



## Ready to roll

Matthew Ridley, left, and Billy Carson, right, two of the 13 entries in last weekend's CKMP Soap Box Derby, get set as the starter prepares to release the lever during the annual race down Penetanguishene's Main Street hill. The event, part of Penetanguishene's Centennial

celebrations, was won by Andrew Benke, who picked up top prize of a motocross bike and a trophy. A trophy and radio went to runner-up Vanessa Bourgeois and third-place finisher David Cooper earned himself a fishing rod and reel.

# Specs nailed late

## Hand Beeton their first season victory

The Midland Color Works Spectrums were nailed for six runs in the sixth inning as Beeton grabbed their first South-Simcoe Baseball League season victory Sunday in Beeton.

The loss was the ninth of the season for the Spectrums against four losses and a tie.

They'll try to improve on that record tomorrow night when they travel to Newmarket, but should enter double figures in the loss

column Friday when the league-leading Barrie Juveniles come to town for a 6:30 p.m. matchup at Tiffin Park.

Sunday's game started off in fine fashion for the Spectrums. They opened the scoring with two runs in the first inning when Jerry Richard doubled in Simon Moore and Mark Edwards.

Things started to slip in the second when

Beeton racked up three runs off starter Kevin Marchand, appearing on the mound for the first time for the Spectrums, but Midland bounced back to tie it in the third with a leadoff double by Malcolm Kelly, who scored when the Beeton catcher threw to first on a third-strike passed ball play.

The Spectrums even went ahead again in the fourth when Dan Lethbridge singled in Jerry Richard, but that

was to be their last hurrah.

A bunch of walks -- a couple off of Chris Lemieux, who relieved Marchand briefly in the middle of the sorry sixth -- a handful of errors and a wild pitch for good measure gave Beeton all they needed.

The Spectrums bowed out quietly after Marchand opened with a single in the seventh and the next three batters were put away without much fanfare.

The Elmvale Mets turned a lot of heads, and caused the covering up of some others, with their finalist showing at the recent Elmvale Sports Molson Fastball Tournament.

En route to the final, which they lost to Bayfield Furniture of the Barrie and District Fastball League, the Mets stunned the local onlookers with a 1-0 decision over the host BDSFL entry Elmvale Sports.

A shock indeed, "But they (the Sports) took it all in stride," Mets manager Jim Dixon said yesterday. The next night, when the Mets hosted the Midland Athenian Raiders -- whom they also beat in the Molson tourney -- for a Simcoe Rural Fastball League contest, the Sports arrived at the game with paper bags over their heads.

This Sunday, the Mets will play host to the SRFL's other eight clubs in the league's annual tournament -- and they're hoping to help the sale of paper bags in town a little more.

One club that will take a good shot at bringing the Mets back down to earth in tournament play is the Raiders, current league champs, current league co-leader and league tournament title-holder for the past three years.

"They pretty much have a strangle hold on it," says Dixon. "And they're always tough in any tournament."

Another team which will have a few things to say about it will be the Hillsdale Hustlers, who share the league lead with the Raiders.

The Mets will get a taste of the Hustlers' medicine when they play a rescheduled contest tonight (7 p.m.) in Hillsdale.

In league action Monday, the Hustlers bumped off the cellar-dwelling Wyevale Hawks 6-2, the Raiders clobbered the host Vasey Twin Lakers 7-2, the Vasey Royals got by the Phepston Hotel 4-3 and the Mets were at home for a 10-3 win over the Perkinsfield Bantus.

Bruce Graves, who shared the pitching duties with Doug Jones in the Molson event, got the win for the Mets.

It was only the fourth victory for the Mets in 10 league games, keeping them in sixth place in the standings -- a fact which, considering their inspired play in the Molson tourney, may be a surprise to some observers.

"We were really up for the Molson tournament and I think the guys were pretty much

playing above their heads," the manager admitted. "But we're back to normal, now. We're still playing good ball, but we've got our feet back on the ground."

Sunday's league tournament will get underway at 10 a.m., with Phepston taking

on the Raiders. That'll be followed by an 11 a.m. encounter between the Mets and the Vasey Twin Lakers, the Vasey Royals will meet the Hustlers at noon and Wyebridge will face Wyevale at 1 p.m. Perkinsfield will get a bye through the first round.

# Schmidt 3rd, 4th

Gunther Schmidt of Midland scored third- and fourth-place finishes in the opening two races of the Canadian MOLYSLIP endurance driving championship series last weekend in Gimley, Manitoba.

Schmidt, defending Canadian champion in the MOLYSLIP class, said things "could have been much better" in his season-opening appearance.

Both races were an hour-and-a-half in

duration, but during the first on Saturday, the one in which he placed fifth, Schmidt said he spent 20 minutes in the pits while his crew worked on his tail lights.

"I think that problem took first place from us," Schmidt said yesterday.

Next outing is slated for July 31-Aug. 1 at Sanair, Que., about 80 km. east of Montreal.

After that it'll be a couple of two-hour runs in Halifax and the finale, a gruelling 12-hour test at Sanair.



## Toole on the tube

# Cents get chief

25-year-old Ross McConnell says discipline's the thing

Ross McConnell, a veteran minor hockey coach and executive from Elmvale, will coach the Midland Centennials Junior C hockey club for the 1982/83 season, Centennials president Tom Garner announced last night.

McConnell, who has coached as high as Midget in the Elmvale Minor Hockey Association ranks and has a solid background in coaching at other minor hockey levels in Elmvale and Barrie, will be venturing into Junior hockey for the first time.

"He's definitely enthused about it and told me he's always wanted to step up to the Junior level," said Garner, who first discussed the idea with McConnell last March.

Garner said McConnell considers the task "a challenge."

The Centennials had a tough time of it last year, finishing out of the playoffs in the Georgian Bay Junior league. Garner was behind the bench most of the season, aside from a brief appearance by former NHLer

Bep Guidolin.

This season, the Centennials will compete in the South Division of a revised Georgian Bay League format which was confirmed at a meeting Monday in Bracebridge.

The Midland squad will face defending Georgian Bay champion and local rival Penetanguishene Kings, the Essa (Angus) 80's, the Oro 77's and the Stayner Siskins.

Main reason for the reconstruction of the league was travelling expense for the southern clubs in last year's Georgian Bay format. Midland, Penetanguishene and Oro will still have some of that, though, as they meet Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Haliburton and Parry Sound of the new North Division in one home and one away game throughout the revised 34-game schedule.

There'll be separate playoffs in each division and the two winners will meet to settle the Georgian Bay title.

Essa and Stayner come to the Georgian Bay fold from the Mid-Ontario league.