

stouffville SPORTS

Spartans honor its top athletes



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

Stouffville District Secondary School recently conducted its annual athletic awards banquet. Named as this year's top senior athletes were Kelly Sheridan and Jason Cowan. Nicole Bardell and Ian Ellis were named as the top junior athletes.

Four new entries were added to the team championship banners, while a brand new trophy commemorated a lost hero, at the annual Stouffville District Secondary School Athletic Banquet Thursday night.

And when the celebration was finished, the school had named Kelly Sheridan and Jason Cowan its outstanding senior athletes, while Nicole Bardell and Ian Ellis were given the junior honors.

The 200 students, teachers, and parents in attendance cheered loudly as the banners were unfurled showing the 1992-93 title winning teams - the York champion junior girls volleyball Spartans, the York and Durham-York Secondary

School Athletic Association-winning junior boys' Spartans volleyball team, the York and DYSSAA champion senior boys' Spartans volleyball team, and the York and DYSSAA titelist midget boy's cross country team. The school could celebrate a fifth winner this week, as the boys softball team were to contest the York title in Newmarket on Tuesday.

Sheila and Bob McNeil, the parents of the late Dan McNeil, who helped the Spartans capture the York softball crown in 1990, presented the new Dan McNeil Memorial Trophy to Dan Green. The award is to be given annually to the boys' softball team member

who best combines talent, positive attitude, and sportsmanship.

The McNeils also presented Dan's #10 Spartans sweater to Jason Cowan, Ryan Burkholder, and Jason Reesor of the school's ball team. The sweater, which is mounted in a glassed in case, will hang in the hall which is used to honor the school's former top athletes.

Jamie Sheridan was awarded the Homestead Trophy, which goes annually to the student who makes the greatest overall contribution to the school's athletic program.

Tammy Wray received the Jim Rehill Sportsmanship Award; Kate McKnight and Kevin Nicholls were the recipients of the Moral and

Physical Improvement award.

Erin Blenkhorn and Dave Giancoulos were named girls and boys fitness champions respectively.

The following is a list of most valuable players announced by the coaches of teams at the banquet:

Sarah Cliff - girls' cross country; Luke Anderson - boy's cross country; Tim Lavell - tennis; Michelle Osborne, Tara Peever - field hockey; Shannon Simms - midget girls' basketball; Andrea Crothers - junior girls' basketball; Kelly Sheridan, senior girls' basketball; Peter Reed - midget boys' basketball; Mike Green,

Ryan Burkholder - junior boys' volleyball; Brian Snooks - senior boys' volleyball; Jen Cowley - midget girls' volleyball; Kate McKnight - junior girls' volleyball; Nicole Ellis - senior girl' volleyball; James Bowen - midget boys' basketball; Jason Reesor - junior boys' basketball; Jason Cowan - senior boys' basketball; Don Patten - junior badminton; Tim Lavell - senior badminton; Melissa Austin - alpine skiing; Tammy Wray - girls' slo-pitch; Ryan Burkholder - boys' fastball; David Giancoulos - boys' field; Luke Anderson - boys' track; Sarah Cliff - girls' track; Kelly Forsyth - girls' field.

Forsyth falls short in quest for provincial medal

Stouffville District Secondary School track and field athlete Kelly Forsyth wasn't able to find her form at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) track and field championship meet Friday at the Oshawa Civic Stadium.

Forsyth's effort was more than two metres short of her personal best in the senior girls' javelin throwing event, forcing her to settle for a top 12 finish.

However, Forsyth, who finished second in the OFSAA regional meet to qualify for the finals, was still a winner, said her coach Rick Dewall.

"It wasn't one of her better days, but to be among the top 12 in the province is still a great accomplishment," said Dewall.



KELLY FORSYTH

Athletics are an important part of school life

It was as much a celebration of the institution as it was of the athletes as 200 students, teachers, and parents gathered for last Thursday night's enormously successful Stouffville District Secondary School Athletic Banquet.

Cap Cowan, whose son Jason kept up the family tradition by copping the Outstanding Senior Athlete award, set the tone for the evening when he likened the hallowed local high school to Happy Days, the 50's TV sit-com where life was simple and uncluttered.

Cowan and his wife Betty have watched their three offspring embrace the school, and vice-versa, over the past decade or so.

Cowan said he and Betty originally moved to Stouffville hoping to find an idyllic town where their children could thrive and grow, a town with a sense of

community exemplified by a vibrant high school.

They weren't disappointed.

He assured the large gathering that even though the last of his kids was about to leave the school, he and Betty would always be around.

He thanked the teachers who gave so much of themselves, and told the athletes present they were learning to challenge themselves through the good healthy competition afforded by sports.

Teacher-coach Rusty Hick picked up on the Cowans' sentiment when he spoke, noting that while some see competition in sports as negative it is actually a wonderful preparation for a well balanced, fulfilling life.

Later on, student Stacie Patten would echo Cowan's tribute to the school, its students, and staff.

In thanking the teacher-coaches, she said the teachers' schedules



SPORT NOTES

Bruce Stapley

are jammed full when they take on a coaching assignment, and that for a coach "there is no such thing as a dinner hour during the season."

As for the success of the banquet itself, girls physical education head Sheila Coleman took great delight in telling those present they were part of the "most successful athletic banquet in York Region."

Coleman said the Stouffville fete had been the talk of a recent regional phys ed meeting, with the other schools standing in awe of the magnitude of the

Stouffville school's affair. Some schools had been forced to cancel their banquets due to lack of interest, said Coleman. Others had to scale down their initial plans.

Coleman praised the efforts of the Athletic Council's Julia Johnstone and Jamie Sheridan for making the banquet a winner.

Boys phys ed chief Dave Connell pointed to the quiet dedication of teacher John Roberts who is leaving after 21 years on staff.

He probably embarrassed the art teacher-weight training coach by explaining that the new carpet about to go down on the weight room floor was being paid for by Roberts himself.

That, plus the fact that Roberts paid a whopping sum of \$500 for the first brick for the community track's wall of fame, while most bricks fetched around \$150.

Not to mention the line drawings Roberts regularly created as a farewell present for departing teachers. That's commitment above and beyond the call of duty.

Connell also expressed confidence the student body would apply itself towards the task of raising funds to finance a new athletic trophy case, now that the one built by fundraising back in the mid 1980's is full.

I sometimes hear people grouching that sports is the only interest to get any press at the Stouffville school. I can only say that it is in the sports arena where this school shows its true colors, radiant shades of team work, sharing, and individual commitment. And ultimately, it's those qualities a person will need when they drive out of Stouffville and into the big world upon graduation.