

Sir James Whitney, by a hair

May 25, 2010

Sir James Whitney has won its first Youth Canada Tournament For The Deaf in the school's history.

The local school barely knocked off defending champions, British Columbia School for the Deaf, to claim the top prize in the premier sporting and academic competition for Canadian schools for the deaf.

Jonathan Nicoll, one of the local organizers of the event, said winning the competition for the first time in the school's storied history, on home turf, has galvanized the entire campus since the event's conclusion on May 14. He said SJW came out ahead of BCSD by only 0.025 point value after all the points were tallied following the week-long tournament.

"When I first learned that Sir James Whitney won by such a small margin, I was instantly happy and proud of the youth participants," he said. "At the same time, I was amazed that the margin was so slim."

He said the competitors and their coaches "jumped out of their chairs and gave applaus."

During the competition, dozens of students and staff from schools from as far as British Columbia and Alberta flocked to the local school to showcase their skill in a plethora of academic and athletic fields.

Each of the seven schools participating was allowed to compete with a team of 12 students between the ages of 12 and 21.

"I didn't have any idea of which school would win," Nicoll said. "I did sense confidence in the air and a strong belief in amongst students and staff at the SJW School for the Deaf that we would do very well."

The school also opened the event to local residents, who were treated to a wide array of dramatic performances inside the Centennial Secondary School auditorium. Nicoll said he was satisfied with the overall staging of the tournament.

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