

SPORTS: York Region high schools

# Down but not out, runner makes OFSAA

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Alycia Holt ran to a seventh-place finish in the 3,000 metre midget girls' race at the York Region Athletic Association cross country championships at the Boyd Conservation Area in Woodbridge Thursday.

While the Grade 9 Stouffville District Secondary School student did not claim a medal, her effort earned her a ticket to next Saturday's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships in Brampton.

With the Bill Crothers Secondary School midget girls' contingent winning the YRAA team title and earning automatic entry to OFSAA to compete as a team, OFSAA rules state any individuals on that team who placed in the top four would relegate those positions to other competitors who were closest to the top four positions.

Holt procured the fourth and final individual position after running a personal best of 14:27.50.

"She ran really well and she's done so all year," said Spartans' co-coach Bill Creesor. "We're happy she made it to OFSAA."

Creesor said for a brief moment, Holt's final placing was in jeopardy as during the last 400m of the course where there was a sharp turn for runners to make, Holt was inadvertently crowded by competitors trailing her and subsequently fell to the muddy ground.

Holt recovered and sprinted towards the finish line in seventh.

Among other results posted by the other midget girls, Jacqueline Rintjema was 19th, Honneke De Roo 37th and Rayan Abelido 79th. The midget team finished sixth.

In the midget boys, Emmanuel Lipari was 12th in the 5,000m event while Jackson Simmons was 59th and Rayan Alibux 78th.

In the senior boys' 7,000m race, Cam Nowikow led the Spartans' team in 34th place followed by Spencer Craven 40th, Brendon Reesor 45th, Connor Allen 78th, Michael O'Donnell 81st and John O'Boyle 99th. As a team, the Spartan senior boys were eighth.

Josephine Lipari was the top Spartan in the senior girls 5,000m race, finishing 35th.

Melissa Nowikow followed in 36th, Laura Monk 37th, Jasmine Bacola 52nd, Elizabeth Von Zuben 60th and Genevieve Pizzale 73rd.

The senior girls team finished eighth.

For complete results, log on to: [www.track-database.com](http://www.track-database.com)

## Volleyball team 'set' with newcomer

When the Stouffville District Secondary School junior boys' volleyball team began its York Region Athletic Association tier one campaign, Tara LaBar did not know how good or competitive it would be.

But it did not take long for the Spartans' head coach to find out.

In fact, LaBar is quite pleased as the Spartans have won four of seven matches, occupy third place in a highly competitive East Division and are just one point behind two Markham schools, first-place Milliken Mills and second-place Middlefield Collegiate.

"It's been good, better than what we thought," she said.

LaBar attributed it to a couple of critical factors. Foremost has been the noticeable improvement of three returnees, middle players Kyle Laird and Cameron Fleming and setter Anash Chowdhry.

"All three have improved a lot," LaBar said of the Grade 10 players. "They've been amazing leaders on the court. It's been fun to see them play."

Another big unexpected plus was the addition of a Grade 9 player with rep experience in Braden Amid.

Playing the other setter position in a 6-2 formation the Spartans utilize in their attack, Amid is well-versed in the game as his father coaches a rep volleyball team.

"He's been a pleasant surprise for us," LaBar said of Amid. "He's phenomenal, has a great set of hands."

LaBar feels her team can make a run. "Once you can get a core of four solid players you can do well," she said. "And they've been the core for our team."

The Spartans are scheduled to resume league play Monday when they visit Middlefield at 3:30 p.m.

## Rugby Spartans tackled in Don Mills

The Spartans senior boys' rugby team advanced to the semifinal of the Kukri Ontario Seven's Championships before falling 21-5 to David and Mary Thompson (Scarborough) at Don Mills Collegiate Wednesday.

J.R. Newlands scored the lone try for the Spartans, who trailed 7-5 at the half and surrendered a try three minutes into the second half and another on the last play.

After winning their first game over Don Mills 22-19, the Spartans proceeded to down Pickering 47-0 and Lorne Park (Mississauga) 26-7 to reach the semifinal.

Despite falling short of the final, Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt was pleased for the most part in the way his club performed.

"Our first game we were terrible," he said. "But after a chat we had after that game we got refocused and played pretty well the rest of the way. That Thompson team that we lost to in the semifinals is really good."

The Spartans conclude their fall campaign today when they host a touring Welsh team, Abersychan, in a friendly at 11 a.m.



STAFF PHOTO/  
MIKE BARRETT

Emmanuel Lipari of Stouffville District Secondary School finished 12th in the midget boys 5000m event at the York Region high school cross-country championships in Woodbridge Thursday. His time was 21:31.10.

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