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Haydars back together again

By MURRAY TOWNSEND

Special to The Champion

Jeff Haydar isn't expected to follow in his kid brother's footsteps, but that's hardly a knock against him.

Few hockey players have big enough feet to match the accomplishments of brother Darren (Mini) at the University of New Hampshire. The diminutive right winger was recently named Hockey East Player of the Month, after scoring five goals and six assists in just five games to lead his team in scoring, and sit just one point out of the conference lead. Earlier in the season he was named MVP of the Michigan Ice-Breaker Cup.

The short version of his hockey history for the UNH Wildcats includes winning the Hockey East Rookie of the Year award two seasons ago and finishing third in the United States in goals scored with 31. Last year, as a sophomore, he led the Wildcats in scoring.

As if things weren't going well enough for Darren, the addition of Jeff has made it even better. Jeff was at Laurier University and quite happy there, so when UNH tried to recruit him to join their program he said 'Thanks, but no thanks'. At least at first.

"After I went down and saw Darren play a few games, I saw the atmosphere, and thought I'd like to play there."

Had to sit out a year

Transferring meant that he was forced to "red-shirt" last season, which means he wasn't allowed to play for a year. This is his senior season and he's happy he made the change.

"It's awesome. I mean I felt part of the team last year, even though I couldn't play. This year it's great to be back and playing games."

He said it has taken him a few games to get adjusted after not playing for a full year, but he is finding his niche on the team, mostly as a defensive forward. There was no expectation that he would be the same type player as his brother, especially from the coaches. "They know what my level is. I'm here more for experience and leadership."

The brothers have played together before, on the Milton Merchants, where Darren set a league scoring record with 140 points, and Jeff was team captain. But, starting on the same line together in the Wildcats first game was still special, especially considering it was against defending national champion North Dakota. "I had a little leg jitters during the national anthem," laughed Jeff.

Darren said he loves having Jeff there with him. "It's great, it feels like home. Not that I get homesick, but it's nice to have family around."

UNH began the season with a 5-0-1 record and made their way up to third in the national rankings heading into last weekend. It's almost always a sellout at the Whittemore Center, which seats more than 6,000 fans.

"It's a big thing here," said Darren. "The people around here like the college better than the pros."

Darren has one more year of college eligibility left after this season, but he said believes the team has a shot at going all the way this year. He ought to know what it takes, considering New Hampshire lost in overtime in the championship game when he was a freshman.

The one thing the Wildcats are sure to appreciate this year, however, is that the only thing better than having one Haydar on the team, is having two of them.

