

SPORTS: Coach Red Berenson checks out Wolverine recruit

Serville headed to Michigan

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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For Brennan Serville, Canisius College did not seem like a good fit.

But the University of Michigan sure does.

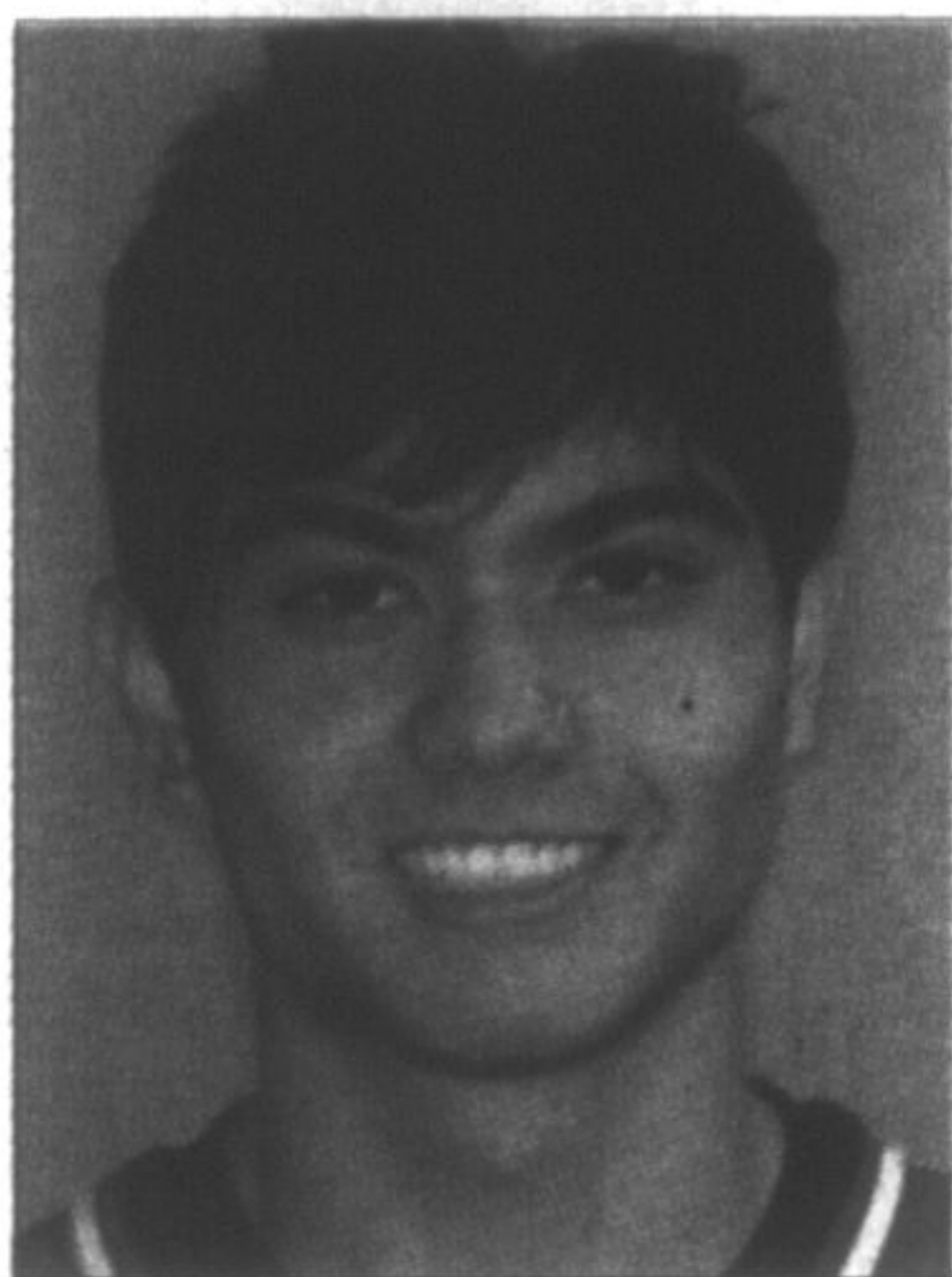
After turning down a scholarship offer earlier this year from Canisius in Buffalo, the 17-year-old Stouffville Spirit defenceman verbally accepted a full ride last week from Michigan starting in the fall of 2011.

