

SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE



Stouffville District Secondary School rugby players check out England, from the London Eye during March break.

Stouffville Secondary rugby boys' eyes opened by culture, level of play in Great Britain

Most excellent adventure

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Good times.

For 31 boys' rugby players and four coaches representing Stouffville District Secondary School, their recent 12-day excursion to England and Wales was simply "amazing".

The players and their coaches played exhibition games, watched a couple of professional games and went sightseeing.

And, head coach Jamie Hewitt said the players served as goodwill ambassadors for Stouffville.

"It was definitely a trip of a lifetime not just for the rugby, but the culture, too. The billets that we had were great," Mr. Hewitt said.

"And the kids were so well behaved. Our entire coaching staff was proud of their behaviour. It was top notch."

During the trip, the team was divided into two groups.

The Spartans firsts fell 22-19 to Brecon High School of Wales, 19-14 to Isleworth and Syon School, 19-12 to Welbeck College and 13-0 to John Cleveland College of Hinkley.

The Spartans seconds, however, defeated the Isleworth and Syon School seconds 15-10 and Welbeck College 15-5 before losing to John Cleveland College 5-0 and Brecon High School 25-10.

Other touring Ontario schools that played schools from England and Wales fared far worse. Bear Creek Secondary School (Barrie) was drubbed 55-0 by Welbeck.

As well, Brock High School of Cannington,

'It's like hockey here where kids over there start playing rugby when they're five years old.'

SDSS' Jamie Hewitt
on overseas talent

a team the Spartans face each year, lost 70-0 to John Cleveland.

"The calibre (of rugby) was something," Mr. Hewitt said.

"We might see one, two or three games of that nature here.

"But over there it's at a different level.

"It's like hockey here where kids over there start playing rugby when they're five years old."

In addition to the action on the pitch, the Spartans watched two premier games, one in Watford, near London, featuring the Saracens, a first division club.

The other featured London Scottish, a Division 2 team.

The coaching staff of Mr. Hewitt, Rob Edmondson, Glenn Tarver and Tom Mintchev, was treated to a Six Nations Cup grand slam final between Wales and France with 78,000 others at Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales.

"It was the best live sporting event that I've ever been to," Mr. Hewitt said. "The whole atmosphere...the singing by the fans, it was fantastic."



PHOTOS COURTESY STOUFFVILLE SECONDARY

Stouffville Secondary's Chris Boake, Chris Lombardo (3) and Stephen Jeschke lift Alex Mangotich (left) during game at Welbeck College in England last week.

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Stouffville firefighters not collecting money

If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to raise funds for the "Stouffville Fire Department", you can be sure the call is fraudulent.

While Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services support many worth causes, the department never solicits funds by phone, Deputy Chief Rob McKenzie said.

He's warning people to be aware of these phone calls and not to give out any information about themselves.

"Sometimes seniors are targeted," he said.

If you do receive one of these calls, call Mr. McKenzie at 905-640-9595.

Recreation for teenagers

If you're between 13 and 17 and looking for something to do Tuesday evenings, you can come to a new youth program starting April 1.

You can decide whether to play basketball, volleyball, floor hockey or badminton in a gym of the new Stouffville District Secondary School.

An instructor will be present every week, recreational programmer Jen McEachen said.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville leisure services program runs 10 weeks from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays.

"We want to promote more programs for the younger teenagers," Ms McEachen said.

If there is enough response to this new program, it will likely run again in the fall and winter.

Cost for the program is \$80 for 10 weeks and \$35 for six weeks.

Call Ms McEachen at 905-640-1900, ext. 288.

For more youth programs, go to townofws.com

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