

Reding's junior hoopsters fierce in league play, weak at tourneys

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

When it comes to junior girls basketball success, it's been feast or famine this year for Bishop Reding.

Heading into yesterday afternoon's clash with Loyola, BR's young cagers were still undefeated in league play with six straight victories — the most recent of which was delivered at Oakville Trafalgar Wednesday.

Abigail Adsit's clutch rebound shot with half-a-minute remaining kept the run going as the local ladies prevailed 20-19. Kasia Sitarz led with eight points while standing out defensively was Laura Pacevicius.

"We're very happy to be 6-0. We're beating teams of equal talent and showing a lot of character," said coach Rich Lopez.

But BR has been at the opposite end of the prosperity spectrum in tournament competition. And that trend continued on home court this past weekend.

During their eight-team invitational showcase, the Royals' only bright moment came in preventing a last-place finish by edging Loyola 27-23 Saturday afternoon.

This followed a humbling first round loss to Our Lady of Lourdes (56-20) Friday afternoon and a consolation semifinal defeat at the hands of Notre Dame (34-25) Saturday morning.

The Royals' tournament record now stands at a rather unimpressive 2-7.

Slow starts hurt the host hoopsters in each of their first two contests over the weekend.

Against Notre Dame, BR drew within three points on several occasions and actually took the lead on consecutive baskets by Sitarz. However, a measly two points in the final quarter thwarted any comeback hopes.

Cassandra Berghammer led the consolation semifinal showdown with half-a-dozen points while chipping in four apiece

were Sitarz, Diane Cosme and Alania Petric.

Lindsey Furik's 10-point performance paced the hosts to victory in the battle for seventh. Adsit also stood out with eight points.

Against Our Lady of Lourdes Friday, Furik led with six points

Meanwhile, Lakeshore toppled St. Thomas Aquinas 49-34 in the championship game while Notre Dame took consolation honours by outlasting Assumption 36-31.

Should they have prevailed against Loyola yesterday, the juniors' undefeated record will be in serious jeopardy tomorrow afternoon at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Reding's seniors went into yesterday's game with a 5-1 record after a tough loss to Oakville Trafalgar Wednesday. They too will be severely challenged by St. Thomas Aquinas — currently one of the top teams in Ontario.

Senior Royals need a stronger start if they hope to enjoy playoff prosperity

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
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Bishop Reding's senior football team has proven it can play at high gear.

But to ensure any kind of playoff prosperity next month, the defending regional champs will have to start doing so a lot earlier in the game.

For the second time in three weeks Friday, Joe Juras' Royals spent the entire first half trying to shift out of neutral. Once they did it was much too late for a comeback victory, so staving off humiliation became plan B.

To that end, the visitors succeeded — as they held Burlington's Assumption Crusaders to just one touchdown through the last two quarters en route to losing their regular season finale 34-15.

The defeat dropped them to 2-4 — which, with Halton Region's top four finishers now moving on to the Metro Bowl playdowns, is still good enough for a division one opening-round bye and home-field advantage for next week's semifinals.

"It was a mirror image of the game against M.M. Robinson," said Juras. "Gord McCarles made some adjustments on defense that helped turn things around."

Unfortunately, early offensive miscues continued to plague the Royals. And Assumption jumped all over most of them on the way to placing their guests in a first-half hammer-lock.

Said Juras, "They (Crusaders) made some huge runs to the outside that we just couldn't contain."

The absence of leading tackler Chris Casteller — who sat out with severe headaches due to some high-impact blows taken the week before — was partially to blame for this, although veteran Matt Ishoy and company stepped things up down the stretch to stop the bleeding.

Meanwhile, Ryan Taylor scored on fourth-and-four — following a botched punt attempt from deep inside the hosts end — for the initial major. Then BR reached the end-zone again on an impressive 63-yard romp by Chris Casa.

David Wynne kicked both extra points and added a single on a missed field goal early in the third quarter.

The Royals' first-round bye gives them two weeks to work on shoring up their offensive attack before the semifinals next Friday, November 9.

Their opponent will be either Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas or Burlington Central. Game time is 2 p.m.

Old Wings to host Russians

Memorial Arena will be the site for a Russian invasion this Friday — when a team traveling from St. Petersburg, Russia takes on the Milton Old Wings.

The game begins at 2 p.m. and admission is free.

