

JR. A NOTEBOOK

Spirit hosting 'four-pointer' today

LAST WEEK: Monday: Stouffville 9 vs. Mississauga Chargers 3. Spirit record: 14-17-1-2-31. Fourth place North Division, Ontario Junior Hockey League

COMING UP: Today: vs. Pickering Panthers at Stouffville Arena, 2:30 p.m.

With the 2015 calendar year winding down, the Stouffville Spirit are celebrating it with a loud bang – in scoring goals that is. Taking to the road for a game against the Mississauga Chargers in their second-to-last game in the 2015 segment of their regular season schedule, the Spirit offence sounded off in a big way after cruising to a 9-3 win.

Chris Brill-Morgan, Max Novick and Chad Burrows each delivered a pair of goals for the Spirit.

Spencer Roberts, Calvin Martin and Stefan Palatisidis accounted for the other Spirit tallies. Winning their fourth game in their last six outings, the Spirit outshot Mississauga, losers of seven straight games and occupying the cellar in the South Division standings, 47-32.

Roberts and Ryan DaSilva had three assists each.

The players had to push the team bus out of the snow following Monday's game.

INSIDER: Brill-Morgan continues to lead all Spirit players in scoring with 31 points on 16 goals and 15 assists in 32 games played, while Nathan Hudgin and Roberts are tied in second with 30 points apiece. Among the league's goalkeepers, the Spirit's Aaron Taylor is ranked 18th with a 3.16 goals against average in 25 games played. As a team, the Spirit were ranked 15th in power play efficiency with a 15.83 per cent rating. In penalty killing, the Spirit were 11th overall with an 80.56 per cent efficiency.

Former Spirit defenceman and Stouffville resident Trevor Carrick is playing for Team Canada at the Spengler

Cup in Davos, Switzerland. A fourth round draft pick of the Carolina Hurricanes in the 2012 National Hockey League draft, Carrick scored the game's first goal in Canada's opening game 2-1 win over Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg (Russia) Dec. 26. Carrick played with the Spirit during the 2010-11 campaign.

In Germany, former Spirit forward and Stouffville resident Will Acton leads the Schwenningen Wild Wings in scoring with eight goals and 29 assists in 25 games. The son of former NHL player and coach Keith Acton, Will, 28, played with the Spirit for four seasons starting in the 2003-04 campaign. Will's brother, Robert, is an assistant coach with the Spirit. The team will pay tribute to their grandfather at today's game. Gerry Acton was a regular at Spirit games. He died Dec. 22 at age 89. His funeral was held Monday.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: Playing their first game with just over two weeks off due to the World Junior A Challenge and Christmas holiday break, Brill-Morgan acknowledged the club was rusty.

"After we scored the first goal of the game, we were in a battle with them for the first 10 minutes. But once we got our legs under us, we got going and put the jets on. We haven't won a game like that (in a one-sided manner) in a while and it was nice to see everyone contributed," he said.

Pickering is just two points behind the Spirit, with a game in hand.

"It's like a four-point game where we want to keep ahead of them in the standings to get a good playoff spot. We have to make sure we keep playing the way we've been playing of late," said Brill Morgan.

"And we would like to finish off 2015 with a win."

– Michael Hayakawa



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

BATTLE OF THE LEGIONS

Royal Canadian Legion Orange forward Michael Svirk goes up against Legion Red players Nicholas Constantinou and James Dobney during Bantam Division action at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's annual Christmas tournament at the Stouffville Arena Sunday.

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