



Jacques Paquette wins 54 games



## Sport Lites

by Brian McCristall

It's often said that figures lie and liars figure, but when the cool facts are laid on the table, righthander Jacques Paquette had a pretty fair season in local softball circles. The Ottawa native was in great demand when the softball season rolled around in May, but next year it will even be greater.

When Sandy Koufax strode onto the mound for the second game of the world series, the fire-balling Brooklynite had won 27 games during the regular season. Jacques won twice as many this season (54) and lost only six.

From mid-May until late September, the 27-year-old hurler played in 80 softball games with three different teams and pitched in 60. His win-loss record makes rival coaches shudder, and the fact that he averaged around 18 strike-outs per nine inning game, was enough to make opposing batters think twice before stepping into the batters' box.

Parkland Paving of the Burlington Fastball League, Air Canada and Lowville of the Halton Rural Softball League, all had the services of Jacques this summer. Although he works shiftwork, the hefty 200 pounder managed to play as many as four games each week when he was working days and sometimes as many as six in five days.

Ever since he arrived in this area from the Ottawa Valley, six years ago, Jacques has been a relatively successful hurler. This year he added a new pitch to his repertoire and he became almost unbeatable. By the season's end, the teams he had played for wrapped up the Halton and Ontario Rural Softball Championships and the Burlington Fastball League title. Air Canada reached the league semi-finals before being eliminated.

The pitch that made the big difference was an educated drop. Combining it with his up-shoot and mixing in changes of pace, he was able to confuse most batters. "I practiced early in the spring with Gord Marshall and I picked up some tips from pitchers in the Burlington league which helped. The up-shoot has always been my best pitch, but the drop has really built up my confidence," he said.

His strike-out feats have started to become legendary in the Halton Rural league and in the course of the season, he gave up no more than five runs in any one game and usually fanned between 18 and 21 batters. Strike-out wise his best games were against Braughm in O.R.S.A. play, when he fanned 47 batters in two games — 24 in one and 23 in the other. His lowest number of strike-outs for nine innings was 13. He also logged about 16 shut-outs.

Picking out the biggest thrill in an 80 game schedule could be a problem, but not for Jacques. "It was when we won the O.R.S.A. title against Mount Elgin. We beat them 9-0 with a real team effort. I'll always remember that," he said. "Do you ever get tired of playing ball — do you think you'd like to play as much next year,"

## Many problems ...

# Pals tackle Merchants Friday

Plagued with a multitude of problems, the Milton Merchant Juniors will make their '66-67 home debut on Friday night against the Junior "C" Preston Pals.

Merchant co-coaches Murray Grenke and Enio Scisizzi will have their first opportunity to see the team's candidates under fire and it is likely the axe will fall on a few shoulders soon after the contest.

"Situation unsettled" is the best way to describe current circumstances in the Milton camp. Right now the biggest problem facing the mentors is the acquisition of a solid import defenceman. Bob Anderson of Aldershot, a former Burlington Mohawk player, seemed to be the answer but he has told club officials that it is too far to travel. "He looks like he could help us, but we'll have trouble signing him," manager Alan Parton reports.

Goal is another unsettled spot. Bob Lee who played well during his rookie season last year, is the top candidate for the starter's post but he injured his ankle and has only had the pads on once so far. Jim Caughill, a graduate of the Milton Juniors, has been tabbed as the likely back-up man. A report earlier in the week indicated Caughill had injured a leg and would be out for the rest of the season, but he worked out Monday night and seemed physically fit. Dale Dunnington of Islington has practiced with the team but he would be classed as an import.

Nine players signed on Monday night — eight members of last year's squad and a Juvenile graduate Maurice Miljour. "Maurice has looked real good in the practices. He's played on a line with Jim Keane and Dick Marshall," Parton said. The others who signed were Doug Hearn, Craig Brush, Leon Sickle, Jim Keane, Dick Marshall, Joe Hore, Steve Gervaise and Renato Bertoli.

Roger Wildfong, the popular forward who earned rave reviews during his first two seasons with the Merchants, is now in the awkward position of not knowing how much he'll be playing this winter. Roger has been working a 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

we asked. "Sure I get a little fed up sometimes, but something keeps you going. When you go to the game you don't care whether you play or not, and just before it's time to start, you get real interested. It's a good thing my Jeanette like baseball, it could be kind of tough if she didn't," he answered.

As far as playing next year, he thinks he'd like to try the Big Four Fastball League in Hamilton. "It's about the best league around here and I want to see how I'll make out. I always want to try for the top," he said.

