

# Spirit falls out of playoff spot

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Jeff Perrin was hoping history might have had a way of repeating when he was forced to sit in the Stouffville Arena stands to observe his Stouffville Spirit club play the Trenton Golden Hawks in their Ontario Junior Hockey League game Thursday.

The last time the Spirit head coach served a suspension this season, his club persevered to win a road game against the Pickering Panthers.

Any good karma Perrin had from that experience did not remain. The East Division-leading Golden Hawks completed a six-game regular season series sweep of the Spirit with a 7-1 thumping.

Peyton Backus got the Spirit off to a good start by scoring the game's first goal.

But from there, it all went south as Trenton scored the first of three power-play markers in the game to tie the score with just over one minute to play before the first intermission.

"We played good for about one period and a bit of the second and then (Trenton) scored a few goals and that was it. We stopped playing," said Perrin, who delegated the bench duties to assistants Steve

Sedore and Brad Barton.

It was the fourth straight loss for the Spirit.

Although the Spirit remain in fourth place in the North Division standings with 36 points. (10 wins, two overtime wins, three shootout wins, five overtime losses, one shootout loss and 10 losses), they trail the Cobourg Cougars by one point for the eighth and final playoff spot in the North-East Conference standings.

The Spirit hope to get back on the winning track when they host the Kingston Voyageurs tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Former Spirit goalkeeper Knick Dawe was named the OJHL's Gongshow Gear Goaltender of the Month for December, the league announced Wednesday.

Dealt to the Georgetown Raiders as part of a five-player deal that included forwards Alex Botten and Jacob Bauchmann for Stevens and Mannella, Dawe finished December with a 5-0-1 record, including a sparkling 1.81 goals against average during the month.

The six-foot, 180-pound Penetang native's stay with the Raiders was brief as he was recently signed by the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League.

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## NO DEADLINE DEALS

Kenny Burrows tried to do some last minute shopping when the Ontario Junior Hockey League's trade deadline came Thursday.

But in the end, there was no deal.

"I made two offers and people said they would get back to me, but they never called back," Burrows said.

In fact, Burrows wasn't alone. There were few last-second transactions carried out.

From the league's website, only one was conducted Thursday involving the Orangeville Flyers and Toronto Lakeshore Patriots.

"It was dead," Burrows said. "There was no movement at the deadline. It's the slowest deadline I've ever been involved with. There was nothing."

A league ruling requiring 23-man rosters came into play.

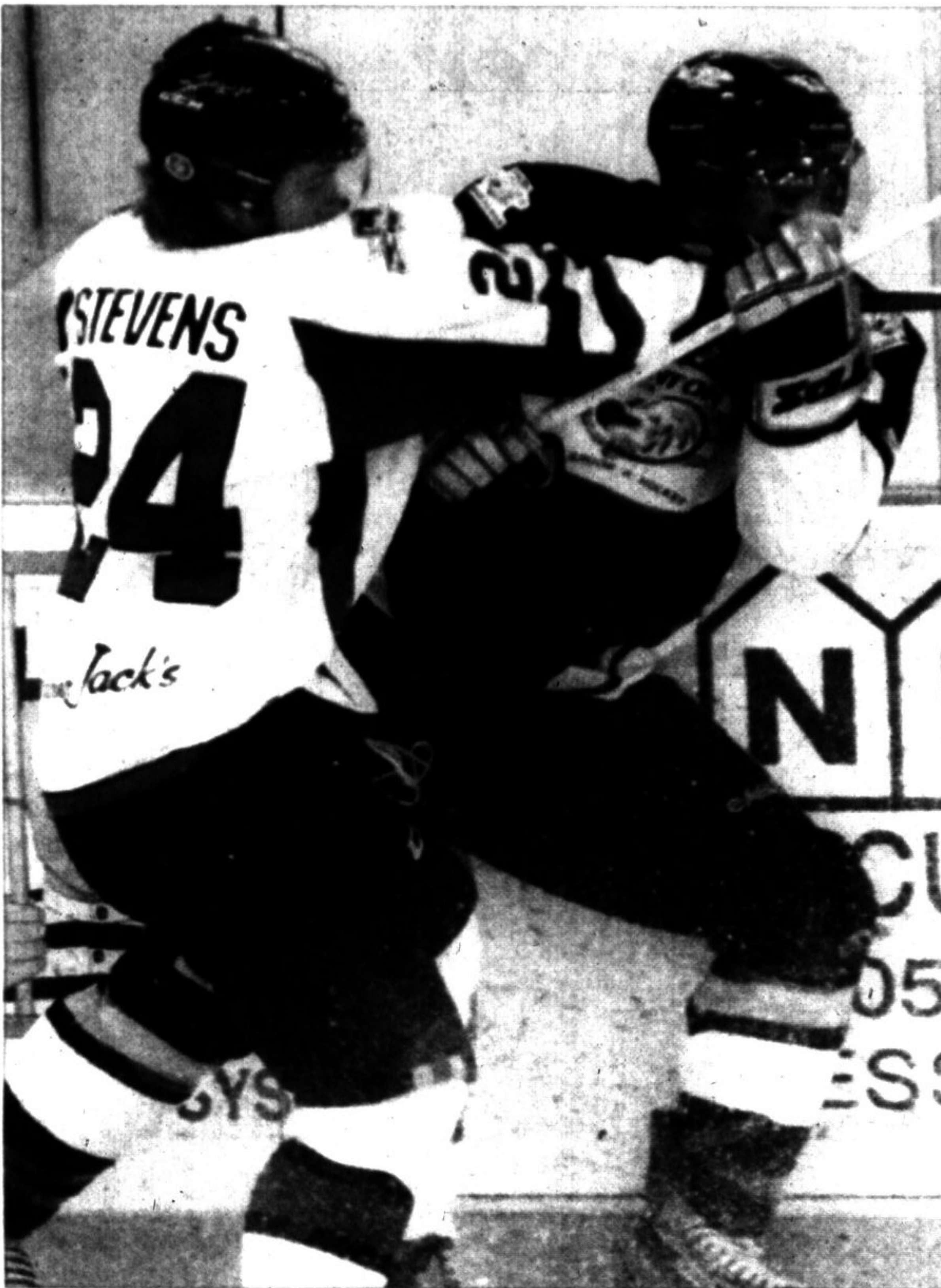
"Teams can sell players," but they have to get something back to ice a team," explained Burrows. "I think that's one reason why there was less movement."

Another factor has been the reduction of teams in the league over the last few seasons to where they're now at 22. There's now fewer trading partners.

To utilize his remaining card, Burrows will have to find a player who gets released.

Ideally, Burrows hinted he would like to find a forward that has some offensive skills.

"We'll see what happens," he said. "But it's not urgent."



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Stouffville Spirit forward Marc Stevens hits Trenton Golden Hawk Loren Ulett during Trenton's 7-1 win in OJHL action at the Stouffville Arena Thursday. The Spirit hosts Kingston tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

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