

Sports & Leisure

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Rebels rise from the 'dead' to be-Devil Oakville-Trafalgar

Prior to the Halton final Tuesday, an Oakville-Trafalgar Red Devils player walked to the court wearing a shirt emblazoned with a tombstone that read "Halton 2004-05. Here lies Georgetown."

It seems rumours of Georgetown's "death" may have been a bit premature.

While the Rebels did fall to their arch-rivals in the Halton final, Georgetown gained revenge the following day in the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) championship, downing O-T in dramatic fashion by rallying from a 2-0 deficit to win 3-2 (21-25, 19-25, 25-22, 25-21 and 22-20).

The win sends Georgetown to the Ontario Federation-of-Schools Athletic Association championships in Brampton Nov. 25-26 for the sixth time in seven years. O-T also qualified as Halton champions.

At the GHAC championship in Hamilton, Georgetown downed St. Thomas More 3-1 (23-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-16) in semifinal action while OT dumped Cardinal Newman, setting the stage for another showdown.

Still reeling from the loss to O-T in the Halton final, the Rebels fell behind early against the Red Devils but according to

coach Kyle Stewart rebounded after some "taunting" by O-T.

"They're (O-T) a good team but they showed a lack of class," said Stewart, referring to a very vocal O-T bench. "It fueled our guys."

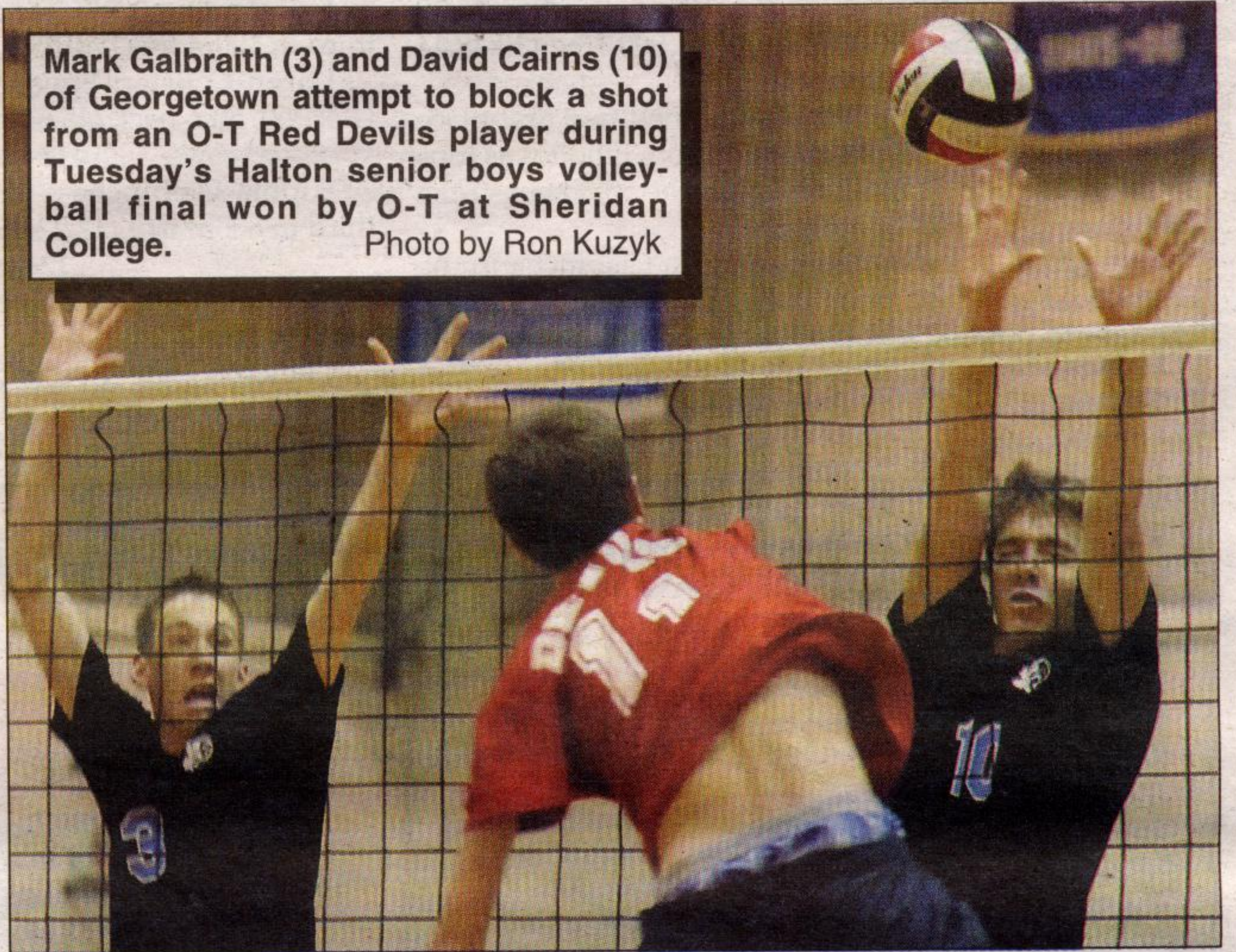
The Red Devils did manage to put Georgetown's reign as Halton senior boys volleyball champions to rest with a 23-25, 25-21, 15-9 victory Tuesday at Sheridan College.

