

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

# SDSS girls want more banners

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
mhayakawa@vrmg.com

When Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans co-coaches Tara LaBar and Steve Jimmo sat down with members of the senior girls' volleyball team recently to discuss what they hoped to accomplish in the upcoming season a common theme was derived.

What the group wanted was to serve up two banners for their gymnasium.

One of which is the York Region Athletic Association tier one title. The second is to spike an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AAA championship.

Last season, the Spartans raised the bar after reaching the YRAA semifinals and represented the YRAA at the OFSAA AAA event, during which they advanced to the championship round quarter-finals before being eliminated.

With a new season set to begin, the Spartans feel they have the proper ingredients in place for another successful campaign.

The Spartans have four starters returning from last year's team in middles Kayla Clennon and Kirshara Gordon, along with left side Melanie Schouten and right side Lauren Renzella.

"I think our team looks pretty good. Tara (LaBar) and I believe we will be very strong this year," Jimmo said.

Adding to the Spartans' optimism is the addition of Trycelle Lin, a Grade 11 setter who also plays the game at the club level, but was sidelined last season after incurring a knee injury.

Lin's presence is expected to have a positive impact as Jimmo noted her natural position is at setter.

"Last year, we had to convert one of our left side players into the setter role, but with Trycelle around this year, we won't have to do that," Jimmo said. "We definitely have a good starting five."

If the Spartans possess any weakness, it could be in their depth, LaBar and Jimmo conceded. That was also a concern last season.

While the Spartans feel they

possess the potential to be among the contenders for this year's YRAA crown, the Spartans' coaching duo were quick to note they cannot afford to look too far ahead.

Especially since they are part of a highly competitive seven-team East Division that includes Markham schools Bill Crothers, Bur Oak, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Thornlea and St. Brother Andre, plus Richmond Hill Bayview.

"Bill Crothers will be much better this year with a good group of juniors moving up from last year's team and teams like Bur Oak, Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Thornlea are all competitive," Jimmo said.

For the time being though, the Spartans have been diligently preparing for their season opener at Bayview Secondary School Dec. 9, when they are to play St. Brother Andre and Bayview Secondary School.

The Spartans will also take to the court in several tournaments, including a Dec. 12 contest that will include teams from across the province.

## AE Clippers take title

The Stouffville minor bantam AE Clippers skated off with the gold medal from the Bradford Blue and Gold Tournament that was capped off with a dramatic 3-2 win over the Waterloo IceWolves in the championship tilt played in Beeton, Sunday.

With the game tied 2-2 in the third period, the Clippers scored what would be the winning marker with just over five minutes remaining.

In reaching the final, the Clippers opened round robin play by battling Waterloo to a 2-2 tie Friday. Later that day, the Clippers downed the Newmarket Redmen 3-1.

Playing two games Saturday, the Clippers reeled off victories over the Belleville Junior Bulls 6-1 and Brampton Bears 3-0 to gain a berth in the final.

Coached by Louis Volpe and Corrado Messina, other team members contributing to the club's tournament title run included: goalkeepers Juan Rivera and Ethan Volpe, Jack Valteau, Liam MacInnis, Nick Olidis, Ryan Cusack, Robert Hume, Michael Hary, Tim Arnold, Christopher Leinwand, Jordan Lewis, Joey Metauro, Mathieu Kovac, Nathan Tratik, Jacob Turney, Michael Messina, Mark Assal, Liam Sitani and Christopher Jemelkovski.

## Golf pro scores honour

Henry Brunton has just completed his 30th season as a PGA teaching professional.

For the 49-year-old Stouffville resident who operates a teaching academy at Eagles Nest Golf Club in Maple, this year held added significance after he was named PGA of Ontario Coach of the Year.

Having been the recipient of numerous citations on the provincial, national and international levels during his storied teaching career, that also included a stint as the national men's amateur coach, this marked the first time Brunton received this honour.

"It's great to be recognized and it's even nicer to be recognized by your peers," he said. "It's nice recognition that the PGA of Ontario recognizes coaches and not just traditional instructors. That's one of my key things is to try and develop modern golf coaches."

Once an individual is nominated they have to submit a package that includes filling out a questionnaire of their past and current credentials.

From there, the PGA of Ontario has a selection committee who make the final decision.

Brunton is now eligible to be nominated for the PGA of Canada's Coach of the Year. That will be determined before the end of December.

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For more information please call Catherine Chhina at (905) 853-3040 ext. 301.

All questions are welcomed.

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