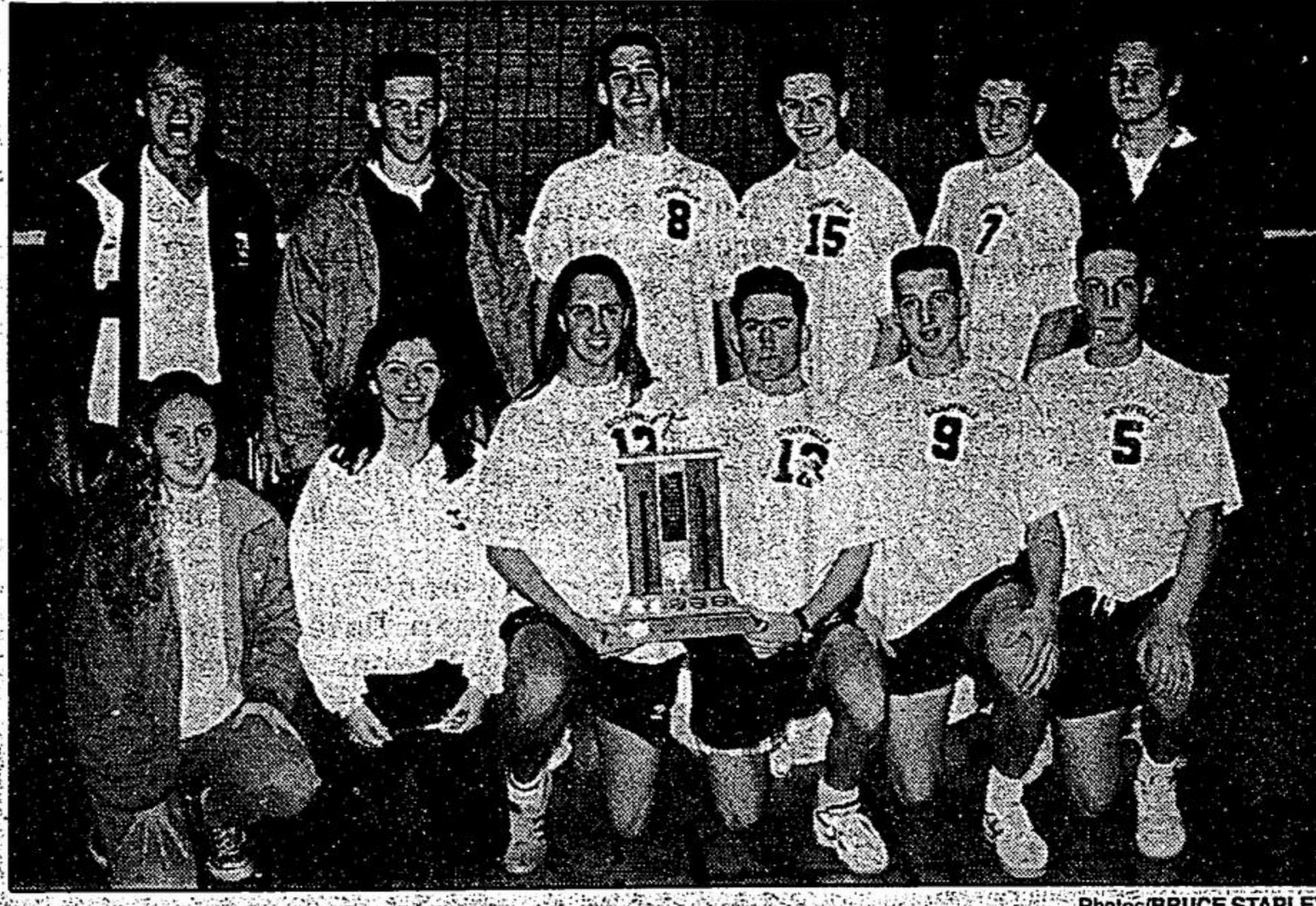


Sports



Photos/BRUCE STAPLEY

Serving up a storm

Stouffville District Secondary School ruled the volleyball courts at the Durham-York Secondary Schools Athletic Association AA championships as their junior boys' team (left) and senior entry (right), captured gold medals at Sutton District High last week.

Senior Spartans spike it rich

Cinderella's going to the ball after all.

In what veteran Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' volleyball coach Jim Fletcher said may have been his greatest moment since taking over the team from the legendary Jim Rehill, the Spartans glorified themselves and their coach at last Thursday's Durham-York (DYSSAA) AA finals at Sutton D.H.S.

The simple truth is that for the past six years, Fletcher's squads have considered the DYSSAA championship to be a birthright.

But this year's rookie-laden outfit had to scratch and grind for everything they won.

Sutton appeared to have a lock on the York and Durham-York titles. They dominated the Stouffville crew during the regular season, and prevailed over the Spartans in the York finals at SDSS on Nov. 11.

But the smile on Fletcher's face after his team's narrow defeat that day convinced this reporter victory would belong to the Spartans at the DYSSAA tournament.

The Spartans led off last Thursday's four-team DYSSAA showdown with an easy win over Courtice H.S., the Durham (LOSSAA) champs.

Then, with their small but enthusiastic contingent of faithful fans sitting courtside, they put on a display of guts and grit that would cause any pro coach to beam with pride.

