



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY JULY 26, 1996

19 - The Canadian Champion, Friday July 26, 1996

## Canucks warm to Cuban hospitality, but show no mercy on the field

### All-star Canadian team goes 4-1 on eight-day tour

By STEVE LeBLANC  
Special to The Champion

AS IF TOPPING the Ontario high school scene wasn't enough, members of the Milton District baseball team have now beaten the best junior squads Cuba has to offer.

Mark McPhail, Andrew Mercier, Kevin Wilson and Adam Flatt — an assistant coach with MD this year — were part of a 13-player team that toured Cuba earlier this month with Campbellville coach Ken McKay.

The squad — which made an eight-day swing through Cuba — was comprised of members of the MD and Brampton Centennial teams as well as four Mississauga high schools. McKay manages the Brampton Centennial squad.

The foursome helped the visiting all-stars post a 4-1 record on the tour. "I took a group down last year who finished 2-3, and they weren't playing against the same calibre teams we did this time," said McKay, whose idea for the tour was sparked a few years back when he accompanied a friend to Cuba with a peewee squad from Pickering.

After a 7-2 loss to a provincial team from Matanzas, the crew went on a 4-0 tear which included a 3-1 weather-shortened victory in Havana over the Cuban Under-17 National team.

"A torrential downpour ended the game. We tried to re-schedule but they came up with every excuse in the book not to play," McKay added.

The touring squad also scored wins over a provincial club from Cardenas, the Havana provincial champions and a select team heading to an international tournament in Japan this month.

"I'd say beating the national team was the highlight of the tour," said Flatt, who both pitched and caught in Cuba. "I was happy with my performance as well. My arm was sore



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton baseball players (l-r) Adam Flatt, Mark McPhail and Kevin Wilson toured Cuba, and upstaged their hosts, on the heels of winning the provincial championship for Milton District High School.

after the first day but against Matanzas I pitched four innings and had some of my best work all year.

"It was nice playing with Mark and Kevin again after coaching them this year."

Turning in perhaps the best showing of any local player was McPhail. Patrolling both shortstop and second-base, he went 6-for-13 with six RBIs and six runs scored — including the only two in the team's shutout win over the Havana provincial champs.

He also listed the national team win as the highlight of the trip, and said he was particularly impressed with the Cuban players' athletics. "All the kids down there have amazing arms. Their transition from glove to hand is also much quicker than up here," said McPhail.

Returning to his hometown of London after the school year, catcher Mercier took the opportunity to compete with some of his MD mates for a final time, but couldn't say he had quite as good a trip as they did after a forearm injury sidelined him for the first three days.

After that, he returned and went just 1-for-6 with two runs scored, two walks and two RBIs.

In addition to the win over the nationals, he says his one hit — a 410-foot double against Cardenas — was his biggest moment in Cuba.

"It was a great experience, but kind of sad as well though, to see so much poverty. If we lived down there we'd be like kings. I wanted to grab some of those kids and bring them home in my suitcase," explained Mercier, whose touring teammates gave away clothing and other souvenirs to the town children throughout the week.

Wilson, who played first, third and did some catching, was impressed by the Cuban love affair with baseball.

"We had heard there was going to be a big crowd for the first game but when we arrived and when we left the kids in the town were all over us like we were rock stars or something," recalled Wilson. "Their work ethic is what impressed me most. It's baseball, baseball, baseball all day long."

Wilson also went 6-for-13 with two RBIs and one run scored.

"It was just such a nice experience. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end off an amazing season," he said.

## Minor Baseball

### Major Mosquito

Scotia Bank 8, Remax Ron Furik 6

Opening season game had both teams working the bats and running to make the score close.

Hitters for the Scotia Bank team were Jason Gaeton, Nicole Gooding, Kevin Gauthreau, Nicholas MacMorrine, all drew singles.

Hitters for the Remax team were: Kieran Cunney, Garnet Rekoskie, Greg Dambrois, Ryne Furik and Derek Tellier. Pitching the fourth and fifth innings was Kenny Hume for Scotia Bank allowing no runs.

SKD 15, Scotia Bank 6

SKD had mighty bats and took the lead. Scotia Bank stood strong in the third and fourth innings allowing no runs. Hitters for the SKD team were Mike Mills, Kevin Tyrer, Mike Basso, Brad Farrow, Michael Cross, Scott McKay, Kareem L.

Hitters for Scotia Bank were Andy Bell, Kenny Hume, Kevin O'Brien, Kevin Gauthreau and Donald Lillilo. Pitching for the game were Nicholas MacMorrine, Kevin O'Brien and Kenny Hume for Scotia Bank.

Fifth Wheel 12, Scotia Bank 11

Both teams played a good game making the score close right to the end.

Hitters for the Fifth Wheel team were Aaron Clarke, Alex Tokic, Adam Bradley, Matthew Knock and Devon Baynton. Pitcher J. Mckee allowed no runs in the first and third innings.

Hitters for the Scotia Bank were Greg Sheppard, Kevin O'Brien, Kenny Hume, Andy Bell and Jason

• see MINOR BASEBALL on page 20

## Peewees take another title

Milton's peewee rep baseball team continues to dominate in tournament play this season, with another championship title last weekend in Hamilton.

The local crew — who are now 17-4 in tournament play — strung together six straight wins to capture their second tournament title of 1996.

In the championship finals, Milton needed extra innings to squeeze past the host Hamilton team 9-8. A suicide squeeze bunt by Paul Duff scored Evan Jeans for the game-winning run in the eighth inning. Closer Jeff Schouten earned the win as he struck out the side just moments before.

Milton had no trouble reaching the finals, as they outscored their opposition 63-14. Along the way they earned wins over Caledonia, Alexander Park, West Mountain, Inch Park and Grimsby — whom they annihilated 28-2.

# KNUCKLES SPORTSHOP

NEW • USED • REPAIRS • SKATE SHARPENING

WE'RE READY FOR

SOCCER  
BASEBALL  
HOCKEY  
ROLLERBLADES  
LACROSSE



18 THOMPSON RD. MILTON. 878-7422

• Titleist • Diawa • Ram • Taylor Made • Wilson • Invex •

Titanium Driver All Brands • Diawa

# GOLF!

## Clarke's Golf

Second Junior Golf Camp organized by Clarke's Golf at Oakville Executive Golf Course.



Clarke's Golf Junior Golf Camp - Thank You to All Participants! Gary Hay, Golf Instructor and Junior Golfers

18 Thompson Rd. Units 7 & 8 Milton 878-1818

• Hogan • Armour • Callaway •

Ram • Taylor Made • Wilson • Invex •

