

# Royals are optimistic



He's optimistic: Milton Royal manager Wayne Marchand has two reasons to be optimistic.

Marchand has high hopes for Nayler who is slated to bat third in the line-up. He has traditionally had a high on-base percentage and is a solid performer defensively.

The right side of the infield has always been strong and the first-second combination of Hull and Tonelli maintains the strong infield. Both are good defensively and can come up with clutch hits.

The addition of Nayler and Clanker free Rick Hinsel and Jack Cantelon for duty in the outfield. Binsell is a fine all-around player while Cantelon was primarily a catcher. Both players joined Milton after playing with the now-defunct Brampton Athletics.

They will flank Glen Turner, in centrefield. Turner has been Milton's most consistent player over the years and brings dedication and an excellent bat and glove with him.

Rich McTrach also returns to Milton for another year and will probably find spot duty in the outfield as well as being the team's designated hitter.

Newcomers with the team are Steve Bronozewski, a Milton Aero, who has a good attitude, says Marchand and youngster Mike Hobson who will be

worked into the lineup gradually.

On the mound, Milton's most pressing problem over the years, the team has much the same staff as last year. The only new addition is Roger Clement who has been off baseball the last two years after spending a couple of years with the Merchants.

Clement has looked good in his brief pre-season outings and will be looked upon as late-inning relief help until his arm gets stronger later in the year.

Other pitchers are a slimmer Mike Copp, whose pitching has improved greatly, Tom Sheppard, George Moore and Marchand. Moore is the only lefty on the staff.

Missing from last year are Burke Harrison, Hap Parrott, John Chodorowicz and Wayne Emms. In addition, Ken Armstrong, a fixture with the squad throughout the years, may return to Milton later in the season. His job prevents him from giving a full-time commitment.

Milton opens its season Monday night with an away game to Oakville Oaks. The squads will also have a pre-season game tonight (Wednesday) in Oakville for the final tune-ups preceding the season.

The key for Milton's senior baseball team in the 1981 season is optimism.

Milton Optimist Royals begin the new season with the new nickname, Merchants follows Red Sox down memory lane.

In addition, the club has incorporated the name Optimist into its nickname as a credit to the Optimist club which provides the facilities to players for both teams for changing and showers.

For the most part, the 1981 Royals are much the same club as the 1980 Merchants. The majority of players and manager Wayne Marchand are back for another year.

Last year, Milton finished fifth in the Halton County Baseball League with a record of 10-14. Milton advanced into Ontario Baseball Association play but lost the first round by a 2-1 decision in games to Hagersville. Hagersville scored the winning run in the top of the ninth of the final game for a 7-6 victory.

Milton subsequently went on in the Halton County playoffs to the finals where it lost a hard-fought best-of-three series in three games to perennial champions Leaside Leafs.

The team improved down the stretch

last season, especially in the playoffs. With a stronger opening run, the club could make great strides.

Royals' diamond at Brian Best Park underwent a dramatic resurfacing through the efforts of the town's Parks and Recreation Department which greatly improved the field. Not only will the field drain better after a rain, but the bumps have been smoothed out through the installation of grass which should improve the club defensively.

The key addition to the club takes the form of Greg Cranker. A catcher, Cranker played last year with Windsor Chiefs in the Inter-County League. A switch-hitter, he has impressed Marchand with his defence and his hitting.

The infield shapes up with Andy Hull at first base, Ange Tonelli at second base, Wade Bekar at shortstop and Garry Nayler at the hot corner.

Hull, Tonelli and Bekar are all veterans with the club while Nayler returns to baseball after several years with Milton Stags fastball team.

Bekar and Tonelli are excellent hitters with Lekar tapping a previous unknown source last year as a power hitter with nine home runs to lead the HCBL.

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## MFL previews

# Hornby another young team

Among the three new teams to join the Milton Fastball League, Hornby is one squad which isn't exactly new.

For the past three years, Hornby played in the Georgetown Industrial Fastball League winning the championship last year, after finishing fourth, with a win over Ackers-Clark.

When team organizers were setting out plans for the 1981 season, Miltonwe Realty came forward and offered to sponsor the club if it played in the MFL. With a major sponsor now in its fold, Hornby quickly became Miltonwe Realty and is prepared to do battle in the MFL.

The club is a local team in the same vein as Omagh (now Colbeck Realty World) and Lowville Benders. Many players played through the minor system and after finishing their minor ball, a majority of players organized the industrial team which played in Georgetown.

Many players are recognizable to followers of the MFL. Several played with a few MFL teams last year in addition to Hornby.

Again, similar to Omagh and Lowville, the team is comprised of numerous young players just past the legal drinking age. However, with the advantage of containing much youthful enthusiasm and the many years of playing together through the years, Miltonwe will be a force to be reckoned with.

