

## Baseball Royals earn another playoff berth with straight victories

Bishop Reding's baseball team secured themselves a playoff spot with back-to-back wins last week.

While last Tuesday's encounter with the Q.E. Park Eagles was rained out, the Royals went on to topple two other Oakville opponents — one by the narrowest of margins, the other in a six-inning mercy.

First to fall were the Iroquois Ridge Trailblazers, who were trimmed 3-2 Wednesday at Maplehurst Ball Park.

Liam Tennant scored a pair of runs, including the game winner — courtesy of Matt Tales' RBI single, the first of two he'd deliver in the nail-biting victory.

The duo would shine on the mound as well, in a collectively credible pitching effort, while coming in from first base to save a run at home plate was seasoned veteran Conan O'Brien.

Andrew Pepper also made a dynamite out from second base, while his infield came through with a double play as well.

"The defense has really been sharp so far," said manager Joe Jurus.

In Oakville Friday, BR improved to 3-1 with an 11-0 thrashing of Oakville Trafalgar.

This marked the Royals' second double-digit win of the year, and all but guaranteed them another trip to the post

season.

Reg Taylor clobbered a home run to lead a balanced and potent hitting campaign, while Cory Hageman silenced the Devils with four big innings on the hill.

Working the last two frames was Rob Bennett.

Meanwhile, Milton District kept their playoff hopes alive with straight ties last week — including a 10-10 slugfest with Oakville Trafalgar Tuesday in Oakville.

A seven-run uprising in the fifth inning allowed the Mustangs to come away with a point, despite some horrendous pitching.

Barry Kosmalski ignited the late-game surge, and followed that up with a couple of huge defensive plays from second base in Friday's 3-3 stalemate with Oakville's White Oaks.

Manager Andrew Todd said he was quite happy to steal a point from the Wildcats. In addition to Kosmalski, he offered praise to pitchers Shawn Shadlock, Chris Jones and Jake Perrott — all of whom showed strongly for the now 1-1-2 Mustangs, who've yet to play at home this spring.

Milton's two high school ball clubs both have three games remaining in the regular season, including tomorrow's clash against each other at Brian Best Park. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

## Springers show strongly at Ontario championships

Milton gymnasts wrapped up their competitive season earlier this month with some solid showings at the provincial championships in Brantford.

Two Springers — Julie Gagnon and Stephanie Deumer — attended as part of the Central Region contingent, and each contributed to their respective squads' top-three finishes.

Among the Novice 1 girls, Gagnon delivered a bar routine that was good enough for fourth in the province and helped her team place second overall.

Deumer's sixth and eighth-place efforts on bars and floor respectively aided in the Central Region's all-around third in the Novice 2 loop.

Tryo 1 competitor Chelsea Bennett was a Central Region alternate, but was well-prepared and took seventh-place on the beam in a solid substitute performance. This factored into the squad's third-place finish.

Meanwhile, the Springers' two other representatives made it the Ontario championships as independent qualifiers.

Jaimi Fellows — who like Deumer and Gagnon was

### Springers Notes



a provincial returnee — matched a personal best on bars and set a new high on floor with an impressive 9.3 mark. Nine-year-old Brittany Schrader — the youngest Milton gymnast — stayed poised under pressure, sticking her beam routine in credible fashion and establishing a new individual standard for herself with a score of 9.05.

This marked the second straight year in which the local club sent five members to the provincials.

The Springers will now turn their attention to their annual Gymstrada showcase, which is slated for May 25 at the club.

## Sr. Sox manager not panicking over 0-2 opening-day outcome

The Sr. Red Sox' 0-2 opening day was certainly nothing to get excited about.

But George Moore isn't pushing the panic button either — realizing that under the circumstances, Saturday's results weren't exactly a shock.

With several new players up from the junior ranks who've never swung a wooden bat before, early-season hitting woes were to be expected.

And that offensive shortcoming clearly showed through, as the local seniors managed just 10 hits over their home-opening double

header on the way to 5-2 and 10-1 losses to Erindale and Etobicoke respectively at Brian Best Park.

"It probably takes about half a season to really learn how to handle a different kind of bat," said Moore. "But then a lack of hitting plagued us at times last year as well."

Two passed balls and a fielding miscue were essentially the difference in game one, as the Red Sox and Erindale were deadlocked at 2-2 until the sixth inning.

From there, a number of rookies received a baptism by fire against an overall impressive Etobicoke

squad and arguably the top pitcher in the league.

Milton had just three hits in the latter game and was never really in a position to win.

On the plus side, junior graduate Matt Dickson delivered some credible relief pitching in both outings, while veteran Kevin Wilson and newcomer Kevin Komiski each hit the ball fairly well.

