

SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR: STEVE LeBLANC e-mail sleblanc@haltontsearch.com

Royals reign supreme at OFSAA

Reding caps stellar season with 'AA' provincial crown

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

ST. CATHARINES — The Royals' 2006 gold rush is now complete.

Adding to a championship-rich season that already included Halton and GHAC titles, Bishop Reding's senior boys soccer team laid claim to the crowning jewel in St. Catharines Wednesday afternoon — OFSAA 'AA' gold.

With provincial supremacy on the line at Club Roma Field, BR broke a scoreless stalemate early in the second half with a pair of goals just a few minutes apart and dominated the rest of the way to knock off Port Credit's St. Paul Wolverines 2-0.

Adam Stjepanovic and Joey Melo notched their team-leading fourth goals of the tournament with doorstep deposits, both set up by Kareem Henry, to secure the first OFSAA championship in the school's 28-year history.

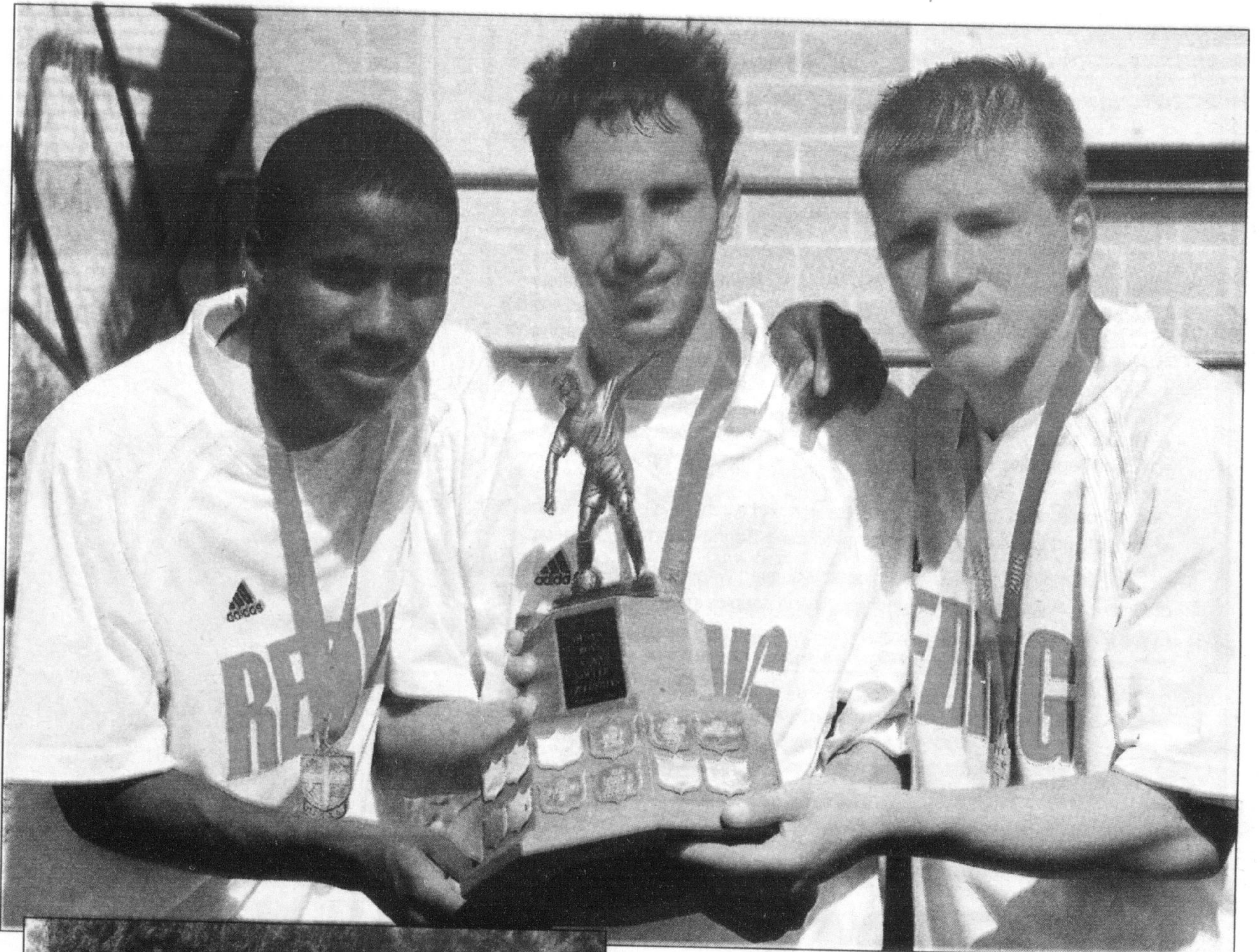
"This is amazing, to end my high school career like this," said graduating defensive anchor Ryan Fernandes, who helped stymie St. Paul once his team took the lead. "We showed a lot of heart today and just played really well as a team."

