

Valvoline Oilers go to semi-final at tourney

Valvoline Oil under 12 soccer reps made it to the semifinals of the east Hamilton Invitational Tournament on the weekend, no mean feat in a competition that featured some of the province's toughest age division teams.

Milton had two wins and a loss in the first round and dropped a 3-1 decision to East York to be eliminated. Oilers shut out two opponents, downing east Hamilton 2-0 and Hamilton Croatia 3-0. The powerful Wexford team beat Milton 7-0, but Wexford, the provincial champions, dispatched most opponents with more ease. "They beat another team 14-0," Milton coach Ian McLean pointed out. "Wexford and East York met in the final and East York upset them to win the tournament."

"Overall it was a good outing for us," McLean said. "Considering the fact that there were teams from the Scarboro premiere league it was to the team's credit that we advanced to the semifinals."

Oilers took on the hosts in the opener and came out on top thanks to goals from Donny Smulders and Danny Medlar. Scott MacDonald earned "a well-deserved shut-out," McLean said.

Milton ran up against Wexford next, and a combination of a flat Milton showing and what McLean called "brilliant" play by Wexford earned Wexford a 7-0 win.

Milton dominated play in the first half against Hamilton Croatia, but couldn't score a goal. The game was scoreless in the opening half despite some sharp Milton midfield work. Mark Wild and Tim Shier passed the ball well and when called upon the Oiler defence of Luke Doering, Mike Glidden, Todd Dowell, Barry Cason and Jason Penman played effectively.

In the second half Milton forwards began to cause problems for the Hamilton defence. Dion Comba, Danny Medlar, Phillip Williamson, Kian O'Higgins, Smulders, Adam Gould and Ryan McLean all brought the pressure to bear. It resulted in some desperation moves by the Hamilton defence, and they gave away a penalty shot. McLean scored Milton's first with that shot.

Following another 10 minutes of solid pressure Milton capitalized on another Hamilton mistake. A Hamilton defender tripped an Oiler inside the penalty area and again McLean scored on the penalty shot.

Oilers didn't let up and following a nice play among the forwards Gould capped the scoring with a hard shot. Scott MacDonald picked up the shutout.

The game against East York was divided into two distinct parts as Milton played against a strong wind in the first half and with it in the second.

Milton defended for most of the first half. They gave up a goal midway through the period and then another later, as Oilers committed a costly error in their zone.

Oilers were a different team in the second half, McLean said, playing extremely well. Wild blasted in Milton's goal from 25 yards out. But East York added another for the 3-1 final.

Milton scheduling was unclear at press time. A consolidation of teams has occurred in the loop, reducing it from two divisions to one.

A Mississauga team and Clarkson have quit the league. Milton was in the second division but will now face the remainder of the second division and all first division teams in a revised schedule.

IGA drops 3-0 decision

In their first game of the season Milton's IGA under 10 soccer reps demonstrated they could put the ball in the net by battling Streetsville to a 3-3 draw. In their second game, Milton lost that touch.

Milton dropped a 3-0 decision at Thompson Rd. Thursday to Mississauga Croatia. And in the time-honored tradition of frustrated managers, Jim Hunter said, "the score really doesn't indicate the play."

Because Milton had their changes. They just couldn't get them to work

Optis win conso at Ajax tourney

If at first you don't succeed, try again—it could lead to a championship. The Milton Optimist major tykes learned that baseball lesson over the weekend as they rebounded from a 13-2 opening loss to win the consolation title at the Ajax tournament.

Milton dropped their first game to North York but rallied to beat Belleville 22-1, Martingrove 10-4 and down Scarboro Village 4-1 in the consolation championship.

In league action Optimists slammed Streetsville 9-3 and shaded them 4-3 in the re-match.

David Marshall pitched seven strikeouts and picked off two runners, going the distance to earn Milton's MVP honor in the championship game.

Scarboro tied the game in the second inning at one but Milton broke loose in the fifth, scoring three runs. Derek MacDonald scored one and Derek McKenzie drove in Derek French and Marshall for two more runs.

Marshall drove in Rick Warren for Milton's first run. Scarboro was stymied all afternoon as Milton came up with their best defensive effort of the season. Second baseman Mark Ollerenshaw made three pickoffs, while Marshall added two and catcher Steve Webb had another.

In semifinal action McKenzie came up with a first-class effort, pitching a four-hitter with six strikeouts to earn the 10-4 win.

Milton's attack was consistent as they scored in the second, third, fourth, sixth and seventh innings.

as effectively as they had the previous week.

