

Injury has Lofthouse off field for title win

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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With Jesse Lofthouse being a member of the Team Ontario under-18 rugby squad that routed British Columbia 43-13 in Tuesday's national championship final in Calgary, he said it was the greatest feeling he's experienced in his career on the pitch.

But if there was one regret the Stouffville resident had, it was when he was forced to stand on the sideline and exhort his teammates onto victory in the finale.

During Team Ontario's 73-17 semifinal victory over Alberta Sunday, Lofthouse dislocated his shoulder and was forced to sit out the remainder of the championships.

Despite being relegated to being a spectator, Lofthouse, who started as an outside centre, was glad to be a part of a gold-medal winning team.

Especially since it marked his final year of junior eligibility.

"Winning the under-18 title is the greatest feeling I've ever had in my rugby career," he said. "There is nothing like winning the gold on my last year of Ontario's junior program."

In assessing the team's performance, Lofthouse felt the key to their success was the confidence they possessed entering the championships.

"We really came into these nationals expecting nothing less than gold around our necks and everyone on the team has tremendous knowledge of the game which really helps with the decisions on the field and it leads to great execution," he said.

Entering the final, Lofthouse felt their opponents would have a chip on their shoulders

after Team Ontario had defeated them 29-0 in the round-robin segment last Friday. In anticipation of this factor, Lofthouse said the team countered by heightening their intensity level and in making the most of what advantages came their way during the match.

"We did not want them to get a point so we came out harder than we ever have before and really took it to them again in the finals. They were a really good team, it's just we took all the opportunities we got and capitalized," he said.

Noting the calibre of play at the nationals was more challenging than what he experienced while playing with Stouffville District Secondary School and with the Markham Irish Canadians Rugby Football Club, Lofthouse hopes to return to full health and resume his playing career.

His next objective is to try and earn an invitation to the under-20 national team camp.

"For now I just want to continue playing rugby at the highest level that I can play," he said.

In the under-16 national championships, Stouffville's Richard Omrod was a member of the Team Ontario squad that won the gold medal with a 29-26 win over British Columbia in the final also played in Calgary.

A Bill Crothers Secondary School student, Omrod played fullback for Team Ontario.

Matt Carrick, another Stouffville resident, was chosen to play with the under-14 provincial rugby team that took part in an eight-day tour with games against regional teams from that province along with the British Columbia under-14 team. The tour began last week and concluded earlier this week.



SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Jesse Lofthouse of Stouffville won a gold medal at the national rugby championships in British Columbia.

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SOCCER

Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club
House league results for week of Aug. 9.

BOYS UNDER 10: KN Group 10 (Joshua Gardner 4, Robert Hume 2, Liam Comeau, Kaleb Hall, Benjamin Langlois, Jakob Sulcs) vs. Ballantrae and District Lions Club 0; Stouffville Fish and Chips 4 (Daniel McKinley 3, David Vecchiarelli) vs. Schell Home Building Centre 2 (Mackenzie Cobel, Christopher Temelkovski); BMO 6 (Luca Mortillaro 3, Michael Messina 2, Samarth Mehta) vs. Stouffville Family Dentistry 4 (Matthew Brown 2, Michael Campanale, Blake Frost).

BOYS UNDER 13: Markham Fair 7 (Felipe Prado 2, B.J. Ivanovski 2, Peter Hunt 2, Marcus Ivanovski) vs. Southwire 3 (Austin Craven 2, Myles Craven); SJD Contractors 5 (Sterling Beard 3, Thomas Kroupis 2) vs. Richardson Masonic Lodge 3 (Dominik Hykel 3); Stouffville IDA Pharmacy 5 (Scott Carrick 2, Arman Dosanjh, Ian Jikeli, Rocco Rossi) vs. Lions Club of Stouffville 3 (David May 2, Andrew Jefferly).

GIRLS UNDER 10: Metal Door Ltd. 7 (Bianco Zupo 5, Alessia Descantis 2) vs. Repetitions Fitness Studio 2 (Brianna Turco 2); Perfect Moves 5 (Katelyn Alderson 2, Faith Munro 2, Katelyn Hanna) vs. Stouffville Family Footcare 0; Fairgate Homes 2 (Christine Rossi, Madison Campbell) vs. Timber Creek Golf 2 (Alex Feasby, Shannon Hollands).

GIRLS UNDER 13: Nu Image Landscaping 10 (Aliana Bessada 3, Maia Mehmeti 3, Dawson Morris 2, Madeleine Rose, Catherine Power) vs. Gallo Real Estate 2 (Samantha Childs 2); DLB Construction Ltd. 4 (Julia Allinson 3, Vanessa Crisolago) vs. The BBQ Pro 3 (Katie Srebot 2, Desiree McMahon); Industrial Roofing Services 5 (Maggie O'Boyle 3, Melanie Fuller, Stephanie Mihaly) vs. Crossfit Crux 1 (Hayley Patterson).

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