

Sports & Leisure

Friday, October 24, 2003

Rebels determined to be a dominant force again

After three straight regional senior boys volleyball championships—including a provincial title in 2000—the Georgetown Rebels' exit in the Halton semifinals last year came as a bit of a shock.

It was a very young team, but the Rebels' past success, and an undefeated regular season, had set the bar very high. While failing to make the Halton final for the first time since 1998 was a disappointment, it appears to have brought the Rebels back more determined than ever.

Georgetown survived its toughest challenge of the season Wednesday when it defeated Loyola 29-27, 25-14 to improve to 10-0. Only Oakville's Q.E. Park (who the Rebels play Monday) stand in the way of a second consecutive undefeated season.

The scary part is the Rebels believe the best is yet to come.

"This year we have a younger team so it's more of a development year," said Reid Hall, whose brothers Taylor and Kyle were members of the Rebels' OFSAA championship team. "This has shown us what we can do next year and it's inspired all of us to work harder."

As for this year's playoffs, Rebel coach Jonas Kaciulis sees Pearson, Loyola, Nelson and Oakville-Trafalgar, the team that ousted the Rebels last season, as the biggest challengers for the Halton title. He said any of them could win if their opponents are not at their best.

"With our skill, our ethic and character, we should be in the thick of it," said Kaciulis. "What happens depends on how much we want it and how much we elevate our game."

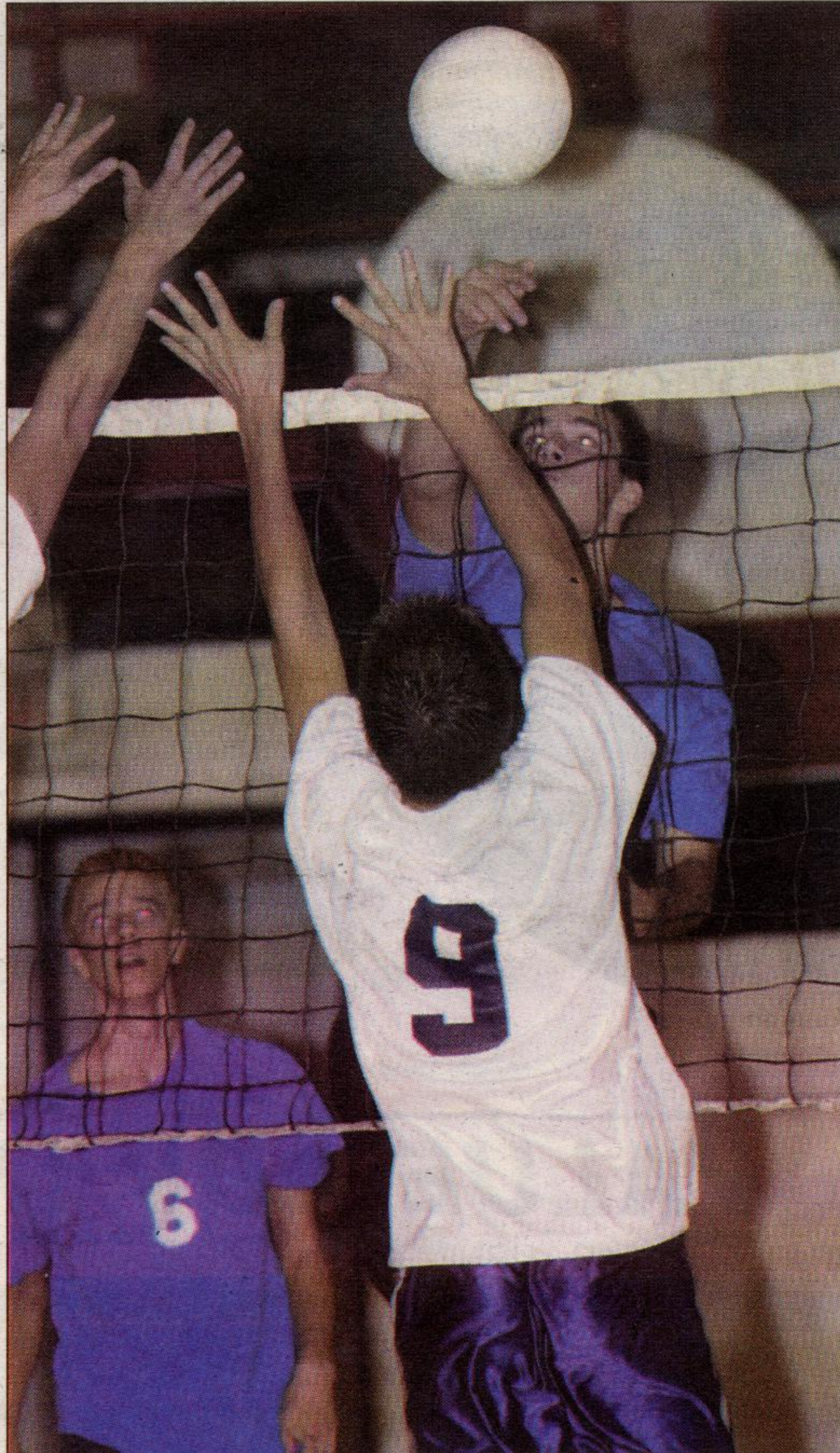
The Rebels showed that ability to kick their game up a notch after an uncharacteristically sloppy start against Loyola. They trailed 13-7 at one point in the opening game, but came back to fight off game point and win 29-27 in a game that had a playoff atmosphere.

