

Sports

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Junior v-ballers better '93 mark after 3 games

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Two weeks ago Ken Ellis was wondering whether his Junior volleyball players were willing to commit for the 1994 season.

Well, they're definitely committed to winning. The latest installment was a surprising upending of the heavily-favoured Bishop Reding Royals in Milton on Thursday to give the Acton High Redmen two straight wins.

For Ellis, the worry of commitment has been thrown out the door — at

least for now — for talk of being a legitimate threat by season's end.

"At our recent tourney we thought Oakville Trafalgar was the dominant team and Bishop Reding beat them, so maybe we have a chance to hang in till the end of the season," said a hopeful Ellis following the Redmen's 15-8, 1-15, 16-14 effort in Milton.

Typical of the 1994 Redmen, the visitors stormed into the lead at 8-1, only to watch Reding chip away. But the Redmen put the game away before a big scare.

That was saved for Game 2 when the Royals frightened Ellis and Co. heading into the deciding game with a humiliating 15-1 verdict.

"It wasn't like we were taking them lightly, either," Ellis said.

The highlight of the day, though, may not have been the Redmen's sterling 16-14 victory in a marathon third match, but the poise and confidence they exhibited in putting aside the previous collapse, namely Game 2.

"We shook it off. The kids were

just flying after the game. I credit captain Trevor Malloy. He did his best to keep the guys' confidence level up. He's becoming a real leader," said Ellis.

The coach also pointed to the play of setter Derrick McIntyre, who starred with consistent serving. "He's hustling all the time."

Before his 2-1 Redmen host Q.E. Park tomorrow (Thursday, 5 pm), Ellis will try and shore up the middle blocking, which he says will suffer greatly "when we play teams that can consistently hit."

Meanwhile, the Redmen started their home season last Tuesday on a winning note, disposing of the Milton Mustangs 2-1 (13-15, 15-10, 15-13).

The problem early on, reported Ellis, was consistency.

"We seem to go to pieces after establishing an early lead and like to play comeback (volleyball)," he said, noting Game 3 when the Redmen nearly coughed up a lead.

Ellis lauded the serving of Jamie Birrell and the quarterbacking of McIntyre as setter.

Senior Redmen down v-ball Stangs

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

It wasn't the Halton high school Junior volleyball final, but it could have been judging by the faces of Acton Redmen players.

"It was quite exciting for the kids. They were pretty high," reported Bruce Andrews after his Senior Redmen beat the Bishop Reding Royals 2-1 (15-7, 13-15, 16-14) in Milton on Thursday.

"It was especially nice for the guys, because I don't think they've ever beaten Reding. Now they know they can do it and I think they can pull off a couple more (wins) this year."

Setter Devon Ambrose got things rolling in Game 1 for the 1-1 Redmen with effective work at the service line.

"We should have polished them off in Game 2, but we had three straight serves go into the net," said Andrews. "After that, we stayed within three or four points, but they (Reding) pulled away."

The visitors seemed to find a groove blocking at the net with Steve Bottero, Dave Dolliver and Darrell Bridge the catalysts. The height of 6-foot-3 Ed Bridge was also a big factor in the win.

"But I wish I had three or four guys at that height, because we would have a better chance when we're attacking," stated Andrews.

