

Red Sox Dust off Spikes Start Practices Sunday

Milton Red Sox prepared to dust off their spikes, pull up Sox and start to play ball, when newly appointed manager Dick Clement spoke to club officials and players last night (Wednesday). Reminding those present that baseball in Milton has always enjoyed a good "image" manager Clement stressed that this coming season could be "Milton's baseball comeback year."

"Baseball has brought more glory to this town than any other sport that I can think of," Mr. Clement noted. "We've got some good young kids and there's no reason why we can't build a solid club. If we start to play ball and work at, we'll have a real good team in three or four years. If we don't have, I'll eat my hat. I'm not committing myself to the team for this year alone, I'm committing myself for as long as I'm wanted and available."

Stressing exactly what he wanted and expected, the former Milton pitching ace suggested, "I want a running ball club, it gets fans interested and it's good baseball. If we start running early we'll be in shape and this will count during the first four games of the schedule. We're going to learn to do the little things right and that way we'll improve. If we lose to a team 20-0 the first time, it will only be 10-0 the second game, 5-2 in the third game and in the fourth game we'll beat them. We're going to keep on pushing and as long as we do, we'll have a chance."

Before the meeting closed the Sox mentor outlined the spring training schedule which begins this Sunday with a 2 p.m. workout. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, the team will start practices at 7 p.m.



—Staff Photo

BOOMING BATS and the hard smack of leather announced the arrival of Spring and baseball, as the Milton Bantam All-Stars held their first practice of the season on Saturday, under the direction of coaches Doug Hyatt, Alan Parton and Joe Wilson. The bantam squad this season is comprised mainly of Pee Wee All-Star graduates from last year's Halton County Pee Wee Champions. Ted Hood, Barry McTrash, Donnie Hearn and Trevor Houston are shown as they prepare to take their opening swats.



SPORT LITES

By BRIAN MCCRISTALL

LONG A CONCERN of this department has been the apparent decline in interest in baseball in general and intermediate ball in the area in particular. The Halton County Intermediate league has been groping through some starvation years and during the struggle several ball communities have literally been starved out of existence. During the past several seasons alone, once successful teams from Waterdown, Brampton and now Acton have bowed from the Intermediate scene, apparently never to return.

Hoping for new life and desperately needing it, Halton league officials banded together this winter and decided the elimination of the loop playoffs would be a step in the right direction. This recent change plus a new population ruling from the O.B.A., threatens to revise the thinking of the involved baseball communities and now there seems to be a new thread of hope.

We talked this week to Len Andrews who doubles as the capable manager of the Campbellville Merchants and as the dean and most influential spokesman of the Halton league and he explained the possibilities of the coming season and the effect the rule and schedule changes might have.

In deep gravel voiced tones he talked of 'hope' and of the prospects for the coming season. "I think things are going to be improved, this 30 game schedule and the elimination of the playoffs should be a big boost. An O.B.A. population ruling (which I didn't agree with) is also going to make things quite a bit different. The population ruling will force Oakville, Hamilton, Dundas and maybe even us to go Senior, since the "A" major class has been dropped.

The 30 game schedule is going to make every game important and teams know they have to win each game as it comes or they face the possibility of a very long winter, starting about late August, the mentor suggested.

"At least three teams have to try to win every game and now they'll field a solid team for every game, not show up with nine or ten guys like they did last year. This new schedule is bound to make for better competition and it might even get to the fans eventually. Regular season games used to mean nothing, it didn't matter if you won or lost. Now they'll all count and the fans might catch on and take a greater interest. I don't think this will come over night, it'll be gradual."

Talking from his own experiences, he noted that his team makes more money at the gate during the playoffs than they do during the whole regular season, simply because the fans know something's at stake. "Every team in the league complains about losing money at each game and this can't go on indefinitely, some changes have to be made."

"We're selfish," he admitted, "if everyone loses money and decides to quit, Campbellville won't have anyone to play with, it's as simple as that. The elimination of the playoffs this year is just an experiment but we hope it will be a little better. The two big things that count and are really needed are better competition throughout the league and improved playing facilities. The calibre of the play doesn't make that much difference but it does have to be close enough to be interesting. Naturally, if the competition is keen, everyone will try to improve his team and probably the calibre will get better."

