

Sports & Leisure

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Seniors also win Rebels rally way to semis

With the Georgetown Rebels senior volleyball team expected to win rather easily, the juniors decided to give Rebel fans some excitement.

The junior Rebels dropped the opening game of their Halton quarterfinal 25-20 to Abbey Park before rallying to win the last two games 25-21, 15-6 and advance to today's (Wednesday's) semifinal.

The Rebels were a perfect 8-0 during the regular season and were only pushed to a third game twice. They only needed two games in Thursday's 25-19, 25-15 victory over T.A. Blakelock in their playoff opener.

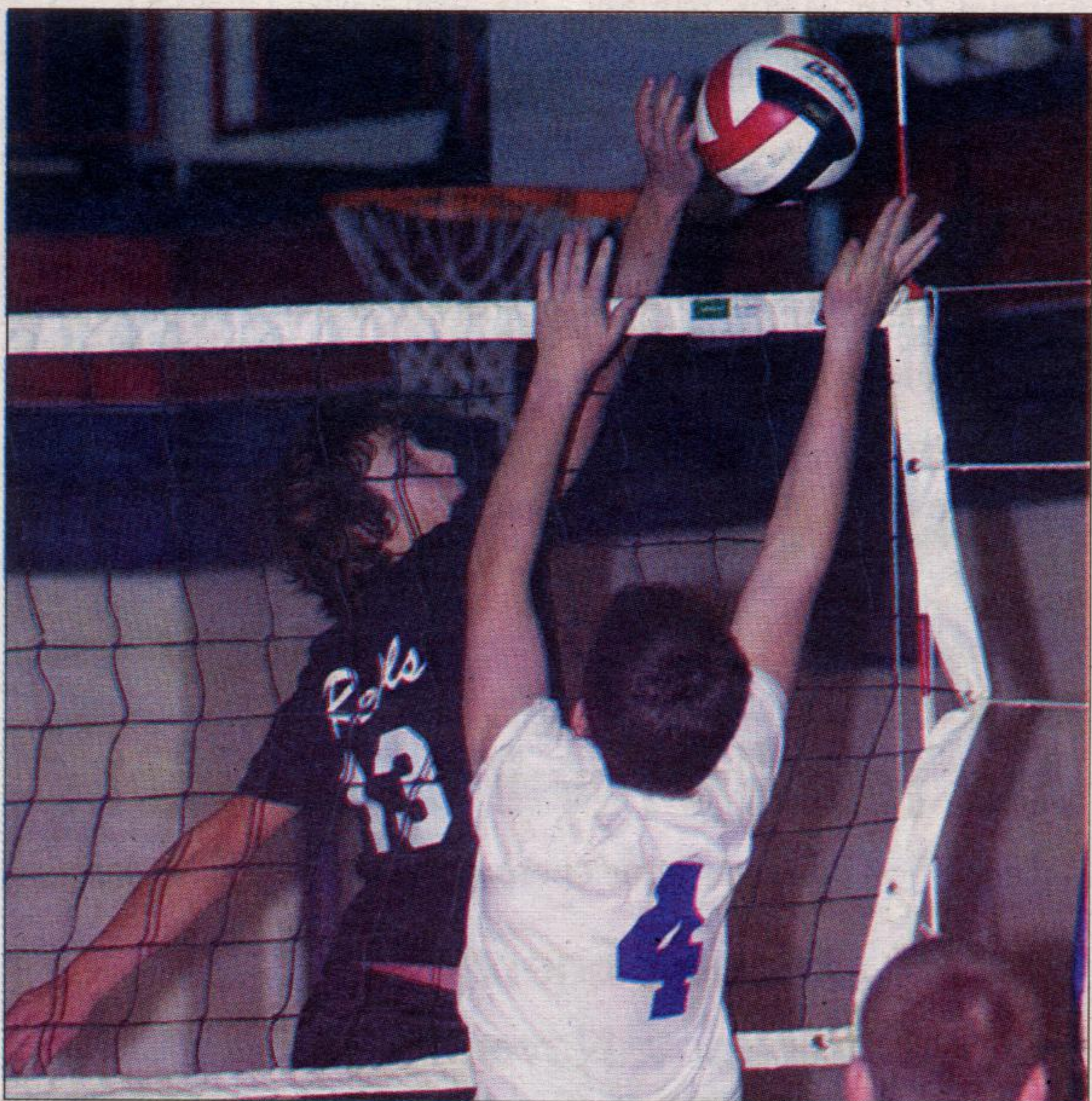
But the Rebels dug an early hole Monday when Abbey Park reeled off seven straight points to take an 8-1 lead. Though Georgetown fought back to get within three at 19-16, the early deficit proved to be too much to overcome.

