

Gunning for Gold: A History of Champion's Soccer Program



In 6 short years St. Edmund's has emerged as one of the most dominant soccer programs in the Region of Peel. Senior coaches Greg Spagnoli and Carmelina Galati along with junior coach Justin Camilleri have teamed up to develop and strengthen a new soccer program that will be around for years to come. Having initially spear-headed the program back in 2003, Galati had a core group of young talented grade 9 players who played in a junior tier 1 league and advanced to the preliminary round in its first year. In 2004 Spagnoli made the move to Champion and together history was about to be created. In 2005 the junior team went undefeated in its first full junior year, but unfortunately lacked the experience to advance beyond the quarter-finals. Nonetheless, this

valuable playoff experience would prove to aid the team the following year in their quest for a ROPSSAA title.

In 2006 the junior team finished second in their division and eventually went on to claim its first ROPSSAA Championship in school history. The Bears did not stop there as they had an unbelievable 2007 senior campaign winning the AAA and AAAA ROPSSAA Championship in their first full senior year of competition. During that season, the Bears captured 3 tournament titles including a tournament win in West Virginia; defeating cross town competitors St. Michael's College in a penalty shoot-out. The team went on to its first OFSAA championship in Windsor as the #1 seed, but were eliminated in the quarter-finals by the eventual silver medalists Bishop Ryan. Although the team had high expectations, they vowed to make their way back to the provincial championships and hopefully bring a medal back home to Brampton. Their dreams were put on hold, however, they had a tough 2008 senior season losing again in the quarter-finals. Although the senior season was an unsuccessful one, junior coach Justin Camilleri guided the junior team to its second school ROPSSAA Championship in 3 years.

After a disappointing 2008 season, the players came back even more focused and determined to avenge their previous year's early exit. An early pre-season training camp in November and 2 tournament of championship titles in April (5th consecutive year in a row) proved to be the perfect warm-up for the regular season. The boys went on to finish 1st in their division and overcame their quarter-final hump by eventually moving on to capture its second ROPSSAA Championship in 3 years at the senior level. Having visions of their early quarter-final exit back in 2007, the boys entered the AAAA Championships as the #2 seed with one goal in mind and that was to not only represent the Region of Peel, but to also win a medal. The boys breezed through the group stage, by winning all 3 games scoring 19 goals and conceding only 2. They went on to play East York in the quarter-finals and easily proved to be the better side by winning

5-0. They were now one win away from guaranteeing themselves a medal, their opponent Cardinal Newman. In a tight first 30 minutes, they were able to go up 2-0 at the half, and eventually went on to win 4-1 and ensuring themselves a place in the Provincial Championship Finals against the #1 seed St. Thomas Aquinas from London.

After going down early in the first 20 minutes, Campion equalized before the break. After numerous opportunities to break the deadlock hitting several posts and crossbars, the score remained tied heading into extra time. Extra time proved to solve nothing, as both teams headed into a penalty shoot-out. Antonio Ilic saved the first Aquinas attempt while Alex Halis netted his. Campion would score the next 3 spot kicks by Brandon Simoes, Jonathan Osorio and Teniel Gordon leaving Ilic to play the heroes role. Ilic stopped Aquinas' 4th attempt and now placed Campion in the school record books as they completed an undefeated season and the schools first team OFSAA Championship.

Campion has been blessed to have many wonderful and talented players walk through this program. Coaches Galati and Spagnoli would like to acknowledge all those players who have helped form the foundation for which this program now stands on. Your dedication, commitment and desire to make this program one of the best soccer programs in the province will be greatly missed. We wish you nothing but success in all your future endeavours.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

JUNIOR TEAM				SENIOR TEAM		
YEAR	LEAGUE RECORD	FINAL STANDING	SEASON RECORD	LEAGUE RECORD	FINAL STANDING	SEASON RECORD
2004	Inaugural season	ROPSSAA Preliminaries	4-2-3	-----	-----	-----
2005	7-0-1	ROPSSAA ¼ FINALISTS	15-1-2	-----	-----	-----
2006	11-1-1	ROPSSAA CHAMPIONS	21-2-1	6-1-1	ROPSSAA SEMI FINALISTS (TIER 2)	13-4-2
2007	6-0-2	ROPSSAA FINALISTS	10-2-4	10-0-1	ROPSSAA CHAMPIONS OFSAA ¼ FINALISTS	30-2-3
2008	7-0-1	ROPSSAA CHAMPIONS	14-1-1	3-2-1	ROPSSAA ¼ FINALISTS	12-5-1
2009	7-0-1	ROPSSAA ¼ FINALISTS	14-1-3	9-0-1	ROPSSAA/OFSAA CHAMPIONS	31-0-2
2010	4-2-1	ROPSSAA ¼ FINALISTS	15-3-2	8-1-0	ROPSSAA FINALISTS OFSAA ¼ FINALISTS	26-4-3
2011	9-0-1	ROPSSAA CHAMPIONS	18-1-5	8-1-0	ROPSSAA FINALISTS OFSAA CHAMPIONS	30-2-3