

# Youth and inexperience doesn't seem to stop BR, who're off to a great start

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
The Champion

Bishop Reding's boys baseball squad has wiped its feet on a couple of league opponents through the opening half of the regular season.

Not too shabby for players who, with so much youth and inexperience, were supposed to be doormats themselves.

The Royals' latest victim was crosstown rival Milton District High, who were topped 10-1 at Brian Best Park Wednesday. The lopsided score was courtesy of an eight-run explosion in the bottom of the sixth inning.

MD — missing starters Reese Davies, Jeff McLeod and Andrew Neilson — needed four pitchers and approximately 35 minutes to finally douse the flames.

Granted the Mustangs don't have a lot of depth this year, especially in the throwing department, but being humbled in such an extreme way had more to do with a lack of focus than a lack of ability.

Their only highlights on the afternoon were a solid showing by starting hurler Adam Finkbeiner, who gave up only one run through his four-inning limit, and a homerun over the left field fence by heavy-hitting Nathan Perrott.

This blast gave the Mustangs their only lead of the game and — however unlikely — could have been a turning point had teammate Bud Hall not been picked off at first base moments earlier by Reding reliever Conan O'Brien.

BR's young pitchers once again delivered a splendid effort, their second in as many outings at Brian Best. O'Brien, Mike Eichstedt and Bobby McKnight surrendered just one hit apiece in seven strong innings of work.

However, Tuesday's spotlight was reserved for grade 11 centre fielder Mark Antonelli. Anchoring the defence, he made a couple of dynamite diving catches in the fourth and fifth innings before belting a solo homer that initiated the Royals' late scoring surge.

Taylor Lawton and Jodie St. John each scored twice during the crosstown clash.

Reding is the only local team that currently sits above .500 — at 2-1 — and will continue their drive toward a playoff berth Monday when they take on Loyola.

At the same time, the 1-3 'Stangs will try to regroup when they host Iroquois Ridge. Both games start at 3:30 p.m.

## 'Stangs stung

An equally authoritative win this past week saw the Royals spank MD 9-0 in senior boys soccer action at Bishop Reding Tuesday.

In all fairness, the 'Stangs are in the process of rebuilding while Reding has a skilled and seasoned squad — with many players up from last year's juniors, who went unbeaten on the way to a regional championship.

BR — now 2-0 on the season — was led by Joel Petkoff and Steve Szafer, who each tallied twice.

Also scoring were Kyle Grant, Will Ivankovic, Jason Mota, Jamie Tawil and Rufus Williams.

# Shayne Ridley's timely hit snaps a tie

Milton's Shayne Ridley snapped a tie score with a two-out, two-run double in the eighth inning as Ball State University defeated Michigan 6-5 Tuesday.

The junior shortstop's heroics gave BSU their first victory in 13 meet-

ings against the Wolverines. His timely double — number 18 on the season and tops for the club — improved the Cardinals to 31-15.

Ridley's Mid-American Conference leading club is currently riding a six-game winning streak.

They've outscored opponents 39-16 during this recent run.

Now the Cardinals' leadoff man, Ridley has played in all 46 games this year and sports a .350 batting average with 11 home runs and 45 runs batted in.

Twin brother Jeremy, a switch-hitting second baseman, is hitting .380 and leads the team with 18 stolen bases.

In 46 games he 67 hits and 51 RBI — placing him second on BSU in both departments.

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