

# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1993

## Milton blunts Arrows for T-ball title

The Milton Wallace Pontiac Sweetpeas Junior girls T-ball rep team capped a 30-3 season with one final and probably most important victory — a win over archrival Clarkson Arrows for the Ontario Girls T-ball Association championship on the weekend.

Milton beat Clarkson 33-11 for the title, ending a year in which Milton won four tournaments and brought the provincial junior T-ball championship to the town for the first time.

The rivalry with Clarkson has been keen. The previous weekend Clarkson defeated Milton for the Canadian Open T-ball title in Kitchener.

Milton drew their major competitors for the opener Friday night and downed them 27-26 in a tight battle. Milton then downed Kitchener's Forest Hill and Stanley Park teams, and secured a playoff berth by defeating Ancaster 33-11.

In Sunday's championship, Milton shut down the Clarkson offence. The early going told the tale. Nicole Gooding led off with a triple. Stacy Haringa followed with one of her own. Courtney Leskun doubled and by the end of the first frame Milton had scored nine runs, and they held Clarkson scoreless.

Milton got stellar defence from Leskun at short and Laura Mays at third. Mays worked in tandem with the deft-handed Marion Jamieson at first.

Natasha Tennant cracked two last-bat base clearing homers to inspire extra base hits from Lori Woloston, Jessica Brown, Lindsay Cook, Stephanie Leslie and Jamieson. Tanya Azzopardi cracked a solo homerun.

Clarkson could not come back. Their clean-up hitter drove a long ball to left field but centrefielder Adrienne Bradley caught up with it, fired it to cut-off player Stacy Haringa, and Haringa put a rocket into the plate so catcher Woloston could make the sweep tag. It killed any chance of a Clarkson rally and the Arrows conceded the game after four and a half innings.

## Sweetland leads Mavs in cliffhanger

The Milton Mavericks made a little bit of lacrosse history recently when they captured the Novice D Ontario Lacrosse Provincial Championship in Whitby with a heart-stopping win over Dunnville.

Milton's captain, Jon Sweetland, scored two goals with less than two minutes remaining in the game to boost Milton to a 7-5 win over Dunnville and the title.

Milton began their drive to the title, the first for a Milton lacrosse team, with a 5-1 win over Pelham. Caleb Moffat opened the scoring for Milton, and Scott Enair padded the lead. Pelham chipped away and got one back, but Moffat parked another one for Milton and Andrew Kirkland backed it up with a goal of his own. Adam Daniels plugged the final

• see MAVERICKS on page 15



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

One of the Milton Springer competitive gymnasts defies gravity with her trampoline routine.

## Building bodies and futures becomes a 20-year tradition

By MURRAY TOWNSEND  
Special to The Champion

AT THE 1972 OLYMPICS in Munich the world fell in love with a tiny gymnast by the name of Olga Korbut. At the same time they became enchanted with the beauty, style and grace of a sport that they hadn't paid much attention to previously.

Not long after, a group of inspired parents vaulted into action, and formed Milton's first gymnastic club. This year, the Milton Springers celebrate their 20th anniversary.

They started out at E.C. Drury high school and remained there for six years. In 1977, the club split into two, with half going to Georgetown to form the Halton Hills Jills.

In 1979, the Springers moved into their first full time facility at the old firehall, and in 1985 they moved to Alliance Road. They've been at their current location on Nipissing Road since 1991.

Janet Campbell is the head coach of the Milton Springers and has been for 17 years. She remembers the humble beginnings at E.C. Drury when they had to drag all the equipment out and put it back again when they were finished.

### Busy every day

At one time there was just one recreational class per week. Now, the club is in operation almost every day. They have four recreational sessions a year with about 250 kids in each session. Considering the leaner early times, Campbell figures there have been around 10,000 registrations in the past 20 years.

Along with interest in the sport, the level of competition has also increased dramatically. According to Campbell: "The kind of skills girls perform today at age nine could have been performed at the 1976 Olympics."

That's forced changes at the competitive level at the Springer's club as well. It used to be nine hours a week of practise for the competitive gymnasts, but now it's closer to 15. And even at that it's fewer than most clubs, which are now up to about 20 hours a week.

Campbell says they walk a fine line. "Milton works at a disadvantage (competitively) because we try not to run the girls' lives. It's surprising how successful we've been, considering." That success means champions at the regional level and ribbon winners at the provincial level.

