

Fax your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at (905) 878-4943.

Reding baseball team hammers the 'Ridge to reach the final four

Royals strike early and often on way to lopsided quarterfinal win

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Bishop Reding didn't so much advance to semifinal baseball play as bulldoze its way in.

Exploiting ripe-to-fall opposition at Brian Best Park Thursday, BR booked passage to the final four by dismantling Oakville's Iroquois Ridge Trailblazers 12-3.

Having battled back to edge E.C. Drury 4-3 the previous afternoon, the 'Ridge offered little resistance past the second inning against the Royals — collecting just three hits over the final five frames en route to a humbling playoff exit.

The Trailblazers' quarterfinal efforts were particularly hindered by shaky relief pitching and poor defense from their first-base man. A blatant mental collapse didn't help matters either.

"They (Iroquois Ridge) fell apart, it's that simple," said Joe Jurus, BR's longtime skipper who's now officially delivered the best baseball season in school history.

That acknowledgment was an encouraging sign heading into

yesterday afternoon's semifinal crossover game with the powerhouse Notre Dame Irish.

Thursday's lopsided score could have easily opened the door to overconfidence, but Jurus knows it'll take a whole lot more just to give Halton's top squad a respectable run, much less pull off the upset.

He stressed, "If we play like that against Notre Dame, we're not going to win."

Jurus was no doubt referring to a few mental miscues — which to those concentrating on the big picture Thursday, may have gone unnoticed.

Among the more visible cracks in the hosts' quarterfinal campaign were some overzealous base-running — that would have been costly against a stronger fielding opponent — and sub-par defense from third-base man Dan Digirolamo.

Otherwise, BR was quite sturdy — and certainly dominant — on the way to reaching the semifinals.

Great extra effort by Tennant

The winning run was scored by offensive standout Liam Tennant.

With two outs in the second and the game deadlocked 3-3, BR's 10th grade shortstop belted out a deep single before stealing second and darting home on a hit by Conan O'Brien.

That effort — which highlighted a three-hit, two-run afternoon for the talented young infielder — set the stage for what would be a mismatch the rest of the way, as BR scored half-a-dozen runs in the fifth plus two more for good measure in its last at-bat.

Meanwhile, starting pitcher Chris Dumencu recovered from a less-than-stellar second to finish out his allotted four innings and pick up the victory.

He closed out his stretch with a quick three-up, three-down fourth.

O'Brien worked relief and held the visitors scoreless with three hits over as many innings. He also drove in three runs to continue a thoroughly productive hitting campaign this spring.

Results from yesterday afternoon's semifinal clash with Notre Dame were not available at press time.

If able to stage an upset win, Bishop Reding would advance to tomorrow's regional championship final against either Loyola of Lester B. Pearson.

The Royals went 6-2 in the regular season and earned a couple of honourable mentions in the Greater Toronto Area high school rankings — the second following their quarterfinal win Thursday.

Watch For The Milton Choice Awards Winner's Section Coming Soon!



The Canadian Champion
Milton's Choice - Since 1860

MOBILE SERVICE

DOCTOR GOLF
Professional Golf Services & Personal Training

- Private/Group Lessons
- Video/Swing Analysis
- Club Fitting-Sales-Merchandise
- Tournament Organization
- Golf Adventure Tours and much more...

We Make House Calls! www.doctorgolf.net

905-466-8443

May/June
Special
See you on the Green!

Green Fee & Cart Specials
Singles add \$5.00

MON-FRI before ... 8:00am \$ **45⁰⁰**
EVERYDAY after 3:00pm

SAT, SUN & HOLIDAY before 7:00am \$ **59⁹⁹**

TOURNAMENT DATES AVAILABLE
Golf, Cart and Steak from \$75.



PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Britannia Road, Burlington
Just west of Guelph Line

905-335-6181
www.lowvillegolf.com

EXTRA, EXTRA... CARRIERS WANTED!!!

Do you want to earn extra money, collect points towards some really great stuff, and have fun too? ... Then we want you to join our winning team of carriers. Routes are currently available on the following streets:

Collis Crt.
Beard Dr.
Kearns Dr.
Lowe Lane
Farlow Cres.
Waldie Ave.
Bundy Dr.
Cartwright Cres.
Trudeau Dr.
Stover Cres.
Davis Lane
Turner Dr.
Cobban Rd.
Marley Cres.
Dolby Cres.
Roberts Dr.
Buck Dr.

Dixon Dr.
Dills Cres.
Halton Cres.
Pearson Way
Mowat Lane
Coates Dr.
Babcock Cres.
Newell St.
Higgins Dr.
Knight Trail
Eden Place
Pollock Crt.
Morse Place
Bronte St. S.
Woodward Ave.
Maxted Cres.
White Dr.

Trudeau Dr.
Croff Ave.
Wilson Dr.
Roseheath Dr.
Satok Cres.
Harwood Dr.
Evans Terr.
Bishop Crt.
Cabot Trail
McNaughton Crt.
Charles St.
Commercial St.
Garnet St.
Lydia Ave.
Sydney St.
Beaver Crt.
Laurier Ave.

Some of these streets are located in the newer Mattamy Homes area of Milton (off Derry Rd. & Thompson Rd.) If you would like to become a Canadian Champion Carrier please call Lisa or Peter today and arrange for sign up.

905-878-5947



BR's junior girls stoned by the Irish

From feast to famine.

Two days after an explosive quarterfinal performance to outdistance the heavily-favoured Loyola Hawks 4-3, BR's junior girls soccer squad suffered through an ill-timed offensive drought in Burlington.

Unable to capitalize on a number of second-half opportunities, the local ladies were whitewashed 3-0 by the as yet undefeated Notre Dame Irish.

The Burlington powerhouse had won seven straight league games and given up just two measly goals heading into the semifinals Thursday.

As a result, they were the clear favourite against Bishop Reding — and proved that by striking three times before the contest was half over.

"They're a very strong team and with such a windy afternoon, they caught our defense off guard," said Royals co-coach Barb O'Connor. "We had some good chances in the second half, but we just couldn't capitalize."

Cassandra Berghammer was solid between the pipes — turning back about half-a-dozen shots to fend off a potential blowout — while also offering spirited play were Stephanie Douglas, Mia Fazio, Kelsy Orpen and Kayla Osborne.