

Golden boys of SDSS had winning habit

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

To be a part of one Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championship team during high school is a big deal.

To be a part of two provincial gold-medal winning clubs is something else.

Four Grade 12 Stouffville District Secondary School students were on four OFSAA team title clubs during the last 16 months.

Matt Raguseo, Joe Beare, Jamie Gregory and Chris Boake were members of the Spartans' OFSAA AA gold-medal winning hockey clubs in 2007 and 2008. They were also teammates on the OFSAA AA gold-medal rugby clubs during the same years.

"If someone had told me that I would be a part of four OFSAA gold medal teams I wouldn't have believed them. It was totally unreal," Beare said.

"It was pretty awesome," Gregory said. "You hear of people winning at OFSAA and they might get a bronze medal and hearing they had to work hard to get that. But to get gold four times ..."

"When I first came into high school I dreamed of going to OFSAA at least once," Boake said. "But I never thought of winning four OFSAA titles, let alone two. It was truly amazing."

Raguseo, who was also named the school's senior boys athlete of the year for the second consecutive time, thought he hit the jackpot after winning his first provincial crown with the hockey team last year.

To win four titles though, was unbelievable, he said.

"When we won our first OFSAA title it was like 'wow,'" he said of when they won last year's hockey crown. "None of us expected to win four. You just have to live the moment."

Good fortune, good teammates and having good coaches including Jamie Hewitt, who ran the hockey and rugby programs, were keys.

"We certainly didn't have too many injuries," Beare said. "But having a good coaching staff was the key."

"Sure, luck was important," Raguseo said. "But we worked hard and we were a determined group."

"Stouffville athletes are known to play hard and never give up," Boake said. "We played every game like it was our last one."

Even though each championship was special, a rugby crown that ended with a gut-wrenching 19-17 overtime victory over the Adam Scott Collegiate and Vocational Institute Lions (Peterborough), was the most memorable of the four.

They acknowledged there was some pressure exerted on them to win that elusive crown.

Especially since Boake suffered an untimely hip flexor injury in their final pool play match and was on crutches for the remainder of the tournament.

Replacing Boake, who manned the all-important scrum half position, was Gregory.

"It certainly was hard to watch," Boake recalled. "I kept jumping around on the sidelines."

"I was definitely nervous," said Gregory,



Joe Beare (from left), Jamie Gregory, Chris Boake and Matt Raguseo were members of Stouffville District Secondary School's Ontario-champion hockey and rugby teams in 2007 and 2008

who scored the eventual game-winning try. "The game was intense. But I thought I played the best game of my life."

Defending the titles was harder.

"Last year, we weren't seeded when we were at the OFSAA hockey. But this year was different because we were No. 1. The teams were out to get us this year and each game was tough. You almost had a target on your back," Gregory said.

