

SPORTS: Another top SDSS award for Raguseo family

Broken ankle couldn't keep athlete of year down

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

Every year in late May, the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans varsity coaching staff assembles to go over names of student-athletes who deserve special recognition.

In most instances, there's some degree of overlap as to who might be the most deserving for specific individual honours.

There were no exceptions this year when the school doled out the hardware to honour the top student athletes at their annual year-end athletic banquet on the campus Thursday.

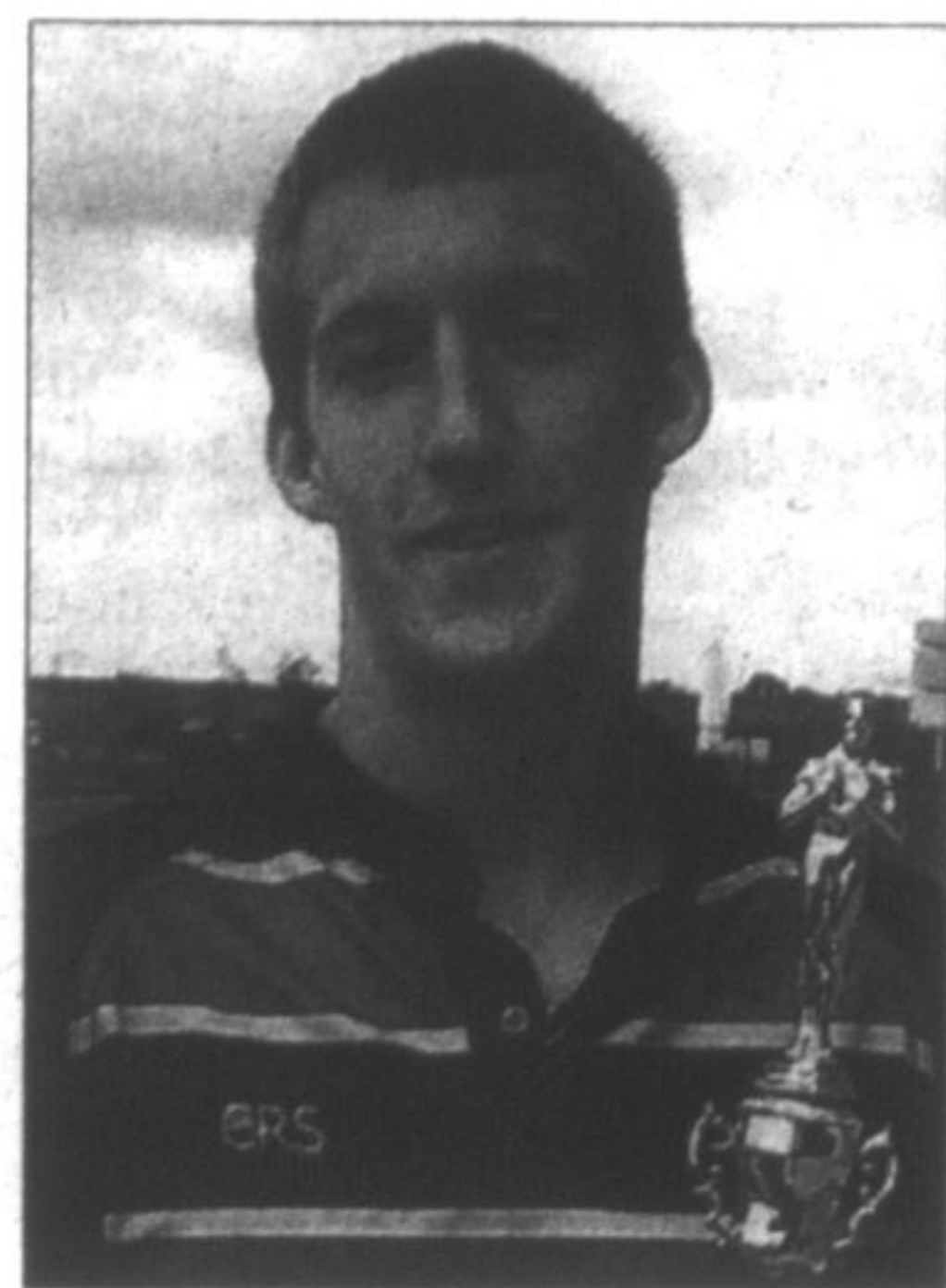
"The choices are always tough to make," said Spartans physical education head Jamie Hewitt. "You always get at least two or three names that come up every time for specific awards."

