

Sports

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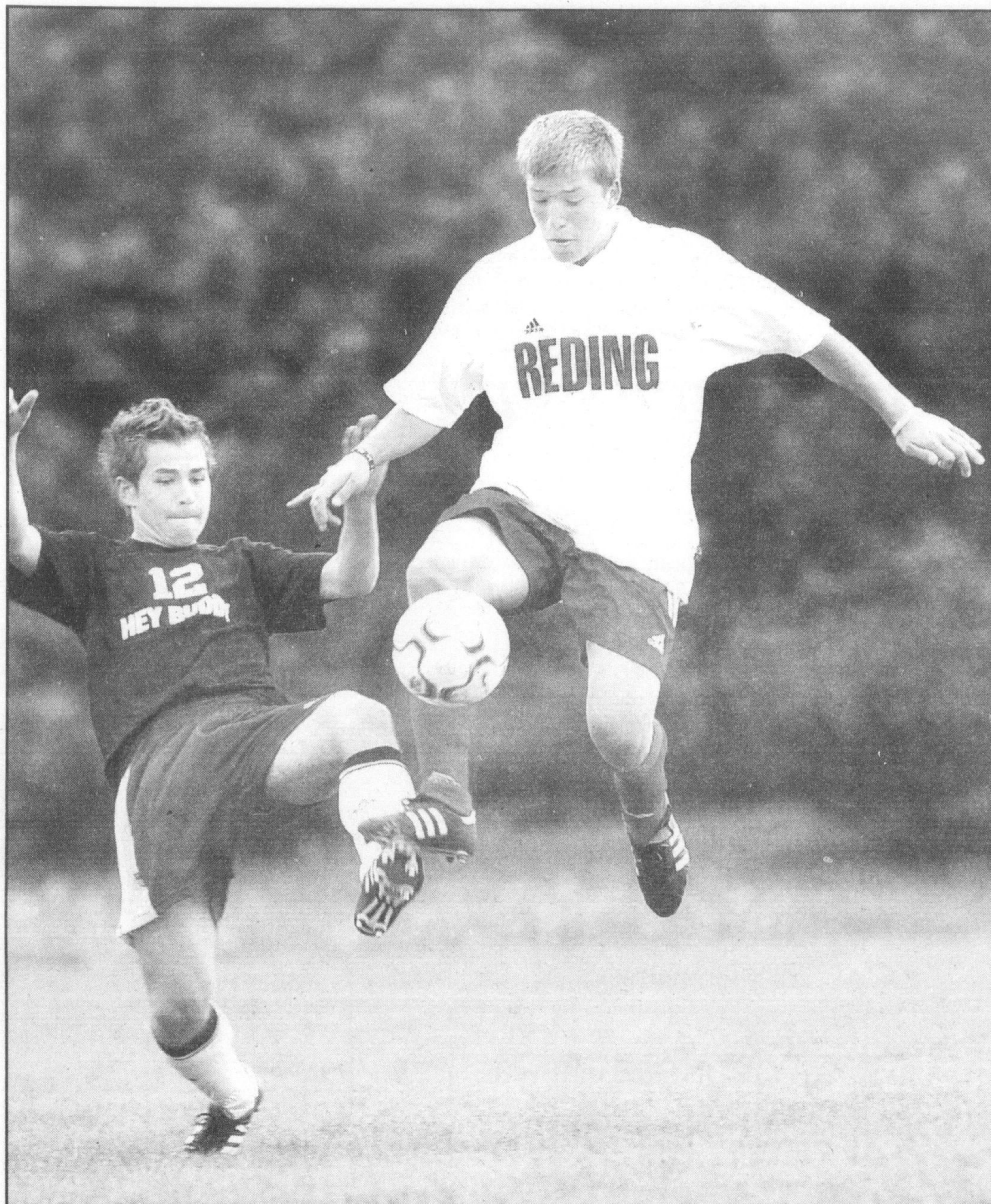


Photo by PETER C. McCUSKER

Jump ball

Bishop Reding's Joey Melo gets airborne to battle for a loose ball against a St. Thomas Aquinas opponent in the Halton 'AA' senior boys soccer finals at Burlington's Ireland Park Tuesday afternoon. BR lost 3-0. For full results of that game and MD's senior girls championship clash, see page 24.

