

Sports

Royals sign Riva

The Reading Royals have officially signed the first player in franchise history. Forward, Dan Riva, will suit up for the royals. The Massachusetts native skated for R.P. I. during his college playing days amassing nearly a point a game. Riva then turned pro in 1998-99 and was signed by the Milwaukee Admirals of the now defunct International Hockey League. Royals coach Al Sims knows Riva very well from his Milwaukee days.

"Dan is a very solid player. I know what to expect from him every night, and he knows what to expect from me and what I want," Sims said. "I expect him to be a

leader on this team."

The three-year pro has spent the majority of his time at center. He is classified as a good faceoff man, solid penalty killer and possesses good speed. He is very versatile, which is something that Sims is excited about.

"I think Danny's biggest asset is his reliability. He is a guy I want on the ice late in a close game to take a key faceoff, kill a penalty, etc. I have great confidence in him and know I can rely on him," Sims added.

Royals general manager Ray Delia is happy to have Riva's services. "Dan Riva had a prolific collegiate career at R.P.I. and is

coming off two solid years in the IHL. Dan is a 'first-team' player who competes hard at both ends of the ice. He will be one of the top center men in the East Coast Hockey League this year. In addition, Dan's familiarity with coach Sims and his system will be a tremendous asset for this organization."

Last season, Riva played 75 games in the IHL and scored 12 goals and assisted on nine. Milwaukee made the playoffs and Riva played in five games, getting one assist.

The Royals home opener is Saturday, October 13 at 7:05 p.m.

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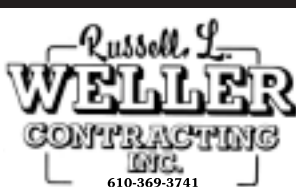
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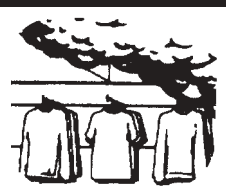
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