

# Raiders' unbeaten streak hits six games

Continued from pg. 17 and the infirmary a little less crowded, the Raiders can start taking a run at the West Conference leaders.

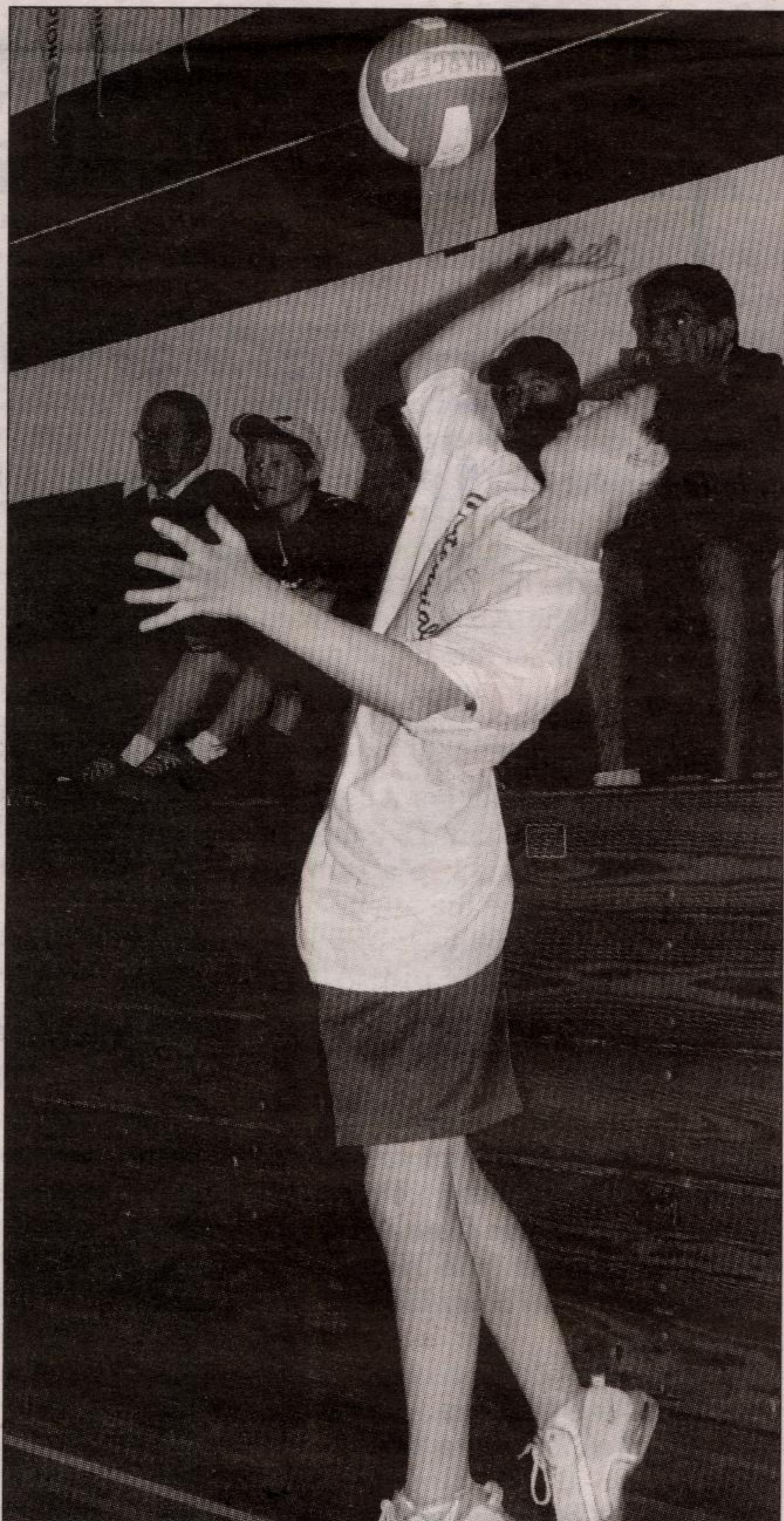
Their current six-game unbeaten streak (4-0-2) has vaulted them into third behind Hamilton and Burlington. And things should only get better with a healthy lineup and a chance for new coach Bill Purcell to work with players on what he's seen in games in the 12 days since the team's last practice.

"It's been difficult at times," Remenda said. "He's explained things on the board and we've picked up a lot of the stuff but we really haven't been able to run through them in practice."

