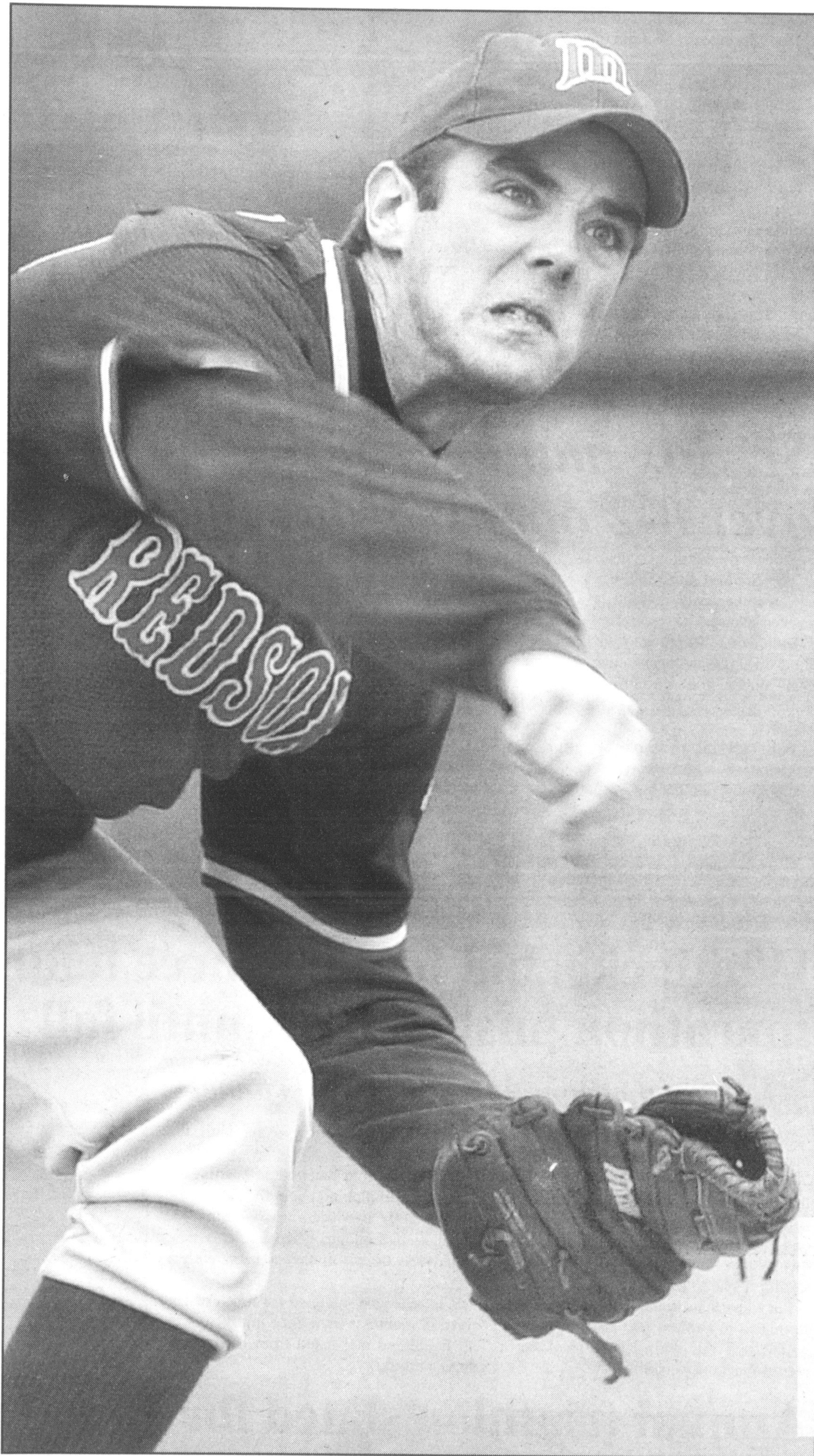




# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY MAY 13, 2003



## Mavericks suffer weekend humbling

*Coach in search of answers after demoralizing losses*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Glen Little says his Mavericks are in need of some serious healing. And he's not talking about injuries.

Instead, Milton's Jr. B lacrosse skipper is referring to the emotional bruises absorbed from yet another weekend battering — one which dropped the local lads to 1-1-4.

"We're in a certifiable slump, there's no getting around it," Little stressed following Saturday's 13-4 humbling at the hands of the Nepean Knights.

Unlike three previous losses, this latest defeat had little to do with subpar goaltending. Offering his best effort since a season-opening tie with the Clarington Green Gaels, Craig Willis kept his side in a position to win for most of the night.

At least that would have been the case had his teammates delivered even a modest supply of offensive cohesion or creativity. The Mavericks were devoid of both until the last seven-and-a-half minutes — during which they scored three times.

But by then the family-night show-down's suspense factor had long been extinguished.

"I'm speechless. We were selfish out there and didn't capitalize on our chances. The wheels just came off," Little said of his team's offensively-frigid performance.

Adam Rutz would give the hosts their only lead with a sidarm screen deposit 33

seconds into the contest.

Milton was shut down for the next 51 minutes — due in equal parts to telegraphed shots and an inability to work the ball inside.

Lee Frittenburg, Steve Chuchmach and Ryan Harris dented the twine after the verdict had already been mailed in, while Kyle Goertz assisted on goals two and three.

Led by six-goal marksman Mickey Gilchrist, Nepean broke free for a number of wide-open goals and exhibited far more versatility than their hosts.

One night earlier against the unbeaten Barrie Tornado, Milton enjoyed its share of production — including hat-tricks from Brenden Thenhaus and Rick Gallinger.

However, Willis and short-lived replacement Jordan Lumb were both victimized by their guests — due at least in small part to an uninspired defensive campaign. This cost the Mavericks a

17-11 pasting, the second of three consecutive losses at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

"I think our offense and defense had to start trusting our goaltenders again, and vice versa," suggested Little. "But it's still early. It'll come."

Goertz had a goal and six assists for his biggest single-game output of the year, while also scoring for the locals were Frittenburg, Justin Corke, Jon Sweetland and captain Kyle Hagel.

Netminder Josh Arnold missed both games after having his wisdom teeth removed late last week. He's expected back in the lineup for a hectic holiday weekend that begins at home against Windsor Friday at 8 p.m. From there the Mavericks are in Gloucester Saturday night and Akwesasne Sunday afternoon.

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## Fierce delivery

Senior Red Sox pitcher Adam Ahearn shows some strain as he fires one in against Etobicoke Saturday afternoon at Brian Best Park. For opening day results, see page 22.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



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