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CHAMPS! These Acton Junior Redmen Boys' basketball players showed off the medals they were given after defeating the Georgetown Rebels 52-47 in the consolation final of Saturday's Redmen Invitational tournament at Acton High. Front row, from left: Brad Cutler, Richie Dalziel, Robert Turpin, David Ham and André Savard. Back row: coach Paul Nolan, Glenn Kilmer, Todd Schonnop, Adam King, Chris Young, Jamie Birrell, Rob Huisman and coach Ron Birrell. (Anne Andrews photo)

Jr. Redmen hit stride, take consolation final

Acton High's Junior Redmen Boys took the consolation championship at their home tournament Saturday, defeating the Georgetown Rebels 52-47.

Acton's win in the final game was impressive, especially since their opponents defeated them by 15 points in the '95 season-opener.

The Milton Mustangs, who beat the Redmen in the tournament's opening game, won the overall championship, defeating Our Lady of Lourdes (Guelph) in the final.

The tip-off to the 1995 Redmen Invitational saw a sluggish home side score just eight first-half points against Milton, who came out with all guns firing. It was a tired-looking host team that entered the dressing room at the half, trailing 24-8.

The Redmen came back to actually win the second half by a 19-18 count, but it was too little, too late; the final score favoured the Mustangs, 42-27.

"Our starters just weren't prepared for this game," commented Acton coach Paul Nolan. "We scored just one point in the second quarter, which is unbelievable."

"The good news was that our non-starters played really well. We had an opportunity to use our entire bench, and these guys really gave us a lift in the second half."

Forward Jamie Birrell played a solid game for Acton, scoring 12. In their second game, Acton faced Burlington's Lord Elgin.

The Redmen got off to a quick start and never looked back against Elgin. The locals led 45-26 at the half, after picking up an amazing 31 points in the second quarter. Guards Chris Young and Dave Ham had the crowd on its feet, hitting seven three-point shots in the second frame alone.

Acton High prevailed 69-53. "Dave and Chris were putting on a three-point show," said coach Ron Birrell after the game. "The team's confidence was restored by this game and the players brought their intensity and desire to win up to a new level."

Young fired a season-high 22 points for Acton, while Ham had 14. Birrell picked up 13, with five of those points coming from the foul line. Other scorers were Rob Turpin (8), Rob Huisman (6) and Derrick McIntyre with five.

In the consolation final, Acton came out with a strong first quarter and played tight defence the rest of the way, to defeat their Georgetown rivals 52-47.

Acton worked hard to build up a 15-6 lead at the end of the opening frame, and going into the half the locals were ahead 25-18.

"We've tended to have some problems in the third quarter of games, so it was a big factor when we beat them 14-13 in the third quarter," explained Nolan.

By the fourth quarter, Georgetown began forcing changes of possession by fouling Redmen ball-handlers, however the Acton players showed their determination by hitting eight of 12 foul shots when the game was on the line.

Ham led all Redmen with 16 points in the final. Huisman and Young, who fought off a frequent double-team defence, each picked up 11 points and Turpin dropped in 9. Todd Schonnop continued his improvement with two clutch foul shots in the final quarter.

Commented Birrell: "The team played the game they were capable of playing against Georgetown. They won by demonstrating excellent basketball skills."

Acton hosts holiday hockey tourney

The Acton Minor Hockey executive has decided to expand this year's Christmas hockey tourney to include Atom 2 and Peewee 1 squads along with Novice 1 and Atom 1 outfits.

Tournament director George Artem says the decision was made because one-day tourneys are becoming popular as well as to add more teams and age groups.

"It's going to be tough," he cautions. "We're a 'B' centre inviting those types of teams from outside our (Tri-County) league. It will be a test to see where we stand."

The event, to run Dec. 27 (Novice) through 30 (Peewee), will attract such teams as Georgetown, Milton, Chinguacousy, Kitchener, Richmond Hill, Port Perry, Mount

Forest and Creemore.

All Acton teams - Novice 1 (Nellis Construction), Atom 1 (Rotary Club), Atom 2 (Proplastex) and Peewee 1 (Galvcast) will start

each day with the 7:30 am game.

All consolation and championship games, except for Peewee, will run at 4:30 pm and 6 pm. The Peewee is set for 5:15 and 6:30.

Girls bowling squad off to Ont. finals

The Youth Bowling Council Girls team of Kayla Wagg, Jennifer McBean and Angie Ahearn is off to the Provincial finals in London on Feb. 4 after winning the Bantam-Junior-Senior combo bowling tourney in

Orangeville on the weekend.

Over three games, they bowled 279 pins over their average.

The Boys team of Jonathon Uiterwyk, Mark Cripps and Ean Newell placed third, rolling 184 pins over average.

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