

# Rebels bring Redmen's roller-coaster week to a crashing halt

It was a week of highs and lows for the Acton Redmen junior volleyball squad.

After getting some sweet revenge in picking up its second tournament victory of the season, the Redmen suffered a pair of losses, the second of which ended their hopes of a Halton championship.

The Georgetown District High School Rebels brought Acton's season to an end on Wednesday, upsetting the Redmen 15-8, 9-15, 15-11 in first-round playoff action. Acton began the week 6-1, but a season-ending loss on Monday took its toll. In a game to determine the regular season title, Acton took a 13-3 lead in the opener against Nelson. However, Nelson rallied for a 16-14 win and carried that momentum to take the second game.

The loss cost Acton a first-round bye and pitted them against their Halton Hills rivals. Acton coach Ken Ellis said the team never really recovered from Monday's defeat.

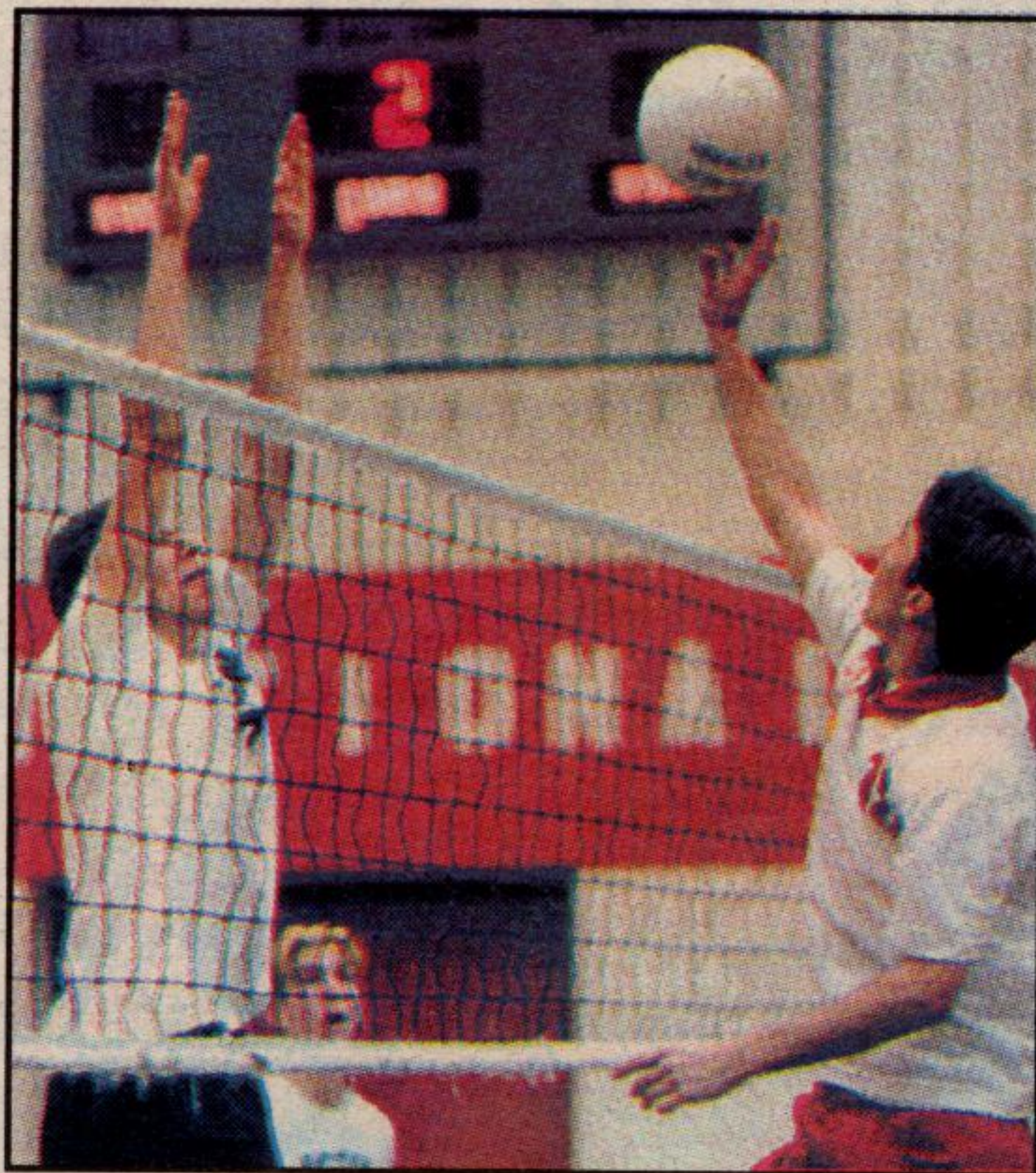
"We seemed to have been really deflated following the heartbreaking loss to Nelson," Ellis said. "Somehow the loss of that first game took the momentum out of our team."

