

# Batters like ball better without having pitchers

By Bob Burt

Some of Milton's Minor Baseball coaches are very enthusiastic about plans for a T-Ball league in Milton. T-Ball is similar to baseball in ways but with variations. The greatest variation is perhaps the fact there is no pitcher. "No pitcher."

The game designed for seven to 10 year olds has been played for the past few years in Waterdown, Ancaster, Oakville and other nearby towns and cities. The idea of a T-Ball league for Milton youngsters comes to Milton via Wayne Timbers and Nip Gervais, who attended a tournament in Ancaster just recently and were impressed with what they saw.

"This is the only way for kids this age to play ball," says Gervais, a veteran of many seasons on the ball diamond both as a player and coach.

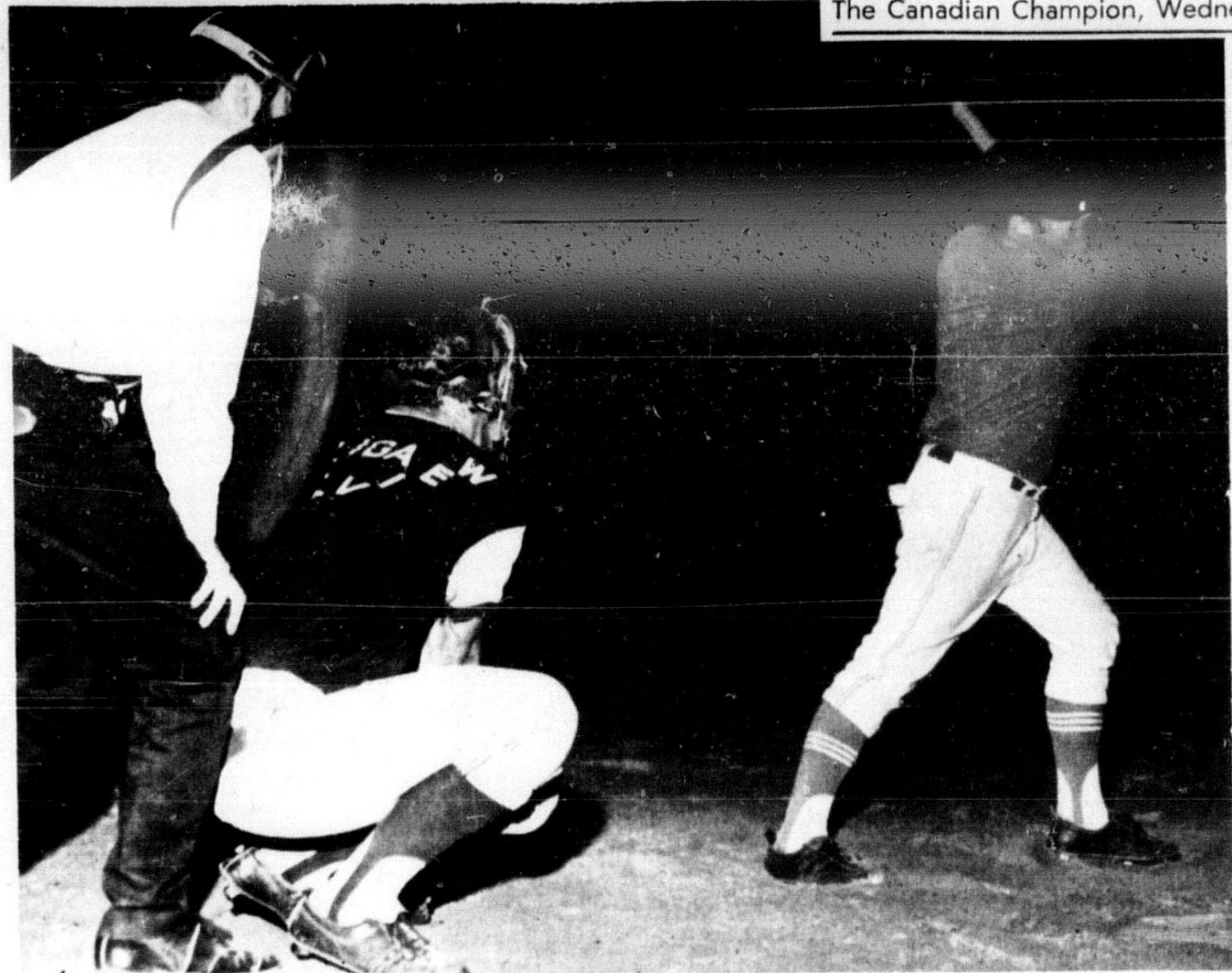
"I like it because everyone gets to play instead of standing around and every boy gets a turn at bat each inning and they have to swing the bat instead of waiting for a walk," says Timbers.

