

More field hockey heartbreak for Royals

Last-minute goal costs BR seniors another title

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It's hard to say if the light-hearted comment helped ease the sting of championship defeat or added to it.

Either way, it was certainly indicative of the heartbreak Bishop Reding's senior field hockey team has suffered at Oakville's Bronte Park.

"This place is haunted," blurted out one Royals player, moments after a last-minute goal gave T.A. Blakelock a 1-0 victory in last week's Halton Tier 2 championship. "I don't want to play here anymore."

The remark was certainly understandable, given that Reding had lost on penalty flicks to Aldershot one year earlier and was now tasting an equally bitter pill of defeat on the same field.

That came courtesy of Aimee Harper, who with overtime looming buried a goal-mouth scramble rebound — after veteran netminder Sarah Kazimer stopped an initial shot from Natalie Hanchar — to give the Tigers the first field hockey champion-



Bishop Reding's Maddy Viera-Troke (right) battles T.A. Blakelock's Nicole Hicks for possession during the Halton Tier 2 final. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

ship in school history.

Despite heading into the final undefeated and holding a distinct edge in experience, Reding coach Rebecca Gera didn't view the loss to an equally unbeaten but much younger Blakelock squad as an upset.

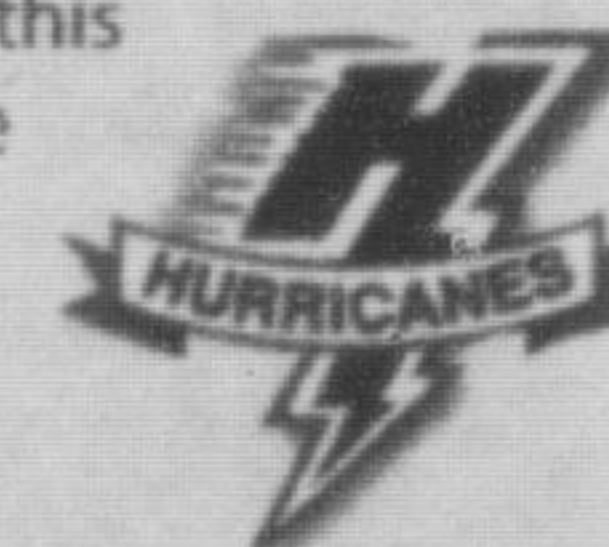
"We certainly didn't think it was a given by any stretch of the imagination," she said. "The teams were well matched. We had our chances, but just couldn't put one in." The Royals had ample opportunity to do so through an aggressive second-half

push that was fueled by usual sparkplugs Olivia Renn and Amina Mohammed, who notched the lone goal in a 1-0 overtime semifinal victory over Burlington Central. Sporting six shutouts on the season, Kazimer showed strongly through an opening half that was controlled largely by the Tigers. She received topnotch defensive support from Maddy Viera-Troke.

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Midget 'Canes golden at Kitchener tourney

Aided by a handful of Miltonians this season, the midget Hurricanes are riding high in both league and tournament play.



The latter saw them reign supreme at last weekend's Kitchener Blue Tournament, where an unbeaten run was punctuated with a 4-2 title victory over the Ottawa Senators. Milton's Ryan McDonald scored a first-period equalizer, while Halton tallied twice in the third to secure the championship.

McDonald's first goal of the weekend served as a late clincher in the Hurricanes' 4-2 semifinal win against the Oakville Rangers, whom fellow Miltonian Sean Walter scored on early.

The Hurricanes went 3-0-1 in the preliminary round, which they capped with a scoreless stalemate against the London Jr. Knights to advance to the semis.

Halton highlighted the round-robin with a hard-fought 2-1 win over the provincially-ranked Whitby Wildcats.

McDonald stood out with five points (two goals and three assists) at the tournament, while Walter and Liam Buckley had a goal and an assist each and fellow Miltonian Kyle Kaldenbach contributed three helpers.

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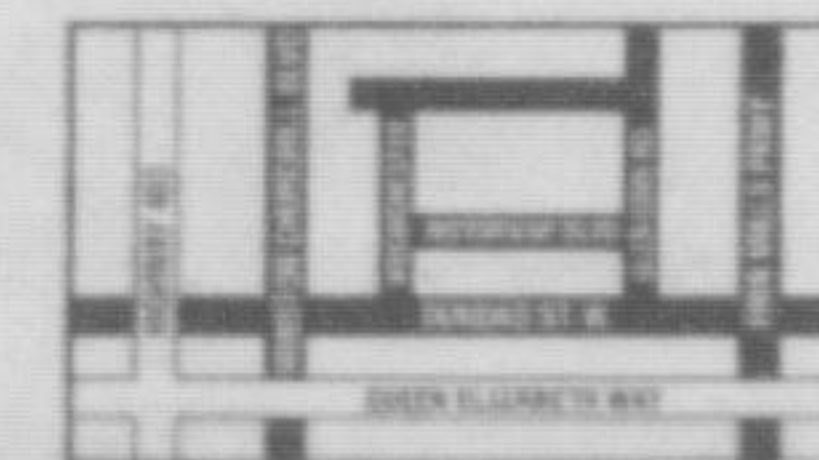
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