"The guys just needed the courage to execute our plan and once they got that the plays started to work," Kaciulis said. "That first game just came down to a battle of wills and the crowd really gave us a lift."

The Rebels' Grade 10 middle tandem of Nick Turnhout and Duncan Cairns provided several crucial blocks to keep Georgetown alive in the first game. Setter Mike Haines controlled the Rebel attack, often setting up Reid Hall, who proved to be too much for Loyola to handle in the second game. For one point, Hall caught Loyola flat-footed with a cross-court spike from a nearly impossible angle. Expecting a free ball, or no return at all, they never attempted a block.

The Rebels open the playoffs at home November 3 at 3:30 p.m.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Goran Vlacic of the Georgetown Rebels spikes the ball past a Loyola blocker while Mike Haines (6) provides support in Wednesday's Halton senior boys volleyball game. The Rebels overcame a slow start to win 29-27, 25-14, improving their record to 10-0. The Rebels need one more win to complete their second straight undefeated regular season. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Raiders overcome poor start to extend streak

For a while it was looking like the Streetsville Derbys may be the Georgetown Raiders' nemesis.

The Derbys, the only team to take a point from the Raiders this season, scored on their first shot of the game Tuesday night but were not heard from again as Georgetown skated to a 7-1 victory.

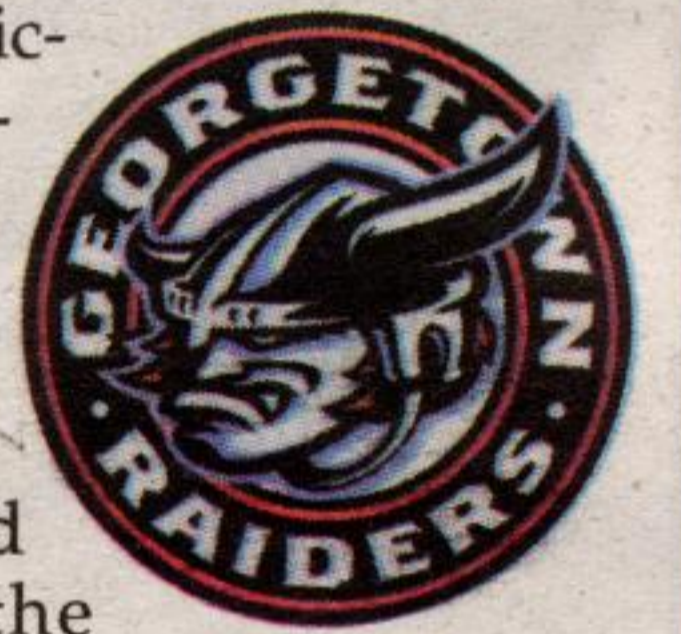
A six-goal outburst by Georgetown in the second period decided the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game as the Raiders stretched their unbeaten streak to 14 games (13-0-1).

After Streetsville opened the scoring 1:07 into the game, the Raiders' Kyle Frieday responded on Georgetown's first shot.

It remained deadlocked until Jay Sprague and John Winstanley scored eight seconds apart five minutes into the second period. Sprague, who had a three-point night, scored again two and a half minutes later to make it 4-1. The Raiders dominated the period, outshooting Streetsville 21-4, and added goals by John Wheaton, Matt Bacon and Winstanley before it was over.

Ryan Del Monte had three assists and David Brooks set up a pair of goals. Matt Harpwood, making his debut for the Raiders, stopped the final 17 shots he faced for the win.

The Raiders played in Brampton last night (Thursday), are in Bramalea tonight for a 7:45 p.m. game at the Victoria Park Arena and then host Streetsville Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Alcott Arena.



Junior Rebels ousted in football playoff action

When the Georgetown Rebels finished the junior football regular season against the Loyola Hawks, they felt it was a game they should have won.

Not much changed after the teams met again in the playoffs.

The Hawks eliminated Georgetown with a 33-12 victory Wednesday but the Rebels felt the outcome could have easi-

ly been reversed had it not been for a call that ended one of their drives.

Loyola touchdowns in each of the first two quarters gave it a 12-0 halftime lead. The Rebels cut that in half on Simon Treviranus' one-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. With the ball back in the hands of the Rebel offence, they were moving down field until a fumble stalled them. Although

Georgetown player emerged from the scrum with the ball, possession was awarded to Loyola. The Hawks took advantage with a touchdown that upped the lead to 19-6.

Georgetown again closed the gap on Jordan Ralph's 85-yard touchdown run.

Loyola would strike for two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter, though to secure the victory.



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