

SPORTS

Girls team shorthanded at OFSAA

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

It was a disappointing end to an enviable season.

Stouffville District Secondary School's girls hockey team failed to three-peat as provincial girls hockey champions, but they made coach Brian Shankman proud.

"They played like champions. They represented the school very well," Shankman said. "It was very inspiring. The girls showed me a lot."

The team was eliminated last Thursday in Pembroke at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations A/AA championship with a 6-1 loss to Bishop Mcdonell of Guelph in the quarterfinals.

The team won two of three in the round robin, pulling out victories against North Grenville of Kemptville and Roland Michener of South Porcupine.

The team was short four of its top players going into Thursday due to illness and club tournaments and lost its first game of the day, 7-1 to Ridley College of St. Catharines.

"Coming into the tournament as two-time defending gold medalists, we had high expectations for ourselves," Shankman said. "We went into the tournament in the top seed and started out well. Unfortunately, we only had nine players the rest of the tournament."

FIFTH TIME AT PROVINCIALS

This is the team's fifth provincial championship. They made it to the final three times and won the past two years.

The girls were ahead after the first period against Bishop Mcdonell, but couldn't stay on top. Rookie Vanessa Spataro scored the team's only goal of the game.

"During the first period, we were all over them. The girls were so strong and so intense," Shankman said. "We only had two lines and three defense. (The girls) didn't have a chance to recover."

If his whole team had been there, he was "quite confident" SDSS would have won, Shankman said.

"I'm extremely proud of them. They played their hearts out. What more can any coach, teacher or the parents ask for?" he said.

Shankman is already looking forward to winning another the title.

"I full expect to be back there next year," Shankman said. "We're losing a lot of leadership with the Grade 12s leaving, but we've got some great Grade 9s coming back. I'm looking forward to next year."

The team will move up to the AAA/AAAA division with the province's largest.

The 2009 OFSAA tournament will be held in Orillia.



Stouffville District Secondary School's Spartan boys celebrate winning back-to-back Ontario high school A/AA titles in Ottawa Saturday.

NATIONAL RUGBY TEAM PLAYER LEADS SDSS TO SECOND-STRAIGHT ONTARIO BOYS TITLE

Two-time champs welcome move up

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Matt Raguseo is better known as a rugby player at Stouffville District Secondary School.

He is a hockey star this week, after scoring two goals and assisting on another to lead Stouffville's Spartans to a 5-1 win over Appleby College of Oakville in a gold-medal game at the provincial high school boys championships in Kanata Saturday.

Stouffville went undefeated and repeated as A/AA champions at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations tournament in the Ottawa area last week.

Fourteen of the 20 players on the roster won gold last year, too.

It will be Stouffville's last A/AA title, with the growing school moving to AAA/AAAA next season.

"We have no problem with that," head coach Jamie Hewitt said, echoing girls' coach Brian Shankman's feelings.

This week, it was time to celebrate.

"Our team played our systems all week, especially the forecheck," head coach Jamie Hewitt said. "After every game, the other coaches said it was relentless. It all starts with the forecheck."

NATIONAL RUGBY PROGRAM

Raguseo, a Grade 12 student who also skates for the Stouffville Clippers midget A club team, plays in the national rugby team program.

Scott Van Allen, Sam Carrick and James McLeod had the other Stouffville goals.

Stouffville advanced to the final with its sixth straight win, 3-0 over Timmins in Saturday morning's semifinal. Stouffville

Family affair between SDSS hockey squads

There were plenty of family ties between the 2007-08 Stouffville District Secondary School boys and girls hockey teams:

- Dennis O'Shaughnessy and Emily O'Shaughnessy are brother and sister
- Goalies Chris Pennanen and Felicia Pennanen are brother and sister
- Heather Hughes and Sam Carrick are cousins
- Starting goalies Courtney Humphreys and Sean Gibson are cousins

received second-period goals from Kyle Miller, Carrick and Mitchell Forbes.

Stouffville's penalty killers didn't allow a goal in the tour-

namment, including during five 5-on-3 chances.

Sean Gibson played all seven games in goal, allowing just one goal in three playoff games.

Hewitt rolled all his lines and defencemen in all seven games.

WISE LED ALL SCORERS

Stouffville's Jamie Wise led all scorers with 20 points in the tourney. Van Allen had 14 and Carrick 12 as Stouffville placed three players in the top five.

Carrick is expected to be an early-round selection in next month's Ontario Hockey League draft.

His brother, Jake, who was on Stouffville's championship squad a year ago, is a rookie with the OHL's Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

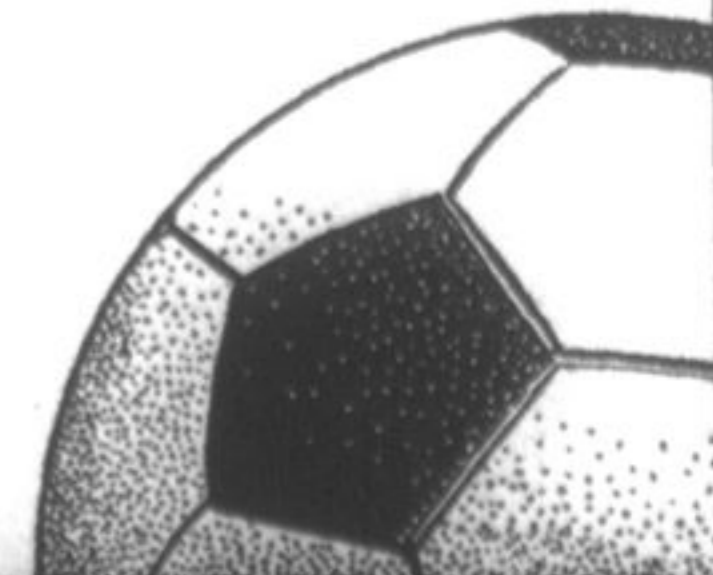
Semifinals and finals were played at the Sensplex in Kanata, the practice facility of the NHL Senators.

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