

OJHL schedule includes school-day game

Spirit dealing Cwo's son, veteran D-man

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Taylor Joseph began his Ontario Junior Hockey League career with the Stouffville Spirit last season.

But for the upcoming campaign, the 19-year-old forward will be playing for the Newmarket Hurricanes.

The Spirit announced they recently dealt Joseph, the son of former NHL goalkeeper Curtis Joseph, to the Hurricanes for cash.

Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows noted with an influx of local talent and returnees from last year's team, Joseph was caught in a numbers game.

"We've got some younger guys who are coming in that can fill the void and they're local kids and the kids from last year's team will move up and get more ice time. Taylor was left in between," Burrows said.

Joseph was no stranger to Hurricanes' head coach Justin Peca, who had coached him in minor hockey.

As well, Burrows noted the trade works well since Joseph resides in the Newmarket area.

In his rookie season with the Spirit last season, Joseph had one goal and eight assists in 44 regular season contests.

In another expected move, the Spirit are looking to find a place for veteran defenceman Sean Power.

Burrows said with Power being a left-handed shot, the club already had enough players who could shoot from the left side.

Last season with the Spirit, Power, 18, had 10 assists in 43 regular season games.

Burrows hopes to get a deal done for the third-year player sometime this week.

The Spirit are scheduled to open main training camp Aug. 12 at 5 p.m.

Spirit to open regular schedule against Milton Sept. 12

On a separate note, the Spirit will open its 2013-14 Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season with a game against the Milton Icehawks at the Stouffville Arena Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

In total, the Spirit will play a 53-game schedule with 26 home dates along with 26 road tilts and one Governor's Cup Showcase game against the Kingston Voyageurs in Oakville Sept. 28 at 4:30 p.m.

In its 26 home dates, the Spirit will play 16 Thursday games, nine on Sunday and one Saturday, against the Wellington Dukes Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

One of the Thursday home games, the scheduled Dec. 19 contest against Trenton Golden Hawks, will start at 4:30 p.m.

That game will serve as an initiative to invite local schools to the game.

Shortly after that contest concludes, the Spirit will hold its inaugural Spirit Alumni and Friends Game.

The contest will see Spirit alumni and people who have helped the club during the years take to the ice for a friendly contest.

The Spirit's first road date is against the Pickering Panthers Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Five games on preseason slate

The Spirit will play a five-game preseason slate starting Aug. 16 when they play the Pickering Panthers at the Ajax Community Centre at 7:30 p.m.

The Spirit will then play the defending OJHL champion St. Michael's Buzzers at St. Michael's College School Arena in Toronto Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

The Spirit's first home pre-season game will be against the Whitby Fury at the Clippers Sports Complex Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

The following day, the Spirit will host Pickering at Stouffville Arena at 2:30 p.m.

The final preseason game is against St. Michael's at Stouffville Arena Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Hockey players don spikes

The Spirit still has openings available for its golf tournament at Cherry Downs Golf Club in Pickering Aug. 15 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Funds generated from the event will go towards paying player fees, which are being introduced this season by the Spirit and other Ontario Junior Hockey League clubs.

In addition to a round of golf, a variety of prizes can be won.

The day will conclude with a meal at Stouffville's Royal Canadian Legion.

For further information, contact Ken Burrows at kenshockey@hotmail.com or kwain@bell.net for sponsorship opportunities.

Entry forms can also be found on the Spirit's website at: www.stouffvillespirit.com



PHOTO/MICHAEL TANSEY

Clarkson University defenceman Paul Geiger is at Vancouver Canucks prospect camp.

Vancouver Canucks taking look at Geiger this week

BY JIM MASON
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Stouffville's Paul Geiger is getting a look at the big leagues this week.

The former Stouffville Spirit star is one of 38 players attending the Vancouver Canucks 2013 Prospects Development Camp.

It began Sunday and runs through Friday at Rogers Arena in Vancouver.

The 20-year-old has not been drafted by an NHL team.

Geiger just completed his freshman season at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. where he was named to the ECAC Hockey All-Rookie team. He was the top scoring freshman defenceman in league play.

Geiger helped lead the Spirit to its first Ontario Junior Hockey League championship in 2012 and was named the league's best defenceman in 2011-12.

Former Spirit players earn high grades in college classrooms

Several former members of the Spirit who currently attend school south of the border and play collegiate hockey also made their mark in the classroom.

Matt Neal, Paul Geiger, Christian Finch, Massimo Lamacchia and Daniel Ciampini were named as members of the prestigious ECAC All-Academic team.

To earn such an honour, a player must record a grade point average of 3.00 or higher.

Neal, 21, recently completed his sophomore year as a forward at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. and amassed eight goals and 22 assists in 34 games.

A Stouffville resident, Geiger, 20, had two goals and 10 assists in his freshman year at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

He was also named to the ECAC All-Rookie team on defence.

A teammate of Geiger at Clarkson, the 22-year-old Finch compiled five assists in 18 games.

Playing with the Spirit in the 2008-09 campaign, Lamacchia, 22, just completed his sophomore year at Brown University and had three goals and six assists in 28 games.

Suiting up with the Spirit for two games in the 2006-07 season, Ciampini, 22, just completed his second year at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.