"We couldn't capitalize in their goal area," Hunter admitted. "That was our problem last year. This year we thought we had overcome that problem. We scored three times against Streetsville. But (in this game) we just couldn't find the net."

Milton held Croatia scoreless until almost the end of the first half. But Croatia popped in two more in the second while IGA missed open nets twice.

Asked if Milton still suffered from early season jitters Hunter said "we've had plenty of time to get over that by now."

In practice Hunter said Milton will stress action in the goal area. "We have been practicing that but whether we've been unlucky or what, we didn't capitalize. We really should have had at least one or two goals."

In order to create more scoring punch IGA plans to move Pat MacDonald up from midfield to centre forward.

Despite the loss, Hunter praised the work of several players. Left winger Craig McCluskey had a good game, as did midfielder Jason McCall. "He was very aggressive, on top of the ball," Hunter said. Striker Sean Tonelli "almost got through two or three times," while fullback Matthew Price "played exceptionally well. He has lots of potential and he's already showing it to us."

Milton is still missing key players as forward Ryan Haydar could not return to action this week. Dave Griffiths (fullback) is sidelined temporarily with an ear problem. Both may return by next week. Milton plays in Brampton Thursday night. They beat Brampton 4-3 in the exhibition season.

Canadian Tire wins one

Canadian Tire under 15 soccer reps didn't start the season too successfully, but an early pit stop seems to have proven effective.

Milton picked up their first win of the young season June at Thompson Rd. as they edged Streetsville 3-2.

Coach Mario Catalano's squad moved into passing gear powered by Mark Harrison, who scored two goals, and Tony Catalano, who scored on a direct free kick.

Milton netminder Mark Deoni played a strong game, allowing only two goals against a tough Streetsville attack.

The entire Canadian Tire squad played effectively. Milton plays Tuesday, June 15 at Thompson Rd. against Chinguacousy.

Kirkwood unhappy

One point is better than no points, but the fact that Andy Kirkwood's New Mechanical under 16 soccer reps managed only a tie against Dixie, left a sour taste in the coach's mouth.

"I'm disappointed, yes," the veteran rep coach admitted. "We should have beaten them."

Not only did Milton not beat Dixie, they didn't tie the game until five minutes remaining.

"In the first half we should have been up three or four goals," Kirkwood pointed out. "But our concentration was down. It was as if we were saying 'Well, if we don't score now we'll score later.'"

"I am put out," Kirkwood said. "It was a point that we should have had. You've got to beat the people that you should beat."

Kirkwood pointed out that Milton had enjoyed the territorial advantage and had instigated most of the plays.

"Our moves up were good but our finishing was poor."

Glen Innes scored Milton's comeback goal, with a hard shot from left wing. "The goalkeeper never even smelled it," Kirkwood said.

Dixie scored their goal from close range when they converted on a Milton miscue. Following a Dixie corner kick Milton gained possession and attempted to get the ball back to keeper Glen Foster for clearing. The touch back to the keeper found a Dixie forward instead, and he quickly converted the errant pass.

While Kirkwood wasn't too happy

with the outcome, he was happy that New Mechanical rallied. "They still played well. They came back. We're not going to change anything. It was just one of those days."

Kirkwood singled out several players for specific praise. Pat Penman (centre forward) played well, as did Andy Kirkwood (centre midfielder). And Gordon Marsh (centre back) played well. He was running and moving the ball well.

Milton played Mississauga Monday night at Thompson Rd. field. Results were not available at press time. Kirkwood was expecting a victory. "I think they're the same team as last year. Milton usually beats Mississauga," Kirkwood said, but by a narrower margin than he would wish. "Teams that we beat have beaten them handily."

New Mechanical received a setback recently in that starting fullback-midfielder Chris Evans dislocated a hip in a freak accident unrelated to soccer. Evans will probably be lost for a month.

Ching turns the tables

Chinguacousy turned the tables on Tandem Computers Thursday in rep soccer action as they beat Milton 4-1 to avenge Milton's 5-3 victory the previous week.

Tandem coach John Saunderson had gone into the game confident that his team could beat Ching on their own turf in the re-match. But it was not to be as Ching scored once in the first half and three times in the second while Milton pulled off but a goal in the dying minutes of the game.

"We gave them two bad goals (in the second half)," Saunderson pointed out. "They were short passes back to the goaltender and they picked them up."

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Those two goals, coupled with another in the final minute of play, gave Ching the insurance they needed as the two squads clashed for the second and last regular season meeting. Blair Zachary scored the Milton goal, launching a corner kick that was mishandled by Ching defenders in front of their net.

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