



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY JULY 23, 2002

## Midget Mystics off to fast-pitch World Series

*Milton shines with four straight shutout victories during Ohio State Qualifier*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Thirty consecutive innings without giving up a run — wow!

Milton's midget girls delivered that lengthy shutout stretch — which represents arguably the most impressive single statistic by a local team in recent memory — earlier this month at the USSSA Fast-Pitch World Series Ohio State Qualifier.

The Mystics' pitching and defensive prowess allowed them to win six of seven games and grab the third and final berth to the big show in Shawnee, Kansas July 29 to August 4.

"We've had some successes this year, but nothing like this," said Jessica Hutzel, one of three pitchers who thoroughly neutralized the competition.

"We all came from different places this season, but we really came together as a team that weekend and showed a lot of heart and focus."

Led by highly accomplished first-year manager Bill Rushton, Milton had an almost embarrassingly successful round robin campaign — winning all five games and surrendering two measly runs, both during a weekend-opening 7-2 decision over the Michigan Steelers.

### Dominating stretch

From there, the local ladies whitewashed four teams in a row — the first two by merciful victories — and allowed just seven hits over this span.

Hutzel and Aleksandra Djordjevic were particularly effective in complete game shutouts over the Detroit Mustangs (2-0) and Ohio Emeralds (7-0) respectively.

"Jessica and Ale were amazing," said Rushton, who guides the Mystics alongside coaches Doug Mosdell, Jim Wong and Wayne Hutzel.

"There was just no competition for them."

Ashley Elliott drove in Nicole Lee twice in the narrow win over Detroit, while Shannon Mosdell provided some key

pitching against the Steelers and Ohio Sting — who were blanked 9-0.

Also shut out were Ohio's Hilliard Kats, one of two teams who managed only one hit against Milton. Hutzel threw a complete-game one hitter versus the Mustangs, while Djordjevic allowed just two hits when she went the distance against the Emeralds.

### Beat Magic to advance

The Mystics' 5-0 round robin campaign — a mark equaled by one other team — was followed up by an 8-5 win over the Ohio Magic, which rubber-stamped their trip to the World Series.

A productive start and strong relief work by Djordjevic combined for the victory.

Milton's only loss of the weekend came a couple of hours later against Ohio's Ashland Blaze. Unable to keep their plate pop going, the midgets fell 2-0. An infield blooper essentially made the difference in this one.

Offensively, Elliott, Lee and Mandy Gould led the way at the qualifying tournament while offering rock-solid defense were catcher Sarah Miyata, second baseman Amanda Frutti and third baseman Kristen Coleman. Milton made less than a dozen errors at the qualifying tournament and just three in round-robin play.

Making up the rest of the squad are Kathryn Gannon, Nicole Jurgen and Lisa Simpson.

While now taking on the best of the best, the Mystics have high hopes for the World Series — aiming for a top-10 finish. Said Rushton, "That would be like a gold medal for us."

Milton and Whitby will be the only Canadian representatives at the 100-team World Series.

The trip will cost the girls in excess of \$10,000, and anyone wishing to support their excursion is asked to call Rushton at (905) 824-7910 or Wayne Hutzel at (905) 846-4774.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Midget Mystics (from left) Jessica Hutzel, Ashley Elliott, Aleksandra Djordjevic and Sarah Miyata are part of the local team headed to this weekend's USSSA Fast-Pitch World Series in Kansas.

## Jr. Red Sox clinch Ontario 'C' berth by blasting Halton

The Junior Red Sox' Ontario 'C' classification was pretty much decided before they even arrived at Brian Best Park Sunday afternoon.

Beating Halton to officially clinch that berth was really more of a formality than an actual challenge — and one that the hosts handily rubber-stamped with an 18-1 thrashing of their rural rivals.

The seven-inning mercy — identical to the one Milton engineered the last time the two teams met at Brian Best May 31 — was highlighted by two-run homers by Nate Perrott and Matt Dickson.

Halton got a long ball of its own in the opening frame, but was pretty well out of it the rest of the way as the Red Sox scored four times in their first at-bat and spent the remainder of the afternoon putting things out of reach.

Milton had just half-a-dozen more hits than their

guests, but some aggressive base-running and flawless fielding factored heavily into the blowout.

Adam Ahearn picked up the victory, giving up just three hits and a run over four innings, while seeing relief work were Ian Moszczak and Dickson.

The Red Sox — whose strong showing at the recent Whitby Tournament earned them honourable mention in Thursday's Toronto Sun provincial rankings — have all but locked up COBA's Tier Two division already with a record of 17-2.

They had a chance to make it official last night at Maplehurst Ball Park against lowly Guelph.

Milton will look to defend their Wallaceburg Tournament title this coming weekend. It'll represent a final big tune-up to the Ontario 'C' championships in Listowel August 16 to 18.



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