

# KISS: Keep it simple, Spirit coach reminds young charges

**LAST WEEK:** Friday: Wellington Dukes 8 vs. Stouffville Spirit 3. Saturday: Spirit 2 vs. Cobourg Cougars 1. Spirit record: three wins, four losses, six points. Fourth place in North Division.

**COMING UP:** Tonight: vs Wellington Dukes at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Kingston Voyageurs, 3 p.m.

**GAME NOTES:** If the Stouffville Spirit hope to be successful on the ice, first-year head coach Jeff Perrin said his youthful charges have to keep things simple. ie. Keep it simple, Spirit. His team did just that against the Cobourg Cougars and skated off with a 2-1 come-from-behind win in Ontario Junior Hockey League

action at the Stouffville Arena Saturday. After a scoreless first period, the Cougars opened the scoring with a power-play goal by Cody Mintz just before the halfway point. With the Spirit fending off a minor penalty to Joe Deveny, Alex Botten notched a shorthanded goal just 16 seconds into the infraction to tie the game. Deveny, a Stouffville resident whose brother Jason played for the Spirit three years ago and cousin Carson Devine played with them from 2003-05, scored the game-winning marker with just under five minutes remaining in regulation time. For Deveny, the goal was his first Jr. A tally. The Cougars outshot the Spirit 36-28. The vic-

tory by the Spirit was their second in as many outings against the Cougars this season and atoned for an 8-3 loss they incurred just 24 hours earlier in a road tilt against the Wellington Dukes.

While the score was rather one sided, the Spirit actually played some sound hockey during the first 23 minutes and for their efforts, were up 3-0 early in the second period. But after that, things went south on the Spirit as they surrendered five unanswered goals before the second stanza concluded and another three in the final frame. Jacob Bauchman and Robert Powers scored first-period markers for the Spirit and Dylan Savory lit the red light just 61 seconds into the second period for the Spirit. The Dukes outshot the Spirit 44-24.

**INSIDER:** Knick Dawe handled netminding chores for the Spirit in both games on the weekend after being released by the Samia Sting just prior to the start of their Ontario Hockey League regular season. On the injury front, Perrin reported all hands are fine entering today's rematch against the Wellington Dukes. As for any roster changes entering today's game, Perrin doesn't anticipate making any. As a result, Dawe will continue to play between the pipes. Recently signed defenceman Dakota Redshaw registered his first point, an assist, on Bauchman's game-opening marker against Wellington.

**GENERALLY SPEAKING:** "It was a good effort," Perrin said of his club's 2-1 win over Cobourg Saturday. "We worked hard and got the job done. We just told the guys to keep things simple."

"It was probably our best defensive effort to date. We just told our guys to be patient, when you get scored on it's not the end of the world. You don't have to change things if we get scored on. Just stick with our game plan." As for last Friday's loss to Wellington, Perrin felt his club tried to get a little too fancy.

"The first 23 minutes were good, but then we tried to play a different way. We tried to do things like carry the puck in instead of chipping it in. We just turned the



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Joe Deveny with big Saturday-night souvenir.

puck over and made mental mistakes."

Looking ahead to today's rematch with Wellington, Perrin anticipated he won't have to say too much to his players to get them motivated.

"We've got some payback to do," he said. "Last time we let them off the hook."

In scoring the game-winning marker Saturday, Deveny was relieved to get the monkey off his back.

"It took a while, but hopefully that's the start of more for us," Deveny, who played the last two years at a prep school in Connecticut, said in scoring his first-ever junior A goal after Saturday's win. "There were some two-on-ones earlier (in the season) I should have had."

- Michael Hayakawa

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