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Jr. B Mavericks cough up late lead to Sarnia Pacers

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The Jr. B Mavericks held victory in the palm of their hand in Sarnia Friday night.

However, their grip just wasn't tight enough to secure the win.

Milton coughed up a two-goal lead inside the final 13 minutes of play and wound up losing 8-7 to the Pacers.

The heartbreaking defeat capped a disappointing 2-7-1 first half of the season for the Mavericks — whose long-shot playoff hopes are now dangerously close to extinction.

On a night when the hosts' overly-aggressive play cost their coach a first-period ejection and their players a non-stop parade to the sin-bin, Milton seemed poised to upset an upper-echelon team and gain some momentum for the second half.

But Josh Arnold's top-notch cage work and a strong performance by star sophomore Kyle Goertz would go to waste, as the short-staffed Mavericks simply ran out

of fuel and were eclipsed.

Milton was without the services of a handful of regulars — due to injury and personal commitments — including captain Kyle Hagel.

Goertz donned the 'C' and stood out with three goals and an assist.



Derek Eans, Mark Galick, Paul Pedulla and Brendan Thenhaus all recorded a goal and an assist, while contributing three helpers was Morgan Thenhaus.

Pacer Brian Quinn scored the last four goals for the hosts and ended the night with five markers.

Milton's unproductive finish marked a stark contrast to their previous three games — all of which were highlighted with explosive third-period performances.

The Mavericks will look to snap a three-game losing skid when they host Onondaga Saturday at 3 p.m. at John Tonelli Sports Centre. They close out the weekend Sunday at 2 p.m. in Huntsville.

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Bantam girls offer solid showing in narrow loss

The search goes on.

Milton's bantam girls baseball team is still looking for its first season victory, after coming painfully close to delivering one in Guelph Saturday.

The Zesta-sponsored squad engineered a huge mid-morning rally to erase a six-run deficit and take a lead into the bottom of the sixth. Unfortunately, Guelph managed the last turnaround and squeaked by with an 11-10 final.

Milton — now 0-4 — hit double-digits for the first time this year on the strength of Lynnea Gooch and Stephanie Ervin, who drove in three and two runs respectively.

Also figuring in the third-inning comeback were Leah Brighton, Kelsey Coad, Sarah McFarlane and Natalie Wallace.

Saturday's narrow loss was the team's finest showing to date, and marked a major improvement over a 12-2 humbling at the hands of Burlington Thursday night at Bronte Meadows.

While Brighton, Stephanie Mayes and Hoytfox sisters Ali and Kourtney offered fairly credible pitching, ill-timed errors opened the floodgates in both the third and fourth innings — during which the visitors scored six runs apiece.

Mayes and Jennifer Gadd brought in Zesta's runs, which were both posted in the opening frame.

The local ladies will look to build on its improvement this Saturday in Birchmont, before returning home to face North York June 5 at 8:30 p.m. at Bronte Meadows.

BR track team qualifies five for South Regionals

Old Bishop Reding records fell and new track and field champs rose to the challenge last week in Hamilton.

Five Royals advanced past the Halton/GHAC championships — and in the process shattered three school benchmarks, two of which were broken by junior girls star Julie Iantorno.

She set new standards in both the 200 and 400m runs — eclipsing records that had stood for 13 and seven years respectively — and highlighted her three-event qualifying campaign with a first-place finish in the long jump with a 4.60m effort.

Graham Sharp also upstaged a 13-year

BR mark — doing so in the triple jump with a leap of 10.52m that beat all midget boys competitors.

Reding's other Halton/GHAC champ was junior boys athlete Mike Rubino, who took top spot in the 200m with a time of 11.97 seconds.

Rounding out the qualifying bid were senior girls Michelle Doell and Megan Ames. Doell took second in the 800m and fourth in the 1,500m, while Ames leapt to third-place honours in the long jump.

These five Royals now move on to the South Regionals, which will be held tomorrow and Thursday in St. Catharines.

