

SPORTS

Spartans tackle silver at provincials

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
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For the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' rugby team, it was close, but there were no victory cigars when they took to the pitch Wednesday against Trenton High School in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA final in Belleville.

But in accentuating the positive, the silver medal earned by the Spartans in an 8-5 loss still represented an improvement over last year's bronze medal performance.

"Most kids don't even get to OFSAA," Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt said. "This was still an accomplishment. Sure, the kids are disappointed right now but after a few days they'll realize it was a good year."

Sean Hume scored the lone try for the Spartans, who led 5-3 at the half.

Hewitt felt the game was won on defence.

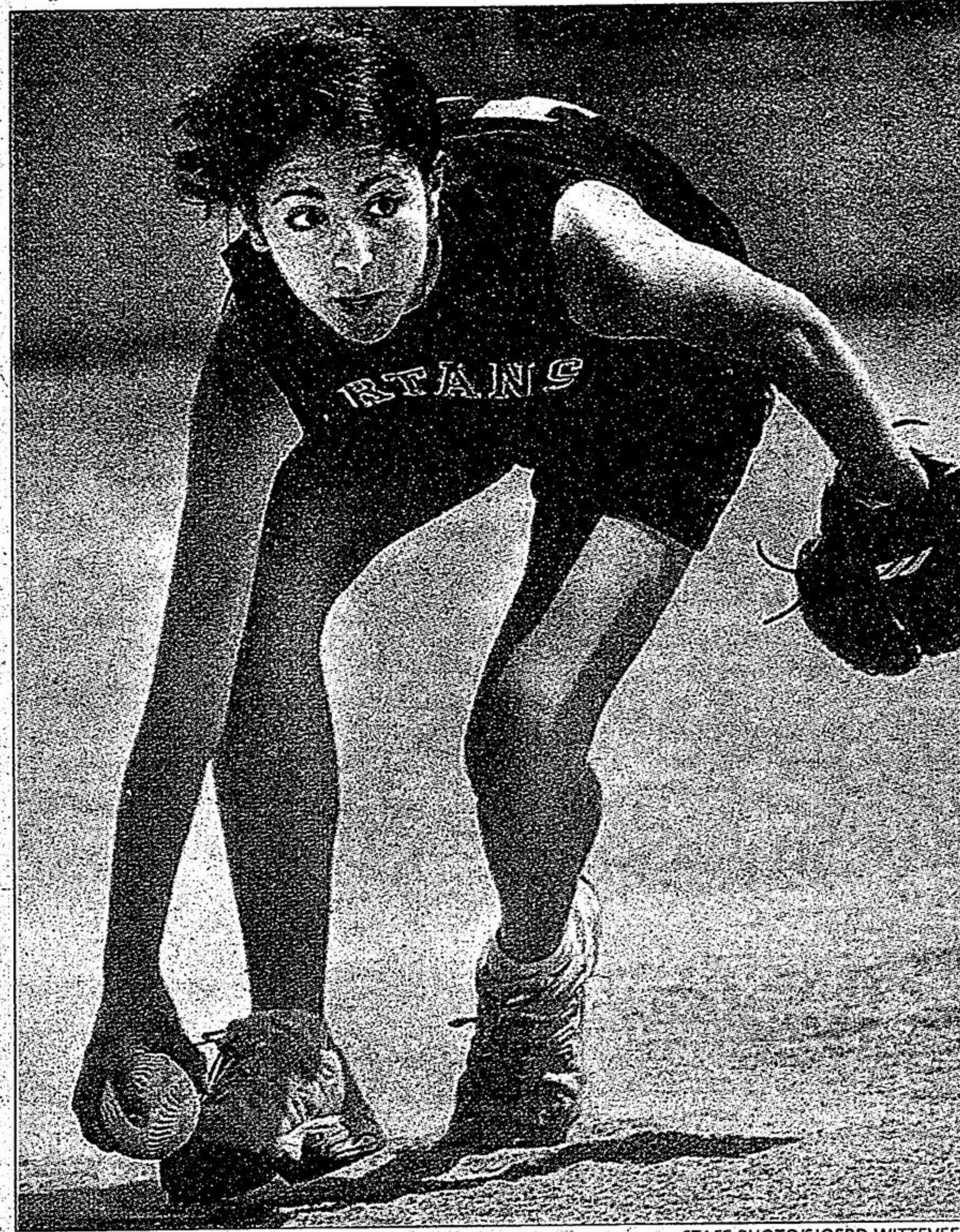
"These were two teams that were evenly matched. Their defence held us off. All year we beat teams because of our defence. But today they we played a team with as good a defence as what we have."

Losers of just five games all season, the Spartans reached the final after defeating Brock High School 27-0 in Tuesday's semifinal tilt.

Bjorn McSorley scored two tries and booted a penalty kick while Dan Locksley and Hume each added single tries.

In pool play action that began Monday, the Spartans defeated Ashbury College (Ottawa) 19-3, Park Street Secondary School (Orillia) 5-3 and Queen Elizabeth Collegiate (Kingston) 10-7.

