Spirit D-man joining brother at Massachusetts college

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Jack O'Hara's tenure with the Stouffville Spirit did not last long.

Nor did it conclude the way the towering six-foot, seven-inch, 220pound defenceman would have preferred after being acquired by the Spirit from the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots Dec. 2.

He played in just 15 games before a lower body injury placed him on the shelf for the rest of the Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season.

O'Hara will continue his career this fall after accepting a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division Three offer to attend Curry College in Milton, Mass. and play for the Colonels in the ECAC Northeast Conference.

"It's pretty exciting," O'Hara said. "I feel like I'm making progress in hockey and in my life."

O'Hara said he had interaction with some NCAA Division One schools but nothing that was serious in terms of offering a full scholarship, so his decision to attend Curry College wasn't that difficult.

Especially since his older brother Ellery is in his first year with the Colonels after being recruited from the Burlington Cougars.

Curry also recruited former Spirit captain Tommy Tsicos.

"I thought I had a good relationship with their coach (T.J. Manastersky) where we were friends first, but now he will be my coach," said O'Hara. "Curry College really wanted me and it was an easy choice."

Intending to major in communications, O'Hara said with his older brother at the Boston area college,

that should ease his transition into college life and assist him in preparing for next season.

"He (Ellery) told me they have an intense and physical program in terms of training," O'Hara said. "I know when we go to school he will kick my butt into high gear.

"I'm looking forward to it."

Amassing three goals and 14 assists while with the Spirit and Toronto Lakeshore Patriots this past regular season, O'Hara acknowledged he was a bit surprised at being dealt late in the season.

But he was quick to sing the praises of the Spirit's management.

"The guys there treated me well and were quite supportive. It was a good experience even though my time there was brief," he said.

While making progress in recovering from his injury, O'Hara is anxiously looking forward to the next step in his life.

At the same time though, he's not looking too far down the road in terms of trying to parlay his on-ice skills into a professional career.

"Right now I'm just excited for next year and we'll see where it goes," he said.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association is accepting applications for the head coach of its Clippers' tyke minor development (formerly tyke A) team.

Minor hockey looking for tyke coach, players

As well, the association announced tryouts for the tyke minor development team for the 2014-15 campaign will be held in April and in conjunction

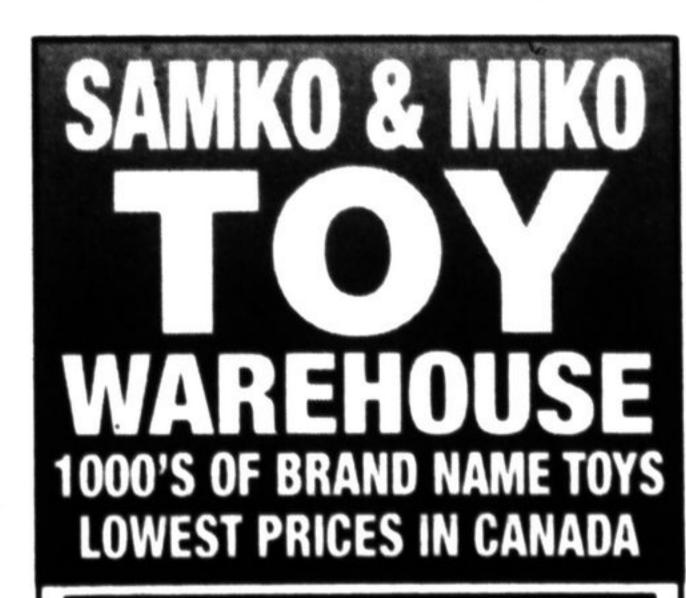
with the rep tryouts.

Players must be born in 2007.

For further information on when the tryout schedule will occur, log on to the association's website at: www.wsmha.com. Or contact the association's office at 905-642-2835.

Applications for the Clippers' rostered select and tyke B and C teams for 2014-2015 will be available in May.





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