

**SPORTS:** Ex-Spirit, Clipper star awaits contract from Phoenix Coyotes

# Werek caught off guard with deal to desert

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

One day a New York Ranger, next day a member of the Phoenix Coyotes.

In the case of Ethan Werek, that was the scenario he found himself in Sunday when the Coyotes acquired him in a trade from the Rangers.

In exchange, the Coyotes dealt Swedish centre Oscar Lindberg, a 19-year-old who was their second-round pick in the 2010 National Hockey League entry draft, to the Rangers.

Werek was a second-round pick, 47th overall, by the Rangers in the 2009 draft. The 19-year-old former Stouffville Spirit star and Goodwood resident was initially blind-sided by the transaction.

"It was definitely a surprise, I was caught off guard," said Werek, a six-foot, two-inch, 200-pound centre who played the last three seasons with the Kingston Frontenacs of the Ontario Hockey League.

Werek said he first got wind something might be brewing early that day through his agent, Mark Guy.

"(Guy) called me and said that a trade was in the works. Nothing was finalized, but it might be by Monday or Tuesday," Werek said.

Later came a little sooner than initially anticipated when Werek fielded a call a few hours later from Coyotes general manager Don Maloney.

### TRADED BY NEW YORK RANGERS

"The first thing (Maloney) said to me was that they were glad to have me," Werek said.

Werek hadn't signed a contract with the Rangers since being drafted, but he did not think that factored into him being dealt. If he remained unsigned through next month, he would be thrown back into the pool for this year's draft in Minnesota June 24 and 25.

Maloney said the Coyotes intend to send him a contract offer sheet later this week.

As for leaving the Rangers organization,

Werek said he harbours no regrets.

"New York was good to me. They drafted me and that's where I started my NHL career," he said. "But Phoenix is a great opportunity and I'm excited to be going there."

Werek is unlikely to return to junior as an overager next season but could play for Phoenix's top farm team, the San Antonio Rampage of the American Hockey League, if he fails to crack the Coyotes lineup.

Launching his minor hockey career in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, Werek had 24 goals and 28 assists in 47 regular-season games and three assists in three playoff games last season with the Frontenacs.

Werek played the 2007-08 season with the Spirit, which is partially owned by his father Zeev Werek, and amassed 29 goals and 41 assists in 37 regular season contests.



It's unlikely Ethan Werek will be celebrating any more goals with the Kingston Frontenacs. He's expected to sign his first pro contract after being traded to the Phoenix Coyotes.

Community of Whitchurch-Stouffville

## Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 19th, 2011

---

**Station Creek Golf Club ~ 12657 Woodbine Ave.**  
Buffet: 7:00 am ~ Program: 7:30 - 9:00 am sharp

Guest Speaker  
**MIKE GARTNER**  
Hockey Hall of Famer and former Maple Leafs player Mike Gartner is a born-again Christian, who was introduced to the faith during his playing days. He is involved with Hockey Ministries International, Teen Ranch and his local church here in the heart of Stouffville.

Special Music  
**Lloyd Knight**

www.wsprayerbreakfast.com  
Tickets: \$20

For Tickets Contact:  
Candlelight and Memories  
6198 Main St., Stouffville • 905-642-4940

Ann Pride 905-640-3361  
Dennis Seeley 905-642-3632

Sponsored by: Sun-Tribune

## What would you buy with your Source.ca gift card?



**MAY PAYDAY**  
WIN 1 OF 3 GIFT CARDS FROM THE SOURCE!  
Valued at \$1000, \$750 & \$500!

Contest runs May 1 - May 31, 2011  
Visit [www.flyerland.ca](http://www.flyerland.ca) and click on the contest tab!

## flyerland.ca

