

Hart Jr. victorious in return engagement bout



Matt Hart Jr. earned a pay-back win over two-time national champ Allan Hutton in Hamilton June 7.

Scores split decision win over seasoned rival

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Victory is always sweet, but especially so when it comes in the form of pay-back.

Matt Hart Jr. can certainly attest to that, after delivering a little in-ring revenge earlier this month at Hamilton's Regency Boxing Club.

Eager to square his record with two-time national champion Allan Hutton, Milton's 25-year-old boxer both absorbed and administered punishment in impressive fashion on the way to winning by a split decision.

"This feels great," said the local pugilist, who boosted his record to 12-2 with the June 7 victory. "I was very hungry for this rematch, particularly since I felt I'd won our first fight, so I'm really happy with

how things turned out."

Hutton-Hart Jr. II featured a drop down from the light middleweight to welterweight ranks. But a trimmer mass didn't seem to affect the up-and-coming boxer's punching power.

After weathering a couple of initial shots almost immediately, Hart Jr. matched his more seasoned adversary blow for blow for the remainder of the three-round clash — which at times more closely resembled a street fight than a technical boxing showdown.

Recalled Milton's only known active boxer, "It was his (Hutton's) hometown and his crowd, so I knew he was going to try to turn it up for this one. We traded shots pretty good in there and really exploded on each other a few times."

But Hart Jr. seemed to connect with a little more frequency as the fight wore on — managing to neutralize his hometown rival's speed — and rocked Hutton with a couple of right jab, left hook combinations in the waning moments of the match. "I banged away at his chest a lot and he was stumbling at the end," said the victor.

The return-engagement win was no doubt the biggest since Hart Jr. switched over to the Bramalea Boxing Club, and should act as a momentum builder for later this year — when the local boxer plans to turn pro.

But before that happens, could area fight fans be treated to a Hutton-Hart Jr. tiebreaker? "Sure, I'm game," remarked Hart Jr. "Anything to stay busy."

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Dancing Smartly into US hall of fame

She was 'girl power' personified — a remarkable Canadian who recently added another hall of fame induction to her credit.

But to anyone associated with thoroughbred horse racing, Dance Smartly was much more than just a champion.

Already a member of the Canada Horse Racing Hall of Fame, Dance Smartly — owned by Milton's Sam-Son Farm — was recently selected for induction into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame, located in Saratoga Springs, New York.

For Tammy Samuel-Balaz, who heads Sam-Son Farm on behalf of her family, any opportunity to speak of the only filly to ever earn Canada's Triple Crown is most welcome.

"She truly epitomizes what our breeding program is all about," said Samuel-Balaz of Dance Smartly, bred in Canada by her father, the late great Ernie Samuel. "I wish Dad was here to see this. He'd be very proud."

Unbeaten as a three-year-old, Dance Smartly — a granddaughter of famed

Canadian champion Northern Dancer — earned Sovereign Awards in the three-year-old filly and Horse of the Year categories in 1991.

She also won an Eclipse Award — the U.S. equivalent of a Sovereign — that same year.

Despite her impressive racing resume, Samuel-Balaz offers just as much praise of the daughter of Danzig's winning personality.

"We have noticed that her fangs share what we call the 'Dance Smartly attitude,'" raved Samuel-Balaz. "She has a special look in her eye and seems to hold court when you see her. She knows that she's special and we're okay with that. She's earned it."

Dance Smartly is currently 15 years old and splitting her time between Halton and Kentucky.

Of all Dance Smartly's successes, too numerous to list, Samuel-Balaz points to the 1991 Breeders' Cup Distaff at Churchill Downs in Kentucky as one of her proudest moments.

"It was a thrill to see people waving

Canadian flags in the stands and to know that she had become Canada's filly," she said of the thrilling victory over top-ranked Quenna. "It was an honour to share her with the country. Dad was always a proud Canadian, so it meant a lot to him and our family."

While Dance Smartly's induction into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame is a major accomplishment in itself, the enormity of the honour isn't lost on anyone associated with Sam-Son Farm.

Said Samuel-Balaz, "We as Canadians know how competitive our race horses are, but hopefully this will help others to step up and take notice too. It (induction) is something we are extremely proud of."

Dance Smartly won 12 of 17 career starts over three years for lifetime earnings of \$3,263,836. She was the first broodmare to foal back-to-back Queen's Plate winners — with Scatter The Gold and Dancethruthedawn prevailing in 2000 and 2001 respectively.

The induction ceremony will take place in August.

HOOPS camp back

The HOOPS All-Stars basketball camp is heading back to Milton. The well-known summer program will return with another week of day-long instruction at Sam Sherratt School from July 21 to 25. That same week, the program will make its first appearance in Campbellville, holding court at Brookville Public School.


The camps are open to boys and girls between the ages of seven and 12, with daily activities running between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Included with a player's \$130 registration fee are a Raptors jersey and tickets to watch Toronto's NBA team practice at the Air Canada Centre.

To register, or for more information, call Sherif Wahby at (905) 507-9687, or visit www.hoopsallstars.com.

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Sr. Red Sox rained out — again

For Milton's senior baseball team, this spring has been a real washout — literally.

The Red Sox already have close to a dozen make-up games due to near certain weekend downpours — which put the kibosh on scheduled competition for both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Needless to say, July and August are going to be awfully hectic around COBA's senior circles. Said Milton manager George Moore, "There's talk that we may have to go to a weekend tournament format just to get all the games in."

His 1-5 Red Sox have been particularly idle at home, with four of their last five Saturday afternoon games doused by Mother Nature.

And as cancellations continue to mount, so too does Moore's frustration — since a lack of play is severing affecting his young team's development. "We can't

seem to bring it all together, and that's partially because we can't seem to get on any kind of a competitive roll," he fumed.

In Burlington Wednesday night, the Red Sox showed plenty of ill effects from their sporadic spring play — causing seven errors and falling to the powerhouse Brants 6-3.

A rather quiet five-hit performance combined with a shaky infield unit for the loss, which came just four days after the local lads delivered their first league victory over Dundas. Milton overcame a couple of early deficits, but surrendered three runs in the bottom of the seventh. Only two Burlington runs were earned.

Dwayne Johnson, Todd Devlin and Pat Mastro recorded the RBI.

The Red Sox travel to Dundas tonight and then head to Etobicoke Friday.

Tennis club shines in Mississauga

The Milton Tennis Club's Division 1 team ran roughshod over Mississauga's Ontario Racquet Club June 9, prevailing 10-2.

The decisive victory was due in large part to a sweep by the local men, while mixed doubles partners Belinder Kuipers and Bob Edwards gutted out a huge tiebreaker win to aid in the overall

triumph.

Tracey Morgan and Sarah Stanley also contributed with split sets.

The Division 1 team turned its attention to Burlington Central yesterday. Results were not available at press time.

Meanwhile, Milton's Majors would come out on top June 10 with a 5-1 decision over host

Brampton. This pushed the team's record to 2-1-2 and followed a 4-2 win over Unionville June 3.

On the friendly confines of Bronte Meadows, Chris Boyd and Jeff Truswell took another three-set thrilled 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5) to highlight the overall win, while Jeff Boychuk and Bruce Smith prevailed 7-6, 6-3 to further fuel the locals.

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