

SPORTS: Jr. A hockey notebook

OHL cuts back in town as Spirit gets busy starting tonight

LAST WEEK: Saturday: Stouffville Spirit 5 vs. Orangeville Flyers 2. Spirit record, Two wins, one loss.

COMING UP: Today: Aurora Tigers vs. Stouffville Spirit at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m. Saturday: Spirit at Aurora, 7:30 p.m. Sunday: Hamilton Jr. Red Wings at

Spirit, 2:30 p.m.

GAME NOTES: To be a contending team in the Ontario Junior Hockey League, Stouffville Spirit head coach Craig Donovan was quick to point out you have to win on the road. Playing its second away game of the sea-

son in Orangeville Saturday, the Spirit recorded its first road triumph with a 5-2 win over the Flyers.

The Spirit set the tone within the first five minutes when they received unanswered goals from Christian Finch and Michael Robinson to take a 2-0 lead. Recently signed forward Leonard Dziemianko scored his first goal as a member of the Spirit on a tip-in just past the midway point of the second period to pad the Spirit lead to 3-0 through 40 minutes. The Spirit continued to apply pressure early in the third period when Alex Botten and Andrew Doyle scored within the first five minutes to give Stouffville a commanding 5-0 lead. The Flyers countered two quick goals near the midway point to cut their deficit. But that would be as close as they would get. Defeating the Flyers for the second time in as many meetings, the Spirit outshot Orangeville 40-23.

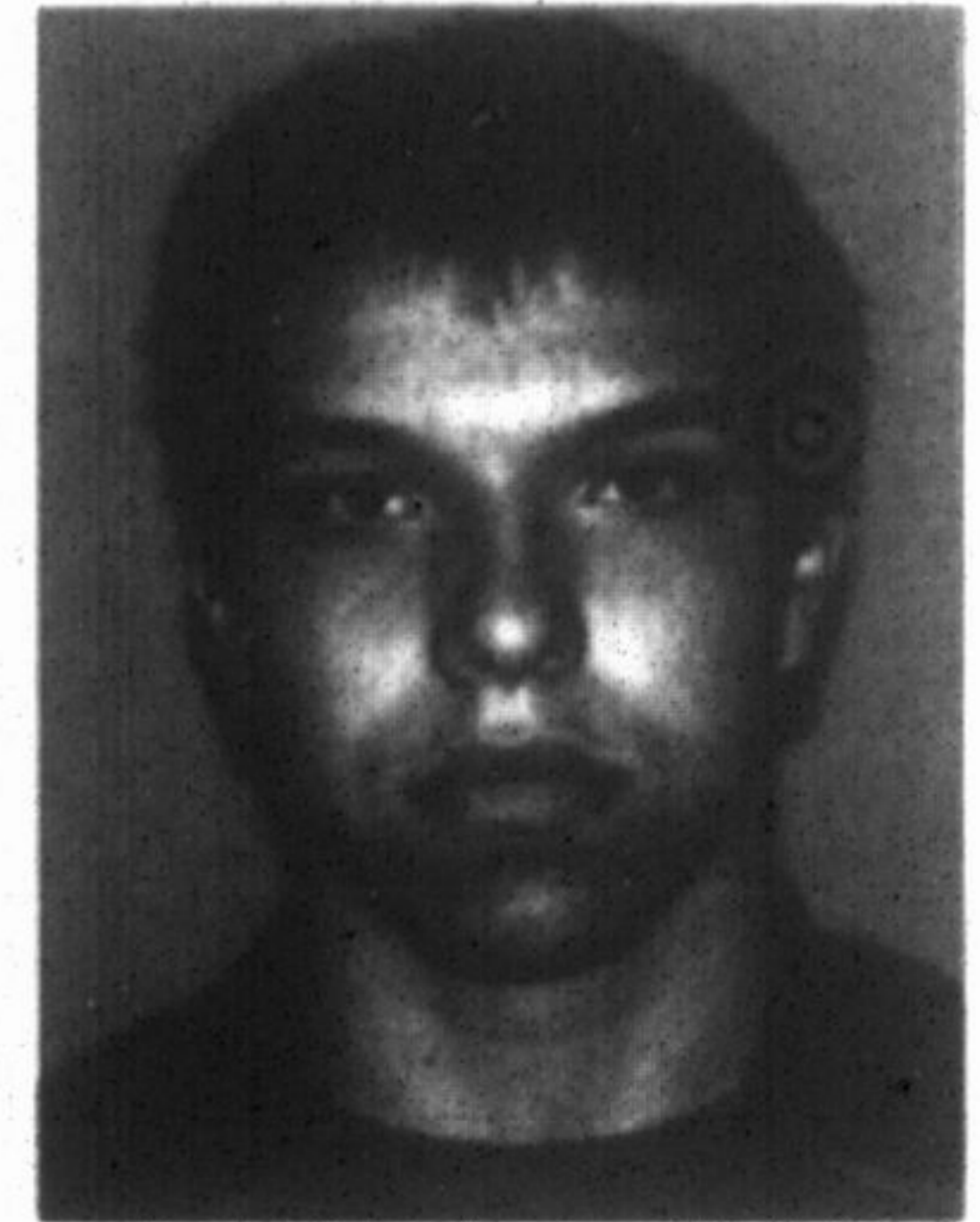
INSIDER: As of presstime, the Spirit was still waiting to see if forward Jay Doherty will return to the club after being released by the Belleville Bulls of the Ontario Hockey League club. Goalie Knick Dawe returned to Stouffville Tuesday following a tryout with the OHL's London Knights. On the injury front, the Spirit expect to hear sometime this week if defenceman Matt Heffernan can resume skating after incurring an ankle injury during the preseason. They do not expect rookie forward Robert Rawlins (upper body) to return for another week.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "We can't go 20-4 at home and 4-20 on the road to be in a playoff seeding that we want," Donovan said.

