

Cerka comes home with bronze medal

17—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, May 3, 1989

Milton's Michael Cerka headed to the provincial gymnastics championships in Waterloo over the weekend, and came home with the overall bronze in the cadet division as well as two gold medals and a silver on the individual events.

Cerka, who trains with the Burlington Boys Gym Club, was a first-time cadet competitor at the provincials and his hope going into the men's events was consistency. He knew a fall on any of the six apparatus could cost him a good overall showing.

Practising 18 hours per week, Cerka was well-prepared for this event.

Much of his training time is spent on conditioning rather than the actual apparatus work as his coach, Lauren Bobkins, is a firm believer in that once the body is strong, the moves are easier to master.

Saturday proved to be a day when Cerka's hopes came true. He remained consistent on all the events, and spectacular on a few.

He captured gold medals on the floor exercise and pommel horse and took the silver on the parallel bars. Consistent showings on the other three events enabled Cerka to take third in the field of 31.

Cerka will now return to the gym and his strict training schedule.

It was also championship weekend for a pair of girls from the Milton Springers Gymnastics Club, but for one of them it was a disappointing weekend.

Brigitte McCann, still recovering from a broken hand suffered at the Ontario Winter Games in North Bay earlier this year, was forced to withdraw from the tyro A category

after she found she couldn't properly grip the uneven parallel bars. It was a disappointing end to McCann's season, however she hopes to come back next year to compete in the junior B division.

In the argo B category, Vicki Chlisczyk was the fourth member on the Central Ontario team and placed in the top half of the 40 competitors in the all around competition with a score of 35.00.

On the individual events, she finished eighth on the floor routine and 10th on the bars.

Head coach Janet Campbell was extremely pleased with Chlisczyk's results, considering this was her first provincial championship. Campbell said she now knows what the events feel like and will be better prepared for next year's competition.



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Photo by STEVE UHRANEY

The E.C. Drury Spartans opened the Halton East regular baseball season with a 5-5 tie against the team they'll be battling for the league title with, the Oakville-Trafalgar Red Devils. Here Spartan shortstop/pitcher Steve Preddy swings at a low pitch by the OT pitcher, Martin Smith. Drury plays again tonight at Brian Best Park when they play the Bishop Reding Royals.

Drury battles to 5-5 tie with OT

By JEFF PASQUALE

Many people considered Monday night's Halton East high school baseball matchup between E.C. Drury Spartans and Oakville-Trafalgar Red Devils an early season showdown of the two favourites in the eight-team loop.

If that was the case, then the teams are still co-favourites as they played to a six-inning, 5-5 tie.

Drury had to play catch-up the whole game, though, never leading.

OT jumped to a quick 3-0 lead in the first inning off Drury pitcher Craig Holloway as the first three batters to the plate scored.

Centrefielder Jason Shane and second baseman Scott Harper led the game off by drawing bases on balls and third baseman Jeff Newman drove in Shane with a double. Corey Low, the shortstop, then cashed two more runners with a clean single.

Holloway settled down then and induced first baseman Chris Weeks to hit into a short-to-second-to-first, double play. After walking rightfielder Jeff Longhurst, Holloway got out of the inning by striking out catcher Doug Gray.

Drury cut into the lead in their first at-bat by scoring a run without the benefit of a hit. Jim Murray reached second base when OT's Newman threw away a routine grounder with one out in the opening frame. Murray then took third on a ground out by Rob Mason.

Catcher Greg Rae drew a walk and the Spartans then pulled off a double steal, with Murray not breaking for home until the catcher threw to second base. Murray scored without a throw.

Both starting pitchers, Holloway and Martin Smith for OT, settled down through the second inning. In the third, OT regained their three-run lead thanks to a lead-off triple by Low and the same double steal pulled off by the Spartans earlier in the contest.

Drury finally solved Smith in the bottom of the third inning when Rob Del Papa hit a clutch two-out single to cash Murray and Mason, and cut the Devil lead to 4-3.