The Old Wings will do a little globetrotting of their own next year with a spring trek through Germany, Hungary, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

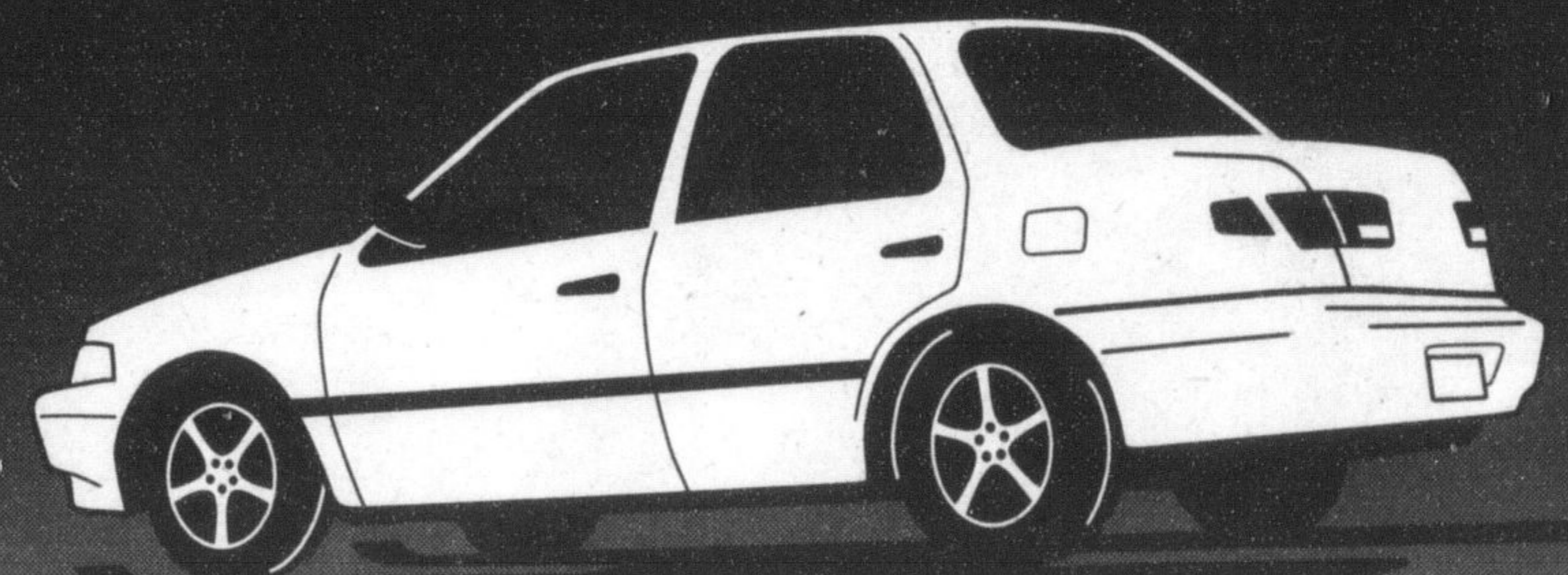
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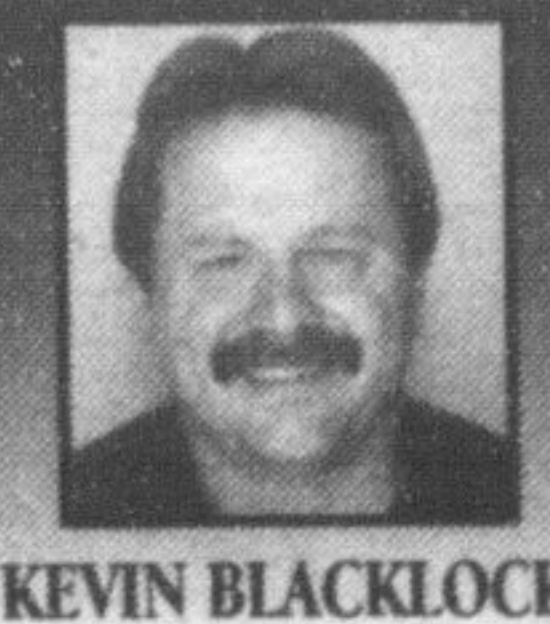
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KEVIN BLACKLOCK

'Hawks win twice

Jeff Clarke notched back-to-back game winners this past weekend as the Milton AA major novices eked out a pair of low scoring victories over Orangeville.

During the first clash Saturday, Clarke scored the initial marker in a 2-0 shutout. Assisting on the play were Brandon Haggart and Ricardo Raduka.

Lauren Kelly sank an empty net insurance goal while delivering a flawless performance between the pipes was Trevor Rae-Hunt.

The Collins Sunoco Winterhawks' netminder was equally sharp the following day en route to winning the return engagement 3-1. Clarke's game-winner was sandwiched between goals from Richard Monk and George Kopas.

Brendon Farrell and Gavin Lecky led a rock-solid defensive campaign for the 'Hawks.

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