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Spartans honor September athletes

SPORT
NOTES



bruce stapley

Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) bestowed its first Athlete of the Month awards this week, with the September honors going to a pair of deserving candidates from distinguished athletic families at the school.

Alison Crowder was given the female citation, with the male nomination falling upon Brad Whitelaw.

Alison's strong contribution to the SDSS Spartans junior girls' basketball team is part of the reason they got off to a fast start, winning their first three games.

A second-year junior, she provides leadership and a positive attitude, and lots of hustle. She averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds a game over the Spartans first three matches.

Alison is coming off a summer that saw her team up with Thornhill's Jenn Schwartz to win the gold at the provincial midget girls beach volleyball championships in Midland.

Her younger sister Amanda is on the midget Spartan girls' basketball team. Brothers Adam and Graham both play OHA Junior level hockey.

Brad, who is in his first year with the senior Spartans volleyball squad, is a premier setter with the team. His serve is tough to return, and he would appear to be following in the footsteps of his brother Jason, who was the school's outstanding male athlete of the year, and the senior boys volleyball MVP, for the 1995-96 school year. Brad's brother Dave is also on the senior Spartans this fall.

GIRLS HAVING A FIELD DAY

Coach Heather Henricks' SDSS field hockey team is gearing up to defend its YRAA title. The Spartan girls outfit blanked previously defeated Brother André C.H.S. by a 1-0 count Monday in Unionville.

Jessica Weatherill played a strong game for the Stouffville crew, counting her first goal of the season at a most opportune time to win it.

Katie Sandiford assisted on the big goal. The Spartans are right on track as the playoffs are due to get underway with quarter finals Oct. 21. The semi-finals will be played the next day, with the championship game to go at the SDSS field on Oct. 24.

AT THE TOP OF THEIR CLASS

From the better-late than never department, a tip of the Tribune cap to six members of the Sheffield Judo Club for their outstanding performances at this year's CNE International Judo Competition. The two-day event drew competitors from across Canada, as well as the USA and Japan. The local club's Lindsay Goudis came first in her category, with Dustin Chee-a-tow and Daniel Franzen placing second in their groupings. Trevor Chee-a-tow and Paige Goudis were third, with Kyle Chee-a-tow fifth. All six were competing in the junior competition. The club operates out of 100 Sandiford Dr., Unit 37. The phone number is 642-4928.

RESULTS TO COME

Yes, Virginia, there is a Stouffville Amateur Hockey League this year, and we will be publishing results eventually. There's been a minor snag in the system that sees game reports submitted to the Tribune, but Norm Dunn is now on the case so you can rest assured we'll soon be receiving a most comprehensive summation of weekly action in that most venerable adult hockey organization.

