



Photos by STEVE LeBLANC

Bishop Reding's Sitarz sisters — Eva and Joanna — took first-place honours in senior girls doubles at the Halton Badminton Championships Wednesday while (inset) Danielle King finished fourth in singles play.

BR's Sitarz sisters strike gold

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Royals' regional championship parade has moved indoors.

At Burlington's Notre Dame Wednesday, Bishop Reding struck gold in badminton — the third sport inside a year, alongside soccer and football, in which the local school has emerged victorious within Halton.

BR's Sitarz sisters kept the title run going — turning back all challengers in senior girls doubles play to become the school's first regional badminton champions. Jodie Rideout, now coach of the team, secured silver in 1992.

Eva and Joanna, who've tasted defeat only once in two dozen matches this year, clinched first-place honours in dramatic fashion — staging an edge-of-your-seat comeback win over a powerhouse pair from Burlington's M.M. Robinson.

After dropping game one 15-5, BR's dynamic duo gutted out a 14-14 (3-2) squeaker and then battled back from the brink — erasing a seemingly insurmountable 11-1 deficit and taking the tie breaker 15-12.

"We played smart and had some good placement on our shots," recalled Eva, of the remarkable rally Wednesday.

Added Joanna, "We just didn't give up. We kept hitting it to the one girl (who was weak link) and frustrating her."

En route to the finals, the sisters brushed aside four teams including fellow Royals Vanessa Bouskill and Sarah Venema (15-1, 15-4) in the semifinals.

Other teams swept aside by their crafty court work — which featured exceptional net shots by Eva and great back-court proficiency by Joanna — included Nelson, Notre Dame and Lester B. Pearson.

Said Rideout, "They (Sitarz) played a very mature and strong game."

The Sitarz also won five straight matches during the Volpe Division showcase, held one week earlier at E.C. Drury.

Matching that unbeaten run in senior girls singles action at the conference finals was fellow Royal Danielle King — who battled from behind in three consecutive matches to finally prevail.

From there, she delivered a rock-solid performance at the regional finals but was taken down by a tall and talented Notre Dame opponent in the semifinals 10-15, 15-13, 6-15.

"She had a big height and reach advantage on me and just played really well," said Danielle, who finished fourth at Haltons after dropping the bronze-medal match 21-16 to a girl from Georgetown.

All three local ladies now advance to the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) finals, which will be held today at Hamilton's St. Mary's Secondary School.

Fax all of your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off at The Champion, 191 Main St. E. If office is closed, please slide reports through mailslot.

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