

Ellis, Finley see volleyball improvement

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

The Acton Redmen Junior Boys' volleyball team's second year of a rebuilding program has had an encouraging start.

The local squad, which has a good mix of new and veteran players, compiled a 4-6 record on Saturday at an Invitational tournament in Georgetown.

What's deceiving about the losing mark is the fact that about five of those games were played with Acton having only seven players on hand.

"It's a great way to start the season," said Acton coach Ken Ellis last Wednesday of the week-end action. "We're a well-rounded team and not weak at any one spot."

This year's Redmen outfit possesses speed, height, a number of players with good hands and a lot of enthusiasm.

"For a young team we're showing a lot of team play," Ellis said. "There's no 'I'm going to be a star player' attitude among the boys."

Ellis, who has coached off-and-on for the past eight years, has the luxury of having the Midget program at his disposal in the event of having to trim his roster. He says he plans to keep 12 players around.

"If I can't carry all the guys, they (the ones cut) can play Midget ball," said Ellis. The Midget league doesn't run in a league format. Instead, the team travels to various tournaments.

"The only stipulation is that the player must be under 15-years-old, unless he's in Grade 9," Ellis added. "The kids here want to play. If they cut themselves, they know there are kids waiting."

Greg Finley, a third-year Junior player, feels the Redmen can improve upon a 5-5 1992. He says the team has a lot of potential with its strength being good hitters. "We'll be okay if we get good hitting from our power players and good sets to keep it going," said the 16-year-old.

Finley added that the Redmen, although a bit younger, have to come together as a team early in the season in order to succeed.

Aside from himself, Finley sees leadership coming from second-

year players, Dave Dolliver and Trevor Malloy.

"I think we'll improve," Finley offered.

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AHS Senior team folds

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

In the span of a week, the Acton High Senior Boys' volleyball team has shifted from being stronger than the Junior and Midget units to nothing at all.

Bruce Andrews, co-coach of the school's track team, indicated last Wednesday that former German national player Steven Liebig would not be coaching the team for unspecified reasons.

And after several attempts to find a replacement went awry, Andrews halted operations.

"It wasn't that there weren't enough members to play. He (Liebig) phoned the school and left a message saying that he couldn't coach," said a shocked Andrews. "It's kind of disappointing, but some of the players can join the cross-country team and about six of the players were Junior-aged, so they can go play at that level."

Andrews said he mentioned the coaching vacancy at a recent meeting, to former coaches around the school and to two coaches who were already committed to other school teams.

"Two former coaches were taking extra-curricular scholastic courses and to ask them would be unfair," Andrews said. "I had a person willing to coach the team but he made it clear he knew nothing about the sport."

Andrews stressed that knowledge of the game is a must.

"If you assist and there's no expertise, the players will start running the show themselves and you run into problems," he assured.

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WITH

DON CHERRY

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"Oh contraire" in Quebec. If a company answers the phone too many times with "Hello" first, instead of "Bonjour," the language police will insist they do.

This is a fact: one guy is going to court because he has an apostrophe in his shoe-store's name — Brown's Shoes. Other people are going to court because they dare to have an English word on their signs and yet they're going to allow Stop and Arret on their stop signs — and you know why? Because they were told the word "stop" is a French term.

Hockey fans in la belle province have even gotten in on the action: they've stopped booing the Canadian National Anthem because it was explained to them that a French guy actually wrote the music.

Crazy! More next week.

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