

Jr. Mystics fall short of bronze at provincials

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Junior Mystics came so close to winning a provincial medal they could almost taste it.

But instead the local girls fastball team was left to chock down a mighty bitter pill — one of missed opportunity.

In a game guaranteeing bronze against Kingston's Central Frontenac August 17, Milton stranded nine runners on bases on the way to being eclipsed 4-3.

This spelled elimination from the double-knockout tournament.

"We just couldn't get the key hits across," said manager Roy Harrold, whose squad had the winning run aboard in the fifth with only one out and

the tying run on first with no outs in the seventh — each time failing to capitalize.

Nevertheless, the Mystics' Ontario Tier 2 championship efforts marked a significant improvement over last summer — when they took sixth.

Moving up two spots this season was largely the doing of reliable ace Eryl Morgan, who was named the tournament's most valuable pitcher because of two topnotch performances.

In addition to keeping things interesting in the do-or-die medal showdown, she tossed a gem of a game to beat Whitby 2-1 in weekend-opening play.

Also factoring heavily into this initial win was third baseman Natalee Somenzi, who made all

three outs in the final frame — highlighting her defensive prowess with an unassisted double play — to cement the victory.

Seventh-inning runs were driven in by Christine Brown and Sherylene Leslie, both of whom had two hits.

A 7-3 loss to host Kars (near Ottawa) in round two would put the Mystics on the endangered species list, but they'd stave off elimination — at least temporarily — with a 13-1 annihilation of Grimsby. The third-round encounter had do-or-die implications for both teams, although only Milton performed with any sense of purpose or urgency.

Grimsby managed to put together a five-hit string in the opening frame, but was essentially

neutralized the rest of the way and mercied in the minimum five innings. "Lindsey (Harrold) and the defense went to work after that and really shut them down," Milton's bench boss explained.

Sarah Mooney drove in a handful of runs on two hits, including a bases-clearing double, while Brown and Laura Anne Sheehan also stood out with four hits apiece.

Along with her exceptional pitching, Morgan recorded the only RBI of the bronze-medal clash with Central Frontenac.

Clarkson — Milton's chief rival in league play — went on to beat Kars for the gold.

Steve LeBlanc can be reached at sleblanc@haltonsearch.com.

Tryouts on for new boys baseball team

There's certainly no shortage of baseball opportunities in Halton.

And the market will be further saturated next summer, with the addition of the Oakville Royals — who'll oppose area midget teams as well as the Halton Athletic Club's Under-19 squad in trying to enlist the region's premier boys of summer.

Like HAC, Oakville's 18-and-under team will compete at tournaments on both sides of the border and offer its players exposure to both university and professional scouts.

The Royals will be holding tryouts over the next three weekends at Oakville's Neyagawa Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. All players who'll still be under 19 years of age as of August 1, 2004 are eligible to compete.

While roster spots at all positions are up for grabs, the team is most in need of pitchers.

A minimal one-time tryout fee of \$10 is required.

For further information, call head coach Mel Swinton at (905) 257-0656 or 1 (289) 259-6465.

