

# SPORTS

## Mariners sail off with two provincial baseball titles

*Minor peewees, peewees overcome early-round losses to win OBA trophies*

Chalk up two Ontario Baseball Association titles for the Markham Mariners.

At last weekend's annual provincial championships, the Mariners minor peewees won their third straight AAA title as a collective unit with a 5-1 win over the Whitby Chiefs in the deciding game of their double knockout event in Mississauga.

The Mariners peewees claimed the OBA AA crown with an 11-5 win over host Ajax in their rubber match of the double knockout format.

"It's never easy (to win the title)," said Mariners minor peewee coach Dan Deeley, in winning their third straight provincial title which is believed to be the first time a Markham minor baseball team has accomplished such a feat. "To win it though is pretty good."

### LOSE OPENER

In the minor peewees' run to the title, the Mariners overcame a 3-1 opening-game loss to the Chiefs before their bats came to life. Buoyed by a six-RBI effort from Peter Rodrigues, the Mariners throttled the North York Blues 15-7. The Mariners then made quick work of the Burlington Bulls 10-0, West Hill Hawks 11-1 and Kitchener As, a team that had defeated Markham twice during the season, 14-2 to reach the final against the Chiefs.

The Mariners forced a deciding game after handing the Chiefs their



Members of the Markham Mariners peewees (left photo) and minor peewees (right), have good reason to be smiling as they display their gold medals and championship trophy that they earned in last weekend's annual Ontario Baseball Association championships. The peewees defeated host Ajax to win the AA title while the minor peewees won the AAA crown after defeating the Whitby Chiefs in Mississauga.

first loss of the tournament with a 13-4 decision.

In the final game, the Mariners received a stellar pitching effort from Alliston Wong, who limited the Chiefs to just one hit and struck out 10 batters in a complete game effort. Igniting the offence were Argenis Paz, James Kottaras and Steven Stankos, who each delivered two hits and drove in a run while Chris Romano had one hit and one RBI. Wong, Anish Bhide, Aaron Caputo and Brodie Ross each collected a hit and Adam Velocci, one RBI.

Also contributing to the club's success in the tournament were: Daniel Mukai, who was the winning pitcher in relief in the Mariners' first win over the Chiefs, and Ryan Murphy, who had a hit in their win over Burlington.

Although the club lost its first

game, Deeley remained confident that his charges would respond to the pressure at hand.

"I wasn't nervous going into Saturday's (second tournament) game. I didn't think we'd go down quickly (in losing the first game), but I knew we'd keep fighting and that's what they did."

In explaining the club's success in the tournament, Deeley felt it came when their bats came to life.

"We beat some of the top teams with our bats. After our first game in which we got only two hits, our bats woke up."

As for next season, Deeley said the team will move up to the major peewee ranks and set their sights not only on winning a provincial title, but it will mark a year in which they can vie for national honours as well.

The team was managed by Chris Deeley and assisted by Tony Wong and David Deeley.

The peewee Mariners began the 11-team tournament with victories over Toronto Royal York, Mississauga North and London Tecumseh before losing their first game of the double knockout event to the host Ajax Spartans.

### MAKE AMENDS

After rallying to defeat Niagara Falls 6-3, the Mariners were handed the opportunity to make amends against the Spartans and did so handing them their first loss of the tourney, 4-2 to set up a deciding game.

The tournament finale was a closely-contested affair in the early going, as Mariners starting pitcher Tyler Mische, backed by his team's

solid defence, held the Spartans to just one run through the first three innings. The Mariners' offence then took over producing three runs in the fourth followed by four-run outbursts in each of the fifth and seventh innings to produce an 11-5 win.

Pitching depth proved to be a key factor in the Mariners success as Jeff Belgue, Mische, Jeff Bassett, Matt Easter, Andy Gray, Blake Vaisanen and Adam Jefferson all pitched strongly over the gruelling seven-game schedule.

Mike Belgue, T.J. Graham, Mike Esterbauer, Zach Greenwald and Easter anchored the defensive effort. Propelling the offence were Jeff Belgue, Mike Belgue, Sebastian Ricupero, Gray, Vaisanen and Graham. The team is managed by Don Easter of Stouffville.

## House league baseball, softball titles determined this weekend

The Markham District Baseball Association will hold its annual year-end house league tournament this weekend at Milliken Park.

