

Juniors have magical year

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Sports Editor

John Morelli says there are three important ingredients to attain success on the basketball court.

"Dedication, hard work and commitment will achieve success," insisted the Father Michael McGivney Academy Magic junior girls' basketball coach.

Morelli's troops have taken his words to heart. On Wednesday, the Magic concluded a successful regular season by clinching first place with an unblemished 12-0 mark in the York Region Athletic Association southeast division after defeating the Unionville High School Wolves 47-39.

Naakwarley Quartey led the way in scoring with 14 points for the Magic while 6-foot-1, Grade 9 centre Aderonke Daramola added 12. Keris Timol replied with a game-high 29 for the second-place Wolves.

"If the girls stay dedicated to the sport they'll go far," Morelli said.

In his first year of coaching girls after directing boys' teams in the last few seasons, Morelli

enjoyed his stint with his current group of players which includes several midget-eligible players (Grade 9 students).

What Morelli finds most rewarding is that this group of players have a tremendous thirst to acquire knowledge.

"We have some players right now who are playing on mere talent," he pointed out.

"But at each practice I try to introduce something new. It's taken time for them to grasp what I teach. With time and some experience and exposure they're picking things up."

In explaining the club's success, Morelli cites team work as being critical. In each game, he says someone different has stepped up to the front.

However, he said his two Grade 11 players in Andrea Duncan and Nicole Fox have provided strong leadership.

While happy to have accomplished what they have so far, Morelli says they cannot afford to rest on their laurels as they prepare for the playoffs.

"Now that we're at the top we have everything to lose and nothing to gain. We're now at a disadvantage. The playoffs are a brand new season. The girls have got to realize that they really want it and they'll have to work twice as hard."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

STRETCHING IT TO THE LIMIT

William Berczy Public School's Samantha Love, left, tips this ball past the outstretched arm of Parkland Public School's Yasmeen Sayeda in Tuesday's contest of the third annual Wilday Public School Volleyball Tournament. William Berczy won the girls' title. Parkland captured the boys' crown on Wednesday.

Waxers, Spirit come up short

Fielding a roster two players under the limit, the Markham Waxers lost its second straight game on Thursday when they absorbed a 7-1 road loss to the Newmarket Hurricanes.

David Colucci scored the lone goal for the Waxers, who trailed 2-0 after one period and 5-1 through two.

The Waxers had some good chances to keep the score close, but didn't receive any breaks as they hit five goal posts and had two goals disallowed.

Six regulars were missing from the Waxers' lineup. Jason Young, Lawne Snyder, Paul Robinson and Rob Mazzucca were all injured. Donald Johnson and Kevin Tompkins sat out the first of two-game suspensions.

The Waxers received some further adversity when Chris Petracco, Jezzy

Letros, Alex Stoyans and Mike Stoyans all incurred injuries during the game.

Now 8-6-1-2, the Waxers will play at Wexford tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Spirit win streak snapped

The Spirit of Stouffville saw its three-game Provincial Junior A Hockey League winning streak come to a halt on Thursday when the Thornhill Rattlers invaded the rec. centre and skated off with a 5-3 win.

Sean Scully, Chris Large and Jon Smyth, on a power-play effort, deposited single tallies for the Spirit, who fell to 9-8-1-0.

After yesterday's game in Collingwood, the Spirit will host the Durham Huskies on Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

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