

As promised, Spirit adds defenceman

When Stouffville Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows recently dealt Christopher Brill-Morgan to the Oakville Blades for cash, he vowed he would use those funds to acquire a defenceman.

Burrows lived up to those words when the Spirit recently acquired Brody Jennings, 19, from the English River Miners of the Superior International Junior Hockey League in north-western Ontario for cash.

A six-foot, one-inch, 185-pound Kelowna, B.C. native, Jennings amassed 12 assists in 53 games last season with English River.

During the 2014-15 campaign he played with the Beaver Valley Nitehawks of the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League and Trail Smoke Eaters of the British Colum-

bia Hockey League.

The Spirit opens the 2016-17 season Sept. 10 at home to the Pickering Panthers.

Race car knocked out in Edmonton

The Stouffville-based T3R/EHR racing team did not get their Western Canadian swing off to a good start at the NASCAR Pinty's Alberta Has Power 300 race at the Edmonton International Speedway in Wetaskiwin, Alta. Sunday.

With Jason Hathaway driving the Raybestos/Fast Eddie Chevrolet and starting the 300-lap event in the 14th position, he made steady progress towards the front. But on lap 103, Hathaway was slammed by another car and sent into the outside wall. After incurring a hard hit, Hathaway's day came to an end.

AAA player ditches hockey for shot at baseball dreams

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Tyler Black will forego an opportunity to play AAA rep hockey this winter.

It's not because the 15-year-old Stouffville resident does not like the game.

Rather, he has elected to divert his full attention to baseball. A middle infielder who can also pitch, Black's decision to choose the summer game appears to be a wise decision.

Black was named to the 14-player roster for the Ontario team that will compete at the 2016 Canada Cup Baseball Championships in Fort McMurray, Alta. from Aug. 3 to 8.

For Black, who is the son of TSN announcer Rod Black, it's his debut on the Ontario squad. He's one of the younger players on the squad comprised of players in grades 10 or 11.

"It's a real honour," he said. "It's a good opportunity for me to show my skills in front of the scouts."

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The first set of trials were held in Vaughan in May, with 40 players chosen to attend additional tryouts before the final 14 were picked.

What might have separated him from the other candidates, was his versatility in which he could play multiple positions.

"I felt good during each of the camps," the former Markham resident said.

Rob Butler, who played for the Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies, who will coach the Ontario squad, said Black possesses

plenty of potential.

"He's unbelievable. He has the five tools (running speed, arm strength, hit for average, hit for power and fielding ability) along with the intelligence.

"A lot of players who play have the five don't have the intelligence. But Tyler has it.

PRAISE FROM FORMER BLUE JAY

"And he can hit the ball further than a lot of 16-year-olds," he said.

He was introduced to the game when he was six years old and played the majority of his youth ball with the Markham Mariners organization before becoming a part of the first-year Stouffville Yankees midget elite team this year.

Black is quick to credit much of his success to the support he's received from his parents along with what he's learned over the last four years honing his skills at the Rob and Rich Butler Baseball Academy.

Elated with the opportunity to play for the Ontario squad, Black, who will be in Grade 11 at St. Andrew's College this fall, hopes it will open the doors for him to play in other major baseball exposure events.

Among those is the Roberto Alomar Tournament 12 event that is held at the Rogers Centre and, down the road, a chance to play for Team Canada.

Not to mention the possibility of finding himself one day playing in the major leagues.

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Bantams win thriller in Kincardine

The Stouffville Yankees bantams won their second tournament of the year, this time in Kincardine going undefeated to claim the title that was capped off with a thrilling 5-4 win over Leamington in the final game.

Anchoring the Yankees win was a clutch hit from first baseman Michael Calandra that scored second baseman Peter Karanopoulos and shortstop Wesley Reid that would eventually be the tying and go-ahead runs.

An inning later with two outs and Leamington runners on first and third and two out, the batter hit a line shot that Yankees' outfielder Spencer Krabi dove full out to catch.

In Leamington's final at bat and with two out and the tying run on third base, Yankees' starting pitcher Cole Burtch ended the game

when he delivered a blazing fast ball to catcher Blake Randorf to record a strikeout and clinch the tournament title for the Yankees.

The Yankees started the weekend with a 13-2 win over North London Friday. Krabi was the winning pitcher.

The Yankees then defeated Leamington 7-4 and Royal York 13-5. Against Royal York, Burtch picked up the win. With Krabi returning to the mound for their game against Pickering Sunday, the Yankees got several key hits from Randorf and Braden Smith en route to a 13-1 win and berth in the final.

The Yankees are coached by George Karanopoulos, Brian Burtch, Carm Pallandra and Mike Krabi. Lydia Pallandra served as team manager and Kim Randorf, scorekeeper.

The (13-3) Yankees are in first place in the York Simcoe Baseball Association.

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