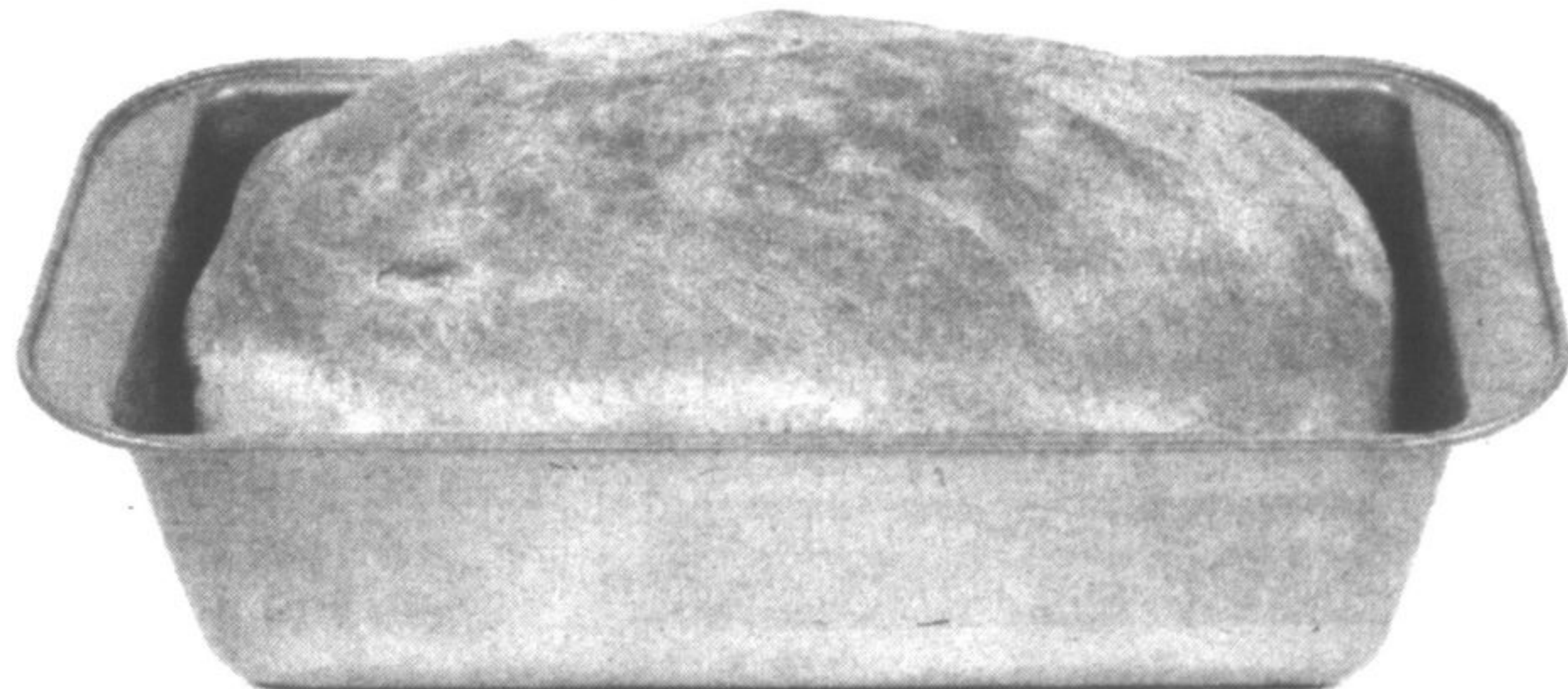
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Last year, Werek was a member of Canada's under-18 squad that competed at the IIHF World Under-18 Championships.

"I just want to show the coaches and evaluation staff that I've worked hard all summer," he said. "I want to do my best and to show them that I can lead the team."

Having the tournament in nearby Buffalo gives him added incentive to make the squad.

"It sure would be neat to be on the team and to have the event close to home where my family and friends could come down to watch," he said.



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