

FROM FILL-IN TO STAR

Stouffville teenager shines with Canadian rugby team during Welsh tour

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

When the Canadian under-17 rugby team roster was selected in the summer, Lawson Mann was not included.

But when the team made a two-week tour of Wales to play four exhibition games, the 16-year-old Stouffville resident and Grade 11 Markham District High School student was on 32-member contingent.

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Injuries to some original picks opened the door for Mann, who was thankful for the chance to represent Canada and make his first overseas trip.

Playing fullback, the experience in Wales was one he won't soon forget, Mann said.

What caught his attention was the popularity of rugby in Wales.

"Rugby in Wales has so much

culture and history. It's a way of life to those people, like hockey is to us," he said.

"Everyone grows up watching and playing rugby and as you would expect, they develop into great players. To put this into perspective, it was our national team against their regional teams.

"The competition was very strong. We (the Canadian under-17s) had only played as a team for two days before the first match.

"Even then, every practice was competitive because you never knew if you would dress for the next game, be in the reserves on the bench or be in the starting lineup until the night before."

In the four games Team Canada played against top Welsh regional teams, Mann was one of four players on the squad that saw action in each.

Used as a substitute in the first two matches, Mann as a starter in the third match and also played in the final one that was supposed to reflect the best group of players on Team Canada.

In that match, Team Can-

ada won its only game of the tour. It was also a game of vivid moments for Mann.

"We played that entire game with wind, rain, thunder and lightning. The field was like a lake and gravel-sized hail covered the field in ice," he

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recalled.

Mann's performance during the tour didn't go unnoticed as he was named the most improved back on the final night of the tour.

Mann's overseas appearance wasn't just a one-time opportunity as he is expected to be a part of the same contingent competing at a tournament in Millfield, England.



Stouffville's Lawson Mann, a 16-year-old Markham District High school student, was a member of the Canadian under-17 men's rugby team that did a two-week, four-game tour in Wales.

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www.springvale.org

Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Youth & Family: Jay Sandiford
Student Ministries: Alex Street
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell
Counselling Services: Karla Kameron

January 13th, 2008
9:45 am
Celebration Service
Pastor Bob Flemming

11:11 am
Sunday School
for All Ages

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL
Sunday Service 10:00 am
at Middlefield Collegiate
525 Highglan Ave., Markham

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Welcome to...
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Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister
6432 Main St. Stouffville
Phone - 905-640-3151
email: st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca

Sunday, January 13
Pre-service hymn-sing 9:45 a.m.
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

Saturday January 12
Burns' Supper 5:00 p.m.
Parkview Village
Adults \$16; Children under 12 free
Tickets - (905) 640-2481
'A Friendly Family Church'

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
Minister of Worship: Rev Vicki Cousins
Info@stouffvilleuc.ca

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE
Children's Worship & Baby Fold
& Youth Spirit
EVERYONE WELCOME
Website: www.stouffvilleuc.ca

Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South,
Sunday, January 13th, 2008
Marion Wells
Lemonville United Church
7:00 pm

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line N.
(905) 642-4414
Rev. Peter Pallant

Sunday, January 13th, 2008
9:30 am ~
Sunday School
11:00 am ~
Morning Worship Service
6:30 pm ~
Evening Service

Everyone Welcome

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
The Rev. Canon Robert Shields
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(905) 640-1461

Sunday, January 13th

Baptism
Services at 8 am & 10 am
Nursery and Church School at 10 am
Floor Hockey vs. Uxbridge
Friday January 11th at 7 pm

Come & See
www.stouffvilleanglican.ca
e-mail: admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca

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6853 Main Street

Sunday, January 13, 2008
10:00 a.m.
"The Church in Waiting"
- Pastor Paul Hilsden -

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Illuminate - Grade 9 - 12
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Kidz Club - Ages 5 - Grade 5
Junior Youth - Grades 6, 7, & 8
Ladies Exercise Class

Call church at 905-640-5696 for information
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