

# Reding juniors deliver rags to riches season turnaround

## Royals capture Tier 2 title after dropping four straight in October

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A fourth straight defeat had just been tacked on to the Bishop Reding junior volleyball team's record and championship hopes were fading fast.

But for those who were ready to write off the Royals from the Halton Tier 2 title picture, a rags-to-riches story was about to unfold.

"In late October we went to the Frank Hayden Tournament and came third... we really came together there," said middle Jacques Tournadre.

Added head coach Kevin Da Silva, "Yeah that was our turning point of the season. The guys started to figure out positioning and just started swinging." Adding a dramatic final chapter to their season turnaround, Reding rode some big blocking and overall scrappy play to a 2-1 (25-20, 12-25, 15-13) triumph over Oakville-Trafalgar Monday at Sheridan College.

The title win served as high-stakes

### Bishop Reding Royals Halton Champions

Ethan Abraham,  
Naveen Paraparan,  
Greg Moroie, Caesar Feng,  
Boris Tesla, Dylan Michaud,  
Jalen Simpson, Massy Ayam,  
Enrico Capanas,  
Ibrahim Vakil,  
Luke D'Addario,  
Jacques Tournadre

payback after losing both regular season meetings to the Devils.

"This is great... amazing," said middle Jalen Simpson, whose team knocked off Assumption 25-16, 25-18 to reach the final.

Regaining their composure after a decisive second-set defeat, the Royals jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the tiebreaker. OT would tie things up four

times — the latest at a nail-biting 13-13 — before an out-of-bounds serve and hit into the net clinched the winner-takes-all game.

"Heartbreaking springs to mind," said Devils coach Wendy Malloch, whose team had won five of six tiebreakers this fall, including one against Reding. While not as explosive as OT, the Royals turned in some strong defence and were effective at the service line — catching the line or corner for several aces.

Tournadre and Simpson came up with a number of pivotal blocks, while overall Reding avoided the net violations that hindered the Devils at times throughout the match.

Enrico Capanas, Ibrahim Vakil and Boris Tesla also made key contributions to the championship win.



Above, Bishop Reding's Ibrahim Vakil (left) and Jacques Tournadre block Oakville-Trafalgar's Braeden MacCormac. Inset, Boris Tesla celebrates a point for the Royals in Monday's Tier 2 final. *Graham Paine / Metroland West Media Group*

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