

Reding field hockey team's year ends with playoff loss to Loyola

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

Special to *The Champion*

Bishop Reding's senior girls' field hockey team had their chances, but couldn't bury the biscuit, as they fell 2-0 to Loyola Monday in a playoff match that ended their season.

The Royals dominated early in the first half and could have easily taken a commanding lead, but the ball wasn't bouncing their way.

Caitlin Dick and Edyn Marshall both had golden opportunities before Loyola gradually started to turn things around.

The Royals had tied Loyola 0-0 in their regular season meeting and it appeared this game was headed the same way, until a Loyola player banged in her own rebound to give them the lead.

Superb two-way effort

Alana Zelek was clearly the best player on either side and was all over the field for BR.

She made great defensive plays, was dominant in the middle and was instrumental in getting the ball into the Loyola scoring area.

Kim Durante, who has anchored the defense all season, suffered a re-occurring wrist injury and had to be sidelined for part of the game, but gamely went back in the

second half.

Meanwhile, Rebecca Ketelaars, one of the team's most improved players, made several good plays on defense to compensate for her absence.

Loyola went up 2-0 on a diving score late in the second half, putting the Royals behind the eight ball.

They didn't give up, however, and had a several more good scoring chances, including some by Karen Marchment and Durante, who moved up to forward.

Coach Jim Gallant was not displeased with the team's effort. "I thought that we played one of the best games we've had all season. They were very aggressive and disciplined."

"I thought we dominated the Loyola team even though they outscored us. We had our chances — at least four or five chances to score — and just couldn't capitalize."

He was also impressed by the team's improvement. "We went into the season knowing Appleby and Oakville-Trafalgar would be powerhouses. My goal was to make the playoffs and to see some improvement over the season. We brought in a lot of new players."

"Other schools have a junior team to draw from, but part of our team was Grade nine and 10 players, so I was really proud

that these players came up to the senior level and did as well as they did."

As a measurement, Gallant noted that early in the season the Royals lost 8-0 to Appleby, a private school with their own artificial turf field.

Late in the year, Bishop Reding only lost 2-0, and Appleby wasn't able to score until well into the second half.

Coach praises players

He had high praise for the excellent seasons Zelek and Durante had, along with all the newcomers, including Ketelaars, Dick, and Nicole Perreia.

Of their goalie, Gallant said, "Heather Townsend has been awesome in goal. She kept us in games in which we could have got blown away."

"The girls had a lot of fun," added Gallant. "The team spirit and the way they supported one another made it really enjoyable. I think it was one of the best seasons we've had from that point of view."

The Royals should be even better next year, with almost all of the players returning.

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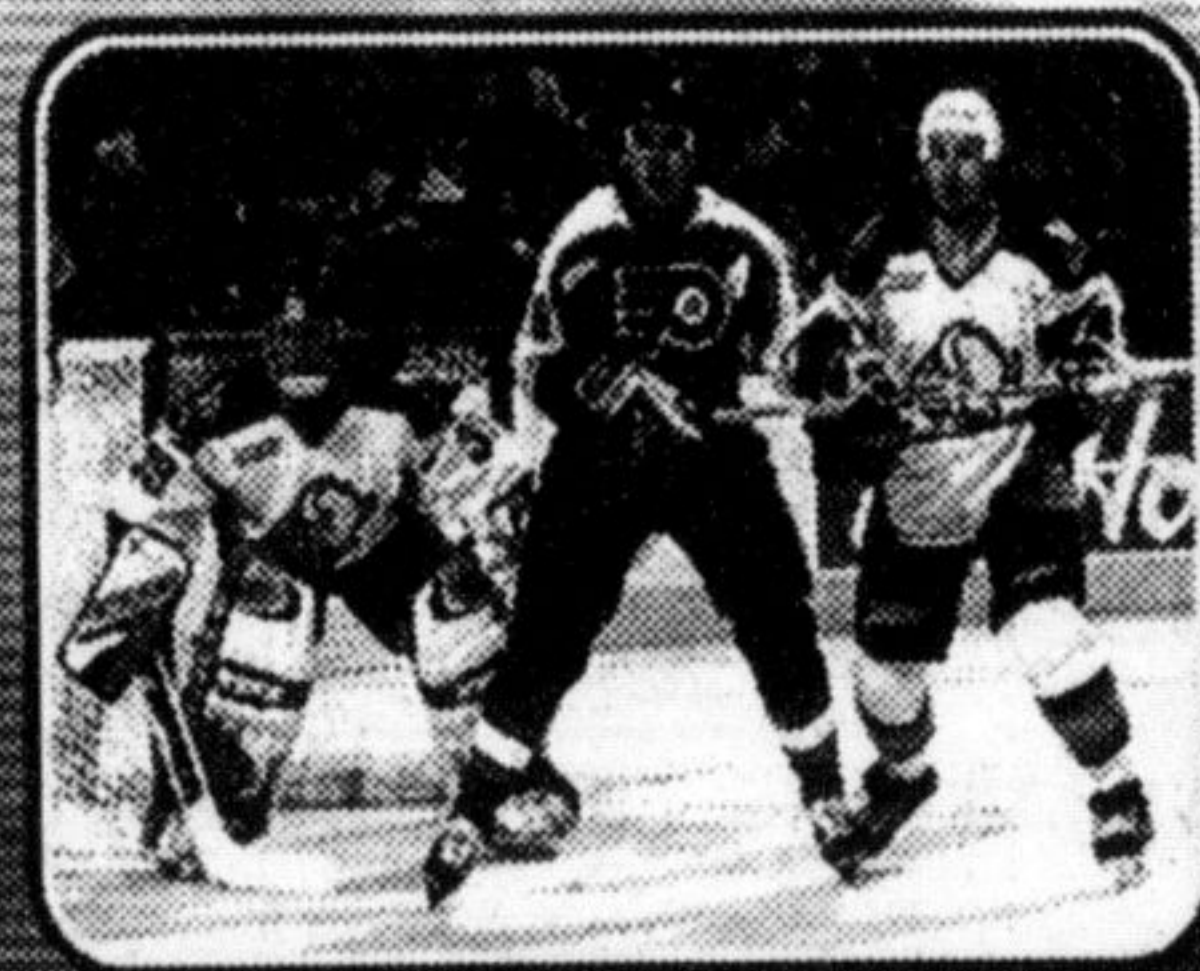
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