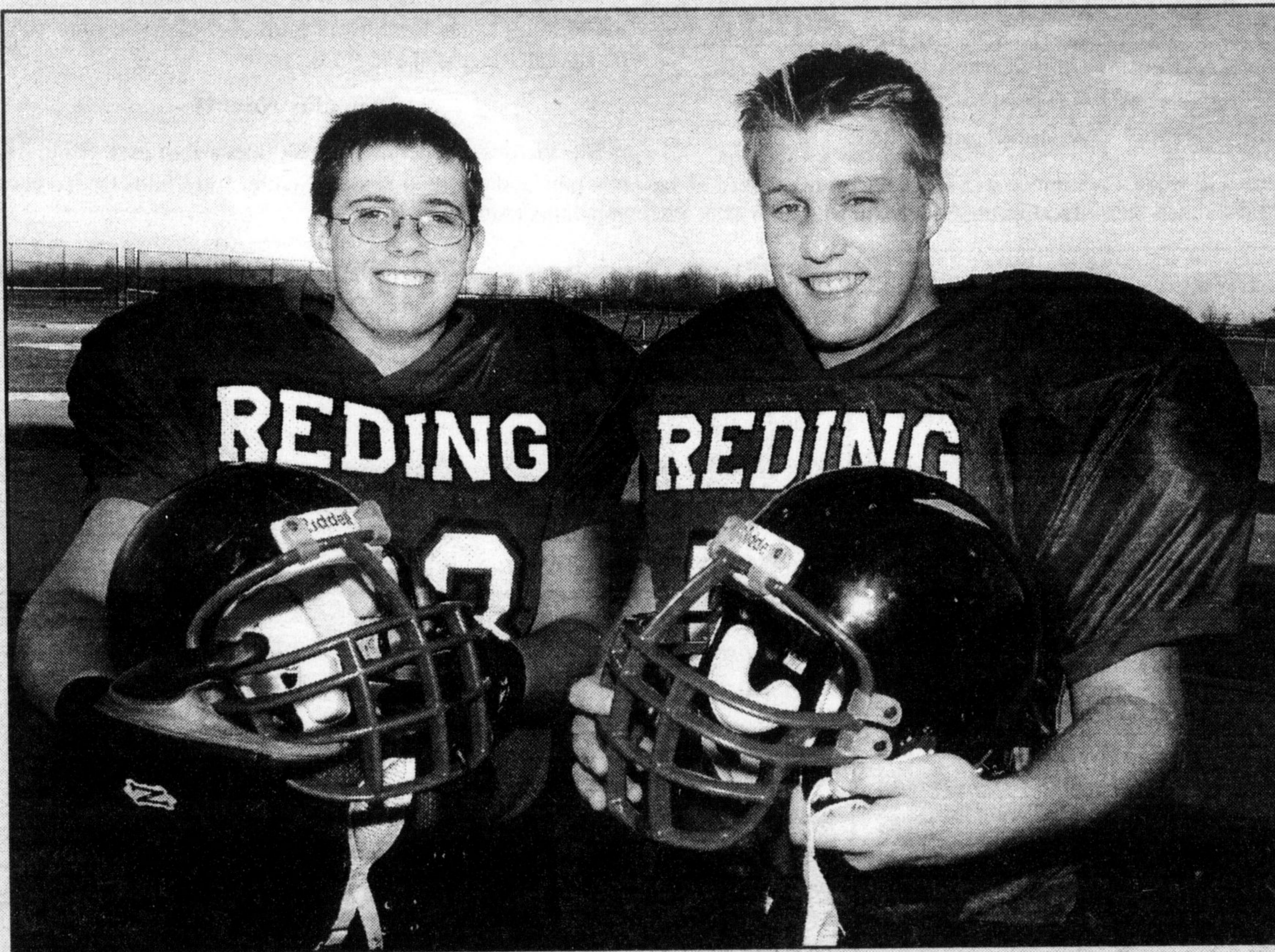


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Rob (left) and Rich Demille — both offensive linemen — will be among those trying to help Bishop Reding's senior football team capture Halton Division 1 gold next Thursday at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium.

Reding seniors set to battle for Halton Division I football title

By MURRAY TOWNSEND

Special to The Champion

Bishop Reding's senior football team will play for the Halton Division 1 championship after pounding Oakville-Trafalgar 41-13 in playoff action last Friday.

In the eight-team conference the top four teams play for the right to go to the Metro Bowl while the bottom four teams vie for the regional title. The Royals initially finished tied for fourth, but were knocked down to fifth based on their head-to-head loss against M.M. Robinson.

BR wasted no time getting on the scoreboard against Oakville-Trafalgar, driving down the field on the first possession. Andrew Pepper caught a 36-yard pass from quarterback Jodie St. John for a key gain and then St. John connected with Mike Long on a 17-yard strike for the touchdown.

OT returned the favour on their first drive, but after that it was all Royals. Onel Martino scored his first of three majors on a 17-yard run after he had set that up with a 36-yard scamper. Martino had 134 yards on the day, on 22 carries.

In the final two minutes of the first half, the Royals marched 76 yards down the field on the strength of St. John's arm, that was 10 of 16 on the game for a total of 125 yards. He complet-

ed three passes to Kyle Grant and one to Long before Martino found the end-zone from eight yards out.

On the second play of the second half, Long broke off a 77-yard run for a touchdown to make the score 27-6. Grant and Martino had the final two touchdowns, both from eight yards out.

The defense was outstanding, especially in the second half when they allowed a measly 25 yards of offense by Oakville-Trafalgar. Ivan Bosnjak had two sacks and was in on eight tackles, while Long had his usual strong game, and was credited with being in on 11 tackles.

Bishop Reding faces Loyola in the championship game at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium Thursday, Nov. 16 at noon. The two teams battled to a 20-20 draw in their season-opening clash.

According to coach Joe Jurus, the key will be to "execute, and not turn the ball over.

"There's no real secret. If we play well, we'll win."

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