

# Expansion Marauders receive baptism by fire from Longhorns

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

Special to *The Champion*

At least they looked good.

Decked out in their new maroon and silver uniforms, the expansion Milton Marauders played their first-ever game in the Northern Football Conference and lost 65-0.

With an estimated 300 fans in attendance at Bishop Reding Secondary School on a perfect Saturday afternoon, the Marauders had the misfortune to open against the defending Canadian champion Oakville Longhorns.

"At least we've got it out of the way," said Milton coach Alan Collver, who had no trouble at all finding positives from the game.

"When you play the two-time Canadian champions, you know you're going to be in for a real rough day, score-wise. Oakville is the class of Canadian amateur football."

Collver — who has been around the league for years, and was the defensive coordinator for the Mega City Mad Dogs last season — said the result was, "better than expected."

Were the Milton players discouraged?

"I don't think it will be a problem one little bit. They all got together and socialized afterwards and it was all encouragement. Improvements are going to be coming," said Collver.

"It's a learning process all the way along. Everybody's just

going to have to do the basics that we started off with, and we'll start to improve as we get some more games and reps."

Collver praised several members of the team, including, Mike O'Brien, a teacher at Milton District High School, who had some booming punts. He also singled out the lines. "In this league, the line work is critical, and our defensive line was very good and our offensive line was really good. That's what you have to have."

The whole offensive line is from Milton District. Andrew Todd is the center, the guards are Clint Stanfield and Martin Pyle, and the tackles are Mark Dow and Norm Collver.

If you take this game out of the equation, Collver said he expects the Marauders to be very competitive. In their only exhibition game they lost just 10-1 to Belleville, an 80-yard pass play being the difference.

The rules are a combination of American and Canadian football, very similar to high school football. They play four downs, but use 12 men on the field, unlimited motion, and Canadian kicking rules.

The Marauders will be back in action Sunday afternoon at Oshawa, before heading back home to face the Markham Raiders the following Saturday.

The team's Web site is [www.eteamz.com/MiltonMarauders](http://www.eteamz.com/MiltonMarauders). The league and its other nine teams also have Web sites.

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# Junior Red Sox run hot and cold at Mississauga tourney

Milton's junior boys baseball team enjoyed a feast or famine weekend at the Mississauga North Tournament.

The Red Sox were equally explosive and non-existent at the plate — finishing round-robin play with an even two wins and two losses to narrowly miss advancing to the semifinals Sunday. In a Saturday afternoon battle with Mississauga South West that was essentially for final four entry, the local lads were all but completely silenced - with Nate Perrott recorded the only hit - en route to being whitewashed 9-0.

Ian Moszczak worked the mound against his former team and faced the lion's share of punishment. While he was rather ineffective at times, a lack of defensive support — particularly in the error-rich third inning - also factored into the humbling defeat.

"Nate was thrown out at the plate for what would have tied the score up early," explained manager Glenn Turner. "From there, the wheels fell off the wagon."

But Milton would finish up on a high note Saturday evening — outdistancing Oakville's first entry team 9-8. The Red Sox posted all of their runs in the fourth.

Veteran Jarrett Konkle - now back from the U.S. - got in on the scoring surge while highlighting the team's biggest single-inning output of the year with a three-run homer was Jeff MacLeod.

Against Barrie's 'A' squad Friday, Taylor Lawton and John Melito clobbered solo shots in the first and sixth - but their team managed just one other hit on the way to falling 7-2.

Recalled Turner, "We kind of started off on the wrong foot. I had hoped to throw either Adam Ahearn or Jeff MacLeod at them, but both had sore arms. I went with Kevin Cooper, who's more of a finesse pitcher, and Barrie banged him around."

Milton rebounded from its opening-round loss to spank league rival Guelph 7-1. Andrew Coe scattered three hits over six innings while Perrott tagged a three-run dinger to share the offensive stage with Lawton, who went 2-for-4 with a pair of runs. "All in all, it was a fairly successful weekend," said Turner.

The Red Sox will return to league play tomorrow night in Orangeville before a busy three-game home stand starting Saturday at 5 p.m. against the Brampton Braves at Brian Best Park.



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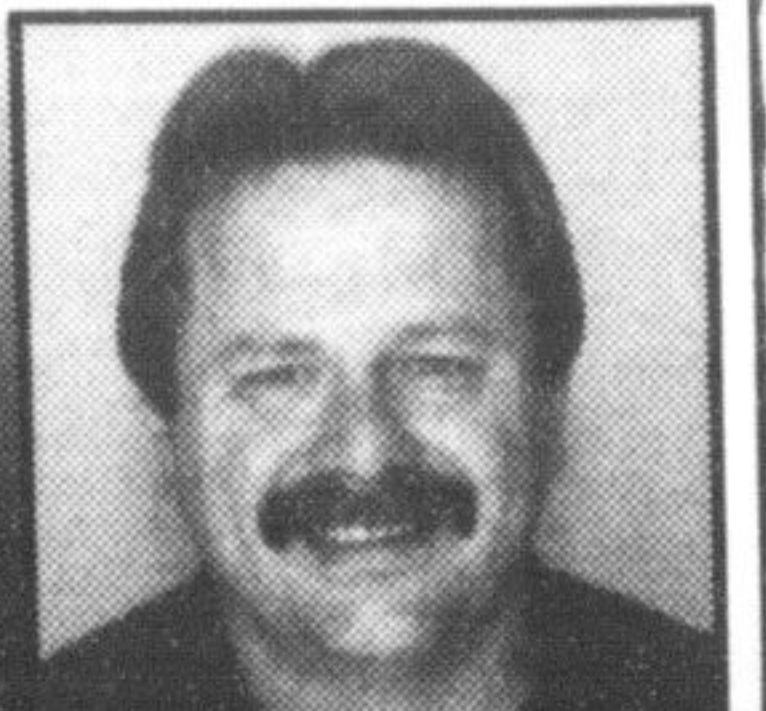
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