

Local boxer rebounds from knockdown to prevail

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Matt Hart Jr. took home a different kind of souvenir from his latest in-ring encounter.

The Milton pugilist came away with a rather nasty shiner — the result of a second-round straight-away right from Toronto's Evril Carley Saturday night at Atlas Boxing Club.

It's a memento the up-and-coming middleweight has worn with pride this past week. After all, a few days of discomfort pales in comparison to the lasting satisfaction of victory.

And that's exactly what Hart Jr. achieved — bringing his career win total to seven with what he called his most challenging bout to date.

"I was originally supposed to fight a Russian guy named Igor Barotov, but he was a no-show.

So they put me up against Evril. He was much more seasoned. He's fast, strong and tough."

From the onset, it looked like those attributes were going to be too much to contend with for Hart Jr. — who less than a minute into round one was floored by the hometown favourite with a right uppercut, overhand right combination.

But Milton's fighter was far from done.

Rallying with an authority that surprised many in attendance and probably stunned his opponent, he battled back to actually take the first round plus the two which followed.

"I think he thought I was finished," recalled Hart Jr. "But my coach has always told me that if you get knocked down just take the time you need getting up and come back fighting twice as hard."



Matt Hart Jr.

ensuing melee.

From there, the two boxers unloading on each other in a fight-ending slugfest — but even that couldn't save Carley from losing by unanimous decision.

Hart Jr.'s triumph came on the strength of a

well-executed job as well as greater mobility over the three rounds.

"I used my speed and used my angles well. I broke his will. To get knocked down and come back and do that is pretty big. Not too many guys can do that."

Milton's only known active boxer continues to credit Bramalea Boxing Club coach Billy Martin — who under his tutelage, Hart Jr. has been a near-perfect 6-1 after a rather lacklustre stint with Hamilton's Regency Boxing Club.

"He's got me in tremendous shape, both mentally and physically," he said. "I'm just swarming with confidence these days."

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Damien Dubien (right) returned home last weekend and presented a \$1,500 university bursary to Neil and Heather MacLeod — accepting on behalf of son Jeff — in memory of his father Gerald Dubien. The presentation was made at Maplehurst Ball Park Saturday.

Photo by **STEVE LeBLANC**

University pitcher nets bursary in memory of local baseball enthusiast

Son Damien makes the presentation at diamond

Gerald Dubien may be gone, but his commitment to local baseball continues.

The long-time coach and all-around baseball enthusiast — who passed away last spring — specified in his will that donations be made to Milton Minor Baseball in lieu of flowers.

Part of the money was used last summer to erect a new scoreboard at Maplehurst Ball Park. Now the balance has gone toward a post-secondary scholarship for Miltonian Jeff MacLeod.

The talented pitcher wrapped up his second season at university in West Virginia this past week. Dubien's son Damien — an outstanding pitcher himself at both Milton District High School and later at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University — was back home for a family function over the weekend and presented the scholarship to MacLeod's parents Neil and Heather Saturday.

"I'd just like to thank everyone who made donations toward this (scholarship),"

said Dubien, now married and living in Pennsylvania. "The support was great."

MacLeod was tentatively expected to be back for the Jr. Red Sox' season opener this Sunday afternoon at Brian Best Park against the Dundas Chiefs. Game time is 1 p.m.

Milton has all but two players returning from last year's squad, and with a handful of promising players from last summer's provincial-championship midget team joining the ranks, this year's club is expected to be highly competitive.

Two names not included in article

Two names were inadvertently left out of a Milton District High School cheerleading story that appeared in Tuesday's Champion.

Natalie MacMillan and Sabine Strohan were part of the Mustang team that took fourth-place honours at the inaugural Power Cheer Nationals last weekend at Toronto's International Centre.

Unfortunately, their names were not included in the original article.

The Champion regrets this omission as well as any inconvenience it may have caused.

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