

SPORTS: Stouffville Secondary Spartans

Zero starters back from Ontario high school rugby finalists

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Jamie Hewitt knows before learning to run, one must first be able to walk. Same goes for sports.

The veteran Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' rugby head coach is faced

with that situation this year.

Especially since he has no starting players back from last year's squad, which lost the Ontario AAAA championship final to Uxbridge.

While the York Region Athletic Association rugby campaign does not begin until the spring term, there's the luxury of having an

unofficial fall season.

The fall game is played by teams with seven-aside as compared with the 15s game played in the spring.

"I'm not really a big fan of 7s because it's a matter of which team is the fastest and it's not close to the 15s version," Hewitt said. "But it gives players a chance to work on

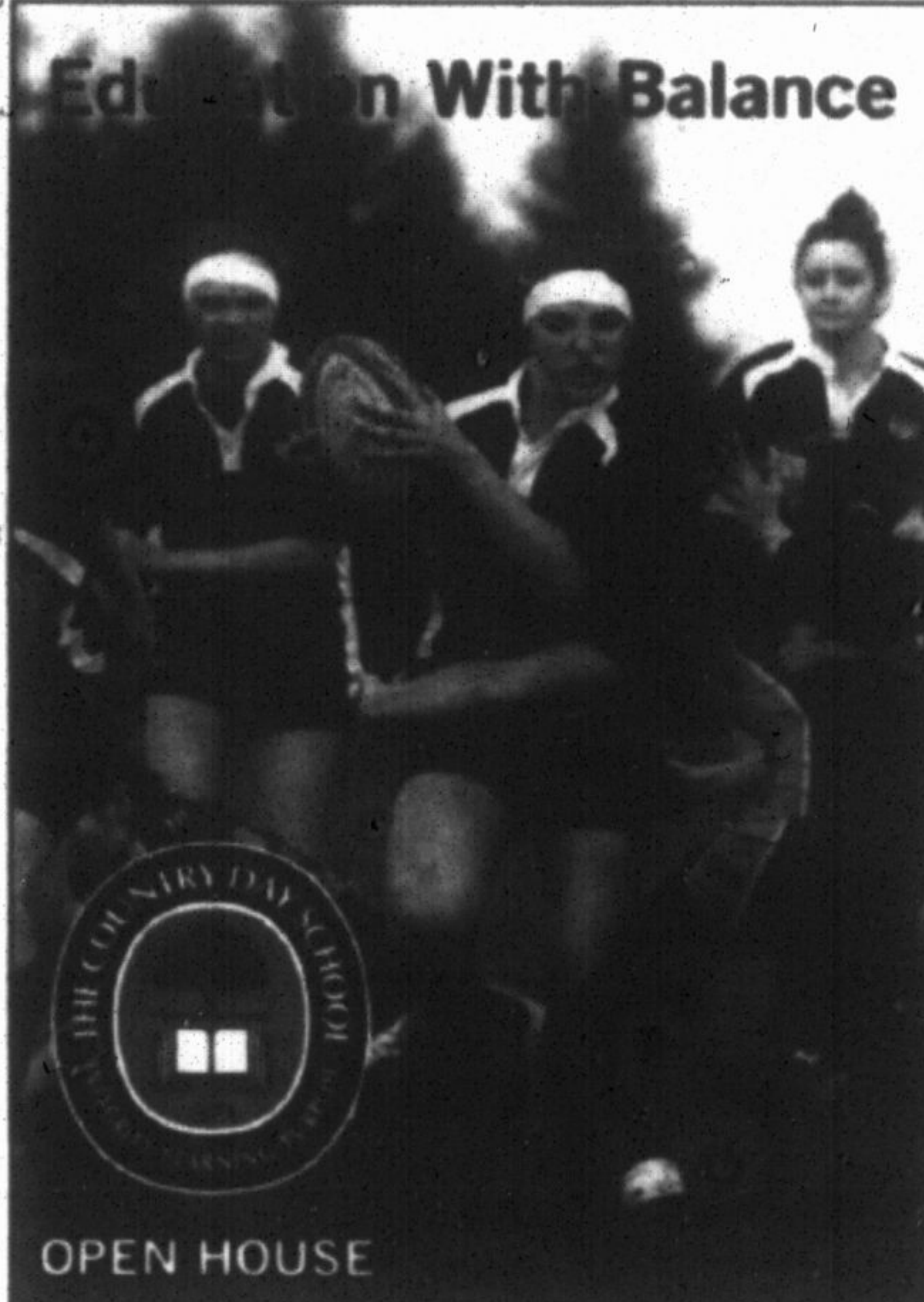
their skills like making passes and in solo tackling."

