

SPORTS

Spartans spike OFSAA berth

Outcome against Dr. J.M. Denison decided in final set

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

In analyzing the performance of his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' volleyball team this season, head coach Steve Jimmo said it had a tendency to be either extremely good or bad.

The Spartans chose an opportune time to excel on the hardwood court when they played host to Newmarket's Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School Tuesday.

With an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations berth on the line for the AAA playdowns in Kingston, the Spartans emerged with a hard-fought 2-1 (25-22, 21-25, 15-7) victory.

"We've been a team that's either been hot and unbeatable or below mediocre and don't look like a team," he said. "But these were two teams that were pretty evenly matched. We just played well and shut them down."

Jimmo felt his club's strong start in the deciding set was the key as they jumped out to an 8-1 lead and were never threatened after that.

"I don't think (Dr. J.M. Denison) recovered. They looked unconfident, they missed a couple of serves and we shut them down," he said.

Jimmo was quick to add it didn't hurt that his club won a coin toss last week to gain home court advantage and had the support of hometown fans.

In looking ahead at the OFSAA playdowns, Nov. 24-25, Jimmo hopes his team can improve on their performance when they were there last year after being consolation finalists.

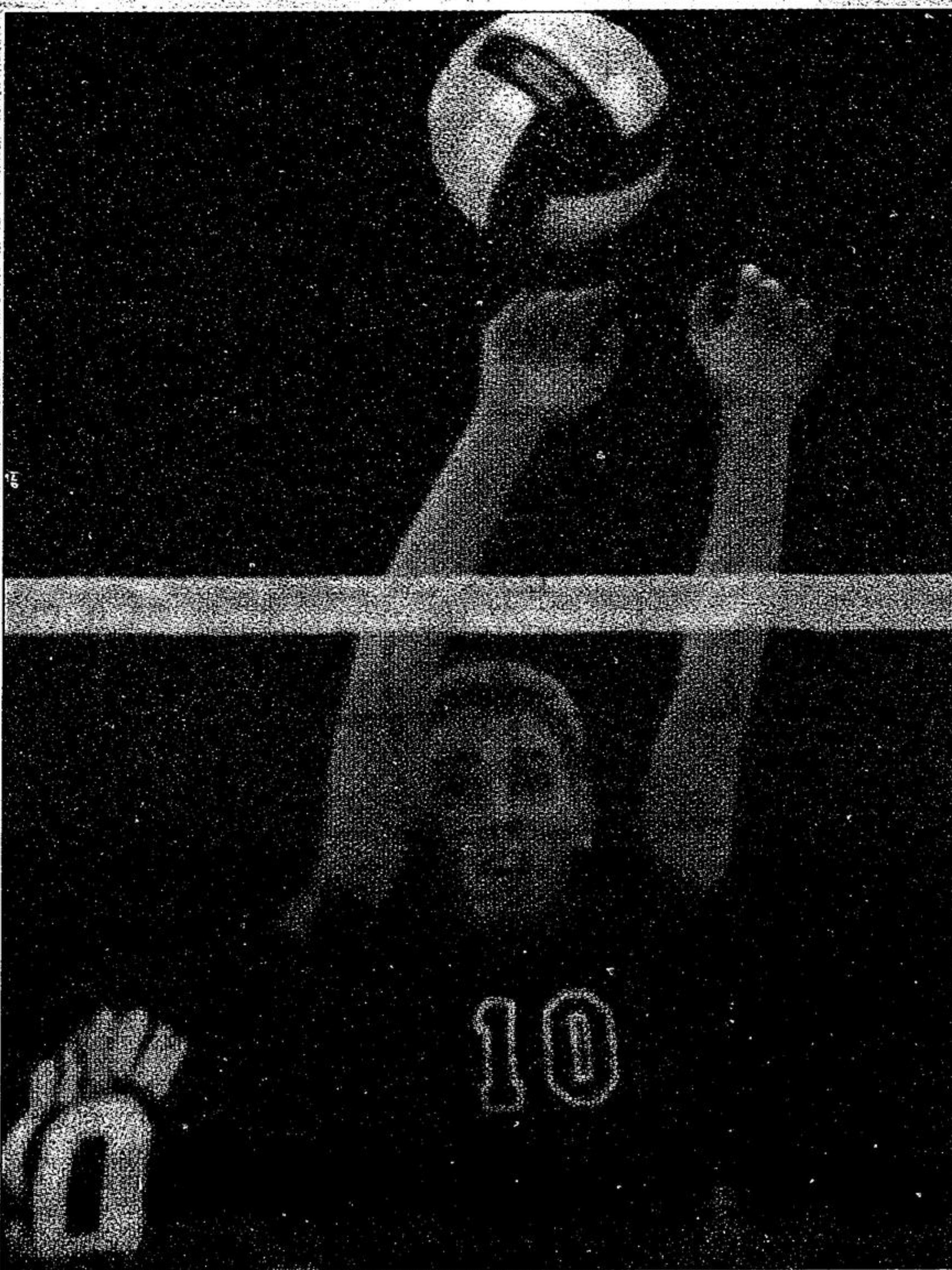
"All we can do is just try to do the best that we can," he said.

