

Royals offer solid showing against Irish

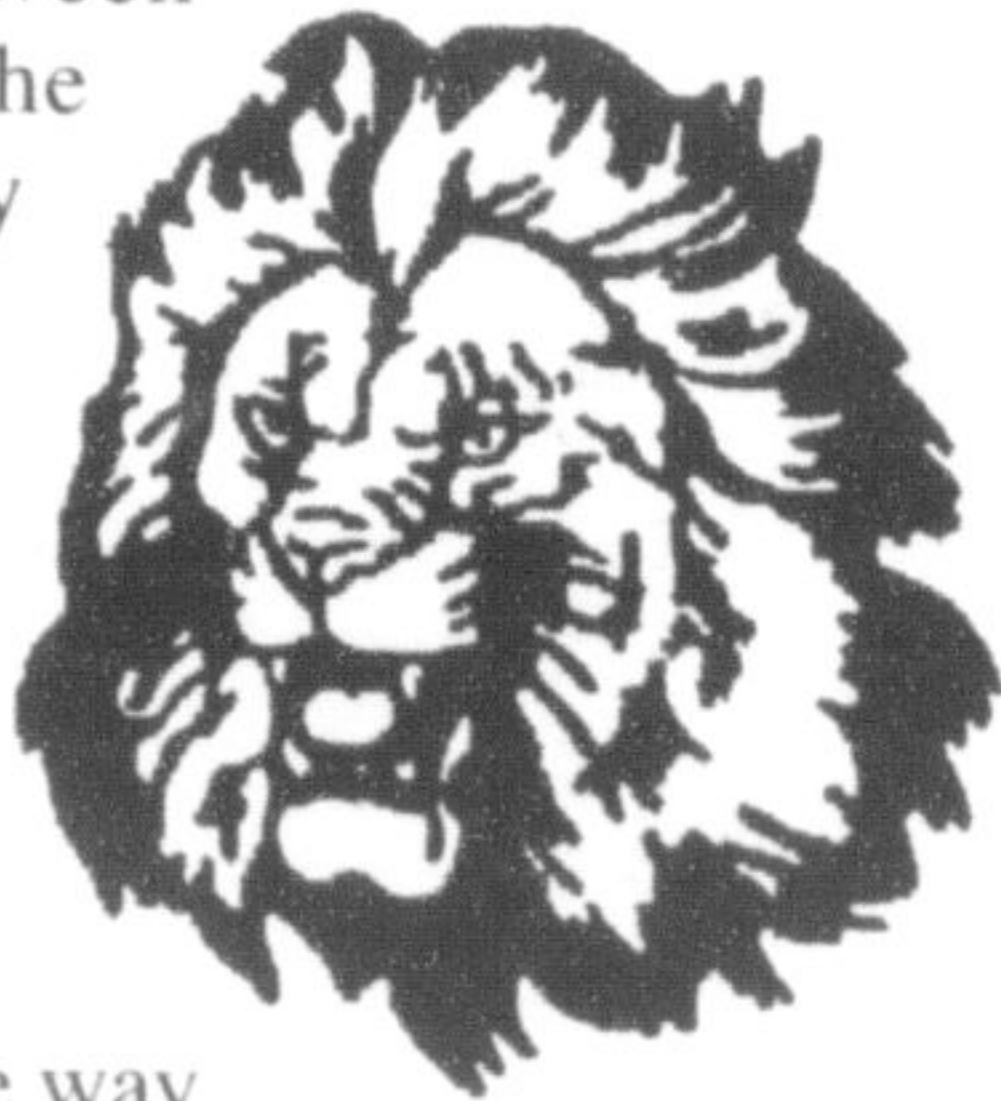
By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Notre Dame certainly doesn't need any assistance to win football games, but Bishop Reding offered a helping hand anyway.

Despite a vastly-improved showing compared to last year's confrontation with the powerhouse Irish — which resulted in a 59-0 annihilation — the Royals just couldn't maintain possession on home field Friday en route to a 35-10 defeat.

Narrowing last year's point differential by more than half could easily be looked upon as a moral victory, although eight BR turnovers — with an even split between interceptions and fumbles — put the kibosh on what could have actually been a suspenseful afternoon.

Giveaways aside, the Royals offered a credible overall performance in what was essentially a battle for first place and — much like the previous two weeks — looked like they truly belong among Halton's Division I ranks.



"This Reding team is definitely on the way up," said Notre Dame head coach Nathan Galoni.