"The other thing that is very important is that the facilities improve and get better for the fans. Things like a good looking diamond and good seats, draw spectators to the park. We also have to make sure the team is dressed in decent uniforms and hustles. Right now the whole league seems to be making progress. It's slower than I'd like it to be, but you can't help these things."

Running quickly through the entries this year, the Campbellville mentor pointed out that his team "is bound to be weaker." "We have five players who will be over 30 and four or five that are 28 or 29. The bulk of the team is over 27. It's bound to be going downhill, but it all depends on whether our pitching stands up or not. We're due for some arm trouble."

Speaking of the other squads, he suggested that, "Hamilton should have a good team according to what I hear and Dundas is going to be much stronger, they had a real good junior team last year. Oakville is always good and their pitching is just as good as any team in the league. I don't know much about Milton but they did seem high on Brian McDuffe last year (a young pitcher). I know nothing at all about Georgetown, but they've been good for the league."

Summing up the evening's conversation, the veteran league leader expressed "hope" for a brighter future.

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BROWSING ABOUT — The classy Harris Stationery shiny squad was treated to a chicken dinner by sponsor Ron Harris recently. The club finished their season last week, losing out to the Rebels in the Midget house league finals. . . . Bowling banquet season is fast approaching and secretaries of leagues should contact The Champion immediately, if they wish a photographer to take pictures at league banquets. Please be sure and let us know plenty of time in advance. . . . Our personal favorites, the Boston Red Sox, started their American League season off in high style, ruining Yogi Berra's "debate" as a Yankee manager. . . . The Bronx Bombers are reportedly off to their poorest start in 34 seasons. . . . We refuse to pick a winner in the Junior circuit, but expect a well trained St. Louis Cardinal squad to win all the marbles in the National League.

The Georgetown Giants of the Halton Intermediate league renamed Mike LaRusso to head the club in 1964. The burly mentor took over the contingent midway through last season. . . . The Dundas Merchants, also of the Halton league, will be headed this year by ace catcher and perennial All Star Don McPhail. . . . The league is tentatively slated to open on the May 24th weekend, giving the teams only a little more than a month to get organized and rounded into shape. . . . Don't forget the annual meeting of the Milton Minor Hockey Association on Sunday afternoon, May 3, in the Legion Hall. . . . Many a hockey expert is eating crow right about now, but not us. We were making our predictions but as it turned out they never got to publication. Pretty lucky eh?

Announce Nominations For M.M.H.A. Executive Posts

Bob Kanerva, president of the Milton Minor Hockey Association for the 1963-64 season, is the only man yet nominated for the post for the 1964-65 season, according to a list of nominations announced this week. Mr. Kanerva, serving his second year on the executive, headed the minor hockey efforts through a highly successful shabby season that ended just last week.

All members of the 1963-64 executive, except vice-president Al Bessey, have been nominated for 64-65 posts. It is also expected however, that several new faces will seek election, when the annual meeting of the Association is held on Sunday afternoon, May 3.

Nominations thus far received include for vice-president, Chuck Gervais, Jim Murray and Ken Young. All three gentlemen served on the '63-64 executive committee. Secretary Bob Watkins is the only person yet nominated for the secretary's post. Two men, present treasurer Ray Andress and present executive member Joe Wilson, have been nominated for the position of treasurer.

So far ten nominations have been received for the four positions on the executive committee, including Chuck Gervais, Vern Gooding, Herb Higgs, Bruce Kitchen, Lachie McKersie, Jim Murray, B. Parton, Joe Wilson, and Ken Young.

During the winter, the M.M.H.A. executive charts the progress of nearly 400 minor hockey players in the town and area, providing hockey for five All-Star and 24 house league teams, as well as for nearly 100 Monday Niters (boys who are playing hockey for the first time).



By Arn Coulson

As the cold North winds gradually get around to the West and South and warm up "Old Mother Earth," they also warm up an outdoorsman's heart. Fishing tackle boxes are checked nearly every week and rods are checked every few days. Outdoorsmen check their 22 rifles for woodchuck hunting and generally prepare for the coming season. The coming of Spring also brings delicacies such as leeks, which are considered by many as the best spring treat (if not by their wives).

