

SPORTS

Spartans tackled in Barbarian Cup

In most instances, finishing second is not a bad accomplishment.

But for the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans junior boys rugby team, a second-place finish in Monday's round-robin segment of the Barbarian Cup wasn't good enough.

The Spartans failed to qualify for Tuesday's medal round in the 16-team tournament that attracts some of the best junior teams in Ontario.

The Spartans began the day, which kicked off late due to wet field conditions, on an ominous note, dropping a 15-10 decision to Cardinal Newman Catholic High School (Scarborough).

Against North Park Collegiate (Brantford) in their second game, the Spartans rebounded with a hard-fought 5-0 win.

Requiring a victory by 10 points or more in their final round-robin game against Park Street Collegiate Institute (Orillia) to finish atop in their pool and earn a berth in the medal round, the York Region Athletic Association champions were halfway to their objective when they nursed a 10-0 lead at the break.

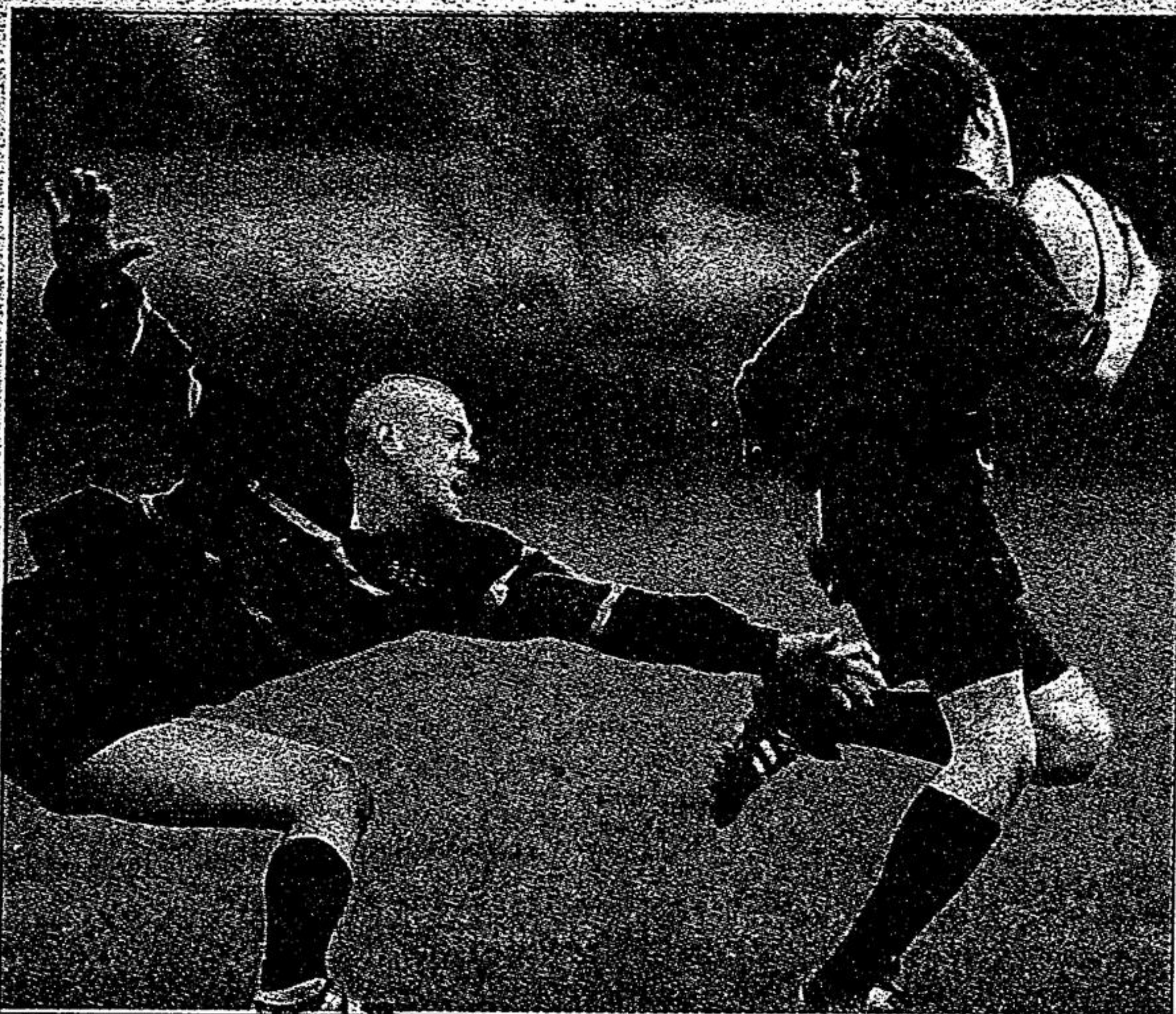
But Park Street rallied for 17 unanswered points in the second half to vanquish any hopes the Spartans had in fielding a medal.

