

# Royals humbled by Notre Dame

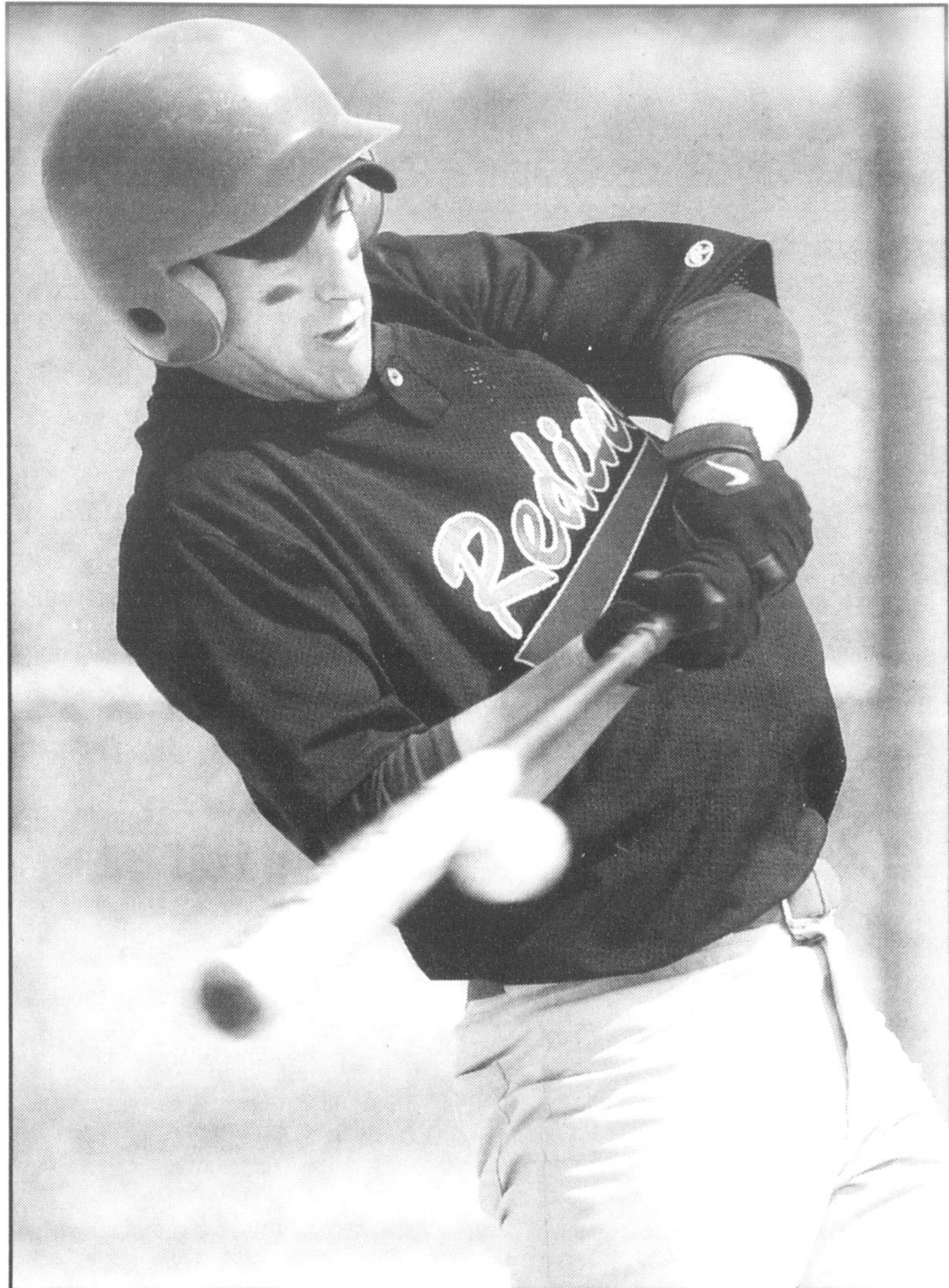


Photo by JAMIE SMITH

Bishop Reding's Julian Ricci belts out a double during semifinal play against Notre Dame Monday afternoon in Burlington. The Royals were hammered 19-1.

