

Midgets extend streak by blasting Brantford

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Milton's midget boys baseball team wrapped up its two-game road trip with an embarrassment of riches — brushing aside Brantford 13-0 Wednesday.

The mid-week mismatch marked the Red Sox's fourth shutout victory of the season and extended its winning streak to five games.

During this stretch, the tier two locals have handcuffed their collective competition — allowing them just 13 hits and a measly two runs while at the same time scoring 35.

Ryan Harper's one-hitter through seven innings paced the visitors to another convincing win, while surrendering just a single and double over the balance of the night was Andrew Kirkland.

The Red Sox were equally impressive in the field — where they were led by centre fielder Steve Spiers, who for the second time in as many games donned his proverbial spoiler cap with running catches in the third and ninth innings. An unassisted double play in the eighth by shortstop Andrew Pepper was another highlight in a dynamite defensive

campaign.

Milton's offensive contributions came from up and down the lineup — with a fifth-inning, bases-clearing single by Harper pretty much ensuring a visitors victory.

Balanced attack

Kevin Cooper also drove in three runs while multi-hit efforts were delivered by Pepper, Evan Jeans and Reggie Taylor — who continued to make inroads as a solid supporting cast player by reaching base safely five times on three walks and a pair of towering doubles.

He also cashed in two runs and scored three himself.

At 12-3 with just nine games remaining heading into last night's clash with Brampton, Milton had ensured itself at least a .500 finish.

A victory last night would give the Red Sox an opportunity to match their longest winning streak in recent memory — a seven-game run delivered earlier this year — tonight in Waterloo.

From there, they'll look to shine in tournament play this weekend in Brantford.

Barnes' national three-peat bid comes up a little short in Drummondville, Quebec

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Harry Barnes' national three-peat bid fell three minutes short on Canada Day in Drummondville, Quebec.

Amidst wicked winds and bone chilling temperatures at the Canadian Championships, Campbellville's highly gifted triathlete failed to retain his age class title — surrendering it to Wentworth, Nova Scotia's Bryan Scallion.

The 54-year-old — who had upstaged the new national champion three years ago at a meet in Welland — completed the 1.5 kilometre swim, 40 kilometre bike, 10 kilometre run course in 2:20.14 to finish second among 50 to 54 year-old men and 101st among all male racers.

Barnes disappointed

"Second place is fine for most racers, but not for me," said a rather dejected Barnes.

A sub-par swim essentially cost the rural racer a third consecutive national championship.

His 28.25 opening leg was nearly five minutes off last summer's mark, which also came amid unfavourable weather conditions in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland.

He tamed the biking and running portions of competition in 1:07.50 and 44 minutes respectively.

Barnes said that due to aggravation over a recently

increased workload in the maintenance department at town hall, he went into this summer's national championships with a lot less focus than he did in previous years.

While coming second was definitely disappointing for the two-time national champ, a small consolation was upstaging Rockwood's John Fisher — whose offered stiff competition over the past couple of years — by nearly a minute.

Allowing him to do so was an especially strong finish.

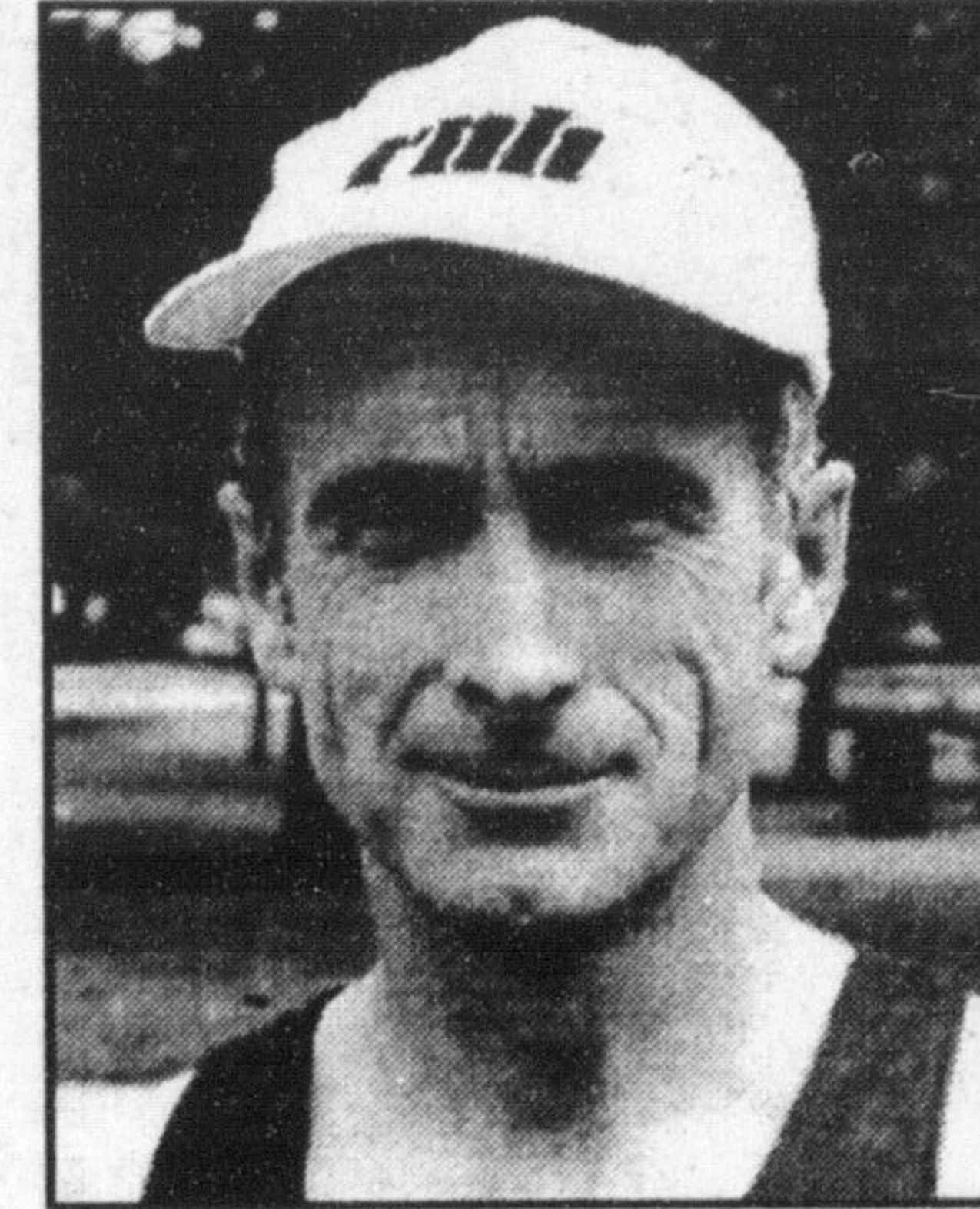
Braam wins age class

Meanwhile, Milton did have one national champion in longtime racer Tina Braam.

The Women's Triathlon Milton founder didn't have any competition in her 55-59 year-old women's division but still showed strongly, finishing in 3:12.39.

Barnes and Braam will now look to deliver strong performances on the global front, at the world championships, which will be held in Edmonton, Alberta July 22.

Barnes will be hoping to improve on or at least equal his seventh-place age class finish posted two years ago in Montreal, where he turned in a 2:13.54 effort — which came just a few short months after a serious car accident that severely cut into his summer training



Harry Barnes



Tina Braam

regiment.

Braam finished 14th, negotiating the course in 2:59.

Fax all your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off anytime at 191 Main St. E. If the office is closed, slide reports through the mailslot.

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