

Leworthy qualifying for provincials

By JEFF PASQUALE

The town of Milton can now claim another provincial-calibre athlete.

Ryan Leworthy, just 13-years-old, has qualified for the provincial championships in the 100m and 200m wheelchair races and is within half a second of the qualifying time for the 400m race.

"Ryan's doing quite well, considering that in most races he's up against kids who are as old as 18," said his father Mike Leworthy. "I'm trying to get him not to worry about where he finishes, but on his time."

The younger Leworthy qualified for the provincial championships, to be held in July in Ottawa, at a meet in Cambridge recently. He's heading to races in Sudbury and Ottawa over the next month to try and reach the

400m standard.

"I think Ryan has lot of potential. He's quite good for his age," said Mike Leworthy.

In an attempt to offset some of the high costs of travelling and equipment for Ryan, the Rotary Club and Easter Seals have opened a trust fund in his name. All the money donated goes into the fund, and then Mike Leworthy submits bills for reimbursement.

"The two groups have been really supportive," said the elder Leworthy. "Easter Seals assisted us with home renovations for Ryan's benefit, and the fund has helped offset some hospitalization costs."

The trust fund has also enabled the Leworthys to order a new racing chair for Ryan.

"This new chair is tailor-made for Ryan. It should really help lower his times," he said of the \$2,700 wheelchair.

Ryan, a Grade 7 student at W.I. Dick School, has his sights set in a couple of different directions.

From a scholastic point of view, he is hoping to become an accountant. He's already shown some aptitude in math.

Athletically, he's hoping handicapped sports receive full medal status for the 1996 Olympic Games. He'd be 20 then, just reaching his athletic peak.

The younger Leworthy, who suffers from spina bifida, lost the use of his legs about three years ago. Although he's made huge strides in the sporting world, he's also suffered

large setbacks due to major surgery. But that should be behind him now, according to his father.

"We've pretty well accepted the fact that Ryan's not going to walk again. He's decided that unless there's a very high percentage of success, he is not going to undergo any more surgery."

Track and field isn't Ryan's only area of accomplishment in the sporting world.

He was a member of the provincial B wheelchair basketball team last year, but missed the Canadian championships due to a health setback. This year he has joined a wheelchair basketball league that operates out of the central and southern Ontario regions.

"He really enjoys the basketball



RYAN LEWORTHY

playing, and he's well suited to it," said Mike. "He's got big hands and long arms, which is what's needed."

Sports

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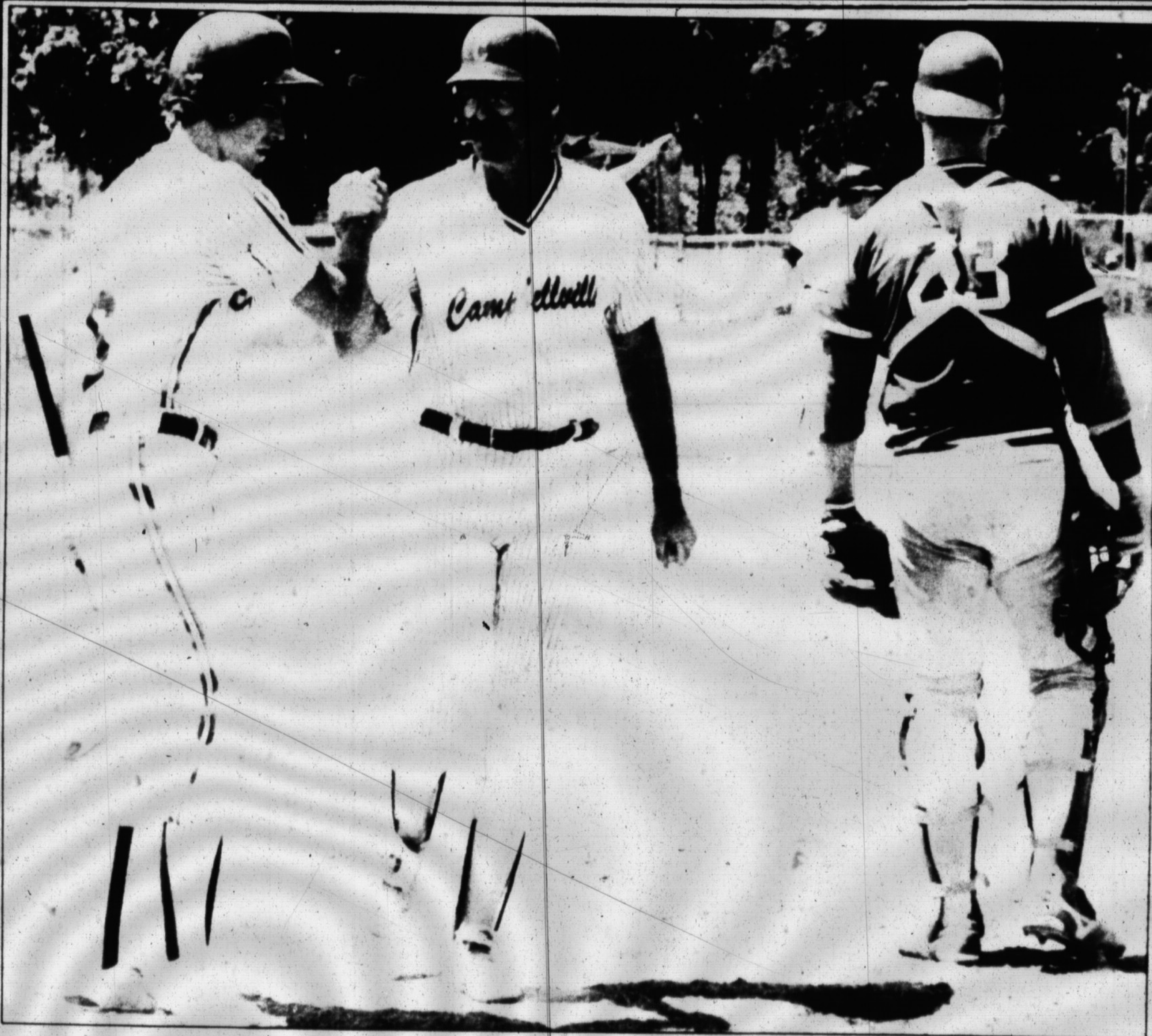


