

Sr. Sox now vye for berth to Ontario 'B' championships

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The Senior Red Sox' 2002 uprising now comes with a price.

A 10-13 league record as of last night means they'll more than likely be too good for 'C' classification this year. And with the Ontario 'B' championships set to take just one representative from COBA — at least at the present time — Milton will have to stay ahead of Oakville, who're just two games back, in order to qualify.

"We'll probably need another couple of wins, and even that might not be enough," said manager George Moore.

At Brian Best Park Sunday, Milton moved a step closer to advancing to the provincials by mercying Oakville 10-0. The eight-inning blowout pushed the local seniors' regular season win total into double-digit range — something they haven't achieved in several years.

Offering another reminder that their much-improved season is for real, the hosts dominated in every department to blank their regional rivals.

Adam Finkbeiner tossed a four-hitter over seven innings to pick up the win — holding the visitors hitless over his final four frames — and his shutout afternoon was aided by two dynamite defensive plays by

centre fielder Nick Aalbers and shortstop Manny Thapar.

Offensively, Matt McCandless got things started with a two-run homer in the first and Dwayne Johnson capped the lopsided affair with a sacrifice fly that cashed in Aalbers.

Aalbers' two-run double in the fifth set up the mercy, while Ryan Davison also stood out with a pair of hits. Closing things out on the mound was Josh Campbell.

Sunday's shutout win was the third in just 10 days for the revitalized Red Sox.

In a much more spirited showdown at Brian Best Saturday, Milton loaded the bases in its last at-bat only to get trimmed by Etobicoke 8-7. Thapar scored in the ninth, on a Pat Mastro walk, to draw within one and further fuel the nail-biting finale.

The Red Sox battled back from a four-run deficit — due in large part to some effective relief work by Thapar and Nathan Tami. Thapar also drove in a couple of runs and was sharp at shortstop earlier in the game.

While coming up short Saturday, Milton delivered a lot of gutsy play — with a handful of substitutes coming in to make contributions to the barn burner.

The seniors wrapped up a three-games-in-three-days stretch last night in Erindale. This weekend they host a four-team tournament at Ninth Line Ball Park.

Freshman Sir Luck delivers effortless victory at Woodbine

Freshman pacing colt Sir Luck retained his golden crown for another week with a seemingly effortless victory at Woodbine Racetrack Thursday night.

The Camluck colt and Milton driver Mike Saftic fired out from behind the starting gate into fourth as Armbr Anthony and Gotta Feeling led the field of two-year-old pacing colts to a :26.3 first quarter.

Once Gotta Feeling had cleared to the front Sir Luck kept right on sailing, taking control of the race before the :55.3 half and carrying on to a 1:24.3 three-quarters and one-and-a-half length victory in 1:52.

"He was well in hand last week so I felt good about him coming into tonight. He did everything I asked of him," said Saftic in the winner's circle after the race. "He went a big trip in Windsor, 1:53 flat, and that was just as good a mile as tonight."

Saftic drives Sir Luck for trainer Bill Budd of Carlisle and owners C and I Racing Stable Ltd. of Brooklyn, New York. The win was the colt's third straight and his second Gold Final victory — pushing his earnings to an impressive \$158,764 in just four starts.

Gotta Feeling fought off the challengers for second and Boulder Creek, also owned by C and I Racing Stable and trained by Bill Bud, closed well to pick up the third-place finisher's share of the \$130,000 purse.

"This is going to be one tough division," noted Saftic. "Mario's (Baillargeon) colt (Gotta Feeling) is a good colt, that was only his second lifetime start and Billy's (Budd) other colt (Boulder Creek) is going to be a player too."

Lengthy break

The Gold level colts now enjoy almost a month break from Ontario Sires Stakes action, giving them an opportunity to compete in other two-year-old stakes like the \$700,000 Woodrow Wilson at the Meadowlands and the \$200,000 Battle of Waterloo at Elmira Raceway.

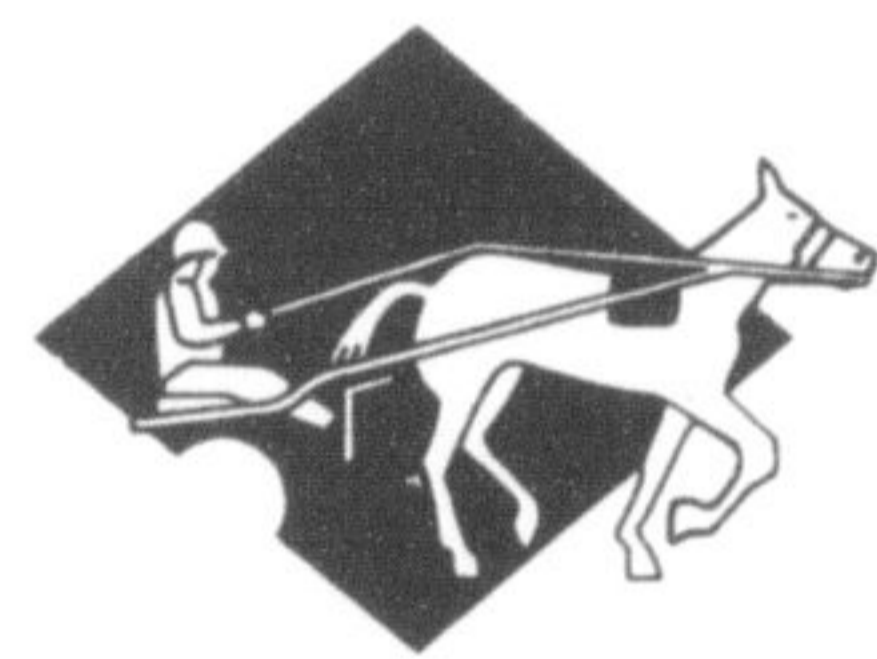
Iroquoia Trial Test runs again

Burlington's running club will host the Iroquoia Trial Test Saturday, Aug. 17.

