

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

## SPORTS

## Spartan girls kick up a storm in OFSAA qualifier

Soccer squad making first appearance at provincial finals

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

During the last three weeks of practice sessions, Rob Edmondson had his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans girls' soccer team practise penalty kicks.

The Spartans head coach thought at some point his players would be required to take part in a contest decided by kicks.

That scenario came to fruition Friday when the Spartans travelled to Oshawa to face Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic High School Patriots in an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA qualifier.

With the score knotted at 1-1 through regulation time and overtime, the contest was decided on penalty kicks.

It was here where the practice paid off for the Spartans, who won the game 4-2 on aggregate.

Cassie Sparks, Jaimie Sparks, Sam Batten and Jess Carroll scored for the Spartans in the penalty shootout.

Goalkeeper Liz Knox, meanwhile, stopped two Patriots penalty kicks to help preserve the win.

"We've practised penalty kicks for at least a half our during each practice session," Edmondson said. "And when we did we worked on trying to decide who are best five shooters would be. We scored on four of our five chances and it paid off."

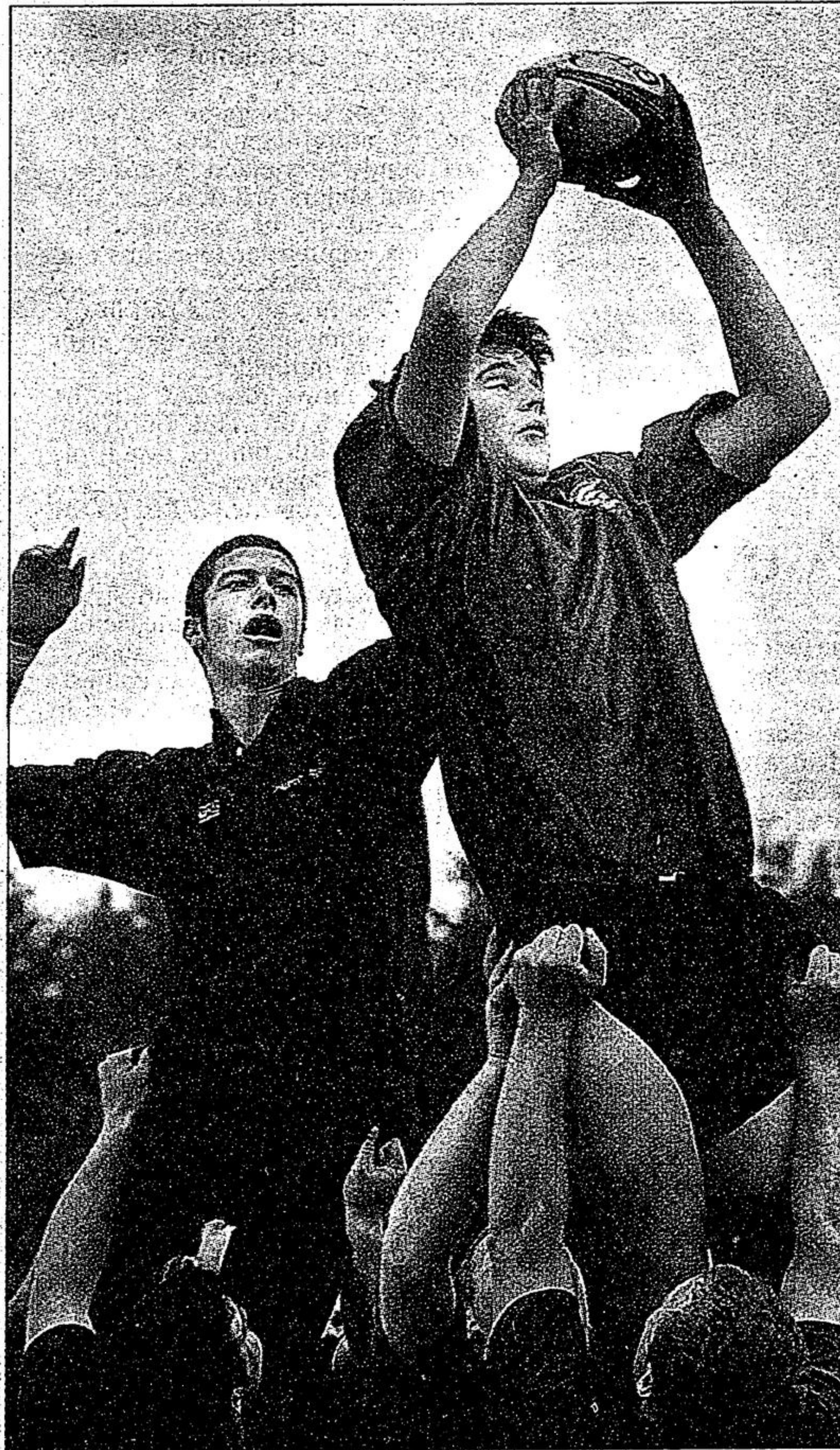
For the Spartans, the victory enabled them to make their first appearance at OFSAA since the school re-started its soccer program just four years ago. This year's OFSAA AA championships begin today in Thunder Bay today and end Saturday.

The Spartans will play two games today, against Holy Cross Catholic High School from Peterborough and Milton District Secondary School. The Spartans conclude pool play Friday against St. Mary's Catholic High School (Kitchener).

"It's quite something," said Edmondson. "Our volleyball, basketball, hockey and rugby teams have gone to OFSAA. This is the first time for the soccer program. It's new to everybody on this team. It's an exciting opportunity."

