

# Royals net quarterfinal upset

*Great team effort powers BR junior v-ballers past Loyola*

The Loyola Hawks looked poised to soar to the regional championship, but Bishop Reding had other plans.

Fresh off a hard-fought payback victory over White Oaks, the Royals' junior volleyball team staged a 2-0 (25-22, 25-14) upset over the Richardson Division's top-seated school in quarterfinal cross-over play Tuesday afternoon.

Even with its setter sidelined with a broken hand, Loyola had to be considered the favourite, with home-floor advantage and a 9-1 regular-season record.

But Reding was far from a long-shot, having gone 8-3 in the Richardson loop and operating at optimum efficiency following their tough first-round triumph.

"We're peaking at the right time and really coming together as a team," said head coach Patti Beam.

With some strong overall play — in particular exceptional coverage from Patrick Luzny and Daniel Husarewych — the Royals delivered an impressive finish to squeak by in game one before totally dominating the second set.

Added Beam, "The first game was kind of a mess, with errors back and forth, but the second game was all ours. We led by seven or eight points

pretty much the whole way."

That was thanks in large part to spectacular setting by Kyle Pereira and key serves by Justin Manning. Robbie Watson and Al Fong also factored into the win with effective net play.

With each division's top team being upset Tuesday, Reding hosted Georgetown in the semifinals yesterday afternoon.

The winner will head to Oakville's Sheridan College Monday for the Halton championship.

**Jr. cagers impressive in loss**

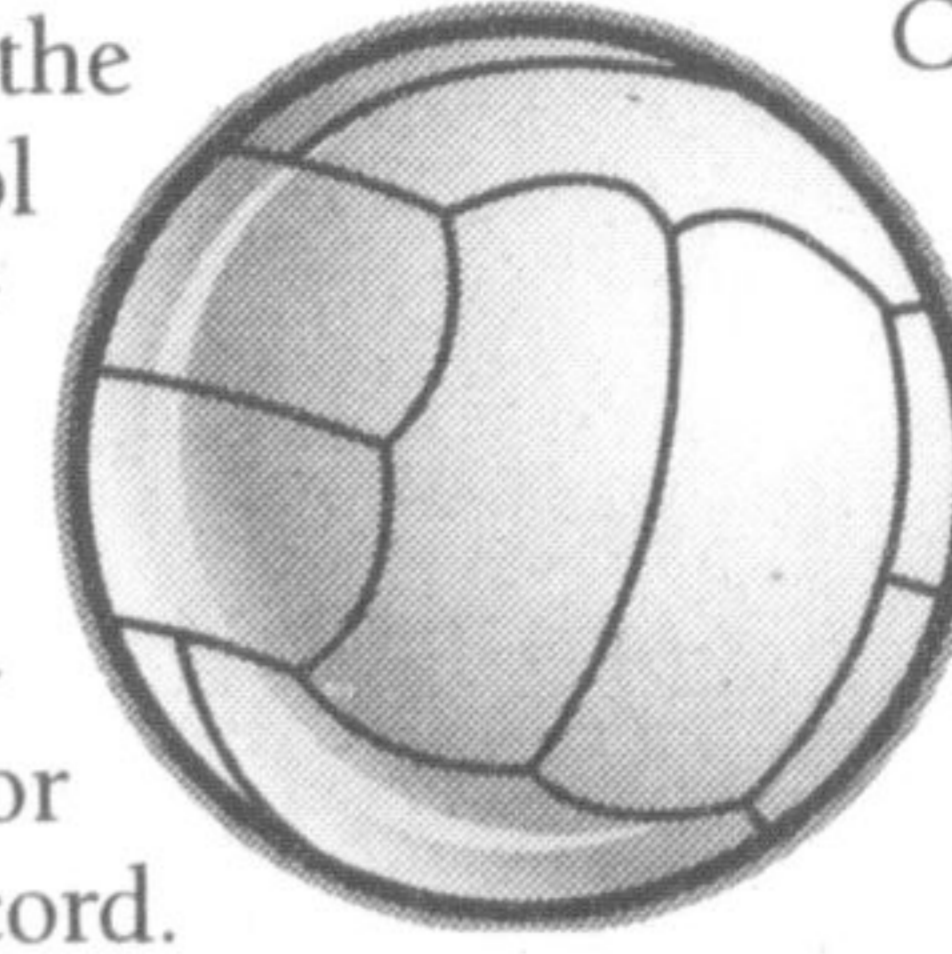
Given the circumstances, Monday's 44-36 quarterfinal loss could certainly be considered a morale victory for the junior Royals.

After all, the opposing White Oaks Wildcats pretty much steam-rolled through the season — winning all nine games, six by 20 or more points.

But their dominance was severely interrupted by a pesky BR team that came out strong and only had one blatant lapse in the third quarter. Some trouble breaking the press also hampered the Royals, who countered this with a fierce finish and some key rebounding by Devan O'Connor and Jessica Goncalves.

The scoring was spread throughout the lineup, with Rachel-Nadine Mekea leading with six points and O'Connor collecting five.

Other notable performances were turned in by Rhysee Noel and Lauren Furik.



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