

Stouffville Sun-Tribune
SPORTS

Stouffville District Spartan Tyler Krabi pushes the ball past Thornlea Secondary School player Andrew Morassutti in senior boys volleyball action at Thornlea on Tuesday. The Spartans won 25-22 and 25-21.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Spartans pin early season hopes on OFSAA

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The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' volleyball team has its sights set on London, Ont. later this year.

The trip would mean the Spartans met their goal of representing the York Region Athletic Association at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AAA playdowns — something the Spartans haven't done since 2006.

While the YRAA season just got off the ground earlier in the week, the Spartans accomplished something they hadn't done over the last three years Tuesday by winning their first two games of the season over host Thornlea Secondary School (Thornhill) 2-0 (25-22, 25-21) and Unionville High School 2-1 (25-22, 14-25, 15-9).

"We don't normally win matches during the early part of the season. But to start with two wins — we haven't done that in at least the last three years," Spartans head coach Steve Jimmo said.

Entering the season, Jimmo was cautiously optimistic his club could be a contender this year.

Especially since they have seven returning players from last year's club, along with four to five reinforcements who moved up from the junior ranks.

"We definitely have some good potential," he said.

Among those who played an instrumental role in the club's early success include left side player Noah Korovesi.

"He's a smart player," said Jimmo of the third-year senior veteran. "He had three-quarters of our kills in our first two games."

Along with his ability to finish, Korovesi also served well.

"Every time-out called in all of our sets was when Noah was serving," recalled Jimmo. "He throws out a good flat serve and is particular where he puts it. Noah is our go-to guy."

Along with the play of Korovesi, Jimmo was quick to praise the work of left side hitter Brandon Reesor and setter Braden Amin.

A first-year senior player, Amin possesses plenty of experience being a club player.

"We don't get too many club players and Braden knows what he's doing. That's helped us," Jimmo said.

Another player who could be a factor before the season concludes is middle Greg Barker.

Known more for his exploits in shotput and discus, Barker played half a season with the senior team last year before incurring a concussion.

"He's a co-ordinated guy who picks things up quickly," cited Jimmo. "If Greg can fine tune some things and his confidence comes around where he gets aggressive, he will be a hard player to stop."

While happy with the team's start, Jimmo said a true litmus test for his club is expected to come Tuesday when they play Milliken Mills Secondary School and two-time YRAA champion Bill Crothers Secondary School.



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