

SPORTS: 12 k jaunt to school just a warmup

Bourgeois off to Ontario championships

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When Michael Bourgeois goes to Stouffville District Secondary School to attend Monday and Wednesday morning cross country practices from his Ballantrae-area home, he doesn't take a school bus or get a ride from his parents.

Rather, he runs to school. All of the approximate 12 k.

Those pre-practice runs paid off for the Grade 11 student when he took to the Boyd Conservation Area course in Woodbridge for the York Region Athletic Association championships Wednesday.

Entered in the senior boys' 7,000 m event, Bourgeois ran his way to a third-place finish with a time of 26:12.83.

By virtue of his placement, Bourgeois earned a berth in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships at the same site Nov. 7.

"We've always had high expectations for him," Spartans co-coach Scott Croucher said. "He's an outstanding runner and he's committed."

Bourgeois atoned for last year in which he failed to qualify for OFSAA, due largely to an illness he incurred during last year's York championships.

Bourgeois wasn't the only Spartans runner to experience success at the YRAA championships.

The senior girls' team of Demi Chalkias, Caroline Rankin, Jessica Bartle and Jenna Monk finished fourth in the team standings and in doing so, qualified for OFSAA.

Chalkias finished 20th in the 5,000 m race while Rankin was 26th, Bartle 34th and Monk 46th.

"Our senior girls have worked really hard," Croucher said. "They never finish near the top, but as a team they are right there. They're just committed. Every Monday and Wednesday morning when we hold practices the girls are ready to run."

Croucher was especially happy for Rankin, who is the lone Grade 12 member on the team.

"She's our senior girls' team leader and it's nice for her to go to OFSAA," he said.

Among other results posted by members of the Spartans' team, Josephine Lipari finished 24th in the midget girls' 3,000 m.

In the senior boys' 7,000 m, James McLeod was 25th, Cody Fair 116th, Cody MacCharles 127th and Nick Kozak 174th.

The Spartans' junior girls' team finished sixth.

Olivia Bolender was the top Spartans' runner in the 3,800 m race finishing 39th. Nicole Thompson was 45th, Krista Bradshaw 53rd, Olivia Roman 84th and Ashley Johnston 87th.

As a whole, Croucher was pleased with the final results posted by the

Spartans' contingent.

"It was definitely better than we had expected and we're happy. It's the culmination to the season."

Rugby boys top tourney

The Spartans senior boys' rugby team concluded their fall campaign on a positive note by capturing a 10-aside tournament with a 12-5 win over the host Uxbridge Secondary School Tigers 12-5 in the final Wednesday.

Jesse Lofthouse scored one try and booted a convert and Scott Miller added the other try for the Spartans.

Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt felt his club's speed and ball movement were essential ingredients to their success.

"The boys played really well," Hewitt said.

To reach the final, the Spartans blanked O'Neill Collegiate (Oshawa) 40-0 and All Saints Catholic Secondary School (Whitby) 35-0. With a berth in the final already clinched, the Spartans utilized all of their team members during their final round-robin game against Uxbridge Secondary School and lost 15-0.

Hewitt also noted that for his team, it made amends for losses they experienced against the Tigers as juniors in the Barbarian Cup semifinals last year and final two years ago.

Successful opener for Clippers tyke C's

The Stouffville tyke C Clippers tuned up for the upcoming regular season by winning their first exhibition game over Pickering 8-2 at the Stouffville Arena Oct. 13.

Brad Barker scored two goals and added two assists for the Clippers' entry of five- to seven-year olds. Matthew Hodgins contributed a pair of goals and one assist and Ethan Yakimchick two goals. Matthew Ferris and Jesse Austin rounded out the scoring with single tallies. Adam Yasuda and Nolan Turney each collected two assists while Cameron Smith, Ben Russo, Madison Ribb and Owen Byk each had one.

Owen O'Leary handled netminding duties and played a solid game.

Coached by Steve Smith and assisted by Shawn Ferris and Mark Turney, other team members included: Celeste Beaudoin, Ryan O'Leary, Ben Espey, Jadon Ratti and Nicolas Smith.

The Clippers' next game is in Ajax Sunday.

Minor peewee AEs fall

The Stouffville minor peewee AE Clippers received a goal from Alex Tashos in a 4-1 loss to Newmarket in OMHA action Sunday.

Tyler Perrett-Swirla and Marcus Ivanovski each earned an assist for the Clippers.

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