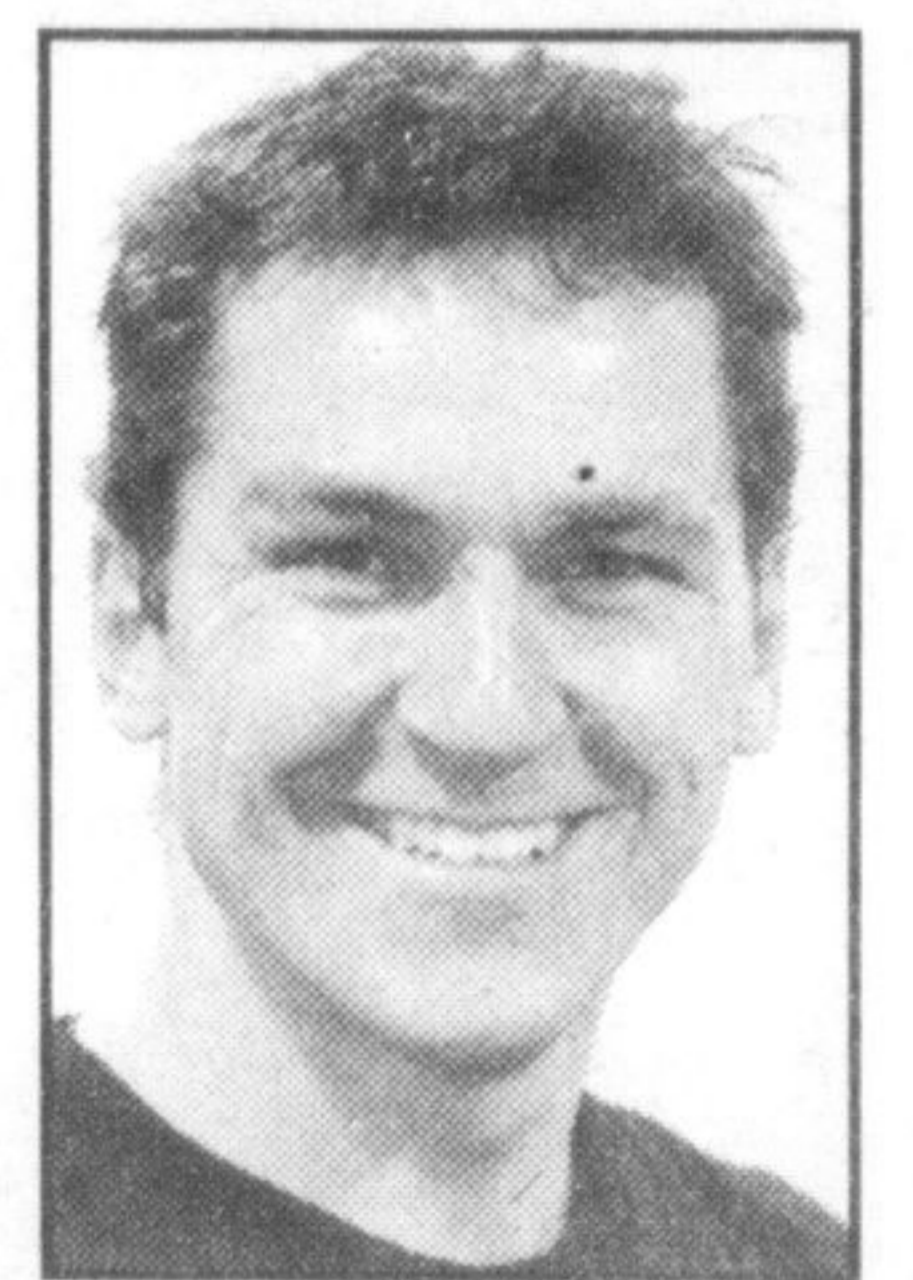
Golden once again

Stojko kung fus his way to worlds

Brand new challenge, same old success. That was the story for a now locally-trained Elvis Stojko, who was golden at last weekend's national martial arts championships in Hull, Quebec.

The 33-year-old former figure skating superstar actually qualified for November's W.K.A./I.A.K.S.A. World

Championships in Niagara Falls in two traditional style kung fu events — highlighting his national campaign with a first-place finish in open hand forms.



