

Spirit add sixth defenceman by signing Johnson

MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

Although the Stouffville Spirit are off to a good start in the early going of the Ontario Junior Hockey League season, they were looking to add some roster depth.

In particular, on defence, where they have just five on the back end.

With the OJHL season being a marathon, Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows added a sixth

defenceman when he signed Raymond Johnson, 19, late last week.

A six-foot, one-inch, 209-pound native of Pawling, N.Y., Johnson played with the Dells Ducks of the United States Premier Hockey League last season and was picked up by the Spirit after he auditioned for another team in the OJHL but things did not pan out, said Burrows.

"He's a stay at home type of defenceman," he said in

describing Johnson.

Johnson made his debut for the Spirit in its 7-4 win over the visiting Trenton Golden Hawks Saturday.

In another roster move, the Spirit released forward Stefan Palatsiadis, who was out for the season after incurring an ACL injury during the preseason.

Burrows said Palatsiadis is scheduled to have an operation and is welcome to return to the club next season.

Spartan girls take silver at YRAA rugby finals

MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior girls were hoping to tackle a gold medal when the York Region Athletic Association seven's rugby campaign concluded at Fletcher's Field in Markham Wednesday.

But in winning two of their final three First Flight matches, it produced a silver medal.

After opening with a 15-0 loss to eventual gold med-

allists Sutton District High School, the Spartans routed Dr. J.M. Denison Huskies 35-0.

Alexa Feasby scored three tries while Keely Patterson had a try and five converts and Mackenzie Holt one try.

The Spartans concluded with a default win over Keswick High School, who were short of players due to injuries.

Acknowledging he was disappointed in placing second, Spartans co-coach

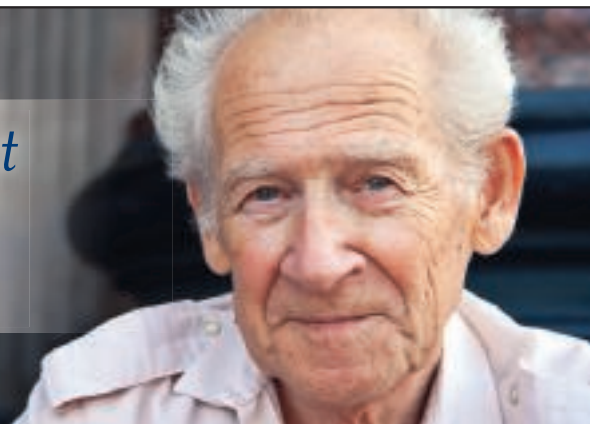
Jim Monk felt his club did not take a Sutton District High School team they had defeated one week earlier for granted.

Rather it stemmed from a lack of proper execution.

"We dropped more balls in that game than we did all season. It was uncharacteristic of us," he said.

In finishing second, the Spartans will advance along with Sutton District High School to the Ontario Cup at Fletcher's Field Oct. 26.

"I didn't expect it to feel like home."



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