The Spartans kicked off the schedule by defeating the visiting Denison Huskies (Newmarket) 30-10 in a friendly last Thursday.

"We're a young team and because of that, their communication isn't that great yet," Hewitt

said. "There's been times when (our coaches) had to go over some rugby terminology with them. But these are things that can be taught."

Scoring for the Spartans were: Marnus Coetsee with two tries and Isaac Jeffers, Zac Bauman, Pavlos Scarvelos and J.R. Newlands with one try apiece.




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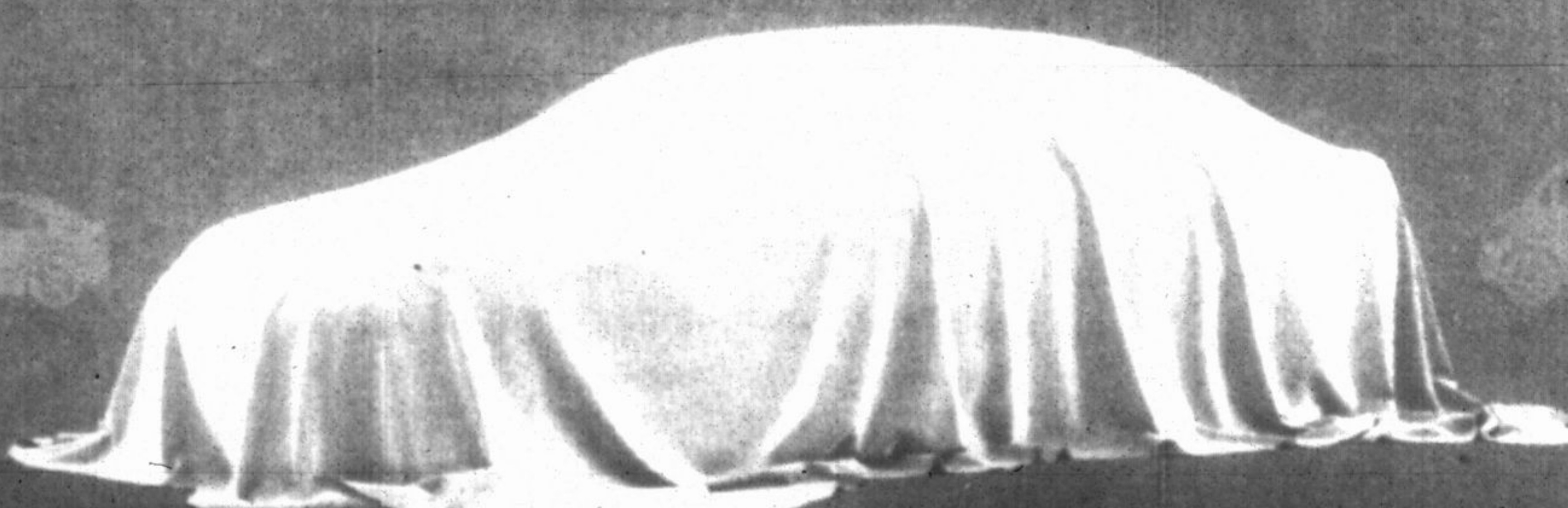
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Stouffville Secondary's Vince Malandrino carries the ball against Denison last Thursday.

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