



Sports

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BOOK YOUR SPACE EARLY for FALL REGISTRATION AUGUST 24, 2000 853-0051



NICE SAVE: Acton's Ben Ventan made this save as his team, the Rockwood Rockets of the Acton Soccer Club, dropped a 7-4 game to visiting Grand Valley on Saturday at Rockmosa. - Frances Niblock photo

Soccer Club Report

GIRLS Under-15

Beth Clayton had a pair of goals as Bev Gray Designs battled to a 2-2 tie in a home game against Puslinch last Thursday. Tina Parent and Denise Barends played well in midfield and Rena Dunn was sharp on forward.

Under-11

Kinette Club of Acton downed Empress Communications 5-2 at MSB last

Thursday. Jessica Blazenko had a pair of goals and Victoria Edwards, Andrea Legere and Veronica Edwards had singles for Kinettes. Melissa Rowley and Veronica Edwards shared net-minding duties. Jessica Dunn scored both Empress goals and goalie Joanie Weaver made some great stops. Great hustle by Candace Worfolk in midfield and good playing making by Courtney Moddle.

Chantal Sequin put in a solid defensive effort.

BOYS Under-13

Kyle Bodi scored four goals and Brendon Pezzack had a pair as short-handed Acton Pharmacy tied HEADS 6-6 at home last Thursday. Chris Payne and Thomas Poullos were sharp in net. Anthony Luna and Darren Pezzack played hard and smart.

Both Davin Pole, Chad Peacock and Brandon Ceccotti had doubles as Halton Hills Furniture downed HAEDS III 8-5 in a recent home game. Zach Woolford and Todd Speakman had singles. Assists went to Woolford (2), Speakman, Ceccotti and Brad Ethier.

Ben DeKleer scored three goals as Acton Cleaners blanked Halton Hills Furniture 8-0 last Thursday. Eric Corman had a pair and Nigel Williams, Steven Westerveld and David Frogett had singles.



MAKING THE STOP: Acton Building Contractors players got in a little practice while they waited for the rest of their teammates. Maggie Petrushevsky photo.

Acton teen just misses spot on national team

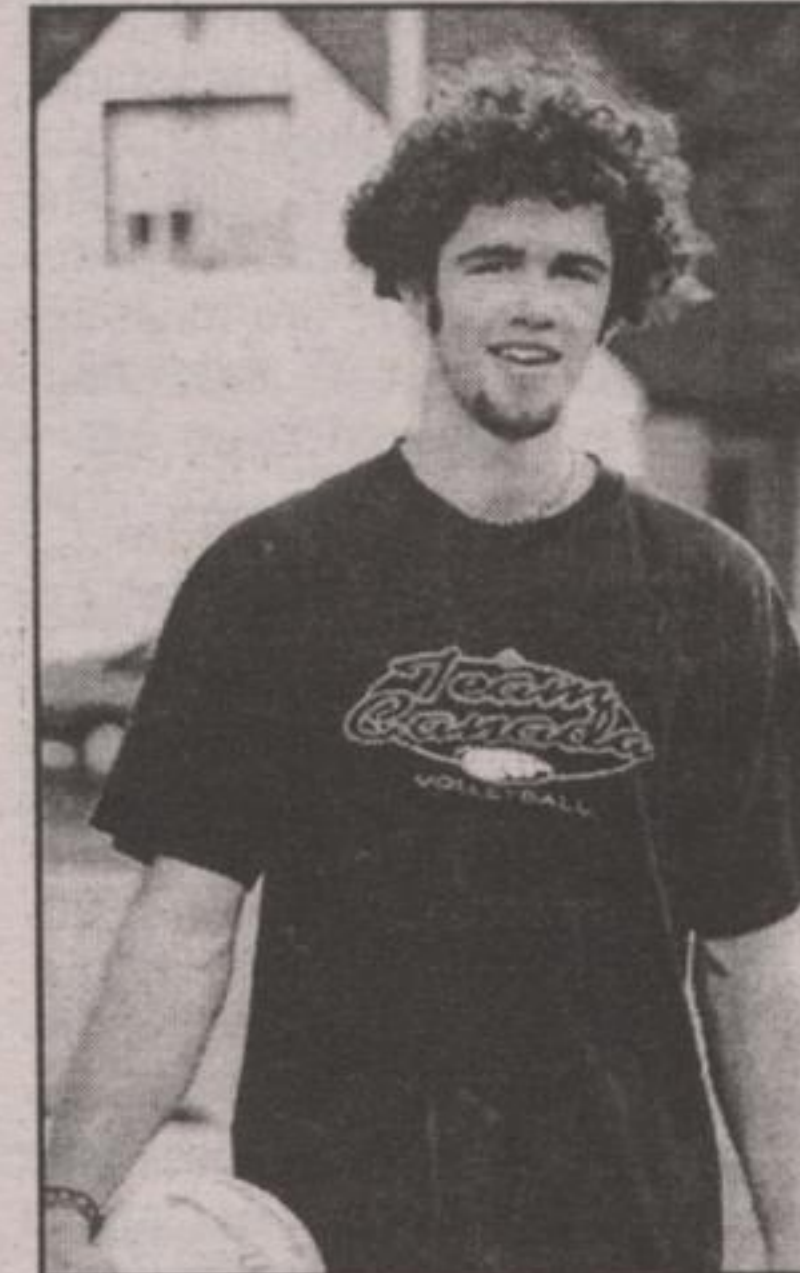
The sting of just missing the cut for Canada's national junior volleyball team was eased a little for Acton's Jeff Birrell, 19, because he impressed Team Canada's coaching and scouting staff enough to be invited back next year.