The 27-kilometre race — which will begin at Kilbride School and will feature varied terrain from country roads to challenging trails — will have an early start of about 7 a.m. and a main pack start of 8 p.m.

The entry fee is \$42 per person and the 100 participants will receive a commemorative gift. A barbecue will follow the race.

The deadline for registration is August 15, and entry forms can be picked up at running stores throughout Halton or obtained by visiting www.deerhurst.com/brc.



Hoof Beat

with **SANDRA SNYDER**

They will match wits in their third Gold Series event at Flamboro Downs August 11 and 18 before a second break to accommodate the coveted \$1.25 million Metro Stakes at Woodbine.

"He's Metro eligible, so I'm looking forward to driving him in that," admitted Saftic after Thursday's victory. "He looks like he'll be competitive."

Close The Bank wins

The other two-year-old highlight on Thursday's program was the \$30,000 Gold Series Consolation in race two, which saw Paul MacDonell and Close The Bank secure the victory with a solid 1:54 performance.

Starting from post three in the eight-horse field the duo opted to sit and watch as Worthy Apache and Everton battled it out through opening fractions of :26.3 and :56.4.

Heading to the 1:25.3 three-quarters, MacDonell sent Close The Bank after the lead and the Run The Table colt sailed home to a half-length win over Vandango Hanover.

Third-place finisher Ask Again was another four lengths back.

Peter Heffering of Port Perry, Arthur Slack of Cumbria, England, David Reid of Kingston and Stan Klemencic of Trenton share ownership on Close The Bank — who was sent off as a favourite along with his stablemate Artistic Bunny.

Junior Mystics drop close one to Fort Erie

Defeat was a whole lot easier to swallow for the Junior Mystics Thursday night in Fort Erie.

On the heels of a 10-0 home-field whitewash by Six Nations, Milton's oldest girls fast-pitch team fortified its efforts and delivered a respectable showing against the Tri-Country open-class league leaders.

A 7-3 loss was highlighted by a prosperous first frame — in which all of the visitors' runs were scored — as well as some effective relief pitching by Katie MacKroory. She gave up just one hit over the final two innings.

Starter Lindsey Harrold surrendered five of the seven runs in the fourth. RBI were recorded by Cate Kennedy,

Sherylene Leslie and Shannon MacKenzie. Scoring were Leslie, Carolyn Coates and Tara Elkie.

Two nights earlier at Lions Sports Park, Milton managed just five hits and never offered much of a challenge to Six Nations. MacKroory and Kennedy split the mound work in the six-inning mercy.

These losses follow a solid 2-2 campaign at recent Chatham Tournament.

The Mystics — a first-year entry to the league — began a two-game road trip last night in Cayuga. Tonight they travel to Grimsby and return home to host a six-team tournament this weekend.

Please fax all of your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at (905) 878-4943, or drop them off at *The Champion*, 191 Main St.

Dr. Markus Schatzmann

Family Medicine

will be seeing new patients
as of August 1, 2002

Please call

905-878-6793

to book an appointment

Miltowne Medical

350 Main St. E.

Keep your **COOL**
Temperatures
are
RISING



For the air we breathe

An official mark of the Province of Ontario used under license.

Air Conditioning Check-up

- Diagnostic performance test
- Check belts & hoses
- System recharge

Service available for both
R12 & R134A systems

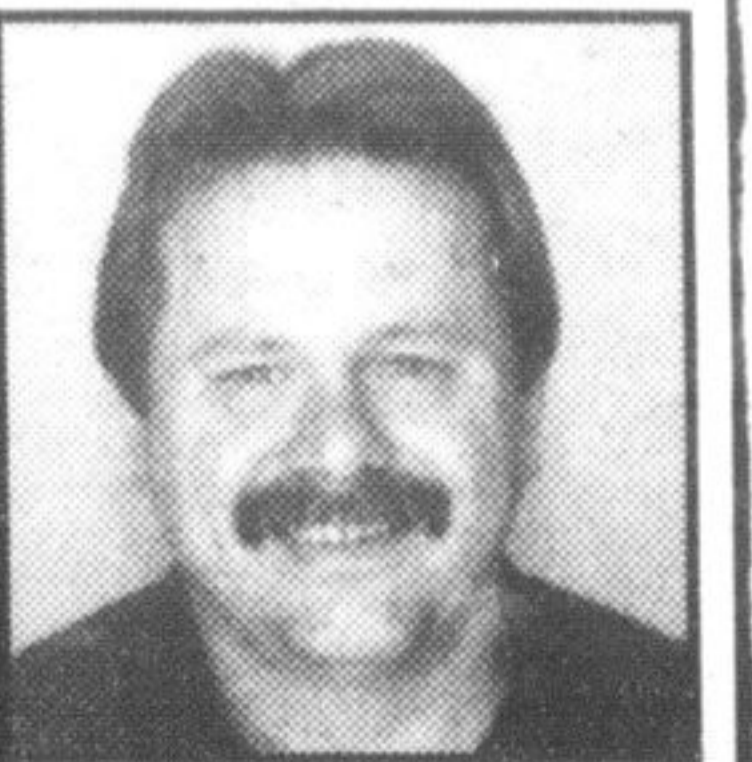
\$39.95*

*PARTS & FREON EXTRA

K&B AUTO SERVICE

715 Main Street E. Milton

876-3148



KEVIN BLACKLOCK