

SPORTS

The Canadian Champion, Thursday, Sept. 28th, 1961

★ Sportscope ★

THE SPORT WHICH has undoubtedly moved into the local picture as the top summertime spectator type sport during the past two or three summers, is the age old game of softball.

A league was formed in town some six years ago in which the town's industry formed a major part. This was the start of another era of a game which flourished in Milton a few short years ago.

With yet another season just in (and a highly successful one at that), members of the league who have been working hard in promoting the loop almost since its inception, have been toying with the idea of having a park set up with lights in order to really boost the league and its games.

Cliff Houston, who heads the umpiring staff had the notion in the back of his mind during the summer (as he had for a few seasons now). The other day he finally put it to work, that is, to get the ball rolling for a floodlit park in Milton. The location, believe it or not, is a new one that has received the okay of the landowner and will be away from any of the other ball diamonds in town. Yet it is in a natural location almost in the centre of town. By next week plans should be moving right along and soon the site and financing arrangements will be announced.

The softball league is comprised of six teams and has played four games a week, two each on Tuesday and Thursday in the past. The ball diamonds at Ontario Steel Products and Canadian Meter were used to fine advantage on these nights. It is likely two games would be played on the same nights under the lights, with a double header each night.

Estimated cost of the venture is something like \$5,000, according to Cliff, who claims the lighting setup at Hornby park is ideal and would be the most likely one to be copied.

Another fine advantage of the floodlit park would be that the minor baseball people would be able to make use of it when it is not used for softball. Although it would not be suitable for ball above the bantam group, because of the shortness of the fields and the lights being installed for the softball layout, it could add a little something to a game which although it is flourishing at the minor level, is suffering badly at the gates in the upper levels of the amateur leagues.

BASEBALL HAS ABOUT REACHED

its limit as a means of spectator entertainment locally at the present, and this can be witnessed best by seeing the number of people who will turn out to see the Milton Red Sox play against Wallaceburg in the Ontario Baseball Association's Intermediate "B" semi-final series this Sunday at the fairgrounds. The bet is, that even though the game is the top game of the year in this town to date, there will likely be a few more than 100 people there.

The increase in the softball interest stems from the fact that many former top baseball players in the town have moved to the game. There are a lot of reasons for this occurring but the main reason given by them, is that it takes up just two nights a week and there is no travelling.

However, Saturdays, Sundays and about three nights a week are in jeopardy when one is in the baseball circle.

Although the brand of baseball has increased in the past three or four seasons, so has the softball and it is this phase which is now showing its prosperity by advancing into the floodlit park stage.

NOTES: Minor hockey moguls send a special invitation to you

to attend their organizational meeting for the season ahead, Monday night, October 2 (this Monday) at the Legion hall at eight o'clock. . . "Please come and bring anyone else interested in promoting minor hockey in Milton," says the executive, and they hope to get a good early start at formation of the teams and leagues. . . Hawthorn Lodge is getting into the sports picture under its new management, and they have offered a banquet to the winning team in the Commercial Softball League, which in this case is the Ontario Steel Products squad. . . Lucky guys. . . Coach Art Melanson may insert himself in the lineup for the return game here Sunday against Wallaceburg. . . The Red Sox are playing fairly good ball but for a couple of positions, and Art expects a juggled lineup Sunday may be the answer. . . It is a win or else situation and the deciding game will be played here next Sunday if the Sox pull through.

Still on baseball, Milton Pe Wees go into the finals this weekend against Essex as do the Milton Juniors against Kingsville. . . Anyone interested in seeing the O.H.A. film which is presented at the Union Hall, Thursday (October 3) at 8 p.m., may do so. . . It actually is a referees' instructional film and shows the proper method of playing the game. . . It would do well for minor hockey coaches to see it. . . The Kinsman club is once again digging into the organization of a swimming pool drive, and this time it is going to go through, according to one of the club's top workers.

Gates' Lowville Bantams Capture Ontario Crown

The bantam "B" championship of the Ontario Rural Softball Association became the property of Lowville Bantams Monday night.

Working behind the two-hit pitching of Frank Bertasson, Lowville team claimed the title by defeating Inverkip 8-0 to sweep the final playoff series in two straight games.

Performing like true champions, the Lowville team backed their young mound star with an

HORNBY

Church, Neighbors Shower Bride-to-Be

Tuesday evening the church members of St. Peter's church, Trafalgar, and neighbors gathered at the North Trafalgar Community Hall to honor Elaine Mercure in her marriage to John Mileham.

Mrs. John McCarron and Mrs. Hugh O'Connor convened the social evening. Euchre was played and the ladies' prizes were won by Mrs. Terpstra and Mrs. Carson. The men's prizes were won by M. McCure and F. Johnson.

