

# Legion Pee Wees upset Barrie

What a great week of baseball for the Midland Legion Branch 80 Peewees who have now won three straight games after a pair of wins last week in York-Simcoe play. Midland's two wins came at the expense of Tottenham and the league-leading Barrie Peewees, who were up until Thursday evening, undefeated in league play.

Tuesday, July 14, Midland Legion played host in a return match to the Tottenham Legion Peewees and poor hosts they proved to be as they downed the visiting club by a 13-2 score. For Midland starter Troy Caley, it was his first victory of the season as he went the distance and pitched strongly for the win.

Tottenham scored a run in the top of the first inning to take an early lead, but Midland replied with two of their own in the bottom half of the inning when both Billy Leonard and Tim Mason scored after having hit safely to get on base. Tottenham scored their second and final run of the game in the top of the second, but once again Midland answered with a rally as they scored seven runs to take control of the game.

Scoring for Midland were Henry Rodgers and Brian Duval who were driven in by Leonard's double, Leonard himself later scored along with Mason, Troy Caley, Laval Dubeau and Ryan Caley. With a 9-2 lead, Midland's sharp defense, Caley's strong pitching effort, the local squad were able to quash any potential Tottenham rally. Midland's Brian Duval scored in the bottom of the third to make the score 10-2.

Duval along with teammates Troy Caley and Dubeau rounded out the Midland scoring in the bottom of the sixth when the game was called due to the darkness.

Two nights later at Penetang's McGuire Park, the Midland Peewees hosted the Barrie Paul Sadlon Motors Peewees. In what proved to be the most thrilling game of the year, little did Midland Legion know that their previous loss to Barrie by a 29-9 score would be a motivating force in their efforts that evening. Fired up and ready to play, Midland was anxious to prove that they were indeed a better team than the one that played in Barrie two weeks previously.

The game began and ended in a classic defensive struggle between two good teams that demonstrated how well boys of 12 and 13 years old could play this game. Midland held Barrie off the scoreboard in the top of the first inning and managed to score one of their own when Billy Leonard staked his team to an early 1-0 lead. Barrie replied with three runs in the bottom of the second to claim a 3-1 lead as they roughed up Midland starter Tim Mason who had a relatively easy first inning. However, Mason settled down and pitched a super game for the final five innings as he was backed by his teammates who played outstanding defensive baseball.

Both Midland's second baseman Brian Duval and catcher Billy Leonard had their best game by far as they each were credited with a double play - Duval's coming at a crucial time in the third and Leonard's in the sixth. Together, Duval and Leonard combined to snare two Barrie base runners attempting to steal second base.

This sparkling play generated even a higher level of play for their teammates and other gems in this contest came from Troy Caley in the second inning as he made a spectacular over-the-shoulder catch deep in his short-stop position. Keith Lapensee made two game-saving catches in centre field as did Ryan Caley mid-way through the game with Barrie threatening to go ahead. For the coaching staff and fans alike, the defensive exhibition that was displayed in this game will be very difficult to duplicate.

Midland was blanked in the second inning, but they were also able to keep Barrie off the scoreboard in the third while they scored one run to narrow the gap to 3-2. Once again, it was Leonard who scored from second base after Mason got aboard with a solid double to left field. Both teams went scoreless in the fourth and fifth innings, but in the sixth, Midland tied the game when Laval Dubeau scored.

In the seventh, Barrie sent only four players to the plate before being held scoreless for their fifth inning. Midland could sense that an upset was in the making as the momentum of the game began to swing their way.

With Midland Legion batting in the bottom

of the seventh and the score tied 3-3, Barrie's coach sent in their ace reliever and stopper to try and put the game away. Unfortunately for him, he only managed to get Midland's first batter to ground out to him. He then proceeded to walk two of the next three batters he faced. Brian Duval drew a walk then advanced to second on a single by Leonard, but was thrown out at third base when he attempted to steal. The next batter, Tim Mason drew a walk and both he and Leonard moved up the base paths another 75 feet on a passed ball by the Barrie catcher. Next to bat was the offensive hero of the game, Troy Caley, (a former Barrie boy who was facing an old

teammate on the mound). With two outs and two players in scoring position, Caley hit a shallow fly to left centre field that managed to elude the centre fielder's glove as he dove forward for the catch. Caley's base hit allowed, who else, the "pesty" Leonard to score the game-winning run by a 4-3 count and the game ended dramatically.

To the Midland Legion Peewees, congratulations on just a super baseball game. Hopefully, this game will illustrate that anything can happen when a true team effort is exerted. To all the fans who came out to cheer for the boys, thank you on behalf of the boys, your support and encouragement were

greatly appreciated as you witnessed on the field. In addition, the team would like to say thanks to Penetanguishene's Recreation Director, Ron Marchildon for allowing the Midland Legion Peewees to use such a beautiful park in our time of need. If the Barrie game is any indication of just how well this baseball team can play, perhaps more games should be scheduled at this park in future.

Midland Legion's next scheduled game is set for tonight at Little Lake Park when they host the Orillia Legion Peewees and the game time is 6:30 p.m.

## Sports Scene



### Best foot forward

This certainly is not a street gang - they are a class of Karate students from Don Warren's Martial Arts Academy. The group

was putting on a demonstration during Midland's Annual Sidewalk Sale on the

weekend. Warren's was formerly known as Kasper's.

## Boatworks beats Cooper Tool 2-0

by Ed Pearson

Midland Boatworks soccer team had a rare game at home last Wednesday. The only out-of-town team in the Barrie league, they play most of their games away from home. "On the road again" could be the team theme song. So they were happy to be hosting Cooper Tool at the Penetang S.S. field.

They did have some cause for concern though, their regular goalkeeper, Larry Buckley, was indisposed and Willie Rudebacher was taking his place between the sticks. As it happened, Willie rose to the occasion several times and aided by a protective defence, shut out Cooper Tool.

Shane Spurr, Midland's prolific scorer and the league's leading forward, was given a

rough ride through the game. When a player gets a reputation for getting goals it also brings him plenty of attention from the opposition. They were unable to stop him though as he had a hand in both goals which gave the Boaters their 2-0 win. He scored first from a goal mouth melee. It was an opportunist goal, he just out-hustled the defence and got his boot in first, not pretty but effective.

The second Midland goal was from the penalty spot and was well taken by Andy Monro. The opportunity was created by Spurr who was brought down in the penalty area by the goalkeeper. Monro made no mistake and placed the ball well clear of the diving keeper.

Dave Campbell was the Midland Boatworks high scorer last season but has been obliged to sit out all year with badly pulled leg muscles. The good news is that his doctor has given him permission to play in the upcoming last two games of the regular season. The opposition will find that they have a twin threat to contend with in Spurr and Campbell.

Midland have won half of their league games this year and are third in the standings. They are in a good position to make the play-offs which start during the first week in August. This Wednesday will be your last chance to see the team in action. They will be playing Barrie United at the Penetang S.S. field, kick off 7 p.m.