

Another dramatic finish to open men's triples

Final end comeback caps first event championship

The HJM Insurance Brokers Open Triples are getting more dramatic by the year.

For a second straight summer, the local competition's first event championship was decided by just a single point at the Milton Lawn Bowling Club August 18.

This year's showdown reached a new level of excitement, as Niagara Falls' Ryan Stadnyk grabbed two final end points with a perfect trail of the jack and eclipsed Toronto's Ian Jones 11-10 in a scintillating comeback.

The tournament triumph marked the second in a row for the young sharpshooter, who was backed up by Miltonians Ken Armstrong and Dave Young.

Stadnyk's trio outstaged three teams en route to the finals including one led by brother Chris.

Burlington's John Haggio overcame the challenge of Miltonian Bob Woods in the second event finals while hometown bowler Dave Anderson took third event honours by besting Kitchener's Larry Chaput.

The fourth event title went to Burlington's Richard Mee, who turned aside Miltonian Chonie Chatterton.

In singles play August 17, Armstrong's star shone brightest as he outdueled Chris Stadnyk 7-5 in the first event and took back some of the money he put into the tournament.

This marked the only time in recent memory that an area bowler has been part of first event wins in both singles and triples competition.

The second event finals were even tighter, with Toronto's Mark Sandford edging Laura Seed 7-6. Team Canada's Andrea Weigland and Miltonian Tina Henneberry took third and fourth-event championship honours respectively.

Midget Sox gain momentum for provincial championships

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

When it comes to winning championships, momentum can be as valuable a commodity as talent and effort.

With that said, things are looking awfully bright for the midget Red Sox.

Milton wrapped up top spot in tier two league play with a couple of hard-fought victories earlier this month and was in fine form during its second last tune-up game for the Ontario 'A' showcase this weekend in Brantford.

In front of a small fan base at Maplehurst Ball Park Sunday, Jeff Harper's charges struck early and went on to blank the second-place Georgetown Eagles 6-0.

Steve Spiers, Conan O'Brien, James MacDonald and Kevin Cooper all saw some mound work

in preparation for the provincial championships — and none of them got into anything close to what would be considered a legitimate jam.

Fielding solid as a rock

A solid fielding campaign was partially to credit for that. Milton's defensive unit wasn't flawless, but certainly sharp at key points through the early going of the rain-soaked showdown to handcuff the opposition. Red Sox pitchers collectively gave up just seven hits and one walk while striking out seven batters during the afternoon clash.

Offensively, team work and aggressive base running factored heavily into production — creating a good omen for this weekend's season finale.

Evan Jeans scored three times

while coming home once and driving in a couple of runs on a sixth-inning single was Andrew Pepper. Seven different local players posted hits, including supporting cast member Reg Taylor.

Leading with two singles apiece were Pepper and Ryan Harper.

The Red Sox played their final provincial tune-up game last night at home against Orangeville. They begin this weekend's double knockout tournament against host Brantford Friday.

If victorious, they'll earn an all-important second round bye and only have to play once on Saturday. Guelph and St. Thomas are expected to be the local lads' biggest obstacles to provincial gold.

"It's just a matter of who gets pitching at the right time," Milton manager said.

