

Spartans top seeds at OFSAA rugby

Jamie Hewitt was hoping his Spartans senior boys' rugby team would be given the top seed at this year's 16-team Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA championships that began yesterday in Sarnia.

The Spartans head coach got his wish when the seedings were unveiled Monday.

The Spartans, who are the defending provincial AA champions and two-

► Go to ofsaa.on.ca for more information.

time York Region champions, were to face No. 16-seed Lester B. Pearson Collegiate (Burlington) yesterday.

Hewitt thought his club would get the top seed after facing most of the teams that were entered in this year's provincial AA championships.

He was quick to note the No. 2 seed, Adam Scott Secondary School (Peterborough), was a team Stouffville had defeated earlier this year at the Trent University Tournament.

"We thought we'd be the No. 1 seed. Now we've just got to live up to it," he said.

The tournament is scheduled to conclude tomorrow.

Dramatic turnaround has team in playoffs

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

At the start of the York Region girls' slo-pitch season, head coach Brian Shankman had a feeling his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans were going to be in for a long, but short year.

Through the first two games, the Spartans were lambasted and generated just two runs.

But like turning on a switch, the Spartans' fortunes did an about face.

All for the better as they reeled off four straight wins and finished the regular tier one season in a three-way tie for first place in the Central Division with Unionville High and Brother Andre Catholic High with 4-2 records.

In doing so, the Spartans face Huron Heights Secondary (Newmarket) in their quarter-final game today at Richmond Green in Richmond Hill during the league's one-day playoff tournament.

Win and you advance. Lose and go home.

Shankman said it was just a matter of the players, many of whom were new to the game, getting accustomed to the sport and its pace.

Not to mention plenty of practice in which they've made extra trips to the hitting cages.

"We have a lot of Grade 9s who aren't ball players by nature, but are good athletes and they've been learning as they go along. They run the bases aggressively and they have good hand-eye co-ordination," Shankman said. "Now the girls are hitting the snot out of the ball."

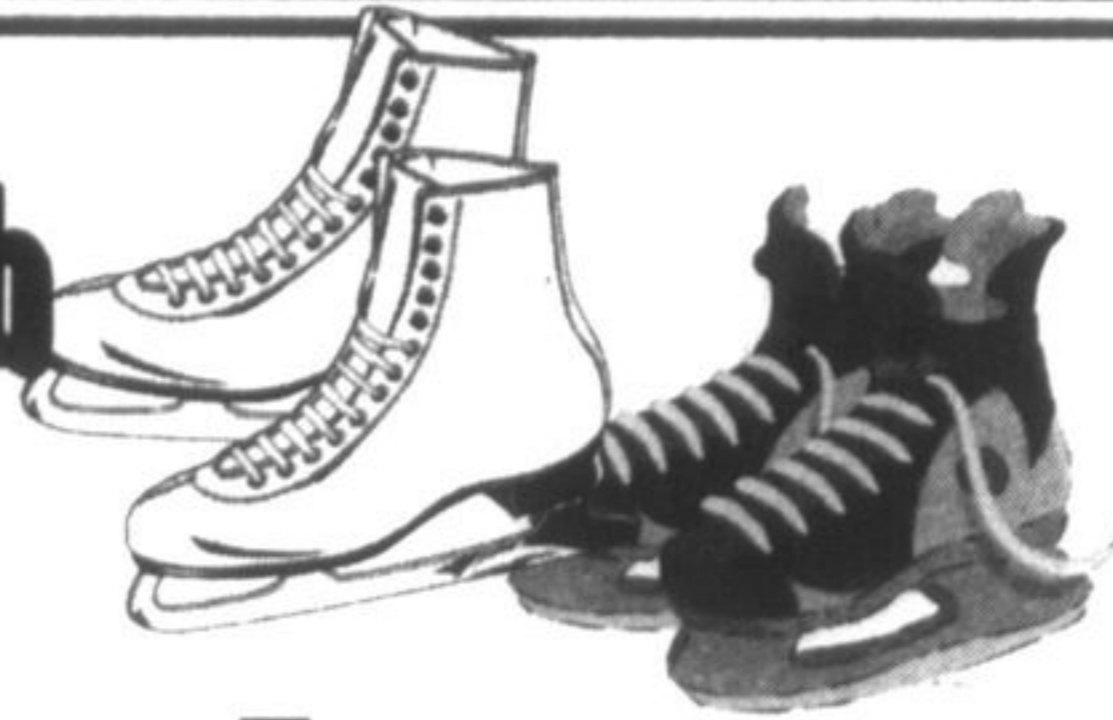
Anchoring the club in its turnaround has been Grade 9 shortstop Annalise Mathers, who also plays club ball.

"She's our little field general out there," Shankman said. "She keeps everyone in the game."

Having appeared in the championship final in each of the last five seasons, the Spartans might have their work cut out if they hope to make it six in a row.

But with the work ethic exhibited by the youthful charges, Shankman remains confident anything can happen in a single-game elimination format.

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Rev. Peter Pallant
Sunday, June 8th, 2008
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11:00 am ~
Morning Worship Service
6:30 pm ~ Evening Service
Everyone Welcome

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Rev. Paul Hilsden
Stouffville Pentecostal Church
7:00pm

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
Minister of Worship: Rev Val Noakes
info@stouffvilleuc.ca
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10:30 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
& BABY FOLD
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Website: www.stouffvilleuc.ca

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June 8th, 2008

9:45 am
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6:00 pm
Members Meeting

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3:00 pm
'A Friendly Family Church'

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