The Spartans started strong in the first game of the best-of-three final. But Sutton rallied to win by a narrow 15-13 count.

Undaunted, the Spartans came back to drill their Lake Simcoe foes 15-4 in game two. With Sutton leading 9-8 in the clincher, Fletcher called a time out.

"This is it, right now!" he pro-

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bruce stapley



claimed in an effort to whip his troops into one final frenzy.

The boys responded.

Mike ("The big Green blocking machine") Green smashed a shot to the floor, electrifying his teammates, and the wildly cheering SDSS cheering section.

The Spartans took an 11-9 lead. Sutton, trying to defuse the charging Spartans, then called a time out. Fletch huddled with his nine young men.

"Boys, I've got goose bumps," he said, holding out his arm. That was enough to get the adrenalin flowing.

The Spartans went back out on the court like a heavyweight

sensing the kill.

Power hitter Lindsey Haylow, who was being double teamed, pounced on a perfect set, smashing a shot so hard as to knock both Sutton blockers back a few steps, allowing the ball to drop to the floor to make it 14-9.

A few seconds later and it was all over.

"It just broke loose," said a jubilant Fletcher, who praised his entire team, while allowing that Sutton had been a most difficult opponent.

"We gave them the warning at the York finals. It was a team effort. They did everything they had to do. Green and Haylow made those great plays.

"Jamie Sheridan made some key hits. Dave Giancoulos played so well despite his sore finger, and Ryan Burkholder and Kevin Morreau were great. Darren Zeller was terrific, and Ryan Jefferson made a diving save that fired us up early. And

without Matt Brillinger, we never would have got to where we are now. Our managers Lisa Ransome and Leanna Milos were a big help too, and so were teachers like Denis Fortier and Tammy Waters," who came out to cheer for us."

When it was all over, Fletcher reflected upon what had been perhaps his most touching moment of the day, a gratifying cap to a season strewn with injuries, sickness, multi-sport conflicts, and the like.

"The players said, 'Fletch, thanks for sticking with us,'" beamed the coach.

For it has been, to be sure, a trying season for the man who lives to see his proteges succeed, both at the high school level and beyond.

"I've been through a lot of things, and I've had a lot of great teams over the years, but I've never enjoyed anything like that. It's a Cinderella story."

Clippers down Port Perry

Lindsey Haylow scored two goals, and John McKinnon collected a goal and two assists, as the Cable Tech midget Clippers topped Port Perry 5-2 Nov. 5 at the Rec Centre.

Brad Crozier and Jason Davis also scored for the Clippers, who chalked up their third victory in a row.

Assists went to Brian Coughlan (2), David Hutchison (2), Roger McMann, and Steve Wilcox.

The Clippers took an early 2-0 lead, then carried a 3-1 advantage into the second period.

The teams traded scores in the middle stanza, before Stouffville put the game away with a third-period marker.

Classics consoled in final

Larry Penny racked up his second shutout of the weekend as the Kellington Classics blanked the Scarboro Silver Devils 5-0 in the consolation championship of the Orillia Twin Lakes tournament Sunday.

The Classics began the tournament with a 2-1 win over the Newmarket Dynamos Friday, with Don Harman and Doug Gornall scoring.

Ron Martyn, Pete Turner, Harman, and Wayne Jackson had assists.

Kellington's played Erin Second Wind to a 0-0 tie, before the Classics fell 4-1 to the Niagara Silver Devils.

Mike Jones scored the lone Classics goal from Art Nicholson and Tom Brown.

Brown netted a pair, with singles going to Martyn, George Sled, and Gornall.

Angie's eliminated in a shootout

The Angie's midget girls' rep team was shut down at a tournament in Barrie last weekend.

The Stouffville squad was outscored two to one by Brampton in a shootout that was required to decide the championship game after the teams were tied 2-2 after regulation time.

Stephanie Summerhill notched Angie's overtime marker.

Up until the shootout, the

Stouffville girls had gone undefeated in the tournament.

Angie's began with a 1-0 win over the United counties.

They then blasted the host crew 12-2 and tied Brampton 1-1.

Summerhill ended up with five goals and an assist over the four games.

Julie Comito was good for three goals and three assists, Anne Marie Stephenson had three goals and two assists, Jes-

sica Allen picked up a goal and four assists.

Kim Walsweer scored twice, with Laura Winterstein and Jennifer Williams adding single scores.

Jennifer Bates and Alexis Miller provided Angie's with strong goaltending.

Lindsay Upton, Nicole Robinson, Lori Howes, and Walsweer were impressive on defence.

The midget girls' host Leaside on Sunday at 12:15 p.m.

Spartan clubs hoop it up

A clean sweep.

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) girls basketball teams took all three YRSSAA (York Region) AA basketball titles at the championship tripleheader played at Sutton D.H.S. on Tuesday.

The midget Spartans, spearheaded by Alison Crowder's 16-point effort and equally impressive defensive showing, downed the host Sutton

Sabres 49-37. The Spartans came back in the third quarter to take the lead, then put the game away in the fourth.

Shannon and Danielle Timms, Lillian Boyd, Jen Reesor, Stephanie Hobbs, Jen Easter, and Tara Marshman stood out for the midgets as well. Christina Clark, Kathryn Easter, Kate Scorrar, Julie Kerswill, Erika Haeefe, Shannon

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