SPORTS

Ferry taking return trip to Memorial Cup

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA

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Tyler Ferry has seen a lot of things during his hockey career.

But nothing compared with what the 20-year-old Richmond Hill resident and former Stouffville Spirit defenceman witnessed first hand Monday.

Toiling in his third season, including the last two as a fulltime member of the London Knights, Ferry was part of a team which overcame a three games to one deficit against the Barrie Colts in their best-of-seven Ontario Hockey League Robertson Cup final to win the title for the second straight year

It culminated with a dramatic 3-2 win.

The Knights won the deciding game in dramatic fashion when Bo Horvat scored the game-winning goal with just one second remaining in regu-



TYLER FERRY: Stouffville Spirit grad and his London Knights hoping for better finish at Memorial Cup.

lation time.

In the game, the puck barely crossed the goal line and was under review before the game officials made their final ruling.

"It's unbelievable, I really couldn't believe it," said Ferry. "It was crazy. The ref waved it off at first and while we were waiting for the review it was even more stressful."

For his part, Ferry got things going when he was credited with an assist, his third coupled with two goals in 21 postseason games this year, on the game's first goal also by Horvat.

While being on his first OHL championship team last year with the Knights was special, Ferry conceded this year's accomplishment was even more rewarding.

Ferry, who was drafted by the Knights in the 15th round in the 2008 OHL priority selection, made his debut during the 2010-11 campaign and saw duty in five games after starting the season with the Stouffville Spirit.

"We were the favourites

entering the final and being down three games to one and coming back to win this year was a little more special," he said. "This showed what this club is made of."

The Knights will represent the OHL for the second straight year in the MasterCard Memorial Cup playdowns.

While gaining his baptism in the Memorial Cup last year and coming so close to winning it before suffering a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime loss to the Shawinigan Cataractes in the final, Ferry said his club will settle for nothing less than taking things one step further this year.

The Knights will open the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup in Saskatoon by playing the host Blades Friday at 6 p.m.

"Everyone is that much hungrier after last year," he said. "We don't want to go there and lose."

Spirit invites 15 from all-star game

For a first-time venture, the Stouffville Spirit felt its rookie camp all-star game held at the Clippers Sports Complex Monday was worthwhile.

Especially as organizers work to confirm and weed out which prospects have the potential to make their Ontano Junior Hockey League club roster and which do not.

With all prospects who received an invitation from the Spirit's rookie camp in attendance, four defencemen and 11 forwards took one further step towards making the Ontario Junior Hockey League's club roster after they were asked to report to the main training camp Aug. 17:

"The calibre of play was good," said Spirit head coach Jeff Pernn. "They competed hard and they all showed up even though Game 7 (between the Toronto Maple Leafs and Boston Bruins) was on at the same time."

In terms of whittling down the prospects on hand, Pernn revealed not all of the final decisions were easy to make.

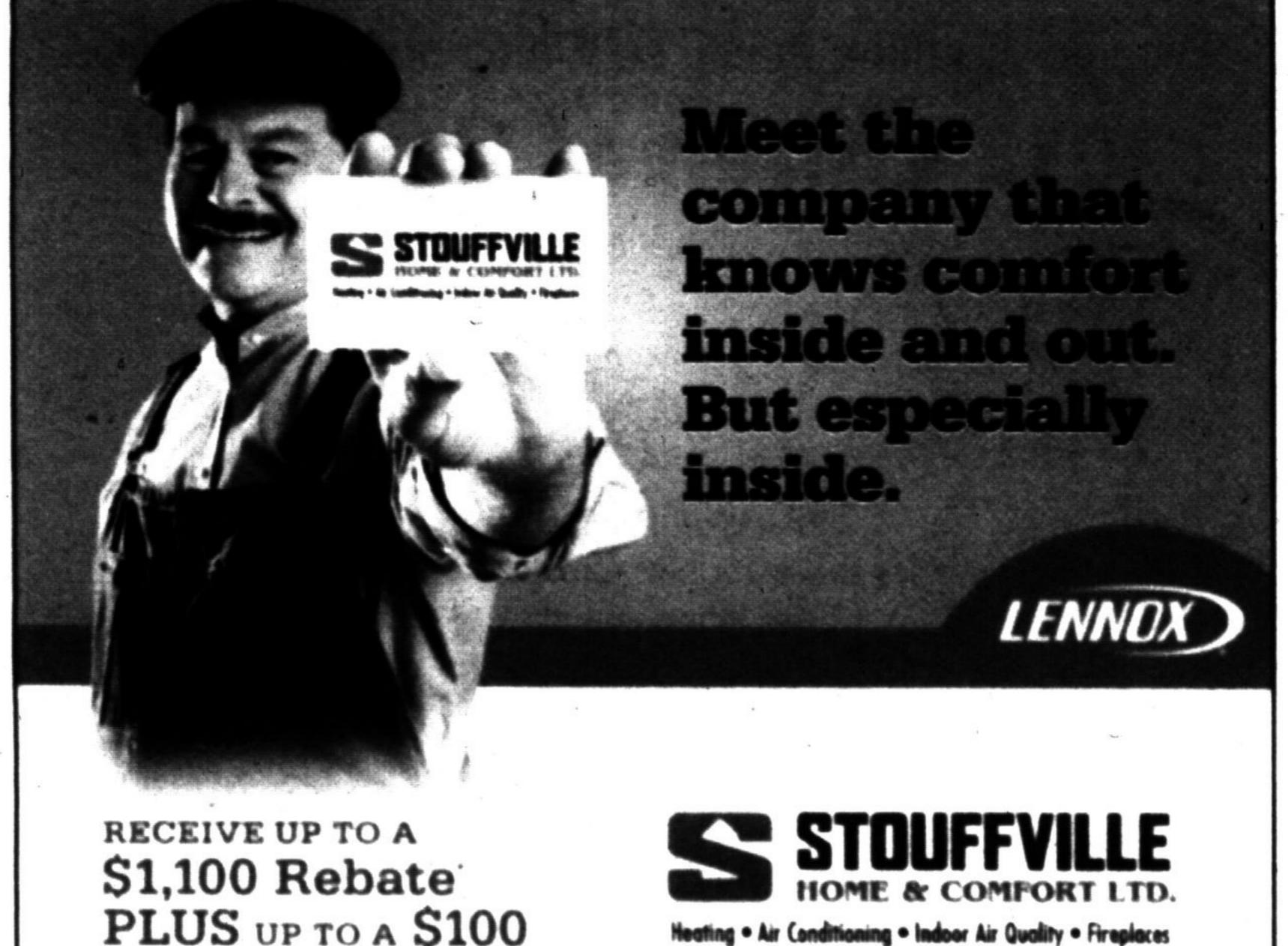
In fact, he hinted there were some players who they thought had the potential to take their game to the next level hitting the wall.

"A couple of the players we (coaching staff and manage ment) went back and fourth with," he said. "But for the most part the guys sorted themselves out.

"That's why we did this (all-star game)."

Pernin hopes the club will make the all-star game an annual event as a part of its rookie camp selection procedure.

Michael Hayakawa



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