

Stouffville Spartans eliminated from football and field hockey title quests

If the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior football team could replay Thursday's York Region Athletic Association quarter-final contest against the Woodbridge College Wyverns, chances are they would like to have two plays over.



In the end, it was two plays that the Wyverns' offence executed to perfection that eliminated the Spartans from further post-season action as they suffered a heartbreaking 14-6 loss in Woodbridge.

The Wyverns took a 7-0 lead on their first offensive play of the game, when they ran a 65-yard sweep into the end zone.

That score held until the first play of the fourth quarter when the Spartans cut their deficit to 7-6 on a three-yard touchdown run by running back Colin Rainford. Setting up the score was a 50-yard pass completion by quarterback Ben Bellissimo to wide receiver Andrew Haines, who was on the ground when he corralled the pigskin.

But on the Wyverns' next offensive possession, they added some breathing room on their first play with a 60-yard run up the middle that went for a touchdown to stake them to a 14-6 advantage.

The Spartans, however, went down fighting right to the end when Bellissimo tossed a Hail Mary that Haines caught just past midfield only to fall as time expired.

"We should have won the game," lamented Spartans' head coach Heath Weir. "It's not a stretch by us saying that. They scored on their very first play of the game and after that we held them until we scored and then they come back and score on their first play. Take away those two big runs and I don't think they win the game."

While disappointed in having their season come to an end in the manner in which it did, Weir was satisfied with the way his charges performed. In particular, he felt the defence gave their best performance of the season at the right time.

"I thought we fought right to the end, that was the most impressive thing," said Weir.

Reflecting on the Spartans' inaugural season on the gridiron, which saw them win two games, Weir said it was a great year. And he's already looking forward to next season, which he feels will only get better on and off the field.

"It was a fantastic season and we've got a good core of kids coming back. I think next year, other teams will be saying Stouffville's for real. We just have to work hard in the off-season and we'll put a good commitment in."

FIELD HOCKEY TEAM UPENDED

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans girls' field hockey team picked a bad time to lose their first game of the season.

Battling Markham's Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals in a York Region Athletic Association semi-final game in Newmarket, the Spartans saw their season come to an end with a 2-0 loss.

"The chances are that we would play one or two bad games during the year. It's too bad that it was (Wednesday's) game," lamented Spartans' head coach Heather Henricks.

After beating the Cardinals 2-1 in the regular season, the Spartans had an inkling the rematch would be close. Henricks noted in that meeting, that the Cardinals exploited the Spartans' lack of quickness. And when the rematch took place, the Cardinals utilized that weakness to their advantage.

Henricks also felt the pressure of going through the regular season and quarter-final match undefeated might have been a little too much for the eight players who are graduating after this season.

"It wasn't for a lack of trying," said Henricks. "Maybe we almost tried too hard. There was a lot of individual play instead of team play," she said.

Spirit, Rangers suffer a power shortage at arena

The Stouffville Spirit will have to wait two more weeks to christen its new home jerseys.



Thursday's Provincial Junior A Hockey League game at the Stouffville Arena between the Spirit and North York Rangers was postponed.

A power outage that hit much of Stouffville Thursday afternoon knocked out power to the ice plant at the arena. A makeup date for the game has not been set.

The Spirit, which was in Aurora last night, plays in Newmarket on Thursday and in Collingwood on Friday. Next home game is Nov. 8, against the Parry Sound Shamrocks.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING: The new jerseys are again patterned after the Buffalo Sabres' home uniforms. Spirit grad Chris Large, 19, is the youngest player on the University of Ottawa GeeGees' roster this season.

Students earn good grades

Several residents from Markham and Stouffville who represent the Sheffield Judo Club in Stouffville began their quest in making the provincial team on a positive note after posting impressive results at the recent Shinjikan Invitational tournament at Humber College.

SPORTS DIGEST

Kerry Lynne Hulshof won the 52-kilogram senior women's division while Seiji Ishiguro took the senior men's 81-kg title.

Second-place awards went to Tressa Sheffield (6-7yr old girls - 24kg.); Lea Sheffield (8-10 yr old girls - 24kg.); Lauren Chan (8-10 yr old girls - 27kg.) and Kyle Chee-a-tow (senior men - 60kg.).

Dusty Chee-a-tow claimed third in the senior men's 66-kg group.

First and seconds tackled

The Markham Rugby Club firsts and seconds went down to defeat in their respective McCormick Cup round-robin playdown games against the York Yeomen last Saturday at Austin Park.



Wes Barbour booted a penalty kick to account for the lone scoring for the Markham firsts in a 35-3 loss.

The Markham seconds received a penalty kick by James Bays in a 32-3 loss to the Yeomen seconds.

The Markham firsts will face the Toronto Irish today at Fletcher's Fields starting at 3 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., the Markham seconds will tackle the Toronto Saracens at Fletcher's Fields.

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Written applications, outlining qualifications and experience, will be accepted until November 12, 2001, and should be sent to: Sheila Haley, Senior Manager, Human Resources. E-mail: mertenk@ycdsb.edu.on.ca

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