Added co-coach Fernando Costa, "It hasn't sunk in yet. I've been here (OFSAA) three times now and this is the best feeling. I knew back in January when these guys were coming to 7 a.m. practices that they not only had the talent but the commitment to succeed. When we were on our game, we were unstoppable."

The Royals didn't seem at all fazed when they headed into intermission of both the semifinals and finals without any scoring. But then having averaged more than four goals a game this spring and amassed a tournament-leading 17 en route to the final four, they were bound to slip one in sooner or later.

"I don't think we were too concerned about our scoring," said Henry, who came off the bench late in the semifinal and blasted one in with just two minutes left to eclipse St. Mary's of Woodstock 1-0 Wednesday morning to punctuate a physically-intense showdown. "We just had to open things up a little."

Along with his four goals — including a beauty in the quarterfinal to help dump Kingston's Bayridge 4-1 Tuesday evening — Melo controlled the middle of the field throughout the three-day tournament and continued to be the emotional sparkplug he had been all year long. "This feels great," said the soft-spoken leader, who delivered some huge transition kicks to ignite Reding's attack. "Today (in the finals) our best players played like our best players. They really came through."



Above, Reding co-captains (from left) Kareem Henry, Ryan Fernandes and Joey Melo proudly display the OFSAA trophy. At left, the Royals pose with the trophy and OFSAA banner.

STEVE LEBLANC / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Trinity 3-1, E.S.C. Theriault of Timmins 6-1 and Ottawa's Osgoode Township 4-1.

Bugaj and Henry each had a two-goal game in round-robin competition, while seven other Reding players dented the twine at OFSAA to offer one last reminder of just how balanced this year's team was. Chipping in singles were DaSilva-Horvat, Jeremy Brown, Gerry Giddens, Nick Horbasz, Juan Mejia, Erick Olazabal and Zac Scholtz.

Making up the rest of this year's championship squad were Alex Berndt, Chris Canas, Lance Codner, Andrew Melo, Eros Olazabal, Justin Pereira and Mario Tadic. Leading the team alongside Costa this season was Adrian Flynn, who back in 2001 experienced the agony of OFSAA defeat with a loss in the Quad-A championship final with St. Joseph's of Mississauga. "This definitely feels better," he remarked. "The guys showed so much character this year and had a never-say-die attitude."

BR kept the pressure on St. Paul after grabbing the upper hand and had at least half-a-dozen big scoring opportunities down the stretch to go along with the post and cross bar they hit in the first half.

Dane DaSilva-Horvat and Patryk Bugaj gave standout performances in the final, while young goaltender Alessandro Famele was sharp during the few challenging shots he faced and finished the tournament with a goals-against average of 0.86 — finishing things off with back-to-back shutouts.

The Royals won three of their four round-robin games to advance past preliminary play — beating Bradford's Holy

Thinking Of
Landscaping?

Let our friendly staff
determine your
landscaping needs

7 000 square feet
of outdoor display

MORE THAN JUST BRICK:

- COMPLETE LINE OF INTERLOCK
- RETAINING WALLS
- DRIVEWAY EDGING
- PATIO SLABS
- PLANTERS
- GARDEN WALLS
- FLAGSTONE
- ROCKERY STONE
- POTATO STONE
- TRIPLE MIX TOPSOIL
- CEDAR MULCH
- SAND
- RED CRUSH
- POND LINER
- PUMPS
- FOUNTAINS

www.capbrick.com

TRUSTED BY CONTRACTORS & HOMEOWNERS
FOR OVER 40 YEARS!

