

Teammate backs Torres over Halloween costume

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During his NHL career Raffi Torres has fielded criticism for some actions he's taken on the ice.

Just recently, the 30-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville resident, who grew up in Markham, was questioned for what he did off the ice.

The Phoenix Coyotes forward attended a team Halloween party Sunday dressed up as rapper Jay-Z.

With Torres applying brown makeup and standing alongside his wife, who was dressed up as a pregnant Beyonce, a picture was taken of the pair, which drew some criticism from those who saw it on Twitter, Yahoo Sports reported. (See the photograph at yorkregion.com)

Taking a picture of Torres and his wife at the party while dressed up as World Wrestling Entertainment performer Hacksaw Jim Dugan, Coyotes forward Paul Bissonnette was quick to defend his teammate's decision.

"As far as everyone trying to call it 'racism' because Raffi dressed up like Jay-Z can simmer down. He's a huge Jay-Z fan," Bissonnette Tweeted in defence of his teammate.

A first-round pick of the New York Islanders in the 2000 NHL entry draft who also logged time with the Edmonton Oilers and

SPORTS BRIEFS

Vancouver Canucks. Torres encountered his share of racism while playing youth hockey in the GTA.

His father, Juan, is of Mexican descent and mother Anna is a native of Peru.

First-year soccer squad stays perfect

For a first-year entry in the Scarborough Indoor Soccer League's Division Two circuit, the Stouffville Solun are off to a good start after winning their second match in as many outings, a 4-2 win over Olympic Real at the Clairlea Indoor Soccer Arena in Scarborough Sunday.

Roshard Gilbert scored twice for Solun, who battled Olympic Real to a 2-2 tie at the half.

Alex Damcevski opened the scoring while Noel Ellerton added an insurance marker with seconds remaining on the clock.

Stouffville's next scheduled game is Sunday at the Clairlea facility at 9 p.m.

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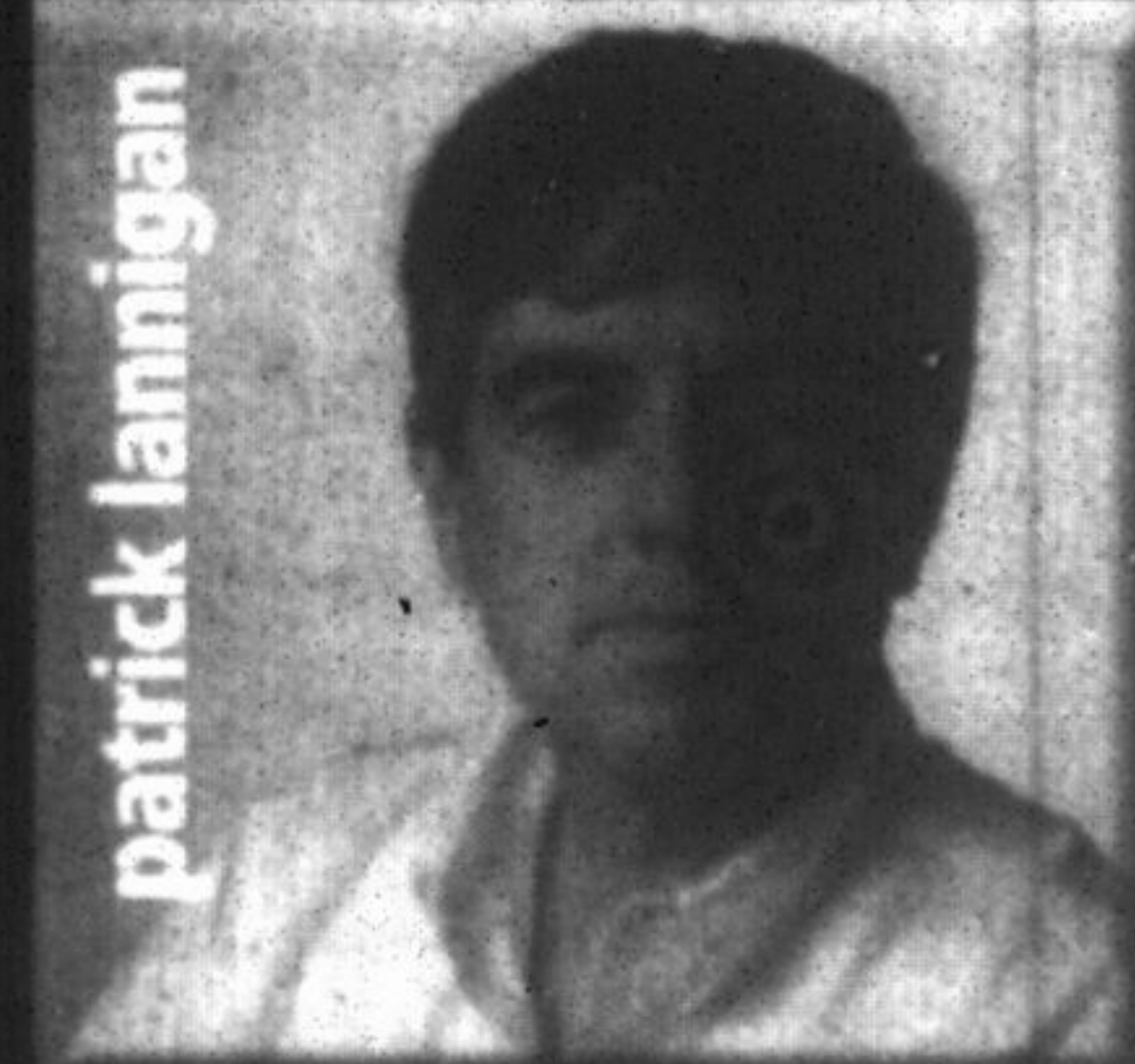
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