

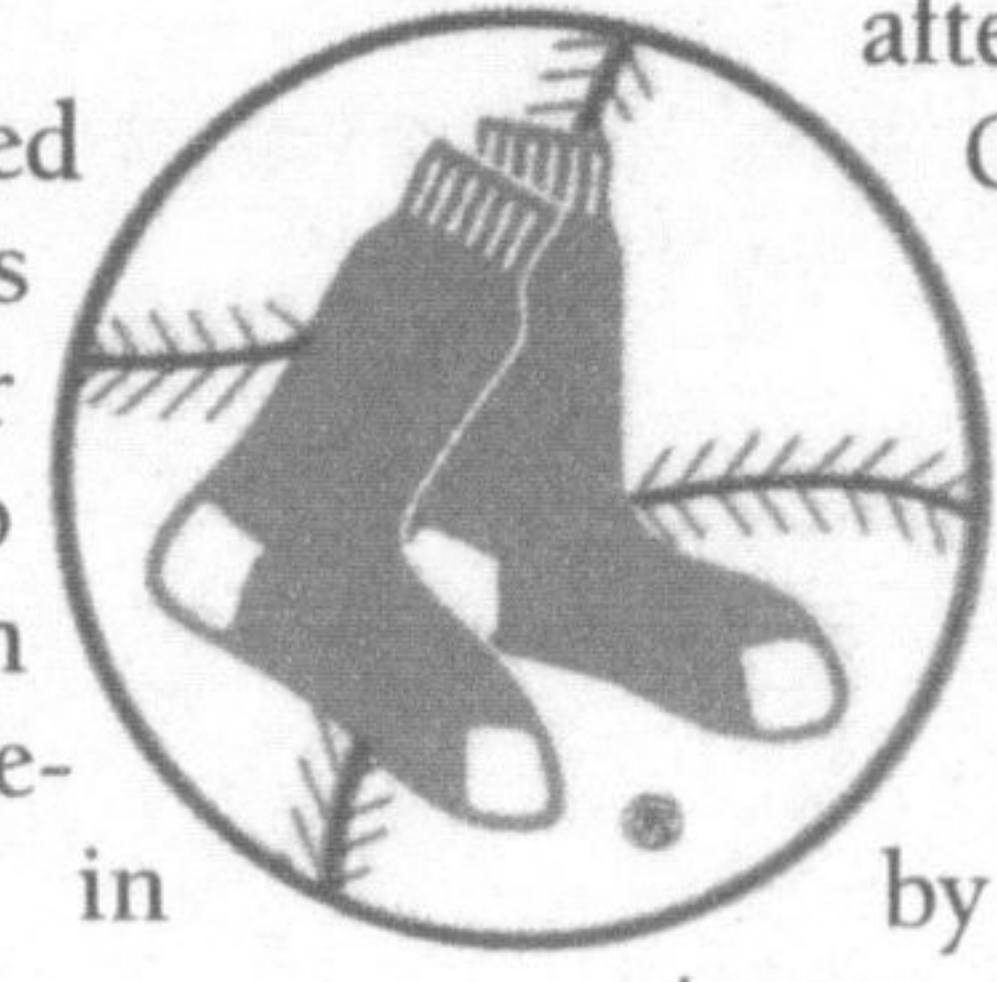
Banged up juniors suffer early exit

Little left for OBAs after intense COBA playoff run

Any emotional boost created from a lengthy COBA championship run was completely overshadowed by the wear and tear sustained from it.

That made for a short-lived run at this past weekend's OBA 'B' championships for the Junior Red Sox, who went down in the minimum two games at the double-knockout tournament in Chatham.

"Three days just wasn't enough to recover from," noted manager Glenn Turner, referring to a six-games-in-four-days stretch that left his charges severely banged up for provincials. "I count-



ed 12 of our 15 guys being hurt." The COBA finalists fell victim to payback in opening-round play Friday afternoon, with a 4-2 loss to the Oakville A's, whom they'd secured their third straight do-or-die win against in the league playdowns just six days earlier.

An error and nervous start by Max Lane allowed Oakville to jump out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning.

The Red Sox quickly answered back with a pair of runs—driven in by Matt Sikorski and Nick Mazzorato—but had nothing left offensively and fin-

ished with just four hits overall.

Some solid relief work by a late-arriving John Brady helped keep things close.

From there, Milton was sent packing Saturday morning with a 5-4 defeat to the Barrie Red Sox, who broke a scoreless stalemate with four runs in the fifth en route to their narrow victory.

Sikorski cashed in Nick Vipond for a second straight game and Trevor Hall delivered a two-run single in the sixth to keep hopes for advancement alive.

Splitting the pitching duties were Scott McTrach and Sean Mathé.

The Red Sox would double their hit total to eight, but just couldn't capitalize with runners in scoring position.

IceHawks' training camp now underway

The wait's nearly over, hockey fans. Now under new ownership, the Jr. A IceHawks began training camp last night at Memorial Arena and have their one-and-only home exhibition game

this Friday at 7 p.m. against the Toronto Jr. Canadians.

This will fall between pre-season road trips to North York and Toronto. Milton will also be part of the Vaughan

Tournament, slated for September 7 to 9.

The IceHawks will have one less opponent in the Western Conference this season, with the Bramalea Blues now gone. They'll also have to improve on last year's eighth-place finish in order to make the playoffs, with only the top six teams in each division now qualifying for post-season play.

Their regular season home opener is set for September 14 against the Streetsville Derbys, while their College Weekend game is on September 23 at noon at Erin Mills Twin Rinks versus the Collingwood Blues.

Volleyball coaches being sought

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Prospective coaches will need to be available for two practices a week and monthly OVA tournaments from the

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Those interested are asked to contact technical director Andy Nicholson at (905) 631-6040.

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Mavericks fall just short of playoff spot

• from BANTAM on page A12

Oran Ferguson tallied twice and fellow workhorse Bryden Curren also dented the twine. Andrew Smith rounded out the scoring.

The comeback draw and a second-round squeaker over arch-rival Brantford weren't quite enough for advancement, as a goals-for-and-against tiebreaking format denied Milton a playoff spot by the narrowest of margins.

Noted Welsh, "It's so unfortunate that we didn't move on, because the guys were just starting to come to life."

The Mavericks' 5-4 win over the Posse was every bit as suspenseful as their tie, as Warren Mitchell notched his second of the game with just over a minute to play to highlight an intense end-to-end showdown.

Curren also had two goals in the narrow victory. "Brantford was pretty mad for putting them out of zone playoffs, and really came at us hard," said Welsh, whose team started the weekend with a rather flat 8-3 loss to the Brampton Excelsiors.

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