

Bees ex-coach now with Milton

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

There will be a familiar face behind the Jr. A Merchants' bench this fall.

Glen Walsh, formerly with the Hamilton Kilty Bees, is set to join Milton's coaching staff — only not in the capacity many might have initially thought.

Recent rumours suggested the steeltown skipper would be assuming an identical role locally and replacing head coach Marty Williamson.

Not so.

Walsh instead will be an assistant coach with the club and succeed Gregg Carrigan — who'll concentrate solely on his duties as team president.

The ex-Kilty Bees bench boss comes packing a great deal of experience, having guided Hamilton for the last eight years and coached at the junior level for twice that time.

And while there may be few things he hasn't learned about the game of hockey, how to make the transition from head coach back to assistant is one of them.

"It's going to take some adjustment but in talking with Gregg I do see some advantages in taking on a lesser role," said Walsh, a resident of Stoney Creek. "I'm really looking forward to this season. I think it'll be a good fit with Milton."

Like Carrigan, Walsh brings a quiet air of respect and places tremendous importance on defence — which has been evident in the last two Milton-Hamilton playoff clashes.

He added, "I've always believed that how a team plays without the puck determines their success, or lack of it."

Williamson said the addition of Walsh will be a big boost to his team, noting that "Glen is a great teacher and has some strong ideas for the club."

While stepping away from the head coaching position might be a little difficult for Walsh, he said leaving the Kilty Bees wasn't all that hard — partly because of sweeping changes in their executive this spring.

And any lingering remorse about his decision will no doubt be buried this coming season — by the intrigue of coaching with what he feels will be a legitimate contender for both the provincial and national championship.

Lynch back after bad outing

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Pat Lynch is back on track following a potentially disastrous detour that threatened to throw him off course.

Late last month against Asheville, the 20-year-old Milton pitcher — now playing with the single A Hagerstown Suns — was hammered for seven runs in one-and-a-half innings of relief.

This was no doubt a humbling experience from which many young hurlers would not have been able to bounce back — at least not so quickly.

However, Lynch shook it off immediately and convincingly with two consecutive victories.

Magic girls take third

Milton's under-12 girls soccer squad didn't let a little thing like older competition hinder their efforts at a recent cross-border tournament in Rochester, New York.

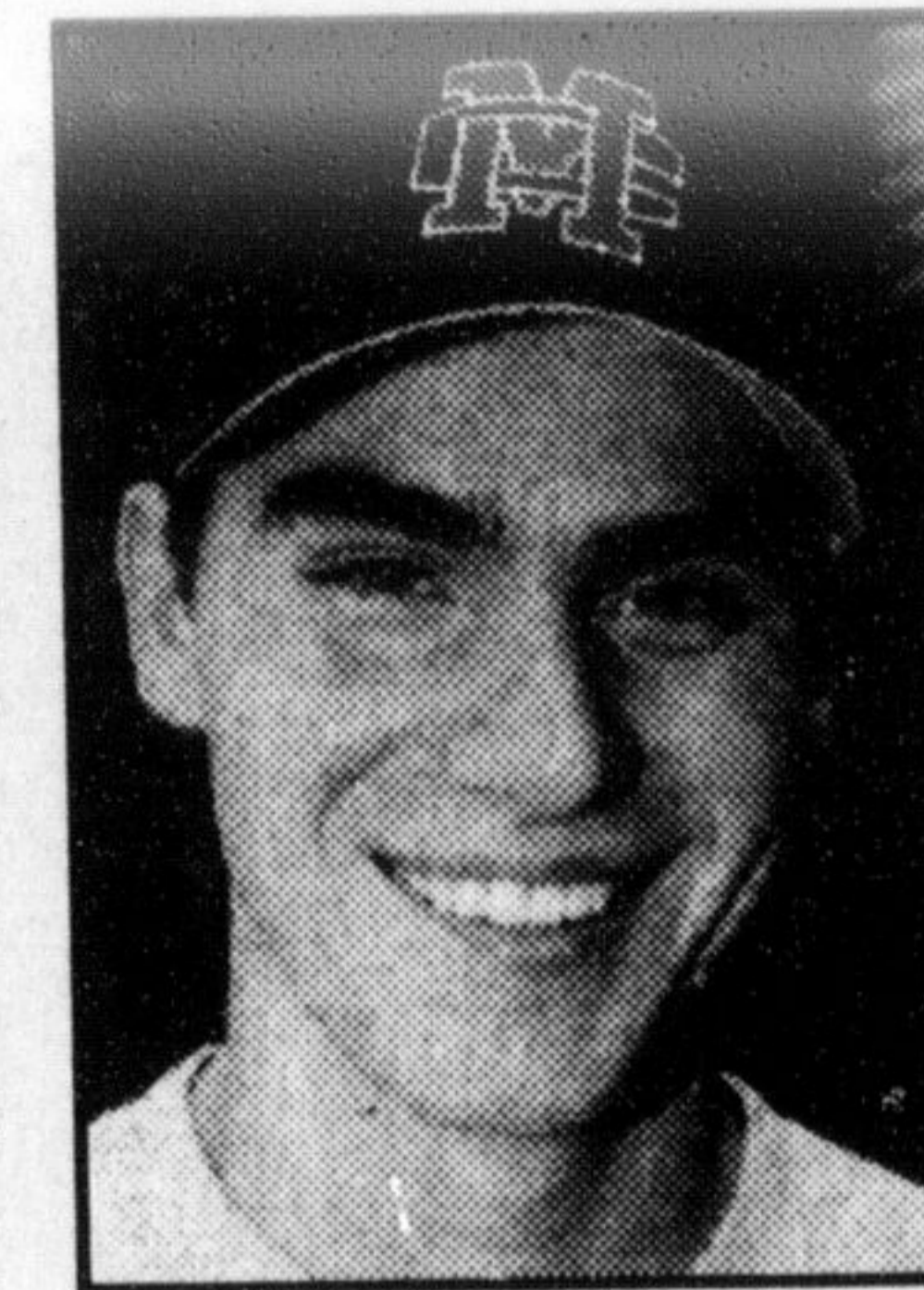
Despite playing up an age level, due to cut-off dates for a few team members, the Magic placed third with a record of 1-2-2. Their lone victory came by way of a 1-0 shutout over the Hilton Flames. Sinking the game winner was Ashley Robinson.

The Magic battled the Flames later in the tournament, but could only muster a 1-1 tie which eliminated them from the playoffs. They also drew even with the Webster Fusion while loses came against the Penfield Strikers and Greece Eclipse.

Milton's other scorers were Cassandra Berghammer, Jamie Greenfield and Tammy Merritt.

The first came in a 9-4 decision over Cape Fear, whom the local righthander restricted to a couple of earned runs on six hits over five frames.

Lynch was equally impressive in his following appearance, versus Greensboro Thursday. Through 4.2 innings of relief he surrendered four hits and just a single run to collect his fifth win and help his teammates outlast Greensboro 7-5.



Pat Lynch

He gave up only one walk in each of the last two games and overall has walked a mere 10 batters — one for every five innings pitched this year.

At 5-0, Lynch is one of only two pitchers on Hagerstown, with the exception of the closers, who has yet to register a loss.

He's fanned 48 batters and sports a 3.96 ERA, which is somewhat misleading due to his one major hiccup this spring. In 50 innings he has given up 48 hits and 22 runs, all of them earned.

Collectively, Hagerstown remains stationed atop the South Atlantic League's Northern Division. Prior to the weekend they held a comfortable seven game lead on second-place Cape Fear.

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