

Reding looking stronger, MD short players

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Bishop Reding Royals certainly won't be the best team in Halton's Division 1 senior ranks, but they could be among the most improved.

With pretty much everyone back from a squad that struggled in its first year back at the top tier — and some promising players up from the juniors — BR looks poised to make some significant strides.

"We'll be 100 times better than last season," predicted longtime head coach Joe Jurus, whose Royals kick off 2005 play this afternoon at Burlington's Robert Bateman.

There's plenty to back up that claim, not the least of which is the fact that BR is deeper at just about every position — including quarterback, where there's three potential pivots. Heading up that list right now is junior graduate Craig Howse, whom Jurus says has the composure and leadership needed to start bolstering an offense that was shut out in three of five regular season games last year.

A quick look at the Royals' other offensive weapons suggests they'll be able to mix it up fairly well this fall. Marcas Gray, Mitchell Cooke and Chris Wheelihan comprise a solid receiver complement, while seasoned rushers Ted Fair, Mike Rego and Mike Rubino form the nucleus of what should be a much-improved running game — especially with Jamie Pedra back to

block.

The Royals look just as improved on the defensive side of things, particularly with their top three linebackers — Rego, Mike Carn and Gavin Charles — all back and highly-touted defensive tackle Matt Sewell still in the mix as well.

With no junior team until last year, most of Reding's first-year seniors over the past few seasons had never played before. That's no longer an issue and is yet another contributing factor to Jurus' optimism.

"They may not be as big as some of our seniors, but we know these young guys coming up can play," he said.

BR's home opener is set for next Friday against Oakville's Loyola Hawks. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

At the Division 2 senior ranks, things aren't looking quite so positive for Milton District.

Second-year skipper Richard Grant has a mere 27 players in his Mustangs stable, while the school's Wilderness North program has severely cut into practice numbers over the past week. "There's a ton of guys out for junior, which bodes well for the future, but right now we're hurting for bodies," MD's head coach said.

That leaves a high percentage of Mustangs having to go both ways this fall — a concerning notion for a squad that's not exactly laden with standouts.

Someone who would likely have made an impact on either side of the football is Blake Fritenburg, who unfortunately blew out his knee in season-ending play last year and is now done on the gridiron. Stressed Grant, "That's a huge loss for us."

Still, MD isn't without some talent.

Slimmed-down two-way tackle Greg Cowan is among the Toronto Star's top 35 GTA players to watch this season, while captain Jared Tozer can be a commanding presence at middle linebacker.

Offensively, Ben Clifford and Brendan Cronin provide a not-too-shabby one-two punch on the ground, although just who'll be getting them the ball remains a question mark — with Aaron Alston and Jon Jeysman still fighting for the starting quarterback role.

If all that wasn't troubling enough, MD begins the year with three straight road games, the first two coming just three days apart next week.

Perhaps the only real bright spot is that alumni and former university star Sean Postma — who won four Yates Cups with McMaster — has come on board to assist with the offense. "The guys who follow university football are just in awe (of him). Sean will definitely help us," said Grant.

The Mustangs get things started in Georgetown Monday and then take on Burlington Central Thursday. Both games start at 3:30 p.m.