Also at dusk these spring evenings, one can hear the spine tingling honk of a flock of Canadian geese as they wend their way North to their summer nesting grounds. All these are the wonderful signs that spring is really back.

The smelt are running very well at Burlington Beach, but most fishermen say the real 'run' has not started yet. The low water this year is hampering the fishermen around docks and piers.

This Sunday, April 26, the Oakville Trap Club will be finishing up a series of registered trap shoots. Many fine scores will be turned in as local lads try for top honors at these amateur shoots.

Trap Shooting
The Halton Sportsmen's Association held a practice trap shoot on Saturday and some of the boys have not lost their knack of breaking their small clay discs as they whirl through the air. A few who will bear watching this season are Roy Robertson of Kilbride, Ken and Bruce Coulson of Lowville and Don Kearney and Ron Marshall of Milton; all are really handy with the big noise stick when it comes to trap shooting. Veterans John Readhead and Howard Coulson are still in there, breaking their share also.

Jack King, Wayne Auckland, John McArthur and some of the boys from around Lowville, have been providing some tasty spring meals for their neighbors this past week, keeping them well supplied with suckers from the 12 Mile Creek.

Motorists in the North end of the county are asked to be extra careful at nights when driving on back roads, as female deer are now heavy with fawn and have little regard for cars. Sometimes they cross right in front of the lights.

Now that camping and fishing trips are about to begin, just a few words on garbage disposal on these trips. One of Canada's top naturalists stated that so much garbage is left behind by campers in Algonquin Park that he saw piles of garbage collected by four or five two men teams, piled as high as a man's shoulders. He also noted that some people even dig a latrine at their tent sites and very few offenders are caught because of the vastness of the area. Surely, when the government goes to great expense each year to provide campsites and parks, the least we can do is dig a hole and bury our garbage and cans. We think this is a small price to pay for what we get from a weekend in the wilderness.

The hunter safety training program which trained more than 30,000 new hunters last year and has graduated more than 66,000 since it began, is now being extended to all senior personnel of the Department of Lands and Forests.

Shotgun Tips
When putting that shotgun away for the summer months, here are a few tips to remember. Thoroughly clean all the moving

parts of the "big noise stick" and apply a light coat of good gun oil. Care must be taken not to get too much oil on the gun, as it will seep into the stock, causing discoloring and rotting of the wood. After the barrel has been thoroughly cleaned, a light film of oil on a rag should be pulled through the barrel, leaving a protective covering for the summer. Re-assemble the gun, place it in your case and lay it down on a rack, rather than store it in an upright position, as this can cause oil to run to the stock.

When fishing cold water this spring don't wear leather or woolen gloves, as once they are wet, they're useless. Best bet is rubber gloves that housewives use for washing dishes.

Scaling fish is a messy job as scales fly all over. One of the best ways to accomplish the chore is place the fish in a large plastic bag and then reach in and scale the fish. Try it, it works.

Opening Workout
Baseball workouts began in earnest this week, with the Milton Bantam All-Stars trotting through the paces at the fair grounds on Saturday afternoon. Eleven boys showed up for the run-through, under the direction of coaches Alan Parton, Doug Hyatt and Joe Wilson. The team will compete in the Bantam division of Halton County Baseball Association play. It is believed their schedule will begin on the 24th of May weekend.

Players showing up for Saturday's practice include Steve Wellwood, Trevor Houston, Ken Parton, Keith Higgs, Barry McTrash, Steve Keane, Paul Keilty, Ted Hood, Loris Faggion, Don Hearn and Gary Nayler.

Large Crowd Attends Baseball Registration

Minor baseball fortunes in Milton took a decided up-swing last night (Wednesday) when nearly 140 parents showed up at the Union Hall to register their sons for the coming baseball season. The nearly 140 registered is less than 30 under the total registration for last year and it is expected that between 50-60 registrations will be received before the extended deadline on Saturday. The minor ball executive agreed to extend the deadline until Saturday and parents are asked to register their sons at the Tri-County Athletic Supplies Store on Brown St. across from the arena, before 5 p.m. Saturday evening.

