

Kids get physical at Jr. A rookie camp

Prospects turn heads against Spirit veterans

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With 120 youthful candidates showcasing their hockey skills at the Stouffville Spirit's rookie camp on the Stouffville Arena ice Friday and Saturday, there was definitely no shortage of talent on hand for Spirit head coach Jeff Perrin and the rest of his coaching staff and team management to assess.

In fact, when the trials concluded, Perrin felt it was one of the more highly competitive camps he's been privy to witness.

When all was said and done, some 40 hopefuls were asked by the club to return Monday for the Spirit's all-star game at the Clippers Sports Complex starting at 8 p.m. in an effort to whittle that number down further before their main training camp commences in mid-August.

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Ideally, Perrin said he hopes to have some 20 players identified from that cast to take the next step towards earning a berth on the 2013-14 Spirit roster.

Reflecting on the proceedings, which was comprised of a mini tournament format of players which came from the AAA or AA juvenile, midget, minor midget, Junior B, C and D ranks last season, Perrin said what drew his attention foremost was the overall intensity exhibited.

That was one facet Perrin hopes to address

after his club failed to qualify for the Ontario Junior Hockey League postseason last year.

"It was pretty physical which was nice to see," Perrin said.

"The kids competed hard and there were even some scraps. It was nice to see they wanted to play.

"That's what we (coaching staff and management) were looking for."

Having organized numerous rookie camps in the past, Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows felt this year's crop of hopefuls was the best he's seen in terms of being physically prepared to hit the ice.

"The kids came in great shape, better than what I've seen in past years," he said.

"The play was good right up until the end, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. — that's a long time."

As a means of measuring how good the prospects were at camp, the Spirit had veterans Chad Burrows, nephew of the Spirit co-owner and general manager, Josh Carrick, Justin Wain, Dakota Redshaw and Daryl Thomson on the ice.

From the all-star game, Burrows added one of their objectives will be to make some decisions as to which 16-year-old players they intend to retain on the roster for the upcoming campaign.

As well, they hope to have a couple of prospects inked to cards.

Of the talent observed from the camp, Perrin said there were a couple of players that drew his attention.

However, he refused to tip his hand in terms of identifying specific individuals at this juncture — in part, since those prospects might attend other rookie camps conducted by rival clubs or have aspirations of attending an Ontario Hockey League training camp.

During last year's event, Team Three Red/EHR driver Jason Hathaway had a great run, posting a sixth place finish.

For more on the Team Three Red/EHR racing team, log on to: www.team3red.com

Justin ninth in CJGA event

Matthew Yustin finished in a three-way tie for ninth place at the Canadian Junior Golf Association's Junior at Royal Woodbine event in Toronto recently.

Competing in the boys 15-19 division, the Gormley resident carded a two-round 18-over par 160 (83-77) and was tied with Mitchell MacLeod of Shanty Bay and Tyler Erb of Toronto.

Yustin finished eight shots behind winner Trent Abraham of Burlington, who was 10-over par at 152 (77-75).

For more on the CJGA, log on to: www.cjga.com



Alexander Joseph-Pre-sutto controls the puck as he moves up ice during Saturday's auditions for the 2013-14 Stouffville Spirit Jr. A hockey team.

STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

New wheels for Team Three Red/EHR

When the Stouffville-based Team Three Red/EHR race team take to the track in the 2013 NASCAR Canadian Tire Series schedule, they will sport some new equipment.

Just as important, they hope it will contribute to a successful campaign on the short track ovals and road courses.

What has the Stouffville-based team bubbling with anticipation is the support they will receive from The Harman Group.

The Caledon-based company will be the team's official transportation provider and will travel with the team as they compete in 12 events across Canada in utilizing one of their trucks and logistics expertise.

The Team is gearing up to launch their 2013 season with the first race May 17 to 19 at the Vortex Brake Pads 200 on the 3.597-kilometre road course at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park near Bowmanville.

Crime Stoppers of York Region invite you to attend:

CINTAS. Community SHRED Day

Saturday, May 11th, 2013

Community Safety Village of York Region
3291 Stouffville Rd., Stouffville

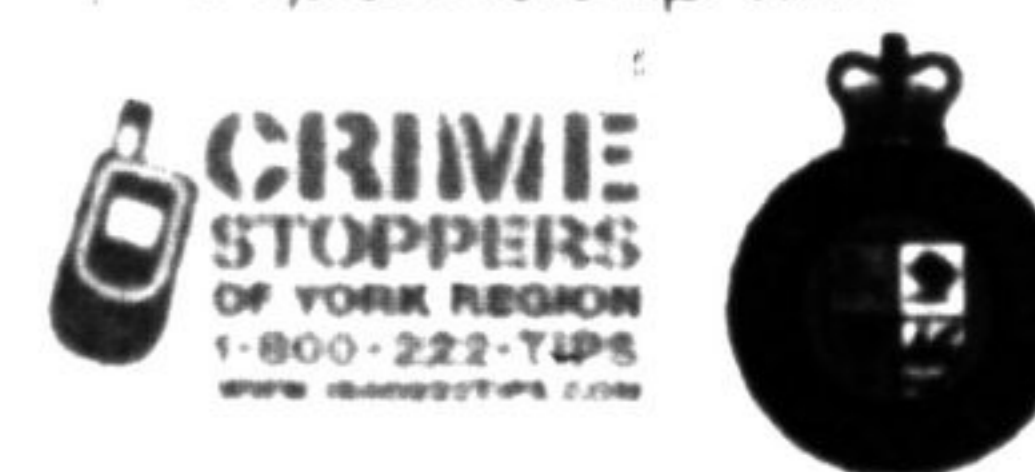
10:00am - 2:00pm

In conjunction with York Regional Police Week Open House

Saturday, May 18th, 2013

Upper Canada Mall
17600 Yonge St., Newmarket
10:00am - 2:00pm

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