

FEELING GOOD:

King's Christian Collegiate player Anthony Sossa (in burgundy) begins to celebrate after scoring his second goal of yesterday's Halton senior boys' soccer A/AA championship game at North Park. King's defeated the St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders 4-2 to earn its second straight regional A/AA title.

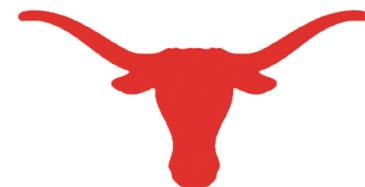
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'Horns drop NFC season opener in Sarnia

The Oakville Longhorns kicked off the Northern Football Conference season Saturday with a 28-14 loss in Sarnia.

Robin Medieros scored two touchdowns in the loss for Oakville, which outgained the Imperials in total yards, 406-371. Both Medieros' majors came on long runs, a 75-yarder to open the scoring in the first quarter and a 46-yard gallop in the fourth, as the quarterback finished the contest with 228 yards on 14 carries.



Medieros wasn't quite as successful through the air, completing 10 of 23 passes and being intercepted twice.

Martin Belle (three catches for 62 yards) and Jermaine DeCosta (11 runs for 54 yards) were other bright spots in the loss for the Longhorns. Sergio Giusti kicked a convert and a rouge to account for Oakville's other points.

Jason Adomako and Jared Manchjelenko led the Longhorns' defence with four tackles each.

The Longhorns are scheduled to enjoy a bye week before getting back into action June 9 with a visit to the Toronto Raiders.

Oakville's first home game of the season was initially slated for June 16 against the North Bay Bulldogs, but the Bulldogs have withdrawn their team for the 2012 season. The Longhorns will instead be home to Sarnia June 16 at Bronte Athletic Field, a 7 p.m. start.

King's Christian striker burns Aquinas again

By Jon Kuiperij
BEAVER SPORTS EDITOR

Anthony Sossa once again came up big in the big game, with a little help from his friends.

Sossa scored two goals and also set up a pretty insurance marker yesterday (Wednesday) at North Park, leading the King's Christian Collegiate Cavaliers to a 4-2 win over the St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders in the Halton senior boys' soccer A/AA final.

The abilities of the 18-year-old striker were no secret to the Raiders, who allowed Sossa to score the only goal of last year's Halton championship game. But any tactical adjustments Aquinas made to contain Sossa certainly didn't work yesterday.

"He's just a great player. He's so quick, uses his feet, looks for the open play, is always hustling," said Cavaliers midfielder Michael Panza, who finished a nice three-way passing play to break a 2-2 tie with 10 minutes to go in the contest. "He makes everybody around him better."

Shortly after Panza gave the Cavaliers their third lead of the game, Sossa found himself in alone on Aquinas keeper Chris Franko and in good position to notch his third goal of the contest. Instead, he passed the ball off to Michael Georgy, who easily deposited the ball into the

open net.

"He's got a phenomenal left foot," Kings' coach Mike Zietsma said of Sossa, "but he chooses the right moments to play it off."

So, it seems, do the rest of the Cavaliers, who scored a league-high 24 goals in seven regular-season games. Panza attributes the team's offensive prowess to the camaraderie on the squad.

"We're all good friends, so it helps on the field," said Panza, who is best friends with Sossa. "We just keep it on the ground and work it quickly around. Passing is the main thing."

The Cavaliers hope to keep filling the net at the upcoming Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) single-A championships in Windsor, their sixth straight appearance at provincials.

Despite the loss, Aquinas is also readying itself for another OFSAA appearance. The Raiders, bronze medalists at last year's double-A tournament, will once again represent the region after being the longest-surviving double-A team in the Halton playoffs.

Jorge Oliveira likes his club's chances of medaling once again this year.

"He's so quick, uses his feet, looks for the open play, is always hustling. He makes everybody around him better."

King's Christian Collegiate senior boys' soccer player Michael Panza, talking about teammate Anthony Sossa

"I would say similar or higher hopes than last year," said the Aquinas coach. "We'll be one of the better teams there."

Oliveira said he anticipates calling up as many as five players from the Raiders' strong junior team for the OFSAA tournament.

Cam Farrell and Cam Galea-Andrews scored the Aquinas goals in yesterday's loss. Galea-Andrews' marker came seconds before the end of the opening half, a well-placed shot that bounced in off the right goalpost to tie the game 1-1. Farrell scored a minute after Sossa collected his second goal of the game midway through the second half.

"I don't think we got the bounces today, and that was probably the difference," Oliveira said, also lamenting the ejection of an Aquinas player when the game was tied 2-2.

"After two years of disappointment in these championship games, King's will be a team we have in mind (next year). I think the boys have had enough of that."

— Jon Kuiperij can be followed on Twitter @Beaversports