The Red Sox will look to build on those bright spots when they travel to Dundas Friday night. From there, they host powerhouse St. Catharines Saturday at Brian Best. Game time is 1:30 p.m.

## Whitlock's bid for sub-three hour marathon pushed back until fall

*'Just not the right time', says avid runner*

Ed Whitlock's bid for a sub-three hour marathon has been put on hold.

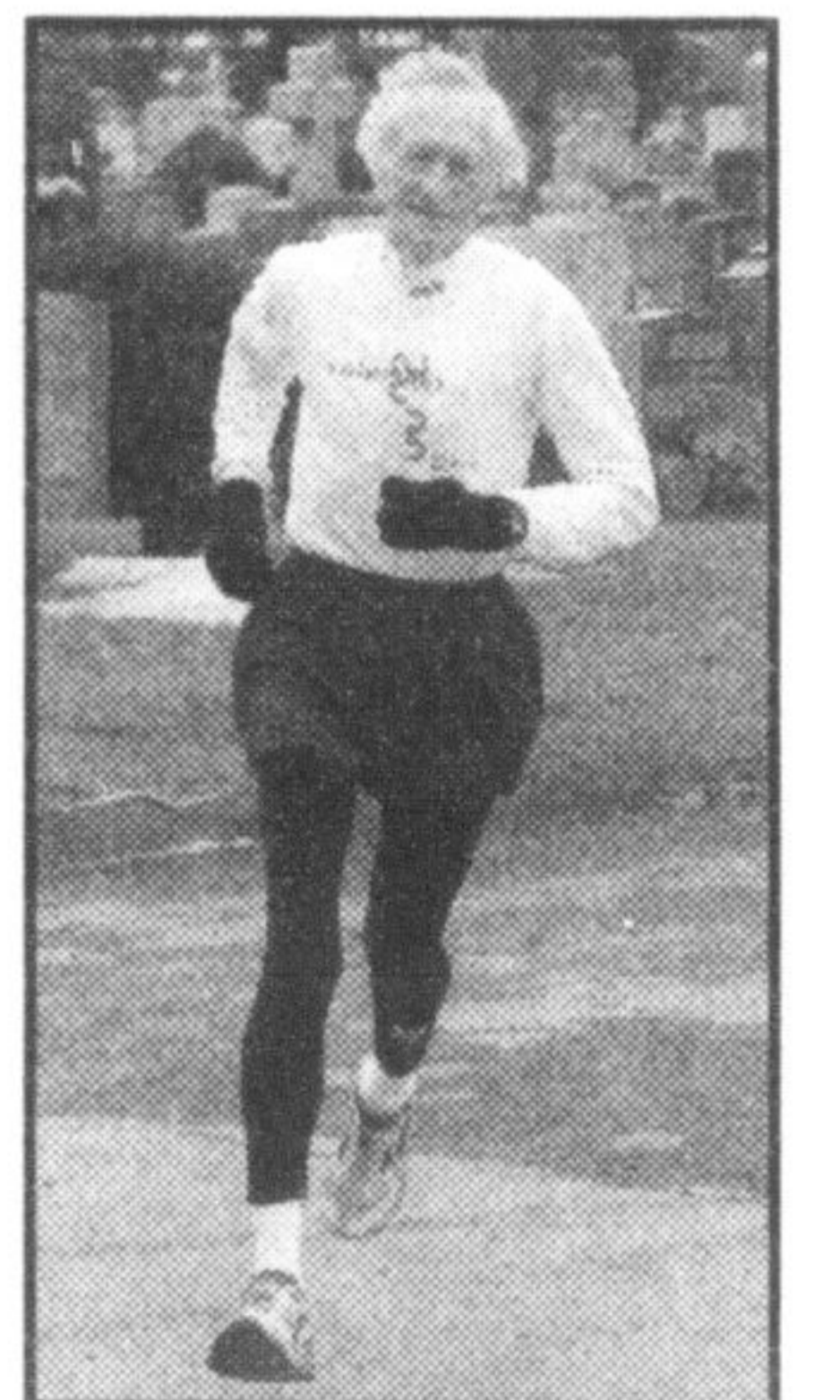
The avid local runner hopes to become the planet's first 70-and-older runner to complete a marathon (42.2 kilometres) in under three hours — and had initially eyed this past weekend's race in Ottawa as the site for his latest attempt.

But a less-than-stellar half-marathon performance in Buffalo late last month suggested that this spring isn't ideal for a record-breaking pursuit.

"I probably won't try again until the fall," he said.

The 72-year-old racer came heartbreakingly close to dipping under the three-hour mark exactly two years ago — May 13, 2001 — in London, when he set a new world benchmark in the division with a 3:00.24.

Whitlock was sidelined for much of the next 18 months with a knee injury, that in all likelihood originated from his record-setting effort.