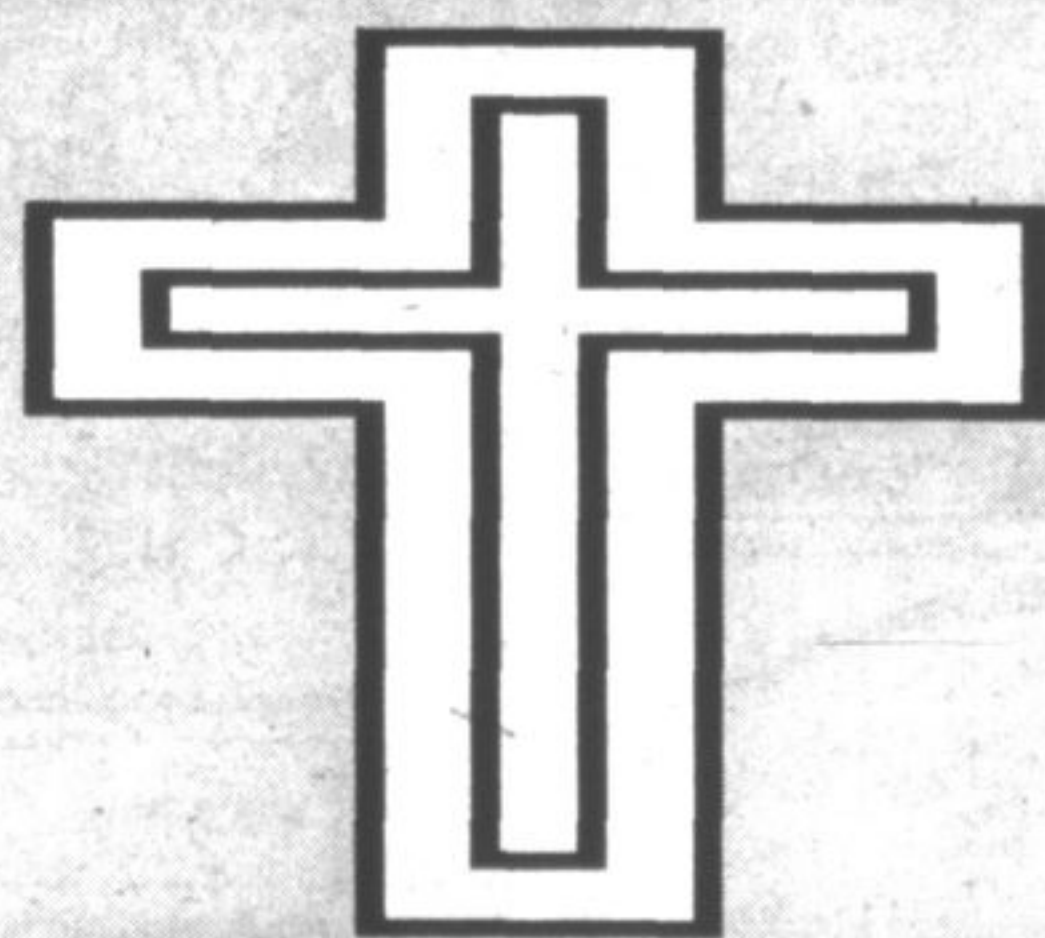
The foursome will not be together when school resumes in September.

Gregory will study engineering at the University of Western Ontario. Beare will take police foundations at Seneca College. Boake will work during the first semester and return to SDSS for the second semester and possibly rejoin the rugby team.

Raguseo intends to return to SDSS next year.

Stouffville Churches Welcome You

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line N.
(905) 642-4414
Rev. Peter Pallant
Sunday, July 13th, 2008
No
Sunday School
10:30 am ~
Morning Worship Service
No Evening Service
Everyone Welcome



Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South,
Sunday, July 13th, 2008
Rev. Robert Gatto
Lighthouse Baptist Church
7:00pm

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
Minister of Worship: Rev Val Noakes
info@stouffvilleuc.ca
SUNDAY, JULY 13TH, 2008
10:30 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
& CHILD CARE PROVIDED
EVERYONE WELCOME
Website: www.stouffvilleuc.ca

springvale
BUILDING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
905-887-5651
www.springvale.org

Welcome to...
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister
6432 Main St. Stouffville
Phone - 905-640-3151
email: st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca
Sunday, July 13
Service of Worship
10 a.m.
Friday, July 11
Vacation Bible School
Concluding program
Parents Welcome!
'A Friendly Family Church'

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
The Rev. Canon Robert Shields
The Rev. Jason Prisley, Associate
(905) 640-1461
Sunday, July 13
9th After Pentecost
Baptism
Services at 8 am & 10 am
Nursery & Church School at 10 am
Friday, July 11
Floor Hockey at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, July 16
Holy Hollywood
"Casablanca" at 7:00 pm
Come & See
www.stouffvilleanglican.ca
e-mail: admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca

Stouffville Pentecostal Church
6853 Main St. Stouffville 905.640.5696
Worship Service - Sundays @ 10am
Sundays 10am Fun & Interactive **Kidsville**
August 18-22 Family Fun Camp Ages 2 & up
Tuesdays 7pm Incredible **Youth Ministry**
Weekly Days Evenings Encouraging **Home Groups**
www.spckids.ca

Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Youth & Family: Jay Sandiford
Student Ministries: Alex Street
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell
Counselling Services: Karla Kamerman
July 13th, 2008
10:00 am
Communion
Celebration Service
Pastor Bob Flemming