

MFL will be competitive

After flirting with expansion for several years, the Milton Fastball League will enter the 1983 season with a trimmed roster of four clubs.

Action began last night (Tuesday) in the league with just four of six clubs returning to do battle for the coveted titles.

But it'll be a competitive four clubs. Unlike previous years, there are no weak sisters this time around. Each of the four teams, Thornborrow Petro-Canada Oilers, McDuffe Equipment, Remax-Miltowne Realty and Thruway Mufflers, boast strong starting line-ups. More importantly, each team has at least three strong pitchers which will ensure low and close scores throughout the year.

It was the competitive pitching of the MFL which, in effect, deterred Fifth Wheel and Lowville Cweco from returning to the loop.

However, the league is set with games going every Tuesday and Thursday night at Brian Best Park with rainouts scheduled for Wednesdays. Game times remain the same at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. each night.

To get followers of the league prepared for the upcoming year, The Champion has put together a small profile of each team.

Remax-Miltowne Realty

The most-changed team within the Milton Fastball League for 1983 is Remax-Miltowne Realty.

Last year, Miltowne finished in third place, just four games back of league-leading Thornborrow BP Oilers. However, the club has made several key changes with about half a dozen players coming over from the old Kilbride Merchants, of the Inter-City League to form a potent line-up for the new season.

Included among the Kilbride refugees is the new coach of the team, Randy Nykoruk. He played last year with Guelph, in the Inter-City League, and will be a player-coach with Miltowne this year.

Nykoruk makes up one-third of an all-Kilbride coaching trio. Dale Smith will assist Nykoruk in the coaching duties while Willard Rath will be the manager.

The team's strength is its pitching although Al Fenton, who for a couple of years has been one of the league's top pitchers, has since moved to London.

Mark Curtis will return to the mound after an absence of two years. He'll be joined by Don Martin and Dave Yemm, returnees who give Miltowne the best one-two-three pitching punch in the league. All are hard throwers with a long reputation and knowledge of getting out batters in the league.

Defensively, the club shapes up with Mickey Bailey at first base. Bailey played last year with Burlington Cougars of the I-C League. Dave Gates, another ex-Kilbride, and Nykoruk will also play some at first base.

The rest of the infield will have Russ Price (from Kilbride) at second base, Bob Baker from Fifth Wheel at shortstop, and returnee Dave Martin at third. Derrick Neelands from Oilers and Keith Michie will back up the infielders.

The club is well served behind the plate with Kevin Smith, from Fifth Wheel, returnee Larry Withnell, and assistant-coach Dale Smith. All are versatile and can play in the outfield where they will probably play when not behind the plate.

In the outfield will be Tony Ceelen in centre with Wayne Roskum and Wayne Riebot. However, the club has many players who can play any position so that the outfield in particular and the line-up in general, will probably change significantly from game to game.

So far, the club has lined up tournaments in Binbrook, Glen Williams and the Inter-City tourney as well as its own Hornby tourney. Unlike previous years, the club will play all its home games at Brian Best Park without playing any games in Hornby.

Prognosis: Superior pitching and strong well-rounded hitting should give Remax-Miltowne the top spot in the league. The biggest problem facing coach Nykoruk will be to keep each of the strong egos on the club satisfied as some will be benched each game. If Nykoruk can keep everybody happy, they'll take first place. If not, they'll be in with the pack. The betting line has them in first.

Thornborrow Oilers

Winners of four of the past five league championships and first-place finishers last year, Oilers have improved in several key areas and should give Remax a run for the money all the way.

However, several familiar faces are gone. Ray Tonelli left to play with Milton baseball Royals, Trevor Houston has joined a Hamilton league, Derrick Neelands has gone to Miltowne and Bill Brush and Roger Johnson have left to join the Milton Oldtimer X-Stars on a full-time basis.

In their places have been slotted Steve Gervais (an ex-Stag) and Len Jilliard from Miltowne, Doug Naylor from the baseball Royals, Ray Delegarde from Fifth Wheel, and Larry C. Scott.

Bruce Miller and Blackie Gaeton will handle all the coaching chores while Ed Dunn will manage the team.

The pitching remains the same with Al Few, Tony Broussard and Dunn coming back for another year. Dunn also said he is looking into the possibility of picking up

Halton alarms

D & S Signs 28-7

Bill Fennell, Dave Bousfield and Murray Van Wart connected for five hits apiece to lead Halton Alarm to an easy 28-7 win over D&S Signs in Milton Oldtimer Slo-Pitch League action last week at Omagh.

