

J's fly ...and die

Mayday to payday in 24 hours

Sunday afternoon in Barrie, the Midland Junior baseball team was clubbed by a doubleheader total of 45-7. Today, they sport a 2-3 won-lost record.

Clearly, the South-Simcoe Baseball League, the new Junior squad's roost, is not the model of parity.

The Juniors earned their second season victory Monday night in Collingwood as Ernie Desroches unloaded an arsenal of bullets on the host club to help his team to a 5-3 decision.

Less than 24 hours before, though, the Juniors were being skinned alive by Barrie, suffering red-faced throughout 13-1 and 32-6 drubbings.

It was like a different league Monday night, and indeed it seems, to many observers, as if the SSBL is an amalgamation of two distinct entities: Barrie, Orillia (who handed Midland their other loss), Ivy and Newmarket on the strong side, and Midland, Collingwood, Owen Sound and Beeton (whom Midland clobbered 8-1 for their other win) on the weak side.

But, as far as Midland manager Dick Thompson is concerned, there's really no time to worry about who's who

and what's what with the rest of the league; his problem right now is simply trying to keep what he has to work with as consistent as possible.

And in the last few days, consistency hasn't been apparent in the young club.

"I was quite pleased with Monday's game," Thompson said yesterday. "I think we should have scored more than we did and they probably shouldn't have gotten a couple of the runs they did, but overall, I think everybody did a pretty good job."

"In fact, I think that if we'd played the same way on Sunday, it wouldn't have been so bad. We probably still would have been beaten, but it wouldn't have been as badly."

Sunday, Thompson said "the team spirit didn't seem to be there". And no wonder: the Barrie team clobbered every pitcher Thompson could throw at them, including first-time pitcher Randy Lalonde (normally a first baseman), who Thompson tested to finish off the second humiliation.

In Collingwood, however, things changed with the posting of Desroches on the mound and senior

Danny Lethbridge at catcher. Desroches threw seven strikeouts and Lethbridge gave the club the touch of experience it needed to forget Sunday's slaughter.

Collingwood grabbed a 2-0 lead in the second inning and held it through the fourth before Midland started to roll.

John Roi scored Midland's fourth-inning run after reaching base on an error and making it home on another error on a shot by Lethbridge.

The Midlanders followed that act up with another run in the fifth inning after singles by Mark Edwards and Malcolm Kelly, and won the issue in their final at-bat when Dean Proulx and Jerry Richard both walked and were knocked in with a double by Randy Lalonde, who in turn scored a on ground ball by John Roi.

With darkness setting in quickly, Desroches moved fast to bump off the Collingwood hitters, striking out his last two foes.

Midland had six hits in the game, Collingwood came up with five and both teams committed four errors.

The Juniors now have a chance to boost their record to .500 with a Friday night game against Beeton at Tiffin Park (6:30 p.m.). Sunday (2 p.m.), they'll meet Collingwood in a doubleheader at Tiffin.

The immediate future looks good for the club, then, but Thompson has reservations. Besides his top-throwers Desroches and Craig Pender, he's got Keith Dumais, a lefthander who hasn't been in action for a couple of years, and Lethbridge and Lalonde if necessary.

It's doubtful any more pitchers will show up at tonight's practice, and the manager is concerned his short list of moundmen will be overworked in a hurry.

"I think the league's scheduling is for the birds for teams just starting out, such as we are," the manager said yesterday. "We just don't have enough to be playing so much."

And even the present list of pitchers won't be getting the workouts they may need to keep up the rigorous pace set down by the league. Tonight's practice time was an unexpected break, and Thompson doesn't know when more practice time will be available over the next few weeks.



Woe is us

The mood wasn't very cheerful on the Midland Junior baseball team bench during the second game of the club's South-Simcoe Baseball League doubleheader Sunday in Barrie. The Juniors lost the first game 13-1 and followed up with a 32-6 embarrassment. Monday brought a few smiles,

though, as the team dumped Collingwood. And this weekend's home games could even force a few grins from the young group as they're matched against league weak-sister Beeton and have another double header slated against Collingwood.

Raiders on a roll

Defending champion Midland Athenian Raiders and finalist Vasey Twin Lakers will square off for the first time this season in Simcoe Rural Fastball League action tomorrow night (8 p.m.) in Midland.

The Raiders have slugged both their opponents in their two outings so far this

season while the Twin Lakers have split their pair.

Last Thursday, the Raiders dumped Elmvale 11-7 in season-opening play at Midland's arena diamond and Monday they whopped Wyevale 14-1 in Wyevale.

Bruce Guthrie was the winning pitcher in both games and Kim

Ormiston paced the hard-hitting Raiders with two doubles and a homer in Monday's matchup.

In other games last Thursday, Perkinsfield edged Hillsdale 4-3, Wyebridge handled the Twin Lakers 7-4 and Phelpston clobbered Wyevale 9-1.

In Monday's other games, host Elmvale

got past Wyebridge 7-6, Hillsdale beat Phelpston 5-2 and the Twin Lakers dumped the Vasey Royals 8-5.

In other games tomorrow, Phelpston will visit the Royals for an 8:30 p.m. matchup, Wyevale will travel to Hillsdale and Elmvale will visit Perkinsfield. Both latter games start at 7 p.m.



Top jock

Mike Josland, Midland Secondary School's Male Athlete of the Year, receives his trophy during ceremonies at the school's Annual Athletic Awards Banquet last Thursday. Female Athlete of the Year was Lisa McKelvie. (Photo by Andy Wicksted)

Ron scores four

Midland's Ron Robillard earned silver medals in all four events he entered at last weekend's 1982 Central East Games for the Disabled in Mississauga.

Robillard finished behind Toronto rival Chris Stoddard in the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 metre wheelchair races in his first competition of the year.

Robillard, a gold-medalist as part of the four-by-400 metre relay team at last summer's Canada Games in Ottawa, (where he also won six silvers), will now set his sights on the Canadian national team training camp in

Halifax in less than two weeks.

He says he'll try for the national team in the 200, 400, 800, 1,500, "and probably 5,000" metre events at the June 21 competition, which was originally scheduled for Toronto's Variety Village.

Robillard set records in all four of his main events at last year's Ontario Games, in which he came up with six gold medals.

Robillard has been training seven miles a day in preparation for the national team try. Stoddard figures to be his major foe again in Halifax, but Robillard is confident he can top the Toronto contender.