The Raiders play in Streetsville Friday and host Mississauga Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

**RAIDER RAP:** Varone and Brent Hughes each had a goal and two assists Friday. Dan Iliakis set up four goals against Oakville and added two more assists Saturday....Nic Bibic, Kyle Aitken and McCarthy spotted the Raiders a 3-0 lead Sunday. Mississauga closed within one in the third but Varone put the game away with a shorthanded goal. David Wilson stopped 28 of 30 shots for the win....Former Raider Joe Tenute, now playing for the Sarnia Sting, is tied for third in scoring in the OHL with 21 points in 12 games.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Centennial's Mark Walkington serves up the ball at Saturday's Charger Ram Tough Invitational Volleyball Tournament at Georgetown District High School. Centennial was undefeated before falling to Oakville's E.J. James in the final.

Photo by Shawn McAlpine

## Chargers fall in final

E.J. James prevented a Halton Hills sweep at the Charger Ram Tough Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

The Oakville school defeated the hosts, Centennial Chargers, 25-15 in the boys final of Saturday's tournament. Twenty-four teams—12 boys and 12 girls—competed at the tournament at Georgetown District High School.

Centennial had rolled through pool play with a perfect 10-0 record and then defeated Stewarttown 25-10 in the semifinals.

Stewarttown and Centennial also met in the girls' semifinal. Stewarttown evened the score between the schools with a narrow 25-22 victory. Stewarttown then went on to defeat Oakville's Rolling Meadows in the final.

## New-look Rebels still strong...

It may be a rebuilding year but the Georgetown Rebels are by no means starting from the ground floor.

The volleyball Rebels improved to 4-0 on the season with a 25-21, 25-18 victory over Acton, a win that moved them into sole possession of first place in Halton. Province-wide, the Rebels are ranked fifth in a *Toronto Star* poll.

Both are quite an accomplishment considering the turnover on the Rebels.

Two senior players eligible to return did not play so they could concentrate on their studies. Same goes for a pair of junior players who were to move up to the senior team. That left just four players— Kyle Hall, Chris Cavin, Reid Hall and Ryan Humberstone— returning from last year's squad.

Although it has yet to win a tournament, Georgetown has had strong showings against top caliber teams. They took Essex-Kent, the province's top-ranked team, to three games before losing.

"We've been hanging in there but we've been losing games in the last five to seven points," said Rebel coach Jonas Kaciulis.

The Rebels, who have been to three straight Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournaments, usually have a veteran-laden team. But with four

players opting not to play, they had to reach deep into the junior ranks. Grade 9 students Gavin Viray-Cox and Nick Turnout are both taking on significant roles on the senior squad. Kaciulis said the ability for both to step into the senior lineup is a tribute to the training they've had in elementary school.

"There were a couple more on the junior team that could have played for us but we didn't want to raid their entire team," Kaciulis said.

So far, things have worked out for both teams with the juniors sporting a 5-1 record.

The only down side to the Rebels youth is that the team is much smaller than the top teams. But he said his team compensates with a never-say-die attitude that is evident in their defensive play.

Though Kaciulis said OFSAA is an attainable goal, especially with two GHAC berths in the tournament, he said a medal may be a year or two away.

"We have a strong young team and we have a good team atmosphere," Kaciulis said. "We're close but the other top teams have tremendous size advantage on us."

Still, Kaciulis didn't expect the team to be as strong as it is, so he's not ruling out his team surprising him once again.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

## ...and Acton is no pushover

In a game where momentum can change quickly, the Acton senior boys volleyball team is looking to avoid any road-blocks.

"Keeping focused and not getting down on themselves is the most important thing," said coach Christopher Braun. "Once they get momentum going they can't let the steam go out."

Acton hopes to continue on full steam ahead after being dealt their first setback of the season, a 25-21, 25-18 loss to Georgetown. But with a tournament victory under their belts and a 3-1 record in Halton play, Acton has no reason to slow down now.

The Redmen won 14 of 16 games and swept St. Famille in two games to win the Marauder

Invitational. They trail only Georgetown in the Halton senior boys standings and are looking to take a run at the provincial A championships.

"We're definitely hoping for OFSAA," Braun said. "We have to play harder teams (in Halton) and we're doing well against them. Once we've played the higher caliber teams we'll be able to compete and we'll be ready for it."

Acton boasts a veteran team with some strong hitters, led by Josh Bowen, and Braun is confident in the team's ability to get the ball to them.

"We have good hitters and our setters, Matt Locke and Jese Dunn, are a good team that works well with everyone else."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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