Elvis Stojko

Thriving amid an ultra-competitive field, Stojko turned back 11 combatants and just squeaked by clubmate Richard de Borja. Mike Morris took fourth to round out a world qualifying sweep for Milton's C ad Bua Fighting Faction.

Top five finishers in each event advance to the international showcase.

"Elvis really stepped it up on day two and gave a great performance," remarked elated instructor Sifu Glen Doyle, who's been chosen to coach Canada's world qualifying contingent.

Added Stojko, "The key I think was the power and extension in my routine. A lot of guys when they're nervous tend to do smaller moves, but kung fu forms really look like fighting, so you have to be crisp and quick — no holding back."

The Canadian champion stressed that he had to elevate his efforts to stay ahead of Borja in the run-off.

"Richard was really strong on Sunday, and I think that gave me a little awakening. I fed off his success and ran with it."

Stojko also advanced in weapons — placing fourth with his double daggers in a group of nine competitors. He was seated fifth after the first day, which would have been enough to qualify. However, much like with open hand forms, he lifted his game and managed to move up a spot.

"I'm really excited to be going to worlds in a different sport," he said.

Reid's 67s still in hunt

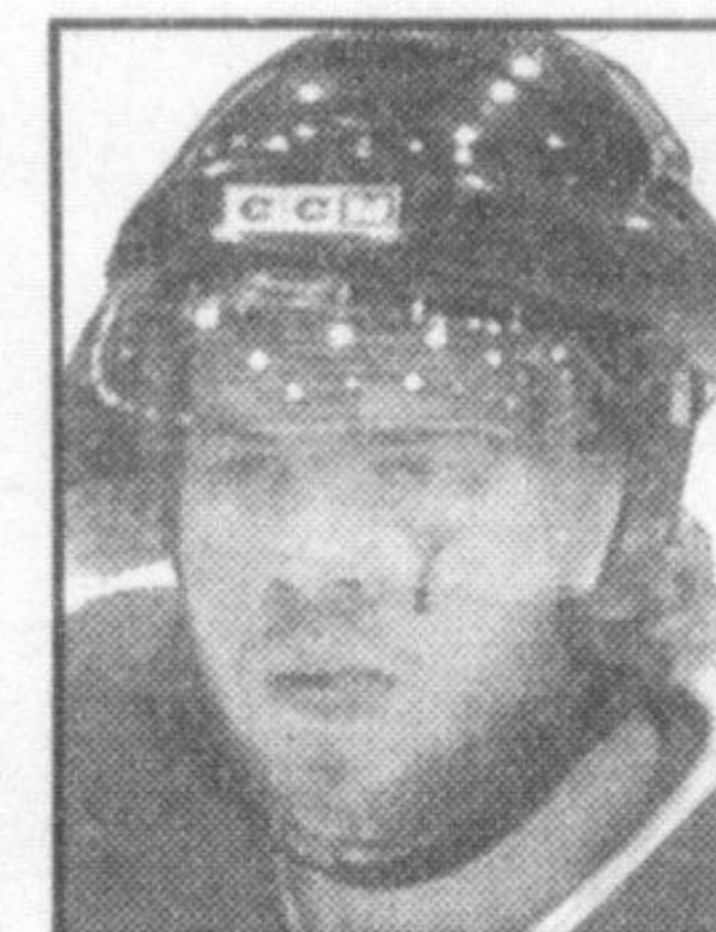
The Ottawa 67s may still be the Memorial Cup underdogs, but they're still in the championship hunt as well.

Aided by Milton defenceman Elgin Reid, the 67s were guaranteed at least a spot in tomorrow evening's semifinals heading into last night's round robin-ending clash with the unbeaten host London Knights. That's because the defending champion Kelowna Rockets went 0-3 — a whitewash that included a 3-2 double overtime loss to Ottawa Sunday.

Reid got credit for a rather strange-looking equalizer early in the third — dumping in a point shot which went in off a defenceman's skate and had to be reviewed before being counted. That set the stage for Brad Staubitz' sudden death heroics.

Two nights later the 67s fell to 1-1 with a 4-3 loss to the Rimouski Oceanic.

Ottawa would have needed to beat London by four or more goals last night to book direct passage to Sunday afternoon's final. A more likely scenario has them facing Rimouski in the semifinals tomorrow.



Elgin Reid

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A little about me...
I have been instructing for 5 years in Milton. I am a second year university student majoring in sociology.

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