More coaches for growing high school track team

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA

mhayakawa@yrmg.com

In the past, Steve Jimmo was a virtual one-man coaching staff with the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' track and field team.

In that situation, the veteran' head coach acknowledged it presented a challenge for him to give proper guidance to each of his ath-

With close to 55 athletes on this year's team, some 20 to 30 more than what he had last year, Jimmo was in definite need of some assistance to help shoulder some of the load.

Bring in the cavalry with the arrival of four assistant coaches in Melissa Quinn, Ben Bacola, Mike

Atkins and Leah Schlotter — in the wake of winter's cancelled sport schedules in York's public schools.

Having coached at Richmond Hill High School in the past and having competed in discus and hurdles during her high school years, Quinn will work with those athletes, Jimmo said.

A former coach at West Hill Collegiate and Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute in Scarborough and having run cross country while attending the University of Toronto, Bacola will assist the long distance

Markville and King City secondary schools, will focus on the middle distance runners.

A recreational half marathon

runner, Schlotter will work with the long distance competitors.

"They will definitely help. Their presence definitely takes a tonne of load off of me," Jimmo said of his new-found help. "The kids will now get a good track practice."

As Jimmo has relegated a lot of the added responsibilities, it now allows him to devote his attention to what he feels is his strength in working with the throwers.

This turned out to be good timing since Jimmo noted he has more throwers on this year's team.

Included in that group, is Greg Atkins, who coached track at Barker, a Grade 11 student who won the York Region junior boys' shot put title after setting a regional record last year with a heave of 15.10 metres and is a two-time

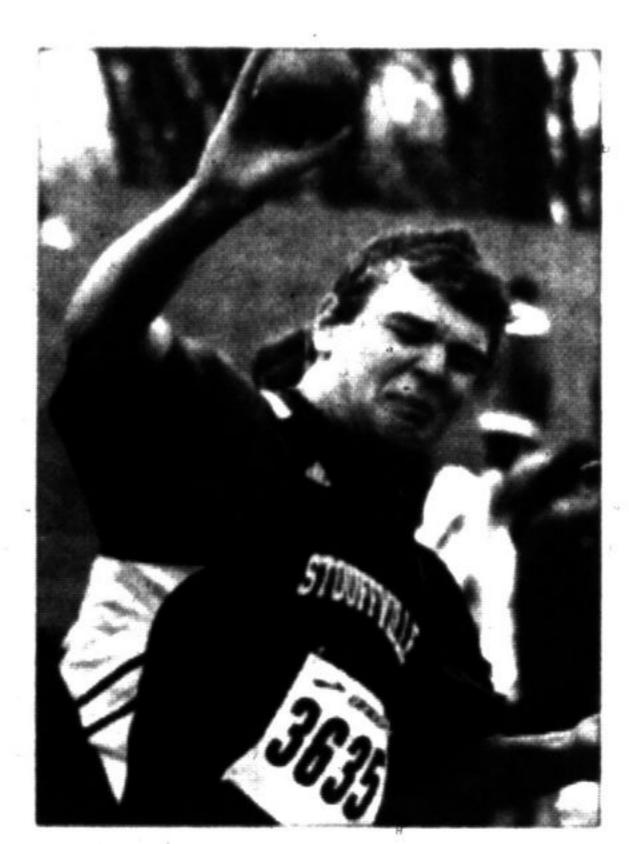
Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations participant.

With a good group of participants attending weekday practices, Jimmo has a feeling this year's Spartan track team possesses plenty of potential.

"A lot of the kids who've been out are keen and want to learn. It could be an encouraging year," he said.

The Spartan track team is gearing up for the regional indoor meet at York University April 18.

After that, Jimmo said they will take part in two outdoor meets at Bill Crothers Secondary School and Sacred Heart Invitational at Etobicoke Centennial Stadium in preparation for the York Region championships at York University May 22 and 23.



GREG BARKER: Shot put champ one of the anchors of Stouffville Secondary's track and field team.

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2nd of Easter

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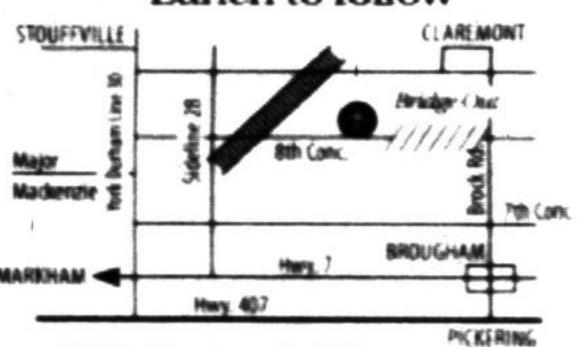
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Stouffville Christian

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Sunday Service 10:30am

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Celebration of Communion 10:30 a.m.

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