Lacrosse bantams on fire

The embarrassment of riches continues.

Milton's bantam rep lacrosse team delivered its third consecutive blowout at John Tonelli Sports Centre Wednesday evening — dismantling Minto 14-0.

The Mavericks have become more and more dominant with each passing game, but will be hard-pressed to upstage the annihilation they turned in Wednesday.

Joey De'Athe enjoyed the lion's share of

the scoring pie with four goals and an assist, while also standing out in the hit parade with three-goal, one-assist efforts were Ian Goertz and Kevin Winter.

Michael Currie tallied twice, while Richard Bayley and Josh Marshall contributed a goal and an assist apiece.

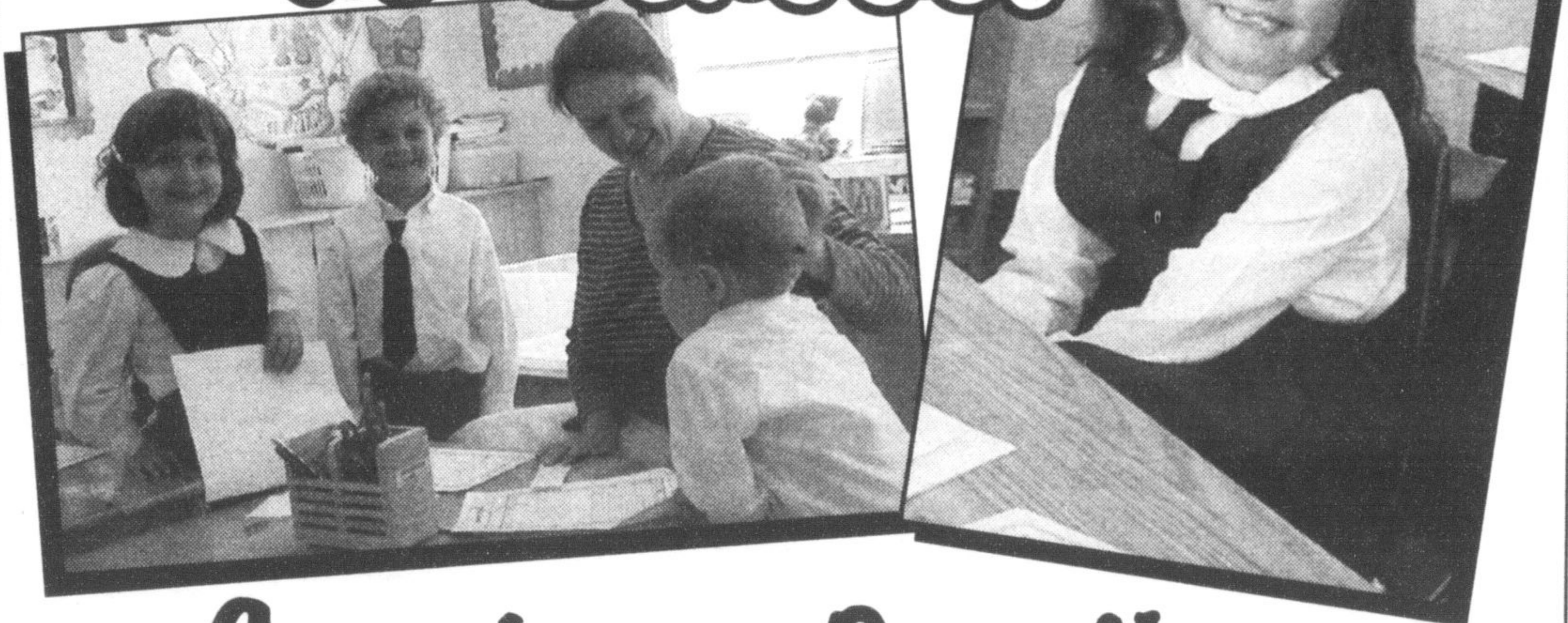
Brad Mewhinney, largely untested on the night, earned his second shutout. He's been scored on just once this season.

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