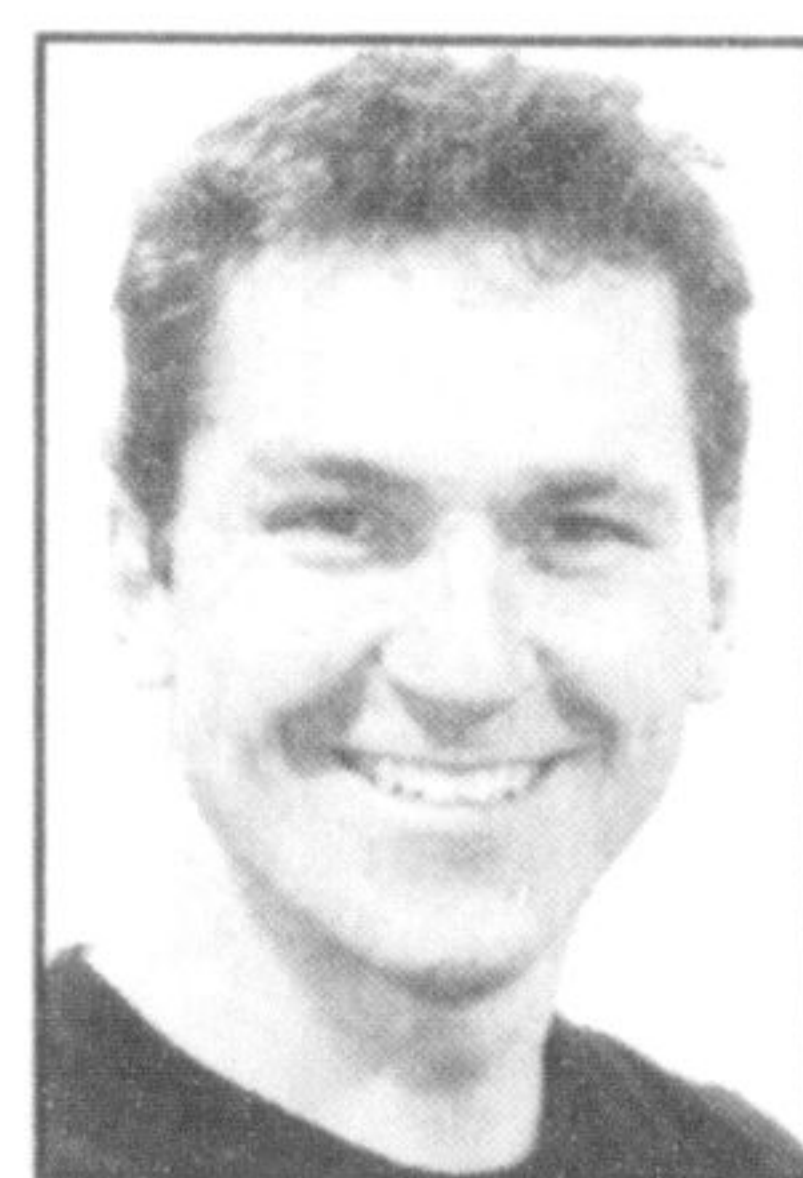


Stojko at MSC Thursday

Elvis Stojko has made numerous trips to town over the past year, but his next visit will be a little more public.

The world champion and Olympic figure skater — who's now training locally at Main Street's Cead Bua Fighting Faction in preparation for the upcoming W.K.A./I.A.K.S.A. World Championships in two traditional style kung fu events — will hit the ice at Milton Sports Centre Thursday evening for a fundraiser in support of Red Cross hurricane relief efforts.

A joint venture between the Town of Milton, Milton Skating Club, Milton Home Hardware and Father Mark Curtis, the celebrity skate runs from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. A meet and greet will follow, with time available for both photographs and



