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TUESDAY MAY 22, 2001

Royals' stellar soccer season continues with big playoff victories

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Three Bishop Reding soccer squads were still in the championship hunt as of holiday press time Friday.

Joining BR's junior girls soccer team in battle Friday were both the junior and senior boys — who each turned back quarterfinal challenges on Thursday.

The seniors did so in commanding fashion, disposing of Oakville's T.A. Blakelock Tigers 5-1. Kyle Grant was a one-man wrecking crew, scoring four times for his highest output of the season.

Stefan Linder also dented the twine while the entire squad showed a great deal of cohesion the entire afternoon, battling back from an early deficit with an intensity that was somewhat lacking at the start of the year.

"They're finishing their chances and

peaking at the right time," said co-coach Fernando Costa.

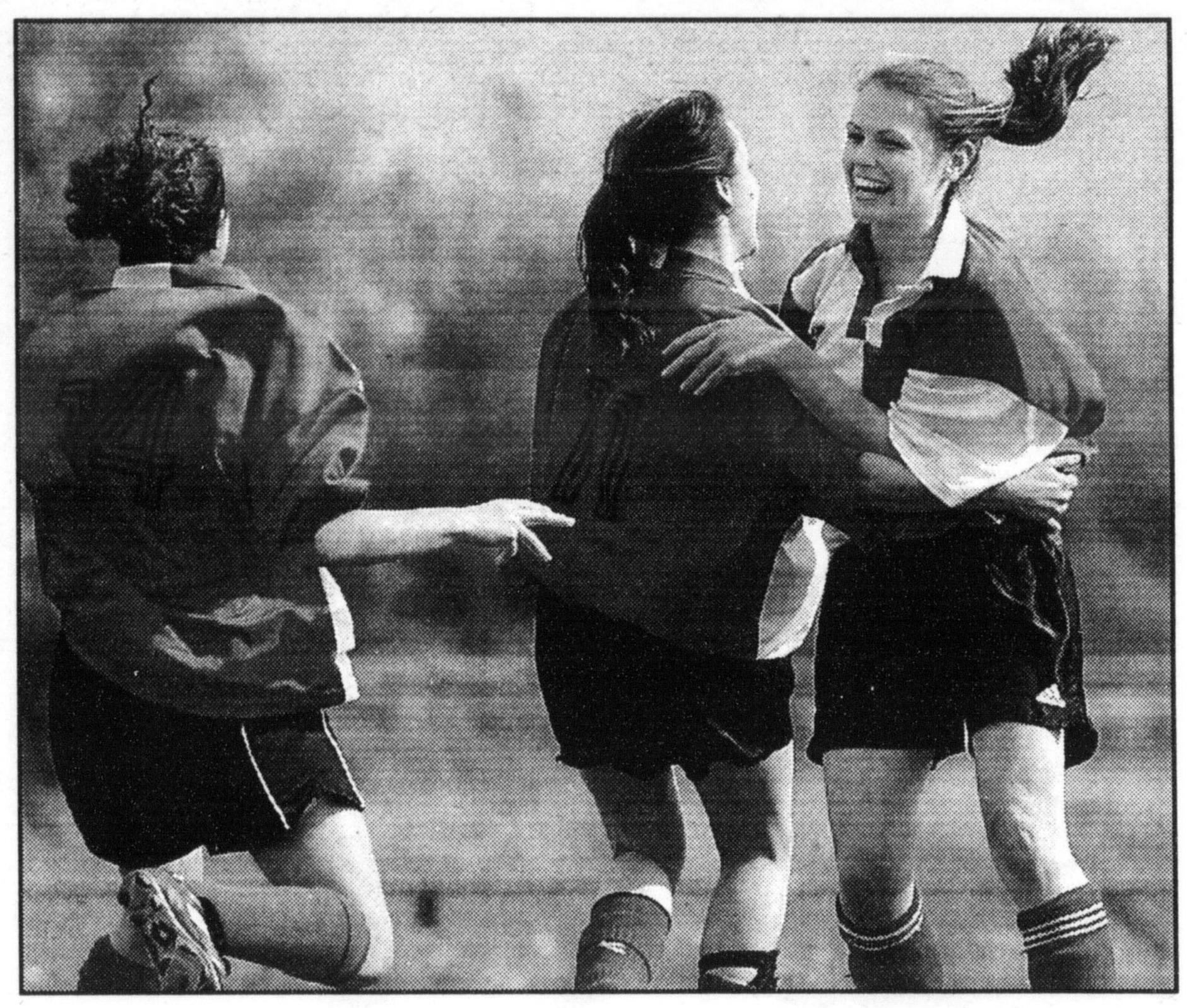
The victory advanced the seniors to Friday's semifinals against Burlington's Nelson Lords.

Reding's junior boys squad squared off against Oakville's Q.E. Park Friday, after edging St. Thomas Aquinas 1-0 Thursday at home — where reliable sniper Dave Wynne provided the heroics, putting the finishing touches on an impressive free kick from Jason Fererria.

The two turned in exceptional efforts, as did Mario Sabatini. Goalkeeper Phil Foley had to make just one save against Aquinas.

Meanwhile, BR's junior girls whitewashed Aquinas 1-0 Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals against Burlington's M.M. Robinson Friday.

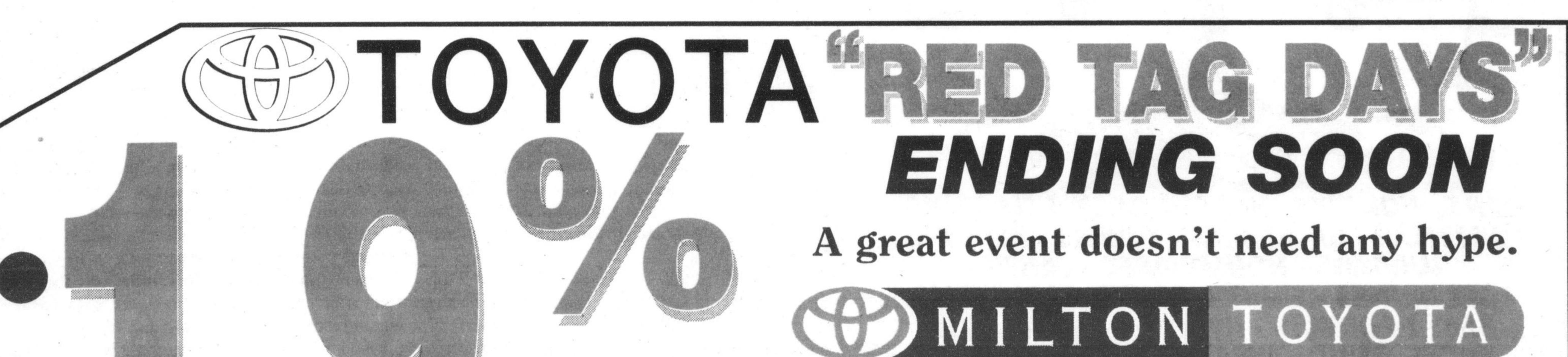
Amanda Voros delivered the winning goal against Aquinas.





Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Bishop Reding's Candace Nogueira (above) battles for possession against a St. Thomas Aquinas opponent while (at right) Amanda Voros (far right) is congratulated by teammates after scoring what would prove to be the winning goal in a 1-0 first round playoff victory at BR Wednesday.



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