In another game last week, Tender Touch Carpets rolled over Milton Colour & Sound 38-6 for its second straight win of the young season.

Other top hitters for Halton Alarm were Wayne Richardson, Chris Heath and Larry McGregor who each rapped out four hits to support a strong defence.

Top hitters for D&S Signs were Wally Mayes, Dave Downard and Mario Rucci who each went four-for-four.

Tender Touch erupted for eight runs in the first inning and added a total of 15 runs in the fifth and sixth innings to rack up the win.

Leading Tender Touch's 40-hit attack was Cy Murphy with five hits including a homer. Walter Muir connected for six hits while Paul Cameron, Brent McArthur, Ray Carey and Howie Pfeiffer had four hits apiece.

another pitcher who would play under the floater rule. This rule allows players from outside Milton to pitch in the MFL as well as another league.

Wayne Ellis and Scott will handle the catching duties. Both are experienced and good hitters as well.

Naylor, who returned to the club after a one-year absence to play baseball with the Royals, will pick up where he left off at first base. He is strong defensively and a productive hitter as well.

The rest of the infield shapes up with Gervais, Jilliard, Delegarde and Hearn taking care of the duties. All are well-seasoned in the MFL.

In the outfield, Oilers will field Loris Faggon, Geoff O'Brien, Paul Jarvie, Jim Felker and Scott.

So far, tournaments have been lined up for Bradford, Hornby, Brookville, Mildmay and the CNE with more still to come.

Prognosis: With the big improvement in the Oilers' pitching moves from outstanding to just above average. Should one of the pitchers falter, the club may be in trouble.

Hitting and defence are again the team's trademark which will play a large part in the league this year. Look for the club to get off to a relatively slow start and gain momentum down the stretch. Losing the league championship tournament last year gives the club added incentive and the betting line has them regaining the league trophy.

Thruway Mufflers

The over-the-hill gang confounded the experts by placing second in the league last year behind the Oilers just three and one-half games back. With a team more suited for an oldtimers' league, Thruway is back just as strong and with a few youngsters as well.

Ray Grisold will handle all of the coaching duties with some help from Lorne Smith.

On the mound, Thruway will send Nick Gauthier, Paul Wannamaker, Ted Moore, and a 19-year-old from Georgetown, Chris Peavoy for spot duty.

Returning behind the plate will be the pair of Brian Peavoy and Dennis Glead providing the club with good balance in that both catchers are strong offensively as well as defensively.

The infield shapes up the same as last year with Dave McDonald at first base, ageless Paul Kinsman at second, John Moore at shortstop and Glead at third base. Jake Doering, who came over from McDuffe Equipment, is versatile and can back-up at second, shortstop and third as well as play in the outfield.

The outfield will be made up of a combination of Doug Williams, Bruce Chinnery, Clyde Peterson and Mike Mollins, who are all returning. In addition, Jim Lesachuk, a newcomer from western Canada, will patrol in the field.

Basically the team remains intact with just Tom Martin, Rick O'Donnell and Tom Sargent not coming back from the 1982 squad which also advanced to the final game in the league championship tourney.

Prognosis: Although the club has picked up the name of the over-the-hill gang, many players are around the age of 30, which is still just about prime for fastball. They proved that last year. Although the club lacks speed, Grisold said the club compensated by executing on the fundamentals which makes the difference in close ball games.

The club will be hard-pressed to duplicate its feats from last year given the large improvement in the league. Should Wannamaker pitch more often, the team could remain just as strong. The team's experience will come in handy given the large number of close scores which are predicted for this year. The betting line has the club finishing third.

McDuffe Equipment

Given that McDuffe won both the league's Civic Holiday tournament and the league championship tourney, and given that hurler Mike Leslie from Streetsville of the Beaches League has joined the team, picking McDuffe Equipment for fourth place might seem a little out of whack.

However, lost in the club's accomplishments last year, was its fifth-place finish in league play. McDuffe played inconsistently during the year but came on to play well when it counted. They just might do the same this year.

Most of the club will return for the new season with few key changes except for the additions of brothers Mike and Rich Leslie, Milton Steamer Bill Lynch and Charlie Fraser.

On the mound, McDuffe will throw a quality troika of Barry Timbers, Keith McKinnon and Mike Leslie.

Brian McDuffe will be behind the plate as well as coach and manage the team. Durable Frank Robinson will back him up.

The infield shapes up with Peter McDuffe at first base with Dave Norton, Kenny Fay, Norm Mowbray and Robinson sharing the other bases.