Quick exit for local bants at OBA finals

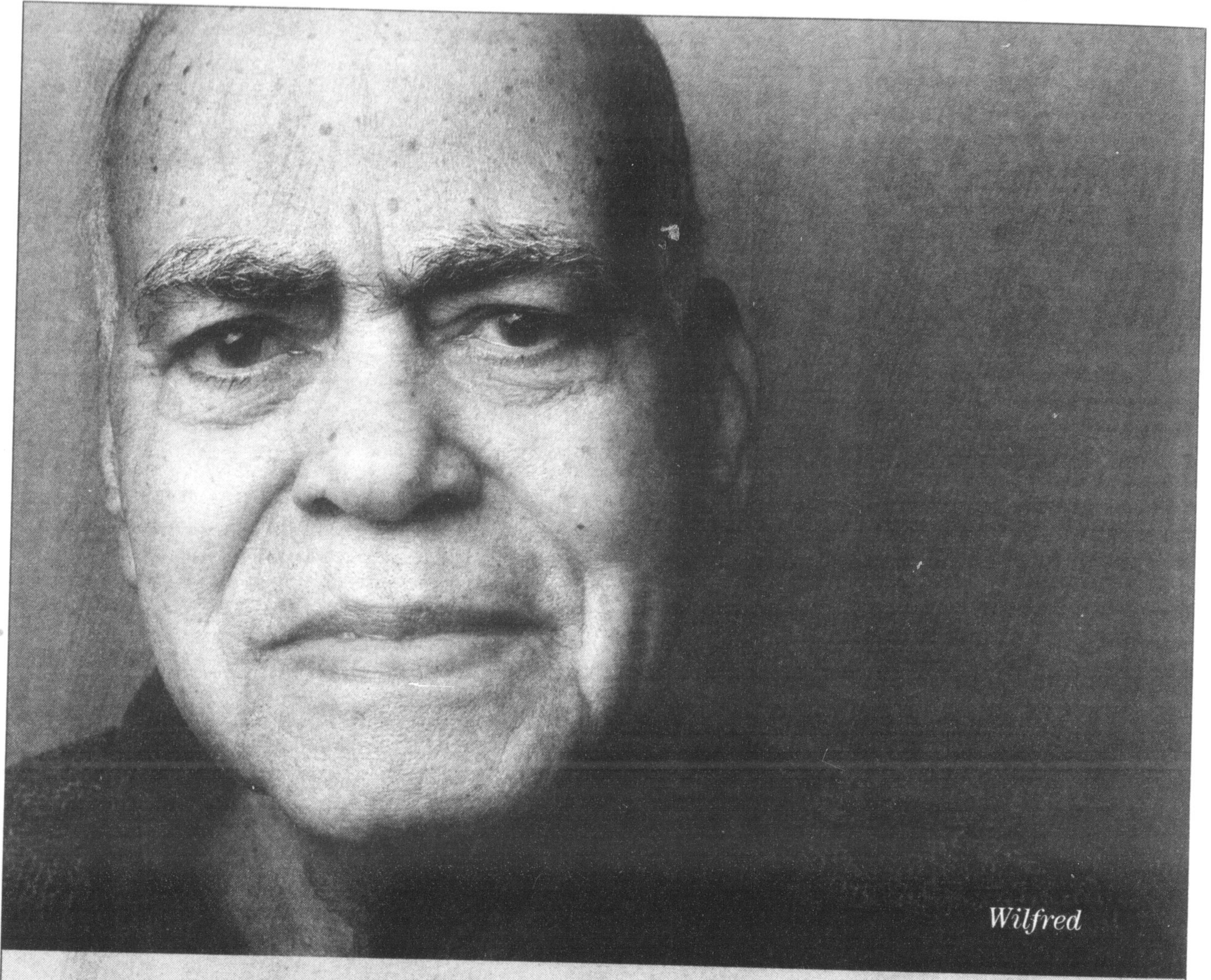
Milton's bantam girls hardball team ran into a brick wall of competition last weekend at the provincial championships in Birchmount.

The Zesta-sponsored club kept things interesting for a while in round one, but wound up losing 20-10 to Guelph.

From there the local ladies had all sorts of trouble in a 25-5 shellacking at the hands of Royal York. The latter defeat eliminated them from the double-knockout tournament.

"Errors really did us in," said manager Bob Gooch.

The bantam girls had three more league games remaining heading into last night's home game against Mississauga.



Wilfred

Sometimes, the best way to maintain your independence is to get a little help.

Now you can get the help you need.

Never before have there been so many ways to get the kinds of help you need at home or in your community. Services can range from in-home help with everyday tasks to nursing and personal care support in a long-term care facility. Your local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) can help you

decide what options would work best for you and help you arrange for the services you need.

To find out more, call 1-877-234-4343 and ask for a free *Home and Community Care for Seniors* brochure. Or visit www.health.gov.on.ca and click on *Seniors' Care*.



Milton Sports
— Looking Back

August 30, 1992

Campbellville's Junior Hanley did what was at one time considered impossible when he won the third leg of the \$50,000 Budweiser Triple Crown to cap his second championship hat-trick in as many years at Cayuga. The veteran stock car driver finished one second ahead of Winston Cup star Kenny Schrader.

August 29, 1996

Milton pitching ace Pat Lynch signed as a free agent with the Toronto Blue Jays. The local teen inked a one-year deal with the hometown major league club just two months after leading the Milton District High School baseball team to a near-perfect 21-1 season and the Bob Prentice Cup provincial championship.

August 31, 1997

Miltonian Carrie-Ann Nichols shone through an early-morning downpour to win the third annual Women's Triathlon Milton. The high-endurance teen tamed the 300-metre swim, 10-km bike, 2-km run course in championship form — with a record-setting finish of 33 minutes and 41 seconds to beat the old mark by nearly a full minute.