

Royals out to show this is their year

The Halton County Baseball League might want to make way for Milton Optimist Royals.

Royals proved showed their improvement over last year by beating Leaside Maple Leafs 14-7 to spoil Leaside's home opener Thursday night before Leaside won the return match 9-7 Saturday afternoon over a short-handed Royals team.

The split gave Royals a 2-1 season record after three games. With the wins coming against the usual top clubs of Oakville and Leaside, it is indicative Royals might finally turn the corner and become a strong competitive club after several years of flirting with the good clubs.

Even the way Royals lost Saturday wasn't bad. Leaside got through Royals pitching for six runs in one inning turning a 5-1 disadvantage into a 7-5 lead. Royals outplayed the powerful Leafs, perennial Halton County and OBA champions, for the other eight innings.

In the Milton win Thursday night, Royals struck for 17 hits which combined with eight walks allowed Milton the 14 runs.

Royals tied the score at 4-4 with a three-run, fourth inning and put the game away with three-run innings in the sixth, seventh

and ninth innings. Tom Shepherd went the distance for Milton on the mound surrendering 10 hits but errors led to four unearned runs.

The big guns for Royals in the game were Glen Turner who went four-for-six with two runs-batted-in including a lead-off homer to start the game.

Wade Bekar went three-for-four with three ribbies and a homer while Jack Cantelon also went three-for-four with a homer.

Shepherd was nicked for home runs from Paul Canning, Al Rivero and Dave Payman.

It was a different story Saturday as Royals carefully constructed a 5-1 lead until Leaside destroyed the lead with a six-run uprising. Royals rallied to tie the score in the bottom of the sixth on back-to-back doubles by Turner and Greg Cranker and a sacrifice fly from Garry Nayler. However, Leaside scored single runs in the eighth and the ninth off Royals' coach Wayne Marchand, who suffered the loss, to pull out the win.

Royals were without the services of Cantelon and Tonelli for the game and Skip McTrach who missed the first six innings.

George Moore started for Royals and lasted until Copp replaced him in the sixth. Marchand replaced Copp.

The lefty Moore was criticized several times by the Leaside players for his pick-off move to first which borders on a balk. Moore was called for a balk in the first inning.

His slow delivery and control pitching which isn't fast had the Leaside players yelling, "He's so slow, even pitchers want to hit against him." Also, "George takes 45 seconds to pitch and 30 seconds for the ball to get to the plate," was also heard.

However, Moore kept Leaside's bats at bay until the sixth inning. Moore was hit for three runs but it was Copp who had the misfortune of serving up two home-run balls to the first two batters he faced which produced three more runs.

Turner went three-for-five and scored three Royals' runs. Cranker went two-for-three with two walks and two RBIs.

Strikes: Tonelli missed the game to attend to his wife who was giving birth to a child. Royals have two home games this weekend entertaining Campbellville Saturday at 2 p.m. and lowly Cambridge Pirates Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at Brian Best Park.

