

Teague delivers for new team at Ontario Eliminations tourney

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national gold five of the last six years and are ranked top-25 in the world.

While the Orioles would exact revenge on Teague and company one weekend later during championship play in London, finishing second at the Ontario Eliminations was hardly cause for disappointment — especially after putting themselves behind the eight ball once again with an opening-round defeat.

Higgins would quickly regroup and steamroll through eight opponents - mercying seven of them — before falling to Toronto 23-11 in their

Rediscovering his plate pop, Teague went 7-for-8 with three home runs at the eliminations to help

his team grab the last qualifying spot for next year's Canadian championships.

Two of those long balls came in a 32-9 dismantling of Leamington in the final hurdle to a national berth, while the other was a last-inning, two-or and two-out dinger that allowed Higgins to squeak by the Windsor Henchman 13-12 and keep their championship run alive.

Teague has a lot more high-stakes competition ahead this summer, including next month in Oshawa where he'll captain the Canadian all-star team and be part of a home run challenge against professiona players as part of the NSA's Canadian World Series.

From there he'll hook back up with his former Binbrook Easton Brewers for the national championships in White Rock, B.C. August 13 to 18.



Nosal haunts Milton in Marauder loss

By Murray Townsend SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The Milton Marauders wish they'd never heard of Jeff Nosal.

The Tri-City Outlaws quarterback was instrumental in ruining the Marauders' perfect season in last year's Northern Football Conference championship game,

and was at it again on Sunday afternoon, engineering a lastminute 23-16 victory.

The Outlaws managed a safety and two long

field goals, but neither offence did much of anythe first-half snoozefest. The Marauders didn't even get it past the midfield stripe until the dying seconds of the half and only a slew of Wayne Sliwinski tackles made it worthwhile watching. Sliwinski finished the day with five tackles including three for lost yardage. Sam Rotolo had 5.5 tackles, and Jason Payne had his best game as a Marauder.

The second half was a wake-up call for Milton right from the kickoff. Domenic Camastro booted it into the end zone where the Tri-City return man managed to get to the two-yard line. The Milton defence didn't give an inch on the possession and the Outlaws surrendered a safety to make the score 8-2.

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Then with Josh Spanick replacing Neil Balthazaar at quarterback, the Marauders took off. On their first play, Spanick connected with a 15-yard pass to Damian Hannaford. Jon Nedljkovic picked up 11 yards, then Spanick caught a Hannaford pass over the middle for a 47-yard TD. Camastro's extra point gave Milton the 9-8 lead and the second half wasn't four minutes old.

The Milton defence allowed negative yards in the third quarter. But, then Nosal went to work in the fourth. He hit a receiver for a 45-yard gain and then finished off the drive with a 38yard run of his own. The two-point conversion failed, but the ensuing kickoff went through the end zone to make it 15-9 Tri-City.

Milton's offence started moving again and moved well into Outlaw territory, mostly with good gains George Baiden, but it

ended when a Spanick pass went through the hands of a Milton receiver, and right to ... you guessed it, Nosal, who also plays defence, and could probably play the banjo at half-time if they needed it.

The defence held yet again, and Hannaford made an excellent punt return of 35 yards to the Tri-City 31-yard line. Nedljkovic ran for 11 yards, setting up a great fingertip catch by Hannaford for the touchdown. Camastro's extra point made it 16-15 for Milton with 2:19 remaining.

Twice it looked as if Milton's defence would shut down Tri-City's final drive, but twice Nosal found receivers open on fourth down, and then ran for 18 yards himself, putting him over the 100-yard rushing mark. With 10 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter Nosal connected with a receiver open in the end zone, then added a two-point conversion.

The win put Tri-City one point ahead of Milton in the Southern Division of the NFC with a 5-1-0-1 mark, but Milton, now 5-2, has their remaining game at home on Saturday to expansion Sarnia, while Tri-City has a tough road opponent in Oshawa to finish off the season.

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