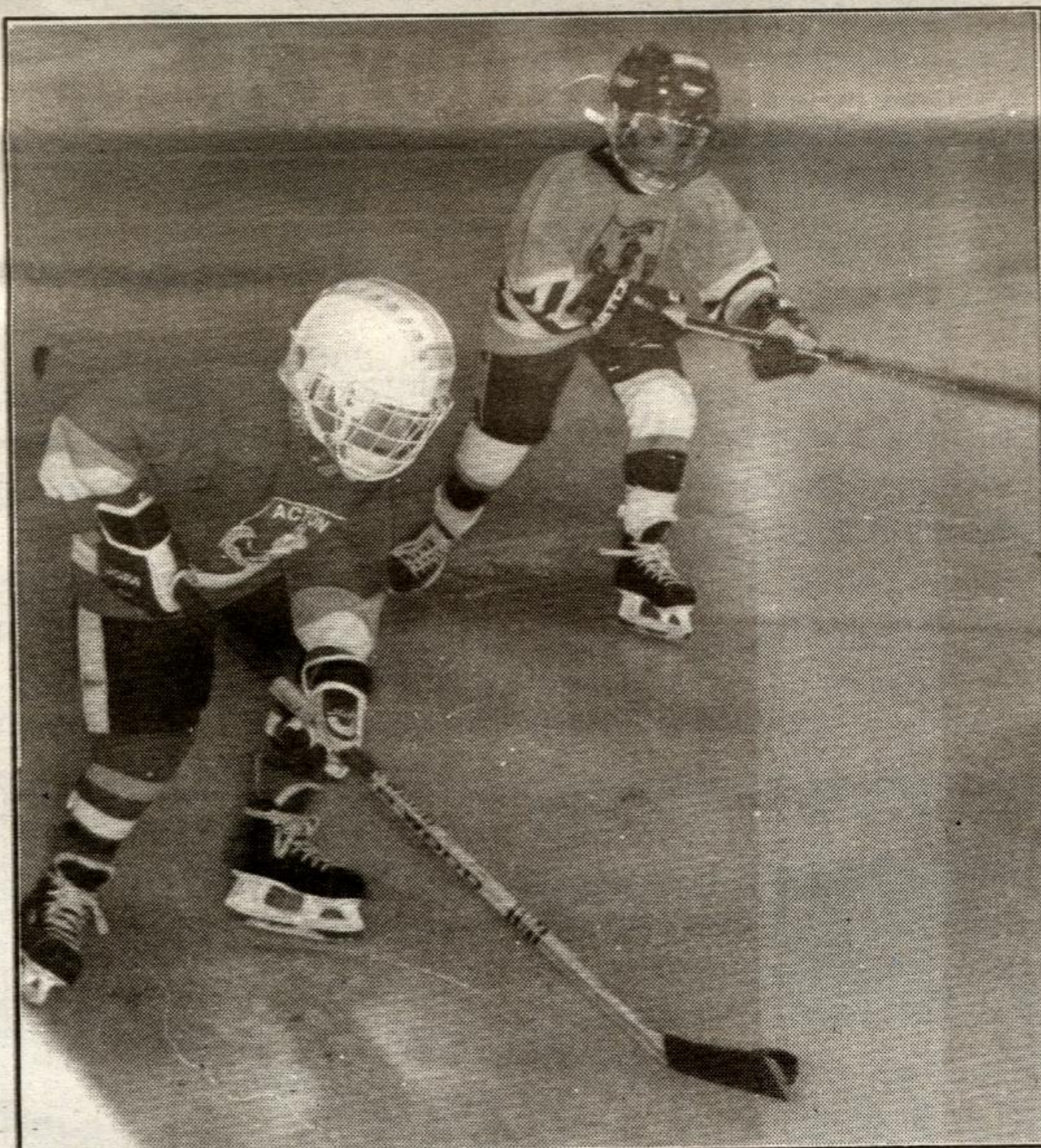
The key for the Redmen, An-

draws said, was grabbing service advantage early in matches which in turn gave them momentum to be persistent attackers.

With improved floor coverage, Andrews' lone task before tomorrow's (Thursday) home match

against Q.E. Park is to develop a quick attack across the middle.

NOTE: The Redmen came out flat and nervous in their home opener last Tuesday against the Milton Mustangs and were downed in two straight (12-15, 5-15).



SEASON OPENER: These Tyke players looked in mid-season form at the Community Centre on Saturday to open the 1994-95 house league season. Results on page 20. (Lori Frechette photo)

AHS Senior cagers embarrassed 79-8

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Maybe it was the new uniforms.

Whatever, the Acton Redmen Senior Girls looked uncomfortable in their new hardwood attire on Thursday, worrying more about pulling at their new jerseys and shorts than picking up their play in the 1994 home opener against Bishop Reding.

The few home side supporters in the Acton High gym were silent to begin the high school basketball season as Bishop Reding quickly poured in 20 points in the first quarter in what became a 79-8 Royal beating of the Redmen.

Even the Royal coaching staff was getting a little uncomfortable with what was in the making and sat their tallest and best rebound player, Angela Hrkac, after the first quarter.

"They were rebounding better than us and we weren't shooting. We were panicking," summed up Redmen coach Anne Andrews after the game. "But the girls had a good attitude and showed they weren't going to quit."

The home team had extreme

trouble passing the ball and during the rare times that they managed adequate ball control, they didn't threaten with an inside game. That meant for long Redmen shot attempts that either missed the net area completely or took an unfriendly bounce off the rim.

"They weren't moving to the ball quick enough," said Andrews. "The ideas were there to get to the ball, but they didn't. We played with the ball like it was a hot potato."

However, Shelley Hand did test the mesh just over a minute into the second quarter, recording the Redmen's lone basket after 16 minutes and sending them to the half down 40-2.

The story was the same in the second half as the Redmen displayed a disorganized offence.

However, they did hold the Royals to a quarter-low 13 points in the third before surrendering 27 in the final eight minutes.

Other point-getters for the Redmen were Shari Patenaude with three, two by Jackie Jahn and one from Shelby DaPonte.

The Redmen play at Q.E. Park tomorrow (Thursday).



THE MYSTERY CONTINUES

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