

# Stangs must rebound to advance says boys' coach

STORIES BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Bob Armstrong says only one word separates the McKenzie-Smith Mustang boys' basketball team from being North-Halton Tier 1 semifinalists and gaining a shot at the title — rebounding.

"If we can rebound well, we'll beat anybody," proclaims the third-year Mustang boss. "We have the talent to win the North-Halton championship. We have a well-balanced offence and probably one of the best defensive players in the north, in Sandy Chapman."

The local coach was looking for a lot of inside scoring success by his starting five of Chapman, Mike Hills, Jeff Birrell, Daryn McIntyre and Adam Ahearn in yesterday's (Tuesday) Tier 1 semifinal game here against Sam Sherratt.

The Mustangs' 8-2 run this year

hasn't been the work of individual performances, but the ability of 16 players to learn about themselves, their teammates and pull together to form a winning combination.

"The scores and games have been better this year," begins Armstrong, "but most importantly, the guys have learned so much about themselves. I don't teach any of them in the classroom, but they're happier in school, feel better about themselves and are better disciplined."

"That's what we want to do with every kid in the school, whether they're playing sports or performing in the school play, *The Wizard of Oz*."

Although their record may suggest otherwise, it's been anything but an easy road for the Mustangs.

Countless times this season they found themselves behind on the

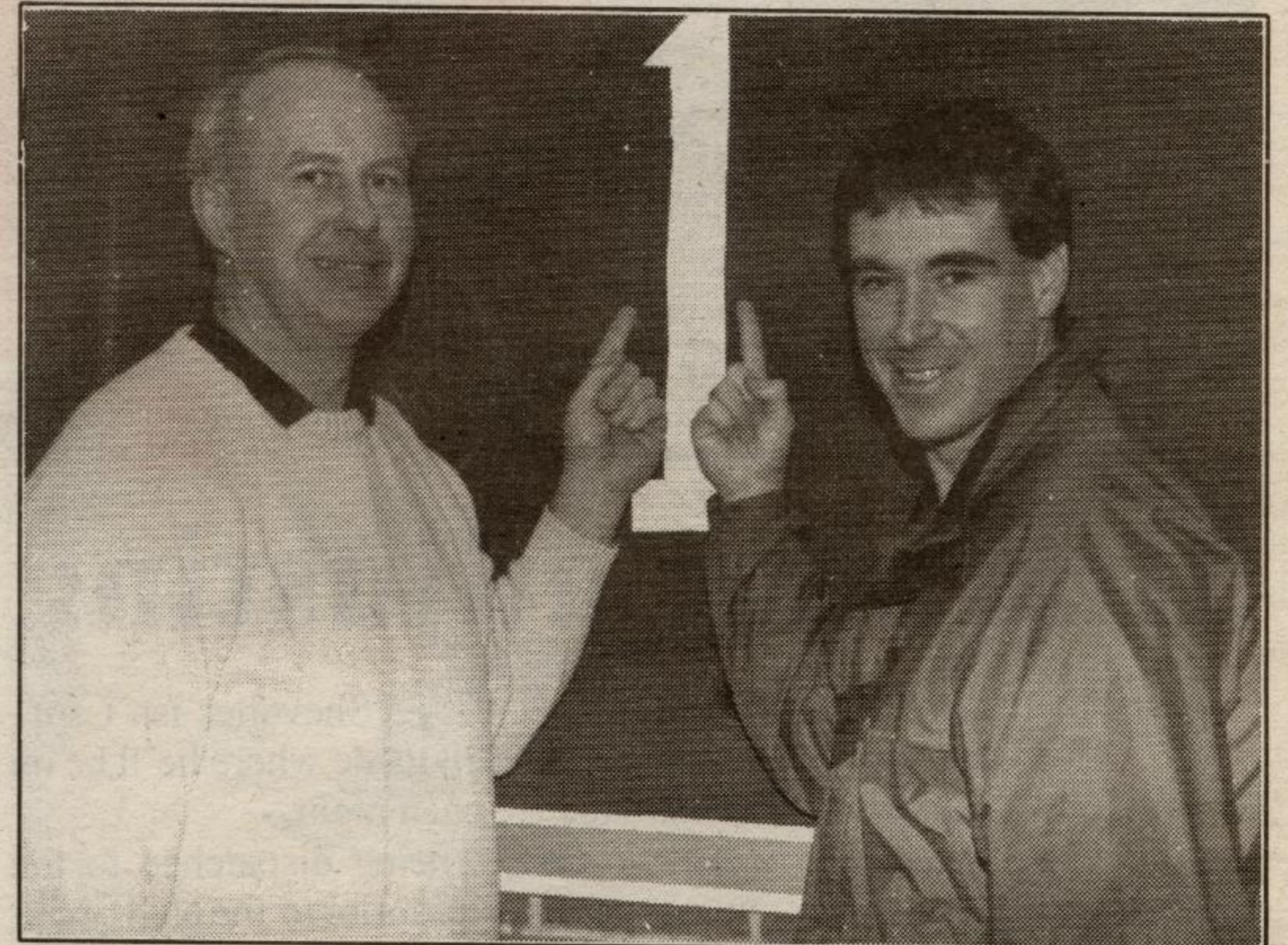
scoreboard after the first quarter or at half, but were able to claw their way back enough to steal a win ... or two ... or three.

