

Reding junior cagers' pay-back hopes nixed

Sub-par shooting in quarterfinals does in BR

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Bishop Reding's hopes for a little basketball pay-back fell flat during quarterfinal playoff action Monday.

The BR juniors had already locked up second place and an opening-round bye in their Halton Region Volpe Division heading into regular-season ending play against Oakville's Iroquois Ridge November 5.

With nothing tangible on the line, they offered a less-than-stellar performance for that encounter and were outdistanced 31-29. Needless to say, the local cagers were looking for a stronger effort during the return engagement.

Though the stakes were much higher, the Royals' offensive campaign was grounded - particularly during the third quarter, when they managed just a single basket.

As a result, Reding was vanquished 27-20 Monday and denied access to the final four round.

"Our shooting was horrible, we were just 6-for-23 from the foul line," said co-coach Rich Lopez. "We made a brief run at the end there, but it was too little, too late."

Diane Cosme and Laura Pacevicius led the hosts' scoring with six points apiece. BR had a golden opportunity to close the gap during third-quarter play — while their guests seemed stuck in neutral — but faltered at every turn.

The juniors finished the season on a three-game losing skid after winning their first seven league games, several by a handful of points or less.

Remarked Lopez, "Finishing 7-2 and in second place (for the regular season) was definitely an accomplishment."

Meanwhile, BR's seniors were also eliminated in the quarterfinals Monday - getting hammered by the undefeated and championship-bound St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders 57-22.

The Oakville powerhouse jumped out to an early lead and asserted themselves as the superior squad throughout the entire contest. Meredith Murphy and Alicia New recorded six points each for the Royals.

Last Wednesday, BR exacted a measure of revenge for a regular-season loss to the fourth-place Oakville Trafalgar Devils knocking them off 31-27 in opening-round play. Murphy's 14-point showcase fueled the pay-back victory.

Reding's senior hoopsters finished fifth for the season with a record of 5-4.

Correction

A sports column in last Friday's Champion contained incorrect information. It stated that John Arnold had bought the Milton Jr. B lacrosse team from Jim Leworthy. Mr. Arnold took over the team but didn't actually buy it since the Mavericks are a communitybased club without an owner.

The Champion regrets this error as well as any inconvenience it may have caused.

Milton Minor Hockey Association

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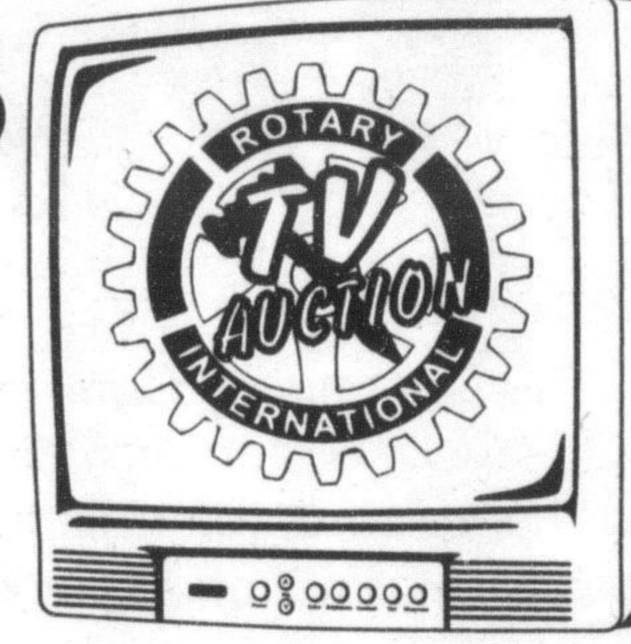
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