



Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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32 Captain Michael Lombardo leads Spirit into tonight's opener.

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Lack of players puts SDSS football team back on shelf

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
 Staff Writer

The rejuvenated football program at Stouffville District Secondary School is no more, at least for this year.

The school's athletic department announced Tuesday it will not field a varsity team for the upcoming York Region Athletic Association campaign. Schools were required to make their declaration that day.

Jamie Hewitt, Stouffville District Secondary School physical education head, said the problem boiled down to a shortage of players.

"It's disappointing, and it was a tough decision to make," he said. "Al (Young, incoming head football coach) had put in a lot of work to get it going. But he just didn't get the kids out."

The football program was revived at the school after an absence of about 30 years. A community fundraising campaign helped re-start the team.

Mr. Hewitt said the double cohort graduating class of last year severely cut into the numbers of returning players.

Coaching last year's varsity team, Hewitt noted close to 75 per cent of the team graduated.

Another ominous sign, he added, was the absence of a junior team, which traditionally serves as a feeder program at other schools.

"Last year when I coached we had only two Grade 9 players and it's tough to feed into that. It's hard for a Grade 9 student to come in and play varsity."

Noting the football program over the last two years was begin-

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Goal-oriented girls

Four Seasons forward Lauren Rogers drives for the goal past TJ Manufacturing defender Olivia Bolender during the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club's girls' under-10 house league final Saturday at Stouffville District Secondary School.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ELECTION 2003

Sherban promises focus groups

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Councillor Sue Sherban promises to get Whitchurch-Stouffville residents more involved in local government if she's elected mayor on Nov. 10.

She wants to see focus groups tackle a variety of issues and bring their concerns and information to the town. "The community should be the decision-maker," she said.

Also vying for the Whitchurch-Stouffville mayors' chair are Councillor Steve Pfakes, and Stouffville resident Randy Mole.

Mrs. Sherban unveiled her vision for the municipality during a campaign kick-off last week at the Willow Springs Winery. Community building, managing future growth and encouraging diversified economic development are part of that vision.

Local government should keep residents well informed on town issues and developments, the two-time Ward 6 councillor believes. "Members of the community have a right to the information they need and want," she said.

Before any developments receive the go-ahead, the appropriate infrastructure has to be in place, the councillor stressed.

If elected, she pledge to ensure the Ontario government's Smart Growth initiatives are implemented. Growth has to be managed effectively and priorities have to be set for public spending in the rural and the urban parts of the community.

"People are concerned development will change the char-

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