In game two, the Rebels looked much better and used strong play at the net to build a 19-10 advantage. This time it was Abbey Park that staged a comeback, cutting the lead to 22-19 before Georgetown put the game away to even the match.

In the deciding game, the Rebels played like their season was on the line—which it was. They took the first five points and then up 9-6, took the final six points to win the match.

The senior Rebels defeated Loyola in two games, 25-16, 25-12 and will also host the Halton semifinal on Wednesday. Though the team has its sights set on an OFSAA medal, coach Jonas Kaciulis said the team approaching its goal one step at a time, realizing there will be no OFSAA unless they win the Halton and GHAC championships. **See photo page 17.**

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

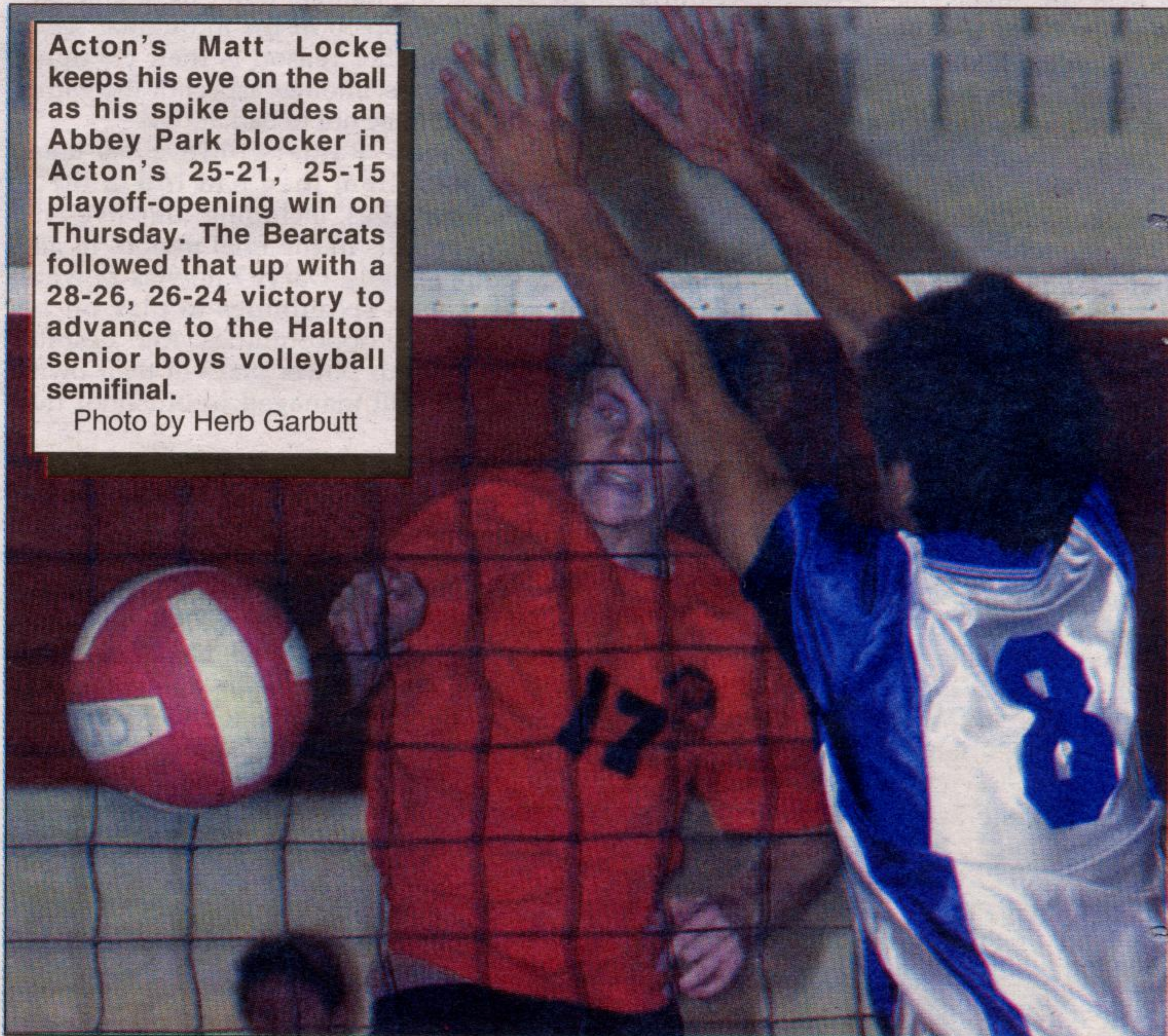


Devin Rattie tips the ball past an Abbey Park opponent during the Georgetown Rebels' 20-25, 25-21, 15-6 victory over Abbey Park in Monday's Halton junior boys volleyball quarterfinal.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Acton's Matt Locke keeps his eye on the ball as his spike eludes an Abbey Park blocker in Acton's 25-21, 25-15 playoff-opening win on Thursday. The Bearcats followed that up with a 28-26, 26-24 victory to advance to the Halton senior boys volleyball semifinal.

Photo by Herb Garbutt



Bearcats earn playoff revenge

After narrowly missing a chance to return to the provincial championships last season, the Acton Bearcats return this year with a veteran line-up looking to win the school's second volleyball medal in three years.

The Bearcats began that bid Thursday with a 25-21, 25-15 victory over the Abbey Park in the Halton senior boys playoffs and followed it up by exacting a little revenge in their quarterfinal match. The Bearcats went to the limit in posting a 28-26, 26-24 victory over T.A. Blakelock. It was Blakelock that denied the Bearcats a trip to the Halton final two years ago by eliminating Acton in the semifinals.

This year, after a 6-2 regular season in which their only two losses were against Georgetown, one of the top-ranked AAAA teams in the province, the Bearcats believe they can make it to the provincial AA tournament. Two years ago, Acton won a bronze at the A championship and despite being reclassified to AA last year, still feel they have a good shot at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament.

"When they get that enthusiasm and really get into, they're tough to beat," said

Bearcats coach Chris Braun. "If we have that full commitment where they dive for everything, that will get us there."

With three players— Matt Locke, Mark Boycott and Josh Locke— back from Acton's bronze medal team, the Bearcats have a strong core of players who know what it takes to make it to OFSAA. That trio, along with Ryan Stroud, will graduate this year, giving the Bearcats plenty of incentive to win now. And because the players have played together for several years, it is a tight-knit group.

"Even if they're losing, other teams get mad at each other but these guys are always very positive," Braun said. "If they make a mistake, they forget about it. I've never seen a team get along so well."

The Bearcats got ready for the playoffs at a tournament in St. Catharines on the weekend, reaching the final before losing to Ancaster in the championship game. Against the hosts, Eden High School, Acton rallied from a 19-9 deficit to earn a split with a 25-21 win. That win put them in the playoffs where they rolled over Laura Secord 25-16, 25-20 in the semifinal.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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