

Baseball Royals advance to semis

Dump Mustangs to reach Halton's final four

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Bishop Reding's boys baseball team steamrolled its way into the semifinals — and flattened its crosstown rivals in the process.

Just 24 hours removed from a hard-fought opening round win over Oakville's Iroquois Ridge Trailblazers, Milton District had nothing left to give against the defending regional champion Royals Tuesday afternoon at Maplehurst Ball Park.

Showing little sympathy to their fellow Miltonians, BR mounted an early cushion and cruised to an 8-0 whitewash — the second straight shutout victory this year

over the Mustangs.

RBI leader Nick Mazzaratto accounted for half the scoring with back-to-back two-run singles, while five other Royals posted hits to aid in the quarterfinal blowout.

Driving in the other runs were Marcas Gray, Jamie Pedra, Ryan Taylor and Liam Tennant.

Matt Mastrangelo saw the lion's share of mound work for the victors, working four innings after a solid start by Sean Mathé.

The Mustangs had runners on third three times Tuesday, but just couldn't cash them in. They offered hope for a more

respectable finish by loading up the bases in the fourth before Reding managed straight outs to preserve the shutout.

MD's one bright spot was defense — much like it was the previous afternoon in a 4-1 decision over the Ridge.

Chris Jones was credited with the win, as the Mustangs struck three times in the opening frame and hung on for their first playoff win in five years.

Standing out with three big catches in left field was James Connor.

Meanwhile, Reding — still unbeaten after disposing of MD — took on Burlington's Notre Dame Irish in yesterday afternoon's semifinals at Maplehurst.

Results were not available at press time.

If victorious, the Royals will have a chance to defend their Halton title at Burlington's Nelson Park Wednesday afternoon — most likely against the Burlington Central Trojans.



Midgets start with split

The midget Red Sox kicked off their season against two teams from the same community, but the results couldn't have been more different.

At home to Brampton's second entry squad Sunday evening, Milton struck early and often to triumph 7-5. Scott McTrach and Jordan Fagin combined for a solid pitching campaign, and were adequately supported in the field.

Offensively, the Red Sox enjoyed production from up and down the lineup — with two-hit efforts turned in by Marcas Gray, Chris Hickey, Sean Mathé and Nick Vipond.

Milton had enough scoring for the win by the end of the second inning and hung on for the narrow victory.

One night later on the road, the Red Sox faced Brampton's top dogs and were more than a little overwhelmed by their fierce

pitching and overall experience on the way to being humbled 17-3.

With basically a minor-midget age club, Milton isn't expected to seriously challenge teams like this so early in the year. Needless to say, that reality showed through from the onset.

"Yeah, when they turned the lights on (to start the game)," quipped manager Bruce Rankin, when asked about any bright spots on the night. "They're (Brampton's first entry club) definitely a good team."

The Red Sox didn't record a single hit in their first road trip, and needed a few walks and couple of errors to get on the score-sheet.

They compete at the Brantford Tournament this weekend and return to Brian Best Park to take on Mississauga May 30. Game time is 6 p.m.

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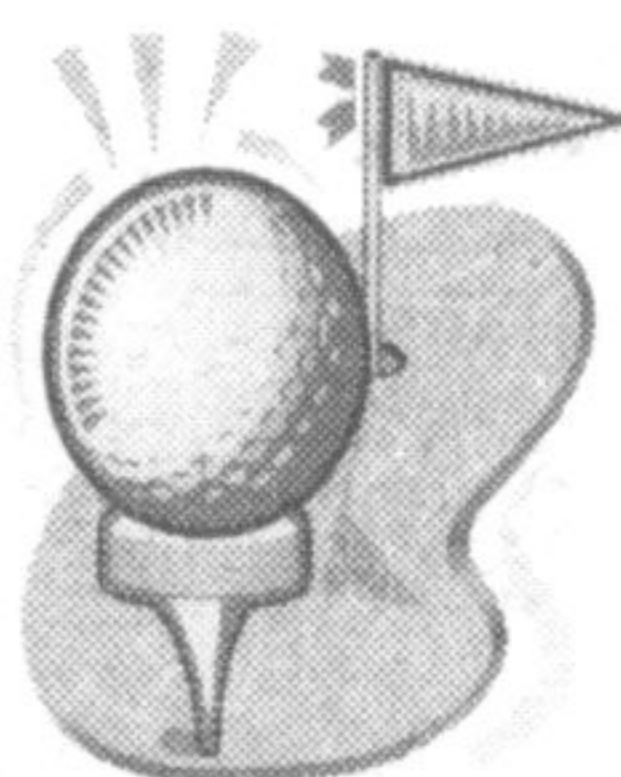
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