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Sports

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Junior Redmen see winning streak snapped

Acton High School's Junior Boys Volleyball team had a scare the other night, but in the end prevailed to keep their season winning streak alive.

In the Acton gym the Juniors hosted Burlington Central with whom they were tied in the undefeated ranks. Acton fell behind quickly in all three matches, but in Hollywood script style, they came from behind when it counted to get the win.

Acton claimed the first game 15-11, while Burlington got the second 15-11.

The Redmen knew they had their work cut out for them in the third and deciding match.

Down at one point by an 8-1 score, the Acton squad scrapped their way to a 15-12 victory.

Coach Ken Ellis said that during the timeout called at the 8-1 score, he reminded his charges of their ability to play as a team and not as individuals.

"I told them that they knew what had to be done and only they, playing as a team, could do it," he said.

"We dug ourselves into a big hole in each of the games and put undue pressure on all players to bail the team out."

The Redmen spotted their visitors at one point a 10-point lead.

Outstanding play was received from key middle blocker Jeff Birrell who played an excellent two-way game.

Ellis said he felt the hero of the day was setter Any

Kilmer who spoke up and rallied the Acton forces many times as well as personally serving a number of rallies which ended in Acton points.

Acton's four game winning streak came to an end on Wednesday.

The local squad was pounded by their Drury rivals losing 15-2 and 15-7 before winning the last match 15-7.

The Redmen seemed to come out really flat from the opening whistle as their service reception stumbled.

Coach Ellis said that the entire offensive and defensive system of his team seemed to break down with erratic passing and tentative hitting as well as inadequate covering on attack and on defense.

"Let's hope this is a wake-up call," said the coach.

"We don't need to look for scapegoats for our poor showing. Each of the players has to concentrate on what he can do best, execute it, and then encourage his mates."

The coach pointed out that a prime indicator of an overall breakdown was shown in an attempted comeback in the second game.

"On four straight service rotations, we either hit the net, or served out of court. You can't do that against a team like Drury and hope to survive."



PROUD OWNERS! Gord and Darlene Labombard are the new owners of Acton Bowling Lanes. The couple bought the bowling alley from former owner Dave Manes after two years of managing it. (Eve Martin photo)

Labombards purchase Acton Lanes

BY KAREN WETMORE
The Acton Tanner

After two years of managing Acton Bowling Lanes, Darlene and Gord Labombard have purchased the business from former owner Dave Manes.

"The bowling alley's been a dream for both Gord and I and now the dream's finally a reality," said Darlene of the Sept. 1 buyout.

With the responsibility of owning the business, the Labombards have added some new programs and leagues.

The Monday night Cee Jays mixed league have incorporated six Special Olympian bowlers into the group. Darlene says she's spent six months working on this integration, "so it's been a long haul, but it's working out really, really well."

Acton Lanes is the only bowling alley in Halton Region to integrate Special Olympians but, because of the stairs leading up to the alley, no wheelchair athletes can attend. Six volunteers are currently going through a screening process to help out the bowlers, who are driven in from Milton.

Darlene, who has volunteered with Special Olympics before, says these bowlers don't demand a lot of time.

"The reason I wanted to do this was because the smallest thing you do means the most to them," she said.

Other new leagues for this fall which still have space available include:

- Wednesday afternoon ladies' league - A social, non-competitive league. Bowl three games for \$5.
- Rockwood league every Sunday evening at 8 pm - A mixed, non-competitive league.
- Smurf bowling has added a new time - Saturday mornings at 9 am for bowlers aged 2-4.
- Peewee/Bantam (5-7 years/8-10 years) has added a Tuesday 4 pm shift.
- Junior/Senior (11-13 years/14-18 years) has added a Friday 4 pm shift.

Acton Lanes will again be hosting its popular "Company Challenge" tournaments between local businesses as well as a Halloween bowling night. Darlene and Gord are very active in the community as well, with displays at the Leathertown Festival and the Fall Fair this year and a float planned for the Santa Claus parade. Being involved is a way of saying "thank you" to Actonites.

"The people in Acton have really been good to us and have accepted us."

For more details on bowling leagues, call Darlene at 853-0470.

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