Miss Carol McCarron and Miss Rita Sammit presented the bride to be with all the gifts. Mrs. Carol Patterson and Elaine's sister assisted in opening the presents.

Elaine and John expressed their thanks and lunch was served.

errorless fielding chore and put together an 11 hit plate effort for their eight run total.

Two Homers

Doug Coverdale sparked the batting parade with a pair of home runs, Lee Coulson collecting two hits, one of them a four-bagger.

Catcher Bill Gidgeon also had a big night with a three for four showing at the plate.

Bertasson was in complete command throughout the contest at Lowville Park, fanning nine batters and walking three for the shutout victory.

Cliff Littlejohn toiled for the Inverkip team which had entered the series boasting an undefeated record for the season.

Fine Season

The Championship win climaxed a fine season for the Lowville team under coach Peter Gates and manager Eric Gudgeon. Jack King assisted Gates with the coaching duties during the playoffs.

The Lowville boys also won the Burlington Amateur Softball Association bantam crown this season. They are sponsored by Nelson Crushed Stone.

RECORDS HERE

An extensive selection of records is available in Milton now, following the introduction of The Needle Record Bar at Robert Charles Furniture.

Approximately 1,000 records are carried in stock and three day service is promised on orders.

Split North, South; Expect 15 Entries In Revised Intermediate Hockey Loop

An eight team O.H.A. Intermediate "A" hockey league to include Milton, is in the offing for the 1961-62 season, it was announced this week by O.H.A. vice-president C. G. "Pat" Patterson of Brampton.

Mr. Patterson (in charge of the Intermediate groupings at present, in the absence of an ailing Tim O'Neil of Stouffville who has headed the group for the past three seasons) noted that it looks as if there will be a total of 15 teams in the "A" series for the coming season and two groupings are likely to be set up. First there will be the Central Ontario Group which will expand to include teams from Port Colborne, Ingersoll, Fort Erie, and Welland as well as returns Oakville, Georgetown, Dundas and Milton.

In the north there will be a group composed of teams from Meaford, Collingwood, Midland, Orillia, Barrie, Durham, and Bradford. The latter club has been one of the top clubs in the Central league since its inception four years ago, but would likely join the northern group for less travelling.

Port Credit Sailors, a "B" entry last year, will operate in the Junior "B" category this term in an effort to get more Intermediate hockey players in that area.

New Faces This Term
Rookie coach Jack Price takes over the helm of the Merchants from Nick Ferri (reported to have been approached by Georgetown Raiders to act on their behalf for the coming term). Joining will be at least two new faces and likely more. Willie Labanich, a policeman type defenceman with Burlington Mohawks in the O.H.A. Junior "B" last year and Blair Constantine, who was one of the same club's top scorers in the past couple of seasons, both of whom are over-age, will work out with the club this year.

Back for another term will be veteran Murray Grenke, a local who will be joined on defence by Ed Hazlett, back for his third term. The top trio of Larry Shuker centre, Jack Price at left

in Glen Wilson got two hits and Merv Fletcher and Tub McConnell had one hit each.

The team sparkled in the field, just as it did last game. McDuffe was given fine support, particularly on two occasions. Bill Currie, centre fielder, made a shoe-string catch with two on and two out to save at least two runs in one inning. Bill Scott made a fine stop on a hard-hit ground ball on the side of second away from him and threw the Aylmer runner out to end the inning, again with two on.

No Support
In contrast, the Aylmer pitcher was given little support. For the visitors, the pitcher, D. Gardner got two hits as did Roszell.

The team goes to Kingsville Sunday, October 1, to open the finals. Coach Dick Clement has brought the team from a nothing club to one of championship calibre since joining it part way through the season.

Junior Sox Advance to Finals Meet Kingsville Team Sunday

Milton Junior Red Sox advanced into the Ontario finals against Kingsville by scoring a 7-3 victory over Aylmer in the deciding game in their best-of-three series here Sunday.

Brian McDuffe went the route for the victory, allowing six hits while striking out eight. McDuffe was in trouble several times, but clutch pitching and some brilliant defensive plays got him out of it with only three runs scored.

Out Player
The game was marred by the ejection of Given, Aylmer centre fielder, for arguing excessively with the umpire. Aylmer seemed to collapse half-way through the game and the pitcher, Gardner, was given little defensive support from there on. Gardner pitched a good game, striking out nine, while giving 10 hits.

For Milton, Don Currie was again the big man at the plate with three hits in four times at bat. Gord Hasselfeldt had a triple and a single for four runs batted

in. Glen Wilson got two hits and Merv Fletcher and Tub McConnell had one hit each.

