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Redmen test high calibre v-ball teams

Bob McKay felt his Senior Redmen girls' volleyball team's inclusion in the Georgetown Rebels' Early Bird tourney last Wednesday was a good test against proven Halton and area outfits.

The Redmen finished second in their pool at Georgetown High in a tournament that attracted AAA Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations champion Mayfield from Brampton, perennial Halton powerhouse Oakville-Trafalgar, the host Rebels who possess 10 club players, Heart Lake with three club athletes and Meadowvale with a provincial team member.

"I didn't want to see us get humiliated," said McKay on Thursday, "but I wanted to see how the girls would react to a lot of work."

The locals drew Mayfield in the opening match, falling 3-15 and 8-15. Then, pitted against an "A" team in Oakville's Iroquois Ridge, the locals prevailed 15-4, 15-8.

Later, Grimsby fell 15-10 to the Redmen in Game 1, but took Game 2, 16-14, putting McKay and Co. against the Rebels in the quarterfinal.

The Redmen jumped ahead 11-6 in Game 1, but couldn't hold on in losing 13-15. The hosts handed the Redmen an 8-15 loss in Game 2.

"They (the Rebels) gave us a lesson and showed us how to play power volleyball," said McKay, a Georgetown High teacher who's in his third year coaching in Acton.

"It's a rivalry," he said, "but it's a friendly one. Acton is starting to get the Rodney Dangerfield label — respect — because of the school's overall improving program."

Stangs squish the Dolphins, bring 1st Tier 1 volleyball title to M-S

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Friday night's McKenzie-Smith Mustang dramatic 2-1 (15-7, 9-15, 15-11) triumph over Oakville's Pilgrim Wood Dolphins in the Halton elementary school boys' volleyball final was any number of things: the Acton school's first Tier 1 volleyball title, a carbon copy of the North-Halton final two weeks ago and the final piece to a dream season.

But to Mustang coach Dave Walker, it not only added a pleasant twist his three-year plan (supposedly ending in a Tier 1 pennant) when he arrived on the scene in 1991, but also meant something less personal.

"That was a community win. I can't believe we just won Halton's," a stunned Walker declared after the game in the parking at E.C. Drury high school in Milton, where over 85 delirious fans screamed throughout the 70-minute championship.

"Everyone pulled together — the Stangs, teachers, parents and kids. The parent support was incredible all season. It was a dream season."

A tired yet fired up Mustang squad took to the floor for the final contest after mustering a 6-0 record in the round-robin portion of the Halton championship.

In that unblemished run were 15-9, 15-5 victories over the East-Halton champion Dolphins. However, after handily defeating the fish in Game 1 of the final, the Stangs' opponents served notice they weren't dead in the water.

The Mustangs took control in Game 3, grabbing a comfortable 5-0 lead and sending what was a reticent Mustang faithful following Game 2, into a frenzy.

After watching — literally — a commanding 7-2 lead dwindle to 7-6 and later change to a 11-9 deficit, Walker, in disbelief, sig-



TIER 1 HALTON CHAMPS: These McKenzie-Smith boys' volleyball players captured the Halton elementary school championship on Friday night at Milton's E.C. Drury high school with a 15-7, 11-15, 15-11 victory over the Pilgrim Wood Dolphins from Oakville. It's the first-ever Tier 1 Halton volleyball title for M-S. Back row: Ryan Bowen, assistant coach Dan King, Daryn McIntyre, Adrian Dolloway, Jeff Birrell and coach Dave Walker. Front row: Adam Ahearn, Greg Baren, Sandy Chapman, Paul Schiller, Andy Kilmer, Craig Lockwood and Kevin Drexler. (Doug Harrison photo)

nalled for the timeout.

It proved to calm his players whose confidence was restored following an Adam Ahearn tip and ensuing Jeff Birrell smash across the middle to knot matters at 11-11.

"That (Birrell's kill) was the TSN Turning Point tonight," announced Walker. "Birrell and Mike Hills came up with the crucial kills to motivate the team. Just one hit turns the emotional tide of the game."

Four quick, hard (adrenalinaided) serves later and the Mustangs had squished the fish and a Halton pennant was part of a worth-

while drive back to Acton.

"The guys proved they could do it and came through," Walker explained. "They dug deep when they had to and played with a lot of heart."

Like Game 2 of the North-Halton final, the Mustangs turned their tank tops inside out and hit the floor as a different team in Friday's middle game.

Instead of being a strong serving, vocal group that continuously provided the timely set for a vicious Birrell or Hills kill, the Stangs looked flat-footed as balls landed untouched between players and in the net off poor serves and over

anxious spikers.

"I think the boys were a little tired and weren't concentrating. It's a very tiring tourney. We had just won seven straight games.

"After our first win I thought they would roll over, but they didn't," Walker said of the pesky Dolphins. "They gave us a good battle.

"But now we're the team to beat."

NOTE: In other round-robin action, the Stangs dominated the competition. They beat Oakville's C.H. Norton (15-12, 15-5) and Maplehurst of Burlington (15-9, 15-11).



THE MYSTERY CONTINUES

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