

Spartans chasing elusive titles

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Through the years, the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans boys' rugby program has captured numerous York Region Athletic Association titles and Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA and AAA medals.

But the one accomplishment eluding the Spartans' program has been a Barbarian Cup title.

The Spartans junior and bantam boys' hope to end that drought when they take to the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School pitch in Aurora tomorrow to compete in this championship, which at those age levels, is the unofficial OFSAA title.

Capturing this year's YRAA title with a victory over Bill Crothers (Unionville) in last week's final, the Spartans juniors gained an automatic entry into the Barbarian Cup championships and will begin play against North Toronto Collegiate at 9:45 a.m. and then face Brantford Collegiate at noon and conclude pool play against Napanee at 4 p.m.

The winner of that pool will advance to Monday's semifinal.

Spartans' head coach Rob Edmondson thinks his club has as good a chance as the other 15 teams entered to compete for the coveted title.

To do that, though, he felt a lot of things will have to work in their favour.

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Especially since Edmondson revealed they enter the tournament with a roster a little thin on depth.

"We will only have three or four subs to go with," he said. "But we showed that we're capable of winning based on what we did last week (at the YRAA championships)."

While Edmondson did not want to look ahead, he said their second match against Brantford Collegiate could be the one that

determines their fate as they are the top seed in the tournament.

Pointing out the Barbarian Cup rules will see games played in two, 15-minute halves, Edmondson said it will be crucial for his charges to play consistent rugby from start to finish.

Especially on defence. "If our defence is strong we can wear down the opposition," he said.

As well though, he said their structure will also be critical. "Because the games will be quick we can't afford to get down on ourselves if we're trailing. When we defeated Bill Crothers last week (for the YRAA title) we played good defence and our structure was good where we didn't get down on ourselves and hung in there right to the end," he recalled.

The Spartan bantams are among 10 teams vying for their respective title and are placed in a pool with Streetsville High School and Saltfleet.

The Spartans will play Saltfleet at 2:45 p.m. and Streetsville at 5:30 p.m.

More action for house league hockey players

Players enrolled in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's house league program could have additional opportunities to take to the ice for the 2012-13 campaign.

The association recently announced it will expand its rostered select program for the upcoming season.

The program is designed to offer house league players an opportunity to participate in exhibition and tournament games with other centres in addition to their regular house league schedule.

Interested players will be invited to try out for these teams in late September.

Under this program, rostered select teams may play up to two exhibition games per month as well as three weekend tournaments over the course of a season.

The association was quick to point out rostered select competition is non-contact.

Any players included on a rostered select team can also remain eligible to be an AP for an association rep team.

Subject to sufficient interest and coaching staff support,

the association plans to offer teams in the following divisions: novice-2004; atom 2002/03; pee wee 2000-01; bantam 1998-99; minor midget 1997 and midget 1996-95.

Those interested in a head coaching position should submit the coaching application form, available on the association's website, to the hockey office by June 15.

Coach selection will include an interview process and final coach selection must be approved by the association's board.

For further information, contact Tammy De Luca at: tammydeluca20@gmail.com

More information regarding tryout dates will be provided on the association's website at: www.wsmha.com

You make the call: hockey referees wanted

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association is looking for adults who would like to become certified as referees.

For those interested or in requesting further information, contact Paul Thornhill, association referee in chief, at 905-642-2615.



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