

Ridley's plate pop resurfacing

Shayne Ridley's reliable plate pop is starting to show.

The Milton ball player — now toiling with Baltimore's Class A affiliate Delmarva Shorebirds — has lifted his batting average nearly 40 points in the past three weeks to a more respectable .250.

Over this stretch he hit safely in six of seven games and drove in key runs for Shorebird victories.

Before last night's game against Wilmington, Ridley had two dozen hits — including three doubles —

and 10 RBI. Splitting his time between the designated hitter position

and third base, he's committed just two errors thus far — which represents a strong start defensively than last year, when he played with Baltimore's rookie league Bluefield Orioles. Rained out against

Greensboro both Monday and Tuesday, Delmarva sat at 22-23 before yesterday's game — which placed them 11 games behind Kannapolis in the South Atlantic League's Northern Division.



Shayne Ridley

Royal Ballad sons lead trotting colts in first Gold Series Final

By SANDRA SNYDER

Special to The Champion

Two Royal Ballad sons lead the three-year-old trotting colts back to Mohawk Racetrack tonight for the first \$100,000 Gold Series Final for their season.

One is an Ontario Sires Stakes veteran whose owners already have a Gold Final trophy displayed on their mantel, while the other will be making just his second start in the provincial program. Both were easy winners in their Gold Eliminations, clocking identical 1:57.3 times, and both are primed for the big money battle tonight.

Bionic Ballad was a regular competitor in the Sires Stakes last season, earning \$129,017 for breeder Alana Toth of Sudbury and her partner Earl Lennox of Orton. In the elimination round the gelding took full advantage of an error by favourite Banker Hall and cruised to an easy one-and-three-quarter length victory.

Trainer Budd Thorne of Fergus was not surprised by Bionic Ballad's triumph, having worked all spring to have the trotter in peak condition for the Gold Series opener.

"He qualified good in the two qualifiers we had him in. He was pretty solid, pretty strong, so I figured he could go out there that fast. He was ready for a mile like that," said Thorne, who specializes in trotters. "He's matured this year too. Last year when you were leaving out off the gate he would be on the bit and sometimes it was hard to get him settled. The big difference I see this year is that you can take him off the gate and settle him in somewhere."

Thorne hopes Bionic Ballad's new maturity will allow driver Mike Saftic of Milton to settle the youngster in behind some of the early speed horses and make a move later in the race, adding that the other elimination winner — Royal Pocket — is a horse he would prefer to follow.

"Royal Pocket looks pretty legitimate. I'd sooner have him in front of us, but it all depends on who gets away from the gate and where they end up," said the trainer. "It will be a good race."

Tony Nichols, who bred and owns Royal Pocket, agreed with Thorne's assessment and added that any one of the 10 starters could wind up in the winner's circle at the end of race seven.

If Royal Pocket does deliver a win tonight it will be especially

rewarding to Nichols, who spent a great deal of time selecting the right match for his mare Out Of The Pocket before settling on Royal Ballad. Once Royal Pocket arrived, Nichols watched him carefully as a foal and then made the decision to end his two-year-old season before it got underway in order to give the leggy youth more time to grow and mature.

"He's a big colt and were in no hurry with him, so we took him home and turned him out," recalled Nichols. "We started him up again in January and he's been good. He's a pretty sound horse and we've had very few problems with him. If we can keep him that way, we should do all right."

Royal Pocket will start from Post 3 in tonight's Gold Final, with regular reinsman Phil Hudon in race bike, while Bionic Ballad will be back in the centre from Post 5.

Halton Invictas Varsity Football Midget team's regular season schedule

Sat. June 2	Niagara at Halton	at Nelson	3 p.m.
Sun. June 10	Brampton at Halton	at Nelson	7 p.m.
Sat. June 16	London at Halton	at Nelson	7 p.m.
Sun. June 24	Law. Park at Halton	at Nelson	7 p.m.
Sat. July 7	Halton at Huronia	Barrie Sports	7 p.m.
Sat. July 14	Halton at Hamilton	McMaster U.	5 p.m.
Sat. July 21	Halton at Brantford	Gretzky C.	4 p.m.
Sun. July 29	Halton at Mississauga	Miss Valley	1 p.m.

