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AHS Girls' v-ball team takes third at tourney

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

There wasn't much difference in the Acton Redmen Junior Girls' volleyball team's third-place finish during invitational play at Oakville Trafalgar High on Friday from previous tournament showings this year.

They served and pass-served exceptionally, topped their six-team pool and made it passed quarter-final play.

The only difference was the road to contention — point differential.

Game 1 for the Redmen was against Georgetown, who they

defeated at a mid-January tourney hosted by the Rebels and most recently, lost two of three games from in high school league play.

The locals routed their rivals to the east 15-5 in the opening match Friday, but fell 15-7 in the second game.

However, since both teams finished with identical 5-3 records, first place in their pool — which included Blakelock of Oakville, Bishop Reding, White Oaks and Strathroy — was determined by the Redmen's greater margin of victory in head-to-head play.

In other partial (Redmen didn't

play White Oaks) round-robin games, the Redmen split with Blakelock, 4-15 and 15-2 and Bishop Reding, 9-15 and 15-6.

"In the second game with Reding we really started to play," said Redmen coach Bob McKay on Monday.

By virtue of the top placing in their pool, the Redmen received a bye for the quarter-finals. Ironically, they faced the White Oaks Wildcats in the semis.

The Redmen were in for a test against the Wildcats, the top outfit in Halton high school's Volpe Division.

The Redmen took the opening game 15-9 before dropping the next two, 12-15 and 11-15.

To conclude round-robin action, the Redmen began moving better on the court, humbling Strathroy 15-4 and 15-5.

"I was encouraged with our team's play," said McKay of Friday's showings. "We appear to play well away from Acton. We're about five points away in each game from being competitive with most of the teams we see.

"And we're down to eight players (Jamie Davies the latest casualty for academic reasons). We

don't have the largest bench in the history of man-kind."

McKay, though, was thrilled with the play of blocker Heather Trotter, who is showing more confidence with each game.

"She took charge at the net," said McKay, who added the 15-year-old Trotter scored 12 straight service points against Blakelock. "She's a tremendous listener, stays within herself and has become a very dominant player."

NOTES: McKay said the experience of Nicole Hargrave will likely result in her taking over Davies's role as power-hitter.



WHO HAS POSSESSION? Chris Norman, left, of MacMillan's and Dylan Jacobs of Acton Galvast battle for the puck during Tyke house league hockey playoff action on Saturday at the Community Centre. Norman had an assist in the 3-3 final. (Mike Albano photo)

Acton High Senior v-ballers freeze up against Rebels

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Practice may make perfect, but not for the Acton Redmen Senior Girls' volleyball team in 1993-94.

A hussling and seemingly confident group at practice all season, the local volleyballers often clammed up and appeared to revert to their freshman years in the sport come game time.

Too many times this season, like last Wednesday's home loss to the Georgetown Rebels (2-15, 12-15 and 4-15) in high school volleyball play, the Redmen seemed too slow, unorganized and nervous against opponents.

Building leads of 6-1 and 10-2, the Rebels put away the home team with five straight serves for a 15-2 thrashing in Game 1.

After taking a 4-1 lead in the second game, the 0-8 Redmen elected to sit back instead of attacking the Rebels. The visitors evened the contest and then played point-for-point with the home side until the game stood at 12-12.

The Rebels prevailed after taking advantage of the Redmen's shoddy defensive play and an untimely serve that sailed over a Rebel backcourt player's head for a loss in possession.

"We could have won that game, but the girls didn't seem to want to win," says perplexed Redmen coach Bruce Andrews.

A dominating Rebels squad, which improved to 8-0 with the win, shot ahead 8-0 in the final game before Acton hit the board. It didn't matter, though, in the 15-

4 Rebel verdict.

"The girls looked frozen," says Andrews. "I think they were nervous having to play first (before the Junior team), at home and against Georgetown. They didn't move around."

Tentative play by the locals is something that has plagued the Senior unit all year.

"We weren't attacking (last Wednesday). When we did this year we played well," Andrews explains. "We should have won three or four games against teams that were comparable to us in talent."

NOTES: The Redmen finished the season at 0-9 following a defeat to Aldershot in Burlington on Monday by scores of 7-15, 7-15 and 16-14.

Junior volleyballers handled by Rebels

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

The Georgetown Rebels hosted and bowed to the Acton Redmen Junior Girls' volleyball team at a tourney in mid-January, so it was only fair that the latter return the favour on their home turf.

They did just that last Wednesday as they were thoroughly outplayed in Game 1 (15-5 loss), had trouble rebounding from the last effects in a 15-11 loss in Game 2, but came to life with a 15-13 win in the final contest.

"We didn't block well and let up on their power-hitters," said Redmen coach Bob McKay after the game that dropped his team's record to 5-3.

The lopsided defeat didn't faze the locals to start Game 2 as a dig by Jenn McKay with the game tied 1-1 brought a roar from the Redmen bench and faithful.

Momentum shifted to the Redmen as they reeled off three consecutive points. But it turned the other way just as fast, too.

The Rebels came from nowhere to stretch a 5-4 lead into an 11-5 bulge. At this point, McKay's girls became flustered, uncharacteristi-

cally swatting at balls heading out-of-bounds. The Redmen boss promptly darted from his court-side seat to signal for the time-out.

Later, Redmen players Shondra Stroud and Shelley Hand missed key serves before Nicole Hargrave closed the game to 12-8 Rebels, thanks to three strong serves.

However, a mixup in some Redmen players' court responsibilities allowed the Rebels to finish the home team off at 15-11.

It appeared the Redmen second-stringers would outperform their Rebel counterparts in Game 3 as they soared ahead 8-0. The Redmen became too relaxed, though, as their opponents rallied for 12 points for a 12-8 lead.

The Redmen battled, tying the game 12-12 and later won 15-13.

"We got beat by a better team. They took away the service box by outpassing and out-serving us," said McKay.

"Our defence is designed to play a good team, but we had too many unforced errors. We probably missed five or six serves."

NOTES: The Redmen lost 2-1 (15-8, 7-15 and 13-15) on Monday at Aldershot in Burlington.

Snyder, Scappin finish 1-3

Scott Snyder and Carlos Scappin are quietly impressing Halton high school mat followers.

The Acton High wrestlers compete on the Georgetown team and finished in the top three at a high school Junior championship at Burlington's Lester B. Pearson High last Wednesday.

Snyder, at 127 pounds, took first in his class, while Scappin captured bronze honours in the 185-pound category at the meet for Grade 9 to 11 wrestlers.

"Their placings were exceptional," said Rebel coach Jim Hall. "Both of them are very committed, have had to arrange for drives to practice all season and haven't missed one."

Scappin and Snyder have a good chance to compete at the Canadian championships in Edmonton at the end of March.

"They've improved technically and conditioning-wise they're very good," Hall added.

The Halton Senior final goes today (Wednesday) at E.C. Drury.