

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS

Wilson racing his way up downhill ladder

Stouffville skier named to provincial alpine developmental squad

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How high is up?
How fast is down?

For Stouffville's Graham Wilson, a member of the Alpine Ontario Development ski team, the ultimate would be the Olympics.

As for speed, he's been clocked at 122 km-h.

The 16-year-old Wilson, a Grade 10 student at Stouffville District Secondary School, comes by his skiing skills naturally. The entire Wilson family are skiers including parents Ron and Lesley and two older brothers, Mike and Chad.

Mike, a first-year student attending Queens University in Kingston, made the Ontario ski team.

Chad, in his first year at the University of Waterloo, is a part-time ski coach.

It was their accomplishments, says Graham, that challenged him to comparable achievements.

Like his siblings, the younger Wilson grew up on skis at their family's home base near Collingwood. His parents outfitted him with his first pair at age three and he's been whizzing down the slopes ever since.

In his climb up the ski ladder, Graham has completed four classes.

Out of 30 competing for a position on the development team, only five were selected. Wilson was one.

A spot on the Ontario team is the next step, he says, then, hopefully the nationals and the ultimate, the Olympics.

Coached by Jacques Reid of Quebec, Wilson's exploits have taken him to the most exotic ski slopes in the world including Les Deux Alps in France; the peaks of Santiago, Chile and Whistler Mountain in B.C.

"It's been a great experience," he says, "bridging language barriers and sampling different foods."

It's also a lot of fun.

Skiing 42 out of 52 weeks a year, Wilson's equipment includes five pairs of skis. One set, he said, can cost up to \$1,500.

Acknowledging his racing schedule consumes a lot of his time, Wilson said "it's been worth it".

Through an arrangement with the staff at SDSS, Wilson is permitted time off to advance his skiing career. So far, it's worked as he's maintained honors standing.

Despite the rigors of the sport, Wilson has escaped serious injury.

"So far, touch wood, I've been lucky," he states.

Wilson admits the accomplishments of older brother Mike have challenged him to follow the same ski trails.

"He's been a big influence," he says, "Mike went to the top."

Now little brother is doing the same.



Stouffville resident Graham Wilson, 16, shown here negotiating a gate at the national championships in Whistler, B.C. last month, has aspirations on someday earning a berth on the Canadian Olympic men's alpine team.

Hockey registration goes high tech

The Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association has some good news for minor hockey parents.

The association recently announced they will not be raising prices for next season.

"Even the town raised our rates, we are able to keep our rates the same," said Michael Humphreys, association head convenor.

Prices will be \$375 from mite to novice and \$425 from minor atom

to juvenile.

The association also announced all 2005-06 player applications are to be completed and received electronically through its web site at: www.wsmha.com

Registration deadline is June 30.

Although the waiting lists have been small in the past, Humphreys warned, with limited ice time available, registration will be based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Jr. Spartans lose out for bronze in GTA showcase hockey event

Tourney organizers call inaugural event a success

Andy Stoikos acknowledged he was a little disappointed his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans junior boys' hockey team came up short in its quest to claim a medal in last weekend's inaugural GTA High School Junior Hockey Showcase event at the Stouffville Arena.

Despite suffering a 4-0 loss to the Robert Hall Catholic Secondary School Wolfpack (Caledon East) in the bronze medal game, the Spartans' head coach was satisfied in the manner in which his club competed throughout the tournament.

"Sure we're disappointed that we didn't do better," he conceded. "We were a little depleted by injuries and absences for other responsibilities. But our guys competed and displayed class in the face of some adversity."

After splitting its first two contests Thursday, the Spartans suffered a heartbreaking 5-3 loss Friday to the York Region Athletic Association-champion Father Bressani Catholic High School Eagles (Woodbridge).

Steve Moller, Brandon Wise and Luke Bartell each scored once for the Spartans.

Concluding round-robin play later that day against the Wolfpack, the Spartans fell 3-1.

Nathan James scored the lone goal for the Spartans, who finished the round-robin with a 1-3 mark, good for fourth place in the five-team event.

With a couple of fortuitous bounces of the puck, Stoikos felt his club could easily have been in the gold medal game.

That was particularly true in its losses to the silver-medal winning Eagles and the eventual tournament champion Michael Power-St. Joseph's Catholic High School Trojans (Etobicoke).

"We were close in a couple of our games. In the third period against Michael Power we hit a couple of posts and cross bars. And against Father Bressani we trailed 3-2. With a break or two it could have gone either way," he cited.

Despite being deprived of a medal, Stoikos praised the manner in which the tournament transpired for a first-time venture.

"We considered the tournament a success. For the most part everybody competed hard



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Father Bressani Catholic High School Eagles Mario Franchini (foreground) outhustled Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Jeff Gibson as the pair were in pursuit of a loose puck in Friday's round-robin contest of the GTA High School Junior Hockey Showcase event at the Stouffville Arena. The Eagles won this game 5-3 and proceeded to settle for the silver medal in a 3-2 overtime loss to the Michael Power-St. Joseph's Catholic High School Trojans in Saturday's final.

and within the rules," he said. "The games were exciting to watch and the calibre of junior hockey was good."

In winning the tournament title, the Trojans, who defeated the Eagles 3-2 in overtime in last Saturday's gold medal final, earned the right to host next year's event.

Cardinals eliminated in OFSAA quarter-finals

Two Whitchurch-Stouffville residents helped the Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals senior boys' hockey team advance to the Ontario

Federation of School Athletic Associations AAA/AAA quarter-finals in Windsor before being eliminated by the Eastview Secondary School Wildcats (Barrie) 1-0.

Nick Singh, a Grade 12 forward, and Mikhail Metauro, a Grade 11 forward, helped the Cardinals finish first in its pool with a perfect 4-0 won-loss mark before advancing to the quarter-finals.

The Wildcats took the silver medal after dropping a 3-2 decision to the Michael Power-St. Joseph's Catholic High School Trojans (Etobicoke) in the final.