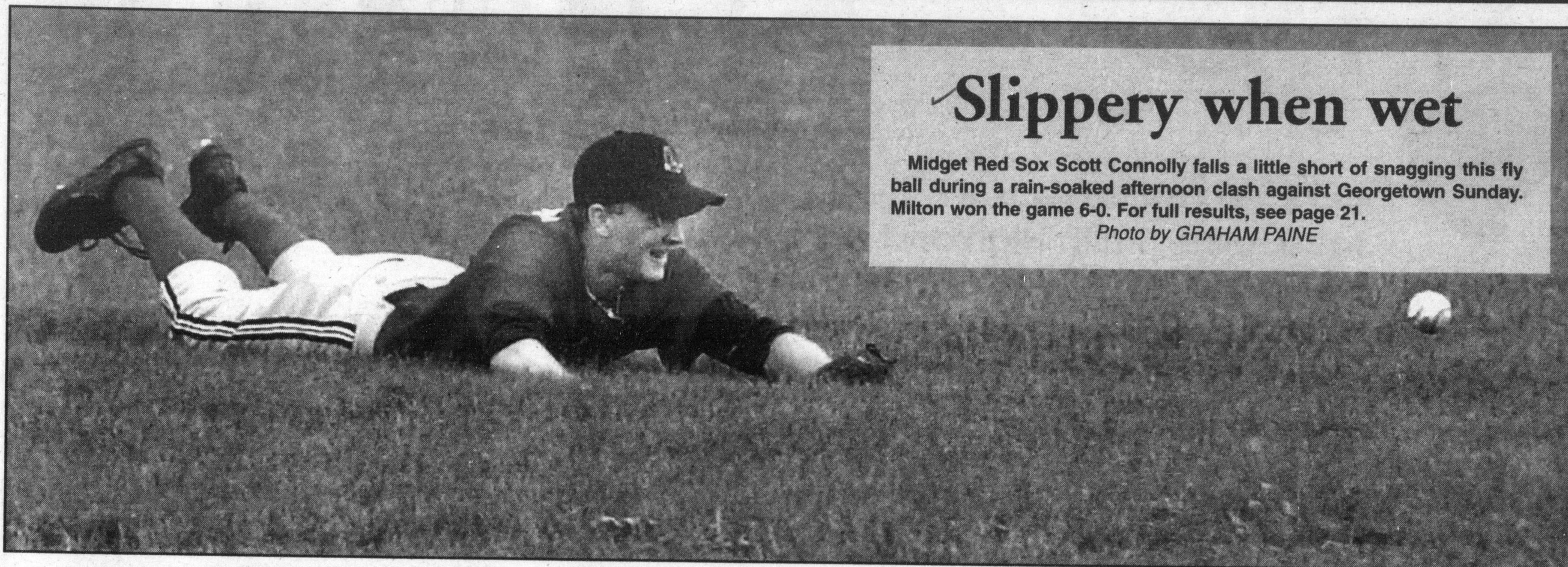




# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY AUGUST 28, 2001



## Slippery when wet

Midget Red Sox Scott Connolly falls a little short of snagging this fly ball during a rain-soaked afternoon clash against Georgetown Sunday. Milton won the game 6-0. For full results, see page 21.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Merchants' back-up hopefuls show strongly

*Goaltending prospects earn shutouts in club's exhibition-opening win*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Glenn Walsh had said it was going to be difficult selecting a back-up goalie for this year's Merchants.

And Friday night's exhibition-opening results didn't make his decision any easier, as three of four hopefuls gave flawless auditions in front of a healthy pre-season crowd at Memorial Arena.

Sean Samuel, Adam Dennis and Kyle Foster each delivered a single-period shutout as the local juniors whitewashed Vaughan 2-0.

### Coach impressed

"They're looking awfully good," Milton's bench boss said, adding that one of the candidates would likely be cut at practice Sunday. "I told them afterwards, 'Couldn't one of you guys have played like crap and made my decision easier?' They all laughed."

Added Merchants general manager Nick Slawson, "We're trying to give these guys lots of opportunity and hopefully one of them will emerge (as the standout performer)."

Samuel faced twice as many shots as his net-minding partners, which may have given him an initial edge in the battle for back-up cager.

The North York Canadian's 10-save performance wasn't anything too spectacular, although he did weather a brief storm midway through

period one and was quite steady when challenged downstairs.

Also vying to play second-string to Trevor Battaglia, Erin Shamrock Brad Taylor will see action tonight when the defending Western Conference champions host St. Michael's. Game time is 9 p.m.

Goals 17 seconds apart in the middle stanza proved to be enough for the win Friday. Sophomore defenceman Rick Janco jumped into the rush to make the game-winning deposit, while immediately adding a little insurance on another short-range opportunity was rookie left winger Dan Carcillo.

The North York bantam graduate also assisted on the initial tally to record his first multi-point effort as a Merchant. He wrapped up the night with a short-lived slugfest in the final frame, getting the better of Vaughan's Mark DiBiase.

Other assists went to Kevin Arruda, Peter Langdon and Richard Meloche.



## Still time to sign up for local women's triathlon

It's not too late for local ladies to sign up for the seventh annual Women's Triathlon-Duathlon Milton, scheduled for this coming Sunday.

Organizers are encouraging both novice and advanced female racers to get involved in one of two distance races. For beginners, there's a 300m swim, 10km bike, 2km run triathlon or a 2km run, 10km bike, 2km run duathlon to choose from.

More ambitious racers will want to try the more challenging 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run triathlon — which can be done by

individuals or as a three-member relay team.

All three races begin at 8 a.m. at Milton's Kelso Conservation Area.

Organizers are still looking for volunteers and any local non-profit organization who can get 10 or more volunteers to help out will receive a portion of the proceeds.

Once again, the event's main beneficiary is Big Sisters of North Halton.

To register, or for more information, call Sue Leeder at 878-7329 or visit [www.harbar@town.milton.on.ca](http://www.harbar@town.milton.on.ca).

The Merchants had ample opportunity to put their guests away, but squandered a couple of two-man powerplays and were turned away on more than three dozen scoring chances.

Solid goaltending aside, the two-hour contest featured little in the way of excitement for the approximately two hundred fans in attendance. Vaughan had a dozen veterans in the lineup compared to five for Milton.

Among those patrolling the blueline were Miltonian Josh Vanderbreggen, who's expected to crack the lineup this year.

The 16-year-old defenceman — who saw spot duty with the Georgetown Raiders last season — may be the only hometown player suiting up, since sophomore winger Frank Fazio and Merchant management couldn't see eye-to-eye and have parted ways.

### Fazio given release

Fazio has been given permission to skate with other clubs and shouldn't have much difficulty finding a new home within the Western Conference.

Meanwhile, fellow Miltonians Christian Nonis and Ian Robertson were still on the bubble heading into practice Sunday.

Veterans Rick Ferroni and Adam Sturgeon remain question marks. Ferroni was still trying out with the British Columbia Jr. A club late last week while Sturgeon's future in the OHL is still unclear.

The Merchants will be severely shortstaffed tonight, with several players away at OHL camp. They continue pre-season play at St. Michael's Friday and open regular season play at home Sept. 14 against the rebuilding Burlington Cougars.

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