Spirit duo to audition for Canada East

Matt Heffernan and Peyton Backus of the Stouffville Spirit are among 66 players invited to the Canada East selection camp in preparation for the 2013 World Junior A Challenge, Hockey Canada announced this week.

Heffernan, 19, was one of 23 defencemen chosen while Backus, 18, was among 38 forwards who will attend the camp in Oakville Oct. 27 to 30.

Invitees were selected from Canada's five eastern Jr. A leagues.

The World Junior A Challenge will be held at the Mariners Centre in Yarmouth, N.S. from Nov. 4 to 10.

Cobourg overtakes Stouffville

During their last couple of games, the Stouffville Spirit were finding ways to win contests in the third period.

But when they played host to the Cobourg Cougars, a team that was occupying last place in the Eastern Division standings, the Spirit let one get away in a 3-2 overtime loss at the Stouffville Arena Thursday.

With the Spirit nursing a 2-0 lead entering the final 20 minutes, the Cougars began to mount their comeback with a power play goal from Connor Hogg and even-strength marker by Stuart King just past the midway point to tie the game.

In the five-minute extra session, the Cougars put a quick end to the game when Connor Armour scored just 37 seconds after the opening face-off.

The Spirit took a 1-0 lead just 17 seconds after the opening face-off on a goal by Michael Stevens.

With just under five minutes remaining in the second period, Michael Carcone lit the red light to stake the Spirit to a 2-0 lead and set the stage for the Cougars' comeback in the third period and overtime.

The Cougars outshot the Spirit 44-35.

The win enabled the Cougars to move out of the Eastern Division cellar, one point ahead of the Trenton Golden Hawks.

The loss by the Spirit snapped a two-game winning streak and saw their record drop to five wins, one shootout win, one overtime loss and five losses for 13 points.

They are tied for second place in the North Division with the Pickering Panthers.

The Spirit hosts the Kingston Voyageurs at the Stouffville, Arena tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

- Michael Hayakawa

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