SDSS No. 1 in province

Stouffville District Secondary School's Spartan boys' senior, junior and bantam rugby teams made it a clean sweep over the visiting Huron Heights (Newmarket) Warriors in York Region tier one high school action Monday.

In the senior match, the Spartans were buoyed by a pair of tries and two converts from Curtis Crago and two tries from David Amy in a 41-0 win.

Pat Laffan, Paul Geiger and Jeremy Brownridge each recorded one try and James McLeod one convert.

The victory wrapped up first place in the North Division standings for the Spartans, now 3-0.

The Spartans are rated tops in Ontario in a weekly poll of 13 high school coaches from across the province.

In the junior tilt, the Spartans received one try apiece from Matt Rundle, Chris Jupp, Matt Dunlop and Nick Robb in a 26-5 win.

POLL OF HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY COACHES

Matt Renzoni booted three converts for the Spartans, who improved their record to 2-1.

In the junior tier two game, the Spartan bantams won their third game in as many outings with a 34-0 victory.

Ben Risi scored three tries while Quinten Coetsee, Carter Laird and Brett Preston each had one. Spencer Roberts booted one convert.

The Spartan seniors and juniors resume league play at home against Keswick Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Prior to Monday's contests, the Spartan juniors played host to the rescheduled Red Hot Tournament and advanced to the final before suffering a 24-12 loss to Streetsville Secondary School last Friday.

Zack Bauman and Jordan Marsh each had one try for the Spartans. John Colley booted one convert.

Regional semifinals and finals will be played Thursday at Fletcher's Field in Markham beginning at 10 a.m.

Go to www.yraa.com for more information.

Werek signs with Coyotes

Ethan Werek is relieved. And with good reason.

The 19-year-old Goodwood resident and former member of the Stouffville Spirit officially signed a contract with the Phoenix Coyotes, the National Hockey League club announced Thursday.

Acquired by the Coyotes earlier this month from the New York Rangers in exchange for Swedish centre Oscar Lindberg, 19, Werek said the deal is a three-year, two-way entrylevel contract. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"I couldn't be happier," said Werek, a second-round pick, 47th overall, by the Rangers in the 2009 NHL entry draft.

Werek said he signed the papers last week, saying did not know why he could not come to terms with the Rangers during the 23 months they had to sign him.

"I'm happy Phoenix believes in me and in giving me a chance to come up in their franchise. I hope to make the best of it," he said.

Werek is unlikely to return to Kingston of the Ontario Hockey League but could play for Phoenix's top farm team, the San Antonio Rampage of the American Hockey League, if he fails to crack the Coyotes lineup.

-Michael Hayakawa

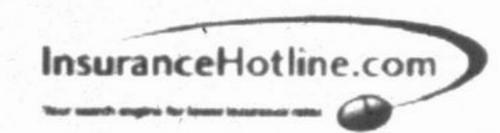
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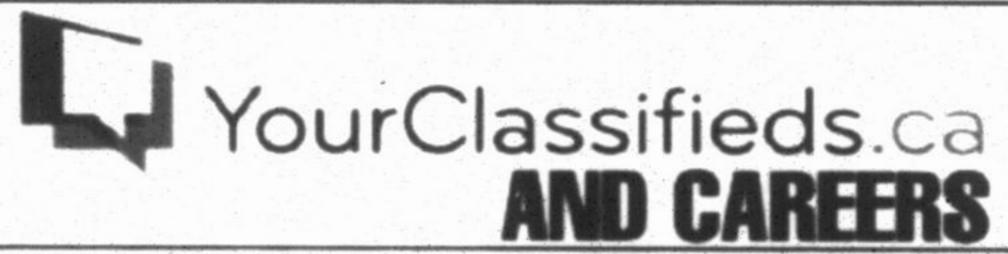


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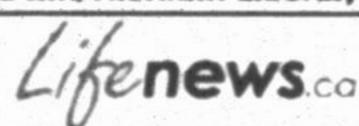
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