

SPORTS: No pre-draft interview required by Carolina

Canes no talk, all action with Carrick

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When Trevor Carrick went through interviews with National Hockey League clubs during the recent league's prospect combine, the one team he did not have any conversations with were the Carolina Hurricanes.

Perhaps the Hurricanes already knew what type of person and player the 17-year-old Stouffville resident and Mississauga-St. Michael's Majors' defenceman was before this year's NHL entry draft took place last weekend in Pittsburgh.

For when the Hurricanes' staff went up to the podium during the fourth round of the draft Saturday to announce their selection, Carrick was the 115th player overall to be selected.

"I had no idea they were interested in me. I never talked to them prior to the draft, nor did they request an interview at the combine," the six-foot, two-inch, 172-pound Carrick said on being chosen by the Hurricanes.

In hearing his name called out, Carrick said it brought a sense of relief after all of the waiting and speculation he endured during his draft-eligible season.

At the same time, it was a sense of accomplishment for all of the days in working his way up the hockey rank-and-file, which also included a one-year stint with the Stouffville Spirit junior A club two seasons ago.

"I'm very excited to be drafted to Carolina," Carrick said. "I've heard great things about the city (Raleigh, N.C.) and the organization. I've been working for this for a while now and it's nice to have it pay off."

Amassing six goals and 13 assists in 68 regular season games with the Majors this past season, Carrick conceded he felt the butterflies when waiting around to see what fate had in store for him during the

annual player lottery.

Ranked as the 44th top North American skater by the NHL's Central Scouting entering the draft, Carrick had heard rumours from hockey sources it would be somewhere in around the third round or later when he would be picked.

"I didn't know what to expect going into the draft," he said. "It was a pretty nervous feeling not knowing when your name is going to be called or who is going to call your name. My agent sat beside me and told me to be patient and stay calm and just enjoy the experience, which helped a lot."

'He's also a devastating fighter, which is maybe a slight side benefit. He's a tough kid, and we feel he was sort of an under-the-radar guy.'

Upon talking with the Hurricanes' brass when drafted, Carrick recalled they offered nothing but encouragement.

"They didn't say much to me about making the club, they just said 'come to camp and make a good impression and have a good hard year with Mississauga and keep improving,'" he said.

The younger brother of Sam Carrick, a captain this past season with the Brampton Battalion and a fifth-round pick of the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 2010 NHL entry draft, Trevor won't have to wait too long to make an impression with the Hurricanes' personnel staff, as he is in Raleigh this week for the Canes rookie initiation camp.

Tony McDonald, Hurricanes' director of amateur scouting, felt they might have gotten a steal in

drafting Carrick, whose cousin Stouffville's Bobby Hughes, was the Hurricanes' fourth-round draft pick in the 2006 NHL entry draft.

"He's a tough, puck-moving defenceman. He's going to fill out and get better. He's also a devastating fighter, which is maybe a slight

side benefit. He's a tough kid, and we feel he was sort of an under-the-radar guy," McDonald said on the Hurricanes' website.

Drake Caggiula, a teammate of Carrick's with the Spirit, was rated for the draft by NHL Central Scouting but was not selected.



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CARRICK FAMILY PHOTO

Trevor Carrick walks the draft floor in Pittsburgh, wearing Carolina red.

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