

SPORTS

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LIESA KORTMANN / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

TAKE THAT!: Bishop Reding's Ryan Lecky (centre) gets hit by a Christ the King opponent during last week's Halton field lacrosse tournament in Burlington. The Royals lost 13-1 and went on to tie Robert Bateman 5-5 and fall 11-2 to Notre Dame. The tournament continued yesterday, with Reding — now having standout Kevin Winter back from the recent world championships in Halifax, where he represented England — taking on St. Thomas Aquinas and Holy Trinity. Halton's top two teams advance to OFSAA.

Novak likes what he sees in prospects

IceHawks coach expects '07/08 team to be significantly quicker

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Randy Novak isn't suggesting a return to the Western Conference's upper crust will be quick — only that his 2007/08 IceHawks will be. At least, that is, compared to this past season. "I'll take speed over anything, and we're definitely going to have more speed," said the recently-rehired head coach.



Randy Novak

That assurance follows what the 2004/05 Western Conference Coach of the Year viewed as an encouraging rookie camp, which came to a close Wednesday evening with a final audition of roughly three dozen prospects — picked from an original cast of 88 players and 24 goalies that started out at Westwood Arena last week.

It's expected that 15 or 16 IceHawk wannabes from that last group will be invited back to the main camp, which is slated to start August 20.

At least one hometown hopeful from what was described as a 'high tempo' camp has caught Novak's eye. Faring well as a late season call-up, local forward Scott Stover has now put himself in position to earn a full-time roster spot — having shown strongly last week.

"Scott sees the ice and moves the puck well and is both creative and responsible out there," said Novak of the Halton Hurricanes veteran.

Among others leaving a favourable impression on the IceHawks' coaching staff — which includes assistant Mike Kalapaca — were Hurricane graduates Curtis Renaud and Joe Vanni, both forwards who made significant impacts with the Dundas Jr. Cs and Elmira Jr. Bs this past year.

Remarkd Novak, "Curtis has great vision, while Joe's more of a power forward. We've also got a couple of Oakville boys we're quite interested in."

Still very much a development team since being taken over by co-owners Dean Piatt and Rob DeVincentis, the IceHawks won't be measuring up to many of their division rivals in terms of experience anytime soon.

Where they won't be falling short, however — according

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Royals clear final hurdle to OFSAA

Faced with one final — and unexpected — obstacle to OFSAA, Bishop Reding's senior boys soccer team just wouldn't be denied.

Just a day after clinching top spot in Halton's 'AAA' ranks — which was believed to equal automatic advancement to the provincial championships, the Royals were informed they'd have to take on Hamilton's runner-up for that berth.

Refusing to surrender what they felt was already theirs, the hosts battled back from two one-goal deficits amidst humid conditions Wednesday to upstage the St. Mary's Crusaders 4-2 and solidify passage to

OFSAA. Delivering his second two-goal effort in as many games, Eros Olazabal netted both the game winner and insurance deposit midway through the second half — after the Hamilton visitors scored on themselves during a botched clearing attempt that tied the game.



Nikola Repar scored the first goal and Dane DaSilva-Horvat and Chris Canas offered standout performances for the Royals, who claimed 'AA' OFSAA gold last spring.

The 'AAA' OFSAA championships are slated for June 4 to 6 in Windsor.

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