

# Juniors hot on elders' heels

The St. Theresa's High School Junior volleyball team came within just a few points of a semi-final clash with their provincially-ranked Senior counterparts during last Saturday's Barrie Eastview Wildcat tournament.

The Senior Crusaders wound up with the tournament title by skinning Oakville's

Blakelock Secondary School 15-13, 15-8 in the championship final.

The Seniors, defending champions of the event, bumped off Alliston's Banting Memorial Secondary School in the semi-finals (15-7, 15-1) after Banting had advanced with a close victory over the St. Theresa's Junior squad.

Coach Jean Goodrow directed the Junior

Crusaders to a second-place finish in their round-robin pool after an opening 6-15, 15-11 split with the Seniors from Eastview Secondary School, a 15-11, 15-6 stumping of their Midland Secondary School elders and a 15-8, 6-15 split with North Hastings Collegiate.

They then knocked off Toronto's Neil McNeil Secondary School -- a highly regarded Senior

squad -- in the playoff opener before dropping 15-10, 11-15, 12-15 to Banting.

"It was a good day, overall," understated Goodrow. "We were working on improving the quick attack -- something not very many Junior teams use. The team should be proud being right in there with the Seniors."

And there's the fact

that many of the STHS Juniors will be moving up to the Senior ranks next year -- a fact that must be disturbing to other schools who many have been hoping the little Midland school's seemingly endless supply of championship-calibre Senior players may someday be weakened.

The coach added that outstanding Junior performers for the day included John Bald, Mike McKeown and Chris Lemieux.

The STHS Seniors, meanwhile, maintained their torrid pace toward this year's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships by displaying their talent before six awed opponents.

Least awed was Collingwood Collegiate Institute, who managed to split with St. Theresa's (15-8, 5-15) in the opening match of the preliminary round-robin.

After that, though, it was clear sailing for the Midland School.

They wound up in first place in their pool by devastating Neil McNeil 15-3, 15-2 in their second matchup and winding up the preliminary with a 15-1, 15-7 stumping of Blakelock.

The Seniors then eliminated North Hastings 15-3, 15-5, 15-11 in the playoff opener, continued their drive with a 15-2, 15-6 thrashing of Barrie's

North Collegiate in the quarter-finals, bumped off Banting and then secured things with another bouncing of Blakelock.

Coach Rick Presse said his club may be surprising many of their opponents this season with the aggressively developing skills of some of the younger and first-year players.

"We've had strong performances by Kris Cote, who has always been a good all-round player and whose hitting was extremely effective in this tournament."

"And the improved attack skills of Cote, Kerry Heins, Jim Newton and John Swick have given the Crusaders a well-balanced attack that does not allow the opposition to key on veteran players like Brian Quesnelle and Vince Deschamps. When the opposition does key on Vince and Brian, the setters are

able to isolate the other attacker against one or no blockers and the team's success on attack is made easier."

Presse has made his point on paper too, serving up some impressive statistics on his charges: Quesnelle, for example, has 38 "kills" (spikes not returned), only seven spike errors, eight blocks and eight service aces. Down the list there's Vince Deschamps with 42 kills, 18 spike errors, two blocks and seven service aces; Tim Trewin with 19 kills, four spike errors, three blocks and three service aces; Cote with 17 kills, three spike errors, four blocks and four service aces; Newton with 12 kills, four spike errors, two blocks and two service aces; Heins with 17 kills, four spike errors, three blocks and three service aces; and Swick, with 10 kills, only one spike error, two blocks and two service aces.

## St. T's Jr B's run out of steam

The St. Theresa's High School Junior 'B' boys' volleyball team simply ran out of steam in the semi-finals after a top-notch effort in the quarter-finals of last weekend's Bancroft Secondary School tournament.

After emerging from the preliminary round with four victories in six games, the STHS squad bumped off Pembroke's Bishop Smith school 16-14, 4-15, 15-12.

That victory advanced them to the semi's, where they ran

into a tough Donovan Secondary School from Oshawa and were stopped in short order, 4-15, 3-15.

Their second-place standing in the round-robin pool came after an opening 15-10, 15-4 victory over Bancroft, a

12-15, 9-15 loss to Opeongo, and a 15-9, 15-12 decision over NAEC.

Doug Haworth was selected the Crusaders' outstanding player for the tournament and another top-notch effort was put in by Midget sub Rob Weber.

# Good and bad cage news

Area basketball fans had good news and bad news last Thursday evening as both local mens' entries in the Simcoe County Intermediate Mens' Basketball League were in action.

First, the good news: the Midland Commodores rebounded from a 40-34 half-time deficit to bump off host Barrie Queen's Hotel 72-62.

And the bad: Penetanguishene Dock Lunch lost again, this time an 80-51 stumping at the hands of the King City Stingers at Midland Secondary School.

There's not much to say about that one.

About the other one, though, there was plenty to say.

Despite early foul trouble by the Commodores—which caused the surrender of 12 points from the line in the opening half—and a lethargic start to the second half, the Midland squad somehow found it in themselves to rally and, in the final minutes—take over the match against their arch rivals from Barrie.

Aggressive defense and eagle-eyed shooting from the likes of Chester Graham and Jeff Attwood (both had 16 points on the day) helped the club gather themselves in the face of a rash of technical fouls, including a bench to Graham and an on-floor call against Andy Wicksted.

Queen's still had an eight-point lead with about eight and a half minutes to go, but Midland's steady flow turned into a torrent in the last five minutes,

during which they outscored their hosts 18-4.

Both local clubs will be in action again tomorrow night in a

double-header at Midland Secondary School.

Dock Lunch will start off the evening with a 7 p.m. encounter with

Orillia Champlain Hotel and the Commodores will follow with a 9 p.m. matchup against the Georgian College Grizzlies.

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