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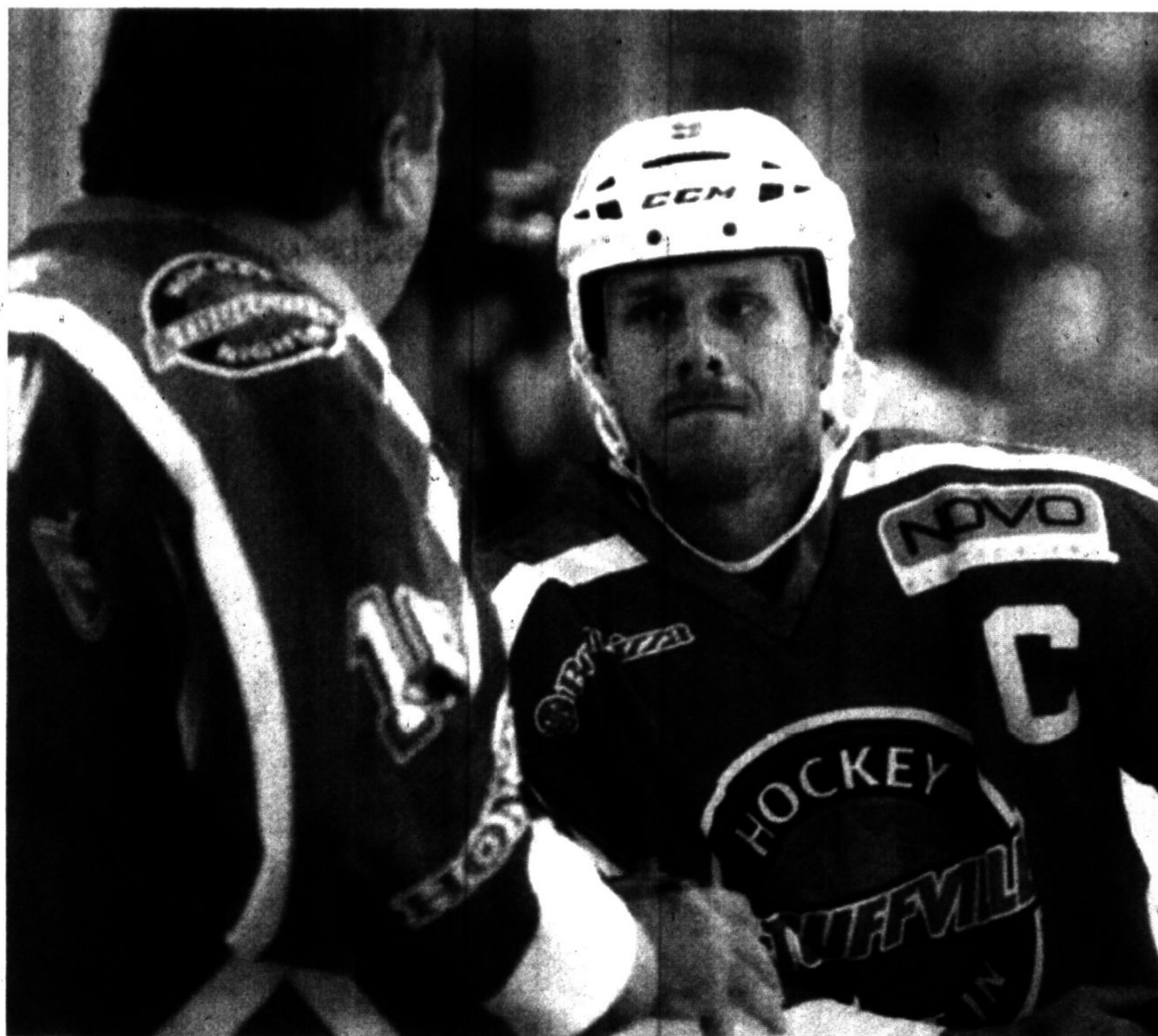


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SUN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
Stephen Weiss talks with Mayor/Coach Wayne Emmerson during Hockey Night in Stouffville last August. The Whitchurch-Stouffville resident signed a \$24.5 million free-agent contract with the Detroit Red Wings yesterday. He's getting married next week.

\$24 M wedding gift for Weiss

The Detroit Red Wings entered the National Hockey League's free agency period targeting Stephen Weiss for their 2013-14 roster.

Consider him signed, sealed and delivered.

The Red Wings inked Weiss, who grew up in Markham and makes rural Whitchurch-Stouffville his offseason residence, to a five-year deal at a reported \$4.9 million a season on the first official day of free agent signings yesterday.

It's an early wedding present for the veteran who is getting married next week.

The five-foot, 11-inch, 190-pound centre was the first round pick and fourth player chosen overall by the Florida Panthers in the 2001 NHL draft.

This past season, Weiss played in just 17 games and had one goal and three assists before incurring an injury that ended his year with the Panthers.

Mr. Weiss has confirmed he'll play in his third straight Hockey Night in Stouffville Aug. 22. The event is a fundraiser for Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Second Acton signs with Edmonton

Stouffville's Will Acton inked a two-year deal with the Edmonton Oilers — where his father, Keith, is the new associate coach — yesterday.

Will, 25, played for the Toronto Marlies, the top farm club of the Leafs, the last two seasons under new Oilers head coach Dallas Eakins.

-Michael Hayakawa

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