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Jr. Redmen shock Rebels

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Although Thursday's win at Georgetown High was merely an exhibition contest, the expression of Acton Redmen Junior Girls' basketball coach Anne Andrews suggested otherwise.

Her beaming smile from the 42-30 verdict might have led one to believe the championship trophy was making its way to Acton, but deservedly so it was a win against their rivals and a sign of optimism for the coming season.

"I think it's an indication of things to come," Andrews revealed. "It was exciting for the parents watching and for the people who remembered Acton winning games against Georgetown."

Added boys' phys-ed head Bruce Andrews: "I saw some good athletic ability. I saw the girls do things they never did last year."

The key was the Redmen establishing an early lead on the road and maintaining the margin with a balanced scoring attack – seven players recorded points.

Andrews continued to be impressed with rookies Jenn Schultz, Steph McKay, Rebecca Austin and Kristen Finley.

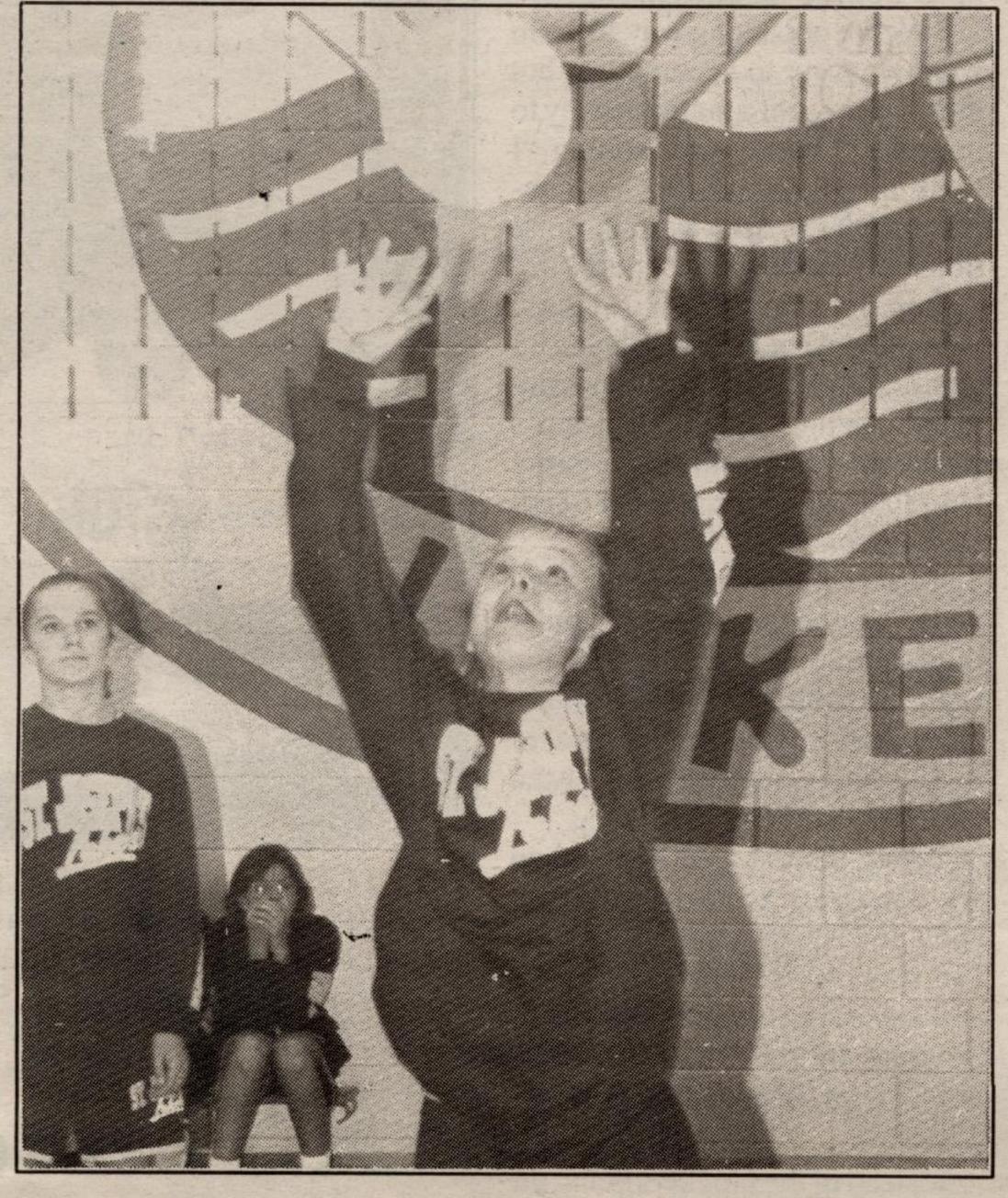
"They showed strong raw skills.
They have speed and Rebecca
(Austin) underneath the basket is
a definite asset," Andrews offered.

