

Huskies are champs in senior volleyball



The Humberview Huskies senior boys' volleyball team consists of (back row) Charles Espinoza, Matt Haller, Kasin Grewal, Uche Osamusali, Alex Trkulja, Eric Jay, Daniel Turchiaro, (front row) Coach Sian Leyshon, Dawson Hemphill, Larry Heng and Josh Budd.

By Larry Heng

After a very successful season of ROPSSAA regular league play, the Humberview Huskies senior boys finished second in the northeast division of the tier 2 volleyball league.

They concluded the campaign with a 7-1 record, just behind Cardinal Ambrozic.

This record qualified the boys for a spot in the playoffs, which was a four-team round-robin tournament against Turner Fenton, Brampton Centennial and Cardinal Ambrozic. The Huskies played their best volleyball of the season at this tournament, rolling over each of their opponents in two straight sets to sweep the north division and avenge their earlier loss to Ambrozic. This win at the semifinal tournament earned them a berth at the tier 2 ROPSSAA championship final.

The championship game was hosted by Ste. Famille Catholic French School in southwest Mississauga. Despite the distance, several staff and student supporters were there to cheer on the Huskies in a slightly hostile Cougar gym. The home court and home crowd advantage gave Ste. Famille an edge to start the match and they took the first set 25-17. But the Huskies remained calm and once they got used to their surroundings it became obvious who was the better team. The Humberview dogs served up a storm, scoring numerous aces and putting the Cougars off-balance, so they were unable to run their offence. Alex Trkulja and Kasin Grewal had peak spike serving performances and were relentless in their pursuit of points, as they hammered serve after serve. Daniel Turchiaro, Matt Haller, Larry Heng and Uche Osamusali sent impossible float serves right to the back line, and into the corners over and over, scoring every time they served and frustrating the Cougars. The Huskies dominated in the next three sets.

Along with smart, strong serving, the Huskies were able to put up solid blocks to stop their opponents when they did get a set up, and weren't afraid to scramble and hit the floor to keep the ball alive if it did get by the block. Team work was crucial to be able to re-organize in the many scramble situations and the Humberview boys were like a well-oiled machine ? passing serves and freeballs up to setter Grewal, who put the ball up beautifully for them to spike. And spike they did, with ferocity and accuracy. Power hitters Trkulja and Turchiaro found open areas, corners, and lines, wiping the ball off the blockers ruthlessly, while Osamusali simply hit over them. Haller and Heng pushed the Cougars deep to the back and then rolled the ball short, keeping the Ste. Famille boys on the run and never in control. ?Liberos? Charles Espinoza and Dawson Hemphill were key to the Huskies' defence all season, ranging across the back court and hoovering up countless hits and tips. Relief server and digger Josh Budd went in when the big guns got tired and made key serves and passes, while blocker Eric Jay went across the front row and made some critical stuffs.

Coach Leyshon-Doughty watched proudly as Humberview won the second, third and fourth sets with confidence and consistency, earning a well-deserved ROPSSAA championship title and trophy.