Added Royals skipper Joe Jurus, "It's the little things that hurt us today and I think the guys are finally starting to see that. But hey, this is the best we've ever played against Notre Dame. We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

Case in point was early in the second quarter, when a botched snap by the Irish put Reding inside the 15 with a chance to tie things up. Filling in for an injured Craig Howse, still suffering severe chest pains from week three's rout of T.A. Blakelock, quarterback John Brady would get stripped of the ball on a formation breakdown — crushing what was arguably the best shot at an offensive touchdown all day.

BR would reach the end-zone about five minutes later on a 65-yard kickoff return by Marcos Gray, who made a number of other big special-teams carries and for the second straight week delivered an exceptional effort on both sides of the passing game. Ryan Fernandes kicked the extra point, as well as an 18-yard field goal in the dying moments of play.

Otherwise, Reding's offense had marginal success until the fourth quarter — when reliable tail-back Ted Fair finally found some holes to work with.

With Mike Carn sidelined with a sliced-up finger, Rob Rubino stepped up and showed strongly at middle linebacker. Corner/free safety Todd Speakman stood out as well with a number of key tackles to help neutralize the Irish, who despite losing go-to ball carrier Mike Montoya to an ankle injury in the first quarter still managed to tear up the field.

Now 2-2, the Royals are hoping to have Howse and Carn back in the lineup this Friday when they head to Burlington to take on M.M. Robinson. They close out the regular season next week at Nelson. Both games start at 3:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, BR's juniors fell to 1-2 with a 6-0 loss to St. Thomas Aquinas last Tuesday. They host Milton District, also 1-2, today at 3:30 p.m.

Minor atoms win big

The AA minor atoms capped a three-games-in-four-days stretch in commanding fashion, thumping Flamborough Sabres 8-3 Saturday afternoon at Milton Sports Centre.

Rep Hockey

Jacob Quinn led the onslaught with a hat-trick and Drew Jones tallied twice. Chipping in singles were Ben Preisner, Graydon Wessinger and Adam Wilson.

The Winterhawks kicked off their hectic week with a 2-0 whitewash of host Orangeville Wednesday night and followed that up with a 7-3 loss in Ancaster Thursday evening.

AE2 bantams ground Flyers

The AE2 bantams snapped a two-game season opening losing streak with a 2-0 shutout of the Orangeville Flyers Wednesday night.

Michael Haringa's flawless cage work was supported by goals from Jake Cochrane and Ricardo Raduka. Drawing assists were Jordan Dias, Tyler Garrard and Jessie Middison.

This followed 8-2 and 3-1 defeats to Oakville and Hespeler respectively. Brandon Whiting potted all three goals in these games, with Steven Bennett offering rock-solid defensive support for Haringa in the Hespeler loss.

Spartans advance to quarterfinals

E.C. Drury's senior field hockey team picked an opportune time to deliver a little payback against the Aldershot Lions.

The Spartans did so under do-or-die circumstances in Burlington Thursday afternoon, exacting revenge for a 2-1 season-opening loss to the Lions with a 1-0 decision in first-round playoff action.

Lisa Brown notched the lone goal midway through the first half and the entire Drury contingent turned in stifling defense — preventing the hosts from getting a single shot on netminder Samantha Morgan.

As of yesterday the senior Spartans were still waiting to find

out who they'd be facing in this afternoon's quarterfinals, since Thursday's Lester B. Pearson-Nelson showdown was postponed.

Chances are Drury will have the unenviable task of battling the Notre Dame Irish, who won all six regular season games and outscored the opposition 31-0.

Meanwhile, EC's junior field hockey team was also impressive defensively in first-round play against Aldershot Thursday, but eventually fell 1-0 in a shoot-out. Bishop Reding's juniors were also eliminated in the first round, losing 2-0 to Nelson.

Reding's seniors didn't make the playoffs.

Double whammy for senior Mustangs

Milton District's senior football team lost more than just its week four clash with Aldershot Thursday afternoon.

In their first home-field game of the season, the embattled Mustangs suffered through another slew of errors. Among them were several fumbles and countless blocking breakdowns, one of which resulted in quarterback Jon Jeyman going down with a separated shoulder.

"He's out for the season and we don't know yet what this'll do

for his basketball," said head coach Richard Grant, whose seniors fell to 1-3 with Thursday's 27-12 defeat.

The Mustangs seemed to measure up to their guests in terms of sheer skill and put together some lengthy drives on the afternoon, but shot themselves in the foot with turnovers and fundamental follies. Ben Clifford scored both touchdowns.

MD wraps up regular-season play at home against 3-1 Christ the King Thursday afternoon.

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