

Disgruntled winger sold

Kory Kennedy hoped he could build on what he accomplished last season as a rookie forward with the Stouffville Spirit.

Unfortunately for the 18-year-old Barrie native, he felt things weren't quite working out the way he had anticipated during his sophomore campaign in the Ontario Junior Hockey League.

Compiling three goals and two assists in 16 games this season after 17 goals and 18 assists during the 2009-10 season, Kennedy thought it was time to move on.

The Spirit obliged Kennedy's request and dealt him to the Aurora Tigers Friday for cash.

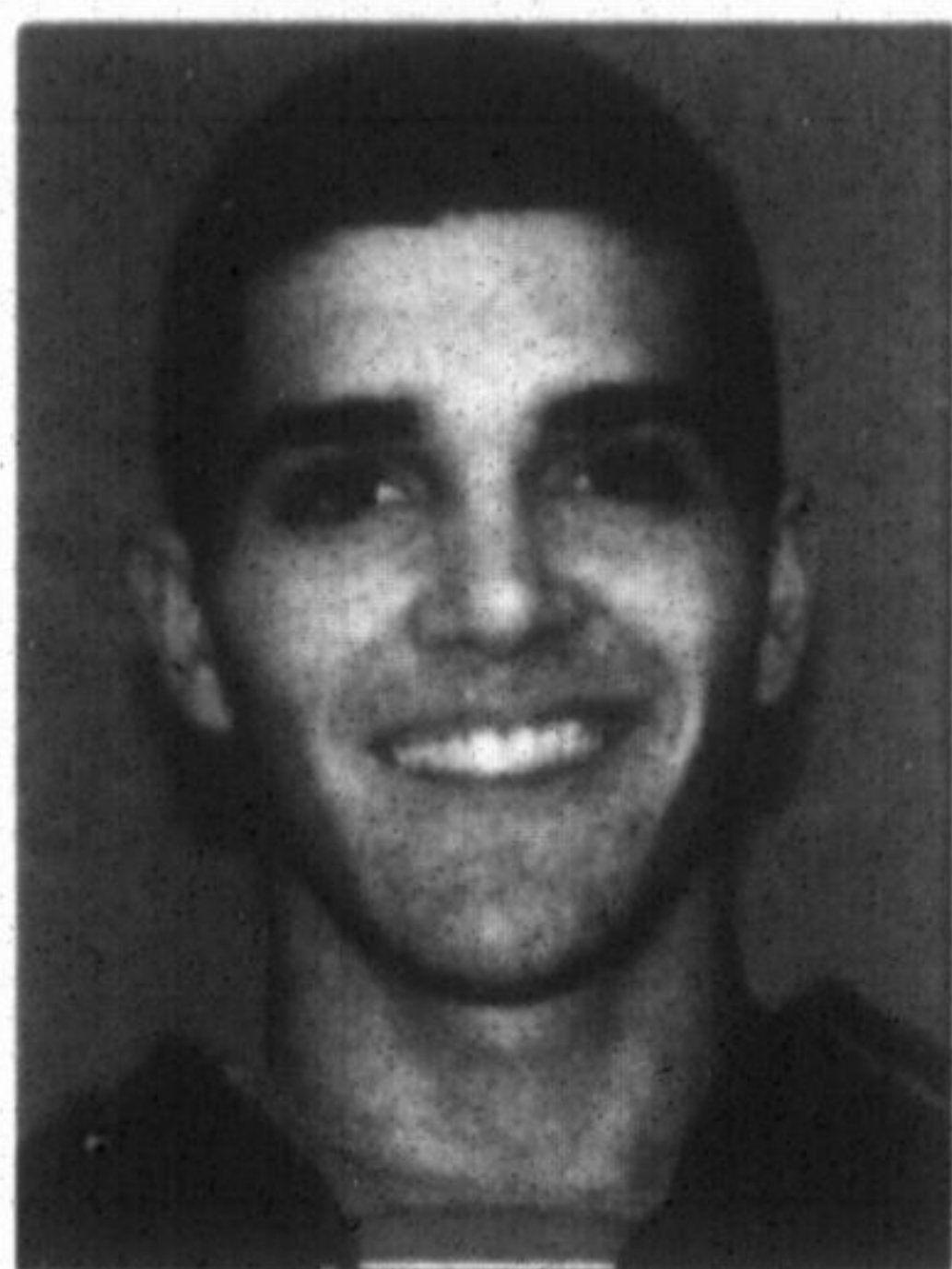
"(The trade) was something that I wanted," Kennedy said. "I didn't feel happy (in Stouffville) and I wanted out."

