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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3, 1994

Flat weekend sees midgets ousted early in OBA finals

By MURRAY TOWNSEND
Special to The Champion

The better the team, the higher the expectations, and the greater the disappointment when things don't go well.

That's what the Milton Karmax midgets found out this past weekend at the Ontario Elimination Championships in Burlington.

Considered one of the favourites in the 12-team tournament of the province's elite, they bowed out early after losing 8-5 to Leaside and 6-5 to Stoney Creek. Summaries of both games are included below.

Manager Jim Ridley said he didn't want to take anything away from the two winning clubs, but felt Milton was the better team, they just didn't play like it.

"The thing that hurt us were mental mistakes and physical errors," said Ridley.

He made note of several of them. Some were the type of things that rarely happen to them — such as dropping the ball on a tag, forgetting which base to throw to, slipping and falling on a pop-up, and getting picked off at first base.

That's part of baseball, but to be a championship team, according to Ridley, you can't be making those mistakes in games of this much importance. Milton has had some bad games before and still won, says Ridley, but against the best in the province you won't get away with it.

"At this level, when you open a door, they come crashing through."

Ridley hopes the team has learned something and that the players can overcome the disappointment and feeling that they beat themselves. "You can't talk experience, you have to go through it."

It's still been a highly successful season for the midgets. Just getting into this tournament is an accomplishment. As well, they're undefeated in 14 games in the Central Ontario Baseball Association and have an opportunity to go to the AAA Ontario championships in Toronto over the Labour Day weekend.

Guelph ended up winning the midget elimination tournament with a 7-5 final game victory over Burlington and will represent Ontario at the Canadian championships in Alberta.

Leaside 8 Milton 5

The Karmax Midgets jumped out to an early lead in the second inning. Shayne Ridley walked and took third in a close play on a single by Kevin Wilson. Ridley came home on an infield out by Jimmy Fay, and Wilson scored on a sharp line drive by Jeff Langille over the third baseman's head.

• see MIDGETS on page 21



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Going airborne are three Milton BMX enthusiasts; Dave Goodale (left), Bob Rowley (centre) and Jay Rowley. They are just back from the World Championships in Michigan.

In world championships

Goodale shows well in BMX

Five Milton BMX bicycle racers headed down to Waterford Oaks, Michigan this past weekend to take part in the World Championships.

Thirty-eight countries were represented among the 600 participants. The five Milton riders were Dave Goodale, Paul Goodale, Jason Rowley, Bobby Rowley and Clinton Williamson. All were able to advance past the first round, where half the riders are eliminated.

In a field of 270, Dave Goodale made to the top 50

in the 18 and over class. Goodale is ranked 18th on the United States tour.

The BMX National Series is coming to Canada for the first time ever and will take place right here in Milton August 20 and 21 at Track 2000 in Drumquin Park at Britannia and Trafalgar Road.

Most of the top pros in the United States will be coming to Milton, with \$5,000 up for grabs both days. The event is free for spectators.

Milton athletes shine at Etobicoke meet

Two Milton athletes contributed excellent performances in the Harriet Tubman Games in Etobicoke recently.

Competing for the Athletiques International Track and Field Club in Oakville, 13-year-old Nenad Pljevaljeic missed a meet record by the narrowest of margins in the bantam boys high jump.

After pulling an upset by beating the favourite with a jump of 1.64

metres, he saw the event delayed while officials tried to discover the existing record.

During the delay it started to rain, making the jumping apron too slippery for the basketball shoes Pljevaljeic had been using to that point. He switched over to high jump shoes giving him better traction, but the delay and colder weather, along with a painful shin, were just enough to keep him out of the record books.

Chris Kargel did make the record books, however. The 10-year-old set a meet record of 9.17 metres while winning the tyke boys shotput. That was the first of three personal bests for Kargel. He cleared 1.31 metres for second place in the high jump, and was fourth in the 100m in 15.00 seconds.

The 10 members of the Athletiques International Track and Field Club present posted 18 personal records at the meet to earn 13 medals.

Softball silver for midget girls

The Milton Service Clubs midget girls softball team claimed the silver medal recently in the prestigious Chatham Summer Gold Tournament.

Their only loss was in the championship game, a 2-1 squeaker to Windsor.

Milton started the weekend on a positive note against Amherstburg, winning 14-0 on a combined no-hitter by Jayne Currie and Cathy Rayner. Lorena Durrant (tournament MVP) led the offence, going 2-for-2 with a double, home run and five RBI. Corrine and Shailene Jeffrey each went 2-for-3; and Rebecca McTrach collected three RBI.

Currie and Rayner were at it again in the next game with their second straight no-hitter in a 15-0 win over Courtright. Darcy McTrach and Currie each went 3-for-3 with Rayner going 2-for-3 with 2 RBI. Charity Crombie hit a three run homer and Stephanie Gervais went 2-for-2 with a triple and two RBI.

Milton won their third straight game 12-2 over Chatham but got a scare in the pre-game warmup when Janis Naylor stopped a line drive with the end of her nose. She managed to still play, however, and collected an RBI triple. Lisa Donegan and Durrant each went 2-for-2, with Durrant collecting another four RBI. Wendy Nielsen, Kelly Smith, Crombie and both Jeffrey girls each had a hit and an RBI.

In the semifinal game Milton faced South London and continued to dominate, winning 12-2. Gervais led the attack going 3-for-3 with an RBI. Durrant was 2-for-2 and Donegan 1-for-1 with 3 RBI. Everybody in the lineup had at least one hit.

The final game pitted Milton against Windsor. Milton beat them the last time they played in June, but not this time. Windsor prevailed 2-1 in a pitchers' duel. The teams combined for only seven hits.

Milton entered the seventh inning trailing 2-0. Lisa Donegan led off with a single and moved to second on a beautiful sacrifice bunt by Rebecca McTrach. Durrant then singled up the middle for her second hit of the game. Windsor pitching retired the next two batters to secure the win.

Milton's next tournament is the provincial qualifier, August 12-14 in Byron.

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