



Sheree Loughlin

Loughlin leads gymnasts in meet

Sheree Loughlin, 13, of the Milton Springers Gymnastics Club finished number one on the Central Region Tyro C team after three qualifying meets.

That made her one of seven girls selected to represent the Central Region at the Northern Classic Invitational Meet on May 12. Loughlin placed fourth overall against girls from all over Ontario and Quebec.

Her outstanding performance included a 9.10 on floor exercise, good enough for second place. She had an unfortunate fall on balance beam, her best event, but still managed to rank sixth on that apparatus.

Loughlin was joined by Central Region teammates on the podium. Central placed third, fourth, fifth and sixth overall to win the Tyro C event.

Springer Heather Pettingill was forced to remain in Milton and miss the competition because of a bout of chickenpox. It was unfortunate for the Central team, as Pettingill was neck and neck with Loughlin all season to finish second on the team.

They need help

High school baseball players suffer from major lack of quality instruction

"These kids don't need the fundamentals. These kids need the fun."
Barney Rubble

Last week I was watching a high school baseball game at Brian Best Park when Barney Rubble's appeal to put some fun back in the grand old game floated through my transom.

The memory was triggered partly because of the stone-hands display of fielding during the games and partly because I'm convinced that coaches in Halton high school baseball don't know there are fundamentals.

I subscribe to the theory that part of the fun is learning how to play the game at a level of maturity combining ability and understanding.

The litany of problems I saw in the short space of two games makes me wonder if there are any qualified coaches at all.

I have always heard the complaints of baseball people to that effect. They claim there are so few qualified baseball coaches in Canada that we can't field good teams and our few good players have no option but to move to the United States if they want to improve their games.

Upon arrival at Brian Best I saw a catcher crouched to take a pitch with his throwing hand exposed. Sure enough, in the next inning a foul tip struck the exposed hand, fortunately causing no permanent damage, but forcing the catcher to do a little pain dance to exercise the nerve endings.

This same catcher called his signals with his glove resting on his knee rather than in the sight line of the batter, who might be



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trying to steal the pitch call. Perhaps it was the gods of baseball who inflicted the foul tip as a kind of payback for the hand transgression.

The litany of mistakes is tremendous: I've seen a runner thrown out at third for the first out of an inning; a centrefielder bail out on a high, short pop up in order to play it safe; third basemen holding runners like first basemen; uncovered bases; butchered bunts and suicide plays; players standing in foul territory; failure to touch third for an easy force play and runners not going halfway down the baseline on a fly ball.

Don't the coaches know enough to teach even these basic fundamentals?

Physical errors are going to happen because of the low level of play and the lack of sufficient practice time, but it looks as though simple lessons in the game are never taught, or reinforced.

A quality coach would be involved in teaching sliding, baserunning, pitching patterns, an approach at the plate, on top of correcting all the problems listed above.

Each position on the field has a number of nuances that players should have a passing understanding of prior to taking the field. Relays and cutoffs were virtually non-existent in the high school games I saw.

At the same time, the players showed some physical abilities.

Considering the short season in high school ball I can understand a lack of team cohesion, but a number of the players are involved with town rep teams. These players should know better.

The high school season is regarded by them as a tune up for their summer leagues. And if that's the case, rep baseball is in a sorry state in this corner of the world.

There are plenty of books around on how to play baseball. I think perhaps the fact that leagues didn't exist for the teachers and coaches when they were younger meant they didn't get the background a quality coach needs. However, they can still read.

Baseball is a complex game rife with nuances, a game in which even the seasoned player can find something new. It is much more than simply pitching, hitting, running and catching. That's what makes it interesting, and popular.

For little kids, Barney Rubble was right. Adults can ruin the fun of a game by imposing rules, and demanding levels of intensity that the kids can't relate to well. High school aged players are different.

Winning and losing, and doing things intelligently, are lessons which translate into the real world. Isn't that what high school sports are supposed to be all about?

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Wrestling Lessons for the benefit of the kids of Milton. Children from 12 - 18 who are interested, come out with their parents for the first meeting.

Sunday, May 20th, 1990
at 7:00 p.m.

310 Main Street Milton
(Below the T.D. Bank, downstairs, use side door entrance)
Phone Rick at 878-6288



The Corporation of the
TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE

RURAL ROADSIDE WEED SPRAYING

The Town of Milton is undertaking a Rural Roadside Weed spraying program in 1990. This program will treat roadsides in Rural areas SOUTH of Highway 401.

The work is expected to be done during the weeks of May 21st and May 28th. The material to be sprayed is "2,4-D" and "Glean" which are common products used on residential lawns and on grain crops. These products are approved for use by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of the Environment. They will only be applied under ideal conditions, such as calm air and no rain.

Should any owner or tenant wish to discuss the roadside spraying program, would you please contact the Town of Milton's Public Works Department at 878-7211.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

1990 Rural Roadside
Weed Spraying Area

