

Sports

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Grounded

Winterhawk Austin Spiegelhalter (right) gets upended by a Caledon opponent during AA major novice play at Milton Sports Centre Saturday afternoon. The teams battled to a 4-4 tie.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



Senior Royals demolish M.M. Robinson

Bishop Reding improves to 3-2 with biggest victory at Division 1 ranks

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Exactly five weeks ago Joe Jurus said his senior Royals would be '100 times better than last year'.

If that claim hadn't already been proven before their trip to Burlington Friday afternoon, a 51-0 slaughter of M.M. Robinson certainly silenced

any lingering doubts about just how far Bishop Reding has come.

Injuries to the Rams' main rusher and quarterback no doubt factored into the lopsided score, but the bottom line is that the vastly-improved Royals put themselves in position to win big with a fundamentally-fierce performance.

"This is what happens when everyone comes to play," said Jurus, whose team was on the other end of this type of blowout more often than not

in its return to Halton's Division 1 ranks last fall.

The Royals intercepted the hosts half-a-dozen times on the way to their third shutout victory of the year and got an exceptional effort from their offensive line — which afforded returning quarterback Craig Howse all sorts of time to work with.

And while the running game wasn't exactly clicking early on, BR's passing more than carried the load. Howse connected on two touchdown strikes to primary target Marcas Gray and another to Mitchell Cooke, while a Gray-to-Matt Chuchmach pass just before half time pretty much put any hope for a comeback to rest.

But the Royals were far from done. Distancing himself from an ineffective first half, tail-back Ted Fair engineered two lengthy touchdown runs, while Mike Rubino added insult to injury by picking off Robinson's quarterback and running it back 60 yards for the lone defensive major of the day.

Captain Mike Rego also stood out with a pick off and fumble recovery, while Ryan Fernandes compounded the Rams' frustrations with some

huge special-teams kicks and tackles.

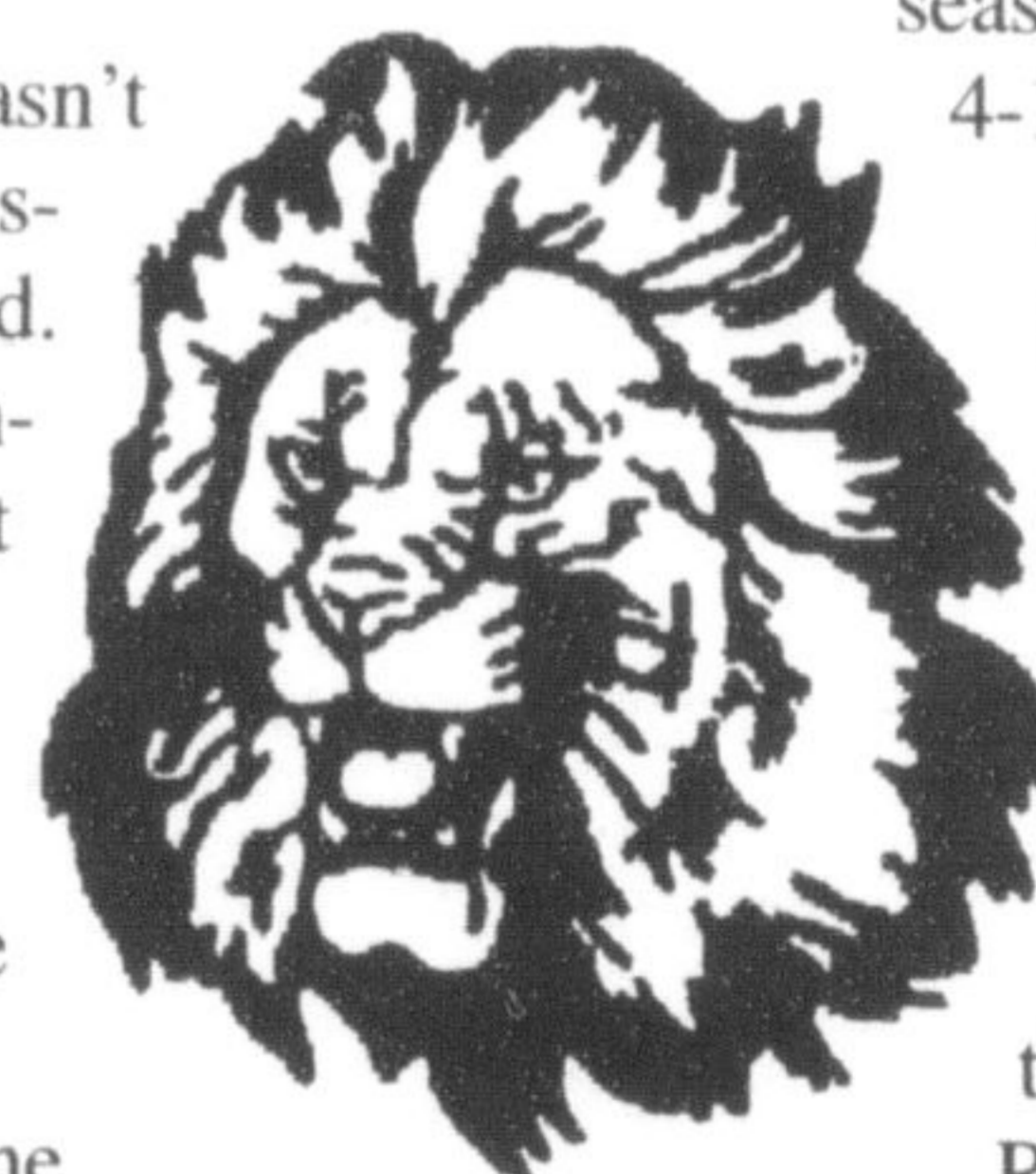
"The defense was spectacular, and that's all (defensive co-ordinator) Jim Harper. He's done a great job with them," said Jurus.

Now sitting third at 3-2 with just one loss in its last four games, Reding finishes up the regular season in Burlington Friday against the 4-1 Nelson Lords.

A win would push the Royals to second place and give them an improbable berth into Halton's 1-A playoffs, while a loss would likely drop them to fifth and into the 1-AA playoff bracket — which would offer a much more legitimate shot at a championship title.

Reding will need every bit of defensive prowess available to contain the Lords, who are averaging 44 points a game this season and took top-seated Notre Dame to overtime earlier this month.

Meanwhile, BR's Division 2 juniors will try to snap a three-game losing skid this afternoon in Burlington against Bateman. They fell to 1-3 with a 7-6 heartbreaker against cross-town rival Milton District last Tuesday.



Twisters off to strong start

North Halton's 'B' peewees certainly haven't been charitable with their league opposition recently.

The Twisters have given up one measly goal in their first three regular-season games, with that tally coming in a 1-1 stalemate with the Hamilton Hawks.

Emma Bridgwater tied things up late in the

third — with help from Shauna Costello — while Terrilyn Digout stood tall between the pipes to keep North Halton in the hunt.

Before that, Digout was flawless in back-to-back 2-0 shutouts of Hamilton and the Niagara Falls Rapids.

Costello and Holly Kendrick potted one apiece in both wins.



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