

# NHL Alumni Benefit Tour set to visit Milton; proceeds support Special Olympics

Top shelf hockey skills, on-ice pranks and old-fashioned nostalgia are headed to an arena near you.

They'll be part of the festivities when the NHL Alumni Benefit Tour — presented by Scotiabank — visits Memorial Arena Friday, Jan. 12.

Hockey legends like Wendel Clark, Curtis Joseph, Tiger Williams, Theo Fleury and Rick Vaive will square off against the Law Enforcement All-Stars in support of Special Olympics Ontario. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the game set for 7.

Proceeds from the event will indirectly benefit the Milton Special Olympics, when it comes to putting on the provincial and national competitions.

The local program will celebrate its 30th anniversary this coming spring.

Started in 1998 with one floor hockey team, it has grown to include roughly 120 athletes in six different sports.

Tickets for the alumni showcase are \$22 each and can be purchased at [www.benefithockey.com/tickets](http://www.benefithockey.com/tickets).

## Sports

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### Ivy League rugby freshman earns All-American honorable mention

Ihensekhien makes early impact with Dartmouth

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Idia Ihensekhien now finds herself amidst the upper-crust of North American schools.

And the Ivy League freshman is poised to place herself among the upper-echelon of National Intercollegiate Rugby Association (NIRA) players. That is, if this past season is any indication.

Finishing fifth in scoring with the Dartmouth College Big Green and helping them reach the national championship final for the first time in the school's history, the 19-year-old Miltonian earned an All-American honorable mention late last month.

"It's truly motivating, as it means that I'm on the radar and that my hard work is noticeable," said Ihensekhien, Jean Vanier Secondary School's Senior Female Athlete of the Year and a part of the Canadian Under-18 team that swept a two-game series with the U.S. this past

summer. "I have to work a bit harder to get to that All-American status, but I'm close."

A versatile competitor now in the thick of things as a prop, the 5-foot-9, 190-pounder made an immediate impact with the Big Green this fall — scoring the eventual game-winning try in season-opening play against the two-time defending national champion Quinnipiac Bobcats.

Recalled Ihensekhien, "It was early in the second half and although we were up by a couple points it was still tight. So scoring was a confidence boost, for not just me but also my team."

Milton's newest Ivy Leaguer would go on to record two more tries the very next game — to help pummel Army West Point — and helped set up many more in Dartmouth's 8-1 season, which ended with a tough 29-20 defeat at the hands of Quinnipiac in the NIRA championship.

The Big Green — who'd beat Harvard 22-8 for their third straight Ivy Rugby title — mounted a 10-0 lead

on the Bobcats before being vanquished.

Ihensekhien made significant strides in her endurance over the course of the season, and offered an initial glimpse into her offensive potential.

"Idia is an extremely mobile and powerful prop who's capable of dominating set pieces and making a huge impact in the loose," said Big Green head coach Katie Dowty. "As one of only five freshman All-Americans selected, I'm sure she will continue to make more and more of an impact over the next four years."

With Dartmouth losing just six players to graduation, the chances of remaining in the national title hunt remain high — another motivator for Ihensekhien.

"I feel I still need to improve my ball handling and trying to get more distance and accuracy on my pass," she said. "And rugby is so demanding physically that you can never be too fit. That's something I will always have to work on."

Dartmouth had five other players earn All-American honours.



Idia Ihensekhien heads up field against Army West Point during her freshman season with Dartmouth.

Doug Austin / Special to the Champion

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