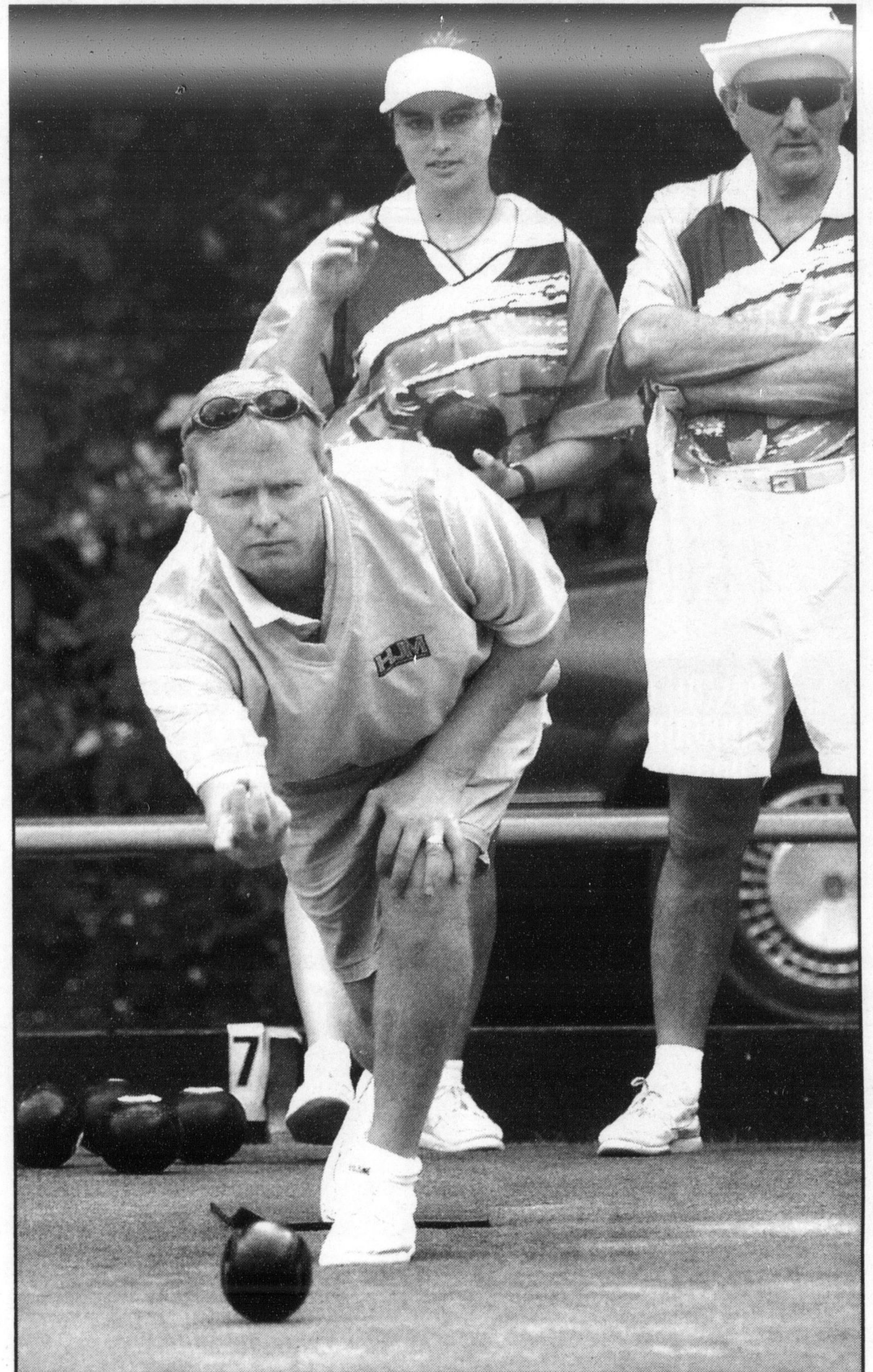


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Miltonian Ken Armstrong was a dual championship in recent competition at the local lawn bowling club.

Bishop Reding runner strikes gold twice at nationals

By **HERB GARBUTT**

Special to The Champion

When Ian Butcher started the track season, he had never run the 400m. And he really had no interest in it either.

But with Bishop Reding Secondary School's track team needing a runner to fill out the 4x400m relay team, Butcher was enlisted by coach Maureen Morrison.

"I had always run distance or sprints in (elementary) school," he said. "I didn't even want to run the 400. I sort of got pushed into it."

Butcher has warmed up to the event over the last five months, though. A couple of national titles will do that.

The 14-year-old capped an outstanding season by claiming two gold medals at the Royal Canadian Legion Track and Field Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec — one in the 15-and-under boys 400m, the other in the 4x400m relay.

He knocked more than four seconds off his 400m time during the high school season — which culminated with a silver medal at OFSAA.

Just before the provincial championships in Etobicoke, Morrison said, "he's gotten faster every time out. I could see another second coming off (his time of 52.5 seconds)."

Needing a victory at the provincial Legion meet to advance to the nationals, Butcher defeated the Sarnia rival who topped him at OFSAA by half-a-second, finishing in a personal best 52.15s.

Prior to nationals, he shaved even more time off at

an Ontario Track and Field Association competition, finishing second in a sizzling 51.69s.

Still, he wasn't considering himself as one of the contenders at the nationals, at least not until he overheard a conversation.

Last-minute confidence boost

"I was really nervous because it was a national track and field meet," Butcher recalled. "Then I heard someone from Nova Scotia talking about some guy from Ontario who was running a 51. That gave me a lot of confidence."

That carried over on to the track, where Butcher turned in a personal best of 51.47, making the prediction of his high school coach come true.

Butcher then joined Ontario teammates in the 1,600m relay.

"Coming off my 400m, I was hoping to just make it around the track," he said.

Not only did he make it around, but he and his provincial counterparts did it faster than anyone else — bring home a second gold medal.

Butcher also turned in a sixth-place finish in the 800m, but it is his new specialty that he's looking forward to next season.

With another year of midget eligibility, some school records and a provincial high school title are not out of the question.

Not bad for an event he didn't want to take part in.

"I'd say it's turned out pretty well," quipped Butcher.



Photo courtesy of ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Ian Butcher crosses the finish line in the 400m race at the Royal Canadian Legion Track and Field Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec.