

Late-season fortune shines on provincial-bound Jr. Sox

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Junior Red Sox enjoyed both good fortune and good baseball play last week.

The combination earned them passage to the upcoming Ontario 'C' championships in Listowel. Milton won the provincial crown last summer, but heading into the last month of this season wasn't in a position for a title defense — since there was no way to catch league-leading Brampton.

However, Brampton was felt by many to be a 'B' caliber club — due to the community's size and the team's stellar showing this year — and that reclassification finally came through last week.

This left the door open for the Red Sox to solidify COBA's Ontario 'C' berth — which is exactly what they did at Brian Best Park Sunday afternoon.

"I kept telling the guys not to give up, that it (provincial qualification bid) wasn't over," said jubilant manager Glenn Turner. "Sure enough, my words rang true."

Fueled by the newfound opportunity Brampton's ranking change offered, the local lads scored three of four possible points in a double-header against the league front-runners Sunday to cement their provincial entry.

Dumping Brampton 8-2 in game one highlighted the Red Sox' regular season campaign. Ian Moszczak stood tall on the hill, scattering eight hits over a complete-game seven-inning performance, and was sufficiently supported in the field — at least until the final frame when a couple of errors nixed his shutout bid.

Offensively, Jordan Jeans fell just a single short of hitting for the cycle, recording three runs on a

double, triple and homer. Michael Volpe and Nate Perrott contributed two hits apiece.

A seesaw second game saw Milton score twice in the bottom of the sixth to tie it at 8-8. That's how the contest would end, as the visitors' pitching staff was simply spent.

Perrott ran hot and cold on the mound, while closing things out in fine fashion was Mike Grabauskas. Reese Davies highlighted the Red Sox' plate performance with a two-run dinger.

Milton begins its league playoffs in Mississauga tonight against Georgetown.

The four-team double-knockout playdowns serve as a prelude to next weekend's provincial championships.

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IceHawks show strongly at Boston Chowder Cup

Seven IceHawks — four veterans and three newcomers — got in some early competition at last week's annual Chowder Cup in Boston.

The Milton players were part of a Provincial Jr. A league team, led by new IceHawks' skipper George Dupont, that went 2-1 at the well-scouted tournament and just missed advancing to the quarterfinals.

The IceHawks contingent helped their club topple Boston's Bay State and then score a 5-3 upset victory over the Connecticut Wolves — a highly-stacked adversary with 10 active NCAA Division 1 players. From there they were dumped 7-3 by the Boston Jr. Bruins in their third game within 24 hours.

Both the Provincial Jr. A squad and Connecticut finished with 2-1 records, but a goals-for-and-against tiebreaker format allowed the Wolves to move on.

Dupont said he was quite impressed with all of his local players — in particular Andrew Bonello, Milton's only returning defenceman.

Native Miltonian Mike Novak — set to join him on the blueline this season — was among the other tournament participants.

Just prior to the tournament the IceHawks signed three more newcomers, bringing the number of new faces up to six.

The most promising member of the trio — at least from a numbers perspective — is 18-year-old centre Mike DeMarchi. Among the GTHL's top scorers last year with the midget champion Mississauga Rebels, the 5'9", 170 lbs. forward amassed 48 goals and 113 total points in 60 games in 2002/03.

Joining him with the IceHawks will be Rebels teammate Jeff Caister — a 6'1", 175 lbs. defenceman. The 18-year-old is said to possess a well-rounded game and was among the big reasons Mississauga reigned supreme last season.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Toronto Marlie Ryan McInerney — who stood tall at June's OHA Referee Tournament — was also signed to a card last week.

The IceHawks begin training camp August 17.

Local BMXer wins, again

Tim DaSilva's riding rampage continues.

The Milton BMXer — who turned 18 July 28 — has been burning up the track all summer, and did so again recently in Norwalk, Ohio.

There he dominated the 18 to 20-year-old novice competition, with back-to-back sweeps.

Adding yet another chapter to what's

been a simply sensational season, he won all three moto races and then scored about a three-bike length victory in the main event on July 26.

July 27 he matched those results exactly — once again leading the mains from start to finish. Recalled DaSilva, "I whole-shot-ed it and pretty much carried the race."

The local teen is without question one of the most improved national-level racers on either side of the border this year, and credits his remarkable progress to weekly trail riding.

"It's helped out a lot," he stressed.

The 18-and-up novice front-runner will look to punctuate his championship-rich season — which includes five main event victories — with a strong showing at the U.S. Grand Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky over the Labour Day weekend.

DaSilva expects to at least make it to the grand national main event, and considers himself a genuine contender to win it all. "I'd say I've got a chance," he suggested.

Under-18 Magic battle to scoreless stalemate

Milton's Under-10 boys rep soccer squad was severely short-staffed heading into Burlington Monday.

However, the Steve's Handyman Service-sponsored club — minus any substitutes and competing with just 10 players — more than made up for their depleted ranks with a defensive prowess that was nothing short of inspiring.

As a result, the Magic managed to finish in a scoreless stalemate with Burlington's A team and push their league record to 2-5-4.

Netminder Nigel Goodwin got a little banged up during the hard-fought

encounter, but persevered to make a few quality saves and maintain the shutout.

Providing top-notch support were defenders Mackenzie Robertson, Matt Kewin, Dylan Innes and Sean McGovern, as well as mid-fielders Ryan Alexander, Jordan Richards and Bradley Fitzsimmons.

Tyler Gerrits and Zachary Schomberg mounted a few key scoring chances up front but just couldn't dent the twine.

The tie served as partial payback for a 3-0 defeat to the Burlington As in the second round of the League Cup play-downs.

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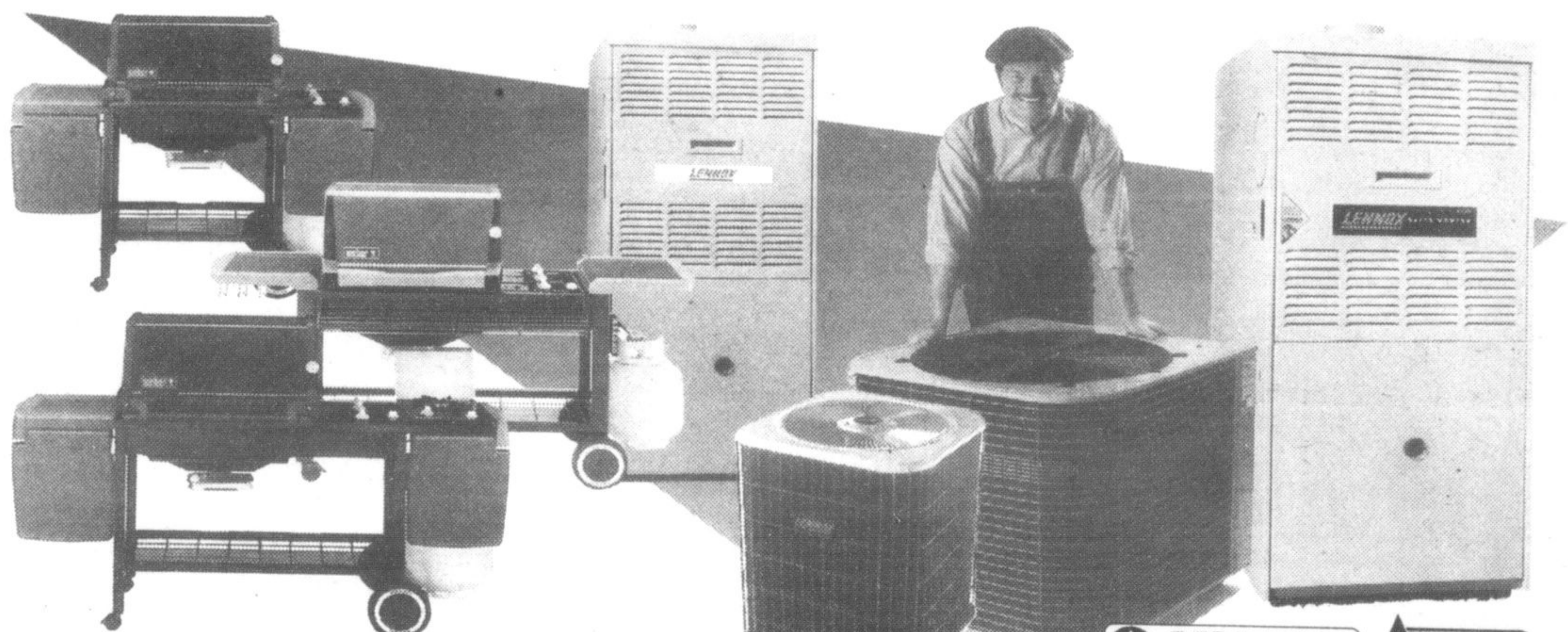
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2	MILTON BIBLE	15	12	3	0	24
3	NEW LIFE DEAF	15	11	4	0	22
4	NEW LIFE "B"	16	8	5	3	19
5	NEW LIFE "A"	16	8	7	1	17
6	ST. GEORGES	15	7	7	1	15
7	SOUTH SIDE '2'	15	7	8	0	14
8	KNOX	13	4	8	1	9
9	BOSTON	14	4	9	1	9
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Correction

A sports story in Tuesday's Champion contained incorrect information.

The article stated that 16-year-old squash ace Alisha Turner struck gold at last month's Pan American Games, when in fact she helped Team Canada's girls squad win at the Junior Pan American Games.

The Champion regrets this error.