

V-ballers still silent

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

The Acton Redmen Junior Boys' volleyball team is soon going to have to talk their way into the win column.

Aside from a lack of on-court communication, not much ails the local outfit.

The Redmen visited the Georgetown Rebels on Thursday and battled their rivals to scores of 15-11, 15-12 and 15-10. With the loss, the Redmen remain in the Richardson Division basement with an 0-7 record.

The visitors found themselves down five points in the first match, but managed to fight back and stay in the game before a few mental breakdowns cost them chances at service points.

"Whether we expend too much energy coming back and are drained when we even the score, I don't know," pondered Redmen coach Ken Ellis on Tuesday. "We were up 7-1 in the third game, but it's a matter of being consistent."

Ellis still points to a lack of on-court chatter.

"We even called a time-out to report what we thought was a weakness in the Georgetown defence, but on the next series of plays, the boys forgot to communicate the target area to each other and we were unable to

capitalize on our strategy," said Ellis, who added the team has practiced drills this week to improve their alertness on the court.

The local bench boss hopes his team can finally bring their practice skills into games.

"We've been improving since mid-season," he admitted. "We are working with a simpler system now. It's effective and although we have two hitters instead of three, it seems to work for them."

Meanwhile, the Redmen battled E.C. Drury in a home encounter last Tuesday, losing 15-11 and 15-10.

Ellis said his team hustled and worked hard at keeping the score close. He added the loss of injured centre blocker Shawn Hopkins, definitely hindered his team's chances.

"I'm sure the scores in at least one of those games would have been different had Shawn not gone down with back spasms."

The Redmen were home to Assumption yesterday (Tuesday) and are at M.M. Robinson tomorrow (Thursday).

NOTES: The Midget Boys' volleyball team is 1-5. They recently lost tournament games to Oakville Trafalgar and Loyola, but defeated Milton's Bishop Reding.

Weak first quarter proves costly for Junior cagers

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Who says three quarters are better than one?

Case in point: Take away the first quarter of Thursday's Junior Girls' basketball game in the Acton High gym and the Redmen have their first win of the season 21-18.

But add in a lacklustre opening eight minutes in which the locals were outscored 20-8 and you have loss No. 4 in four attempts.

The 38-29 final produced double the Redmen's point total and more from their previous home game, a 51-13 loss to E.C. Drury.

But inconsistent — although improving — passing and foul trouble prevented the Redmen from shaving a nine-point Rebel lead throughout the match.

Heather Trotter led the Redmen with eight points, while Shondra Stroud scored six. Robin Croft and

Shelley Hand each had four.

"Heather (Trotter) played better underneath the basket with her rebounding and she was hustling," said Redmen coach Anne Andrews following the game. She added Denise Katsilieris played well in the defensive zone, showing good foot movement.

"Our shooting and passing is getting better, but we tend to bounce-pass the ball too much," Andrews continued. "The girls' goal (Thursday) morning was to get in the 20s in points and we did that."

The Redmen play tomorrow (Thursday) at Acton High following the 3:45 pm Senior game.

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Canes lose

The Halton Hurricane minor Atom AAA hockey squad lost two games on the weekend.

The 5-4 Hurricanes lost 3-2 in Chingacousy Saturday and dropped a 7-2 decision to Oakville at home in Hillsburgh on Sunday.

Acton resident Brandon Valente scored on Sunday.

Nellis wins, loses, draws

The Acton Nellis Construction Novice I Sabres got the feel for all three ways of game decisions last week.

On Sunday, the locals pounded Elora 8-1, they lost 3-1 to Arthur on Thursday and then duelled Arthur at home last Wednesday 3-3. Acton's record sits at 3-1-2.

On Sunday, Acton scored five unanswered goals in the game's final three minutes. Strong goaltending by Max Schaefer and Jason Strong preserved the win.

Acton goals came from Andrew Pembleton, John Field and Mark Pawlak with a pair each, Mike

Dube and Adam Brouillard.

Assists went to Steve Atkinson with three, while Pembleton, Field and Shawn Prentice recorded two apiece. Singles went to Mike MacDonald, Chris Jowett and David Lyons.