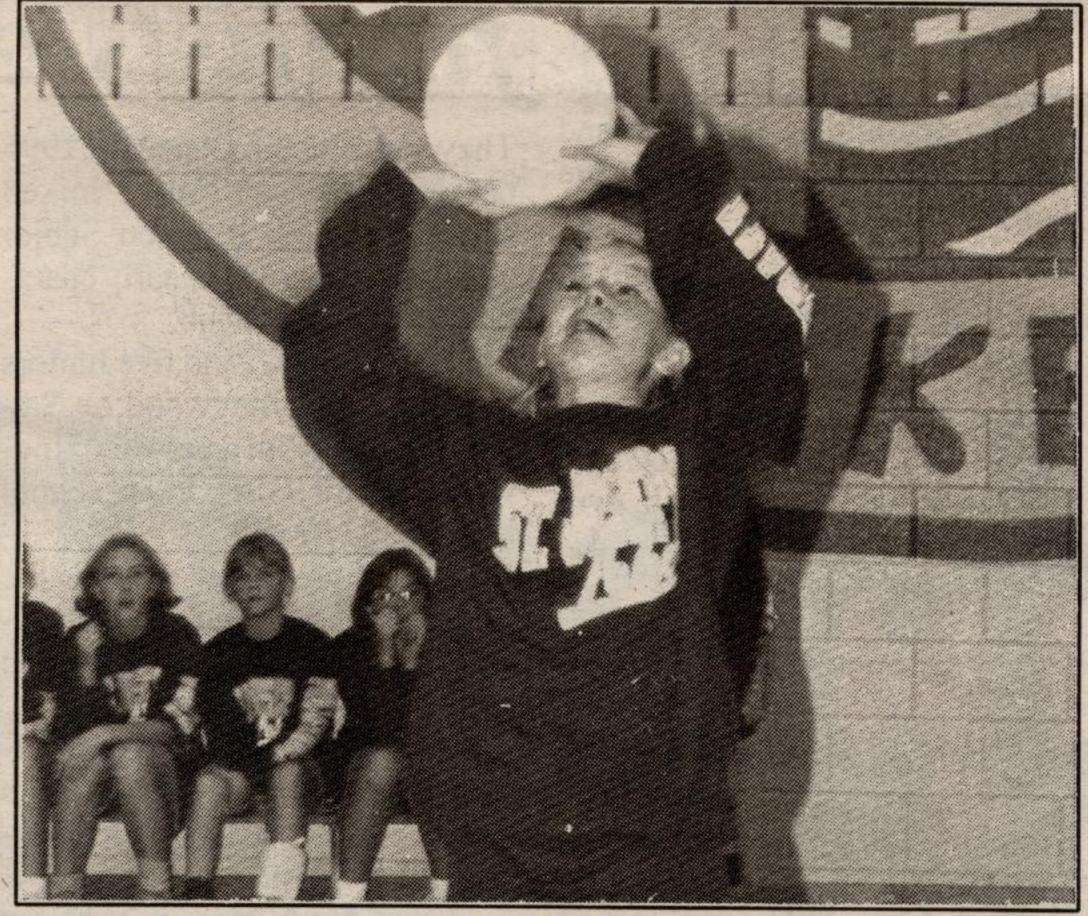
"Georgetown sure didn't show what they have and we didn't show what we have."

