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THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY AUGUST 3, 2001



Eye on the ball

Milton Mystic Tara Elkie prepares to belt out a hit during tournament play against Stoney Creek Saturday. For full results on the local team's performance, see page 20.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Junior Red Sox prevail at Wallaceburg tourney

Milton's early lead holds up in championship win

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Strong starts had long-lasting effects for Milton's junior boys baseball team last weekend in Wallaceburg.

The Red Sox enjoyed prosperity through the initial stages of every game — and that made the difference, as the local lads secured championship honours with an undefeated tournament run.

Comation ceremonies began Sunday night after Glenn Turner's Sox toppled Stoney Creek 9-5 in the finals. Milton held their opposition scoreless until the fifth inning, and by then there was little chance a 9-0 stranglehold would be overcome.

"After we got a big lead we basically just played to run them out of outs," said Turner.

Putting the finishing touches on an outstanding weekend, shortstop Taylor Lawton collected four hits and a pair of runs in the championship. Overall in Wallaceburg, Milton's most reliable performer had 10 hits plus seven runs and half-a-dozen RBI.

Jeff MacLeod walked three times in the finals and scored twice while holding Stoney Creek in check on the mound were Matt Dickson and Jarrett Konkle — who collectively enjoyed a flawless fielding campaign from their defensive cohorts.

Konkle delivered a three-up, three-down seventh

inning to seal the deal.

A few hours earlier the juniors posted their third win in four tournament encounters with Brampton's AAA squad — prevailing 6-3.

Much like in the championship, semifinal play saw the locals establish a sizeable lead early on and gut out the victory with solid defense and pitching.

The latter was offered up by Ian Moszczak — who threw exactly 100 pitches in a complete-game, five-hit effort.

Andrew Coe highlighted the offensive side of things with a solo homer and two runs scored while also scoring twice was Kurt Mitchell.

En route to the final four, the Sox mercied Mississauga North 12-1 in five innings and humbled Clinton 11-5.

MacLeod's inside-the-park homer and three-run performance led the way against Mississauga North while Dickson, Reese Davies and Andrew Neilson all scored twice. Adam Ahearn went the distance on the mound against an understaffed Tigers team that was uncharacteristically brushed aside.

Versus Clinton, Davies and Nole Kent split the pitching work and enjoyed offensive support from Davies, Lawton, MacLeod and Jordan Jeans.

Milton committed just a handful of errors over the weekend and only one through the playoff rounds.

Midgets continue to shine with win over Kitchener

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Milton's midget boys baseball team appear destined to secure some provincial hardware over the Labour Day Weekend.

Further evidence of that was given at Maplehurst Ball Park Monday. Pushing their tier two division leading record to 16-4, Jeff Harper's charges offered above-average efforts in every aspect of competition on the way to toppling Kitchener 7-3.

The 'A' Red Sox — virtually unbeatable against teams of similar ranking this year — got a decent showing out of several players and a standout performance by Steve Spiers. The reliable right-hander picked up the win with an eight-and-a-third inning campaign — during which he surrendered a measly four hits and fanned a dozen batters.

Offensively, Spiers cemented the victory by cashing in Rob

Angus and Chris Dumencu with a one-out seventh-inning single and then scored himself just a few moments later on a fielder's choice chopper by Evan Jeans.

Left in after some sixth-inning debate by Harper, Spiers justified his skipper's faith by allowing only one walk in the seventh and striking out the side in the eighth.

After 146 pitches, he was finally given the hook with two outs remaining and — in the quickest relief stint possible — Chris Dumencu needed just one toss to get the last visiting batter to hit into a routine double play.

"Why did I even bother warming up?" quipped the evening's closer, who's — to say the least — used to a tougher workload.

While Spiers' superb mound work was the main story of the game, a noteworthy sidebar was the hosts' focus and composure on a night when an initial lack of plate pop and a few verbal clash-

es between the combatants could have gotten them mentally unglued.

Once again serving notice that when challenges arise they won't buckle, the local lads stayed sharp in the field and refused to allow a blown opportunity in the second inning — when three straight outs followed consecutive hits by Kevin Cooper and Ryan Harper — to tell the tale.

Angus drove in a pair of runs during a prosperous third frame, while other RBI were posted by Jeans and Scott Connolly.

Milton committed just a couple of errors on the night and enjoyed solid defense from infielders Harper and Mark Black.

The Red Sox had won nine of their last 10 regular season contests heading into yesterday evening's trip to Martingrove. Results were not available at press time.

Sunday they host Mississauga North at 5 p.m. at Maplehurst.



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