

Sharks hope to bite into Ontario championship

The Stouffville Sharks peewee boys' under-14 selects have been making their presence felt on the softball diamond in July and currently ride a 10-game winning streak that includes two tournament titles.

The first tournament took place in St. Catharines, where the Sharks reeled off four round-robin victories and then advanced to the final, where they routed Topham Park 17-4 in a game that saw the thermometer hover near 35 Celsius.

The Sharks had strong pitching led by Evan Farrell, Mathew Offen and Spencer Krabi and the offence was a well-balanced attack led by some monstrous hitting from Braden Smith combined with fast base running by Jack Smalley and Scott Hoover.

During the final, head coach Steve Hopkins strategically rotated catchers' Liam Clements, Aidan Hopkins, Nick Brandon

and Aidan Kilpatrick to keep them fresh due to the extreme heat.

Offen was also voted the tournament's most valuable player for his stellar pitching performance when called upon.

In their second tournament, hosted at Georgina, the Sharks claimed the title after they once again faced Topham Park and came out with a dramatic 7-6 win.

In the finale, Topham Park was up by one run in the bottom half of the final inning and Stouffville, with two outs, had Krabi at the plate.

Krabi proceeded to hit a double, scoring Sam Roy from second base to tie the game.

The drama didn't end there as Farrell then hit a single and third base coach Mike Clements feverishly waved Krabi home to score the winning run and win the tournament.

The Sharks play in the Topham Park tournament Saturday and then head to Unionville the following weekend for the provincial championships.

Spirit grad inks AHL contract

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Josh Chapman caught the attention of the Buffalo Sabres' management when he took to the ice at a recent camp.

What the 20-year-old Stouffville resident and former Stouffville Spirit defenceman did warranted him a contract with their American Hockey League affiliate Rochester Americans, who inked him to a one-year, two-way contract, the AHL club announced last week.

A six-foot, four-inch, 214-pound defenceman, Chapman played the last three seasons with the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League. Last season with the Sting, Chapman amassed eight assists in 44 regular season contests.

During the 2013-14 season, he set career-highs in goals (one), assists (11), points (12) and penalty minutes (154).

Chapman played with the Spirit during the 2011-12 campaign, which saw the club capture the Ontario Hockey League title.

In the postseason that year, he added two goals and eight assists in 25 contests.

Spirit pre-season schedule set

With the 2015-16 Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season campaign just around the corner, the Stouffville Spirit will commence their main training camp Aug. 17 at the Stouffville Arena.

They will play six pre-season tilts starting Aug. 22 on the road against the Lindsay Muskies starting at 2:30 p.m.

The following day, the Spirit are scheduled to play the Pickering Panthers at the Ajax Community Centre at 3 p.m.

The Spirit's first home preseason tilt is slated to be against Lindsay at the Stouffville Arena Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The Spirit will then play a rare double header at home Aug. 29, against the St. Michael's Buzzers at 1 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. with the Pickering Panthers.

The Spirit will conclude their exhibition schedule in Toronto against the St. Michael's Buzzers Aug. 30 at 2 p.m.

The club is scheduled to start the regular season against the Toronto Junior Canadians at the Stouffville Arena on Labour Day, Sept. 7, at 2:30 p.m.

Hathaway 8th on Quebec track

Jason Hathaway drove the Stouffville-based EHR-Team Three Red TAO Transport/Choko/HGC Chevrolet to an eighth-place finish at the NASCAR Canadian Tire North JuliaWine.com Le 50 tours at Circuit de Trois-Rivieres in Trois-Rivieres, Que. Sunday.

Kevin Lacroix took the checkered flag.

Hathaway's finish did not help him in the overall series standings as he fell into third place with 308 points.

Scott Steckly remains on top with 318 and Andrew Ranger is second at 312.

The series is scheduled to resume at the Riverside International Speedway in Antigonish, N.S. Aug. 15.

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On Saturday, August 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn- 300 Commerce Valley Dr. East, Thornhill (near Leslie and Highway 7). Participants will receive a \$50.00 honourarium and refreshments.

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