Titles will be decided for the association's T-ball, rookie, mosquito, peewee and bantam leagues.

The action, which began Friday, continues today at 9 a.m. and concludes with the finals tomorrow.

Milliken Park is located at Kennedy Road and 14th Avenue.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association is also crown-

ing champions this weekend at its house league tournament. The finals will be played Sunday at Stouffville Memorial Park.

### Good race results for Asaro

Billy Asaro raced his way to three excellent results in British Formula Three Championship action at Snetterton Race Track last weekend.

The 20-year-old Unionville resident, who competes in the Scholarship Class, took two sec-

### SPORTS DIGEST

onds and a fourth on the 3.141-kilometre, nine-turn circuit in Norfolk, England. With four races remaining on the British Formula Three calendar, Asaro's next event is at Thruxton on Sept. 14 and 15.

### Stouffville angler eighth

Gary Miller fished his way to an

eighth-place finish at the Chevy-Mercury Bass Tour 2002 Classic at the Bay of Quinte last Sunday.

The 40-year-old Stouffville resident led the 41-angler field after the first day with a live weight total of 17.85 pounds, but fell to third after Saturday's second day.

In Sunday's third and final day, Miller attempted to motor his way to one of his prime fishing areas that held fish near Kingston.

Unfortunately, high winds that created 10- to 12-foot swells forced

Miller to abandon his run to Kingston and to revert to a secondary plan of attack.

Noting that he might have been the only angler in the field to venture all the way to Kingston during the first two days, Miller brought in just 11 lbs. on the final day and fell to eighth where he pocketed \$300 in earnings.

"I had a chance to win. It was a case of you live by the sword and you die by it," said Miller, who was third in last year's event.

## SPORTSBOARD

E-MAIL: sports@econsun.com

### BASEBALL

#### Markham District

STANDINGS OF AUG. 31

TEAM	W	L	T	P
Ringwood Heating	8	5	1	17
Markville Ford Lincoln	7	7	0	14
Greenpoint Laser	7	7	0	14
Backstage Hair	6	7	1	13

TEAM	W	L	T	P
ROOKIE	6	7	1	13

Ross Dixon	13	4	1	27
Jocoy Designs	11	5	3	25
Markville Ford Lincoln	8	7	2	18
Dixon Garland	6	11	1	13
Ringwood Heating	3	14	1	7

TEAM	W	L	T	P
Markville Ford Lincoln	15	4	0	30
Village Nissan	11	5	3	25
Ambassador Ch. Cuisine	10	8	1	21
Mkm Outdoor Power	7	10	2	16
Markham Fair	7	11	1	15
Ringwood Heating	3	15	1	7

TEAM	W	L	T	P
Celestial Ct Ch. Cuisine	11	7	4	26
High Five Photography	11	8	2	24
Markville Ford Lincoln	11	8	2	24
Don Moir Enterprises	5	15	2	12

TEAM	W	L	T	P
Canadian Tire	11	6	4	26
Play It Again Sports	10	9	2	22
Markville Ford Lincoln	9	10	2	20
Unionville Motors	7	12	2	16

MOSQUITO SELECT SOBA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HAMILTON  
Whitby Blue 10, Markham 9, Markham 10, Barrie 0;

Whitby Red 13, Markham 5.
BANTAM SELECT SOBA PROVINCIALS IN MISSISSAUGA
Hamilton 12, Markham 2, Markham 8, Whitby 3, Richmond Hill 10, Markham 4.

TEAM	W	L	T	P
Whitby Red 13, Markham 5.	13	5	0	18
Hamilton 12, Markham 2, Markham 8, Whitby 3, Richmond Hill 10, Markham 4.	12	8	0	20

AUG. 6	Randy's Appliances 18 vs. Claremont Lions Club 11.
AUG. 14	Randy's Appliances 22 vs. Griffith Property Services 21.
AUG. 15	Randy's Appliances 20 vs. Griffith Property Services 20.
NOVICE GIRLS	AUG. 30
Stouffville Kinsmen 19 (Clara McVicar GG, HR; Brianna Vanzealand GG, HR; Amanda Frchette GG, T; Yvonne Leger GG) vs. Moller Insurance 12.	
BANTAM-MIDGET GIRLS	AUG. 6
Hutchinson Farm Supply 21 vs. Houston Ford 6.	