Dube scored the lone Acton goal in Arthur on Thursday.

Last Wednesday, Acton came back three times to tie Arthur at the Community Centre and at that point had built an undefeated season at two wins and two ties.

Goalscorers were Dube, Pawlak and Atkinson, who also counted an assist.

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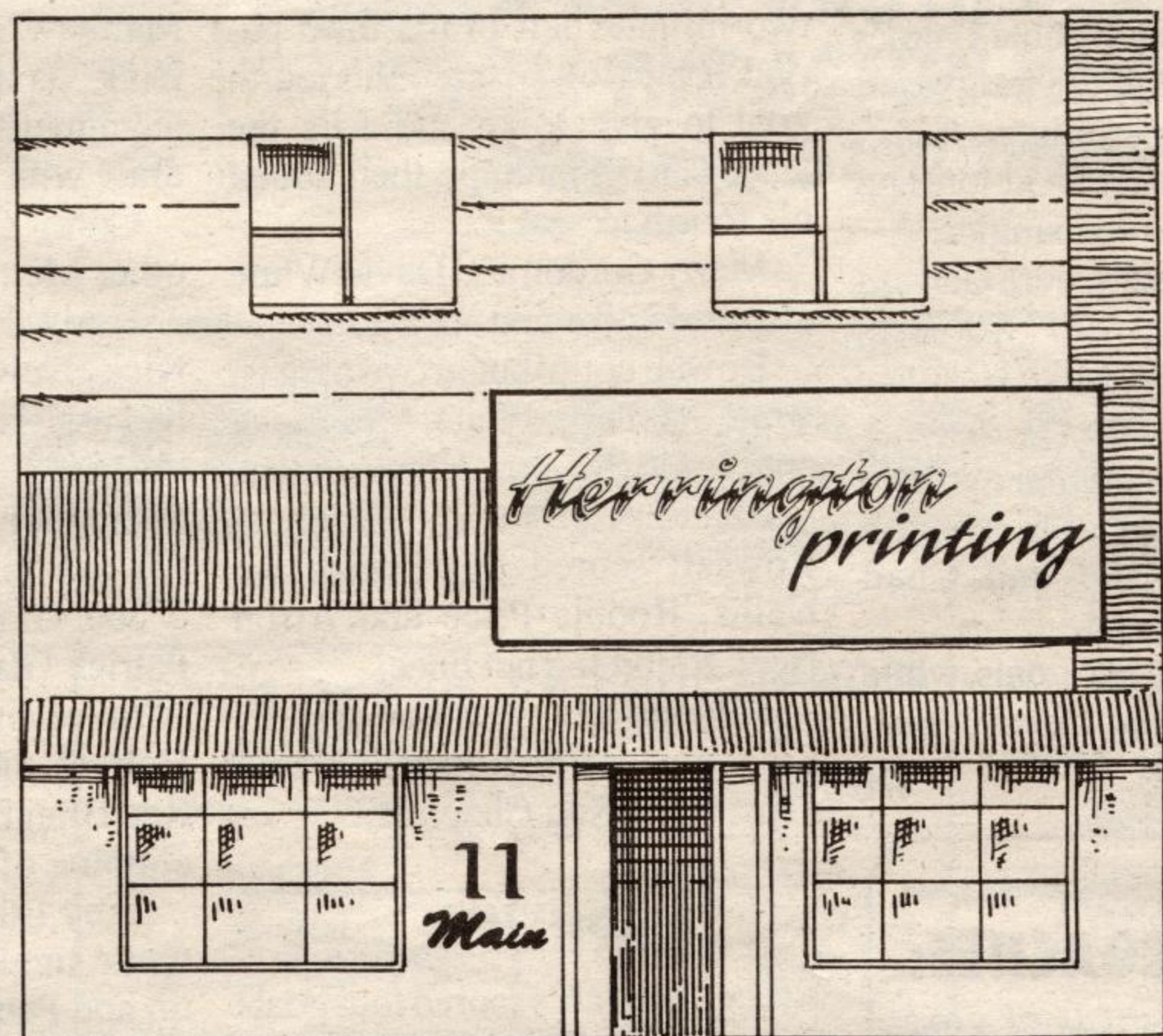
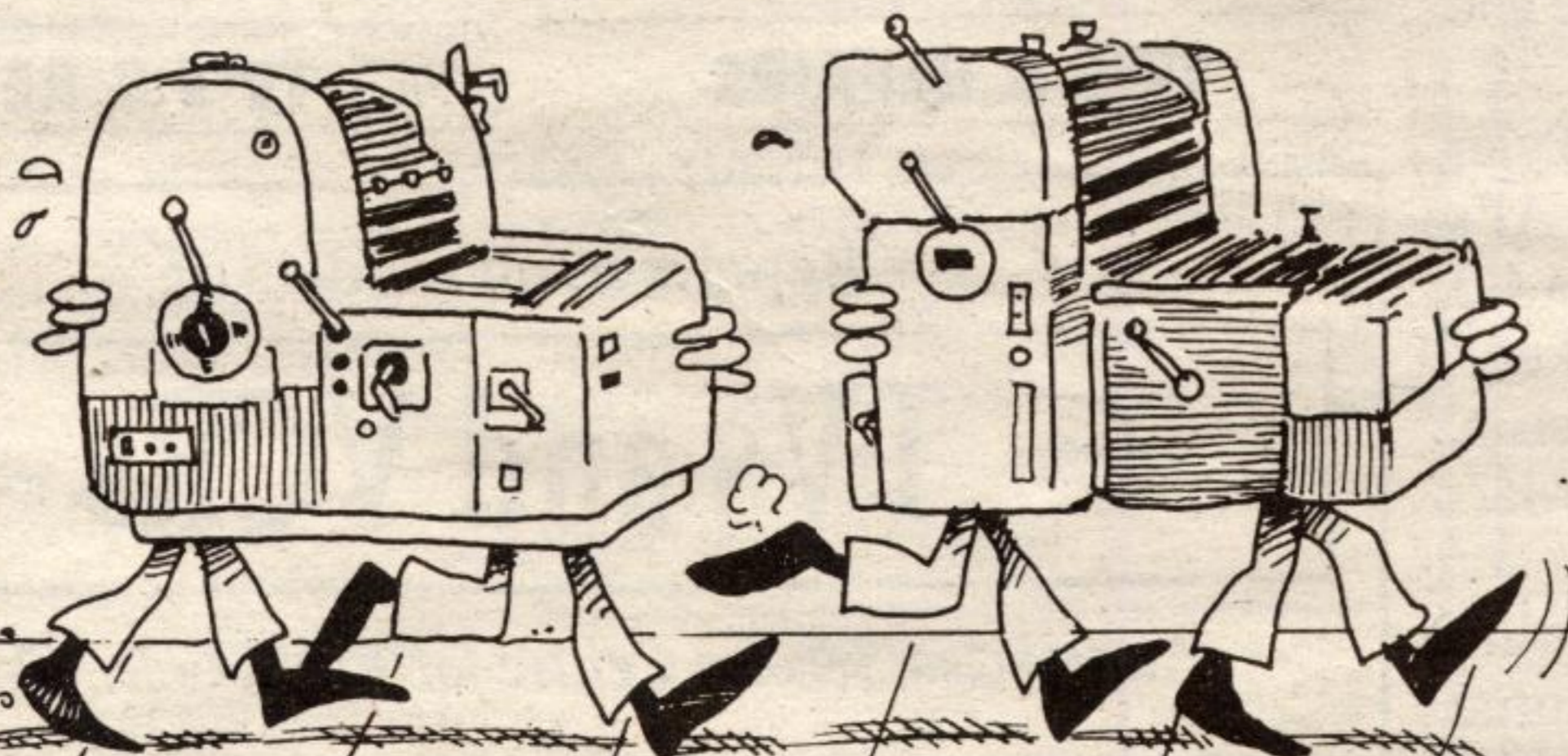
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We will soon be in our new Premises and thanks again.