



**For Immediate Release**

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## **SDSS She Devils prove girls can play rugby too!**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the She Devils brought girl's rugby back to South Delta Secondary School after a five year absence. Playing their first game in the Fraser Valley AA League at home to a more experienced Heritage Park side of Mission, the She Devils dominated key aspects of the game including the scrums and line-outs.

The game opened with most of the play in the midfield. The tackling by both teams was good and neither team could exploit any defensive gaps or breakdowns. Marisa Villavreal at Fullback for the She Devils and Haley Noble at Flanker made try saving tackles on two good runs by Heritage Park. Then at about the 20 minute mark, Heritage Park's No. 8 managed to break across the line and score.

In the second half, the She Devils responded with their own score. After some hard work by scrummers, Jessica Jones, Hope Pauliuk and Stephanie Campbell in the loose, Scrumhalf Courtney Triano made a break down the touch line, then powered her way across the goal line in the corner for a try. Chelsea Vanderwerff just missed a difficult conversion in the far corner, which would have put the She Devils up 8 – 5.

With the score tied at 5 -5, Jessi Triano had a great run up the centre and just failed to break through the Heritage Park defense. Then, about 45 minutes into the 60 minute match, Heritage Park won the ball from a loose ruck, fifteen metres from the She Devils goal line. After a breakdown, they managed to push across the line for their second try. The She Devils came back hard, winning most of the set scrums, thanks to Hooker, Chelsea Bryson stealing against the head, and Props Krista Friesen and Erica Tetzetz, anchoring the scrum at the front row.

Having successfully trapped Heritage Park in their own end, the She Devils were threatening within 10 metres of the goal line when the final whistle blew to end the game. Though they lost on the score board two tries to one, coaches Joanne Gill, Kevin Garvey and Claude Paterson were very pleased with the team's performance, considering only one player had any rugby experience before practice began in February. Manager, Shannon Young, did a good job of getting the team ready and making sure they had all the supplies they needed for the big game.

The youngest player for the She Devils, grade 8 Shana Gibson held her own at Flanker and proved she could be competitive at the senior level. Leah Pirani played both Wing and Outside Centre, while Christine Beaton was called upon to play Outside Centre and Flanker. Both players adapted well considering it was their first game ever. Hannah Woods, Danielle St. Laurent, Jennifer Musto and Amanda Morrow shared duties at Wing and they held their own defensively, staving off a number of attacks by the more experienced Heritage Park side.

The She Devils missed Kelsey Hindermarch; the team's Fly Half who was unavailable for the game and are looking forward to the return of Jessica Killack, Megan Church and Mikala Condon, out with injuries. The She Devils next game is at home, March 13<sup>th</sup> against Haney Secondary at 4:00 p.m. With their first game under their belt, the She Devils proved that rugby isn't just a game for 'gentleman'.

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