

Pope John Paul boys conclude dominant soccer season

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Gianfranco Mirto recorded a hat trick as Pope John Paul II completed a dominant elementary school boys' soccer season with an 8-5 victory over St. Andrew in last week's Oakville Soccer League final at Pine Glen Park.

Christian Lopac and Matthew De Michele scored twice each and Anthony Taylor added a single for Pope John Paul, which also won three other titles this season and had a 31-game unbeaten streak. The four titles in 2014 nearly matched the five earned by the school in the previous two seasons.

"It was fantastic to have another great season here at Pope John Paul II with such an exceptional group of athletes," said Matthew Aslett, who has coached the school's team for the past three years. "All the players have been top notch. It was really great to see our older players as leaders this season and our younger players contributing as well."

Earlier in the Oakville Soccer League playoffs, Pope John Paul defeated St. James and St. John, tied St. Marguerite d'Youville and then downed St.

Marguerite 7-1 in the semifinals. Mirto and Taylor scored twice in the semifinal win, with Tristian Valadao, Nicolas Noblecilla and De Michele also tallying.

Pope John Paul's other tournament wins came at its own invitational May 13, the St. Marguerite Invitational May 22 and the Ascentrick Invitational June 16.

At the Pope John Paul tournament, De Michele (two), Daniel Bustamante, Lopac and Taylor scored in a title-clinching 5-3 win over St. Gabriel.

Bryan Soares, Lopac, Taylor and De Michele scored in the final of the St. Marguerite competition, when Pope John Paul blanked St. Brigid 4-0.

Pope John Paul clinched the Ascentrick championship with a 2-0 win over St. Timothy, when Taylor and De Michele provided the offence.

The school was also second at the inaugural Winter Classic indoor tournament Jan. 29 in Mississauga, replacing a squad that dropped out of the eight-team event on the day of the competition. The loss in the final came in a shootout.

Also contributing to Pope John Paul's success this season were Ethan Ceolin, Jacob Dadufalza, Ethan Huffman, Matthew Musulin, Matthew Sostaric, Gabriel Vespa, Josh Spano, Christopher Boisson, Kenedy Choma, Ethan Ioanidis, Tommas Meeussen, Andres Vargas and Reileigh Walsh. Nic Bruno and Ross Perri were assistant coaches, and Anthony Ceelen was the manager.

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