Birrell, a rangy 6'6"er, who plays right side, was the 13th and last to be cut as the top 24 male junior volleyball players in Canada vied for a spot on the national team at tryouts late last month in Montreal.

"They want to see me again," Birrell said recently, adding coaching staff said he was the most talked about player and the hardest cut, and called him a raw player with a lot of potential.

Understandably disappointed, Birrell said halfway through the tryout weekend he told himself he wouldn't be heartbroken if he didn't make the team.

"It kinds of stings a bit knowing that I didn't make it, but at the same time I've got my summer back, know where I need to be for tryouts next year and can work at the Triple Block volleyball camp where I first started," Birrell said.



Jeff Birrell

said adding he had really good practices and had fun.

"It became quite an honour as I looked around and saw the top players from every province. Just knowing I was there with them - that I was able to play with the best and didn't feel that I didn't belong there was a neat experience," Birrell said.

Birrell began playing volleyball, a game he loved from the start, in Grade 5, and being part of the all-Halton champion McKenzie-Smith Mustangs when he was in Grade 8 remains a career high (he still wears the champion shirt even though its old and frayed and no longer fits).

A repeat MVP on Acton elementary and secondary school teams, Birrell was re-

cruited by three Ontario Volleyball Association teams during the summer between Grade 9 and 10 when he also attended the Triple Block camp in Georgetown and found a mentor, coach Bob McKay.

"He taught me how to play and have fun in life on the court and his attitude is one I try to have - he's such a mentor for me," Birrell said, adding his family and friends also deserve a lot of thanks for helping him.

That same year he was recruited by three Ontario Volleyball Association Clubs and joined the Bronte Beach Volleyball Club as a midget. Last year, Birrell continued to win MVP awards with the Bronte Beach junior team which finished second in Ontario and sixth in Canada. Birrell was invited to tryout for the provincial team last year, but instead worked at a summer camp for diabetic children.

At the provincial championships this spring Birrell caught the eye of the national team coaching staff and scouts for a number of universities and colleges.

Birrell finds the interest from the universities and colleges both "intimidating and flattering" and plans to attend one semester of high school in Georgetown to improve several OAC marks, as he weighs his options.

Minor Ball

GRASSHOPPER

Team II's Carter Ebbinge was a major factor in a recent game with Team I with some sharp plays at first. Paul Kutasienski smacked a double into left field and Jacob Box found the same hole for a single. Elora Bishop had a hot bat for Team I with a nice double. Jonathan Porty's hit to short brought Elora home for the first run of the game. Scott Garvie played well covering third and keeping runners out of scoring position.

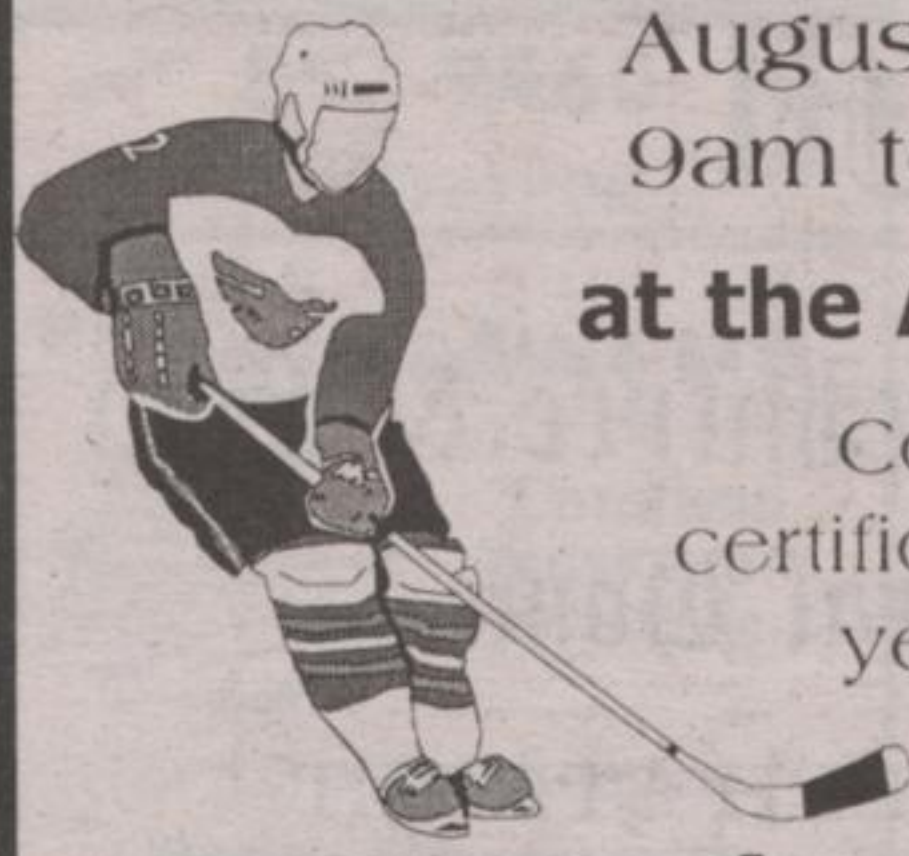
Acton House League Hockey Association

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