

Lintner cherishes role as captain of Stouffville Spirit

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Last season as a member of the Stouffville Spirit, Cameron Lintner served as one of the Ontario Junior Hockey League club's assistant captains.

This season, the 20-year-old defenceman is taking on a slightly bigger role with the club -- that being its team captain.

For the six-foot, five-inch, 195-pound Midhurst native, the honour bestowed upon him is one he cherishes.

Especially since this season marks his final year of playing eligibility in the league.

"It's a great feeling, given the role to lead the younger guys and to hopefully have a great season," he said.

In being named as the club's captain just a couple of weeks into the regular season, Lintner noted the selection process differed from past seasons in which this time around, the players were also given a vote as to who should don the 'C', along with the coaching staff.

Having been an assistant captain last season, Lintner thought he might be among those given consideration.

But it wasn't until the official announcement was made in the club's dressing room, when he was caught a

bit by surprise after hearing his name called out.

Citing the last time he served as a captain during his major bantam days in Barrie, Lintner said to do it in the junior ranks differs like night and day.

"In minor hockey there's not as much pressure because most of the guys on your team are the same age," he said. "But in junior hockey you have a mixed bag with some guys who are older and some who are younger.

Given the added responsibility to provide leadership on and off the ice, Lintner said his role has been made easier somewhat so far based on the club's early season success to

where they are currently in first place in the North Division.

In fact, he conceded the club's positive start has even exceeded his expectations.

Amassing one goal and nine helpers in 13 games

this season, Lintner hopes an opportunity will present itself to where he can continue playing next year at the collegiate level.

So far, he's had some contact with U.S. Division Three schools along with a few uni-

versities in Canada.

Before heading off to university, Lintner would like nothing more than to end his eligibility with the Spirit on a memorable note by helping them extend their season well into the spring.

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