Donovan felt his club played well early.

"For two periods I thought we played a solid game. We limited Orangeville's scoring chances to where they had just 13 shots in the first two periods. But once we were up 5-0 the guys started playing summer hockey and we got out of our mindset when they got two late goals.

"I was disappointed we didn't finish the game the way we started. With a young team it's hard to keep focus for 60 minutes. But if we play like that against good teams like



LEONARD DZIEMIANKO: Owen Sound Attack OHL prospect scores for Spirit in first Jr. A game.

Newmarket or Georgetown you can't get away with that." In signing Dziemianko last Thursday, Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows said the 16-year-old, five-foot, 11-inch, 188-pound forward played last season with the Toronto Junior Canadiens minor midgets of the Greater Toronto Hockey League and was a sixth-round pick of the Owen Sound Attack in the 2011 OHL priority selection before being a late cut.

"I watched him play last year at the OHL Cup and when he got cut from Owen Sound, one of our scouts called me and said he was available," Burrows said. "He's a gritty forward who can score and I believe it'll be up to him if he wants to play in the OHL next year."

For more on the Spirit, go to: www.stouffvillespirit.com

—Michael Hayakawa

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Nominations are now being accepted for the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards

The strength of our community lies in solid citizens.

If you know a young person, aged 6 to 17, who is involved in worthwhile community service; a special person who is contributing while living with a limitation; a youth who has performed an act of heroism; or a 'good kid' who shows a commitment to making life better for others, doing more than is normally expected of someone their age – help us recognize their contribution – nominate them today!

Nominations will be accepted until November 30

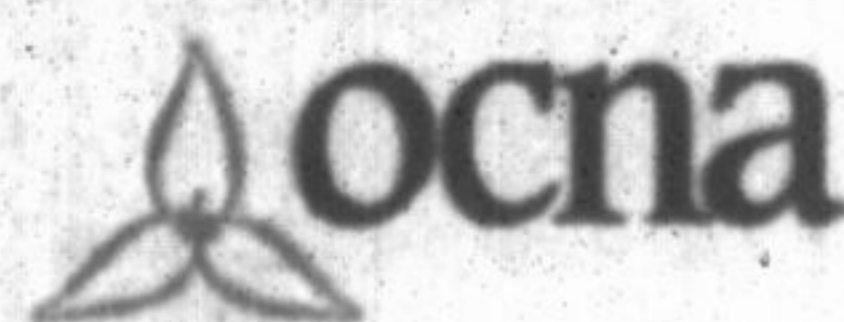
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