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# Sports

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## SERIOUS SERVE!

Eva Sitarz, 12, gave this serve all she had during tryouts for the St. Joseph's Junior-Intermediate Girls' volleyball team on Thursday in the school gym. (Doug Harrison photo)

## AHS Midget Girls sparkle in pre-season cage tourney

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Yvan Lemieux has good reason to be excited about the prospects of his Midget Redmen Girls' basketball outfit.

Partly because Halton high school opposition has nary a clue of what to expect from the locals, considering the Redmen haven't floored a Midget team in the last 20 years.

But more importantly, was the team's encouraging play in a tourney on the weekend held at Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute.

The Redmen narrowly missed a chance at the title as they nearly pulled out a semifinal victory against Our Lady of Lourdes in only their second day on the court as a whole unit.

After a 2-1 round-robin record against Orangeville, Fergus and the hosts, the Redmen put up a fight against Our Lady of Lourdes until the final two minutes when they were felled by a charged Lourdes team and fatigue.

The result was a seven-point loss. However, the lasting effect is a wave of optimism heading into the Halton season, which is comprised of tournament-style play.

"The girls started getting down in the last two minutes, but they were tired more than anything. They didn't eat all day, because there was less than an hour between games," Lemieux, 24, said on Monday.

The Midget Redmen — comprised mostly of Junior castoffs — held their first practice of the season on Thursday.

Our Lady of Lourdes, who clearly dominated the other six teams on hand, were the only entry to press the Redmen.

"They looked like they had been practicing all summer," Lemieux said. "No team can be that good after two or three weeks of school. I don't care who the coach is."

He was pleased with a defence that brought their play up a notch with each game, but Lemieux maintained his team needs help shooting and rebounding.

"It was very unexpected," Lemieux said of the Redmen's run through the semis. "But it helps when you start the year off like that. It gives the girls a boost and they won't be afraid the next time they play those teams."

Adding to Lemieux's optimism is the fact that only four of the nine Redmen in the lineup on the weekend had ever played a competitive basketball game.

Jenn Schultz, Emma Douglas,

Darya Barbir, Maya Barbir and Melissa Young appear to have the inside track as the starting five.

Lemieux, who is an engineer subcontracting in south and southwestern Ontario, coached for two years at Heritage Catholic Secondary School and St. Dennis Public School last year in Sudbury.

He said he loves working with kids and will push the Midgets to the limit, but not excessively. Lemieux's first priority is to sharpen the team's defence and shooting skills.

Defensively, breaking presses, keeping out of the key and playing man-to-man will be the focus before the first tourney. Lemieux said zone defence "isn't basketball" so it won't be a part of any Redmen game plan.

"Getting confidence is the first thing," he suggested. "They have to know they can do it, and they can't be afraid. If they think about it, they won't be able to do it."

## Hudson impresses at Leafs' camp

Rockwood's Mike Hudson is making a strong case for the fourth-line centre's job in his first training camp as a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The 28-year-old centre-left winger, who signed a one-year, two-way contract with the Buds

on Aug. 28, finished third in training camp scoring with a goal and seven assists after Sunday's fifth and final scrimmage of the Maple Leafs' training camp.

Only Mats Sundin and Bill Berg finished ahead of Hudson.

## Kilmer shines in setter's role

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Going four-deep on the depth chart for a primary setter was not how Ken Ellis envisioned his first look-see at his Acton Junior Redmen Boys' volleyball team before opening the season in Georgetown next Wednesday.

But that's what the 15-year volleyball coach was dealt at an invitational tourney at Georgetown on Saturday. Call it an exhibition primer for the 1995 Halton high school season.

First-year Junior Glenn Kilmer would like to consider it his audition for the primary setter's job on team full of returning Juniors and graduating players from last year's Halton-champion Midget outfit.

However, with heady competition from the likes of returning setters Derrick McIntyre, Mike Morrow and Bob Brooks, it's unlikely Kilmer will begin the year

as a member of the starting six. But a repeat performance could force Ellis to shuffle the deck after the first two league games.

"He was responsible for all the setting, and it was really tough on him, but he rose to the occasion and didn't gripe about all the work," said a pleased Ellis on Monday. "I see a lot of potential with him in the coming years. He's tall and has good ball sense."

Kilmer was pressed into action immediately after McIntyre (hockey commitment), Morrow (work commitment) and Brooks, who didn't arrive until 11:30 am, were deemed unavailable.

Despite a 4-6 tourney mark, Ellis was satisfied with his team's effort and pointed to four games (two 17-15 losses and a pair of narrow defeats to O.T.) that he feels could easily have been reversed for an 8-2 showing.

"We weren't embarrassed by

any team," Ellis noted. "We can certainly be competitive with everybody (in Halton). I'm anxious now, since we have a full team (12) and a system down."

On the day, the Redmen swept Oakville's White Oaks 2-0 (15-4, 15-8), split with Iroquois Ridge (15-17, 15-4) and Georgetown (9-15, 15-13) and were blanked by Nelson (9-15, 15-17) and Oakville-Trafalgar (13-15, 12-15).

Ellis, who will be assisted by Senior player Trevor Malloy, pointed to the O.T. series as a character builder for his club. His team began play against the Red Devils immediately after a heart-breaking loss to Nelson, but turned in two sterling performances.

Before the season opens, Ellis wants the team to improve in three areas: free ball techniques (running off the net when they face the ball); not getting in the setter's way and coverage on the attack.



SAFE! Pee wee Girls' Danielle Rockola beats the throw caught by Stephen Bould in a Rockwood-Eramosa Minor Baseball Fun Day softball match at Lloyd Dyer Park on Sunday. (Eve Martin photo)