## Waxers suspended by OJHL, Spirit awaits new schedule

With the 2012-13 Ontario Junior Hockey League season just around the corner, the league announced its regular season schedule Saturday.

Or so it thought.

The OJHL schedule included 633 games played by 23 teams — down from 27 last seawithin the league's newly re-aligned North-East and South-West Conferences.

Make that 22 teams, as of yesterday.

The league announced the Markham Waxers were done for the season.

"Due to circumstances that have arisen in the past 48 hours and the failure to comply with various financial and operational related obligations, the OJHL board of directors have voted unanimously to suspend the Markham Waxers for the entire 2012-2013 season," OJHL Commissioner Marty Savoy said in a media release.

The Waxers were to celebrate their 50th anniversary this season.

.The North-East Conference has been realigned and will now have two five-team divisions.

The defending OJHL champion Stouffville Spirit will be in the north with Aurora, Lindsay, Newmarket and Pickering. The East will

include Cobourg, Kingston, Trenton, Wellington and Whitby

A new schedule is being created.

The Spirit was to open its regular season Sept. 9 against the Kingston Voyageurs at the Stouffville Arena. Playoffs were to begin the week of Feb. 23.

Most Spirit home dates were to be played on Thursday evenings, with others on Sunday afternoons and Saturday nights.

With the Spirit scheduled to begin training camp Aug. 14 at the Stouffville Arena, the club announced its preseason schedule which did not involve the Waxers.

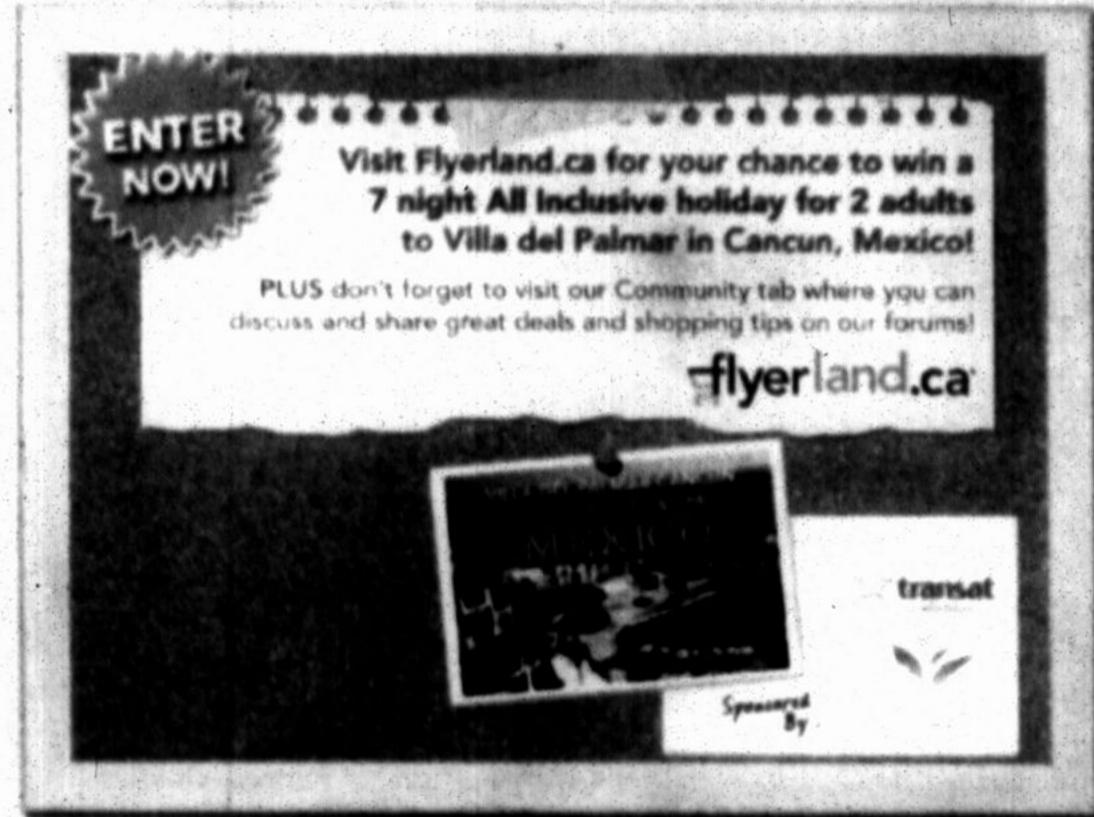
The Spirit will play an eight-game slate starting Aug. 19 when it hosts Pickering at 2:30 p.m. followed by another home game against Toronto's St. Michael's Buzzers Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

After a road game against last year's league finalists, the Whitby Fury, Aug. 25, the Spirit will host the Fury Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. and the Lindsay Muskies Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

After two road games against the Buzzers Aug. 30 and Muskies Sept. 1, the Spirit will conclude the preseason Sept. 6 against Toronto's Lakeshore Patriots at 7:30 p.m.

Michael Playakawa

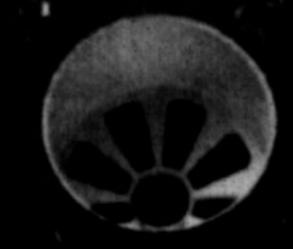
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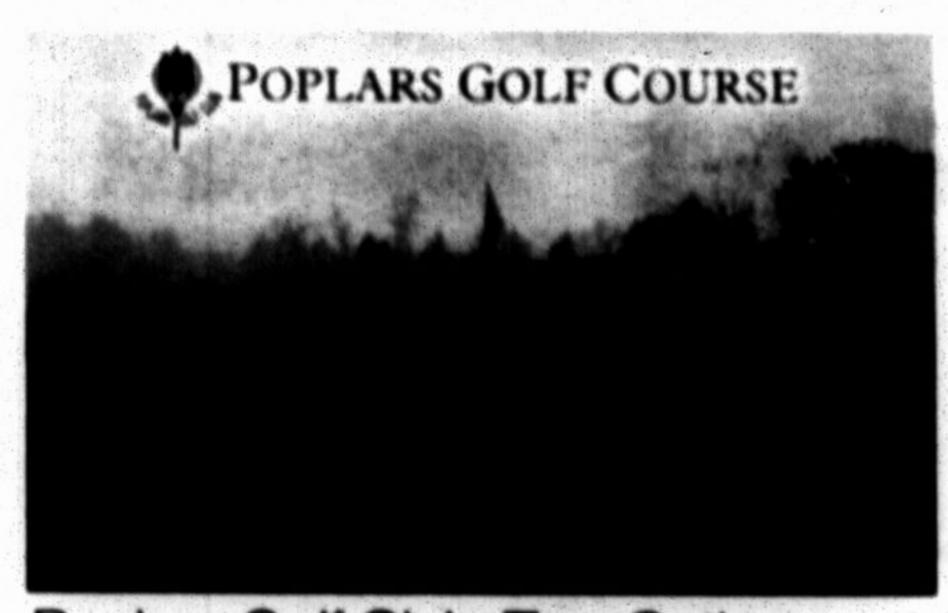
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