



LAKER HOPEFUL: Ani Byrne, 12, keeps her eye on the ball during a serving drill at a recent tryout for the St. Joseph's Junior-Intermediate Lady Lakers' volleyball squad. (Doug Harrison photo)

Redmen Senior cagers add speed

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Though the suspense of grabbing that first win following a winless '94 season won't rival that of the York Yeomen football squad's recently halted 47-game dry spell, the Senior Redmen Girls' basketball squad will have something to look toward if or when it occurs.

Like the prospect of developing a winning streak, the possibility of passing on the last-place label and a date at Pizza Hut with their coach, Anne Andrews, who has vowed to foot the bill on that special day.

What happens if the Redmen take the whole cake, as in the league title?

"I told them 'we'll think of something,' " Andrews said on Monday. "We're going to take it one step at a time."

Or maybe one stride at a time.

The Redmen will be quicker this year and also welcome back

some players who weren't part of last year's unit, because they valued cigarettes over athletics by breaking the team-enforced no-smoking rule.

"All of the girls want to play. They don't think they can't win. I know they can win, too," revealed Anne Andrews, who will carry 13 players in this, her 22nd year coaching at Acton High. "It will be a matter of playing as a team."

As well, there's more height through the Redmen in the lineup this season, along with more playing experience, bolstered by the return of '93 members Shelley Hand, Krista Keir and Jenny Goy. In addition, Janisse Bailey and Stacey Moore return to the hardwood for the '95 campaign.

Making the jump from Junior are Denise Katsilieris and Shondra Stroud. And Melissa Ford is back after cutting a thumb last year. Shari Patenaude, Jackie Jahn,

Janey McCallum, Janice Coxe and Stacey West are the other Redmen.

"They seem to be good together, knowing who and who can't play with certain teammates," said Andrews, whose club opens the Halton high school season at St. Ignatius of Loyola in Oakville next Wednesday.

Andrews has been working on decision drills with her team. Last year, the locals had a tendency to put their heads down and dribble the ball instead of pausing and passing the ball up court for better positioning.

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The Boston fern has few natural enemies, however it can acquire Mealybugs or Scales. Both of these insects remove the plant's nutrients. Infested plants have low vigour, poor colour and eventually drop many leaflets. They can be controlled with appropriate insecticidal sprays or by cutting the fronds off close to the soil line, and then spraying the stubble with insecticide and allowing the fronds to grow back again.

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Stang grads 'could surprise' at AHS

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

If the Acton High Redmen Junior Girls' basketball team can sink baskets this year as quickly as they'll be moving down the court, many observers will soon forget a dreadful 1994.

"We're going to be faster," vowed coach Anne Andrews on Monday, "and there's a lot of talent here."

One change Andrews hopes occurs sooner rather than later is the timing of the team's first win. Last year, the Redmen waited until the last game of the Halton high school season before snatching their lone win from lowly Iroquois Ridge for a 1-8 mark.

"There are a lot of good teams out there," Andrews cautioned. "This is a triple-A league."

The Redmen appear to have a good mix of second-year Juniors and rookies to the high school ranks.

Returning from last year are starters Eleni Halis, Kelly Holmes, Courtney Norman and Stefanie Adams, along with Guilianna Scappin.

But what has Andrews clamouring for the first tip-off is the anticipated performances of rookies Steph McKay, Kristen Finley, Melissa Young and Jen Schultz, who for the last three years, were part of a very strong program at McKenzie-Smith.

"This is one year when you're starting to notice (the talent from a

feeder school)," Andrews stated. "Their raw skills seem to be strong. I think they'll contribute quite a bit. A couple certainly could. They could surprise some people."

Andrews said the challenge for herself and the assistant coaches, Lyn McLaren and Senior player Shari Patenaude, will be having the kids play with confidence.

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