

# Sports

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## Spirited showing

The Tim Hortons' mixed Under-7 house league team shows plenty of spirit while waiting for the trophy presentation at the Milton Youth Soccer Club's mini skills day Saturday at Lions Sports Park. Here showing their enthusiasm are (top row, from left) Lucas Kingson, Ryan Littlefair, Adriana Stavole, and (bottom row, from left) Mackenzie Modestino, Odyssey Madden, Riley Brady and Isabella Maugeri. The weekend rain held off just long enough for local youngsters to showcase the skills they'd acquired throughout the summer, as the soccer season draws to an end. The house league season officially wraps up with the Competitive Finals Day September 11 at Lions Sports Park.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Defensive lapses continue to plague Senior Sox

*Flawed fielding costly at COBA Final Four*

By STEVE LeBLANC  
*The Champion*

It goes without saying that in baseball, fielding and finish are essential to success.

Unfortunately for the Senior Red Sox, both commodities pulled disappearing acts at this past weekend's COBA Final Four double-knockout playdowns in Burlington.

First to vanish was Milton's defense, with half-a-dozen errors and four passed balls severely crippling game-one efforts against the host Brants Saturday morning at Nelson Stadium.

With three errors committed on one disastrous

play alone in the second inning and another miscue just moments later, the Red Sox practically gift-wrapped a 6-1 decision for Burlington — who took advantage at just about every conceivable opportunity.

"Four passed balls, six errors and three walks — we basically handed them the game," said frustrated manager George Moore. "I'm very concerned at times with our defense. About the only thing that's been consistent lately is our inconsistency."

The Red Sox' game-one butterfingers were especially tough to swallow seeing as they were only out-hit 7-6, thanks to a credible performance by Adam Ahearn.

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**GEORGE MOORE**

Chris Coughlin led with a pair of hits, while Pat Mastrogiacommo scored the lone run.

Facing elimination a few hours later against Erindale, Milton would fortify its fielding — delivering an error-free performance to compli-

ment some solid pitching by Brent Kostal.

Unfortunately, offensive efforts were stunted with 10 runners left in scoring position, which was essentially the story in a 5-3 do-or-die defeat. Added Moore, "We had three lead-off doubles and couldn't cash in any of them."

Todd Devlin, Reese Davies and Kevin Comisky drove in the runs, while Matt Dickson came in to close things out — like he did for Ahearn earlier in the day.

Milton threatened to rally down the stretch, but Erindale's centre fielder made a huge catch on a hard liner by Devlin to crush the late drive.

Now 22-17 overall this year, the Red Sox close out the season this weekend at the Ontario 'B' championships in Courtwright. They'll begin the double-knockout tournament Friday.

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