Midgets comprised of 17 to 19 year-old players

Halton Invictas Varsity Football Bantam team's regular season schedule

Sat. June 2	Essex at Halton	at Nelson	7 p.m.
Sun. June 10	Hamilton at Halton	at Nelson	3 p.m.
Sat. June 16	Brantford at Halton	at Nelson	3 p.m.
Sun. June 24	Brampton at Halton	at Nelson	3 p.m.
Sat. July 6	Halton at Guelph	Guelph Lake	7 p.m.
Sat. July 14	Halton at Twin City	Centennial	4 p.m.
Sat. July 21	Halton at Wentworth	Beverly Field	8 p.m.
Sun. July 29	Halton at Mississauga	Miss Valley	4 p.m.

Bantams comprised of 14 to 16 year-old players

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HALTON REGION PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE MUNICIPAL WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN TOWN OF MILTON PR-1801

In recent years, Halton Region has received a number of complaints from Milton residents regarding discoloured water in the municipal water supply. The primary cause of the water problem was identified to be the increase of manganese concentration in the Kelso groundwater. In order to ensure the high quality of municipal water to our customers in Milton, Halton Region has retained the services of a consultant to select a treatment process to remove the manganese at the well head.

The proposed treatment process will consist of chlorination followed by filtration through new proprietary catalytic media filters. The implementation of this process will require a procedure for disposing of waste wash-water produced during backwashing of the proposed filters. The existing Kelso Pumping Station will, therefore, require expansion to house the new filters and auxiliary equipment.

A Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule "B") is being initiated to solicit public input and support in the development of a preferred alternative and for the design of the new facilities at the Kelso Pumping Station site.

Halton Region is holding a Public Information Centre on:

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2001
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Hugh Foster Hall (next door to Town Hall), 43 Brown Street, Milton

Interested parties are invited to attend this Public Information Centre to review and comment on the proposed plan. Representatives from Halton Region and XCG Consultants Ltd. will be present to answer questions. If you are unable to attend this Information Centre but wish to obtain more information or provide written comments, please contact.

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Derby Brown



Interested in learning "firsthand" the
Town's planned activities for 2001?
We invite you to REGISTER TODAY
for the upcoming . . .

Mayor's Breakfast

Sponsored by Milton Chamber of Commerce
Friday, June 1, 2001

Lions Club Hall, Thompson Road Arena, Milton
Registration: 7:45 a.m. / Breakfast Served: 8:15 a.m.
Showcase Milton 2001 Official Opening - 10:00 a.m.

Special Guest: Mayor Gord Krantz
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Reynolds,
Director of Community Services - Town of Milton
Topic: Overview of Projects, Plans and
Parks for 2001!

COST: \$10.00 / Chamber Member
\$12.00 / Non-Member
(G.S.T. included in prices, Payment by VISA or Cheque)

Pre Registration Required
at Milton Chamber of Commerce
To register call Bev Holloway (905) 878-0581
251 Main St. (across from Canada Trust)

Tire trouble does in local driver during CASCAR's season start

Plagued by tire trouble at Delaware Speedway Park Sunday, Miltonian Rob Neely's CASCAR season opener didn't quite go according to plan.

The local driver — who's won three national races over an 11-year career — dodged an initial bullet when his crew spotted a flat tire on his #97 Chrysler Intrepid after changing tires during pit stop number one.

Couldn't escape second flat

Unfortunately, the problem resurfaced with less than 40 laps remaining — requiring Neely to make an additional stop and essentially take himself out of top 10 contention.

A fairly respectable finish allowed him to place 13th out three dozen drivers competing in the 250-lap Mopar event.

"We were consistent all weekend," said Neely, who was as high as eighth at one point Sunday after starting in the 17th position.

"I'm happy with the finish, but would have been happier with a top 10. We're running on limited funds, so we're happy to leave Delaware without needing major repairs."

Neely's CASCAR season continues tomorrow evening in Peterborough.