Elvis Stojko

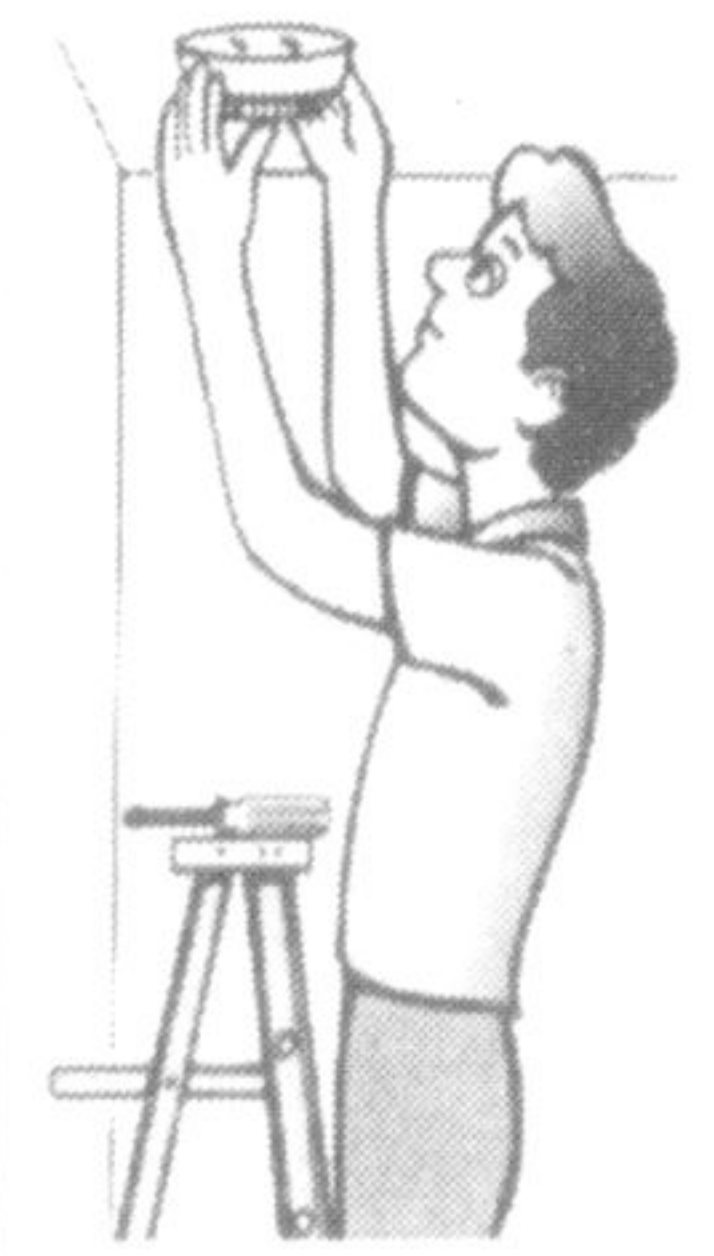
autographs.

A minimum donation of \$10 for adults is expected.

Stojko has taken part in several community functions since officially joining the local club late last year.

A lifelong martial arts enthusiast, he qualified for the Niagara Falls world showcase back in May with a first-place finish in open hand forms and fourth-place effort in weapons — with double daggers — at the national championships in Hull, Quebec.