The Redmen defeated E.C. Drury, the tournament host and the only team to beat Acton in league play to that point, in the final. Drury was also responsible for knocking the Redmen out of the Halton Secondary School Athletic Association playoffs last season.

The final was a classic showdown between the two rivals. The Redmen took the opening game but Drury fought back to even the match. With the match tied at a game apiece, the

Redmen trailed 11-4 in the deciding game. However, they rallied to take 11 of the next 12 points to claim the championship. Acton's Andre Savard was named tournament MVP.

"We really seem to get pumped up for games against Drury," said Acton coach Ken Ellis. "Anytime we can take them in a tournament like



Acton's Fraser Hewitt goes up for the block as a Nelson player tries to tip it past him in Monday's junior volleyball matchup. Nelson rallied from a 13-3 deficit for a 16-14 win in the opener. It went on to defeat the Redmen in the second game. Photo by Ted Brown

this, it's particularly sweet."

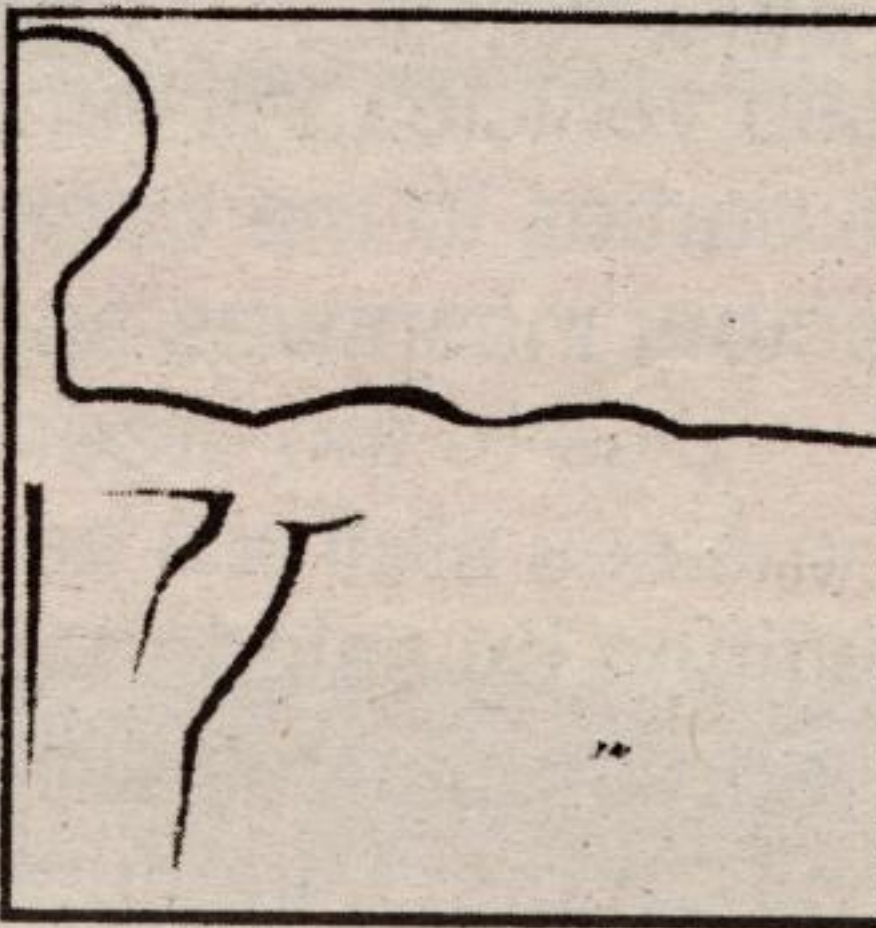
The Redmen had to overcome adversity, having lost one of their key players, Jeff Birrell, to injury and being without another key power hitter for the final. Acton lost only one of six games in the round robin and then defeated Humberview and Mount Carmel in the playoffs.

GDHS and Acton will square off tomorrow (Monday) in the HSSAA senior volleyball playoffs.

Acton, which finished fifth with a 3-5 record, upset fourth place Bishop Reding on Wednesday. After dropping the opening game 15-4, Acton rallied to win the next two 15-12, 15-9 and advance to the second playoff round.

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