Michigan officials can't comment on his signing until it becomes official in April, but head coach Red Berenson took in the Spirit's 4-3 win over Markham last weekend.

Serville also entertained offers from Michigan State, New Hampshire, Miami of Ohio and RPI.

"It was a tough decision," said the smooth-skating Pickering resident. "But I knew Michigan would be the best decision. It's the great place to play hockey and get an education.

"It's one of the most respected hockey programs in developing players. It has great academics and is recognized as one of the top schools in the world. It has great coaches including the leg-



BRENNAN SERVILLE: Stouffville Spirit defenceman rejected Sudbury Wolves and Canisius College.

endary coach Red Berenson and the coaches are caring guys who really made me feel comfortable. The students and town support hockey where they get over 6,500 fans at their home games.

"The campus is beautiful and Ann Arbor is a great city," he said.

Spirit head coach Craig Donovan, who also played NCAA division 1 hockey at Cornell, was happy for his star blueliner.

"The University of Michigan

is a great school and has a great hockey program. We're happy for him. It was well deserved. He's playing good hockey for us right now," he said.

Compiling one goal and nine assists in 19 games with the Spirit this season, Serville also took part in the World Junior A Challenge in Penticton, B.C., in November and the Canadian Junior Hockey League's Prospects Game earlier this month in Dauphin, Man.

Serville is projected to be drafted between the third and fifth round of the 2011 NHL draft June 24 and 25 in St. Paul, Minn.

Drafted by Sudbury of the Ontario Hockey League in 2009, Serville spurned the Wolves last summer to return to Stouffville this season.

He's not the first player from Stouffville to play at Michigan. Stouffville pool builder Doug Todd played for the Wolverines from 1976-80. He was selected by the Atlanta (now Calgary) Flames, 148th overall in the 1978 NHL draft.

Michigan has a solid history with York Region prospects, including Richmond Hill's Mike Cammalleri (Montreal Canadiens) and Woodbridge's Andrew Cogliano (Edmonton Oilers).

AAA confusion for Clippers

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Don Easter was delighted when the Ontario Hockey Federation Minor Council passed a motion pertaining to AAA level tryouts.

What the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association president did not like, though, was the clarification he received from the OHF when he asked how the 14-day AAA tryout period would actually work.

In fact, Easter felt it was "much ado about nothing".

In the motion passed, AAA-level tryouts, with the exception of midget-aged players, must be completed within 14 days following the OHF championships annually staged during the weekend of the second Saturday in April.

The motion added tryouts for AA or A level teams - Whitchurch-Stouffville is an A centre - can start upon completion of AAA tryouts or if the divisions are working together in joint tryouts. Such auditions cannot take place prior to the conclusion of the 14-day period.

The new rule is to take effect immediately and applies to tryouts for the 2011-2012 season.

"On the surface, this would seem to be welcome news," Easter

said. "We have tried in the past to allow the AAA teams a reasonable period of time to complete their tryouts before we started ours."

But when Easter sought further clarification from the OHF as to how the 14-day AAA tryout period would actually work, he said there is no plan in place.

In effect, AAA teams can continue tryouts indefinitely.

"This certainly doesn't help AA and A teams in terms of knowing what players may be available to them when they start their tryouts," he said.

Stouffville minor hockey is working with the Markham Waxers minor organization to try and ensure there are no scheduling conflicts between their AAA tryouts and their rep tryouts for the same age groups.

"Most likely they will run two AAA tryouts for each age group after which they will make most of their cuts," Easter said.

"They will then start their AA tryouts and we will start our rep team tryouts. The Waxers will then run another series of AAA tryouts to finalize their teams and we will again try to avoid any scheduling conflicts by age group in case any Stouffville residents are still in the hunt for a spot on a Waxer AAA team."

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