Nice try, but no three-peat for SDSS

Trenton shuts down Spartans for second time in OFSAA AA rugby final

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA Staff Writer

For the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' rugby team, it wasn't a lack of effort or desire.

Still, they came up short of winning a third straight Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA gold medal in Waterford Friday.

Stouffville wasn't throwing out excuses after it lost the final 14-3 against Trenton High School

'BEAT BY BETTER TEAM'

"We just got beat by a better team," Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt said. "We played hard and we stuck to our game plan. But their defence was fantastic and I tip my hat to them. We never threatened to score a try."

Trailing 3-0 in the first half, the Spartans evened the score on the last play before halftime when Trenton took a penalty. With the ball some 40 metres out and just five metres in from the sideline, Matt Raguseo booted a penalty kick.

"I thought our game plan was on track. We felt we had to be patient on offence, even though we didn't score a try. We thought that we had them," Hewitt said.

He was wrong.

Just three minutes into the second half, Trenton scored a penalty kick to regain the upper hand at

And 10 minutes later, they added another penalty kick to pad their advantage to 9-3.

With one minute remaining in regulation time, Trenton iced the game with a try.

"They (Trenton) were definitely the better team today," Hewitt said. "There was nothing that our kids did wrong during the game."

In 2005, Trenton also defeated the Spartans for the OFSAA AA gold.

Raguseo returned to othe Stouffville lineup after sitting out the semifinal game, the result of being shaken up in their quarterfinal win.

"Raguseo had a phenomenal game," Hewitt said. "He's the best player we've ever had at Stouffville District Secondary School."

PLAYERS UPSET WITH LOSS

As well, Jesse Lofthouse returned to the lineup after missing most of the semifinal game when he took seven stitches near the eye.

After coming so close to winning

the third straight OFSAA gold medal,

Hewitt felt for his charges. "It's only a game, but our kids were totally committed to our program. We're proud of what we did," he said.

"But to come up short did hurt. Our kids were upset. But I commend all of them for their effort."

For more on the OFSAA championships, log on to: www.ofsaa.on.ca

Mennos .500 after big loss

The Stouffville Mennos suffered their second straight loss in a mercy-shortened affair after falling 8-0 to the host Lake Simcoe Lightning in Oshawa City and District Fastball League action Tuesday.

Starting the game without the services of first baseman Rich Burkholder, the Mennos dug themselves into a deep hole when the Light-

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ning struck quick for all eight of their runs within the first two innings off starting pitcher Greg Dalgarno.

The Mennos generated three hits including one by coach Mike Boad-

Now 3-3, they resume league play tonight when they host the Oshawa midgets at Memorial Park at 8:30.



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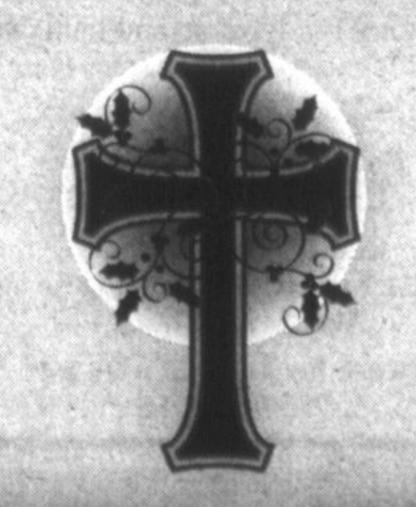
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