Spartans' head coach Jamie Hewitt felt the outcome of the first game was critical to their hopes.

"We came out flat in the first game to a team that we shouldn't have lost to," he said.

Despite the disappointment, Hewitt tried to accentuate the positive on what he felt was a successful campaign.

"The kids played hard. At this level (the Barbarian Cup) all of the games are tough... it was a learning experience. Of our starting 15, we only had five guys who played the game before. This bodes well for our future, since we'll have over half of the team back at the junior level next



Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Hudson Hayden (right), escapes the dutches of an Orillia Park Street Collegiate Institute player to score a try during round-robin action Monday in the Barbarian Cup playdowns at Fletcher's Fields in Markham. The Spartans lost 17-10 and did not make Tuesday's playoff round.

SIJERO WITTEVEEN PHOTO

year," he said.

"To get to the next level we will have to do some more fine tuning. I'm proud of the kids."

RELAY TEAM FOURTH AT OFSAA

The Stouffville District Secondary School junior girls' 4 x 100-metre relay team just missed bringing home a medal from last weekend's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association track and field championships in St. Catharines after finishing fourth.

The Spartans' team was comprised of Dana Wood, Deidre Wood, Jessica Harris and Jasmine Geense.

In individual events, Harris was eighth in the midget girls' 100m.

Brandon Walker was 14th in the midget boys' discus.

THOMPSON 20TH ON OFSAA LINKS

Lindsay Thompson, a member of the Spartans girls' golf team last fall took to the Cardinal Golf Club fairways in Newmarket recently to compete in the OFSAA Invitational Girls Golf Tournament.

Entered in the low handicap division, Thompson, a Grade 11 student, finished 20th overall after carding a 110 on the day.

Nine-year-old mastering art of tae kwon do

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

A Stouffville girl is headed for the national tae kwon do championships.

Nine-year-old Nicole Thompson will compete in bantam weight, team C class at Winnipeg later this month.

The Grade 3 Summitview Public School student, who is enrolled at Master Myung's Tae kwon do School in Stouffville and is instructed by Master Seo Ho Chang, earned this right by winning a gold medal at a recent provincial competition in Colborne.

Tae kwon do is a family affair with Nicole as her five-year-old sister Dani, and parents, David Thompson and Ann Aaviku, are all part of the martial arts program.

Although Nicole began taking lessons just three years ago, she's already a black belt, one of only a few her age in Ontario holding this distinction.

"She really works hard," her mother says, attending eight classes a week.

To date, she's never lost a tournament, amassing a total of six gold medals.

To date, she's never lost a tournament, amassing a total of six gold medals.

Nicole says she wanted to give tae kwon do a try, not knowing if she'd like it enough to continue.

Now, she says, it's her favourite sport.

But when time allows, she also partakes in other recreational activities such as soccer and swimming.

In addition to the competitive aspect of the sport, Nicole points out that tae kwon do teaches other life skills, including concentration, discipline, respect, perseverance and confidence.

The Stouffville club now has more than 200 members.

"It was very exciting," her mother says of the Colborne tournament, "for us as well as for Nicole."

After Nicole gains additional experience in C class competition, she will be in line to advance to B, then A. Should she make the senior team, a potential spot in the Olympics is her ultimate goal.

"The Olympics are what I dream about," she says.



NICOLE THOMPSON: Stouffville youngster with black belt in taekwondo headed to national finals.

Mennos win Mount Albert tournament title

Chris Burkholder, Ryan Burkholder and Scott Eyre each collected two hits to ignite the Stouffville Mennos to an 8-1 victory over host Mount Albert in the final of last weekend's Mount Albert Sports Day and Spring Fair fastball tournament.

The Mennos put the game away in the fifth inning by generating five hits and a walk to score four runs.

Byron Baranieski surrendered just six hits to earn the win and receive the

most valuable pitcher award in the tournament.

In reaching the final, the Mennos lost their first game to Mount Albert 3-1.

But they rebounded to defeat Bradford 5-1 with catcher Danny Deeks collecting two hits and Paul Boynton earning the win.

The Mennos then received a three-hit effort from Rich Burkholder and two from Baranieski

to combine with a four-hit pitching performance from Terry Reesor to defeat Lake Simcoe 6-2.

The Mennos concluded the round-robin by edging the Pickering Indians 7-6.

The same two teams met in a semi-final with the Mennos prevailing 3-2.

Eyre provided the game-winning blow with a homer in the bottom of the seventh inning.

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