

Senior Royals coach sees progress in week-two loss

Reding's defence makes some improvements in respectable showing against G'town

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

David Montoya isn't denying that there's still plenty of work to be done.

Nevertheless, Bishop Reding's first-year head coach seemed cautiously optimistic with regard to his team's week-two efforts — viewing them as a significant step forward.

"When you've got a lot of new guys playing both ways you're going to make mistakes, but we also did some good

things and they're doing everything asked of them," he said, moments after Thursday's 28-17 loss to the Georgetown Rebels. "Yeah, it's a big turnaround (from last week)."

Fixing at least a few of the defensive cracks that led to a 42-14 season-opening pounding at the hands of the Christ the King Jaguars, the Royals had themselves in a position to win until well into the fourth quarter — when Georgetown scored its final touchdown and picked off quarterback Stephan Gray to squash any late comeback hopes.

While still allowing too much room for opposing ball carriers to move, BR did stop the Rebels twice inside the 10-yard line down the stretch. Offensively, junior-aged running back Sanjay Moodie amassed nearly 200 yards and scored the first touchdown midway through the second quarter — putting the brakes on an early slide that saw Georgetown mount a 21-0 lead.

Gray would punch in the other major, capping a lengthy drive highlighted by his 25-yard completion to Tyler Lafontaine. Cole Pryce also had a couple of big catches, while Leonard Modestino booted a 30-yard field goal in the third quarter and made good on his two convert attempts.

Meanwhile, BR's juniors put together a few sustained drives in their season kickoff Thursday, but just couldn't reach the end-zone — getting blanked 6-0 by Oakville's Loyola Hawks.

Johnny Yacoubi had a 70-yard touchdown run called back because of a penalty, while delivering some key tackles and an interception was Zach St. Jacques. Ninth grader Ty Pearson also showed strongly, particularly on special teams.

The Royals have a double-header Friday at home, with the seniors taking on Oakville's Holy Trinity Titans at 2:30 p.m. and the juniors following with a showdown against the Assumption Crusaders of Burlington around 4:30 p.m.

Mustang seniors blanked in season opener

A couple of offensive glitches proved costly for Milton District's senior football team in season-opening play Thursday.

A fumble in the red-zone and — even more heartbreaking — a dropped end-zone pass put the kibosh on the Mustangs' best scoring efforts, as they were downed 15-0 at Burlington's Lester B. Pearson.

The Patriots scored their last touchdown in the dying moments of play to

add insult to injury in a follow-up to last fall's 5-0 victory over MD in the Halton Division 3 semifinals.

The Mustangs held their own in terms of possession time and significant gains, but are still looking for the finish enjoyed from a now-departed Brenden Cronin — last year's offensive cornerstone, who had a team-leading nine touchdowns.

A lack of depth will be another obstacle this year, with just 22 players

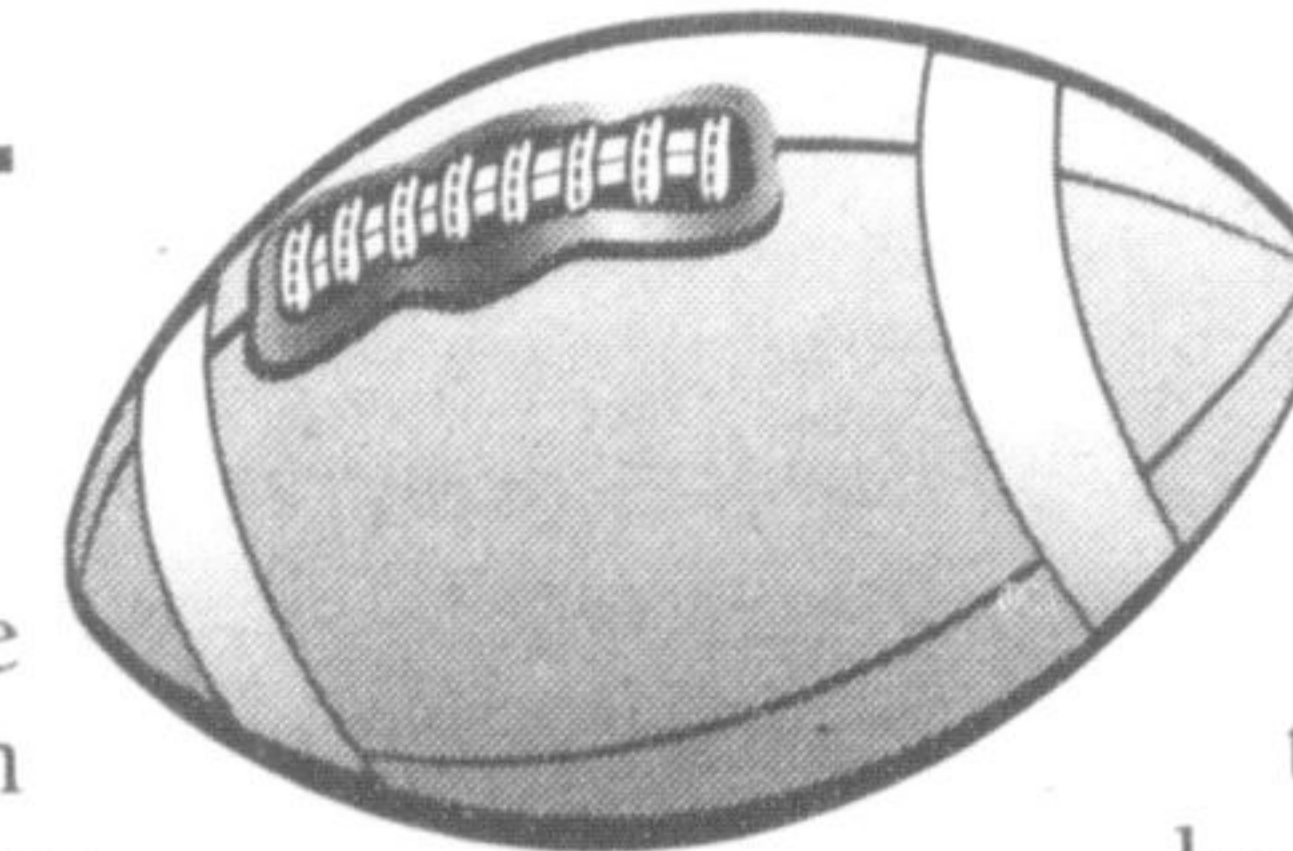
in the fold.


Brad Mazzocato, Jase Lavigne, Cameron Freelon and John Jones were among those playing both sides of the football and standing out in week-one play, while quarterback Eric Cowen showed a lot of poise in shaking off his share of early-season licks.

Pearson's first touchdown came on a 55-yard punt return with about a minute-and-a-half to go before half time, while they bolstered that lead with a safety and rouge in the third quarter.

MD's seniors will look to square their record tomorrow at home in the first half of a double-feature.

They host Oakville's Iroquois Ridge Wolfpack at 2:30 p.m., while the junior Mustangs begin their Division 2 schedule immediately afterwards — at about 4:30 p.m. — versus Oakville's White Oaks Wildcats.





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