The two teams have established a classic rivalry that seems to add a new chapter each year. Between them Georgetown and O-T have split the last eight Halton titles. Last year the Rebels survived four match points to beat O-T in the Halton title game. This year the Red Devils exacted a little revenge, ending Georgetown's 33-match Halton winning streak.

The last time the Rebels lost in league play was the 2002 semifinals to, who else, Oakville-Trafalgar.

The Devils seemed intent on putting away Georgetown early, taking a 7-2 lead. The Rebels battled back thanks to some good blocking by Brad Richards and some bullet spikes by Nic Turnhout. Still, the Rebels didn't take their first lead until going up 20-19. Tied 23-23, Turnhout's cross-court spike gave them

Mark Galbraith (3) and David Cairns (10) of Georgetown attempt to block a shot from an O-T Red Devils player during Tuesday's Halton senior boys volleyball final won by O-T at Sheridan College. Photo by Ron Kuzyk



the lead and a Mark Galbraith block secured the opening-game victory.

The second game seemed to be following the same pattern when O-T jumped in front 9-3 before allowing Georgetown to climb back within a point at 13-12. This time the Devils managed to regroup, scoring the next five points which proved to be too much for the Rebels to overcome.

The third game made it look it might be a repeat of last year's nail-biter final.

The teams were tied 8-8 until O-T took seven of eight points to claim the title.

