

Mustangs bring girls YRAA hockey title to St. Max



By Jake Courtepatte

Reaching the York Region Athletic Association final was bittersweet for the St. Max Kolbe Mustangs this season, with some players left to remember losses in the championship to the Bill Crothers Colts both of the two seasons prior.

This time, they were left with a better taste in their mouths.

A thrilling 2 ? 1 overtime victory at Angus Glen Community Centre was enough to send the Mustangs to the OFSAA provincial championship, capping off a series sweep of the Colts in two games.

?Our team worked really hard to get where we are,? said Mustangs head coach Kate Treacy. ?I'm really proud of them?they've worked as a team all year and it's paid off.?

After a goaltending battle between St. Max goalie Kristen Caporusso and her Colts counterpart left the game scoreless after one period, the Colts opened the scoring on a goal by Sam Burton in the middle frame.

St. Max finally solved the Colts tender with around eight minutes to go in the third, as Jayden Thompson tied it at one and sent the game to an overtime period.

It was there that Katerina Dajia clinched the league title scoring a sudden-death goal, with just over two minutes left on the clock.

Caporusso allowed just one goal in the series, earning a shutout in the Mustangs' 2 ? 0 game one win. The teams took a 0 ? 0 tie to the third period where Neve Webster and Natalie Pantaleo both scored in the final few minutes.

?She was amazing all series,? said Treacy of her goaltender. ?She was ready when we needed her and I think it makes a big difference when your players have confidence in their goalie.?

St. Max, which finished with a 10-0-2 record in the YRAA regular season standings, went undefeated in the postseason while also sweeping Markham District High School in the league semifinals. They are hoping to continue their success after punching their ticket to the OFSAA triple-A championship in Stratford, starting on Monday.

On the boys' side, Bill Crothers eked out a 2 ? 1 series victory over St. Theresa of Lisieux to win the tier 1 YRAA championship and head to the OFSAA championship.