Spartans defeat second Welsh rugby team

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA mhayakawa@yrmg.com

The cold, windy and wet weather that invaded York Region Saturday was not exactly condusive for playing rugby.

But the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans had no complaints after playing a friendly on their pitch against a touring Welsh high school team from Abersychan.

Utilizing the inclement conditions to their advantage, the Spartans emerged with a hard-fought 6-5 win.

Matt Renzoni accounted for all of the scoring for the Spartans after he booted a penalty kick in the first

half and one in the second half that proved to be the difference after Abersychan held a 5-3 lead at halftime.

"It was really a bad day to play," Spartans' co-coach Rob Edmondson said. "It was hard to move the ball. But it definitely worked in our favour because (Abersychan) have some extremely fast backs.

"But the weather prevented them from doing what they wanted to do when they had the ball. They didn't make any long runs.

"If it was a dry day, I don't know if we would have had the same result."

For the Spartans, the victory marked their second consecutive

win over a touring Welsh team.

One week earlier, the Spartans defeated Cyfarthfa.

But in comparing the two touring teams, Edmondson felt Abersychan, a team they were playing for the first time, provided a far more stern challenge.

Especially since they brought a team of players ranging from grades 10 to 12, whereas Cyfarthfa's entry was younger.

Along with Renzoni making two clutch kicks, Edmondson was quick to praise the defensive work of his club that was also comprised of a mixture of players in grades 10.

"Our defence was outstanding

last Saturday (against Cyfarthfa) and last Saturday. They made some big tackles," he said.

Edmondson praised the club's ability to adapt quickly, since for the majority of the fall season they played seven's rugby.

During the two exhibition matches against the Welsh teams, they played 15-aside.

"When you go for most of the fall season playing seven's, that doesn't give you a lot of preparation time to play 15-aside and I credit the kids," he said.

With the fall season now over, the Spartans will wait until the spring to compete in the York Region Athletic Association campaign.

Spartan hockey team to play first exhibition game today

The Spartans senior boys' hockey team will play its first exhibition game today at the Clippers Sports Complex when they host Dr. J.M. Denison (Newmarket) at 2:30 p.m.

The Spartans will be fielding just a senior team in the upcoming YRAA campaign.

For York Region high school sports sched-

and stories from The Sun-Tribune on yorkregion.com

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(647) 547-3618

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stouffvillebranch@rhcbc.org

www.stouffville-gbc.org

Stouffville Pentecostal Church 6853 Main St., Stouffville

905.640.5696

Sunday Service @ 10 am Sunday School Kids Ages 2 - 12 years of age

Lead Pastor: Jeff Laird Children's Pastor: Lori Attack Youth Pastor: Ian Harley Counselor: Bonnie Borchardt www.spcfamily.ca

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Wednesday's @ 7:00pm - 8:15pm Kids Club - SK - Grade 5

Friday's @ 7:00pm - 10pm Sr. High - Grades 9 - 12

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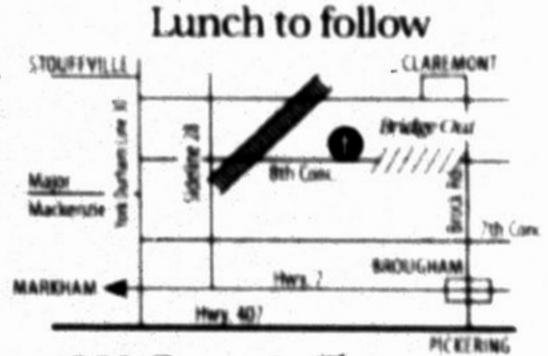
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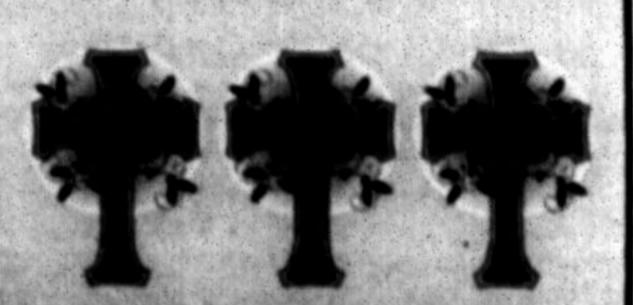
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