

Oakville's St. John Paul II Catholic soccer teams excelled in 2018

Four tournament wins including indoor title in December

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St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School boys' senior soccer squad won three tournaments in 2018. - Matthew Aslett/photo



The boys and girls indoor team from St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School won the inaugural eight-team OSC Winter Champions League Cup last month. - Matthew Aslett/photo

One of the most successful teams in Oakville sports in 2018 was the St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School boys' senior soccer squad.

The group of boys won three tournaments during the season, one of which included a fifth consecutive victory in the 32-team tournament they hosted last May, the Invitational Classic. They defeated teams from Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills.

Other tournament wins included:

- A 4-0 win over St. Anne in the championship game, with two goals by Billy Raitt and singles by Matthew Zanatta and Jack Francuz, gave St. John Paul II the Ascentrick Invitational for the third consecutive year.
- Raitt and Luke Spano scored the goals against St. Andrew in the championship match of the North Oakville Invitational Tournament, St. John Paul II's second straight NOIT title.

Members of the team include Grade 8 players Francuz, Jacob Gorinsky, Jake Greco, Oscar Kowalczyk, Nicolas Lopac, Matthew Nearing, Noah Nishizaki, Rodrigo Noblecilla, Marco Pereira, Raitt, Andrew Richardson, captain Emilio Saenger, Spano and Matthew Zanatta; Grade 7 players Alex Del Vecchio, Jason Krzmianowski and Nicholas Zanatta; and Grade 6 players Francesco Caputi, Marko Cepo, Felipe Crespo, Aidan Fletcher, Daniel Keaney, Matthew Paris, Damir Stakorac.

The boys' and girls' indoor soccer team kept the tournament wins coming for St. John Paul II with a victory in the inaugural eight-team OSC Winter Champions League Cup last month.

St. John Paul II faced Halton Catholic and public schools, winning the championship 2-1 in penalty kicks following a scoreless draw with St. Joan of Arc. Co-captain Marko Cepo and Joshua Musulin scored the goals and netminder Francesco Caputi, another co-captain, made three saves in the shootout.

Other members of the indoor team included co-captain Cristina Ciofani, Matteo Costantino, Claudia Da Silva, Dante Erra, Aidan Fletcher, Victoria Gamboa, Anna Hoyle, Daniel Keaney, Joshua Musulin and Sofia Terlizzi

Aiding head coach Matthew Aslett on both teams were assistant coaches Majd Shoufany, Alex Del Monte and Aidan Moulton and team manager Tony Ceelen.

“It has been enjoyable to work with such a strong group of athletes,” said Aslett. “It was another special year for our team as we reached an incredible milestone with 26 tournament championships in the past seven years.”

<https://www.insidehalton.com/community-story/9111769-oakville-s-st-john-paul-ii-catholic-soccer-teams-excelled-in-2018/>