In their only two losses of the season, the Mustangs lost by five points to Centennial and to Sam Sherratt by one.

Armstrong says his club threw the ball away in the latter stages against Centennial, enabling their opponents to score eight points for the win. And with only four seconds remaining against Sherratt, the Stangs had the ball roll around the rim and fall out.

The best scenario for the Stangs is to have the opposition throw the ball out of bounds frequently so they regain possession.

"We'll break any team's press," Armstrong claims. "We're a fast-scoring team, but if we don't score in 10 seconds we'll turn it over."



Bob Armstrong, left, and Dave Walker hope their squads can capture North-Halton basketball titles. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Lady Stangs peaking

Almost three months after guiding the McKenzie-Smith boys' volleyball team to the school's first-ever Halton Tier 1 volleyball title, Dave Walker is having visions of more Tier 1 title banners.

However, it's a girls basketball pennant that the third-year coach is looking to add to his portfolio of elementary school championships.

"I'm confident (of a North-Halton title). It's perfect peaking time," says Walker, whose team played a semifinal match at W.I. Dick yesterday (Tuesday) after reeling off five straight victories to finish the regular season at 7-3.

Walker says his players are just now starting to meet his expectations. Early in the season, the talent was there, but a mix of seasoned Mustang veterans didn't click with a crew of inexperienced athletes.

What Walker has now is a relaxed bunch that is executing and finishing their plays, sinking the key shots and cleaning the cement off their feet in the defensive zone.

"We're playing aggressive, clean basketball, and the defence has come a long way. Earlier in the

losing by four, five and six points, and six points, but we're playing with a lot of confidence now. We're making the easy shots.

"We're playing aggressive, clean basketball to go with size under the boards and quickness up top," Walker explains, referring to 6-foot Rebecca Austin, 5-foot-9 Darya Barbir and Lindsay Almand, who stands 5-foot-7.

While Walker is confident, he's certainly not looking ahead to the final against Stewarttown. He realizes he's going to get intense, full-court pressure from Dick, which also finished the year 7-3.

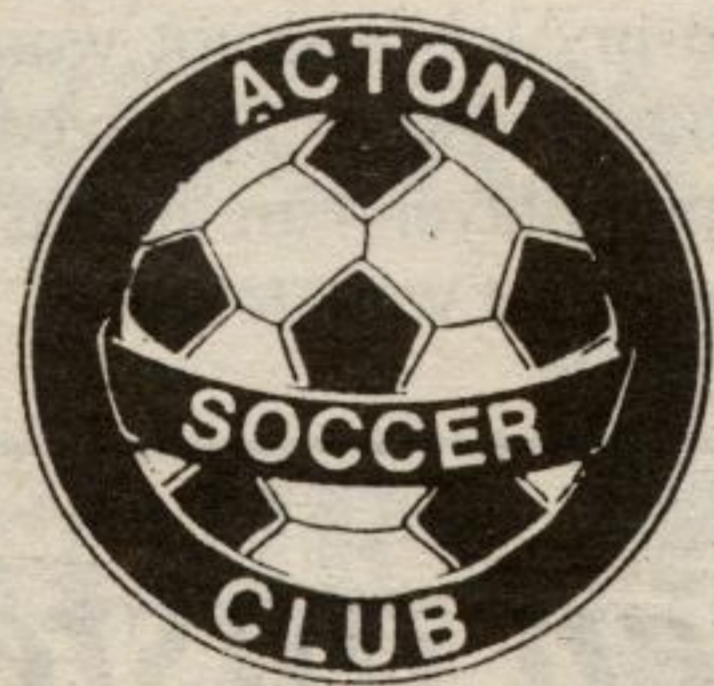
"I expect it and we're ready for it," he assures, adding Austin and Barbir have to play their game in order for the Stangs to advance. "They have the highest scoring potential and they're our two most experienced players."