For more information on the OFSAA championships, log on to: www.ofsaa.on.ca



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Fielding her position well

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' pitcher Allison Lloyd gathers a ground ball and prepares to relay it to first base for an easy out in Monday's York Region high schools semifinal game against the Unionville High School Wolves at Milliken Park in Markham. The Spartans won 13-0, but lost in the final to Markham District High School, 13-7.

SDSS kicks way to fourth-place OFSAA finish

Girls lose close games in semifinal and bronze-medal match

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans girls' soccer team didn't win gold, silver or bronze when they went to Thunder Bay last weekend for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA tournament.

But they did bring back copper, which represented a fourth-place finish in just their first-ever OFSAA appearance.

Sporting a 1-1-1 mark in pool play action Friday, the Spartans qualified for Friday's quarter-final on goal differential and proceeded to defeat St. Christopher's Catholic High School (Sarnia) 2-1 in overtime.

A goal by Cassie Sparks off a free kick with close to four minutes remaining in the second half of overtime propelled the

Spartans into Saturday's semifinal.

Jen Carroll staked the Spartans to a 1-0 lead in the first half before St. Christopher's rallied to tie the game just before

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the half concluded.

Facing eventual gold-medalist Lockerby Composite School (Sudbury) in one semifinal tilt, the Spartans saw the quest for gold come to an end when they suffered a heartbreaking 1-0 loss.

Lockerby scored the game-winning marker halfway through the second half.

Relegated to the bronze-medal final later that day, the Spartans faced pool divisional rival St. Mary's Catholic High

School (Woodstock) in a rematch.

And like the first match between the two clubs, the Spartans fell 2-1.

Jamie Sparks scored the lone goal for the Spartans in the second half to tie the game before St. Mary's deposited the game-winner with about one minute left in regulation time.

Despite not winning the gold, silver or bronze, Spartans' head coach Rob Edmondson couldn't be happier with the way his charges performed in their OFSAA tournament debut.

What pleased Edmondson was the manner in which the girls competed in each game. He noted in their losses, the team did not trail by more than a one-goal margin.

"Our goal was to play well and hard in every game and they did. To finish fourth in the province is fantastic," he said. "They were happy to have medalled at OFSAA and they deserved to come home with something and they did."

Edmondson was also quick to point out that while many of the OFSAA teams in attendance were comprised of rep players, his team had just three who play at the club level.

"That's quite a bit of an accomplishment," he said of his club.

MADIGAN EARNS AWARD

During the tournament, Spartans' defender Mishelle Madigan earned the team leadership award.

"She had a positive influence on everybody," Edmondson said.

In finishing the season with a solid effort at OFSAA, Edmondson thinks the fourth-year program has continued to raise the bar of excellence.

He remains optimistic the team, which will lose just two players to graduation, will continue to progress.

"I think we're now at a level to what the boys' and girls' hockey teams and boys' rugby teams have accomplished at the school," he said.

Jones Pools Juniors field tourney win

Stouffville club rallies from four-run deficit to defeat Colborne in final

The Stouffville Jones Pools Juniors overcame a four-run deficit to emerge with a 6-5 victory over the Colborne Rutherford's in the championship final of last weekend's Rock N Roll Fastpitch Tournament in Colborne.

Trailing 4-0 entering the bottom of the third inning, Stouffville whittled away at the deficit when Nick Dambrosio smashed a two-run homer.

One inning later, Stouffville tied the game at 4-4 on a two-run round tripper by Chris Bowes.

Stouffville then took the lead in the fifth inning on a two-run homer by Rob Clayton.

Colborne scored one in the sixth inning to narrow Stouffville's lead to 6-5, but could come no closer.

Joe German was the winning pitcher.

In reaching the final, Stouffville received a two-hit pitching effort from Greg Dalgarno to blank Warkworth 7-0 in the opening game.

The Jones Pools Juniors then faced the Colborne Rutherford's and came out on the short end of a 2-1 decision in 12 innings.

German gave up only three hits over the 12 innings in a losing cause.

EXTRA-INNING SEMIFINAL WIN

Due to a cancellation by the team from Havelock, the Jones Pools Juniors moved directly into the semifinals where they faced the Oshawa BBs and emerged with a hard-fought 5-4 win in nine innings.

With the score knotted at 4-4 in the ninth inning, Stouffville won the game when Bryan Detlor led off with a single and scored on a single by Boadway.

Stouffville drew first blood in the game on a first-inning homer by Dambrosio.

But Oshawa replied with a run in the first and one in the third to take a 2-1 lead.

Stouffville tied the game in the fourth inning when Devon Clancy's single scored Clayton.

In the sixth inning, Stouffville took a 3-2 lead when Peters doubled and scored on a ground out by Mark French.

The Jones Pools Juniors added one more in the seventh to take a 4-2 advantage when Chris Bowes singled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Boadway.

But with two out in the seventh Oshawa tied the game on a two-run homer to force extra innings.

Dalgarno scattered seven hits and eight strikeouts for the win.