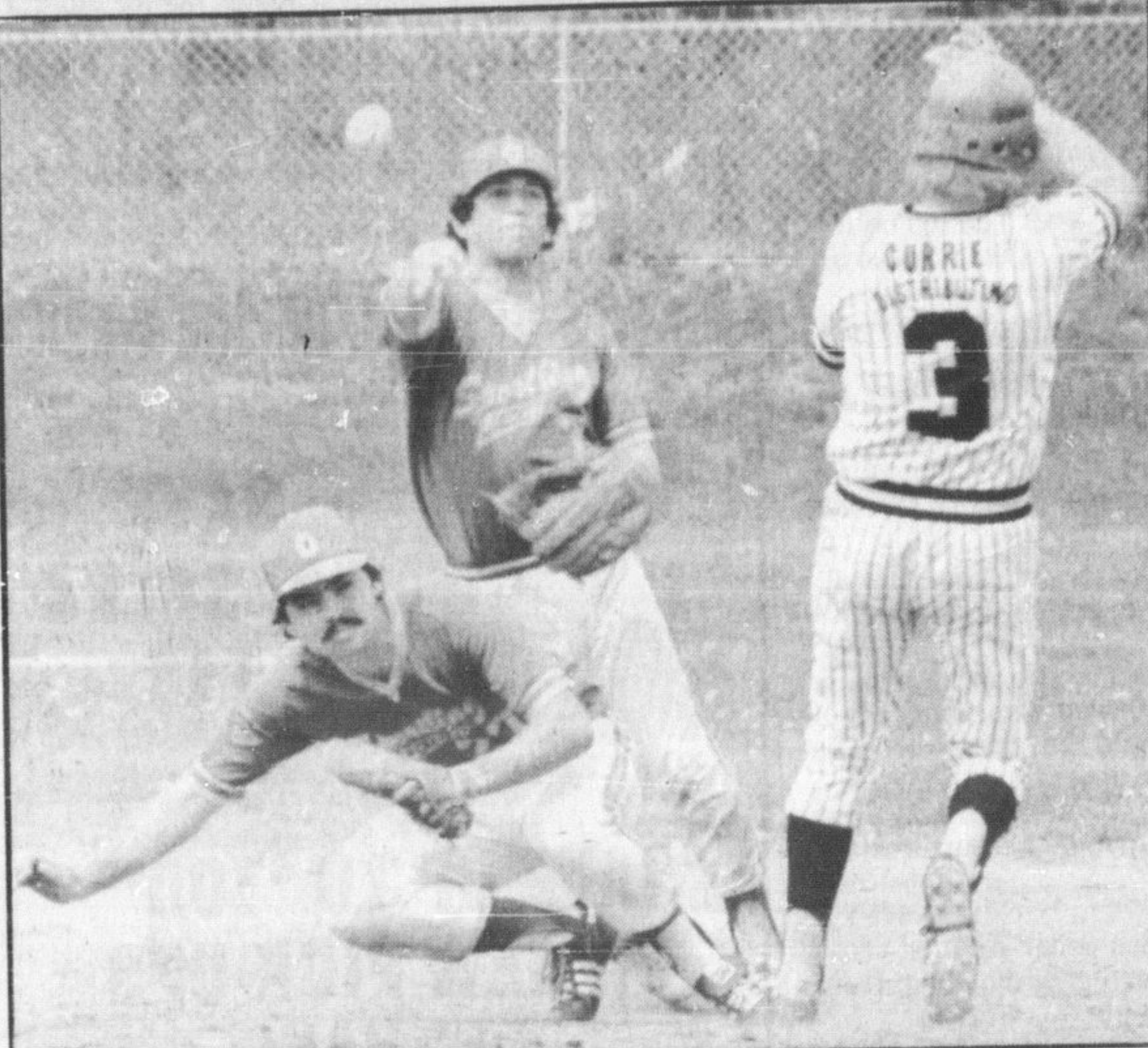


Diving: A Leaside runner makes a dive to second (appearing to grind his way through the sand) while Royal second-baseman Rick Binsell awaits a throw. Royals dropped the game 9-7 to gain a split with Leaside in the two games they played last week. Royals stunned the defending champs with a 14-7 win spoiling Leaside's home opener Thursday at Talbot Park.

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Mohawks blitzed 22-7

Comedy of errors produces split with Oakville



Double-play try: Oakville's Kevin Tracey throws out Mohawks' Richie Knight before going on to first base. The throw was too late to catch Ray Evans. Oakville's Carlos Paixao gets out of the way. The teams split with Campbellville winning 11-10 Saturday and Oakville winning 22-7 (that's the right score) Sunday.

For the want of a few touchdowns, Campbellville Mohawks might have made a close game out of a 22-7 rout handed them by Oakville Oaks Sunday.

Unfortunately, the teams were playing baseball and not football as Campbellville looked the Keystone Kops with gloves committing numerous stupid errors.

The loss, Sunday at Campbellville ball park, came on the heels of an 11-10 dramatic come-from-behind victory over Oakville Saturday when Mohawks scored three runs with two out in the ninth to pick up the win.

The first game was rescheduled from a later date and gave Mohawks the unusual situation of playing Oakville in a pair of home games one day apart.

In Saturday's win, it was Oakville's turn to commit big errors. Oaks' first-baseman Bill Christensen committed two errors in the ninth inning with two out which opened the door to all three Mohawk runs.

Charlie Currie started the ninth with a single. After Steve Tait grounded out and Bill Dennis flied out, Doug Timbers reached base on an error as did Ritchie Knight before Rick Mitchell delivered a run-scoring double to pull out the win.

Currie, the last of four Mohawk pitchers, earned the win. Scott Gadd started on the mound and went five innings. He was followed by Bob Evans, Dan Thomson and Currie.

Tim Roberts blasted a two-run homer in the eighth inning which closed the gap to 9-8. It was a different story the next afternoon as Oakville capitalized on a multitude of Campbellville errors in the field to run up a 20-4 lead after six innings and coast to the win.

Mohawks were terrible in every department running through their entire pitching staff and one member of the outfield on the mound (Steve Smith) as the squad couldn't do a thing right.

