

# Teams optimistic they can volley to the top

(From page 16)  
 an exciting year of volleyball," said Jim Fletcher, veteran coach of the senior Spartans squad.

Fletcher said his team has been holding its own against the AAA teams for years in regular season play, while playing only AA outfits in the playoffs.

Junior boys' coach Christa Bradburn echoed Fletcher's optimism.

"The new triple A ranking will be a true test for the 1995 Spartans. We believe we can not only be competitive, but that we can be the team to beat as we enter top junior tournaments and finish the year with the playoffs," said Bradburn.

"This year's team has a classic volleyball look with a very tall starting lineup and great depth on the bench."

Midget coach Denis Fortier said his team is the strongest he's coached in the past three years.

"Playing at the AAA level is a big chance for the midgets," said Fortier, who said the team is displaying excellent hitting and setting early in the season.

Fletcher said the seniors will be keying on returnees Shawn Sargeant and Chris Lightfoot, who will hit from the power position.

He said the offence will be led by second-year setter Jason Whitelaw, who earned all star honors at the Durham College Overkill Tournament.

Second-year senior Graham Crowder

gives the team strength on the weak side," said Fletcher, while Ian Ellis, another veteran, solidifies the attack from the power hitting position.

Matt Brillinger and Martin Reesor, who recently made the York regional team, anchor the middle attack.

Jon Tamlin, Mike Lavell and Justin Howell have moved up from the junior

Spartans to round out the squad.

The seniors, who won their first two league matches, have been invited to participate in two prestigious tournaments.

They took part in the York University Mizuno Classic Sept. 29 and 30, and will go to the London Saunders Classic in late October.

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**DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**CERIAN SHEPHERD**  
 Cerian Shepberd ran her way to a second place finish in her age group at the McQuaid Cross Country Meet at Genesee Valley Park in Rochester, New York last weekend. Entered in the Elite Race, the Grade 13 Markham District High student ran the 5 kilometre course in a time of 17:48. The time recorded by Shepberd was also the second fastest recorded on the course within her age group.

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