



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY MAY 31, 2002



Halton Heat Jeremy Stevenson (above) leaps for a fly ball as teammate Andrew Spear backs him up, and Milton Red Sox Jed Cosby (at right) delivers a valiant but unsuccessful bid to track down this hit in shallow right field during Sunday afternoon action at Brian Best Park. The Red Sox enjoyed an embarrassment of riches throughout the contest on the way to hammering their tier-two rural guests 18-2.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



Jr. Sox lay severe beating on Halton

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Yikes!

In what could well turn out to be this year's biggest blowout at Brian Best Park, Milton's Junior Red Sox kept their unbeaten streak going by annihilating the thoroughly outclassed Halton Heat 18-2 Sunday.

The matinee massacre was as laughable as the score would indicate.

Making things even uglier was the occasional brush with controversy — including two calls against veteran centre fielder Jeff MacLeod that eventually met with his premature exit.

The Red Sox' leadoff hitter was called out in the first when he was deemed to have intentionally gotten in the way of a pitch and was later tossed for some derogatory comments after being called out at second base — on a play where he was clearly safe. A few other arguments — one following a rare balk turned scratch play — dragged out an afternoon fiasco that, with so much hometown production, was already long enough.

Jeremy Stevenson delivered the only bright spot for the rural underdogs, clobbering a two-run homer in the fourth to spoil the shutout. Overall, Halton offered about as much resistance as a shot glass full of water would against a raging inferno.

MacLeod's ejection and the lopsided score did allow the hosts to get in some of their rookies — including Michael Volpe, who cashed in three runs on a pair of triples.

Meanwhile, Evan Jeans — Milton's back-up catcher — finished things out behind the plate and gunned down a runner at second.

Credited with the victory was Mike Grabauskas. Returning to the mound after a one-year hiatus, he scattered five hits over as many innings and never got into anything even closely resembling a jam. Matt Dickson offered two scoreless innings of relief and was nearly flawless in doing so — allowing just one walk.

The Red Sox broke things wide open with seven runs in a marathon third inning in which bad throwing as much as plate pop helped put the game way out of reach.

Overall, Milton out-hit their guests 16-5.

Contributions were made up and down the lineup — with standout efforts delivered by John Melito, Nate Perrott and DH Moszczak.

Another highlight on the day was a flawless field campaign, number three in a row for tier two front-runners.

Melito's steady play at the hot corner and a diving snag by left fielder Andrew Coe in the second highlighted the defensive side of things.

The Red Sox suffered their first loss of the season in Brampton Tuesday — getting toppled 7-2 by one of the few tier-two teams that's likely to challenge them for top spot in COBA.

While outfielder Jed Cosby and shortstop Taylor Lawton made some dynamite defensive play, fielding was a little off overall — with four errors crippling Milton.

Brampton belted out two homers on the night and were in control most of the way.

The Red Sox were without a few players in their first road trip of the year, which proved to be another stumbling block.

They'll look to get back to their winning ways this weekend at the annual Mississauga North Tournament.

Triathlon on Sunday

It's once again time to get in gear for the 2002 Milton Triathlon.

This year's event will be held Sunday — as always, at Kelso Conservation Area.

Part of the Subaru Triathlon Series — one of the biggest in North America — Milton's season-opening competition will once again include races for those of all skill levels.

For the beginner, there's a Try-A-Tri introduction featuring a 375-metre swim, 10-kilometre bike, 2.5-kilometre run course.

More seasoned or ambitious athletes will want to tackle either the 1km swim, 30km bike, 7.5km run triathlon or the 2km run, 30km bike, 7.5km run duathlon.

To register or for more information about the event, contact Trisport Promotions Canada Inc. at (905) 945-6608 or visit the group's website at www.trisportcanada.com.



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