

# Spirit coaches look forward to better season

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Stouffville Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows wanted to retain Jeff Perrin as head coach along with assistants Steve Sedore and Brad Barton for the 2013-14 Ontario Junior Hockey League season.

Likewise, Perrin, Sedore and Barton wanted to return behind the bench.

Call it a done deal as Burrows recently announced the trio will return for a second season.

In his discussions with the coaching staff, Burrows said the decision to have them back was a priority.

While it might have been easy for Burrows to make a change behind the bench based on the club missing out on the playoffs for the first time since the late 1990s, he said the Spirit was in a transitional phase in which they had to replace a good number of key veterans from their 2011-12 OJHL championship squad.

Based on what talent was on the team, not even Houdini could have pulled off a magical trick to get a relatively youthful squad back into serious playoff contention, Burrows said.

"The coaches and I talked things out and they're all coming back. I wanted them back. We were in a growing year and to have Jeff (Perrin), Steve (Sedore) and Brad (Barton) back wasn't difficult at all," Burrows said.

Perrin said he was informed by Burrows before the season concluded his entire coaching staff would be back.

"It sure feels good," Perrin said, "I'm excited to be coming back because that's what we were building for."

"This past year was a rebuild and we're definitely looking forward to next season."

Perrin said his priority will be to have the club take a more disciplined approach, including cutting down on goals against and penalties.

Burrows and Perrin have been beating the bushes during the last few weeks scouting major midget, Jr. B and Jr. C games with the hope of finding prospects who might don a Spirit jersey next season.

What Burrows likes about this time of the year is observing which players can and cannot respond positively to the rigors of the post-season.

"From around late February

into March we get to see playoff hockey and we see a lot of good or bad things that a player might do," he said.

Acknowledging he doesn't know how many returning veterans might be back in the fold for next season, Burrows said they do know what type of players they would like.

"I think we'll be a faster club than last year," Burrows said. "I'm big on that. Speed draws a lot of penalties."

With the club's rookie camp set to take place May 3-4, Burrows said he hopes they can have close to 100 hopefuls in attendance.

## Stars take peewee title

The Markham Stouffville peewee A Stars captured the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League Eastern Division title with a 1-0 shootout road win over the Whitby Wildcats to claim their first-to-four-points final series Saturday.

With the contest scoreless through regulation time, both teams failed to score in a five-minute overtime session.

The contest was then decided in a shootout where the Stars outscored Whitby 3-2 to earn the

win and berth in the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League championship weekend in Mississauga from March 22-24.

The Stars won the opening game of the series 3-1 before settling for a 1-1 tie in the second game which set the stage for Saturday's finale.

The Stars started the playoffs with consecutive victories over the North York Storm in their best-of-three or first-to-four points series with 4-1 and 5-2 wins respectively.

The Stars then faced the Scarborough Sharks where they battled to a 1-1 tie in the first game before emerging with a 1-0 victory in the second game and then clinching the series with a 1-1 tie to advance to the final against Whitby.

Coached by Mike Feasby, Scott Feasby, Dave Bender, Brian Arnold and Tim McFadden, team members included: Katelyn Hanna, Georgia Bender, Kaitlyn Fung, Natasha Athanasakos, Samantha Partridge, Shannon Hollands, Theodora Ananiadis, Alexa Feasby, Alyssa Denney, Brianna Arnold, Brooklyn Feasby, McKayla Major, Caitlin Giannis, Catherine Quan, Claire Hary and Gabrielle McFadden. Grace Fung and Pam Hollands served as trainers while Pam Giannis and Bill Giannis were managers.

## HULSHOF NETS NCAA SCHOLARSHIP

When the 2013-14 hockey season begins, Shawn Hulshof will be playing and attending school south of the border.

The 18-year-old Stouffville resident, who played the past two seasons with the Trenton Golden Hawks of the Ontario Junior Hockey League, confirmed his commitment to enrol at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Ct., the OJHL announced on its website this week.

A six-foot, three-inch, 195-pound forward, Hulshof finished fourth in team scoring with 45 points in 52 games played for the Golden Hawks after missing some early games due to a knee injury suffered during his participation at the Team Canada East camp.

But he was tied for the team lead in goals with 25 and notched four game-winning markers for the Golden Hawks.

As well, he was tied for the North-East Conference scoring lead in February on the strength of seven goals and 13 points to earn the conference's player of the month honours.

Hulshof's tremendous regular season earned him a spot on the OJHL East Division All-Star Team that would win the 2012 Central Canada Cup All-Star Challenge in Wellington.

Hulshof led St. Brother Andre of Markham to the Ontario high school championship two years ago after he was a late cut of the OJHL's Stouffville Spirit. His two older brothers played for the Spirit.



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