

SDSS girls finish 5th at OFSAA rugby finals in Ottawa

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans were hoping to tackle the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations girls' AAA rugby title when they took to the pitch in Ottawa this week.

While the York Region Athletic Association champions failed to return with the coveted gold medal from the championship side bracket, they found plenty to smile about after capturing the consolation

side bracket title that culminated with a 25-5 win over I.E. Weldon (Lindsay) in their final Wednesday afternoon.

Playing into a strong headwind in the opening half, the ninth seeded Spartans came out with a 10-0 lead at the half.

From there, they carried that momentum into the second half and playing with the wind at their backs, cruised to victory over the fourth seeded club.

Anna Horner scored two tries for the Spartans while Lauren Halse,

Keely Patterson and Alexa Feasby each contributed one.

In winning the consolation title, the Spartans finished fifth overall in the 16-team field.

It also turned out to be the best scenario they could have envisioned after losing their first game against eighth seeded Regiopolis (Kingston) 15-12 Monday that relegated them to the consolation side of the draw.

Jim Monk, Spartans co-coach, was quick to credit the girls' resolve after their disappointing opening

game loss as they rebounded to reel off victories over 16th seed Collingwood Collegiate 15-10 and second seed Uxbridge Secondary School 15-0 Tuesday and then defeat sixth seed Blessed Cardinal Newman (Toronto) 15-12 before facing I.E. Weldon on the tournament's final day.

"Everything revolved around our defence and for the rest of the tournament we got things under control and as it was, we defeated the No. 2, 4, 6 and 16th seeded clubs and that's pretty good," Monk said.

In returning with a fifth-place finish, Monk could not be prouder of how the club performed and felt their participation at OFSAA was a lesson well learned.

"It was an amazing tournament. This was a special group of girls. They had big hearts and after that first loss we played to our strengths.

"They're pretty excited and I think they learned a lot about themselves.

"They kept playing for each other," he said.

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Nicole Burns of SDSS is running the hurdles at OFSAA in Windsor.

Burns hurdles provincial qualifier

Nicole Burns was the lone member of the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' track and field team that qualified for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships after finishing fourth in the senior girls' 100-metre low hurdles at the Central Regionals in Oshawa last week.

The Grade 11 student procured the fourth and final qualifying spot after being timed in 16.77 seconds.

In the preliminary rounds, Burns placed fifth.

Burns also competed in two other events and just missed out in qualifying for OFSAA.

In the 400m low hurdles, she finished fifth with a time of 1:09.20.

Burns also had a fifth-place showing in the triple jump with a leap of 10.50m.

Among other Spartan competitors who qualified for the Central Regionals, Katie Currie finished 13th in the midget girls' 3,000m.

Christina Lucas was 10th in the senior girls' discus.

In the boys' field, Diljan Dillon finished 14th in the senior shotput.

The OFSAA championships are scheduled to be held in Windsor today through Saturday.

— Michael Hayakawa

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