

Reding seniors nipped

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Bishop Reding's senior boys soccer squad hopes to make a serious run at the regional championship this spring.

But in order to do so, the Royals can ill-afford many trip-ups like the one they experienced at Oakville's T.A. Blakelock High Thursday. A rather uninspired start proved costly to the visitors, who were eventually edged 2-1.

Defensive miscues led to both goals against netminder Allen Lourenco — whose Halton league play shutout string (including junior level competition last season) was ended at seven games by the host Tigers.

"On paper we're a very skilled team, but we've got to work on our mental toughness ...," said co-coach Fernando Costa. "That and coming together as a team."

Reding's skipper figures his charges may have been a little overconfident after winning a pre-season tournament in Vaughan and whitewashing Acton in season-opening play.

However, he's viewing the loss as a potential learning experience and hopes to have the Royals revitalized for this afternoon's home-field clash with the traditionally powerful St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders.

Rufus Williams made the lone deposit for Reding Thursday — scoring late in the second half to prevent a shutout. He and left-side defender Ryan Taylor gave strong performances.

BR's junior and senior teams will head across town Thursday to battle Milton District, and then the senior Royals will participate in this weekend's Ontario All-Catholic tournament in Hamilton — where they finished fourth last year.

Sign up now for triathlon

It's once again time to get in gear for the 2001 Milton Triathlon.

This year's event will be held Sunday, June 3 — as always, at Kelso Conservation Area.

Participants can choose between the Powerbar Try-A-Tri, a sprint triathlon or a duathlon.

To register, e-mail Mitch Fraser at mfraser@skyline.net or call local coordinator Harry Barnes at (519) 856-1154.

Boxer's minor mistake proves costly at tourney

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
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A split-second letdown proved painful for Matt Hart Jr. Friday night.

During light heavyweight competition at the Ray McGibbon's Gloves Tournament in St. Catharines, Milton's 24-year-old boxer dropped his guard for about the time it takes most people to blink.

However, that afforded Brampton's Alex Ward a sufficient window of opportunity to step in and connect with a thunderous straight-away right to the nose.

The third-round blow didn't floor the local pugilist, but did daze him enough for the referee to deliver a standing eight count and — upon further consideration — stop the fight.

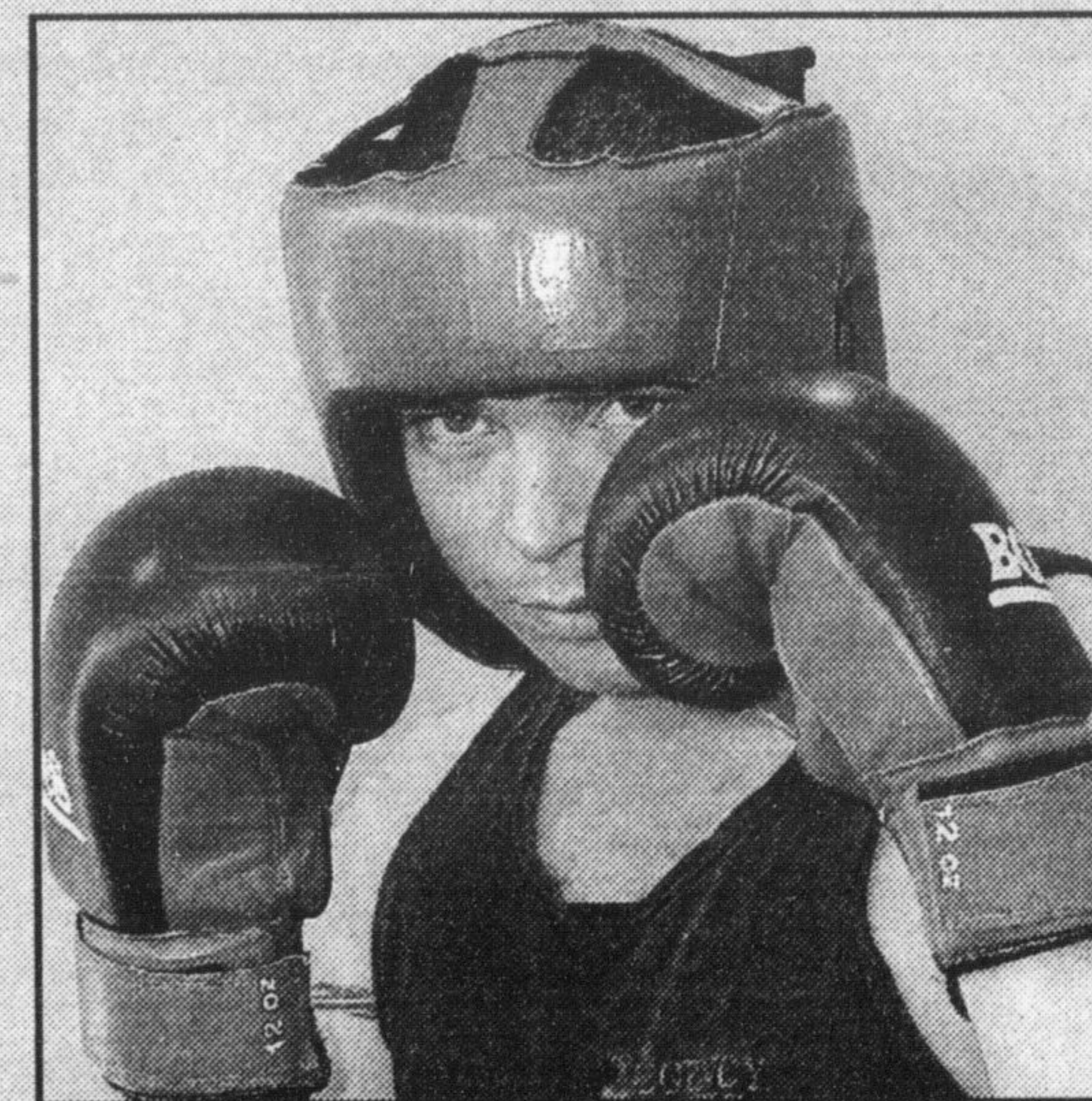
Subsequently, Hart Jr. was denied entry to the gold-medal round of the weekend showcase — which represented his first bout in several months, due to an eye injury plus a no-show and a tournament cancellation.

"I felt okay, but I guess I didn't respond as well as he (referee) considered suitable to continue," explained Hart Jr. "That's the way it goes in boxing sometimes."

Not that he's laying blame on the official. Even without the third-round stoppage Friday, Hart Jr. admits he wasn't performing up to his capabilities.

"The fight was pretty even through the first two rounds but I was getting a little frustrated there and not connecting on some of my combinations, which is unusual for me. I normally have a pretty high punch count. Overall, I was kind of disappointed with my performance."

Matt Jr. had hoped to slip into the middleweight



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Miltonian Matt Hart Jr. had a less than stellar showing in St. Catharines Friday, but is hoping to rebound later this spring.

class, but was a couple of pounds too heavy during Friday afternoon's weigh-in — which perhaps set a bad omen for the rest of the tournament.

The loss left him with the bronze medal, while Ward went on to capture the gold.

Nevertheless, the Hamilton Regency Boxing Club member hopes to learn from this weekend's setback and put up a better fight in his next appearance, which could come as early as mid-May in Hamilton.

"There's a tournament tentatively scheduled, but things often get canceled. That's the nature of amateur boxing," said Hart.

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MILTON MINOR HOCKEY

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday May 8 at 7:00 pm
Optimist Centre (North Side)

Come and find out what's been happening throughout 2000/2001 season

ALSO

Elections will be held at this time for new Board members for 2001/2002 season.