By STEVE LeBLANC

*The Champion*

One painfully long afternoon.

That's the only way to describe Bishop Reding's first-ever trip to regional semifinal baseball play at Burlington's Ireland Park Monday.

The Notre Dame Irish provided the opposition and wasted no time in proving just why they're ranked second across the entire Greater Toronto Area.

They struck at every conceivable turn and got minimal resistance from the underdog Royals en route to a 19-1 pasting — this just four days after dismantling M.M. Robinson 21-5 to reach Halton's final four. "Everything that could have gone wrong did," said BR manager Joe Jurus, "Notre Dame's a very strong team, but we gave them about 11 runs on three errors."

Reding — who put together a school-best 6-2 regular season and trounced Iroquois Ridge 12-3 in the quarterfinals — managed just two hits, both coming in the third inning.

Julian Ricci belted out a double and then scored on a bloop single by Andrew Pepper. This plus relief pitcher Liam Tennant's scoreless fourth frame were the only bright spots in a rather humbling semifinal outing.

Notre Dame's Jordan Ripko led the hit parade with two home runs — including one of the grand slam variety shortly after the visitors spoiled the shutout bid. This put the score at 12-1 and crushed any lingering hopes — meager as they might have been — of a competitive showdown.

Starter Chris Dumencu faced the brunt of the punishment from the Irish's powerhouse lineup, while also seeing time on the mound for the Royals were Conan O'Brien, Nick Clough and Ricky Nadalin.

Notwithstanding Monday's blowout loss, this season was definitely a successful one for BR. And 2003 looks to be as well, with only Dumencu and Dan Digirolamo being lost to graduation.

Please fax your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943.



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## Bishop Reding softball team finishes in top spot

Bishop Reding's girls softball team punctuated its best regular season in recent memory with a huge exclamation mark last Thursday.

Led by home runs from Cassie Crevier and Alex Findlay, BR struck early and often to humble the Loyola Hawks 20-7 — lifting its first-place record to 6-1.

The Royals have enjoyed dynamite defense and an effective one-two pitching punch from Casey Ferguson and Amanda Robichaud en route to their best showing in at least five years.

They have a first-round bye Monday and will gear up for Wednesday's quarterfinals at this weekend's Iroquois Ridge Tournament.

Meanwhile, E.C. Drury — who'd traditionally been the local powerhouse when it

came to girls softball — are in the midst of a rebuilding period, having lost a number of veterans to graduation last spring.

They had a tough end to the regular season Tuesday, first dropping a 17-16 nail-bitter to St. Thomas Aquinas and then falling to Q.E. Park 11-7 to finish with a 3-4 record.

Milton District ended regular season play with a 2-5 record — after losing to St. Thomas Aquinas 17-6 Tuesday — and had to beat Loyola yesterday afternoon in Oakville to earn the sixth and final playoff spot in Halton Region's Volpe Division.

Results were not available at press time. If successful, the Mustangs will face either St. Thomas Aquinas of Iroquois Ridge in Monday's opening round, while E.C. will play Q.E. Park Monday.

## Intermediates pull out tie

The Maverick intermediates got their point across at John Tonelli Sports Centre Sunday.

Only problem is, they should have walked away with more than one.

Up 4-1 heading into the third period against Brampton. Milton went into a bit of a tailspin and needed two last-minute goals to eke out a 6-6 stalemate — the second in as many home games.

Adam Rutz salvaged the night with the tying tally — evening the count with under half-a-minute remaining to punctuate a two-goal, three-point performance.

Todd Ashby, Derek Blanchard, Lee Frittenburg, and Jonathan Ram were the other marksmen for the Mavericks.

Backstopping the hosts was Jordan Lumb.

Milton's previous draw — by an identical score — was a lot easier to swallow, since it was the locals who rallied to stave off defeat May 12.

Trailing by a pair in the third period, they battled back for the tie. James McIntosh enjoyed the lion's share of the scoring pie with a goal in each frame, while Frittenburg tallied twice and added an assist.

Making the final deposit and assisting on goal number three was Blanchard. Ian Robertson helped set up two goals. Lumb rebounded from a subpar second period to earn his first of two consecutive stalemates.



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