Playing ball is fun for Jacques and the team which he likes to play the most with is Lowville. "It's a young team and the guys are really interested in ball," he noted. Much of his success is due to the excellent catchers he's had. "Stu King at Lowville, Gordie Marshall with Air Canada and Buck Richardson with Parkland, all help me a lot," he said.

When the season ended recently, he suggested, "I was really looking forward to a rest, but now I'm really looking forward to next year."

### Topical Tid Bits

One or two reliable import defencemen head the shopping list for Milton Merchant coaches Enio Scisizzi and Murray Grenke. The mentors are hoping that Joe Hore will fill a gap at the blueline. Bob Anderson, a former performer with the Junior 'B' Burlington Mohawks is listed as one candidate for another rearguard slot. Bill Currie, the Merchants' most valuable player last season, has signed with the Oakville Oaks. His brother Don is starting his second season with the Oaks.

Chances of a border dispute between the Oakville Blades and the Milton Merchants has been getting the big play in area daily, but local fans shouldn't be concerned. Both Jim Cole and Steve Lawrence have indicated a preference for playing in Milton and both, according to an O.H.A. ruling are Milton property. "If they want to try to build up their gates by getting a dispute going, it's all right with us," one Merchant official noted. "Both kids will be playing in Milton and that's all there is to it."

shift at his job in Malton and so far he's been out to only one practice. However there's a chance he'll have his shift changed. Merchant officials are crossing their fingers.

Manager Parton summed up his views of the first four workouts simply. "We're in trouble unless we can get an import defenceman," he said. He pointed to Renato Bertoli as being the most impressive performer so far. "He's been head and shoulders above the rest," and suggested, "Jim Keane, Joe Hore and Maurice Miljour have also looked good."

Two lines seem set for the exhibition game at least. Craig Brush will centre Leon Sickle and Doug Hearn and Jim Keane will centre Maurice Miljour and Dick Marshall. Streetsville residents Jim Workman and John Petek will likely be dressed for the exhibition game along with returnee Brian Bond and several other local prospects.

Current top candidates for the first defence posts are Bertoli, Hore, Steven Gervaise, Bill Anderson of Milton, John Forbes and Steve Lawrence.

BLUELINE BANTER: The

## ... beset coaches

Merchants have called Toronto Maple Leaf Scout Bob Patterson and asked if he could direct any 19-year-old defenceman toward Milton. He's expected to call back later in the week. Dale Dunnington has been quite impressive, but he not only has to be good enough to make the team, he has to be valuable enough to make the club as an import. Only four import slots are open. Game time on Friday night is 8:30. Admission is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. The locals will host Elmira for an exhibition game on October 21.



RENATO BERTOLI Sparkles in practices



JIM KEANE Centres Marshall and Miljour



BOB LEE Top candidate for goal

## Players may sign for minor hockey

Registrations for Milton Minor Hockey Association play this winter will be accepted on Wednesday and Thursday nights and Saturday morning of this week.

The registrations will be accepted from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday nights at Milton Arena and at the arena on Saturday morning from 9-12. All boys wishing to play minor hockey this season must be registered.

The registration fee is \$5 for in-town residents and \$7 for boys who live outside the town boundaries. A special family rate applies for three or more boys from any one family. The family rate which applies for players from in town is \$5 each for the first two boys and \$1 for every additional boy. The out of town rate is \$7 for each of the

first two boys and \$1 for every additional boy.

The House League schedule is expected to get underway on October 29. Novice, PeeWee and some Bantam teams will play each Saturday morning and some Bantam and all Midget house league teams will play Wednesday nights. It is expected about 23 house-league teams will be formed this year.

Application forms are available at Milton schools, Milton Arena.

JUVENILE ALL-STAR GAME A Juvenile All-Star game is being planned for this year by the Tri-County Hockey Association. Jim Brockie of Oakville has been appointed to head the All-Star committee. The game was held for several seasons and discontinued last year.

—Champion classifieds may not work wonders, but they work well!

### SEASON'S TICKETS

Season's tickets for all Milton Merchant Junior home games are now on sale. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the team executive or at Smith's Barber Shop or the coffee shop at Milton arena.

## Softball final

The Milton Industrial Softball season will end tonight when the Merchants and Charles Hotel square-off for the fifth and deciding game for the league championship.

The Charles Hotel walloped its way to 13-11 victory on Wednesday night to deadlock the series at two games each and set the stage for the decisive contest tonight.

It has been a hitters' series all the way and on Wednesday the Charles broke loose against the offerings of Jim Rowley. Merv Fletcher homered, Vano Corradetti singled twice, Ron Shannon singled twice and Louie Bertasson doubled and singled to pace the Charles assault. Glen Weaver came in to relieve in the eighth inning and faced only seven batters in the final two innings, striking out the side in the eighth.

