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Rebels back on top in Halton

The Georgetown Rebels reclaimed the Halton senior volleyball title but there's another prestigious title the Rebels want back, even if they have to wait a year.

The Rebels won their third Halton title in the last five years with a 25-23, 20-25, 15-3 victory over the Loyola Hawks Monday at Sheridan College. Georgetown now hosts the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) semifinal on Wednesday.

Because of Oakville-Trafalgar's win at the provincial championships last year, there will be two berths for GHAC. That means a win in the semifinal will advance Georgetown to the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament. That would be an important step in gaining experience at the highest level for a team that has its sights set on an OFSAA title for next year.

With only had one player who had ever played in a senior Halton final, the Rebels were short on experience. And that showed in the second game after the Rebels turned in a gritty performance to win the opener.

In the second, though, a loud Loyola crowd seemed to throw them off their game and Georgetown made some uncharacteristic communication errors.

But the Rebels regrouped for the third game.

"We wanted to prove we could shut up

their fans," said the Rebels' Reid Hall.

And they did it the most effective way they could. They took the first six points on their way to a 10-1 lead.

"The goal was just to not let the ball hit the floor," said Mike Haines. "But we didn't expect it to be 15-3."

The 15-3 win showcased the kind of play that could have the Rebels making some noise at the provincial level this year.

"They took a big step today and I'm proud of them," said Rebel coach Jonas Kaciulis. "We didn't play our best but after the second game we could have easily folded."

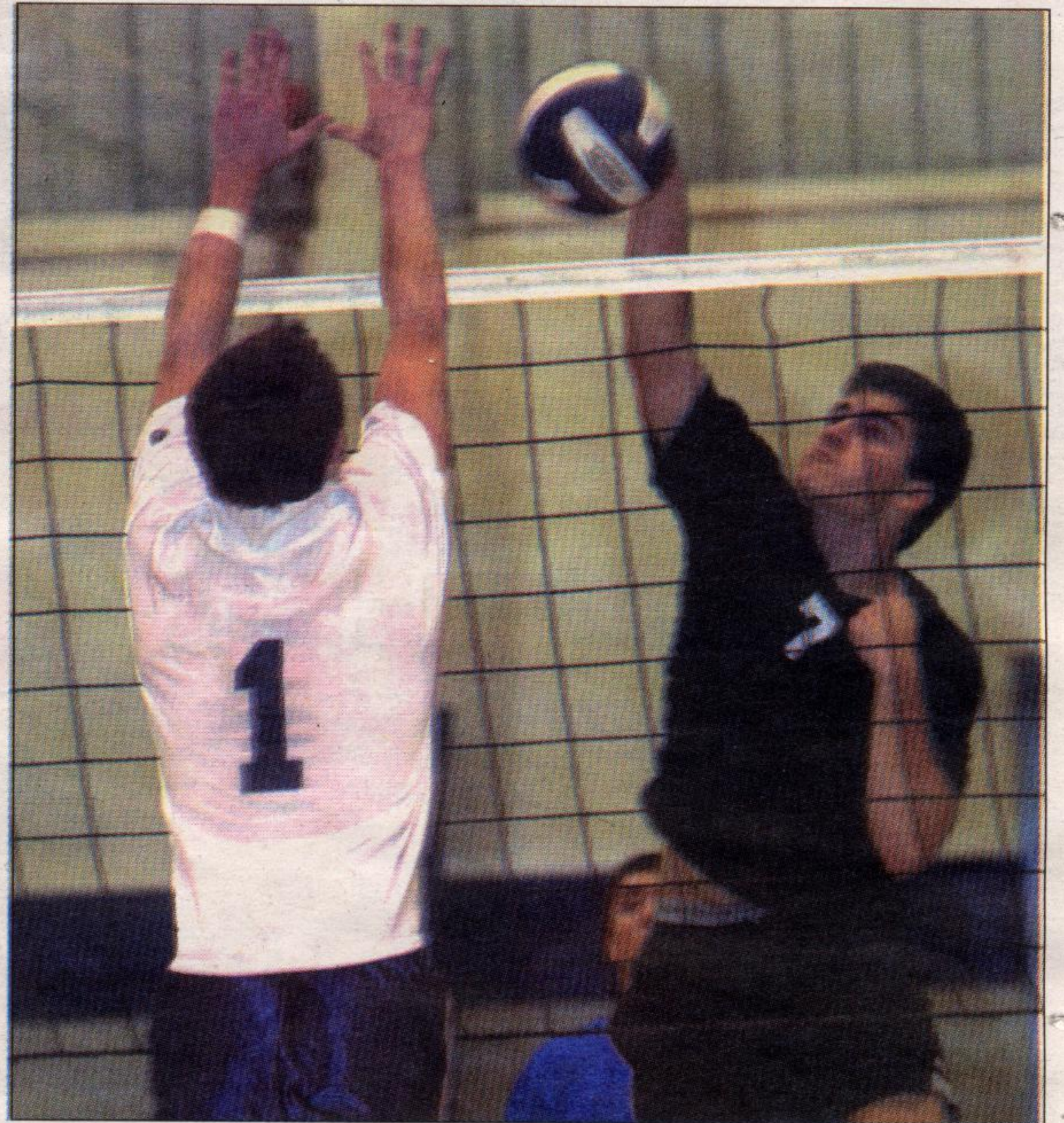
"It's nice to win one," said Scott Cavin, who along with Haines had been on the losing end of two Halton junior finals.

