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Redmen hold off Lord Elgin to reach volleyball semifinals

Despite having defeated Lord Elgin in two straight games two weeks ago, Acton Redmen junior boys volleyball coach Lori Herteis wasn't about to take anything for granted.

"It's so unpredictable," Herteis said. "We've had a lot of close games this year and anyone can beat any team."

Acton, which finished the season 4-4, found out how unpredictable things can be as they advanced to the semifinals on Thursday. Acton rallied for a 27-25 victory in the first game then had to hold off a Lord Elgin comeback for a 25-22 win to seal the match.

The Redmen found themselves in an early 7-2 hole against Lord Elgin. Though they were having trouble establishing their own offence, they managed to chip away at the lead because of their strong defensive play.

After building its early lead, Lord Elgin was never able to score more than a single point off service. Acton put together a five-point run to for a 20-18 advantage but Lord Elgin regained the lead and was serving for the win (24-23) before the Redmen came back to tie and then win the game.

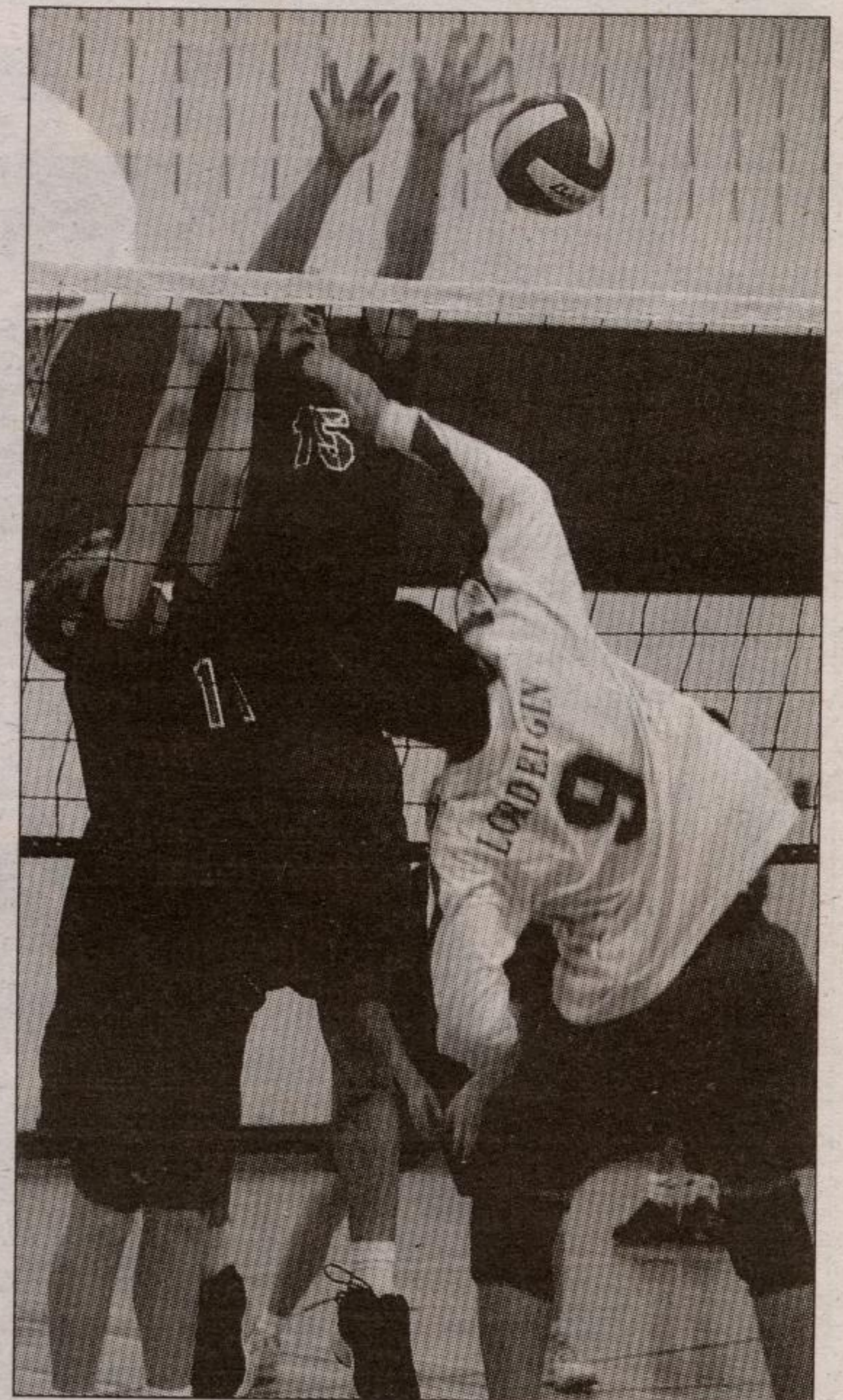
Game two saw Acton jump out to an early 13-4 lead as their attack came together.

"It took us a little while to get the playoff jitters out of the way," said Herteis.

Though Lord Elgin closed the gap, Acton looked to be in control at 22-16. However, Lord Elgin refused to give in and scored four points while facing match point before Acton finally prevailed.

"Over the course of the year they've worked hard in practice," Herteis said. "They've had good passing which leads to a strong attack and their positioning defensively—they've worked on coverage a lot."

Acton hoped to have both those elements working for them heading into



Ryan Dunlop (15) and Josh Locke leap to block a Lord Elgin opponent in Thursday's junior boys volleyball game. Acton scored a 27-25, 25-22 victory in the opening round playoff game to advance to the Halton semifinals. Acton was scheduled to face Nelson on Tuesday.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Tuesday's Halton semifinal against Nelson. Results were not available at press time.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Novice Twisters shaded 2-1 by Durham

Despite outplaying their opponents, the Halton Hills Sunrise Acres Novice Twisters were edged 2-1 by Durham. Caitlin Dunsmore had the lone Twister goal.

Mississauga downed the Twisters 5-1 in their previous game. Erica Hack scored for Halton Hills, assisted by Shauna Patterson and Virginia Switzer.



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