

SPORTS: Jr. A team hosting camps for goalies, skaters

Spirit hunting for gems in field of 150 prospects

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The Stouffville Spirit is looking for a few young players. Especially those who can perform and make a major impact at the Ontario Junior Hockey League level during the 2013-14 campaign.

With the Spirit finishing in fourth place in the North Division and subsequently missing the playoffs last season, there are definitely employment openings.

But to make the team that won the OJHL title 12 months ago, players will have to make a lasting impression on Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows along with head coach Jeff Perrin and the rest of the coaching staff when the club conducts its annual Rookie Prospects Camp at the Stouffville Arena tomorrow from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Some 150 prospects who last played at the Junior B, C, D, AAA or AA major or minor midget or juvenile levels are expected to showcase their skill set during a series of intrasquad games, Perrin said.

Entering his second season as the club's head coach, Perrin has a good idea of what he would like to see in a rookie candidate.

"We're looking for players who can skate well, work hard, play physical and can compete," he said.

Specifically though, Perrin would like to find some forwards who can finish their checks and win battles along the boards.

In an effort to shore up their blueline, he's looking for defencemen who are quick, can make that good first pass and get their shots from the point through to the net.

Not to mention be physical enough to move an opposing forward away from the net.

With the Spirit also conducting a two-day goalie camp Wednesday and Thursday, Perrin was hoping one or two potential prospects would step up to the fore by exhibiting an ability to stop pucks and show a deftness in handling

the puck.

Perrin remained hopeful they could identify at least some 40 players to invite to their main training camp in August.

"We hope we can find at least one or two players from the original group who will turn out (well)," Perrin said.

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