Trailing 1-0 when Pereyma scored the game's first goal just five minutes into the contest on a penalty kick, the Spartans tied the game with just 15 minutes remaining in regulation time on a goal by Batten.

Edmondson felt the game's turning point came at the half when his club began to get accustomed to playing on a smaller than normal playing surface.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville District Secondary School's Bjorn McSorley gets a little help from his teammates as he's being lifted to catch the ball during a lineout in Monday's YRAA senior boys' rugby final against Huron Heights Secondary School at Fletcher's Field in Markham. The Spartans won their second straight YRAA title with an 8-5 victory.

"We just kept battling and said whatever should happen will happen and it did," he said. "Right now, the girls are excited and so they should be."

#### Tracksters advance to OFSAA

Three members of the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans track and field team advanced to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships after earning top four placings at the Central Regional OFSAA qualifying meet last Wednesday at York University.

Natalie Geiger, a Grade 9 student, continued to rewrite the school record books after winning two races in the midget girls' division.

Entered in the 200 metres, Geiger won the event in 25.25 seconds.

She also won the 400m in 56.95

seconds. Her time was just .50 seconds off qualifying for the world under 17s.

Other OFSAA qualifiers included Dan Coskun, who finished second in the midget boys' discus.

Bruce Preston, another midget boys' performer, finished second in the shot put.

Just missing out on OFSAA bids were Brodie Atkinson, who finished fifth in the midget boys' javelin, and Dale Passfield with a seventh-place finish in the senior boys' javelin.

As a team, the Spartans finished 32nd overall out of 93 teams that also came from the Lake Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association and the Georgian Bay Secondary Schools Athletic Association. The Spartans accumulated 42.75 points.

Winning the overall title was Cardinal Carter Catholic High School (Aurora) with 253.5 points.

The OFSAA championships will

## Senior rugby boys win 2nd straight title

In football, it's been said that offence sells tickets and defence wins games.

The Stouffville District Secondary School rugby Spartans senior boys made the same claim in Monday's York Region Athletic Association semifinals and final at Fletcher's Field in Markham.

Solid defence paved the way for a second straight YRAA title and entry in next week's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association AA playdowns.

In the championship final, the Spartans fended off a late Huron Heights Secondary School (Newmarket) Warriors' rally to prevail 8-5.

Nursing a 3-0 halftime lead, from a penalty kick by Bjorn McSorley, the Spartans padded their lead to 8-0 early in the second half on a try by Cash Nicasastro.

The Warriors mounted a comeback with a try to cut their deficit but would get no closer.

"Our defence was spectacular," Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt said. "They're so focused and committed to playing our system. Defence definitely wins championships."

While elated to claim a second straight YRAA title, Hewitt noted the victory was costly as starting fly half Sean Hume left the contest with around four minutes left in the contest after suffering a concussion. His status for OFSAA, which will be held June 6-8 in Belleville, is uncertain.

In Friday's regular season finale against visiting Westmount Collegiate (Thornhill), which the Spartans prevailed 17-6, the Spartans lost Dan James for the

rest of the year with a knee injury.

"But the kids always seem to find a way to rally," Hewitt noted. "When the two kids went down, somebody came in and stepped up. We had to adjust our players on the field."

In reaching the final, the Spartans defeated Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School (Aurora) 17-10.

Glenn Ratcliff and Gavin Howe each scored one try while McSorley booted a convert and penalty kick.

In other division action, the Spartan juniors suffered a 22-5 loss to Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in one semifinal game.

Graham Wilson scored the Spartans' lone try.

#### BANTAMS STOPPED IN FINAL

The Spartan bantams, who were entered in the YRAA tier two division, defeated Thornlea 15-5 in one semifinal tilt.

Joe Beare scored a try while Matt Raguseo made a try and booted a penalty kick and convert.

The win moved the Spartans into the final where they were edged 8-7 by Westmount Collegiate.

Jordan Lofthouse scored a try for the Spartans and Raguseo booted a convert.

In girls action, the Spartans defeated Brother Andre Catholic High School (Markham) in a semifinal match before losing in the final to the Markham District High School Marauders on penalty kicks after the two clubs battled to a 15-15 tie.

—Mike Hayakawa

take place in Windsor starting Thursday and concluding Saturday.

#### Ball Spartans eliminated

The Spartans boys' baseball team were eliminated from the YRAA tier two championship race after losing a quarter-final game Tuesday to Sacred Heart Catholic High School (Newmarket) 10-4 at Bishop's Cross Park in Thornhill.

The visiting Spartans held a 4-2 lead through three innings before Sacred Heart rallied to take the lead.

Spartans head coach Andy Stoikos felt untimely errors proved costly.

"We ended up making too many mistakes on both sides of the ball.

"Overall though, I thought we had a decent season, but disappointing in that I think we had the ability to go further that we did."

Justin Balik took the loss for the Spartans, who advanced to the quarter-finals with a dramatic 12-10 comeback win over visiting Richmond Hill Secondary School in Friday's first-round playoff contest.

Trailing 10-1 through 4 1/2 innings, the Spartans exploded for eight runs to narrow the gap to 10-9.

After holding Richmond Hill scoreless in the top of the sixth inning, the Spartans added three more runs to take the lead with the winning run coming in on a bases loaded walk to Matt Martiniello.

Mark Lofthouse tossed three innings of relief and was the winning pitcher.

For more information on local high school sports, log on to: [www.yraa.com](http://www.yraa.com). For information on provincial championships, log on to: [www.ofsaa.on.ca](http://www.ofsaa.on.ca)