No jobs safe as Spirit opens preseason

For the Stouffvile Spirit, it's a case of so far, so good when they commenced their main training camp Sunday.

Player personnel director Frank Robinson said he was elated with the approach the players took when they reported for the first two days of camp that was comprised of fitness testing Sunday and the first day of on-ice sessions at the Stouffville Arena Monday.

"We were pleased with players reporting in good shape, shown both at our fitness workout on Sunday and on our first on-ice workout," he said.

HOST PICKERING SATURDAY

That being said, all positions are up for grabs.

"At our on-ice session (Monday), you could see the anxiety from both the rookies who are excited to be at a Jr. A main camp and we believe the veterans who are nervous about their roster security with all the new faces.

"As coach (Jeff) Perrin put it, 'We will not miss the playoffs again and that may mean the veterans will be fighting for their jobs'."

After yesterday's first preseason tilt against the Pickering Panthers, the Spirit will make their home exhibition debut when they play the Panthers at the Stouffville Arena Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The Spirit will then travel to Newmarket for a friendly against the Newmarket Hurricanes at the Ray Twinney Complex Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

FREE ESTIMATES



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHEIDT

One of the newest members of the Stouffville Spirit, Alex Gilmour, plays in the team's golf tourney at the - Michael Hayakawa Maples of Ballantrae last Thursday.

Pridham joins Leafs

For 15 years, Brandon Pridham worked in the National Hockey League's office in Toronto.

But when the 2014-15 NHL campaign begins, the 40-year-old Stouffville resident will be working with another organization.

He won't have to travel too far from where he used to work.

His new office remain at 50 Bay St.

Only now, the former Stouffville Clipper minor hockey star will be working with the Toronto Maple Leafs, who announced Tuesday he will join the club as their new assistant to the general manager.

Pridham will assist the club with salary cap analysis, contract negotiations and collective bargaining agreement interpretation for the team.

Starting his career in the NHL front office in 1999, Pridham served in a variety of capacities including co-ordinator in NHL central scouting, central scouting and central registry departments with duties that included serving as the contact person for NHL general managers, assistant general man-

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agers and NHL executives on issues involving the Collective Bargaining Agreement, salary cap and NHL central scouting department.

"I am very grateful for the opportunities and experiences I've gained at the National Hockey League," Pridham said in a Leafs media release. "I always looked forward to the opportunity to bring that experience to an NHL club and I'm thrilled with the chance to join Dave Nonis and his team with the Toronto Maple Leafs."

Nonis, Maple Leafs' senior vice-president and general manager, feels Pridham's time in working with the NHL's front office will help the club.

"For 15 years, Brandon has played an integral role in the central scouting and central registry departments for the NHL," Nonis

"His intimate knowledge of the complexities of the salary cap system and strong relationships around the league will serve our team well."

– Michael Hayakawa

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