Photo by JOHN WARREN

Cruisin' home

Campbellville Mohawks' first baseman Ray Evans receives congratulations as he crosses home plate during Sunday's 15-12 win over the Erindale Cardinals at Campbellville Park. Evans went 3 for 5 on the day with three singles. The win improved the Mohawks' record to 4-7 on the year as they head to Tillsonburg this weekend to take part in a tournament.

Optimists edged

It was close, but the Milton Optimist major tyke rep team just missed advancing past the first round of the St. Catharines Tyke Tournament.

The 16-team tournament was divided into four divisions. Milton was Milton grouped with Kitchener, St. Catharines and Thornhill. Both Milton and Kitchener finished with 2-1 records, but Kitchener advanced to the next round thanks to more runs scored.

In the first game of the tournament, against Kitchener, Jeff Langille was strong on the mound, pitching five shutout innings as Milton held a 2-0 lead. In the sixth and final inning, with two outs and two strikes on the batter, pitcher Jim Seiter was injured. This proved to be the turning point of the game, as Kitchener rallied to tie it at two.

It took until the third extra inning before Kitchener was able to pull out a 4-2 win. Leading hitters for Milton were Nicky Aalbers with two singles and Jason Neal, Mark Simpson and Langille with a hit apiece.

In the second game of the tournament, Milton rebounded to knock off the host St. Catharines squad, 5-3. Trevor Petherick and Neal belted out doubles and Grant Williamson, Gerry Collin and Aalbers each hit singles. Robert Haringa and Langille handled the mound duties.

The final outing of the weekend proved to be another close contest, with Milton edging Thornhill 8-7. Aalbers led the batters with three singles and Neal blasted out a double and a single. Langille tallied two singles and Adam Grigor, Haringa and Williamson had a single each. Langille and Haringa pitched the first two innings and Neal came in to close it out.

The Optimists travel to London this weekend for their next tournament action.

Soccer kids needed

If there are youngsters still hoping to play soccer this year, it's not too late.

The Milton Youth Soccer Club has room in some age groups for both boys and girls up to 13-years-old.

The fee of \$53 includes a full uniform, as well as a team photo.

For more information contact Gordon Levey, the league registrar, at 878-5181.

Elementary catholic schools hit the track

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board held their annual track and field championships recently at Nelson High School Stadium in Burlington.

Holy Rosary came home with seven medals, led by the gold of the midget B division relay pennant team. Matthew Peers took second in the tyke boys 100m and the long jump, while other second place finishes went to Anthony Leone in the tyke boys softball throw and Charity Brown in the bantam softball throw.

Third-place medals went to Brigitte McCann in the midget girls high jump, Shane King in the midget boys long jump and Julie Leone in the tyke girls 200m.

Our Lady of Victory brought home the most golds from the meet. Stephanie Coletta won the bantam girls long jump with a leap of 4.15m, Russ Arsenault took the bantam boys high jump at 1.51m, Tammy Elkiert won the girls softball throw and the school won the bantam C division relay pennant. Scott Bertoli took second in the atom

boys softball throw and third in the 100m.

The best relay team on the day was St. Peter's. They tied for first in both the bantam B division race and the atom C race. Individually, Gord Kenney won the bantam boys 800m in a time of 2:32.9.

Third-place finishes went to Steve Webb in the midget boys softball throw and Chris Healey in the tyke boys 100m.

Avery Foster from E.C. Drury took third in the midget girls 100m.