

Royals struggle in first game in junior football

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**
Special to The Champion

Junior football is back at Bishop Reding after a seven-year absence, but it could be a while before it's back with a vengeance.

The junior Royals went down to defeat 30-6 at home to Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders Wednesday afternoon in season-opening play.

There were all the mistakes you'd expect from a team playing its first game, with plenty of evidence of first-game jitters. Most of the scores against them were set up by turnovers — and there were a lot of those.

As players gain more confidence and their skill and knowledge of the game increases, those fumbles should be drastically reduced. And defensively, opposing teams won't be able to pull off as many breakthrough plays.

All things considered, coach Joe Jurus thought it was a good effort for their first game. "They need to learn everything," explained Jurus, who also coaches the senior Royals. "They're learning as we go. We'll get better, I guarantee it."

The Raiders only used a couple plays in their playbook. They attempted a pass only once, choosing instead to hand the ball to two exceptional running backs who piled up the yardage and were able to get outside for big gains. That's one thing the Royals need to work on, Jurus explained, containment being crucial in junior football.

The major benefit of a junior football program is to make sure the senior program stays strong as the players move up in the system. If that was the goal there was plenty of cause for optimism, especially with these players certain to improve.

The defense made several big plays. Elliott Slade looked all-pro on one occasion with the Raiders threatening to score. On second down, he stopped the ball carrier in his tracks for no gain, and on third down he did the same thing, forcing St. Thomas Aquinas to settle for a field goal.

Other big defensive plays came from Kevin Winter, James Dorgo, Kevin Gonsalves and Daniel Santos.

Offensively, the Royals had difficulty putting drives together, but quarterback Craig Howse received some good protection from the offensive line for his passing attempts and showed considerable composure throwing out of the pocket.

The left-hander also demonstrated he could throw bullets when he kept the ball in the middle of the field. He hooked up with rangy wide receiver Al Alilovic, who won the jump ball for a 35-yard reception near the end of the second quarter — making the score a respectable 13-6 at half time.

Being respectable is an accomplishment for a team this young. The wins will come later.

Local teen set to take softball skills to the international stage

Picked to national team for upcoming Cup 2005

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The weather may be cooling down, but Sarah Fredricks' fast-pitch training is just heating up.

The E.C. Drury 11th grader is currently trying out for next year's Mississauga North Tigers. But this fall's camp serves a dual function — not only deciding her fate for next summer, but keeping her in peak form for international competition in January.

That's when the talented teen — who patrols the infield corners, mainly at third and occasionally at first — travels to the Netherlands to participate in Cup 2005. She'll do so with the North American Select Team's All-Canadian squad.

Among those identified for possible inclusion well over a year ago, Fredricks was chosen for her standout performance at a number of United States tournaments.

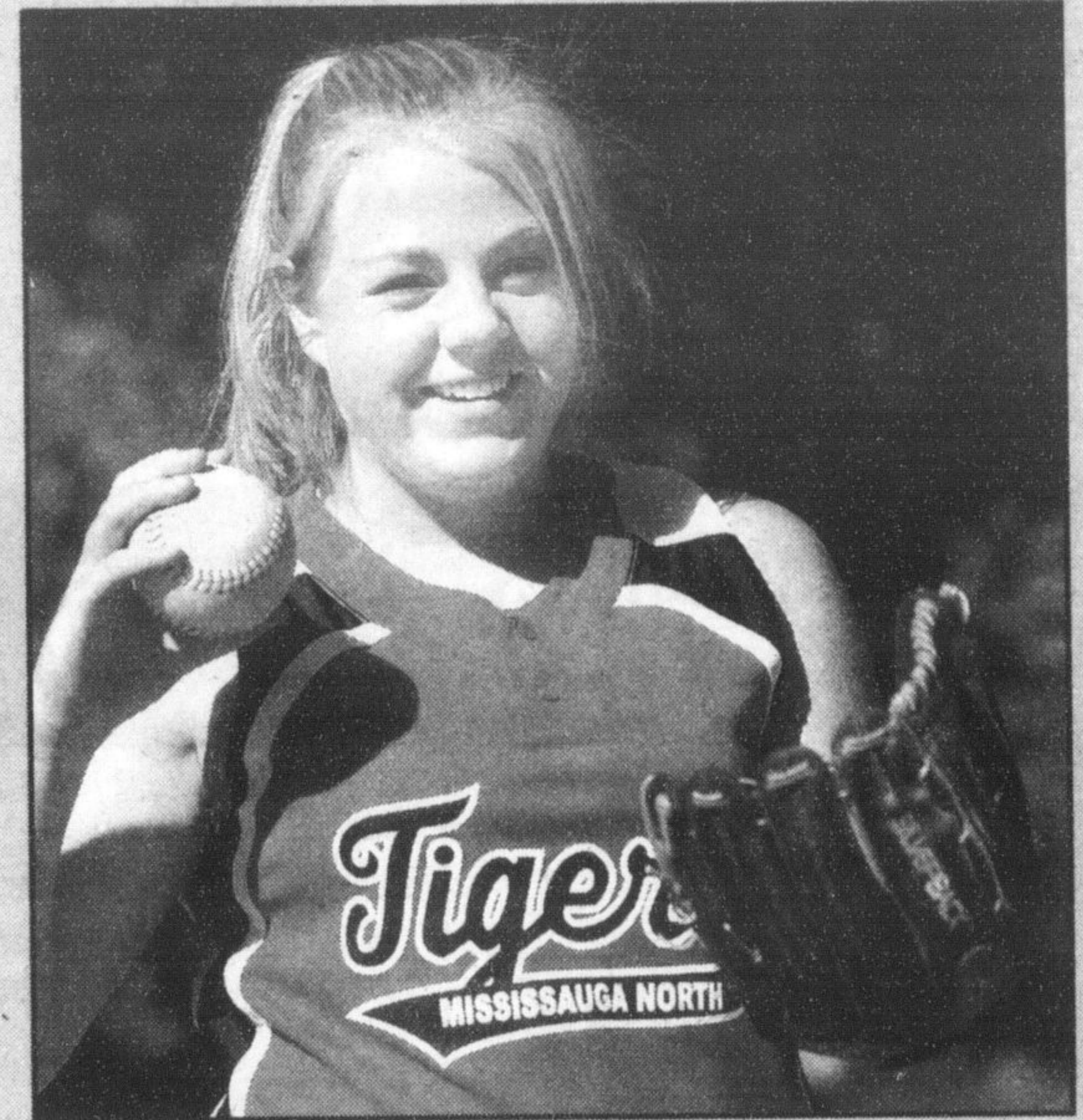
She was particularly impressive in back-to-back trips to Toledo, and is among 10 Ontario players who'll comprise the national team.