As of early this week, the squad had signed 12 players to cards. Altogether, 21 players have attended tryouts and more signings are imminent.

So far, just two players signed haven't played with Hornby recently. The club is holding out much for third-sacker Kip Jaques, an experienced ballplayer from Campbellville who played in Kitchener recently. At 29, Jaques figures to be the senior citizen on a team full of age-of-majority cards.

Defensively, Miltonwe shapes up with either Frank Robinson or Tom Marchment behind the plate. Both are excellent catchers and seasoned through the Hornby tradition.

They'll be catching for only two pitchers so far. Returnees Don Pickett and George Trencs form a 1-2 punch but the squad will look a long time before finding a hurler in the manner of Don Martin who pitched for Hornby and Omagh last year. Martin's MFL commitments are to Omagh (Colbeck).

First base is an open position with Trencs handling half the work. A regular for the position hasn't yet been named and the spot may be filled by a variety of players.

At second base will be Roger McHugh while Robinson will share shortstop with Tony Telesman. As mentioned before, Jaques will handle third.

Outfielders listed with the team are Bruce McGee, Wayne Roskum, Jim Preston and Glen McClure.

In addition, Mike Vandenboom, a youngster from Milton, has been signed as a pitcher and utility player. He played his minor ball in Hornby.

The power for the squad is likely to come from Robinson, Marchment and McGee. The accent of the club is on youth with many players under 21 years and the nucleus of the club around 22 years of age which formed the Hornby juvenile team which graduated from the junior-age ranks.

Coaching the team will be Ron McHugh while Roger Del Bello is the manager. McHugh has handled the club for three years and also coached some players in minor ball.

Miltonwe will play seven home games at its Hornby ball park. Roughly, this allows for a home game

every second Tuesday. Prognosis: Team spokesman George Trencs says he's looking at fourth place. A stronger pitching staff will be necessary in the MFL and without Martin throwing, the club slips a few notches despite winning the Georgetown championship last year.

# Fifth Wheel improves greatly pitching, defence among best

Interesting. In a word, that's how Fifth Wheel coach Chris Heath looks toward the 1981 Milton Fastball League season.

Part of the reason for Heath's comment may lay in his own team which finished dead last in its first year of play last season.

The club is much improved over its 1980 version with several key acquisitions and a year of experience in this league for most players.

"I'm looking forward to the season," says Heath, "it's going to be a real interest type of year."

With many MFL teams virtual unknown commodities and his own team vastly improved over its first year when it won just five of 28 games, this year will no doubt prove a make-or-break year for many squads.

Fifth Wheel picked up several key players from the defunct Mowbray and C&P Landscaping teams. In addition, Milton Combines' hurler Glen Gordon was signed early this week. Heath called him up and the left-handed flame-merchant was available.

The biggest improvement for the squad are its defence and pitching.

Catching is in the dependable hands of ex-C&P Kevin "Scooter" Smith who at 21 has established himself in the league. He'll be backed by Les Deforest who had previous experience with Georgetown.

The infield shapes up with Warren McLeod, ex of Mowbray, and Dave DeCaire, formerly of C&P, handling the duties.

At second base Fifth Wheel is well staffed with league all-star returnee

## Correction

A typographical error on the part of The Champion gave the wrong date for The Toronto Blizzard soccer clinic.

The correct date is Saturday May 23 at Brian Best Park.

The Blizzard days, sponsored by The Champion and organized by the Milton Youth Soccer Club and John Morgan, include a Milton Day at the Blizzard May 27 when two girls' teams play before the Blizzard.

Tickets for the game, at a reduced cost are available from MYSC and The Champion, 191 Main Street.

Dave Pelley. John Kelman, from Mowbray, will back him up.

At shortstop, Fifth Wheel is unveiling Ray Delegrade who Heath describes as superb defensively. Delegrade was out of fastball action for a few years and has played previously with McDuffe. Centrefielder Peter Hawke will also handle shortstop.

Jeff Heggie has so far nailed down the third-base spot. Utility player Al Madden, who can also catch and play first, will play some at the hot corner.

The outfield is a blend of Fifth Wheelers and players from defunct teams.

Hawke is the field general from his centrefield post. He'll be flanked by Larry Beaulieu, making another stab at fastball, Paul McCann, from C&P, Bob

Gray and a pair of former Mowbray fielders, Gord Adams and Trevor Roberts.

Pitching is much improved over its inaugural season. Norm Topping and Earl Bannister return from last year and they'll be aided by Gordon and Mark Grenke, another Mowbray refugee.

"We're going to have fun this year," said Heath. "We've got many good players but few have played together which may pose a problem. But so far, we've had good communication and the signs are good."

Prognosis: If the team doesn't take a large step up the ladder, many observers will be surprised. Ideally, the club is looking at fourth or fifth with a .500 season a definite possibility.



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