



## Baseball Royals ousted in semis

The roller coaster ride is over. Bishop Reding's baseball team went quite far this spring with a rather young team deprived of depth, but just couldn't clear that final hurdle to today's Halton championship.

Preventing their third trip to the regional title game was Burlington's Notre Dame Irish, who served BR a measure of pay-back for last year's semifinal loss with a 5-4 victory Wednesday afternoon at Ireland Park.

The Royals enjoyed topnotch pitching from starter Craig Howse and drew within a run in the top of the sixth. However, a couple of bad decisions on the bases and a lack of depth combined to crush hopes of upsetting the GTA top-10 ranked Irish.

"We gave a great effort, but we just didn't have the depth this season," said BR skipper Joe Jurus, whose charges reached the Blue Jay Cup semifinals at SkyDome last spring and made it to the semifinals this year despite finishing sixth in Halton's Volpe Division. "You can only go so far with hitters one through five. Those guys carried us all season and nearly carried us through again today."

A two-run single by Marcos Gray gave the Royals new life in the sixth, while Nick Mazzorato drove in first and third inning runs to put his team ahead 2-0.

Sandwiched in between was a four-inning uprising by the hosts, who led off with a homer and then jumped ahead with five more hits — four of which were doubles.

BR put themselves in Halton's final four the previous afternoon with a 5-2 upset win over the Milton District Mustangs, who'd gone 6-1 in the regular season and earned a first-round bye.

Mazzorato had a pair of RBI triples in the quarterfinal victory, while Jamie Pedra also stood out with a two-run double. Pitching duties were shared by Quin Santos and Sean Mathe.

Notre Dame now takes on Oakville's T.A. Blakelock for the regional crown today in Burlington.

## ✓ OFSAA bound

Milton District's Ryan Corbin watches his putt while competing at last week's Halton championships at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club. He finished fourth at regionals and then advanced to next week's OFSAA championships with a first-place tie at GHAC Tuesday in Copetown's Beverly Golf and Country Club — shooting an impressive 75.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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