The problems minor baseball people all over the world experience with the youngest group is the game is dominated by the catcher and pitcher. Outfielders are bored as the ball is rarely hit their way. Even in the 26-25 episodes there are more runs scored on walks and errors than on anything else.

According to the T-Ball promoters there is nothing that develops good defensive play better than T-Ball. Both Gervais and Timbers were actually bewildered with the calibre of play they saw at the Ancaster tournament.

The game has been introduced in Milton on an experimental basis and has yet to receive the approval of the Minor Baseball Association. Meanwhile Timbers has managed to have Milton put on the list of those to be invited for the 1971 World T-Ball Tournament in Ancaster. "If we get it going here it will do the kids good to go to the tournament and if we don't we'll just have to refuse the invitation," Timbers reasoned.

While all of the teams at this year's tourney were Ontario clubs, the organizers had indications from teams on either coast of Canada expressing interest, but communications broke down due to rotating mail strikes.



A NORVAL BATTER gets set. Norval battled their way through the thick of the competition at the ninth annual Hornby Softball Tournament in Hornby Saturday. Norval was beat out in the finals by defending champions from Port Credit.—(Staff Photo)



GETTING READY to take a swipe at the ball is young Ed Gaeton of Local 4970. Ed is one of the many youngsters who have been introduced to T-Ball. Here Mark Horning gets set while Eddy prepares to swing. T-Ball resembles baseball but has variations.—(Staff Photo)

### Have to swing

But the young batters learn to stand in there and swing the bat and get to know that satisfying feeling of ball meeting bat. With 11 men in the field you'd think the field was pretty well covered. But remember that's a young boy that will be fielding the ball and it could end up just about anywhere.

The big advantage is in the fact everybody gets to play more both in the field and at bat. There are no walks or leadoffs permitted but a runner can advance after tagging up following a catch.

Both Timbers and Gervais who both coach in the house league and are familiar with the problems on that level feel the adoption of the game will boost enrollment considerably for minor ball.

"I've had boys get hit their first or second time at bat and then refuse to swing for fear they'd get hit," Timbers explained. This way the boys stand in there and they have to swing and when they hit that ball they feel good said Timbers.

## Tykes split two weekend games

Tykes battled to a 4-3 loss to Burlington Saturday. Hap Parrott went the distance for Milton fanning eight batters, walking three, and allowed two hits. J. Firel was the winning pitcher and was relieved in the sixth by Knowles. Together they struck out 10 batters, walked two and allowed 3 hits.

Milton took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when M. Hyatt was dealt a walk, stole second and scored when Hap Parrott singled. Burlington tied the game in the bottom of the first when S. Buffield was walked, stole second and third and scored on a sacrifice fly hit by M. Ferguson.

The game remained tied till the top of the fifth when E. Ellison was dealt a walk, stole second, reached third on a fielder's choice batted by S. Duffield, and eventually scored.

Singles for Milton went to H. Parrott, K. Smith and D. Stark.

Hit singles For Burlington, singles were hit by M. Lipnicky and J. Firel. Both teams played superb ball. Milton allowed only one error and Burlington two.

On Sunday to show that their spirit wasn't hurt by Burlington, the Tykes turned on to cream Georgetown 28-4. The winning pitcher was Paul McCann who

was relieved by Hap Parrott in the bottom of the fifth.

Together they struck out 10 batters, walked six and allowed 6 hits. The losing pitcher was M. Rassmuson who was relieved in the second by J. Freestone but returned in the third to finish the game. Together they struck out 13 batters, walked 16 and allowed 14 hits.

Singles for Milton went to E. Ellison, D. Gilbert, P. McCann (4), H. Parrott (3), K. Smith (2), B. Turner, and D. Rigo. For Georgetown singles went to M. Richmond, S. Brunski, L. Forrow, D. Townsend, M. Rassmuson. Doubles went to Hap Parrott for Milton and L. Forrow for Georgetown. The only triple went to P. McCann for Milton. The game's only real big play was a double play by Pat Roberts. He caught a fly and threw the ball to third to get the runner who was trying to re-tag the bag after taking off too soon. Milton's next game will be Wednesday night at 6:30 where they will play Burlington in a rescheduled rained-out game at Martin Street School.

## Five Moffat minor teams finish in first division

Moffat teams ended the regular season with two wins and two losses, placing all five teams in the top half of their divisions, in the Tri-County Minor Softball Association.

Moffat (12 & Under girls) played their finest game this season as they came from behind and downed Glen Williams 15-12, even though the game was delayed an hour by rain and had to be completed under the lights. Karen Snellie slammed her first homer to tie the score for Moffat. Darlene Snyder and Michelle Sokolowski also homered. Susan Thomson recorded the win. Moffat ended the schedule with eight wins and two losses and placed first in their division. They host Glen Williams Friday August 14, in the opening playoff game.

