

Senior 'Stangs win home opener

Byers' touchdown runs lead MD to victory

Brand new season, same old success. Milton District High School's Brandon Byers was among the senior football team's top rushers last season — and quickly resumed that role for this year's home opener Friday.

The Mustang veteran had numerous carries on the day, including a couple for touchdowns in the opening half to fuel

MD's 15-0 whitewash of the T.A. Blakelock Tigers.

This marked the local seniors' first home-opening win since 1995.

Both majors were the direct result of turnovers — a fumble recovery and interception — by a suffocating defensive unit. Remarked head coach Keith Pearce, "Our defense really mauled them. Blakelock

really only got close (to scoring) once all afternoon. We pressured them very well."

Standout defenders included Josh Suter, Lee Frittenburg, Mark Galick, Dan Greenland-Perry and Don McKenna — who intercepted the visiting quarterback to set up one of the touchdowns.

Offensively, Pearce was particularly pleased with his linemen — adding that the time they allowed ball carriers should have equaled another two TDs.

In addition to Byers, Todd Arruda and Jordan Gunter gained substantial real estate against the Tigers.

Meanwhile, Taylor Coulombe put the game out of reach in the fourth quarter with a 30-yard field goal. This helped ease the sting of missed convert attempts — though not entirely his fault — on both touchdowns earlier in the day.

MD's seniors will be back at home against the Lester B. Pearson Patriots Friday. Meanwhile, the juniors began their season yesterday afternoon against newly-opened Holy Trinity (results were not available at press time) and cap a two-game home stand versus the Oakville Trafalgar Devils Thursday.

All games start at 3:30 p.m.

Royals deliver shutout victory to start season

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Bishop Reding's seniors made a strong case for the defense in home-opening gridiron action Friday.

Three timely turnovers — a pair of interceptions and a huge goal-line fumble recovery — were essentially the difference for the tier two returnees, who blanked the White Oaks Wildcats 7-0.

A visitors' touchdown seemed inevitable late in the first quarter, when at the end of a conservative but effective drive they had two tries to gain just four yards. But BR's sturdy resistance and a Greg Dambrosi fumble recovery quashed that scoring bid.

From there, host defenders held their guests in check at all crucial points of the afternoon — before and after quarterback Andrew Pepper made a two-yard punch into the end-zone midway through the third quarter.

Said Reding's pivot, "The defense really made the difference today. They stuck in there and made big plays when we needed them."

Having missed pretty much all of last season after surgery on a torn ACL, Pepper admits he had a few game-one jitters Friday. And a dropped hand-off to begin his initial possession certainly didn't help matters much.

But he eventually settled down — particularly following a 28-yard completion to Stephan Paulic early in the second quarter — and was quite credible in his first full game at the controls.

"It (first big pass) definitely helped," said Pepper, who was five for nine in the air and misfired just the one time on running plays to out-duel his White Oaks counterpart.

Delivering most of the key carries on the day and setting up the lone major with a nifty seven-yard cut inside was promising rookie Rob Rubino — who last spring stood out with a successful qualifying campaign for the provincial track and field championships.

Pepper's TD was converted by Mark Salaio. Defensively, Luke Antonelli provided rock-solid play as well as a terrific pick-off in the final minute to put the kibosh on a late rally. Alex Kavanaugh also intercepted the opposing pivot — on a short second-quarter pass when the game was still scoreless — while in on about a dozen tackles was Mike Banks.

BR's defense had just one blatant breakdown on a fourth-quarter reverse sweep and pretty much neutralized both passing and wide-out rushes by White Oaks.

This allowed their offensive counterparts time to shake off a few early execution glitches and start driving the field.

"It wasn't pretty, but we got it done," said head coach Joe Jurus. "That goal-line stand in the first quarter was really the difference. They (Wildcats) had two cracks to score within a few yards and we held them. If you do that and don't allow a touchdown all day, you're going to win games."

The Royals are hoping to have two-way veteran Rusty Parsons back from injury for the second half of the season. In the meantime, they'll travel to Burlington Thursday afternoon to take on the Aldershot Lions. Their next home game is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1 at 3:30 p.m. against the Q.E. Park Eagles.

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October 1st, 2002

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Milton Youth Soccer Club



2003 Rep. Team Tryouts

Open to all players

Saturday September 28th

and

Saturday October 5th

@ Milton District High School

Rain or Shine

**8:00 AM
to
9:30 AM**

**Boys Under 12
1991 or Younger
Ralph Williams**

**2:00 PM
to
3:30 PM
Main field**

**Girls Under 11
1992 or Younger
Jim DeMarsh**

**10:00 AM
to
11:30 AM**

**Boys Under 10
1993 or Younger
David Hamon**

**2:00 PM
to
3:30 PM
Side Field**

**Girls Under 16
1987 or Younger
Joanne Berghammer**

**12:00 PM
to
1:30 PM**

**Boys Under 15
1988 or Younger
Andrew Bowmen**

**3:30 PM
to
5:00 PM**

**Girls Under 19
1984 or Younger
Louie DePalma**

Major atoms earn a pre-season split

Milton's AA major atoms kicked off pre-season play with a two-game split last week.

The Collins Sunoco Winterhawks began by toppling Guelph 4-1 — thanks largely to a three-goal second period and clutch defense in the final frame. Goaltender Trevor Rae-Hunt's shutout bid was spoiled late in the third.

Lighting the lamp were Mackenzie Gervais, Andrew Bergman, Brandon Haggart and Spencer Abraham. Jake Cochrane and Richard Monk each drew a pair of assists, while single helpers were chipped in by Lauren Kelly and George Kopas.

The local atoms were just as offensive in their next outing, but it wasn't quite enough as they were outdistanced by Burlington 6-4.

Kelly tallied twice in the loss while Gervais also stood out with a goal and two assists. Cochrane chipped in a goal and an assist while Monk added a couple of helpers.



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