

AHS Senior v-ballers had 'desire to win' in '94

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

When reflecting on this year's Senior Boys' volleyball campaign, Bruce Andrews will remember his players' desire to win, not a sweeping loss that ended the Redmen's regular schedule and playoff aspirations.

"I'm proud of the boys' efforts. They worked hard, even in practice, and never gave up," coach Andrews said after the Redmen were swept last Tuesday by the taller Blakelock Tigers 6-15, 5-15 and 12-15 in Oakville.

The loss created a four-way tie in the Volpe Division standings,

where it was deemed the locals were the odd-team out.

"In three matches this year against teams ahead of us we lost 2-1. If we win one of those we would've been in the playoffs," Andrews argued. "We were better than a 3-5 team, but we didn't play as well last Tuesday as in the past."

Part of the Redmen's downfall was the fact they were dominated by Blakelock early and couldn't grab the early momentum. Part of it was one opposing player — who's also a club player — who when spiking, got his waist above the net and drilled the ball inside the attack line and froze the Redmen.

And part of it was a very vocal,

but not disrespectful, Blakelock faithful that managed to succeed in their game plan to get the Redmen off their game.

"We shouldn't have lost the third game," said Andrews, referring to his squad's 12-8 lead that evaporated and reappeared as a 12-15 loss. "(Setter) Devon Ambrose hurt an ankle after crashing into a steel pole diving for a ball and I had to replace him with Dave Dolliver, who has never played setter. Then, the big guy hammered the ball, hit Dave in the nose and he almost got hurt."

But it was a move Andrews was confident in making.

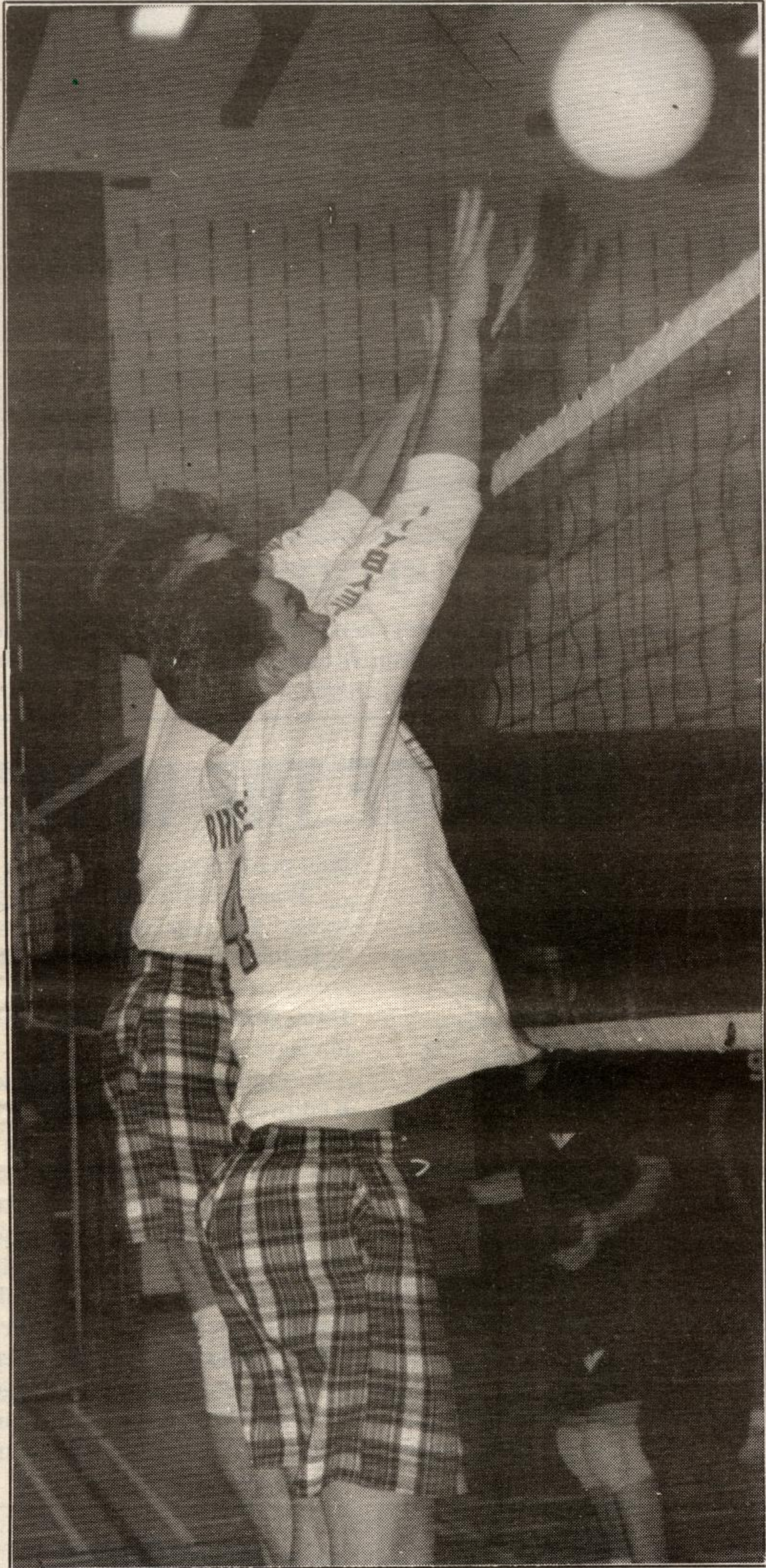
"All year, no matter who I put in as a substitute, the guys always

filled the spot and rose to the occasion. There was a strong commitment from them all year.

"They were always at practices at 7 am and warmed up and ready to go 10 minutes later. For a school of this size (approx. 640 students) and going against bigger schools, our boys made quite an effort."

The Redmen's season, though, isn't over as Andrews has them slotted to play on Nov. 17 against the winner of a Hamilton high school final.

If the locals win, they will represent the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association championships in the "A" Division.



Acton High Senior Boys' volleyball players Dave Dolliver, left, and Devon Ambrose, thwarted many kills by opponents this season, which ended last Tuesday at Blakelock. (Doug Harrison photo)

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