

SPORTS

Stouffville hockey players fight for jobs at NHL camps

Two of Stouffville's Carrick brothers were fighting for jobs at National Hockey League rookie tournaments this week.

Literally. Sam was in London, Ont., with the Toronto Maple Leafs, who drafted him in June.

Jake, a free agent, was with the Anaheim Ducks in Penticton, B.C.

Both got into spirited tussles. The Carricks are expected back in the Ontario Hockey League this month, Jake in Sault Ste. Marie and Sam in Brampton.

Ex-Stouffville Spirit defenceman Simon Gysbers had two goals at the Leaf rookie camp.

Gysbers finished last season with the Toronto Marlies in the American Hockey League, after four years at Lake Superior State in Michigan.

Gysbers and Sam Carrick are at the Leafs main camp that opened yesterday.

Ethan Werek, who also played for the Spirit, had two goals in three games with the New York Rangers rookies at a tourney in Traverse City, Mich. He's now at the Rangers' main camp in Greenburgh, NY.

A second-round pick of the Rangers in 2009, he's expected to be returned to Kingston of the OHL this month from the Rangers camp.

Werek is also a candidate for Canada's 2011 world junior team.

Rugby players tackle Ontario titles

Several Stouffville residents played prominent roles as two Markham Irish Canadian Rugby youth teams captured Ontario Rugby Union titles while another finished second at Fletcher's Field in Markham last Sunday.

The Markham under-18s received a try from Jesse Lofthouse in a 45-0 win over Waterloo in the final. The title was their fourth in a row for the team coached by Ian McLeod.

Other team members included Peter Wideman, Patrick Laffan, Jeremy Brownridge, Theron Coetsee and Connor McDonald.

"We knew that the teams there were going to be good, so we went into the finals with a lot of confidence and wishing the best. Our team was 100 per cent confident that we were going to win," Lofthouse said.

In the under-14 final, Matt Carrick, Reed Savage, Quinten Coetsee and Laura Monk helped the Markham Irish Canadians capture their first-ever under-14 provincial title with a 24-0 victory over Peterborough in the championship final.

Helping to coach the under-14s was Jim Monk, Laura's father.

The Markham under-12s reached the final only to fall short in a 9-1 loss to Oakville.

Helping the team of mostly first-year players reach the final were Hanneke deRoo and Stone Macaulay.

Fastball series to deciding game

If Stouffville Jones Pools hope to dethrone the defending Oshawa City and District Fastball League champion Aurora Shoeless Joe's in their best-of-three semifinal series they will have to do it next week - in Aurora for the third and deciding game.

After winning Tuesday's series opener, Jones Pools let an opportunity slip away to sweep the series. Host Aurora overcame a three-run deficit and scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning with a dramatic 5-4 victory Wednesday.

Aurora batter and Stouffville resident Rino Dambrosio singled off losing pitcher Paul Koert and scored the game-winning run on a Dean Begley double.

"I don't think they beat us, we beat ourselves," said Jones Pools' coach Fred Crawford. "It was our game to win, no doubt

about that. We'll just have to win the next game."

Jones Pools stranded at least five baserunners on second or third base.

As well, Crawford was quick to note Koert wasn't as sharp as he was in Tuesday's series opener when he one-hit Aurora.

"It might have been a bit too much for us to expect what Paul did after Tuesday," he said.

Catcher Craig Crawford belted two triples and a double, scored two runs and drove in one to lead Jones Pools' offence. Brother Darren Crawford had two doubles and Mike Samways three hits.

At press time, league officials had tentatively scheduled Game 3 for Wednesday.

Stouffville Menos' B semifinal game against Lake Simcoe was rained out Thursday.

For updates, go to ocdfl.ca

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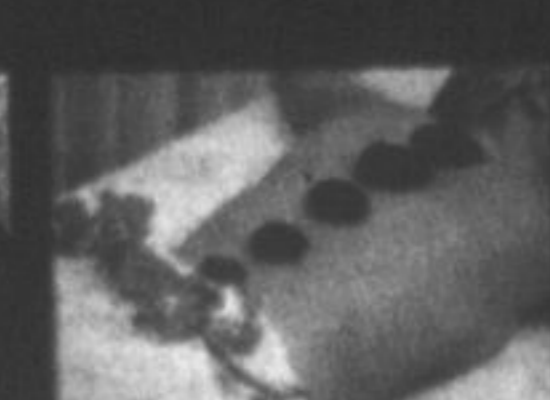


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