Acton held quarter leads of 10-8, 24-16 and 32-22.

Kelly Holmes led the Redmen with 16 points. Austin and McKay each poured in six, while Finley, Eleni Halis and Courtney Norman had four apiece. Stefanie Adams counted a basket.

The Redmen open the season today (Wednesday) at Loyola.





READY ... SET! St Joe's Lady Lakers volleyball player Eva Sitarz displays her setting prowess in last Wednesday's sweep of Our Lady of Victory in the St. Joseph's gym. (Doug Harrison photos)

Lady Lakers start v-ball season at 2-0

BY DOUG HARRISON
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The old adage reads, "practice makes perfect."

Players on the St. Joseph's Lakers Girls' Volleyball team altered it somewhat as their one practice before the 1995 separate school season got under way last week produced two victories.

If this is any indication, more practice may very well spell a perfect season for the Lady Lakers.

After the Lakers knocked off Sacre Coeur last Tuesday, players on both the Lakers and Our Lady of Victory Wolverines looked unfamiliar with each other in the St. Joseph's gym the next day.

Not unlike other volleyball clubs beginning a new season, both clubs stumbled to grasp the basics at the outset. Players lifted the ball, tried – without success – to get away with the double hits, watched as balls fell between them and failed to call off each other for possession.

But in the end it didn't matter as much to the Lakers who were on the top ends of a thrilling 16-14 and 15-8 victories.

"I thought the girls' performance was outstanding since we only had one practice before the game," Barb Spiak, who is coaching along with Brenda Cosulich, commented after the game. "I think we have a good team this year. We just have to have more court time."

Both clubs traded possessions in Game 1 with neither wanting to plant themselves for a long stretch at the service line.

After a time-out late in the match with the Wolverines up 14-13, Laker Eva Sitarz reeled off three straight serves – the last nearly grazing the net – for the victory.

That momentum carried into Game 2, where the Lakers grabbed the edge with harder serving, superior net play and a more organized defence.

Spiak singled out Mary Krasnay in the first game for her "textbook block" that turned the game in the Lakers favour and the setting of Jamie Campbell in Game 2.

Spiak was encouraged with her players' ability to set up their attack with three hits.

"The skills at this level are not as refined as when they play in high school, so they have to help each other and not get down on themselves," Spiak explained, adding the Lakers will work on spiking, along with back bumping and volleying for games this week at Holy Rosary and Holy Cross.

Puck & Ball event profits

The fifth annual Puck and Ball tourney on the weekend at Prospect Park produced a pair of local winners.

Four Seasons dumped a Georgetown squad 7-4 and Stan Rhynold's Old Pics defeated Hillsburgh 5-3.

Each of the 16 teams were guaranteed two ice hockey games and three ball games.

"It was a bit slower this year in spots," reports organizer Scott Withers, adding a profit was made. "The weather had something to do with it."

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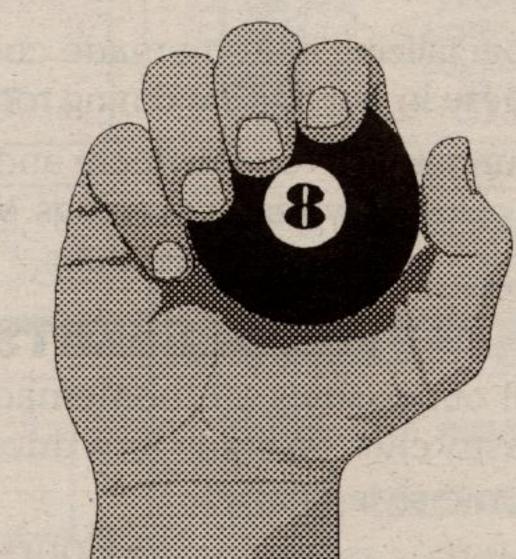
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