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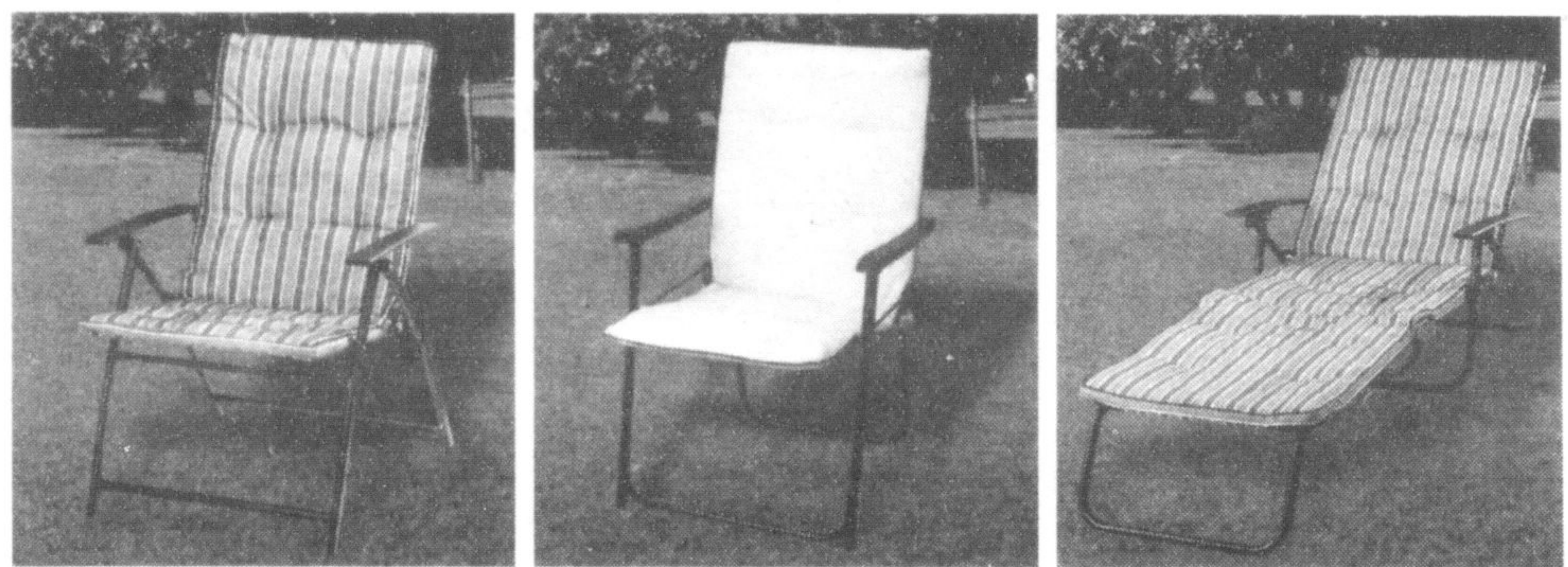
REP TEAM TRYOUTS						
AGE GROUPS	1 ST TRYOUT	2 ND TRYOUT	FIELD	TIME	COACH	PHONE#
Boys U10 ('96)	01-Oct	02-Oct	MDHS	10 to 11:30AM	Martin Warner	905-878-5698
Boys U11 ('95)	01-Oct	02-Oct	MDHS	2:30 to 4PM	John Mikulic	905-693-8028
Boys U 12 ('94)	08-Oct	09-Oct	Boyne	10 to 11:30 AM	Todd Collet	905-693-9899
Boys U 13 ('93)	01-Oct	02-Oct	Boyne	10 to 11:30AM	Hardy Jaap	905-878-4920
Boys U14 ('92)	01-Oct	02-Oct	Boyne	3:30 to 5PM	Rachelle Di Palma	905-854-1610
Girls U11 ('95)	01-Oct	02-Oct	Boyne	11:30 to 1PM	Liz Herrmann	905-693-1969
Girls U14 ('92)	01-Oct	02-Oct	MDHS	11:30 to 1PM	Brian Schroder	905-876-1588
Girls U17 ('89)	01-Oct	02-Oct	Boyne	1 to 2:30PM	Louie DiPalma	905-854-1610

SELECT TEAM TRYOUTS						
AGE GROUPS	DATE	FIELD	TIME	COACH	PHONE#	
Boys U16 ('90)	01-Oct	Lions 4	1:00pm to 2:30pm	Mike Cupples	905-824-8305	
Boys U17 ('89)	01-Oct	Lions 4	10:00am to 11:30am	Louis Bonnici	905-878-7719	
	08-Oct	Lions 4	10:00am to 11:30am	Louis Bonnici	905-878-7719	
Girls U12 ('94)	01-Oct	Lions 4	11:30am to 1:00pm	Dave Saliba	905-875-4285	
Girls U15 ('91)	01-Oct	Lions 4	2:30pm to 4:00pm	Liane Robertson	905-876-3225	

**For more information contact the respective coach.
For field location and direction, visit our web site at
www.miltonmagic.com**

Milton Youth Soccer Club
 Phone (905) 875-4072. Leave Message
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WAL-MART CANADA SAFETY NOTICE GARDEN TRENDS CHAIRS



Wal-Mart Canada has issued a voluntary safety notice on three different chairs sold at Wal-Mart stores in Canada between March 1 and August 5, 2005.

The chairs (pictured) were sold under the Garden Trends brand name, at prices ranging from \$9.97 to \$49.97. The chairs include upright and lounge models and colours include tones of orange, white, blue, green/grey, and various mixed stripes.

Each item bears one of the following three UPC product numbers located on a product tag: 0004766938392; 0082342012433; or 0004766902145.

These chairs pose a potential hazard from structural or hinge malfunction. Wal-Mart Canada has removed the affected chairs from its Canadian stores and shelves and asks customers to return them to their local Wal-Mart Canada store for a full refund.

Wal-Mart Canada has issued this notice as a precaution in the interest of consumer safety.