Jeremy Brownridge was chosen as the Senior Boys' Athlete of the Year.

Amanda Raguseo was named the Senior Girls' Athlete of the Year.

Among the junior ranks, Melvin Nolan was the boys' recipient while Jaimie Dobson earned the girls' top honours.

A repeat winner of the senior boys' award, Brownridge was a member of the volleyball, basket-



JEREMY BROWNRIDGE: Top senior male athlete hit the weight room after being sidelined with injury.

ball and rugby teams.

"Jeremy was well deserving of the award," Hewitt said of the Grade 12 student.

What stood Brownridge apart from the rest was his determination. Especially after he incurred a broken ankle while playing with the volleyball team.

Hewitt was quick to point out while many student-athletes would have felt sorry for themselves or do little in terms of trying to rehabilitate themselves, Brownridge made every effort to make a fast recovery

so he could be ready for sports in the fall season.

"To his personal credit he was in the weight room almost every day trying to rehabilitate himself. When he came back (to play with the basketball team) he was ready to go," Hewitt said.

A member of the senior girls' basketball, volleyball and soccer teams, Raguseo also earned Most Valuable Player honours for the Spartans basketball and volleyball teams.

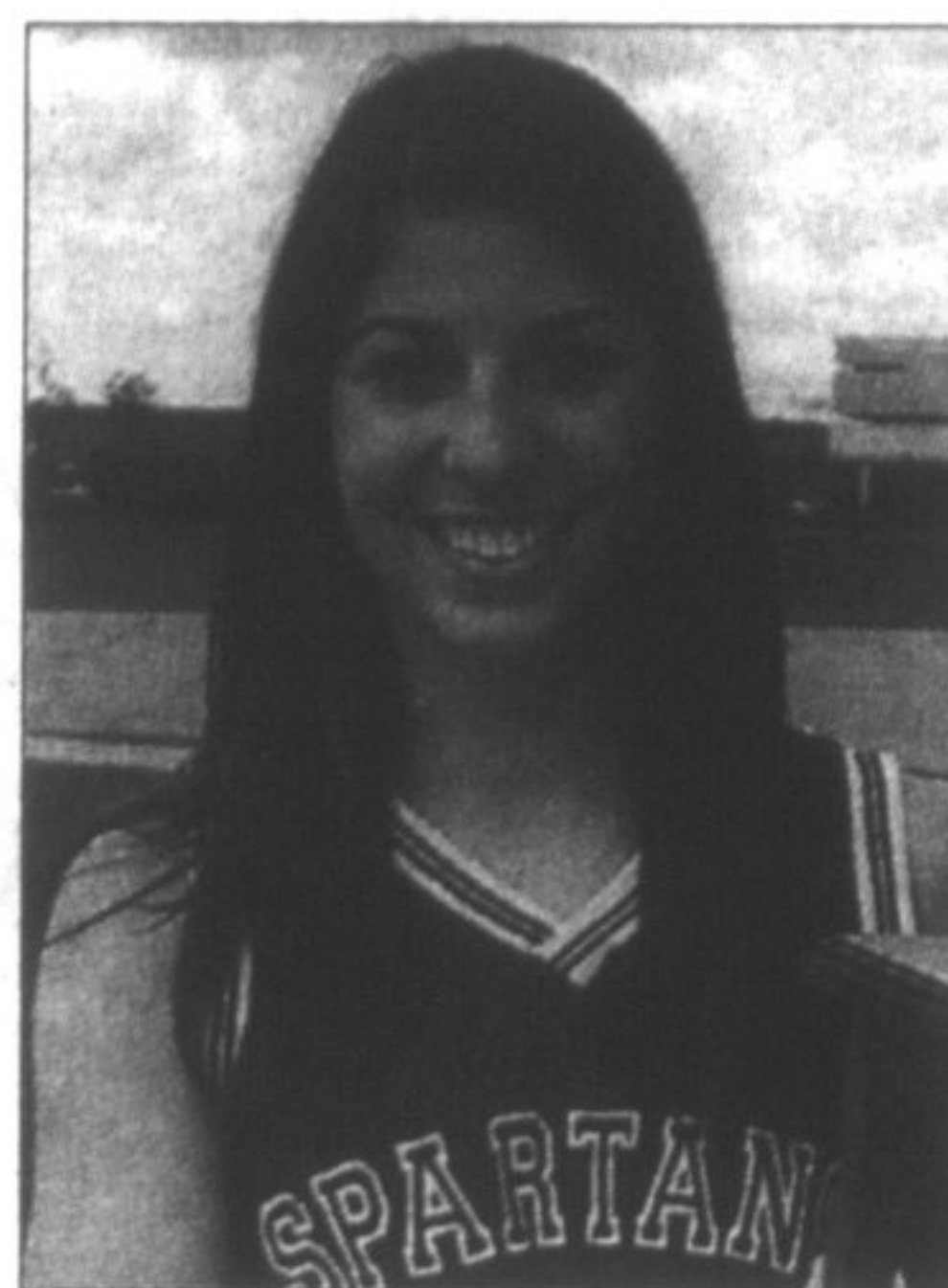
The younger sister of Spartans graduate Matt Raguseo, who was the senior boys' Athlete of the Year in 2006-07 and 2007-08, Amanda was also strong in the classroom as she recorded an 88 per cent average.