Pete Kokura went the distance for the winners and gave up three Meter runs in the second inning, one in the fifth, three in the seventh, two in the eighth and two in the ninth. With the bases loaded and two runs in, the crafty righthander retired the Merchants to preserve his own win.

The Charles led 13 to 11 going into the seventh inning. They had scored three times in the first, twice in the third, three times in the fourth, once in the sixth and four times in the seventh.

Butch Riddell singled twice for the losers, Ab Januzzi doubled once and singled twice and John Jarvis had a perfect night at the plate with a triple, a walk and two singles.

Game time tonight is 7:30 at Palermo Park.

### BANTAMS

Seventeen candidates turned out for the first two Milton Legion Bantam practices, held this week. Newly appointed coach Glen Dance chased the candidates through the workouts. The next Bantam practice is scheduled for October 21.

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8:30 p.m. Junior Hockey Exhibition

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15  
2-4 p.m. — Public Skating  
25c  
8-10 p.m. — Public Skating  
50c

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17  
6-9 p.m. — Hockey School

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18  
6-10 p.m. — Hockey School  
9:30 p.m. — Pro-Am

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19  
2-4 p.m. — Adult and Pre-School Skating 25c and 10c  
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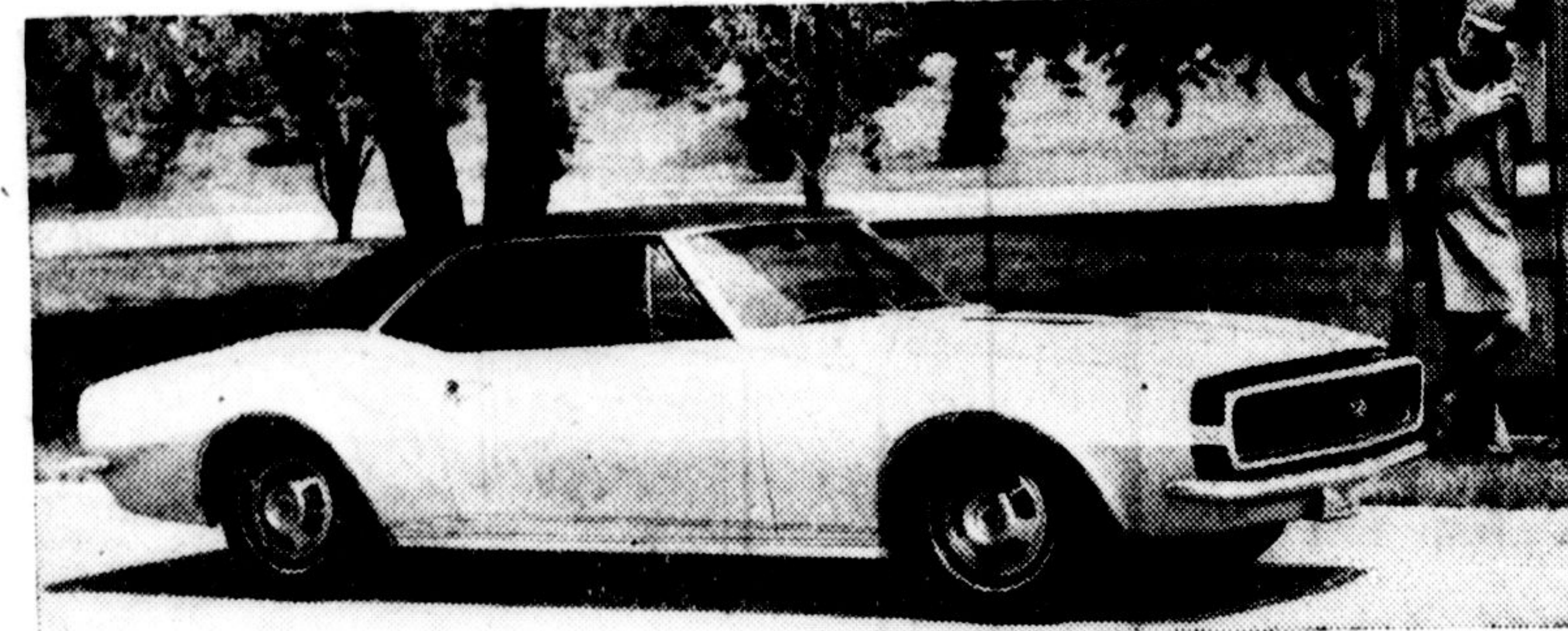
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