



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1996

## Mohawks peak at right time to earn OBA title

They may have provided Listowel with a second shot at victory, but the Campbellville Mohawks bantam baseball team showed no added charity on the way to their recent Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) "D" Division triumph.

The Mohawks went 5-0 at the Labour Day weekend tournament in Wyoming, Ont. After downing Listowel 4-1 in round-robin play, they met them again in the finals and managed another three-run margin of victory — this time in a 5-2 final.

Anchoring both Listowel wins was ace pitcher Craig Foster, who worked all seven innings in the championship tilt and allowed just four hits. "After playing them earlier in the weekend, I knew the hitters so it was just a question of doing the things that won me the first game," said Foster. "My curve ball bailed me out a few times and I had great defense all game. We came together and pulled it out."

The teams were deadlocked 1-1 through much of the contest before Campbellville broke things open with a four-run sixth inning. From there, they had only to play conservatively to maintain the lead and take the title.

Along with his strong pitching, Foster also knocked in a run in the final while centre-fielder Jessie Lieberthal and third-baseman Steve Harding each had two hits and one RBI. Leading the club's defensive efforts was shortstop Joey Zenke, who came up with a big bases-load double-play to end the fifth inning. "It was probably my best moment of the tournament," Zenke said.

Zenke was also impressive on the mound and helped the Mohawks to two other wins. En route to the finals, they beat

Port Hope twice — 12-11 and 19-2 decisions — and outmuscled Lambeth 12-9.

Campbellville needed all seven innings to dispose of Listowel in their initial meeting as well, when Tim Gerrard erased a 1-0 deficit with a two-run double in the sixth. Foster followed up with a two-run triple moments later to add some insurance.

Gerrard's plate performance was strong all weekend. Dan Martin, Neil Quinn, Ryan Turpin, Matt Davy, Zac MacKay, James Sawyer and Paul Berger all turned in key offensive contributions.

Manager Jack Cantelon said his team's campaign towards the OBA finals was even tougher than the actual tournament. After falling to Milton 2-0 in their league final series, the Mohawks needed all three games to dispose of Glanbrook in their best-of-three playdown series.

They dropped the first game 2-0 but came back with 12-11 and 5-4 decisions to squeak out a championship berth. "They were the toughest team we faced in the playoffs," said Cantelon, who led the team alongside coach Jim Harding. Their Mohawks went 14-4 for first-place during the regular season.

For Foster, the 1996 Campbellville Mohawk bantams represented the best shot at an OBA title since a disappointing provincial finals loss in 1994 with the peewees. "We knew once we beat Glanbrook and got to the OBA tournament that we had a good chance at winning it all," said Foster.

Added Steve Harding, "It was a great ending to the season. Everybody's talents came through at the right time."

## Rebekah wins championship

Rebekah Lodge recently took home championship honors in the Milton girls baseball intermediate division, downing Hunt Plymouth 12-7.

Josephine Ceelen and Sarah Liut combined for some effective pitching for the Lodge, with reliever Liut earning the win.

She chalked up five strikeouts and gave up three hits and four runs.

Liut also hit three singles while MVP Katie Locke launched a grand slam and added a single. Lauren Cairns, Jas Kuyten and Denise Laing all had two hits apiece.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Circle of friends

These three pre-competitive gymnasts from the Milton Springers Gymnastic Club are getting ready for the season of both recreational and competitive events. They are (l-r) Stephanie Deumer, Lisa Tuff and Shanelle Vailloo.

## Peerless and fearless playoffs

By the time you are reading this column, the final standings in the Milton Men's Slo-Pitch League will have been computed, and the playoff format complete as we head to the second season.

All past game results will have become meaningless as each team starts afresh, and the only actual benefit to the real season divisional winners is they get to be home team throughout the playoffs.

To really confuse you more, as the home team, they do not have to prepare the diamond prior to first pitch as is the case in the regular season, but can enjoy a little pre-game banter as they watch the visitors struggle with the heavy equipment bag, and try their damndest to chalk straight lines to first and third.

What an honour... to have played a 28 game sched-



## Slo Pitch

with PAT GRANT

ule, a lot of it in crummy weather, keeping an eye all the while on your closest opponents, figuring out the ramifications of a game-in-hand, remembering blown opportunities back in June, and now the dubious distinction of having finished first.

• see SLOW PITCH on page 19

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