

Mavericks surrender their playoff spot

Letdown against Welland could prove costly

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Here's where things get challenging. With just two weeks left in regular-season play, the Jr. B Mavericks now find themselves on the outside looking in — one point removed from a playoff spot that was scooped up this past weekend by Owen Sound.

Milton's up-from-the-ashes lacrosse club has five games remaining in which to reclaim its post-season berth.

Problem is, the next three opportunities come against upper-echelon teams that aren't likely to offer much room for an upset.

A trip to Welland Friday night represented the Mavericks' best shot at win number seven through the mid-stretch of June.

Unfortunately, Milton eased up a little down the stretch — squandering a third-period lead on the way to falling 12-10.

Welland's game winner and insurance marker were potted in the final two-and-a-half minutes of play, shortly after the visitors scored shorthanded goals just five seconds apart to even the count.

The Mavericks held the upper hand for much of the contest but just couldn't

break away — due in large part to hometown sniper Travis Hill, who struck six times and netted the last two past goaltender Josh Arnold.

Welland's victory was also fueled by three powerplay goals. By contrast, the Mavericks had just five tries with the man-advantage and were neutralized each time.

Kyle Goertz was once again the player of the game with a goal and three assists, while Paul Pedulla had a single helper to go along with his pair of markers.

Also tallying twice were Steve Chuchmach and Mark McComb — arguably the most improved Maverick, at least offensively, in recent weeks.

Derek Mewhinney, Kyle Johnston, Drew Petkoff and Zach Somer chipped in singles.

Maverick notes: Kyle Goertz represented Milton at Saturday's OLA Jr. B All-Star Game and had two assists in an 11-11 stalemate ... Veteran Maverick Kaegen Sherriff has been a no-show since being disciplined for a vicious check-from-behind in Halton Hills June 2 ... Making his season debut with the Mavericks Friday was Mike Novak — a Jr. A Orangeville draft pick who'd been sidelined since April with a wrist injury sustained in rep hockey ... The Mavericks will host Samia Saturday at 7 p.m. and close out the week in Onondoga Sunday afternoon.

Senior Red Sox win second straight at Brian Best Park

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

George Moore can accept defeat, just not when it comes from within.

Unfortunately, that's been the case during many a game this year for his Senior Red Sox — who're by far the youngest of COBA's eight entries, and are quite prone to the pitfalls of inexperience.

"I'd say six of our nine losses have been the direct result of us beating ourselves," said the local skipper. "We self-destruct."

However, Milton managed to stave off that troubling trend at Brian Best Park Saturday afternoon — severely limiting its follies en route to nipping the Dundas Chiefs 4-3.

The victory was the second straight at home and fifth overall in league play for the Red Sox, who're now on pace to hit the dou-

ble-digit win plateau — something they've been unable to do in several years.

Unlike during Monday's 3-0 loss in St. Catharines and Friday's 8-5 defeat in Etobicoke, Milton didn't let mistakes snowball against Dundas Saturday.

According to Moore, that was the chief reason for the team's triumph. He said, "We were able to avoid that one big (bad) inning. We didn't beat ourselves."

The lion's share of Milton's production came in the opening frame when lead-off man Nick Aalbers and Nick Mastro clobbered back-to-back solo home runs — the first two of the season — and Ryan Davison later cashed in DH Kevin Wilson on a two-out single.

While the Red Sox struggled offensively through stretches of the afternoon — particularly in the

fourth when they blew a bases loaded and no outs situation — Ian Zettle's crafty pitching and a near-flawless fielding campaign got them through.

Middle infielders Kurt Mitchell and Manny Thapar were rock-solid through the late going while Zettle earned the victory with a five-hit effort over seven innings.

Nathan Tami picked up his second straight save, working the final two innings and delivering a game-clinching strikeout with the tying run in scoring position. Subbing for injured lead-off man Dwayne Johnson, Aalbers went 4-for-5 while Davison drove in Wilson twice — the second time for the winning run in the third inning.

The Red Sox will look to make it three in a row at Brian Best Saturday against Oakville at 1:30 p.m.

Junior Sox continue to shine

The Junior Red Sox' supremacy goes on.

In Dundas Sunday, Milton hit double-digits for the fifth time this season — toppling the Chiefs 10-3. Adam Ahearn scattered three hits and a pair of walks over seven innings to continue a rock-solid spring campaign.

Offering short relief was Mike Grabauskas.

Offensively, Jeff MacLeod belted out his third home run in six games to highlight a big fourth inning which put the score out of reach. Nate Perrott also launched one over the fence — his second round-tripper in two

weeks.

Kevin Cooper had three hits and provided sound defense at first base. Doing likewise behind the plate was fellow rookie Evan Jeans, while right fielder Andrew Coe made a couple of impressive snags to thwart potential rallies by Dundas.

"We're really clicking on all cylinders right now," said manager Glenn Turner, whose juniors are now unbeaten in seven games.

The 9-1-1 Red Sox return to Brian Best Park Sunday at 1 p.m. to take on Orangeville.



OPENING SOON!
Memberships Available Now!

**Fantastic
Women's Only Club**

**First 100 Women
Best Best Membership**

Call today..

GoodLife
FITNESS CLUBS

→ (905) 876-FIT3 Women's
409 Main Street East, Milton
(905) 876-FITT Coed