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Hockey Meet
Those interested in helping in minor hockey for the coming season are asked to attend a meeting at Legion hall Monday night, October 2.

President Herb Higgs has called the meeting in order to get an earlier start at the operation, which it is expected will expand again this year as it has in the past.

Time of the meeting is 8 o'clock sharp and the election of officers will take place following the business reports of last year's executive.

Palermo Girls Softball Champs
Palermo girls chalked up their eighth Halton Rural Softball League championship last week with a thrilling finish in a best-of-five final series with Hornby girls.

Palermo won the series three games to two to take their eighth trophy in the league's 13 years of operation.

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Figure Skating Plans Underway

A well attended meeting of the new executive of the Milton Figure Skating Club was held at the home of the president, Mrs. M. S. Keraghan, on Wednesday afternoon of last week to set in motion preparations for the coming season.

The opening date for the lessons is November 7 with Ross Smith of Guelph continuing as the pro. Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The question of the fees came up and it was decided that due to the success of the carnival at the close of last season, it would be possible to carry on again without raising the fee, for this year at least.

Cop Can't Return
Joe McCann who had one of his finest seasons on the rear-guard wall for the Merchants last term will not be back as he has become a member of Milton's finest (the police force, of course) since last season.

The club expects to play home games Friday night and Sunday afternoons.

Sox Drop First Game In Semi-Final Series

The Wallaceburg Merchants grabbed a one game lead in their best of three Int. "A" semi-finals with the Milton Red Sox as they hiked up a close 3-1 win in Wallaceburg Sunday afternoon.

Second game of the series will be played in Milton Sunday afternoon, October 1 at 2 p.m. If a third game is necessary it will be played in Milton the following Sunday, October 8 at 2 p.m.

Right handers Tom Marks and P. Pettinger hooked up in a tight mound duel and each allowed only two hits.

Marks Better, Loses
The winner, Pettinger gave up singles to Stu Hannant, Primo Rigo and Doug Cully and a seventh inning double to Ron Phillips. He issued four walks and racked up five strike outs.

In a losing cause, Marks was more effective, he gave up scratch singles in the fourth and fifth and a double and single in the fateful eighth. He struck out seven batters and gave up a pair of walks.

Costly infield errors and mental lapses cost the Red Sox the game. In the fifth with one on and two out, Ron Shannon failed to cover second on an attempted steal and the runner wound up on third base. Griffiths, lead off man for the Merchants, promptly singled him home for the first run of the game.

The Sox tied it up in the eighth on a walk to Glen Dance and Doug Cully's single. Wallaceburg's shortstop, S. Regis made the big play of the game as he back-handed Doug Hyatts' hard smash and threw Doug Cully out at home plate to cut the Red Sox rally short.

In the bottom of the eighth Pettinger led off with a double, went to third on Ron Phillips' error of an easy ground ball, and scored on a sacrifice fly. Regis who got the life on the error worked his way around to third base and scored as catcher Doug Hyatt threw wildly to third in an effort to ride him off base.

Briefs
—Heads on the Main St. are turning left and right in awe these days as new 1962 cars make their appearance.

—A car carrying several laborers was involved in a one-car accident on Highway 401 Friday when a tire blew out and the car rolled upside down. Four of the passengers were slightly hurt.

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Rain Ends Mess in Corunna Saturday Game Tells the Tale

Campbellville and Corunna tried valiantly to continue their Intermediate "A" Major semi-final on Sunday in Corunna, but to no avail.

The game got underway on a slippery, slimy, sodden field, as the teams went at it without the benefit of any pre-game practise on the diamond.

Short Lead
Campbellville went into a short-lived lead in the top of the first. Dredge opened the game with a single, went to second on a passed ball third on an infield out and scored on Cairns' single to centre.

In the bottom of the first, Corunna took a 2-1 lead as Mulren's double drove in Anderson and Mellor, who had singled.

A walk, a sacrifice and a single in the bottom of the second made it 3-1 for the home club but Campbellville closed the gap to 3-2 in the top of the third as Moore singled and was driven in by Henderson's rining double.

Put Out Fire
A walk and three hits gave Corunna a 6-2 lead in the bottom of the third and finished Roberts, who was slipping badly in the mud around the mound. Field came in and put the fire out and then the rain came and finished the job.

The two teams meet again at 4:00 p.m. E.D.T. in Corunna on Saturday, September 30. If Corunna wins, the series is over. If the game is rained out, it will be played in Corunna on Sunday. If Campbellville wins on Saturday, the two teams will play the third game in Campbellville on Sunday, October 1 at 2:30 p.m.

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