Kaciulis said middles Duncan Cairns and Nick Turnhout were instrumental in shutting down Loyola's attack, particularly in the third game. Hall's adjustment attacking—occasionally tipping the ball over the triple block Loyola was employing against him—also helped keep the Hawks off balance.

Kaciulis even found a bright spot in the second game, when Kyle McCracken came up with several digs that helped the team rally from a 15-7 deficit.

Today's GHAC semifinal was slated to be played at Christ the King.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Goran Vlacic spikes the ball past a Loyola blocker in Monday's Halton senior boys volleyball final. The Rebels claimed their third title in five years with a 25-23, 20-25, 15-3 victory. Georgetown hosts the GHAC semifinal today (Wednesday) at Christ the King. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Raiders begin another streak after first loss

One zero disappeared but the Georgetown Raiders made another reappear a night later.

The Raiders lost the zero in the loss column as the Oakville Blades snapped Georgetown's season-opening 20-game unbeaten streak (19-0-1). The Blades jumped out to a 5-0 lead Friday and then held off a late charge to win 6-5.

Looking to get another streak rolling at home Saturday, rookie netminder Aaron Barton posted his first Jr. A shutout—and the first for the Raiders this season—in an 8-0 win over Brampton.

With the game already out of reach, Barton's shutout was all that remained to be protected. He stopped Trevor Elliott on a breakaway and with the puck lying behind him in the crease, he swung his leg around to kick the puck away as the trailer on the play attempted to stuff it into the net.

"It was very important to me," Barton said of the shutout.

The rookie netminder said he found the game moved a lot quicker in Jr. A and it took him a few games to adjust. Since then he has steadily lowered his average and he says having such an experienced team has benefited him.

"The pace is a lot faster but getting to practise with experienced OHL guys helped. We always have a good pace in practice."

A couple of former OHL players provided plenty of offensive support for Barton. Daryl Knowles and Ryan Del Monte each had five points. Knowles scored three of Georgetown's first four goals and set up both of Del Monte's goals.

Knowles said it didn't take the team long to refocus after Friday's loss.

"It's rough to take that first loss of the year no matter when it comes," he said. "There was a little pressure to keep that donut in loss column and some people might have expected us to do it all year. Now we've just got to look at going the rest of the season keeping it at one."

Knowles was one of eight Raider players tossed out of the game in Friday's fight-filled loss. The teams combined for 163 minutes in penalties in the first two periods and Oakville took full advantage, scoring four power play goals.

The Raiders had narrowed the gap to 6-3 by end of the second and closed within one when Kyle Frieday and John Winstanley scored 73 seconds apart in the last five minutes. However, they couldn't get the equalizer.

RAIDER RAP: Call-up Kevin Tuckey got his first Jr. A goal against Brampton...Alex MacDonell scored his first goal since being reacquired by the Raiders....Matt Bacon had a goal in each weekend game.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Lapointe, Canada third

Georgetown's Mary Ann Lapointe and Team Canada finished third at the Commonwealth Golf Championship in Auckland, New Zealand.

Canada tied Great Britain on the final day of the competition to finish with a record of 1-2-1. Lapointe's putting played a big role in Canada's team victory, sinking three putts of 25 feet or more on the front nine to halve holes. Lapointe and Terrill Samuel went on to down Anne Laing and Lynn Kenny 4&2.

The Brits would get their revenge in the other team match, winning it 1-up on Anna Highgate's 75-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole. In singles play, Laing beat Lapointe 4&3.

The previous day Canada fell 3.5-1.5 to Australia, who clinched a third straight Commonwealth victory with the win. Lapointe and Terrill Samuel halved their match with Anna Parsons and Sarah Kenyon while in singles play Sarah Kemp edged Lapointe 2&1.



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