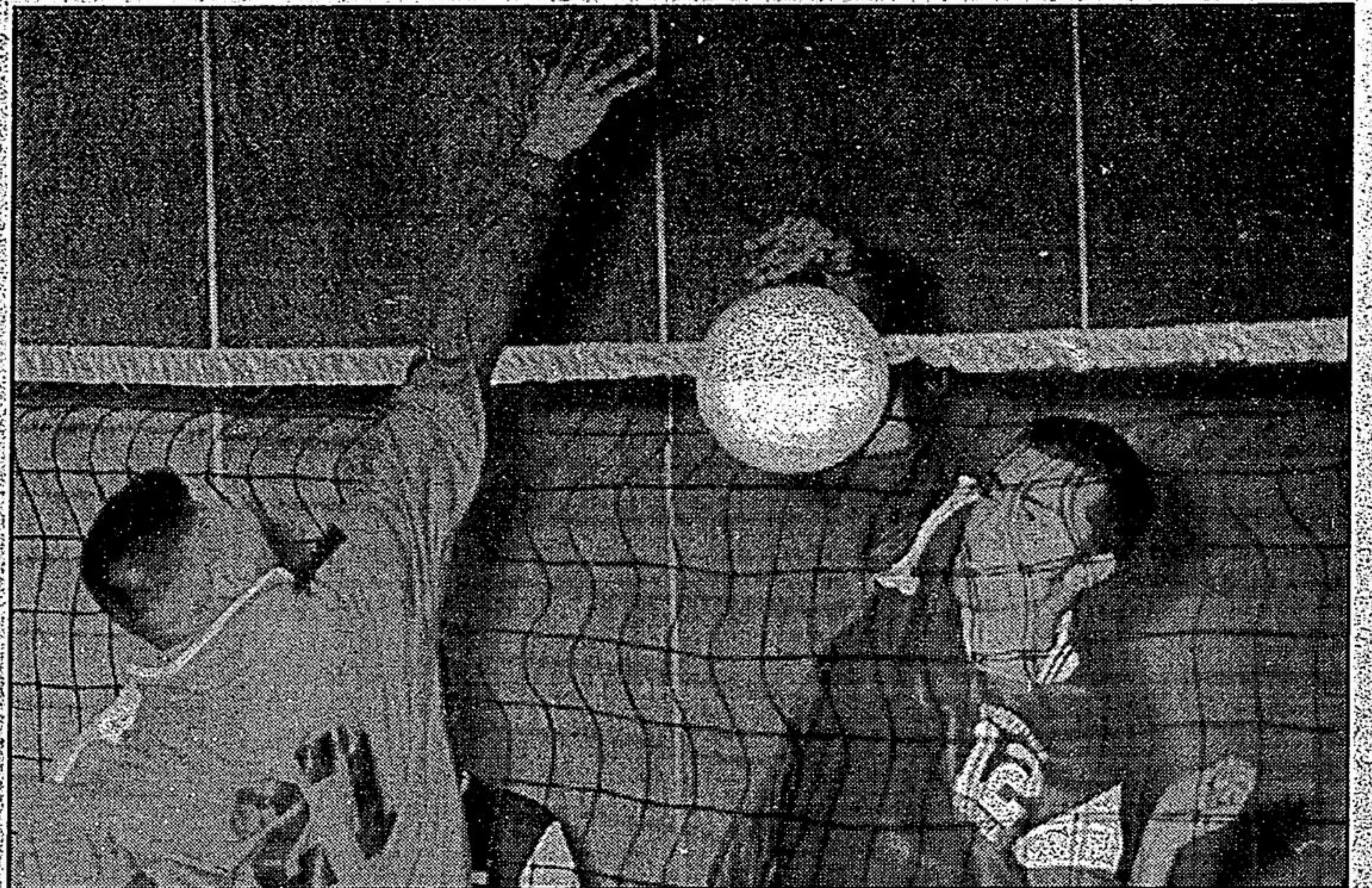
SEWERYNEK IN SYNC

Sara Sewerynek, an 11-year-old student at St. Mark Separate School in Stouffville, has made the Markham Synchronized Swimming Club.

Sara made the club's 12-14 year old team after a month long try-out which saw her in the pool for as long as three hours some days. She joins Stouffville area members Silvana Trentadue and Melissa Dermody.

Trentadue, who is in her seventh year with the club, has experienced great success in competitions over the past few years. She is currently coaching a club duet while a member of the club's 15-20 year old team. Dermody, who is on the club's advanced 12-14 year old team, is in her third year.

All three will be out to qualify for the provincial championships in Ottawa in May.



Stouffville District Secondary School's Jon Tamlin (right), smashes this ball past the outstretched arm of Father Michael McGivney's Christopher Chin during action in Monday's YRAA senior boys' volleyball contest at Stouffville District Secondary School. The host Spartans won this contest 2-0 (15-8, 15-11).
 Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

Spartans ninth at Guelph volleyball tournament

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans senior boys' volleyball team spiked its way to a ninth-place finish overall in the 40-team Guelph Gryphons High School Boys Volleyball Tournament last weekend.

The Spartans swept three of four preliminary matches to place second in their five team pool, before falling in the championship round. The SDSS squad came close, but eventually was defeated 9-15, 13-15 by highly ranked Chatham-Kent S.S. for their only pool play loss. They then went down 12-15, 13-15 in a closely contested playoff match with Wallaceburg.

Spartans coach Jim Fletcher was thrilled with the level of play his team aspired to in the competitive tourney. He said it bodes well for his players as they prepare to take a run at the YRAA AAA crown next month.

"If these guys play with the same intensity as they did at Guelph, there won't be many teams that can stop them," said Fletcher.

Fletcher said the Spartans might have slipped past Wallaceburg if middle position player Martin Reesor hadn't had to leave early to attend a wedding.

"Martin was a star out there. He made 28 of 32 hits to the floor."

The Spartans swept Father McGivney C.H.S. 15-8, 15-11 in a match played at the SDSS gym Monday. Newcomer Ken MacDonald helped the SDSS crew to victory with his serving, while Brendan Norton, another new addition, contributed as well.

RUNNERS ON TIME

Stouffville District Secondary School athletes were in the running at a Toronto cross country meet, while local adult runners were also making their mark at a couple of events last weekend.

The team took part in the competitive TSSAA Invitational Cross Country Meet at Sunnybrook Park Saturday.

Wendy Wright finished 38th out of 230 runners in the 4,328-metre junior girls' race with teammate Julianne Lowrie 57th. The two clocked times of 18 minutes, 50 seconds, and 19:23, respectively.

In the senior boys' race, the school's Chris Weatherill was 47th out of 240 runners, competing the 7,174m course in a time of 26:35. Ramsey Reed was 183rd.

In the midget boys' event, Luke Williams was 82nd out of 243 runners, covering the 5,129m course in 22:32. Teammates Ryan Simpson (193rd) and Chris Newman

(200th) also competed. Mandy Vanderburgh was 98th out of 210 runners to lead the SDSS squad in the midget girls' race, doing the 3,306 distance in 15:31.

Other SDSS runners were Andrea Newmarch (103rd), Rachel Shanahan (143rd), Moneka Robinson (156th), Vanesa Kroon (175th), Logan Pattimore (180th) and Candace Robbins (193rd). In the junior boys' race, Chris Cherkas was 250th out of 334 runners, completing the 6,242m course in 27:55.

Coach Fred Robbins felt his team performed well at the high level event.

"We had some excellent results in very competitive races, with several runners leading the York Region contingent," said Robbins.

ROBBINS IN FINE FORM

It was Robbins' turn to take to the track the following day as he successfully defended his title at the 10th annual York-Finch Hospital Wonder Run at York University.

Robbins staved off several challengers to repeat as champion in the masters 5-kilometre race, posting a time of 16:18.

Stouffville's Elyse Sparks finished fifth in her age group, and 93rd overall, in the Kinsmen Twin Lakes Marathon, and Half Marathon at Lake Couchiching.