

Milton has better opener

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The HJM Insurance Red Sox' 1999 season should be as much about regaining respectability as attaining victory.

With that said, the local men's baseball team got off to a solid start at Brian Best Park Saturday.

While 5-4 losers to the Dundas Chiefs, Milton by and large gave a strong accounting of themselves — a feat they've seldom managed in recent years and never on opening day.

Looking to shed their pushover persona, the Red Sox battled back from a couple of one-run deficits during the morning clash before eventually conceding defeat in the final inning.

Dundas collected three hits and three runs off rookie closer Ryan Ricci in their last at-bat to secure the victory.

Red Sox' Kevin Wilson — a sophomore second baseman — was the potential hero in the fourth when he stroked a two-out single to deep right field that cashed in a pair of runs and put the locals ahead 3-2.

Scoring on the play were Greg Rae and Phil Izzi.

One inning later veteran first baseman Doug Dunn would cushion the lead by driving in fellow team mainstay Matt McCandless on a ground rule double.

Their initial run was delivered in the third when newcomer Nick Aalbers — a left fielder with the 1996 Prentice Cup champion Milton District Mustangs — singled and then stole two bases before coming in on McCandless' hard liner up the middle that the Chiefs' second baseman couldn't handle.

Healthy hit list

Milton had half a dozen hits and made good contact in their season kickoff. McCandless reached base safely three times while Rae got aboard twice.

Craig Holloway got his traditional opening day start and was steady in five innings on the mound. The right-hander gave up just two runs on a handful of hits and enjoyed rock solid defence from his teammates.

Aalbers and Dunn led the fielding efforts with four putouts each. McCandless and Wilson also played well defensively.

The Red Sox travel to St. Catharines Thursday and return to Brian Best Saturday at 1:30 p.m. to take on Erindale.

Reding ladies post 3-0 record

Bishop Reding's senior soccer teams remained undefeated following inspired performances last week.

On the strength of a three-goal second half, the girls toppled Oakville's White Oaks Wildcats 4-1 Wednesday to push their season record to 3-0.

Sarina Caparello led offensively with two goals — including the initial insurance marker — and Danielle King deposited the eventual game winner on a breakaway shot early in the second.

Capping BR's hit parade was Kathy Irvine, who redirected a corner kick by sweeper Bonnie Romolo.

Julie Leal and Kelly O'Brien split the netminding duties and stood tall between the pipes.

The Royals had scored previous victories over crosstown rival Milton District and T.A. Blakelock of

Oakville.

On Thursday, Reding's boys battled the always competitive St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders of Oakville to a 2-2 stalemate. This despite missing regulars Onel Martino, Jason Mota and Ken Dalglish.

They rallied from a 2-0 deficit, thanks largely to Kyle Grant who was moved from midfielder to forward in the second half and delivered both goals for the comeback.

BR dominated much of the contest but just couldn't finish on quality scoring chances.

Among their missed opportunities were a pair of breakaway rushes — one in each half.

Providing solid cage work, particularly down the stretch, was Steve Perkovic.

They now sport a 2-0-1 record.

Milton runs hot and cold

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porting cast members Jason Ford and Ryan Felix, who has scored in three of the last four games.

Friday the Mavericks were fierce at either end of the floor in establishing their highest offensive output and lowest goals against total of the season.


Refusing to play down to their inferior competition — even when the outcome was no longer an issue — they sustained control from beginning to end and got production from all three lines.

Dowdell and Deboer were rock solid between the pipes while Jimmy Leworthy Jr. delivered his best game to date with a lot of creative passing and attentive defence.

Other highlights included a two-goal effort by Felix and Jeff Hohendorf notching his first in two years as a Maverick — on a well-placed overhand blast late in the third.

Hartholt led offensively with three goals and two assists. Leigh and Leworthy Jr. each tallied twice.


Maverick notes: Hartholt and Leigh are averaging more than two goals and three points per game. Both are expected to make a run at the league scoring title ... Sunday marked the first time this season Leworthy Jr. was held to under two assists. He posted only one. Friday's game was the shortest this season, lasting just an hour and 48 minutes ... Milton has a tough week ahead, which begins Friday at home against Owen Sound at 8:30 p.m. Sunday they travel to Elora for a 7 p.m. start.



