

Sports

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Miltonians (from left) Ryan Bauer, Shawn Shadlock and Dustin Roskam have been showing strongly with HAC this summer.

HAC holds own at Gates Classic

Sporting three Miltonians, the Halton Athletic Club 16-and-under baseball team delivered a strong tune-up to its biggest test of the summer in their own backyard this past weekend.

Facing a number of the top older teams in southern Ontario, HAC held its own in three of four round-robin games at their annual Gates-America Wood Bat Classic — held at both Brian Best and Maplehurst parks.

The local lads' only humbling defeat came against eventual champion Canadian Thunderbirds Blue, who spanked them 11-1 Saturday evening at Maplehurst.

Left-handed hurler Shawn Shadlock bore much of the damage, despite a solid

four-inning performance against former HAC teammate Julian Richards of Oakville.

"Shawn actually pitched pretty well," said manager Steve Mousseau. "They (Thunderbirds Blue) are just so much older and more experienced. But they had to work for everything they got."

The hosts — who as a 19-and-under squad won the tournament last year — were much more competitive in their first three games, and edged Barrie's IFUII Tigers 1-0 to open things up Friday morning at Brian Best.

From there HAC delivered credible performances against the Toronto Hawks and Canadian Thunderbird 17s — who prevailed 5-3 and 6-2 respectively.

Shadlock came agonizingly close to playing hero in the first of these two losses, hitting a foul ball just a foot wide with runners at second and third in the last inning.

Right fielder Dustin Roskam scored the first run against the Canadian Thunderbird 17s, while he and fellow Miltonian Ryan Bauer — a first-year catcher — showed strongly all weekend.

Mousseau hopes playing these older clubs will now pay dividends at this week's Sandlott World Series in Marietta, Georgia.

The team heads south today and begins the four-day event Thursday. Included will be the crème-de-la-crème of North America's 16-and-under baseball.

Hill loses his Olympic spot

This season was supposed to be a no-lose situation for Shawn Hill.

By August, the Bishop Reding graduate would either be in the major leagues or heading to Athens with the Canadian Olympic team. Instead, he'll likely find himself in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Hill was assigned to Harrisburg — the Montreal Expos' AA affiliate — July 15, just hours after Baseball Canada announced its lineup for the Olympics.

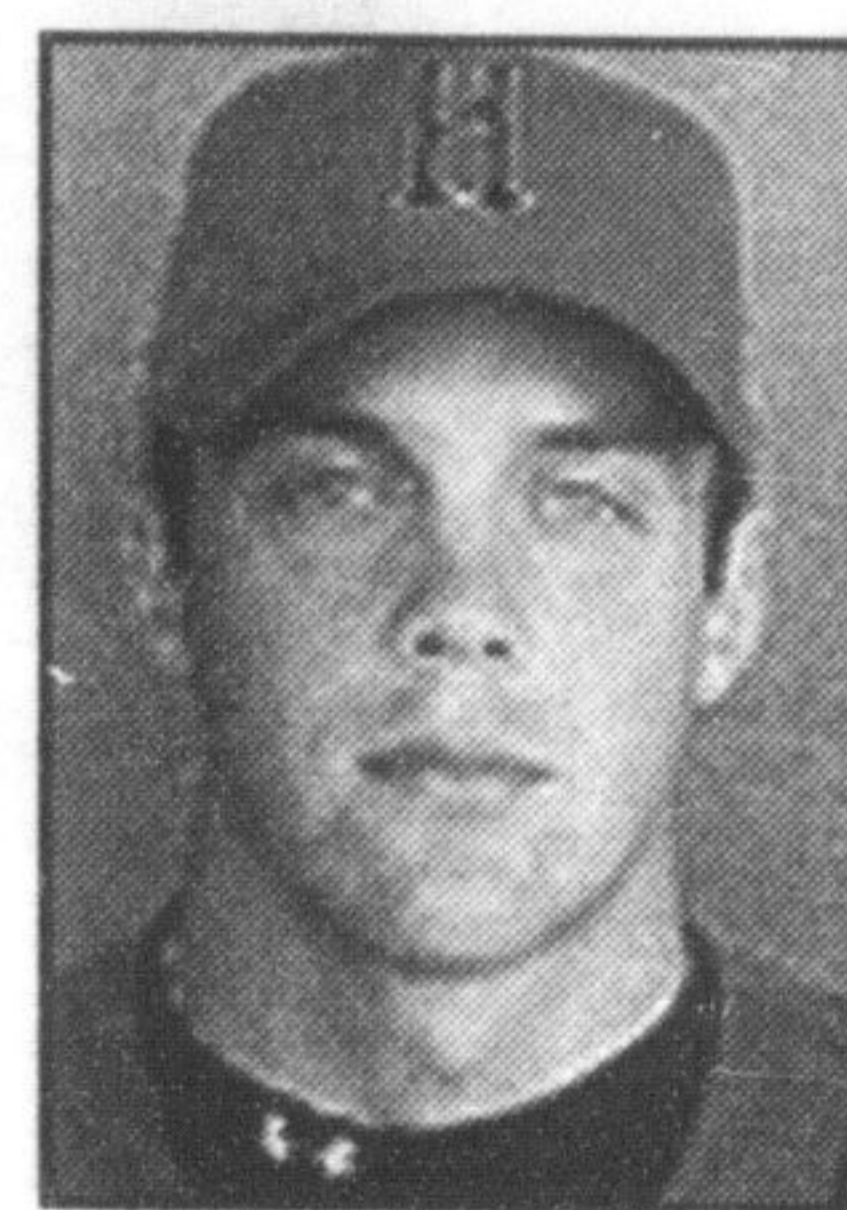
With major leaguers not eligible, Canada left Hill off its roster.

The 23-year-old right-hander was a lock for a spot on the Canadian team, having been called upon to start the gold medal game in the Olympic qualifying tournament and allowing just two runs — both on a seventh-inning homer — against Cuba.

Hill's only chance to be added to the Canada roster now is an injury or a recall. The same day he was demoted, Minnesota recalled first baseman Justin Morneau, who was named to the roster.

Hill, 1-2 in three starts with the Expos, also has his own injury troubles to worry about these days. He left his first start in Harrisburg after only one inning because of a stiff elbow.

His Harrisburg teammates — outfielder Jeremy Ware of Guelph and hitting coach Rob Ducey — were named to the Canadian team.



Shawn Hill

Midget Red Sox nip Georgetown

The Midget Red Sox overcame a few defensive glitches to out-distance neighbouring Georgetown 7-5 Sunday evening at Brian Best Park.

Scott Rankin's bases-loaded suicide squeeze bunt in the eighth scored Tyler Grace and put Milton ahead for good after the visitors tied it up down the stretch. An insurance run by Jordan Fagin moments later and fundamentally-sound play in the ninth combined to sink Georgetown.

Grace, Ryan Bauer, Mike Thistle and Mathé brothers Sean and Lee all fared well at the plate, while Sean Mathé and Fagin shared the pitching duties.

The Red Sox are back in action tomorrow evening, when they travel to Mississauga to take on the Bengals.



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