Special to The Champion

The Milton District Mustangs may be the team to beat in boys high school baseball this season, but in girls softball play it was E.C. Drury who reigned supreme Thursday at Bronte Meadows Park — disposing of their crosstown pony counterparts 18-1.

The season opening triumph gave the Spartans a little revenge for last year's 13-0 loss to MD in the Halton finals.

The 'Stangs — who have lost a number of key veterans from last season's squad — may now have a tough row to hoe in capturing a fourth straight regional title.

"I was really pleased with our hitting and pitching. The girls came through and overall it was a super start to the season," said coach Sally Gray. "It's always a rivalry against Milton District."

The two teams seem to be creating a tradition of lopsided affairs as well.

While MD won last year's Halton championship in

convincing fashion, it was Drury who bombed them 17-4 during their regular season meeting.

Spartan pitching was even more impressive in this year's regular season match with the 'Stangs, as Michelle Gregory and Jennifer Eidt combined for seven innings of two-hit ball. Gregory worked the first two frames and returned to close things out while Eidt came in for some strong middle relief work.

Tiroena Shea was the only Mustang to get an extrabase hit with a triple to right field in the fourth. She also brought in the team's only run four minutes later on a Spartan fielding error.

The bulk of Drury's offensive production came in the last three innings, when they sent 10 hitters to the plate in the fifth and collected seven runs — and later unloaded with nine more in their final at-bat.

Ten of their 12 players scored Thursday, with Eidt, Stephanie Taylor and Corinne Jeffrey bringing in three runs each. Scoring twice were Gregory and Wendy Nielsen while Kim Friedrich, Michelle Preston, Leanne Petherick, Robin Wiggins and Karen

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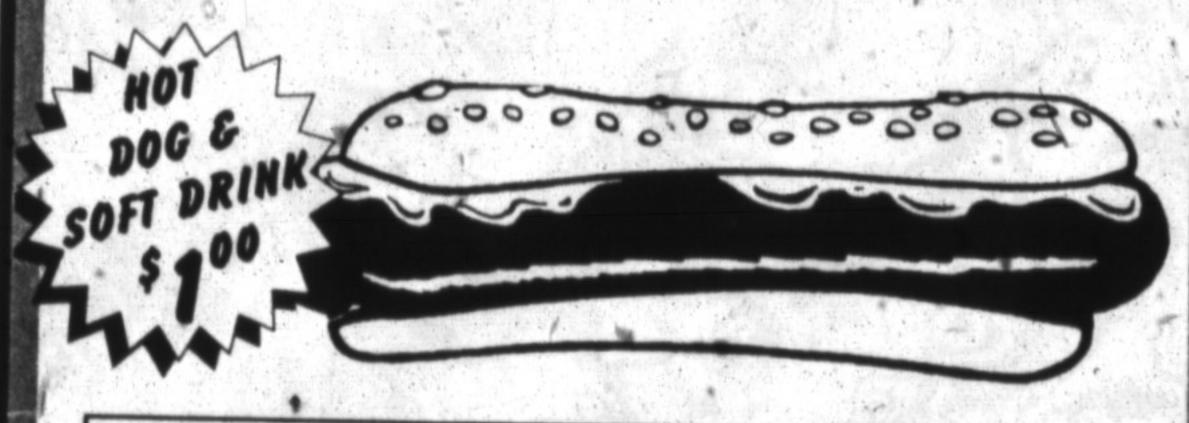
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