Sharon MacFarlane, Spartans senior girls' volleyball and basketball coach, cited Raguseo's strength is based on a combination of her physical and mental attributes.

"She's very athletic and at five-foot, 10-inches, she's strong and powerful and moves well and can read the situation well.

"She also has a personality that's unflappable. She's so calm and has everybody else around her at ease.

"She also helps others to improve their game. She's a leader and has the whole package. I can't say enough about her," MacFarlane



AMANDA RAGUSEO: Basketball and volleyball MVP named SDSS' top senior female athlete Thursday.

said of Raguseo, who is expected to enrol this fall at MacMaster University in Hamilton.

Nolan, a Grade 10 student, played with the junior boys' volleyball, basketball and rugby teams.

In addition, he was one of two Grade 10 students who made the trip with the Spartans senior rugby team to England and Wales during the March break.

"He's quite a fierce competitor," Hewitt said of Nolan. "He plays the game very intense.

"In rugby, he plays with reckless abandon. He puts the team way

ahead of himself."

In describing Dobson, who was a member of the junior girls' basketball, volleyball and soccer teams, MacFarlane said she tends to lead by example.

"She's a quiet person, but a good athlete. She's a workhorse and tries hard to improve herself and sets the tone for others to follow. She's a great person," MacFarlane said of the Grade 10 student.

In addition to the four Most Valuable Player awards, the Spartans issued several other major honours.

The Jim Rehill Sportsmanship Award, given to the female and male student-athlete demonstrating a high level of sportsmanship and dedication to athletics, went to Tracey Velletri, also a Grade 12 student, and Brownridge.

Rehill was a former physical education head at Stouffville District Secondary School in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Moral and Physical Improvement Award went to Demi Chalkias and Patrick Laffan.

The Homestead Award, given to the student-athlete who contributed to the highest level of athletic involvement and student leadership and organization in the school's athletic council, went to Peter Wideman and Chris Chekay.