In a meeting immediately following the registration, Al Surbey was re-elected as president of the Milton Minor Baseball Association for the coming season. Both Mr. Surbey and treasurer Alan Parton were acclaimed to their posts after serving in the same positions during the 1963 season. Bill McTrash was elected first vice-president, edging out Lloyd Smith. Lloyd Smith won the second vice-president's chair in a two way race with Frank Clarke. Mr. Clarke and Murray Hood were named as Association directors, defeating three other candidates.

Before the meeting ended, Mr. Surbey suggested that at least 70 interested adults are needed to help regularly, if minor ball is to prosper in town during the summer months. He asked anyone interested in helping to contact a member of the executive as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCE PRACTICE
It was also announced at the meeting that a practice will be held in Rotary Park on Saturday afternoon beginning at 3 p.m. for all boys under 13 after May 1 who are interested in trying out for Pee Wee and Tyke All-Star teams.

County Minor Divisions Expand Expect 10 New Entries at Least

The Halton County Minor Baseball Leagues will have expanded by at least 10 teams when the schedule begins sometime in the middle of May, chairman of minors Bill Richmond of Georgetown reported this week. At present 34 teams have registered, 10 more than the 24 that competed in Halton County Minor play last year. The chairman stressed, however, that it was expected that several more teams would register before the final executive meeting on Monday evening in Milton. At present no entries have been received from Acton, Rockwood, Eden Mills or Campbellville, the chief noted.

Three Tykes
This year at least three teams will be competing in the Tyke division, one more than played last year. Teams from Milton, Brampton and Oakville have already registered and league officials are hoping for a fourth entry. Six teams will operate in the PeeWee division, seven in the Midget class, four in the Juvenile and two in the Junior. Milton will compete in Tyke, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget classes.

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chairman commented, with nearly 50 interested individuals turning out.

Besides heading the Halton Minor set up Mr. Richmond is the coach of the Halton County Met Juvenile team. The team, to be made up of players from Oakville, Milton, Acton, Brampton and Georgetown, held its first practice on Sunday afternoon in Wallace Park in Oakville. The club's second practice is slated for Sunday at 6:30 p.m., again in Wallace Park. One area ball star, Don Chisholm, showed up for last Sunday's practice.

—The chilly weather on Saturday and Sunday cut down on golfing slightly, but this weekend local enthusiasts expect to get out on the greens and try their hands at breaking the elusive 100 mark

BOWLING

ATTENTION—Secretaries of Champion Leagues. If you wish Champion photo coverage of your bowling banquets, please call this office well in advance, stating the night, the league and the exact time that the photographer is to arrive. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

Ladies' Special
April 16—Ladies' high single, Audrey Mason, 239; ladies' high triple, Audrey Mason, 599. Other good triples, Gladys McKersie, 585.
Ethel's, 6 for 25; Edrie's, 0 for 28, Mary's 7 for 19, Doris 1 for 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Club
April 20—Ladies' high single, Thelma Bousfield, 257, ladies' high triple, Thelma Bousfield 623. Men's high single, Jack Bousfield 300, men's high triple, Jack Bousfield 714.
Tom Cats won 3109, Shorthorns won 3040, Ticklers won 2865, Rink Rats 2720.

Halton Junior Farmers
April 13—Ladies' high single, Gail McCallum 178, ladies high triple Marg Alexander 439. Men's high single Jack Barnes 241, men's high triple Jack Barnes 597.
Finals, total pins for two weeks, Fred Barnes 2421, Allen Brownridge 2338, Pete Tasker 2157, Graham Reeve 2040.

April 20—Ladies' high single Diane Wrigglesworth 229, ladies' high triple, Dianne Wrigglesworth 516. Men's high single Paul May 256, Allen Brownridge 256, men's high triple Allen Brownridge 674.
Other good triple, Paul May 612.
Final Night—Total points of 2 weeks of finals:
Allen Brownridge won 2637 for 4975, Fred Barnes 2472 pins for 4893, Pete Tasker 2376 pins for 4533, Graham Reeve 2182 pins for 4222.

—Don't forget the annual meeting of the Milton Minor Hockey Association on May 3.

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