"The closer it gets, the more excited I get," admitted the 16-year-old, who as a softball, badminton, basketball and volleyball player was Drury's 2003/04 Junior Female Athlete of the Year. "It was great to be named to the team."

Playing up a year with the midgets this summer, Fredricks more than held her own with the older competition — enjoying a .386 batting average and ranking among the RBI leaders.

Her defensive efforts were also well above par. "I'm kind of a power hitter and my fielding's pretty good as well, not to brag or anything," she said.

Fredricks and her globetrotting cohorts will vye for Cup 2005 gold against such teams as France, Switzerland, Germany, the



Sarah Fredricks

United Kingdom and Japan. They'll also face the Dutch Olympians during the tournament.

The North American Select Team (NAST) program will send about five squads overseas and has a lot to live up to, having won six of the last nine championships.

NAST participants will visit Amsterdam for a day during down time from World 2005, and once competition concludes will immediately board the world's fastest train and zip on over to Paris for four days and three nights of sightseeing.

"It should be an amazing experience," said Fredricks.

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will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, October 2					
BOYS UNDER 10	1995	John Mikulic	905-693-8028	3:00pm to 5:00pm	Lions 3
BOYS UNDER 11	1994	Hugh Robinson	905-878-9161	11:00am to 1:00pm	Brian Best
BOYS UNDER 12	1993	Hardy Jaap	905-878-4920	9:00am to 10:30am	Lions 3
<i>**Please Note: BU12 is looking for a goal keeper and new players in all positions**</i>					
BOYS UNDER 13	1992	Louie Di Palma	905-854-1610	9:00am to 11:00am	Lions 4
BOYS UNDER 14	1991	Ralph Williams	905-878-1898	12noon to 1:30pm	Lions 3
GIRLS UNDER 13	1992	Brian Schroder	905-876-1588	2:00pm to 3:30pm	Lions 4
GIRLS UNDER 16	1989	Rachelle Di Palma	905-854-1610	12noon to 2:00pm	Lions 4
GIRLS UNDER 18	1987	Toni Maduri	905-827-8046	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Lions 3
Sunday, October 3					
BOYS UNDER 10	1995	John Mikulic	905-693-8028	10:00am to 11:30am	Lions 4
BOYS UNDER 12	1993	Hardy Jaap	905-878-4920	2:00pm to 4:00pm	Lions 3
BOYS UNDER 13	1992	Louie Di Palma	905-854-1610	11:00am to 1:00pm	Brian Best
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GIRLS UNDER 18	1987	Toni Maduri	905-827-8046	11:30am to 1:00pm	Lions 4
Saturday, October 9					
BOYS UNDER 11	1994	Hugh Robinson	905-878-9161	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Brian Best
BOYS UNDER 12	1993	Hardy Jaap	905-878-4920	9:00am to 11:00am	EC Drury
BOYS UNDER 14	1991	Ralph Williams	905-878-1898	9:00am to 11:00am	Brian Best
Sunday, October 10					
BOYS UNDER 12	1993	Hardy Jaap	905-878-4920	2:00pm to 4:00pm	EC Drury

Martin Warner Rep Convenor 905-878-5698

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Derby Brown



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