

Red Sox contend at prestigious tournament

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Milton Red Sox have struck a blow for Canadian baseball in the birthplace of America's national pastime.

Led by skipper Dan Tielemans, the pre-teen minor peewees posted an impressive 6-3 record and 11th place finish out of 47 teams at one of 10 Cooperstown Little Majors Classic tournaments.

This marks the best ever showing for a Canadian team at the wildly popular event, which runs a full two months each summer and includes roughly 50 teams every week.

Close battle with Milwaukee

While their recent campaign included half a dozen victories, one of the highlights of the tournament had to be a tightly-contested battle with the Milwaukee Angels that ended in a 7-3 loss.

With a homer from Josh Wagmann and strong overall fielding, the Red Sox were able to hang tough against the team that ranked second nationally last year and went on to win the whole tournament.

"They were an amazing team. One of their pitchers was throwing in the high 70s, and I'm not talking kilometres (per hour) here," quipped team member David Tielemans.

Added his manager-father, "After we were put out by a Delaware team (6-4) in the second round of the playoffs, the Milwaukee manager told me he was happy about not having to face us again."

Red Sox strong as an ox

Throughout the week-long competition Milton showed strongly against all comers, particularly the state champion Virginia Blasters, whom they pummeled 13-5.

Tim Warmels launched a long ball in this one while Liam Tennant was the chief manufacturer of runs, going 3-for-3.

Nick Mazzorato chipped in a pair of base hits.

Following other convincing round-robin wins over teams from Ohio, New York and Maryland, the Red Sox added a little drama in the first round of the playoffs.

They scored twice in their last at-bat to edged the Virginia Warriors 4-2. Under the watchful eye of ex-Yankee Clete Boyer (one of the game's spectators), David Aggio stole home for the winning run.

"That was certainly a thrill," said Milton's baserunning hero.

Tielemans Jr. shone on the mound, scattering four hits over five innings in a masterful pitching performance.

The other three Canadian teams competing at that particular week's tournament — Oakville, Dundas and Sarnia — all finished with below .500 records, as have most teams crossing the border to take on America's best.

Explained Milton's manager, "A lot of teams stack their rosters before coming to this tournament so it's very competitive.

"We came in with the idea of simply not getting blown away by anyone, so to do this well against so many top U.S. teams was pretty terrific.

"The boys came away with a lot of pride in knowing they were such tough competition."

Little time for sight-seeing

With a hectic tournament schedule the local peewees had precious little time to actually see Baseball's Hall of Fame, the main reason most people visit Cooperstown, New York.

They squeezed in an early morning tour near the end of their trip. Though somewhat rushed, the visit was a memorable one.

Recalled Corey Mastrangelo, "My favourite part was seeing Abbott and Castello's old Who's on First routine, that and visiting Doubleday Field."

13-3 record

Making up the rest of the touring peewees — who currently sit atop their Central Ontario Baseball Association (COBA) league with a 13-3 record — are Tim Colling, Justin Deshaw, Hallan King, Matt Mastrangelo, Troy Squance and coaches Albert Aggio, Bob Colling and John Mastrangelo.

Local umpire Steve Wagmann also made the trip.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The Milton Red Sox minor peewees showed strongly at the Cooperstown Little Majors Classic recently. Contributing to their success were (from left) Matt Mastrangelo, Corey Mastrangelo, David Aggio and David Tielemans.

Caylanne sets discus record

Caylanne Lyall has turned discus dominance into provincial prominence.

The 13-year-old put her name in the Ontario record books with a 22.05-metre effort at the Bramalea Throws Triathlon. It was the furthest ever toss in her age group at a minor track and field association competition.

She also placed first in the shot-put, ball toss and javelin — with personal bests in each event — to win her division for the second consecutive year.

Bantam class teammate Jessica Reese finished seventh overall in her throws triathlon debut, setting new individual benchmarks in every event.

Her younger brother Aaron, 11, cracked the top 10 as well with an eighth-place showing among atom class boys. He also recorded impressive times in the 100m (15.63s) and 400m (1:21.15).

Four spots back in the same age group was 10-year-old Andrew Lyall, who as the youngest entry surprised onlookers by finishing ahead of a handful of competitors at least one year his senior.

This foursome and several of their Athletiques International Track and Field Club mates will next compete at the Buffalo Belles and Brawn Classic August 8 and 9.

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