

# Unionville's Stamkos Tops Entry Draft Roster

**Sports**

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Steven Stamkos is being called a potential franchise player in the NHL.

The Unionville resident, who plays for the Sarnia Sting, is the top-ranked skater in the Ontario Hockey League for the 2008 NHL draft, in rankings released by the league this week.

The 17-year-old was projected as the first pick overall earlier this month by McKeen's Hockey, a private scouting service.

Stamkos was the unanimous No. 1 pick in a TSN poll of NHL scouts this fall.

Stamkos, who played minor hockey in Markham, has 32 points in 20 games this season.

Other players from the region are also highly ranked.

King City's Alex Pietrangelo is ranked third overall by TSN and No. 4 in the OHL by the NHL. The defenceman plays for the Niagara IceDogs.

Stouffville's Michael Del Zotto is fourth-ranked by TSN and 7th in the OHL by the NHL. Another defenceman, he plays for the Oshawa Generals.

Markham's Cody Hodgson didn't make TSN's top 10, but he's rated fifth best in the OHL by the NHL. He's a forward with the Brampton Battalion.

The only two players from the 35-team Provincial Jr. A Hockey League on the NHL Watch List of Jr. A players released Oct. 31 have York Region connections.

Nobleton's Brandon Burlon plays for the St. Michael's Buzzers and Corey Trivino, an Etobicoke resident, for the Stouffville Spirit. Both are expected to be picked in round three, four or five. Their stock likely rose following solid performances at the World Jr. A Challenge in British Columbia last week.

The draft will be held in Ottawa June.