

Marauders stifle Soo for crucial road win

Milton now at 4-2 with two games left

By MURRAY TOWNSEND
Special to The Champion

The Milton Marauders won their third game in a row and improved to 4-2 on the season with a 28-7 decision over Sault Ste. Marie Saturday evening.

The victory was rewarding for several reasons, not the least of which was the lengthy drive to Sault Ste. Marie. The Steelers were 8-0 last season, losing the league championship to Oakville.

"This trip is a killer to a lot of teams," remarked head coach Barry Emo. "You're crumpled in a vehicle for eight or nine hours and you're tired from the drive. They've always had a good home record, and it's always been because of the trip."

There were more hurdles to overcome, according to Emo.

"Another difficulty was coming off a huge emotional win. There's always a danger of a letdown, but the guys responded well, got pumped up, and played aggressive football."

If that wasn't enough, possibly the most satisfying aspect of the win to Emo was that a lot of regular players were missing from the lineup — including six defensive starters. "We still went up there with 45 players. With so much depth and so much talent we didn't miss a beat."

In the first half, Domenic Camastro had touchdown strikes of 50 yards to Craig

Hudak and 21 yards to Crispin Barnes. Linebacker David Joseph recovered a fumble and took it 50 yards to give Milton a 21-0 half-time lead. Len Watkins kicked the extra points on each major, not Ken Atkins as was reported last week.

In the second half, Matt McPhail took over the quarterbacking reigns and connected with Barnes for a 72-yard completion, with Jon Nedeljkovic taking it in the remaining four yards for the TD. Nedeljkovic had 12 carries for 72 yards on the day.

Defensively, Emo says they "man-handled" the Steelers physically.

"We knocked out their first string quarterback, their second string quarterback and their third string quarterback. By the end they had a wide receiver handing off the ball and trying not to get hurt. They had at least 14 injured players taken off the field."

Emo handed out special praise to Joseph, who was credited with seven tackles, a sack and a fumble recovery return for a touchdown; Kojo Millington, who had three tackles for losses, a forced fumble and a sack; Doug Buchynski, who filled in for Wayne Sliwinski; and Kirby Ginn at safety.

Now needing just a split to deliver their first winning season since joining the league in 2002, the Marauders enjoy a bye week before their rematch with Oakville at Bronte Field July 24. Game time is 6 p.m. They close out the regular season at home against Markham July 31.

Senior Sox eclipse Oakville

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

The Senior Red Sox punctuated this past weekend with an exciting exclamation mark at Brian Best Park Saturday.

After coughing up what appeared to be a comfortable lead, Milton eked out on one final run in its last at-bat to shade Oakville 5-4 and improve to 9-9 in league play.

Veteran Matt McCandless provided the heroics, delivering a one-out high hopping single over the first baseman's outreached glove that cashed in Taylor Lawton from second.

The afternoon clash didn't appear headed for a suspenseful conclusion, as starter Adam Finkbeiner gave up just two hits through the first five innings — during which time his teammates mounted a 4-0 lead with a few key hits and some aggressive base-running.

However, Oakville would eventually square things up and actually outthit their hosts 11-9 before being eclipsed. Returning pitcher Nathan Tami worked the last two frames and picked up the win for the Red Sox, who were flawless defensively for the second straight game.

At the plate, Milton's production was spread out — with Kevin Comiski enjoying the only multi-hit performance of the day. He drove in the opening

run, while other RBI were posted by McCandless, Chris Coughlin and Reese Davies — who left in the seventh after his girlfriend was struck in the face with a hard-line foul and had to go to the hospital.

In Brampton Friday night, the Red Sox manufactured a 12-hit attack to sink the lowly Braves 7-2.

Pat Mastrogiacomo was a one-man wrecking crew with a two-run homer and 4-for-5 evening. McCandless and Jeff Sommer had two hits apiece, while Adam Ahearn went six strong innings to record the victory.

Getting one inning of relief each were Matt Dickson, Mike Grabauskas and Jeff MacLeod.

Milton's seniors are back in action tomorrow night in Burlington and then compete at this weekend's Lakeside Tournament in London.

Meanwhile, the Junior Red Sox won by default over Burlington Thursday night after a ninth-inning brawl — ignited with a collision at home between Kevin Cooper and the opposing catcher — left the hosts without enough players to finish things out.

Cooper and Evan Jeans were both suspended three games in the melee, which capped a seesaw battle that had Burlington clinging to a 4-3 lead when things came to an abrupt end.

The juniors are in Brampton Thursday to take on the Royals and return to Brian Best Sunday at 1 p.m. to do battle with Georgetown.

A Magic victory in Gold Final

By SANDRA SNYDER

Special to The Champion

McCall Magic proved that her recent elimination win was more than smoke and mirrors with a commanding victory in Friday night's \$130,000 Gold Final at Woodbine Racetrack.

The three-year-old trotting filly and Milton driver Steve Condren delivered an impressive performance, sitting on the outside through the last half of the mile and then drawing away in the stretch for a two-length triumph in 1:56.3.

Favourite Zorgrwijk Emani led the fillies through fractions of :28, :58.1 and 1:27.2 before yielding to McCall Magic around the final turn and fading through the lane to finish five lengths back in sixth.

Silhouette Dream and Ifhallsouldtalk popped out

behind McCall Magic heading for the three-quarter pole and trotted in her wake down the stretch to finish side-by-side in second and third respectively.

The win was McCall Magic's third straight on the Woodbine oval. The Angus Hall daughter captured a non-winners of two races even on June 22 and delivered an Ontario Sires Stakes record 1:55.2 effort in the July 2 Gold Elimination.

John Hayes trains the winner of \$158,315 for partners Michael Horgan of Roseneath, Tillsonburg's Press Time Stable and Kim Kaplan of Worcester, MA.

The Canadian Breeders Championship eliminations are slated for July 23 at Woodbine, with the final going postward eight days later. The three-year-old trotting fillies resume their OSS Gold Series rivalry August 6 at Flamborough Downs.

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