"It's just better for me to switch teams."

Spirit head coach Craig Donovan thinks Kennedy possesses the tools to play in the OJHL and to some day be an impact player.

He was chosen to attend the Team Canada East tryout camp in preparation for the 2011 World Junior A Challenge.

"I liked Kory as a kid and he has a lot of talent and as a



KORY KENNEDY: Second-year player now an Aurora Tiger after asking out of Spiritland.

coaching staff we wanted to bring that out. He has a lot of natural hockey ability. He's a great skater and has plenty of skill," Donovan said. "I'm not sure what his internal motivation was. I think maybe he thought we (Spirit coaches) were disappointed in him. He just wanted to go somewhere else.

"I wish him well."

The acquisition of Christian Powers from the Hamilton Red Wings should more than fill the void, Donovan said.

—Michael Hayakawa

JR. A NOTEBOOK: Spirit away from Stouffville for two weeks

Returnees key snap of streak

LAST WEEK: Saturday: Stouffville Spirit 7 vs. Burlington Cougars 5. Sunday: Spirit 5 vs. Newmarket Hurricanes 3. Spirit record: 11 wins, two overtime wins, one shootout win, one shootout loss, seven losses, three overtime losses, 32 points, second place in North Division.

COMING UP: Saturday: Spirit at Brampton Capitals, 7:30 p.m.

GAME NOTES: How badly did the Stouffville Spirit miss defenceman Paul Geiger and forward Drake Caggiula from their Ontario Junior Hockey League roster when they were with the Team Canada East team at the 2011 World Junior A Challenge? A lot, conceded Spirit head coach Craig Donovan.

The proof could be found when the Spirit took to the ice for a pair of big weekend contests. With Geiger and Caggiula back with the Spirit for those games, they snapped a five-game winless streak by skating off with a 7-5 road win over the Burlington Cougars Saturday and a 5-3 home ice win over the North Division-leading Newmarket Hurricanes Sunday.

In Saturday's tilt, with the score deadlocked at 3-3 through 40 minutes, the Spirit erupted with unanswered goals from Geiger, Andrew Doyle and newly acquired Christian Powers on the power play. After the Cougars clawed their way back with a pair of unanswered goals to get within one, the Spirit iced the game on Caggiula's second goal of the game into an

empty net with 50 seconds remaining in regulation time. Andrew Doyle and Christian Finch accounted for the other Spirit markers. The Spirit outshot Burlington 51-34.

Less than 24 hours later, the Spirit trailed the Hurricanes 1-0 after 20 minutes before rallying with unanswered goals from Porter, Finch and Caggiula to take a 3-1 lead entering the third period. Both clubs exchanged a pair of goals in the final 20 minutes with Porter notching his second on a power play and Finch added his second into an empty net with 11 seconds left in the game. The Hurricanes outshot the Spirit 29-25.

INSIDER: The Spirit dealt forward Kory Kennedy to the Aurora Tigers Friday in a cash transaction. (See story, this page.)

Forward Tommy Tsicos suffered a broken thumb in Sunday's game and will be out at least six weeks. Defenceman Sean Power remained out of the lineup with a lower-body injury. Donovan said he will remain out indefinitely. Goalkeeper Jon Hall is expected back in the lineup for Saturday's game in Brampton.

In the OJHL scoring race through Sunday, the Spirit have two players in the top 10. Finch was second with 17 goals and 30 assists for 47 points while Porter was fourth with 17 goals and 20 assists for 37 points.

The Spirit has a two-week break until the team's next home game, Dec. 4 against the

Orangeville Flyers.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "No doubt we missed Paul (Geiger) when he was away because he can play 25 to 30 minutes a game," said Donovan of his veteran rearguard. "What a difference it was in having him back. "And Drake (Caggiula) gives us more options up front. With Paul and Drake back, our offence now kicks into gear."

Commenting on the debut of Powers, Donovan said he fills a definite need as he's the only right-handed shot among the forwards they have.

More important though, Donovan said the 20-year-old is an impact type of player.

"He will definitely help us. He works hard, he never quits, he can score and he's a great skater. I was definitely impressed with his debut," Donovan said.

In looking ahead to their lone game this week on the road against Brampton, which is in the cellar in the West Division, Donovan said his club cannot afford to take them too lightly.

"We can't take this game for granted," he said. "Last year we lost there when we played them. We've got to take a different approach and play with some intensity."

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

—Michael Hayakawa

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