

SPORTS

3-on-3 basketball fever

RSGC celebrates annual basketball tournament

BY TAMARA BALUJA

Three-on-three basketball was all the rage in the Annex on June 13.

The ninth annual Gamecocks Charity basketball tournament took place at Royal St. George's College's (RSGC) newly renovated gym (120 Howland Ave.), with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society and The Thomas J. Webb Memorial Scholarship Trust.

The basketball tournament was the brainchild of veteran RSGC coach and professional basketball player, Sean Loucks.

"We have kids as young as 10 years old playing and adults well over 60 playing, with everything else in between. It's just going to be a really fun day," said Loucks.

Loucks proudly claimed that Gamecocks is probably one of the longest-running three-on-three tournaments in the country.

He has played nearly all nine years of the game—barring the odd injury—with his team, which he fondly calls the "Oldest School."

"We have played together in this tournament every single year of the event—and hope to make it to at least the 10th annual event together in 2010. John Allen and I are both turning 44 this year!"

Loucks added that he is already looking forward to the 10th annual event.

Mahood, an Annex resident who also played varsity basketball, said he always comes back because it's the only competitive basketball action he gets these days.

"Some of the kids—and they are



Gamecocks charity basketball tournament players get ready to shoot some hoops. From left to right are Gar Mahood, John Allen, Sean Loucks, and Mike Hodnet, faculty at Royal St. Georges College.

all kids to me since I am probably the oldest person playing—take it seriously, and others just have fun. I like that! Our team has yet to win, but that's probably because Sean has to cover for me all the time," Mahood quipped.

Loucks said that Gamecocks is a trip down memory lane for him.

"Doing something good for someone else, playing some ball, and seeing a lot of old friends—I really feel good about it," said Loucks.

"I also hope to lead by example for some of our younger players, particularly those from the Albany Basketball Association that I direct and RSGC, where I [teach a] high school team the importance of helping out others and doing something positive for their community."

"The event is in honour of a great friend and teammate we lost to cancer too soon," said Loucks. "I was

away representing Canada in Mexico City in the 1999 when I got a call that my friend Tom Webb had passed away. It was a very sad moment for everyone. He was newly married and only 36 years old."

Loucks said that Webb had originally financed and established this scholarship when his health was fading to aid outstanding student-athletes at his old high school in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

The work supported by this fund has been continued by Webb's parents, came in from the U.S. for the game in Toronto.

"Cancer is something that touches everyone's lives. I don't know anyone who doesn't know someone who is battling cancer or has passed away as a result. I also lost my father to cancer, so I believe that both causes are very deserving," said Loucks.

He said they hoped to raise a few thousand dollars from the event.