Matt McCandless, who Drury coach Larry Jaroslowski has called his number one middle reliever this year, was then brought in to pitch in the fourth inning. For the first time in the game, OT went down in order.

Drury then tied the game in the fourth on consecutive singles by Kevin O'Donnell, Steve Preddy and Jim Murray.

OT scrambled back for a one-run lead in the fifth when the Drury defence decided to take a nap.

Harper opened with an infield single but Newman followed with a custom-made double play ball that Murray booted at second. Low then hit go

rounder to Mason that he kicked as Newman scored. After walking Weeks to load the bases, McCandless struck out Longhurst and Gray. Steve Preddy then came out of the pen to strike out Craig Colquhoun but OT still had a 5-4 lead.

"I decided to go to Preddy because Matt was getting a little tired out there," said Jaroslowski after the game. "I know Preddy can strike out anybody in the league."

McCandless thought he was going to get out of the inning without giving up the run.

"When I saw the ground ball by the second hitter, I thought double play, but those things happen. I just had to settle down after that," he said.

After having a runner thrown out at home plate in the fifth inning, Drury came to bat in the sixth knowing it was their final chance to come back.

Jim Penn got things going with one out when he rapped a single. It looked like the game was over when Preddy hit a grounder to third base, but Harper threw the ball away on the pivot at second allowing Preddy to reach safely.

It turned out not to be Harper's inning as he booted the next ground ball hit by Murray that allowed Preddy to race home with the tying run.

After the game Jaroslowski seemed relieved.

"Considering how many chances we gave them, we have to be thankful to come out of that game with a point. If we're the teams to beat, then we're still even with each other."

Jaroslowski still sees flaws with his squad.

"We have to get that killer instinct. Our pitchers have to learn how to get out of a tough situation, like McCandless did today. Our kids have to be ready to play every inning. In short games like these, we can't fall behind. There isn't always time to come back."

In other Halton East action Monday, Milton District's game with Loyola was postponed because the field was unplayable while Bishop Reding lost to Georgetown 15-0. In Oakville, White Oaks shellacked Perdue, 27-1.

Guzman qualifies for national championships in Saskatoon

The E.C. Drury track and field team experienced a cold and wet start to the season when it attended the John Rowland Memorial Games in Toronto over the weekend.

Jennifer Guzman turned out to be the star of the meet, as she so often is, when she qualified for the National Junior championships in Saskatoon, Sask., this summer in the 3,000m.

Guzman, a junior, finished fourth in the open field in a time of 10:07, 19 seconds faster than her personal best. The time qualified her for the nationals and installed her as an early OFSAA favourite.

The day started with sprints and Jeff Belford surprised more than a few people when he qualified for the finals of the midget boys 100m race in a time of 11.65 seconds. Belford usually takes part in the longer sprints.

Stiff competition in the finals left Belford in sixth place overall. Fellow sprinters Janet Scott, Kelly

Drugs, Melanie Hewitson, Debra Colpitts and John Stetic all ran well but failed to qualify for the finals.

John Barlow, a junior, and Mike Belford, a midget, both competed in the 1,500m and both reached their goal of going under five minutes when they ran identical times of 4:59.

In the 400m event, Jeff Belford ran an excellent 54.4 seconds in the midget category and took

fourth overall.

Jason Devine ran a personal best time of 52.9 in the senior division.

Sian Bowness, Melanie Wood, Mike Allen and Steve Zikman all ran 400m races but didn't finish in the top six.

John Stetic competed in the midget boys shotput and put the shot 9.48 metres. Drury coach Doug Mohun felt this was a good start to the season for Stetic considering his lack of practice.

Royals open Saturday

After a long winter, Milton HJM Insurance Royals finally head out to the ball diamond for real on Saturday.

The Royals open the Central Ontario Baseball Association league with a 1:30 p.m. contest against Cambridge and follow that a week later with a home game against Erindale.

The squad's first road game will take place Tuesday May 16, when they travel to Mississauga to play Sheridan Royals.

All the Royals home games are at Brian Best Park. Most are on Saturday afternoons during the summer.