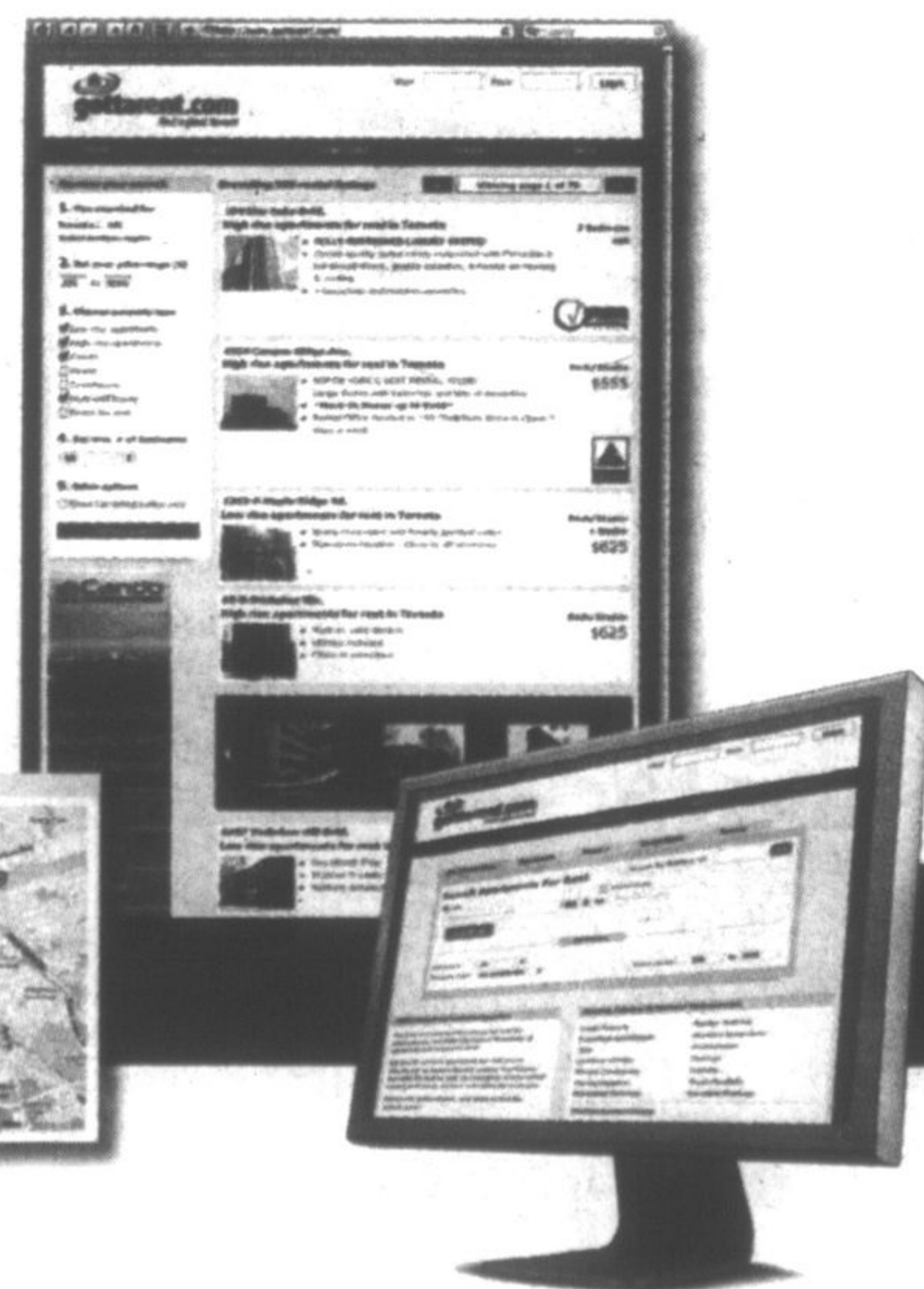
I just found my next place to rent. Done.

Photos Maps Details

Thousands of online rental listings to choose from...

It's all here, high quality exterior and interior photos, detailed lists of amenities, maps and community information. An online experience that is simple and informative. Gottarent.com allows you to see and learn about the amenities and features that you are searching for without even leaving your chair. Gottarent.com is one of Canada's leading rental sites providing extensive listings of APARTMENTS, HOUSES, TOWNHOMES AND CONDOS. So regardless of your rental preference, we have something for everyone!

Welcome to **gottarent.com**, your place to find the perfect space!



gottarent.com
Find a place to rent