

Jr. Red Sox kick off season with decisive victory over Dundas

Milton strikes early and often in big win

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The Jr. Red Sox brought a bit of everything to the table during season-opening play at Brian Best Park Sunday.

As a result, they feasted on the Dundas Chiefs - devouring them 12-6 in an afternoon clash that featured little in the way of tense moments.

The visitors drew within a couple of runs in the top of eighth, but even then their hosts didn't really seem in jeopardy of losing. And four more runs in bottom half of the inning buried any hopes for a comeback.

Led by veteran hurler Ian Moszczak, Milton delivered a pitching-by-committee campaign that allowed just half-a-dozen hits over a complete nine frames.

Adam Ahearn and Matt Dickson got themselves into mini jams, but were bailed out with some solid defense.

Centre fielder Michael Volpe — one of five rookies that offer this year's squad some much-needed depth — highlighted efforts in this department with both a dynamite tag out at third and diving snag to

punctuate the victory.

Shortstop Taylor Lawton was another defensive standout while a couple of unorthodox run downs at second and home displayed the team's cohesion.

Meanwhile, Milton struck early and often at the plate — finishing the two-and-a-half hour game with a hit count of 11.

Jordan Jeans highlighted a three-hit, five-RBI afternoon by clobbering a two-run shot in the bottom of the seventh to essentially put things out of reach, while Lawton — arguably the most reliable two-way performer last season — also had a pair of extra-base hits and scored three times.

Volpe brought in a pair of runs while coming home once each were Jeans, Andrew Coe, Reese Davies, Jeff MacLeod and John Melito.

Milton committed just two errors on the day, both overthrows to first by starting catcher Mike Austen — who was stepped on during a play at home in the first, but came back to contribute offensively with a fourth-inning bunt single to set up a two-run single by DH Jed Cosby.

The Red Sox will look to build on their season-opening success when they begin a two-game road trip in Guelph Sunday. Monday they're in Orangeville before returning home next Saturday, May 18 at 5 p.m. to battle Stoney Creek.



Milton Red Sox third-baseman John Melito zeros in on a Dundas base-runner and (at right) finally tags him out during the local team's 12-6 season-opening rout at Brian Best Park Sunday afternoon. The Sox are fully armed in every department this season and look to put together their best year since returning to the Jr. loop in 2000.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton

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