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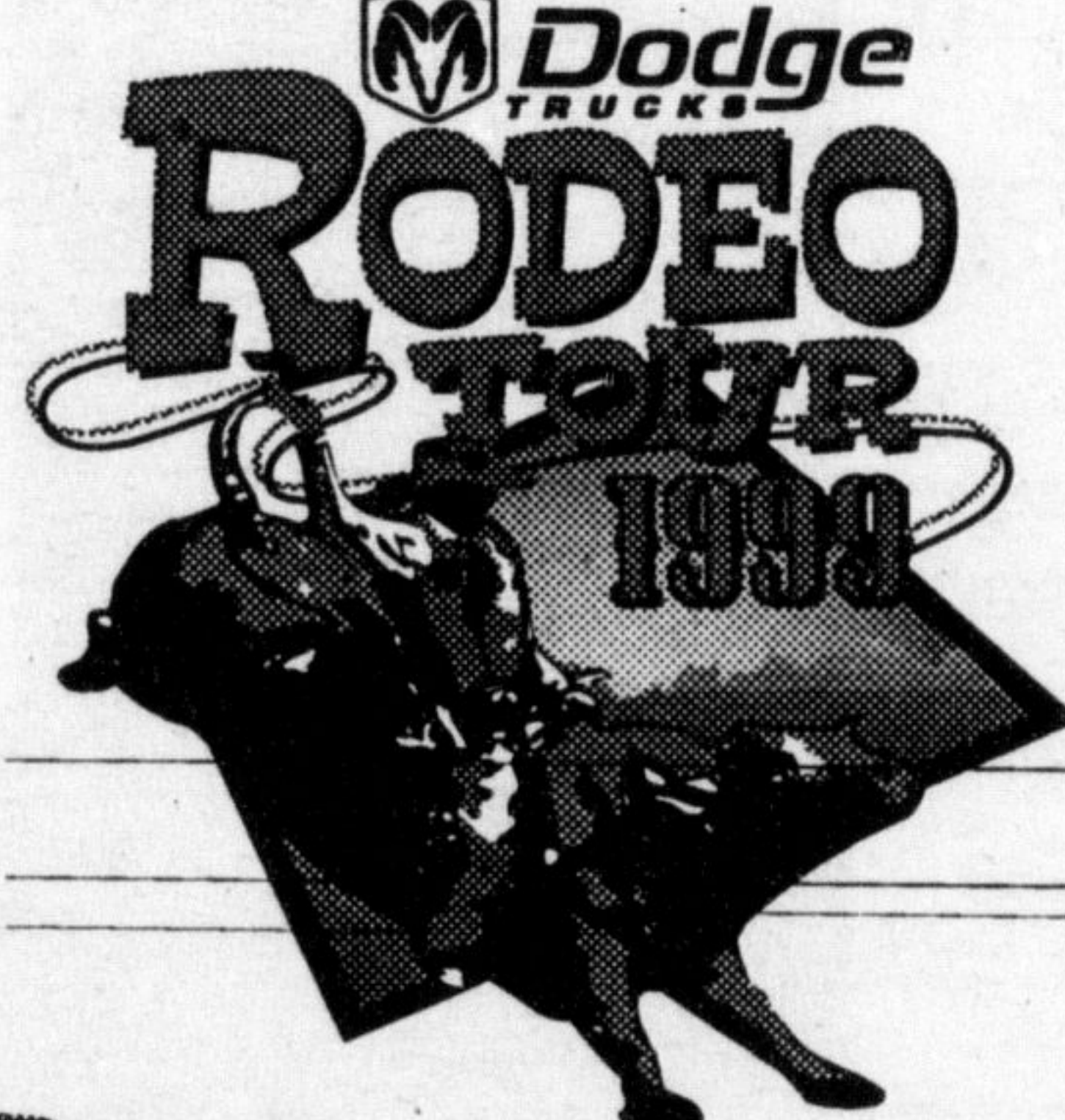
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Annual District Service Plan - 1999/2000
Elizabeth Martin
Long-Term Care Planner

CCAC of Halton Budget Highlights - 1999/2000
Sandra Shadwick
Chief Executive Officer

For further information, call:
Linda Ferras at (905) 639-5228 ext. 8921 or
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Future meeting dates and locations to be announced.