Friendliest Staff

Our expert staff will help you choose the material that's right for you with no high pressure sales tactics.

Huge Selection

Come visit our large indoor/outdoor displays and see all the latest products for easy decision making.

Do-It-Yourself

We have design and installation videos and do-it-yourself installation instructions.

Computer Calculations

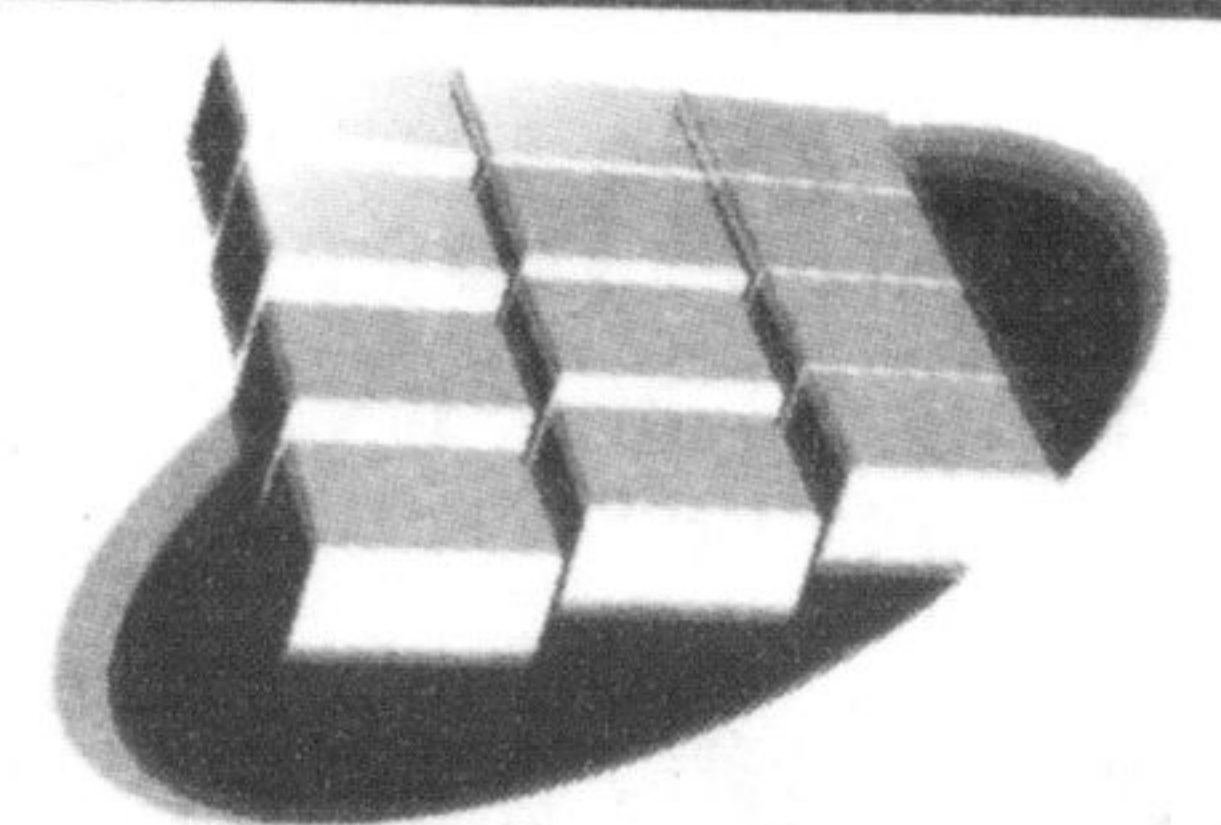
No need to worry about how many pieces of interlock you may need. Our custom computer program will do all the work for you along with our knowledgeable staff.

Immediate Delivery

With our large fleet of delivery trucks we can usually get your material delivered the next day.

Customer Satisfaction

We stand behind everything we sell. We want satisfied customers and work hard to make you happy!



CAPBRICK

2082 QUEENSWAY DRIVE,
East of Brant, south off Plains Rd.
(905) 634-7707

MON - FRI 7AM-6PM
SAT 8AM-5PM



"Your Landscape Superstore"