STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHEIDT

Stouffville junior Spartan Haydn Messner runs from Newmarket Denison Huskies players in the York rugby final in Markham Thursday. Stouffville won 26-5.

SDSS tackles 3 YRAA rugby titles

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA

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Two out of three ain't bad.

In the case of the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans rugby teams, winning three out of four inaugural York Region Athletic Association seven's rugby titles sure isn't shabby.

The school's junior boys, bantam boys and girls won championship banners Thursday.

The junior boys downed the Dr. J.M. Denison (Newmarket) Huskies 26-5 in their tier one final at St. Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham.

The Spartan bantam boys won the YRAA junior tier two title with a victory over host Denison 15-0.

The Spartan girls claimed this year's tier one title with a 5-0 win over the Bill Crothers (Markham) Colts at St. Brother Andre. On the same pitch, the senior boys dropped the final to Denison 29-10.

"It certainly was a great day for the program," junior boys' coach Rob Edmondson said. "You've got to give credit to the kids."

In the junior final, the Spartans jumped out to a 14-5 lead over the Huskies at the half and never looked back.

Max Von Kaufman scored three tries while Haydn Messner added one and Bailey Moreton booted three converts for the Spartans, who finished the regular season in first place with a 5-1 record.

"The kids have been listening to what we told them all season long," Edmondson said. "They did the right things at the right times.

In Newmarket, the bantams received a pair of tries from Aiden Castillio and one from Jacob de Roo in their win over the host Huskies.

The Spartans reached the final by defeating Alexander Mackenzie 40-0 in their quarter-final. The Spartans won 1-0 over Thornlea in their semifinal.

In the girls' tier one final, the Spartans had a first half try by Haley Desjardines stand up for the entire match as they defeated the Bill Crothers 5-0 for the first time in three attempts this season.

"The girls are always motivated to beat Bill Crothers," Spartans assistant coach Jim Monk said.

In reaching the final, the Spartans defeated St. Theresa of Lisieux 24-12.

Anna Horner had three tries and Stormm Cerelli one. Laura Monk kicked two converts.

In the senior boys final, the Spartans gave the first-place Huskies all they could handle in the opening half after battling them to a 10-10 tie.

Cody Davis and Robbie Armstrong had tries.

All four Spartan entries advance to the inaugural Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations festival at Fletcher's Field in Markham Tuesday.

For more on the rugby championships, go to yorkregion.com

Runner qualifies for OFSAA

Alycia Holt led Stouffville's runners at the YRAA cross-country championships, finishing eighth in the junior girls' 4,000 metre race on the Boyd Conservation Area trails in Woodbridge Thursday.

It was good enough for the 14-yearold Grade 10 student to earn her second straight trip to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships at Laurentian University in Sudbury Nov. 2.

Leah Pizzale was 27th in the junior girls' race. Emmanuel Lipari was ninth in the junior boys' 6,000m race.

In the senior boys' 7,000m event, Cameron Nowikow was 46th followed by Spencer Craven, 49th and Greg Lehming 94th.

Hunter Joliffe placed 87th overall in the midget boys' 5,000m.

Josephine Lipari was 59th in the senior girls' race. Melissa Nowkikow was 84th and Kaitlyn O'Brien 92nd.

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