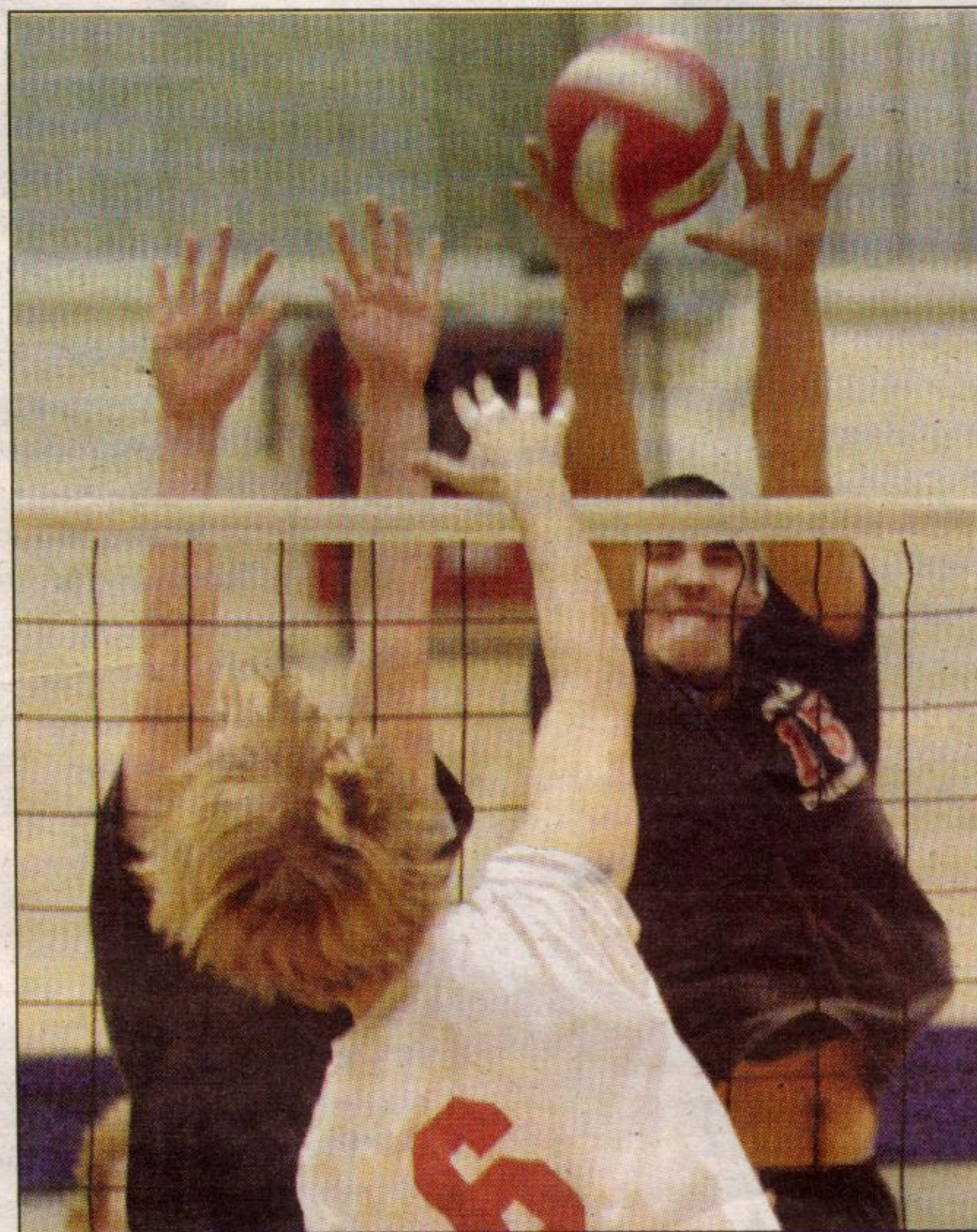
"They're a strong team, lots of power but we lost the game on our own errors. We didn't block effectively and we didn't serve the ball hard at them. That made it very easy for them."

Stewart is hoping the Rebels are seeded somewhere between fifth and eighth for the 20-team OFSAA tourney to be played at several Brampton high schools.

—By Herb Garbutt, special

Acton's Kevin Deforest spikes the ball past Bishop Reding's Niall Clarke and Sean Mathé (15) during Tuesday's Halton senior AA volleyball championships at Sheridan College. Acton advanced to the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic championship tournament in Ingersoll next week with a 25-16, 25-23 win.

Photo by Graham Paine



Bearcats claw their way to OFSAA senior berth

Acton Bearcats coach Chris Braun says his senior boys volleyball squad exceeded his expectations this year by winning the Halton championship.

Now he hopes his young squad continues to impress.

The Bearcats earned a spot in the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) AA championship tournament in Ingersoll Nov. 25-26 by claiming the Halton title Tuesday at Sheridan College in Oakville with a 25-16, 25-23 win over Milton's Bishop Reding.

"We only had two returning players this year," said Braun, referring to his relatively inexpe-

rienced squad. "But they practice all the time."

The Bearcats posted a 6-2 won-lost record in league play this year with both losses coming against the powerhouse Georgetown Rebels. However, the Bearcats were the only team to win a set from the Rebels this season (32-30) and that gave the squad the confidence they needed said Braun.

Brandon Nixon and Spencer Morrison led the Bearcats with some big hits against Reding while Brad Ethier also turned in a solid game.

Braun is hoping Acton is seeded between seventh and 12th-place in the 16-team OFSAA tourney.



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