Paula Geniole, who is currently the head coach at Georgetown, won a silver overall medal at the provincial championships one year for the Springers. Susan James won a gold medal in floor exercises in Tyro B in 1983. Tammy French, who married Alan Nolet of the Canadian Olympic team, was one of the most successful as a competitor and coach. More recently, Vicki Chlischczyk was a member of the gold medal winning central region team in 1993.

There are other successful gymnasts over the years, their pictures hanging on the wall at the club, but that's not necessarily how the Milton Springers

## MURRAY TOWNSEND

ON THE LOOSE

measure success.

"When the club established its goals and objectives, competitive skill was only part of it," says Campbell. "The philosophy of the club is to help our gymnasts to attain characteristics that will help them throughout their lives — poise, self-confidence, and self-discipline as well as the physical pluses."

Among their alumni are a PhD in sports psychology, several physical education teachers, and a couple of physiotherapists. Campbell positively glows when recalling former students who have gone on to productive careers. "It's fair to say all have been strongly influenced by their participation in gymnastics."

She says she's lucky to be able to combine a job with a passion. "I love it when they learn something — their sense of self esteem. I love it when the girls come back and you know you've contributed something to their lives."

Campbell isn't one to display her personal contributions to the club but others are more than willing. Barb Chlischczyk, for example, has been on the club's board of directors for about eight years. "She's more than a head coach. She goes way above and beyond what most coaches do. She's there for the love of the sport and the good of the kids."

### Special award

The Ontario Gymnastic Federation also recognized her degree of dedication with a special achievement award about five years ago for her work at the provincial level, as well as in Milton.

Campbell is more apt to hand out credit to the parent volunteers and the 23 part-time coaches the club employs. She says it's more difficult to find volunteers now than at one time because they're not as available. That, of course, is because most families now have two working parents. Still, she says those who can help do a "wonderful job."

A concern of the club, and of any non-profit organization of that sort, is the strain brought about by the recession. While expenses have been going up, enrolment has stayed around the same because Milton hasn't grown. That means a lot of fund-raisers and cost efficient methods in running

• see SPRINGERS on page 16

## Nightmare finish to a dream season

It was a nightmare finish to what could have been a dream season for the Milton Canada Brick Juveniles at last weekend's Ontario Baseball Association playoffs in Streetsville.

With just three teams remaining in the tournament, Milton needed one more win to make it to the finals. Against Kitchener, they went to the seventh and final inning down 1-0. With two out, Duane Eggleton walked and then Mike McPhail hit a single up the middle. That brought Jamie Janjevich to the plate, the team's top hitter in the tournament.

He hit a grounder in the infield to the Kitchener shortstop. The one bounce throw to first, however, was late with Janjevich clearly crossing the bag before the first baseman scooped it. That meant the bases were loaded for Craig Holloway. Or would have been. Incredibly, to the astonishment of everyone — including the Kitchener contingent — the umpire called Janjevich out. Game. Tournament. Season.

Kitchener went on to meet Ottawa in the finals, winning the first game, but losing the second and the tournament.

One of the convenors later said that he talked to the umpire who admitted he had made a mistake but that he couldn't change his call once he made it. He felt terrible about it, as did the home plate umpire who refused to work behind the plate for any of the remaining games.

Left-hander Derek MacDonald pitched for Milton against Kitchener and allowed just two hits, the first a high bouncer just out of his reach. The only Kitchener run was unearned when a one out double play ball was mishandled at second. The lead runner reached third and then came home on a pitch in the dirt that got away from the catcher.

Milton didn't do much better at the plate against Kitchener hurler Steve Vautour. They managed just three hits and didn't get their first until Eggleton hit a bloop single to left in the fifth. Janjevich and Mike McPhail had the only other Milton safeties in the game.

Manager Ralph Nunnaro was philosophical about the umpire's decision after he got over the shock. "There's nothing you can do — it's umpire judgement." He added that normally the two umpires were among the best they see, but that "they left the one bad game for today."

He was pleased with the superb pitching and defence throughout the tournament but said the lack of hitting in the final game was out of character for the team. He also liked the way they battled back in the final game, as well as earlier in the tournament and throughout the season. "This is not a team that gives up. They fight right to the last minute."

Nunnaro added, "I'm happy with the season but disappointed with today, and there's not much we can do about that."

Here's a summary of Milton's other games in Ontario championships.

### Milton 14 Leaside 4

Leaside were the Metropolitan Toronto representatives. They

• see GOOD on page 16