Guelph-bound youngster has NHL, OHL, NCAA bloodlines

LAST WEEK: Sunday: Kingston Voyageurs 5 vs. Stouffville Spirit 0. Spirit record: 11 wins, two overtime wins, five shootout wins, one shootout loss, five overtime losses, 30 losses, 42 points. Fourth place in North Division, Ontario Junior Hockey League."

COMING UP: Today: vs. Aurora Tigers at Stouffville Arena, 7:30 p.m. (final regular season game).

GAME NOTES: The Stouffville Spirit got a look in the rear-view mirror Sunday. In the Kingston Voyageurs, the Spirit saw the smooth-skating, poised, veteran team they were when they won its first OJHL championship last year. The younger, rebuilding Spirit, which was eliminated from playoff contention last week, lost 5-0 to the Voyageurs at the Stouffville Arena. Currently riding a nine-game winning streak, the Voyageurs (33-20) will finish second in the North-East Conference behind the Trenton Golden Hawks. The 18-36 Spirit outshot the Voyageurs 44-29, but Kingston goalie Colin Dzijacky was solid throughout and spectacular early in the game. Richmond Hill product

Ludlow Harris had an empty-net goal and an assist for the Voyageurs, who were up 1-0 after one period and 3-0 through two. Both teams were without their head coaches, Kingston's Colin Birkas and Stouffville's Jeff Pernn, who were serving suspensions. Perrin was thrown out of the Spirit's shootout win in Newmarket last Thursday for arguing with an official.

INSIDER: Former Spirit captain Matt Neal had one goal and one assist in helping the Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute Enginners defeat 10th-ranked Yale University 4-1 in Troy, N.Y. Saturday. Neal also had one helper in RPI's 5-1 win over Brown University Friday. The sophomore is tied with Jason Laliberte as the school's leading scorer with 25 points (seven goals and 18 assists). RPI's record is 14 11-5. Former Spirit teammate Chris Porter had two assists in helping American International College defeat Sacred Heart 9-1 in Milford, Ct. Saturday. The freshman has five goals and nine assists through 27 games.

Spirit forward Marc Stevens, 16, suited

up in his third game with the Guelph Storm of the Ontano Hockey League. a 5-3 win over the Kitchener Rangers Monday. Stevens has one assist for the Storm, which was recorded in his debut against the Barrie Colts Jan. 11. Stevens was a fifth-round pick of the Storm (102nd overall) in the 2012 OHL draft. Once the Spirit conclude its regular season tonight, he will join the Storm for the remainder of its campaign and next year. He plays on a line in Stouffville with a brother. Michael. Their older brother, Justin, is a freshman at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Penn., the alma mater of former Spirit coach Dan Larmer. Their dad, Larry, played for Sudbury and Belleville in the OHL. Their uncle, John Stevens, is an assistant coach with the Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings. He was head coach of the Philadelphia Flyers from 2006-09.

Dakota Redshaw, Chad Burrows and Daniel Mannella have the flu. They'll be game-time decisions tonight.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: "Kingston is a good team, they outplayed us and

deserved to win. I think they have a good chance to win in the playoffs," Pernn said.

"The good thing is the guys did not quit. But what hurts this team is they lose the battles and take lazy penalties. Hopefully, that will stop next year. as they gain some experience and maturity."

On tonight's game against the North Division-leading Aurora Tigers?

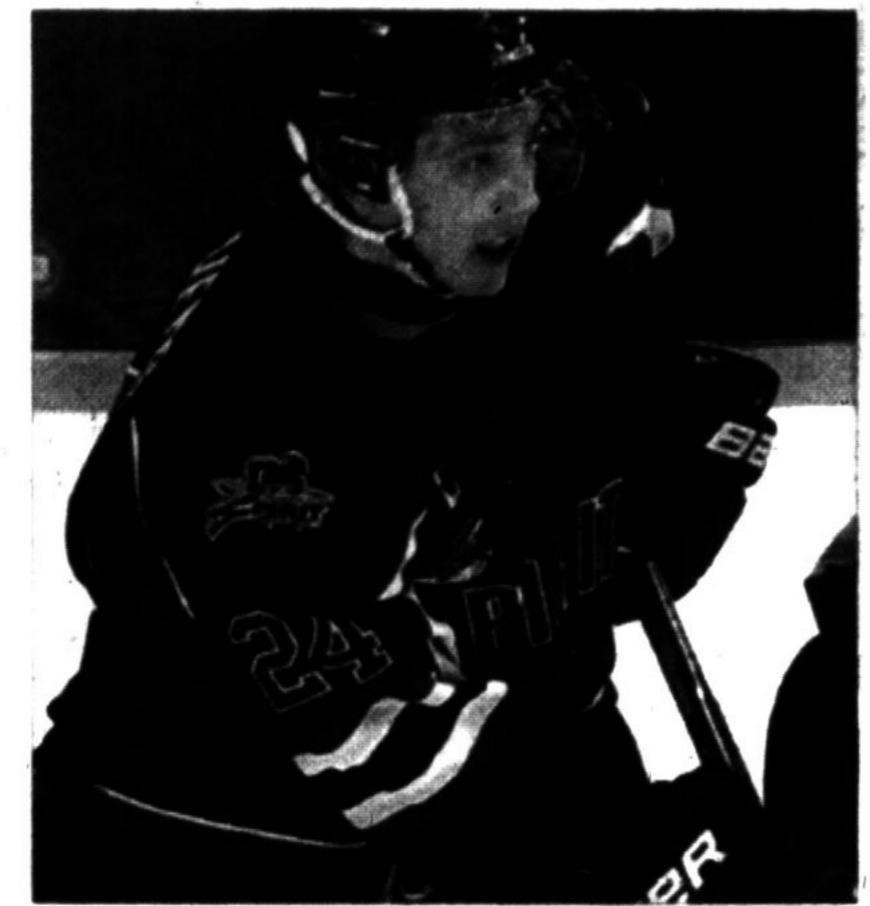
"We're going to play this game like every other game, to compete and try to win. Nothing changes," Pernn said. "We're playing for pride and some of the players will be playing for spots on the team next year."

Commenting on Stevens' decision to go the OHL route, Perrin said he deserves an opportunity to play at the next level.

"It's good for him, he's played well for us this year," he said.

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

-Michael Hayakawa & Jim Mason



OJHL IMAGES AMY DEROCHE

Stouffville Spirit rookie Marc Stevens will join the OHL's Guelph Storm full time after tonight's game at the Stouffville Arena. He's the nephew of longtime NHL coach John Stevens.

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Wednesday's @ 7:00pm - 8:15pm Kids Club - SK - Grade 5

Friday's @ 7:00pm - 10pm Sr. High - Grades 9 – 12

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Lent 2 Sunday, Feb. 24th

7:30am: Men's Breakfast all men welcome Guest Speaker: "Global Medic" 10:30am: Sunday Worship Everyone welcome It Happened on a Monday An off the record conversation between Jesus and Peter. 7:30pm: SUM Concert Higher Ground - Bluegrass Gospel

Tuesday Feb. 26th

12:30pm: Seniors Soup Lunch Freewill Offering

www.stouffvilleuc.ca