## Boycott grabs 1st assist

### INDOOR SOCCER RESULTS

At St. Joe's on Sunday: The Blue Hurricanes (boys) 9 — (Chris Dennie three, Mark Chumley, Shawn Dyke and Joe Douglas two each) The Green Grass — 8 (Joel Savard three, Nathan Williamson a pair, Peter Cobb and Ryan Samson); The Blue Hurricanes — 1, The Wild Rebels — 0; The Barnies (adult) — 10, The Wilde Burgans — 10; The Reds — 10, The Hornets — 6.

At McKenzie-Smith on Saturday: The Lightning Bolts (Jr. girls) — 7 (Meighan McIntyre five and Kaitlyn Campbell two) The Blue Bears — 1 (Erin Walsh); The Green Hornets — 11 (Shannon Gray with seven, Nicole and Katie Findlay two each; Emily Boycott gained her first assist) The Blue Bears — 2 (Ashley Stinson two); Francis Beans (Sr. girls) — 6 (Chrissy Periera three, Colleen Thompson, Amanda Payton and Trisha Edwards) The Big Bad Smurfs — 4 (Angie Van Egmond with two, Lisa Campbell, Katie Tuitman and Kerri Harrison).



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9:00am - Noon  
Thursday, March 2nd  
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At The Acton Arena

#### REGISTRATION FEES

1 Player	65.00
2 Players	110.00
3 or more (same family)	150.00
Men and Ladies	80.00

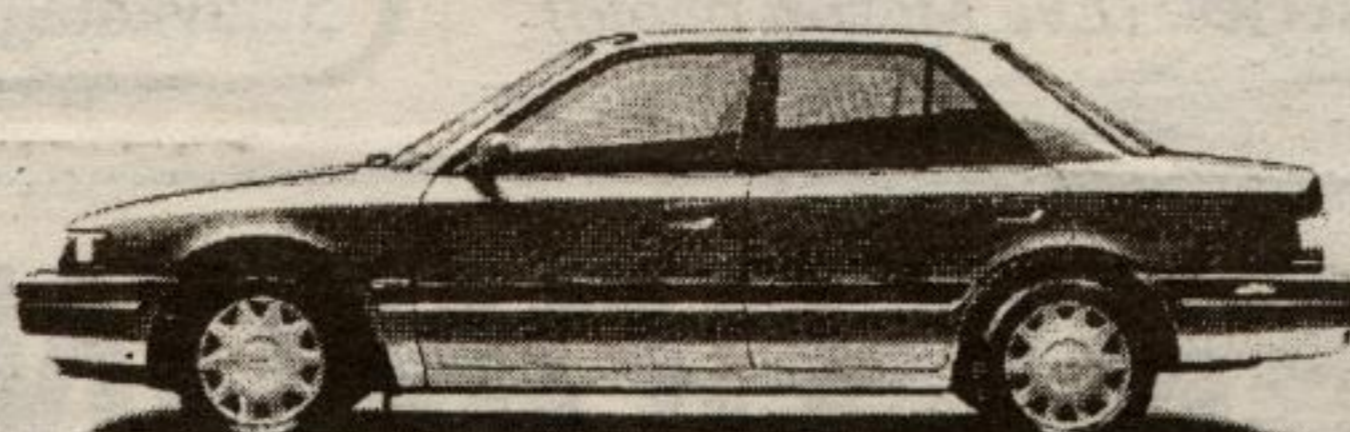
\*Players who try-out and make competitive teams in the U-12, U-14, and U-16 age groups will be charged and additional \$25.00 per player.

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Good grips allow you to position the club accurately and maintain proper alignment and trajectory for effective flight of the ball. Worn or ill-fitting grips can seriously alter contact with the ball.

In future articles I will talk about materials used in today's grips, different styles, sizes and other info.

And as the unknown golfer says, "I play golf in the 80s — if it's any hotter than that, I don't play!"

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