



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Senior Royals stunned in semis by Central

Bishop Reding loses its momentum, then game

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Anyone involved in enough high-stakes sporting events eventually comes to realize just how quickly momentum can be lost.

Joe Jurus' Royals now count themselves members of that fraternity — following Friday's 26-9 Halton regional semifinal defeat at the hands of underdog Burlington Central.

Defending tier one champs (a title which excludes Metro Bowl level teams like Nelson and Notre Dame), Bishop Reding's senior football squad had things well in hand through the early going and were poised to go into half-time up 9-0.

But two quick long-bomb passes by Trojan quarterback Kurt Sinwaski in the closing moments of the second quarter changed the entire complexion of the afternoon clash — and set the stage for his team's second straight upset victory.

Burlington Central had gone winless through regular season play and — unlike their semifinal hosts — had little expectation for reaching the title match.

But Sinwaski's concentrated air-strike — to wide open targets — plus a spirited fan base and fortified defensive effort in the last two quarters were enough to overcome the favoured Royals.

Put game out of reach

Capitalizing on their reversal of fortune, the visitors broke for a 70-yard touchdown run on the first play of the second half to tighten their grip on Reding.

From there, they padded the lead further with a somewhat controversial major on a wild end-zone scramble — which broke the Royals' collective backs, if they weren't broken already.

BR's hopes for a comeback got a slight boost early in the fourth quarter with a fumble recovery and defensive penalty that pushed them close to mid-field. But an interception two plays later put the final nail in the proverbial coffin.

Reding gambled with lengthy passes in the dying minutes of play, but that seemed more to deliver a respectable finish than anything else.

Ryan Taylor provided the hosts with their lone touchdown of the day, reaching the end-zone on a 25-yard scamper late in the opening quarter.

BR's three other points were secured with the extra-point convert and a two-point safety.

Chris Casa engineered about two dozen gains in the first half — doing an amazing job holding onto the pigskin on a bone-chilling afternoon — but a banged up ankle and intensified opposing defense combined to minimize his efforts down the stretch.

Friday represented a payback victory for the Trojans, who'd been eclipsed by Reding 10-6 in regular season play. The Royals had gone into the semifinals the fresher of the two teams, having enjoyed a week-one bye thanks to their fifth-place finish.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Bishop Reding's Chris Casa battles for yardage during Friday's semifinals against Burlington Central. The favoured Royals were defeated 26-9.

'Mini' Haydar continues to light it up

Darren (Mini) Haydar matched a season high four-point effort in helping his New Hampshire Wildcats knock off UMass Lowell 5-2 Friday.

Milton's most prolific sharpshooter scored once and added three assists, including one on the third-period game winner by promising freshman Sean Collins.

Back at home Saturday, UNH's top gun-

ner was held scoreless — as were all his teammates in a 1-0 whitewash to UMass Lowell.

Now captain of the perennial powerhouse Wildcats, Haydar is averaging a point-and-a-half per game so far this season — scoring five times and adding eight helpers in eight games.

He's on pace to reach the half-century

point mark for the second time in his university career, having done so three years ago as a rookie.

Haydar was a ninth-round pick for the NHL's Nashville Predators in 1999 and enjoyed a strong showing at the club's rookie camp in July — leading all freshman scoring with a hat-trick in the week-ending scrimmage.



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