

Local coach suspended by Ryerson

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Graham Wise won't be at his customary position behind the bench to direct the fortunes of the Ryerson University Rams men's hockey team for the next four contests.

Nor will he be running any team practices at their Mattamy Athletic Centre facility.

The Stouffville resident, who is in his eighth season as the Rams' head coach, was given a four-game suspension by the Toronto university Monday.

The university revealed Wise was suspended for violations of their school's student-athlete code of conduct.

The suspension relates to the consumption of alcohol during the team's recent trip to play a pair of exhibition games against Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., Oct. 18 and 19.

During those contests, the Rams lost both games 6-4 and 4-3.

On the school's website, it revealed the student-athlete handbook states athletes may not consume alcohol any time during road trips.

It also states "each student-athlete is a representative of Ryerson and is highly visible to other people, regardless of whether the team meets on or off campus. The student-athlete is responsible for his or her own behavior at formal and informal, scheduled and unscheduled events."

When contacted Tuesday, Wise said he could not comment on the situation.

However, he noted it was the first time in his collegiate coaching career, which included 19 years at York University prior to taking on the Ryerson University position, he was suspended for such an incident.

The school also announced Rams part-time assistant coach Lawrence Smith is no longer employed by the school due to personal matters, upon which Ryerson would not further elaborate.

Along with Wise's suspension, the Rams' hockey team will forfeit their next two games against UOIT today and Queen's University Saturday.

Michael Forbes, Ryerson Univer-



GRAHAM WISE

sity public affairs spokesman, noted during the suspensions, Wise, and the rest of the team, cannot access the Mattamy Athletic Centre, the Rams' home ice facility, formerly known as Maple Leaf Gardens, or practice.

The Rams are to return to action against RMC at Mattamy Athletic Centre Nov. 15.

In Ontario University Athletics play this season, the Rams were in fourth place in the West Division and 8-7 overall.

Mission accomplished for cross-country runner

When Alycia Holt took to the designated course utilized at Laurentian University for Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations cross-country championships in Sudbury last Saturday, her plan was to go all out.

After negotiating a two-kilometre course that was slick and hilly, the 14-year-old Stouffville District Secondary School Grade 10 student fulfilled her objective.

That effort did not allow Holt to procure a medal in the junior girls' event.

But placing 51st overall out of 255 competitors from across the province after completing the course in a time of 17:51, met her objective.

"I was extremely satisfied with how I did at OFSAA," Holt said in reflecting on her performance. "The

course was hard to run, there were many hills and it was muddy. I even fell one time."

Making her second consecutive OFSAA appearance as an individual performer, Holt said she felt a little more confident this time around entering the race.

That, she said, gave her some confidence and helped after she was as far back as 73rd through the first lap before gaining ground and overtaking some 22 runners before reaching the finish line.

"I was very excited to go to OFSAA for a second time because I knew more about what it was this year.

"I just wanted to give it all I had. It was a blast."

Taking to cross-country running when she was in Grade 5, Holt began to take the discipline a little more seriously upon enrolling at Stouffville District Secondary School last year.

To further her development, she's also been training outside of school with Stouffville long distance running guru Fred Robbins.

She gave Robbins plenty of credit for the strides she's made thus far in the sport.

— Michael Hayakawa



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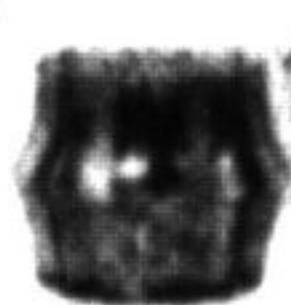
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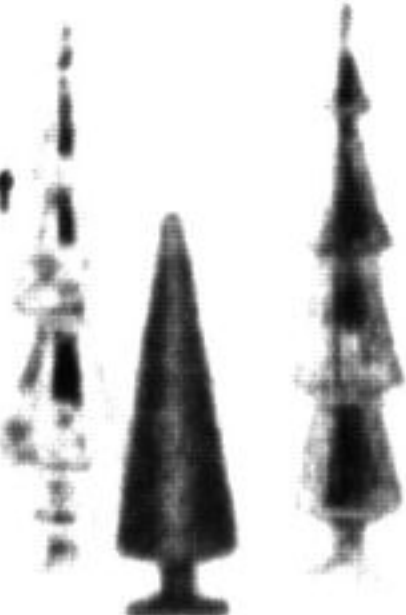
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