

## Banner day for basketball Bears

By FRANK JUZENAS

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There is another championship banner to hang in the gym at St. Edmund Campion.

The latest addition to that school's impressive collection came on Tuesday night when the Bears defeated the David Suzuki Grizzlies 63-33 at Sheridan College to capture the Region of Peel Secondary School Athletic Association (ROPSSAA) Tier 2 junior girls' basketball crown. That came less than a week after the Bears won their second consecutive Tier 1 senior girls title.

Even though the school has had a lot of success at the Tier 1 level, coach Mary-Anne Braganca said the coaches are just as proud of the school's Tier 2 title.

"Whether it was Tier 1 or Tier 2 the girls wanted to win," she said.

For the team's three coaches, Braganca, Bryan De Sousa and Sonia Messina it capped their first year of coaching.

Campion finished third in a tough Northwest division with a 6-2 record. The two losses were to first-place St. Roch and second-place Notre Dame. Since only the top two teams in each division qualified for the Tier 1 playoffs that left the Bears in Tier 2.

Campion won its two playoff games, 43-36 over the Father Goetz Gators and 47-43 over St. Marcellinus Spirit, and have an overall record of 13-3. The team showed continued improvement through out the year said the head coach.

Braganca said the Bears wanted to get off to a good start in the final and they did just that, taking a 10-0 lead in the first two minutes and were up 22-6 after the first quarter. They never trailed after that.

For David Suzuki, a school which opened in September with only 700 students, reaching the final was a pleasant surprise, especially considering the school gym was not completed until this week and the team only had one practice on its home floor, on Monday, and was forced to play its entire schedule on the road.

Despite that the Grizzlies went 5-3 and were fourth in the Northwest. They won a pair of playoff games, defeating St. Francis Xavier 38-31 and the Mayfield Mavericks 42-40 in the semifinal.

"For a new school without a home gym to practice or play in, I'm proud of what the girls have done," said coach T.J. Spickerhoff.

With the majority of the team being in Grade 9 most had never played in a game with the atmosphere of a high school final so he said they were nervous and got off to a slow start.

Campion was led by Yanique Smith, a force down low who collected 29 points. Jemela Dos Santos added 15 points. Point guard Breanne Tomamang, at 5 foot, the smallest player on the floor finished with 12 points, including 10 in the first quarter pacing the Bears to their early lead.

The Grizzlies were paced by Kianna Delas with 14 points. Shanelle Hunningham added eight.

While the season is over for Campion it is not for Smith and Tomamang who have been called up by the Bears senior team and will be with them at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) 4A championship beginning on Thursday in Belle River.

Following the Tier 2 game the Tier 1 final was played at Sheridan and the St. Michael Thunder, a two-year-old school from Bolton, completed an undefeated season with a 45-24 victory over the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Bulldogs from Mississauga.



**CAMPION CHAMPIONS:** The St. Edmund Campion Bears celebrate their ROPSSAA junior girls basketball championship win over the David Suzuki Grizzlies at Sheridan College on Tuesday evening. In the all-Brampton Tier 2 match up, Campion prevailed 63-33. *Photo by Rob Beintema*

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