

# Trevor Carrick barely made it to his NHL debut

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Trevor Carrick had a pretty hectic Tuesday.

But for the 21-year-old Stouffville resident who is in his second season as a defenceman with the Charlotte Checkers

of the American Hockey League, it was well worth it.

At the same it was one Carrick won't soon forget.

Especially after he fielded a telephone call earlier that day from Carolina Hurricanes' general manager Ron Francis, who

required his services that night to replace the injured Ron Hainsey for their National Hockey League road game against the Washington Capitals.

While elated in going to the big show for his long-awaited NHL debut, Carrick had an adventure just getting to Washington, D.C., as his flight that originated in Rockford, Ill. was delayed.

Arriving at the Verizon Center at close to 6:30 p.m., Carrick missed the pre-game warm-up skate, but suited up in time before the 7 p.m. puck drop, where he took a regular shift while paired with Michal Jordan and even saw added duty on the power play and in killing penalties.

Although the Hurricanes came out on the short end of a 2-1 overtime decision, Carrick savored the moment.

"It sure felt pretty good," the Stouffville Spirit graduate said Wednesday morning from his hotel room in Pittsburgh, where the Hurricanes are scheduled to play the Penguins Thursday. "It was actually better than I had anticipated, even though it was a long day for me when my flight was delayed and I got to the arena just before the puck dropped."

"I was a little nervous to start with, but after I took a few shifts I began to feel more confident out there."

Logging more ice time during the game than what he originally had anticipated, the Hurricanes' fourth-round pick in the 2012 NHL draft was quick to note in some ways the game played at the NHL level as compared

with what he was accustomed to in the AHL is a little quicker.

But at the same time, he cited it can be easier.

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"Because you're playing with high-calibre guys who know where they have to be on the ice," he pointed out. "They're never out of position because they know where they're going to be."

As for how long Carrick will remain with the Hurricanes, that remains to be seen as he noted Hainsey is out day to day with the flu.

For the time being, he intends to live in the moment.

"Right now I'll just play it day by day," he said.

Prior to joining the Hurricanes, Carrick had 37 points (nine goals and 28 assists) in 58 games this season with the Checkers.

Those numbers placed him third among Checkers' scorers this season and tied for sixth among all AHL defencemen.

Earlier this season, Carrick was also a member of Canada's team that won the 2015 Spengler Cup.

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