Division. Moffat host Rockwood bantams, Tuesday August 11 in their first round of playoffs.

Atoms lost in their bid for first place as they bowed to Ponsonby 5-4. Both clubs played good ball in a game that was decided only after extra innings. Moffat with a nine win, three loss record took second place in the Atom Division and open at home against Limehouse, Wednesday August 12 and continue at Limehouse Sunday August 16.

Claiming fourth place in the Squirt Division, Moffat ended

with five wins and seven losses. They opened their playoff series, downing Rockwood Sunday night 13-6. A double play by Moffat ended a Rockwood rally in the fifth. Garth Essery and Chris Connor homered for Moffat. Squirts visit Rockwood Saturday night for the second game of the best of two series.

Judging by the calibre of play displayed by the Moffat teams this season, softball fans should be rewarded with some fine games during the forthcoming playoff series. All Moffat home games commence at 7 p.m. at the Brookville diamond next to the Nassagaweya township offices.

### Letter to editor

## Wants T-Ball started

To The Parents Parents of seven to 10-year-old boys, do you want baseball or T-Ball for Milton boys. Which would you like to see your boy play or do you care? Milton Minor Baseball executive has said they are against T-Ball while several house league coaches hope to have T-Ball replace baseball for that age group. The coaches can see more understanding and more action for the boys with T-Ball than with baseball.

batter hitting and the fielders busy making plays. For example in baseball for five innings there would be 45 trips to the plate, with perhaps five hits, 28 walks, seven strike out and five batters hit by pitched balls.

greater involvement for all of the players.

Nip Gervais

Editor's Note:

Nip Gervais is one of several Milton Minor Ball House League coaches who are impressed with the game of T-Ball. They believe the fundamentals of baseball can be better taught by having youngsters play T-Ball rather than playing baseball itself but they have run into trouble getting approval from the Milton Minor Ball Executive. The following is a letter outlining his argument.

With baseball 15 boys are signed to each team, nine boys are on the diamond. Of the nine, the pitchers are trying to pitch ball 50 feet, which they are not strong enough for. The catcher is trying to block wild pitches on his hands and knees. The other seven are either laying or standing waiting for a ball that seldom reaches even the pitcher's box. Result is boredom.

The executive thinks T-Ball will eliminate pitchers but pitchers learn from practising by the hour. That idea concerns only one player while the coaches favor T-Ball because it means

## Flyers win four games without a single loss

Milton Nadalin Electric Midgets gained ground on their battle for a fourth place playoff berth in the Halton County Midget Baseball league when they won three league games this week.

Marshall had three singles. Rick McTrach and Greg Chuchmach had two singles while Dave Heipel and Kim French each had a single.

Wednesday three Milton pitchers allowed only two hits as Waterdown was defeated 7-4. McLeod, Chuchmach and Marshall threw for Milton. Two Pee Wee players were in the lineup, Ron Rowley and Roger Clement. Dave Harrison led the Milton team with a bases loaded triple and a single. Rick McTrach had a double and Hugh Marshall, Dave Heipel and W. McLeod had singles.

Monday night the Flyers copped their fourth consecutive win beating Waterdown 8-1 with Pete Roberts going the route with his battery mate Dave Heipel. The Flyers need one more win to make the playoffs in Oakville Saturday.

Rick Roberts and Hugh Marshall led the team with a triple and single each in the Waterdown game. McTrach, P. Roberts, D. Heipel and W. McTrach all had singles.

Four singles Sunday the Flyers paced by Wade Bekar's four singles trounced Georgetown 11-3. Pete and Rick Roberts, back from holidays, combined for the win with Dave Heipel doing a good job behind the plate.

The team has been coached by Bill McTrach for the past three weeks in the absence of regular coach Dick Clement.

Pete Roberts had a triple and two singles, Rick Roberts had a double and two singles and Hugh

## Bad mistake

Did we make a mistake, or did we really minds when you tell a story about their fish and say it was six pounds when in fact it was six and a half but to say a 21 and a half pound muskie was only two and a half pounds just won't do. It was little wonder that Mrs. Arn Coulson was angry with her husband, who happens to be this newspaper's fish and game columnist when that accident happened in last week's issue of the Champion. Actually Mrs. Coulson, Arn did give you full credit for 21 and a half pounds, it was our error.

## Bantams do battle Saturday

The top four teams in the Halton County Bantam Baseball League will meet in a showdown Saturday at Milton's Rotary Park. Burlington and Oakville will saw off at 10 a.m. and Milton and Waterdown will clash at 1 p.m. with the winners of each game returning to battle for the finals at 4:30.

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