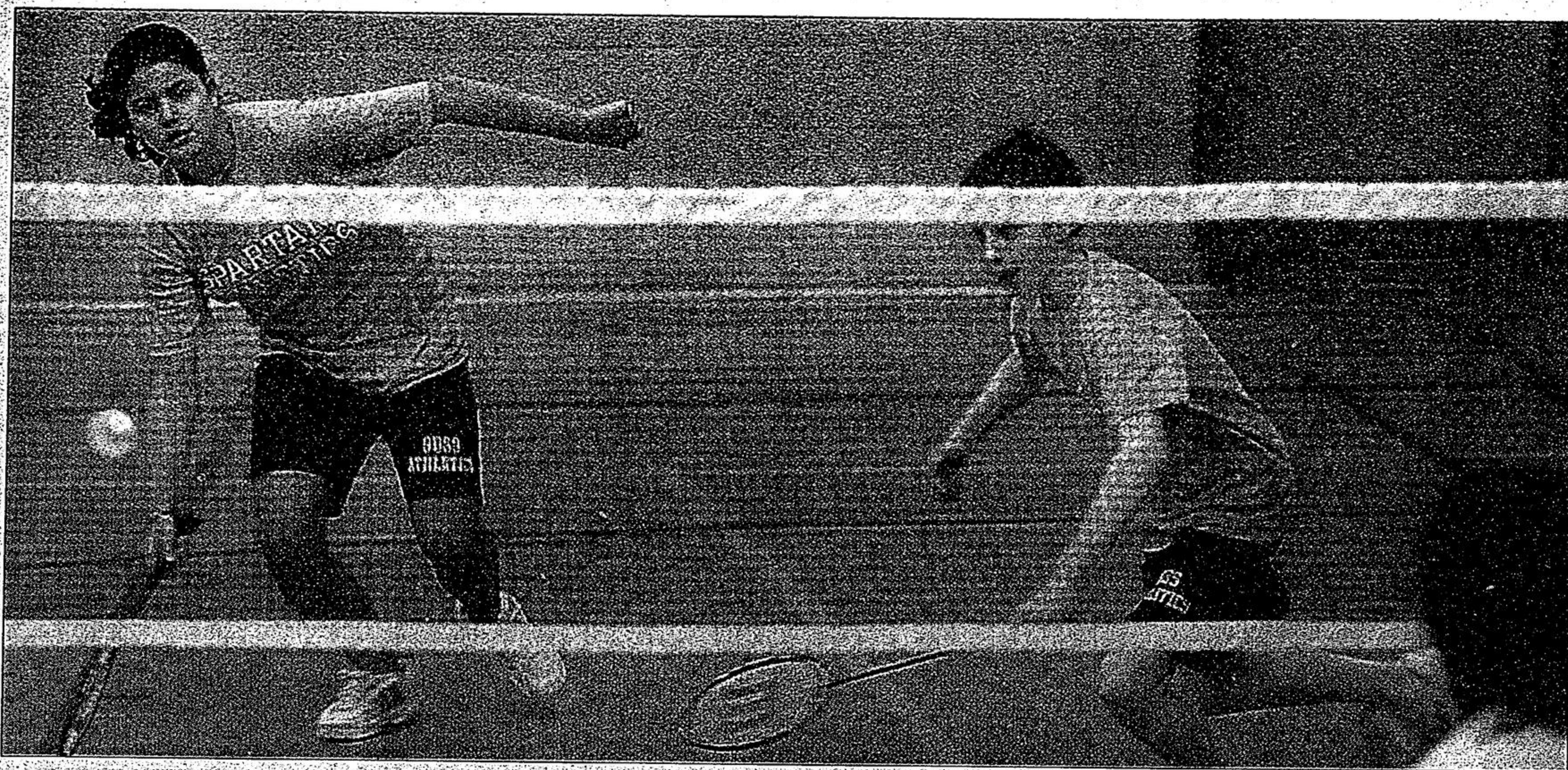


# SPORTS

## BIRDIE HUNTERS

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Traci Velletri and Eric Lee chase the birdie during the York Region high school badminton playdowns at Milliken Mills High School last Thursday. The Spartan duo lost the match to Unionville High School's Janice Lee and Michael Mok.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Rugby squad small in size, large on team concept

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' rugby squad head coach Jamie Hewitt calls this year's team short on experience and small in stature.

It would appear the Spartans could be in for trying times when the York Region Athletic Association season kicks off.

Hewitt argues otherwise.

Even after last week's 14-5 road exhibition loss to the Eastdale Collegiate Eagles in Oshawa.

"I think the guys looked pretty good," Hewitt said of his club's performance that saw Andrew Norton account for the lone Spartans' try.

"Eastdale is one of the top senior teams in the province and we weren't too disappointed with that result. We're a young team and we're looking

forward to the year."

While the Spartans have just five Grade 12 players, including provincial team member Kyle Miller, and co-team captain Jason Lock, the remaining starters on this year's team are in Grade 11.

*...the Spartans have just five Grade 12 players, including provincial team member Kyle Miller and co-team captain Jason Lock ...*

Several were members of last year's York junior championship squad.

"We don't rely on one, two or three guys. We have a lot of depth and they do things together on and off the field,"

said Hewitt, who started working with the team last fall.

"They even set up a team dinner all by themselves," he said.

While lacking physical presence, Hewitt feels his club can overcome this through skills they've acquired and developed.

"Our skill set is pretty good. If we can move the ball well from sideline to sideline, we'll be in good shape," Hewitt said.

If the Spartans can fulfill their potential and avoid the injury bug, Hewitt remains optimistic his club can contend for the York title.

"Markham District High is definitely the team to beat," he said.

"But I think if we can play to our potential, we can be in the mix."

For more on high school sports, go to [ytaa.com](http://ytaa.com)

## Cards score silver at provincials

Four Stouffville girls are the town's newest provincial medalists.

The Markham Cardinals returned from the Ontario Cup provincial basketball championships in London and St. Thomas Sunday with silver medals.

The Cardinals, comprised of girls aged 12 and 13 from Markham and Stouffville, won their first five games of the tournament before falling 44-30 to Sarnia Valhalla in the final.

They were competing in the 16-team Division 5 of the major bantam (younger than 14) event.

Stouffville players on the squad are Peri Scheliga, Jennifer Mason, Haley Preston and Breanna Maloney. Rick Maloney is head coach.

The Cardinals defeated the Woodstock Chill 42-25, Durham City Chameleons of Ajax 36-21 and Dundas Dynamo 46-26 to win their pool.

They knocked off the Sault Ste. Marie Titans 44-36 in the quarter-finals and Ottawa's Capital Xelle 33-23 in the semis.

Cardinals point guard Alyssa Cheung won the hustle award for the division.

The Cardinals won a provincial select championship a year ago.

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Judo students win 9 medals

Students from the Sheffield Judo Club battled opponents from across Ontario and Buffalo, N.Y. and for their efforts, claimed nine medals at the Brantford Invitational Tournament.

First-place finishers included: Tressa Sheffield in the 11-12 year-old girls division, Lea Sheffield juvenile girls 45 kilograms and Jill Pirrie senior women 78+ kg.

Earning silver medals were Taylor Straight in the juvenile boys -81 kg. and Collen Welch 10 year-old girls.

Those who finished third included: Sean Long in the eight-year-old boys division, Tressa Sheffield juvenile girls -45 kg., Brent Colclough senior men -81 kg. and Clint Moxley senior men +100 kg.

Moxley and Pirrie have qualified to compete in their first senior Canadian championships in Quebec in May.

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