Roberts was the lone shining light for Mohawks. Put in the designated-hitter's spot in the line-up, Roberts connected for two homers and a double driving in all seven Campbellville runs.

Bob Evans started on the mound and went 3 1/3 innings. He was replaced by Mike McCandless who typified what it should be," said Mohawk coach Bob Evans. "We've got to get longer outings out of the younger guys. Defensively, I don't know what we're going to do."

Mohawks travel to Leaside Thursday and Milton Saturday before entertaining Leaside Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Campbellville ball park. A win against Leaside would do a lot to raise the low spirits incurred after Sunday's game.

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Good hitting, pitching

Selects split four games

The newly revamped Milton Selects Junior Ladies fastball team started the season off by winning its first two games before dropping a pair of close contests to emerge with a 2-2 record.

The early indications with the squad are that they have some good hitters and effective pitching but are making many costly errors in the field which have cost the club many runs.

Milton edged Port Colborne in the opener 5-4 last Tuesday and followed it up the next night with an 11-7 win over Burlington.

Oakville ruined Milton's good start by pouncing on six errors for a 4-0 win Thursday and Port Colborne gained some revenge by taking the return match by a 7-6 score Sunday.

The pitching of Diane Gilmour and Sue Harvey has been strong so far

this year. Harvey pitched complete games in the losses but was a victim of errors by her team in the Oakville game and some questionable umpiring in the second Port Colborne game.

Gilmour split the pitching duties equally in the opener with Harvey and then relieved Sandy Longboat in the second game.

Harvey and Gilmour combined for 10 strikeouts and limited Port Colborne to just three hits in the opener. Robyn Snow and Debbie Mil-

burn led the way with two hits apiece for Milton. In the second game, Burlington was held to six hits while Milton pounded out eight. Among the hits were home runs from Diane Thorsell, who had three hits and Milburn.

Milton committed seven errors during the game and it's a sign the new faces on the team haven't yet become accustomed to working with the players from last year.

It was a similar story the next night against Oakville as Harvey limited Oakville to just three hits. However, six Milton errors led directly to all four runs. Only Karen Vickery and Longboat managed to hit singles against Oakville.

Although cutting its errors down to three, Milton was hurt by a couple of questionable calls at home plate which scored two key runs.

Milton entertained Hamilton last night before travelling to Agincourt to play in the Metro Ladies tournament Friday to Sunday.

Scott's blast seals Kilbride 8-3 win

Larry Scott keyed a big five-run eighth inning with a two-run homer to give Kilbride Merchants an 8-3 win Sunday over Waterloo Team Sports for Kilbride's first Inter-City Fastball League victory in three starts.

The new Kilbride entry finally got untracked offensively in Sunday's home game breaking a 3-3 tie with the big inning which produced the club's lone win. Kilbride lost its first two games as errors proved to be the team's downfall.

Three errors led the way to five unearned runs as Burlington Cougars won 6-2 in Kilbride's opening game Wednesday at Kilbride Park. The next night, Kilbride travelled to Cambridge and were bombed 9-2 as five errors opened the gates.

Pitcher Moe Curtis set the first of many Kilbride firsts by winning against Team Sports. Curtis threw a complete game and recorded nine strikeouts. He allowed seven hits and two walks and hit two batters.

Curtis pitched himself out of a big jam when with the bases loaded and none out in the eighth inning, he got the side out one-two-three to end the threat and set up Kilbride's big inning in its half.

Curtis struck out the first batter, forced the second batter to ground out to short for a force-out at home and retired the third batter on a fly-out to end the threat.

Kilbride stormed back. Curtis started the inning with a one-out walk. Scott followed with a two-run smash. After another out, Mitch Lejeunesse tripled and scored on Mark Curtis' double. Ted Law scored Mark Curtis with a single and eventually came around to score on Russ Price's single.

In the team's opener, Kilbride and Burlington both scored once in the first inning before Burlington capitalized on three errors to score five runs and take the win.

Dave Gates was responsible for both Kilbride runs with an RBI triple in the first and a run-scoring single later in the game.

Lou Nistico was Burlington's big gun going three-for-five in his lead-off role and recording one RBI.

A few struck out 10 Kilbride batters in going the distance to earn the win. Moe Curtis pitched the nine innings for Kilbride and struck out three.

Cambridge took advantage of five errors overturning a 2-1 disadvantage with five runs in the sixth to take the victory.

Kilbride has added three players to its active roster picking up Dale Smith, Ted Law and Bob Baker while also signing Dave Yemm to a card. Yemm won't be ready to play for about one month.

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