

Sports

No gold as Rapids fall in semis

High hopes, bold expectations and a stellar record all pointed to big things for the Riverside Rapids senior girls volleyball team this year.

And while they hit all their marks during a whirlwind march to last week's provincial 'AAAA' championships in Prince George, it was one game where defeat and disappointment met.

Ranked first overall entering the top-16 tourney, the Rapids' run was sidetracked 3-1 (25-22, 22-25, 25-23, 5-20) by Fraser Valley rival Earl Marriott in the semifinal en route to a fourth-place finish.

The heartbreaking defeat weighed heavily on the girls, who put up a valiant effort in the bronze medal match, only to fall 2-0 (25-18, 25-17) to Kelowna.

"The girls battled hard this year and this weekend, we just were not able to rise to the occasion when we needed to," remarked head coach Bryan Gee in an email. "Earl Marriott played fantastic and earned the win in a tough, four-set match.

"The girls had their opportunities and we just were not able to capitalize."

They blanked Burnaby Central 3-0 (25-19, 25-10, 25-16) in the quarterfinal, after besting Penticton to start the playoff round. Riverside topped its pool with wins over Mount Baker, Mount Douglas and Clayton Heights.

Jen Neilson was named to the tourney's first all-star squad, while Rachael Hutchinson earned an honourable mention.

The Rapids closed the year with a strong 47-7 record, claiming the SFU, Handsworth and Red Serge tourney titles. The two-time defending Fraser Valley champions earned its high ranking through hard work, commitment and rock-solid teamwork.

The squad will benefit next year by the addition of members of the junior Rapids' B.C. champions, but will move forward without graduating contributors Alison Mullock, Joscelyn Jones, Hutchinson and Neilson.

T-wolves take stock at B.C.s

Despite just seven players to their roster, the Pinetree Timberwolves senior boys volleyball team climbed some heady heights as they achieved a school-first.

After earning a berth to the Kelowna-hosted provincials via a wildcard contest, the T-wolves kick-started the B.C. championships with a bang, delivering big victories over North Peace (25-17, 25-19), Ballenas (26-28, 25-14, 15-7) and Kelly Road (25-16, 25-20) to top their pool.

Their only loss of the tourney, a first-round playoff 3-2 (25-21, 21-25, 20-25, 25-18, 15-9) marathon at the hands of Kwantlen Park, proved fatal, sending Pinetree into the bottom bracket.

The T-wolves, led by captain Matthew Loss, rebounded and netted 2-1 wins over Kelly Road (26-24, 23-25, 15-10) and Ballenas (25-16, 26-28, 15-9) to finish 17th overall.



Jean Konda Witte/NOW

Locals top U.S. rivals on select field lax tour

Crossing the U.S.-Canada border after a whirlwind Washington State and Oregon tour, members of the Burnaby Mountain field lacrosse Selects were able to declare a complete success.

For a busload of local teens, the trip stateside resulted in some high calibre field lacrosse experience, along with an equally as impressive number of wins and positive impressions.

The Burnaby Mountain under-12 and u-13 squads began their run in the Beaver State, with both teams posting perfect records in a quick swing against Northwest competition.

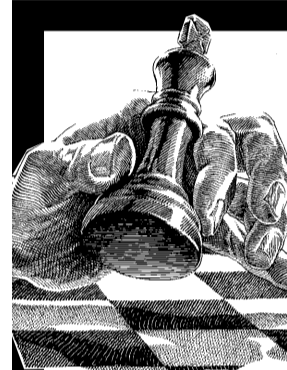
The exhibition series saw the u-12 elite team deliver

victories of 6-2 and 7-1 over Oregon rivals Beaverton and Lake Oswego. The u-13 elite did it one better, picking up three decision — 16-0 over Lincoln, 9-3 over Beaverton, and 6-4 over South Sound (Tacoma).

Participating from Coquitlam were Alex Bodin, Dylan Chand, Joe Dale, Christian Del Bianco, Andrew Gallant, John Hofseth, Josh Kemp, Michael Lucarino, Austin Madigin and Eli Salama. Players from PoCo were: Will Kinnaird, Dylan Ladron De Guevara, Greg Lunde, Mitchell Milani and Gordie Phillips. Contributors from Port Moody were Brendan Gauthier and Dylan Kaminski.

The squad is coached by Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse co-coaches Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins.

GOING MOBILE:
Centennial Centaurs' quarterback Lemar Durant bootlegged it for a pair of touchdowns during Saturday's thrilling 39-36 victory over W.J. Mouat in the Subway Bowl 'AAA' B.C. final.



CONFUSED

about your next move?

Get some direction

- Separation & Divorce
- Incorporations
- Partnership Agreements
- Powers of Attorney
- Mortgages
- Wills & Estates

604-942-8880

COQUITLAM SQUARE

206-2922 Glen Drive
Coquitlam
Next to Coquitlam Centre Mall

Schwarz & Co.
LAW CORPORATION

FREE SFU TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR ANXIOUS CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

Is your child more anxious, worried or fearful than most children their age? If so, you and your child may be eligible for a 12 week group treatment program for 5 to 7 year old children and their parents offered at Simon Fraser University. This program is part of a treatment study designed to help young children learn to cope with and face their fears. Parents and children will participate in an initial assessment to determine if the groups are right for you. The program includes group activities for children and a separate group to help parents learn strategies to help their child cope with fears and worries.

For more information please visit our website
<http://www.sfu.ca/csedl>
or call 778-782-6825

The NOW Carrier of the Week

sponsored by



i'm lovin' it®

Michael V.
(Route 2870106)

receives a McDonald's
'Extra Value Meal'

Courtesy of these Tri-Cities McDonald's locations:

- 2330 Ottawa St., Port Coquitlam
- #2119-2850 Shaughnessy St., Port Coquitlam
- #1401-2929 Barnet Highway, Coquitlam
- #2725 Barnet Highway, Coquitlam



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE
A NOW CARRIER, CALL:
(604) 942-3081 TODAY!



Giants Holiday Gift Pack: only \$45 for 3 Games!*

Got any over-the-top hockey fans on your list? Put this under the tree - three Vancouver Giants games at Pacific Coliseum including Get Away Night and Honda Fan Appreciation Night! It's like opening your Christmas present three times! *Giant Holiday Gift Pack includes GST.

Prince George Cougars

Wednesday, Dec. 30th - 7:00 pm

Kelowna Rockets

Sunday, Jan. 3rd - 5:00 pm
(Get Away Night)

Kamloops Blazers

Saturday, Mar. 13th - 7:00 pm
(Honda Fan Appreciation Night)



THE EASIEST GIFT YOU CAN BUY!
604 4 GIANTS
www.VancouverGiants.com



OR UPGRADE TO OUR 5-GAME PACK:
only \$75 for 5 games!
INCLUDES GAMES ON JAN 31 AND FEB 6
at the
Langley Events Centre