Junior girls hold court

The Spartans junior girls' basketball team won its YRAA first round tier two playoff contest Wednesday with a 37-21 decision over visiting Richmond Hill High School.

Tracey Veletri was high scorer for the Spartans with 18 points.

In winning the game, the Spartans, who finished the regular season in first place in the South Division with a 9-0 mark, will host a quarter-final contest Monday at 4 p.m. against the winner of the Langstaff Secondary School-Mil-



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' strong middle Fred Bell gets his arms up to defend against a spike attempt in Tuesday's OFSAA AAA qualifying contest against Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School (Newmarket) at Stouffville. The Spartans won 2-1 and earned a berth in the OFSAA AAA championships in Kingston.

liken Mills Secondary School contest that was to have been played Friday.

A victory in Monday's tilt would enable the Spartans to advance to Wednesday's semifinals at Thornlea Secondary School.

Spartan boys, girls ice wins in hockey season openers

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans varsity girls' hockey team got its YRAA season off to a good start Tuesday with a 5-1 win over Cardinal Carter Catholic High School at Stouffville Arena.

Brittany Crago scored twice for the defending Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations A/AA champions. Hayley Hughes, Karli Ziegler and Jamie Sparks added single tallies.

In boys action Wednesday, the Spartans won their opener over the defending YRAA champion Unionville High School Wolves 3-1 at the Stouffville Arena.

Scott Van Allen, Eric Gainsbrook and Sam Carrick each scored once for the Wolves.

For more on high school sports, log on to: www.yraa.com

Blues deny Spirit chance to move up in Jr. A standings

The Stouffville Spirit hopes for a kinder start to its Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game Sunday afternoon in North York.

The Collingwood Blues opened up a 5-0 lead in the first 11:05 and coasted to a 5-2 win over the Stouffville Spirit at the Stouffville Arena Thursday.

The second-place Blues (13-9-3-1) moved three points up on the Spirit (12-8-1-2) in the North Conference of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League. The Blues had played three more games entering play last night.

The Spirit controlled the early play but could not beat netminder Akos Agardy.

Spirit coach Dan West complained to referee Dave Koziel that his netminder, Trevor O'Neill, was knocked down on the third goal. The goal stood, West was assessed a bench penalty for arguing and Collingwood scored on the ensuing penalty for a potential two-goal swing.

Randy Johnston and Myles Gomes scored for the Spirit. Mark Kubicz replaced O'Neill after the fifth Blues' goal and was perfect. The Spirit outshot Collingwood 35-27.

The teams split a pair of fights in the dying seconds, with the Spirit's Corey Fulton handling Matt Caranci. Collingwood's Jonathan Lacasse bloodied Donovan Munro but was handed a match penalty, including a four-game suspension, for fighting "with a ring or tape" on his fingers by Koziel after the game.

NOTES: Sunday's game at North York has been moved to 4 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts; the Spirit played with Joel Sheppard; Josh Domingues and Brock Van Der Gulik out on the injured list Thursday; Will Acton was back in the lineup after captaining Canada East to the silver medals at the inaugural World Jr. A Challenge in Saskatchewan. He was away two weeks.



Coleshill having ball at Puerto Rican event

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Pearl Coleshill is making her presence felt with the Canadian junior women's national team at the Pan American softball championships in Puerto Rico.

Thanks to the 17-year-old Stouffville resident's hitting, fielding and base-running skills, Canada currently holds a 4-2 won-loss record in tournament competition.

Canada defeated Puerto Rico 7-2, blanked Aruba 8-0, The Netherlands 3-0 and Ecuador 13-0 but lost to the United States 3-0 and Venezuela 2-1 to finish third in pool play and gain entry to the playoff round.

Playing shortstop, Coleshill was especially brilliant against Aruba, belting two hits in three at-bats. She also had two stolen bases.

For further information on the competition, log on to: www.softball.ca

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