



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Sr. Royals' defense solid against Loyola

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The verdict could have been a little more favourable, but Bishop Reding's senior football team did make a strong case for the defence at home Friday.

Closing out the regular season against rock-solid Loyola, the Royals held back would could have easily been another massacre — losing 24-0 in a credible tune-up to this week's playoff showdown with Iroquois Ridge.

Three times BR's defense held the visitors to a field goal when a touchdown should have been the result — particularly in the opening quarter when they got a first down inside the 20. "Yeah, not bad — but we're still repeating little mistakes and that's frustrating," said head coach Joe Jurus, whose seniors went 1-4 in a tough return to Halton's Division 1 ranks.

Offensive execution was a lot less impressive, with quarterback Mike Sonsogno intercepted twice and early drives stymied by subpar blocking.

A bad snap and two botched reverse sweeps further crippled the hosts' efforts.

But BR managed to keep things respectable by virtue of QB sacks by

Michael Rego and Dan Winiarz and a long bomb pick-off by Sean Ward. Phil Fontaine showed strongly as well, blocking an extra-point kick in the second quarter.

Loyola was held to a single touchdown in each half, both by Mike Pignatelli. Paul Farry had 15, 25 and 40-yard field goals and delivered some big punts as well.

BR will enjoy home-field advantage for Friday's playoff opener because of its 17-16 decision over the Ridge October 15 in Oakville. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

Meanwhile in Division 2, Milton District's seniors dropped their third straight after a 2-0 season start — losing 26-16 to host Oakville Trafalgar Thursday afternoon in their regular season finale.

The rebuilding Mustangs made a rather impressive comeback after falling behind early, but a lack of execution continues to haunt them heading into the playoffs.

Jesse Rashotte and Nick Vipond scored touchdowns, with Ryan Mitchell kicking his one extra-point attempt plus a short field goal.

MD's opponent for the first round of the playoffs Friday wasn't known at press time yesterday afternoon.

✓ Domi a winner on the track

Maple Leaf winger Tie Domi, a co-owner of the two-year-old trotter Ken Warkentin, holds the Breeders Crown trophy after his horse won the \$657,000 final Saturday night at Woodbine. Above right, driver Dave Miller guides Ken Warkentin to victory. No local drivers or trainers had winning entries this year.

Juveniles knock off St. Catharines

Milton's AA juveniles passed their first legitimate test of the season with flying colours.

Overcoming a sluggish start against St. Catharines Saturday night at Memorial Arena, the two-time Niagara District champion Winterhawks struck for four second-period goals to win 5-2.

Jason Strong backstopped the hosts to victory, coming up with some crucial saves early on while his teammates struggled to get out of neutral.

Mike Dube and Julian Ricci led with a goal and an assist, while Kyle Strong contributed two helpers. Rounding out the scoring were Chris Coates, Rob Hunt and Adam Rutz.

Saturday's win followed identical 12-0 annihilations of Fort Erie and West Lincoln to start the season.

Atoms rally to win

Milton's AA minor atoms delivered a fierce finish to wipe out a two-goal deficit and shade Brampton 4-3 Friday night.

Battalion-turned-Winterhawk Adam Poirier initiated the comeback with a huge shorthanded tally, while Drew McMillen and Joshua Bensusan notched the equalizer and winner respectively just a minute apart in the third.

Gareth Browne potted Milton's first goal, while between the pipes for the win — the group's first over the Battalion in more than a year — was J.J. Schaap.

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