Ed Whitlock

## Annual triathlon slated for June 1

It's once again time to get in gear for the 2003 Milton Triathlon.

This year's event will be held June 1 — as always, at Kelso Conservation Area.

Part of the Subaru Triathlon Series, Milton's season-opening competition will once again include races for those of all skill levels.

For the beginner, there's a Try-A-Tri introduction featuring a 375-metre swim, 10-kilometre bike, 2.5-kilometre run course.

More ambitious athletes will want to tackle either the 1km swim, 30km bike, 7.5km run triathlon, or the 2km run, 30km bike, 7.5km run duathlon.

Event organizers are still looking

for volunteers, and any non-profit group that gets 10 or more people together to help out will receive a small portion of the proceeds.

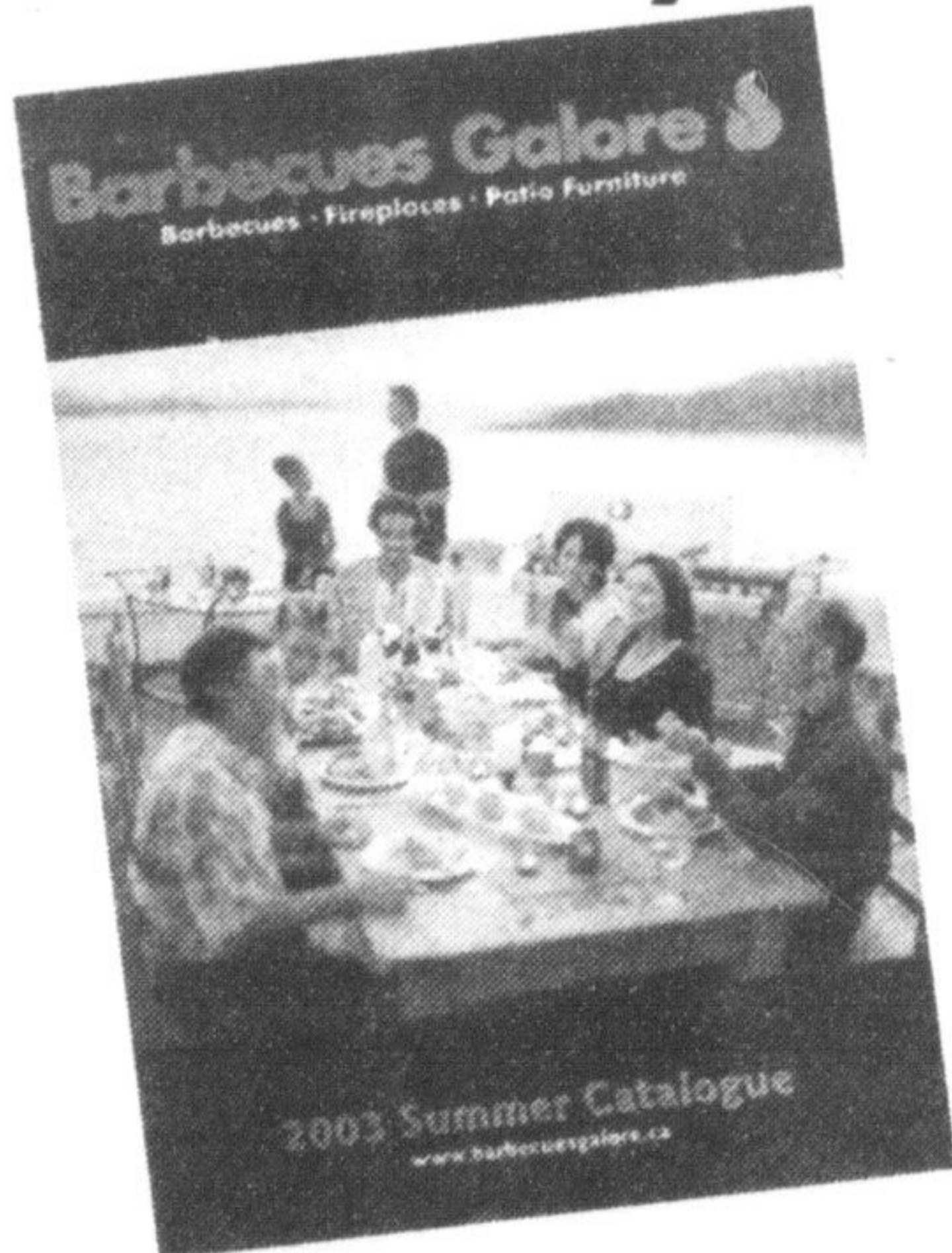
To sign up as a volunteer or participant, or for more information, call Harry Barnes at 1 (519) 823-2173 or e-mail him at hbarne2411@rogers.com.

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