The rest of the club is made up of Hugh Williams, Chris Tennant (from Acton), Perry Caputo, Bob Gray (from Fifth Wheel), Rich Leslie, Brad Gillis from Miltowne, Fraser and Lynch.

Gone from the team are pitchers Gerry Lisi and Larry Bennett, Pie Lee and Jake Doering.

McDuffe is also trying to line up ex-McDuffe players Doug McLaughlin and Lee McPhail to handle the coaching duties but that has not been confirmed yet.

Prognosis: Last year, the club found it could not get motivated for regular league play but always played well in tournaments and playoffs. It'll be interesting to see if the club can do that a second time around.

The addition of Mike Leslie will give McDuffe as strong a staff as Miltowne and finding them enough work will be difficult. Given that the league will be especially close and competitive this year, McDuffe could very well finish just five games back of the lead... but that could very easily be fourth spot.

high school sports

Midget girls lead the way in Mustang track and field

The MDHS track team travelled to St. Michael's High School in Toronto for the Father Redmond classic.

May 6 and 7 were good days for all the members of the track team.

Brenda Steenhof placed first in the midget 1500 metres with a time of four minutes and 59 seconds and in the 3000 m, 10:26 which sets a new meet record.

Jill Tracey came first in the 400 m with a 60.4 time tying the meet record. Tracey also placed sixth in the 200 m. In the 100 m, Michelle Heron placed fifth.

The 4 x 100 metre midget girls' relay team, Jill Tracey, Karen Wright, Michelle Heron and Vicki Lindmark, placed first with a time of 53.9.

Cyndie Funk broke the old meet record in senior shot put and overall came second, putting the shot 10.02 m. MaryAnne Buttigieg placed fifth.

During the meet Brenda Steenhof was named "most valuable midget girl." Congratulations goes to her and all who participated at this meet.

At the Halton meet on May 9, Michelle Heron placed first in the 200 m and 2nd in the 100 m. Jill Tracey ran in the 400 m and placed first. Debbie Jackman also placed in the 100 m. All three girls headed to the finals which was held the following Thursday.

Brenda Steenhof placed first in the 1500 m and Dave Nolet ran in the 400 m and

mdhs sports

with MICHELE McLEAN

placed fourth. Both Steenhof and Nolet advanced to the Peel-Halton meet.

During the Halton meet last Thursday, Michelle Heron placed first in the 100 m with a time of 13.24, and first in the 200 m with a time of 27.14. Brenda Steenhof ran in the 800 m and the 3000 m and placed first in both with times of 2:29.12 and 10:33.39 which was a new Halton record. Vicki Lindmark came fourth with a time of 21.49.

Jill Tracey placed first in the 400 m, and third in the 800 m. Her times were 60.41 and 2:37.33. Deb Jackman ran in the senior 100 and came fourth. The midget girls' 4 x 100 m relay team placed second with a time of 53.91 sec. In sr. girls' shot-put Cyndie Funk came second with a distance of 9.45 m.

It was a great day for all.

The Milton girls' soccer team played an outstanding game this week against E.C. Drury. The final score was a tie 1-1. Milton goal was scored by Corinne Kollman. Great effort was shown by all.

Spartans qualify 11 athletes for Peel-Halton championships

The ever-improving track and field team from E.C. Drury made a giant step last week when 11 of its athletes did well enough at the Halton track and field championships to qualify for the Peel-Halton meet tomorrow (Thursday).

Janet Annable, Wayne Haldane and Rohan Smith led the way for Drury students by qualifying in two events each while eight other athletes each qualified in one event.

The senior boys will have representation in four different categories. Smith qualified in both the 100 metres and 200 m. Clinton Shaw will run in the 400 m while Dan Jaggard competes in the shot put.

Haldane advanced to the Peel-Halton 400 m and 800 m in midget boys. The lone athlete to advance in junior boys was Randy McLeod in the shot put.

On the girls side, Annable will run in the 100 m and 200 for midget. Joining her in the same group is high jumper Susan James.

In junior girls, Opal Robinson com-

drury sports

with MAUREN SMITH

petes in the shot put; Suzanne Wood will take her best shot in the long jump; and Maureen Smith will compete in the javelin.

Last Tuesday, Drury and MDHS played to a 1-1 tie in girls' soccer. The boys team managed a 3-3 tie with T.A. Blakelock but lost its other two games by scores of 4-0 to Perdue and 5-0 to White Oaks.

Tickets go on sale this week for the school's athletic dinner and dance. For only \$5 you can dine and dance from 5:30-12 p.m. and see the school's athletes honored.

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