



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2000



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The look of success

Milton's Chris Christoforou is all smiles after winning the Little Brown Jug at The Delaware in Ohio September 21. The accomplished harness racer — who last year set a single-season benchmark for wins with 643 — will look to triumph a little closer to home when Mohawk Racetrack hosts the Breeders Crown finals in late October.

Leworthy back in fold as Decaire leaves Mavs

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Jim Leworthy thought he'd found a suitable successor for his Jr. B Mavericks.

But whether or not Dave Decaire was the right person to carry on the mantle of leadership for the local lacrosse team will forever — or at least for the present time — be open for debate.

This following a series of events that have severely sidetracked the 1999 Founder's Cup silver medalists.

After Milton hosted the national championships and finished second to Edmonton, Leworthy stepped down as head coach and club president in order to pursue a new career in the camping industry.

Decaire — who'd been acting as general manager for two seasons and had been groomed to take over — was all set to pick up the reins when a lack of player commitment forced him to cancel the 2000 season just a week before it was scheduled to begin.

He quickly shifted attention to the local intermediate squad and expressed optimism about Milton rejoining the Jr. B loop next year. But now those hopes have fallen by the way, with Decaire's expanding business interests preventing him from making enough of a commitment to the team in the near future.

"I just won't be able to give the amount of time that's needed to run a junior club," said Decaire, whose decision to leave the Mavericks has been in the works for more than a month, yet was only finalized two weeks ago.

Decaire said he'd be willing to help the team as much as he can, but with his work commitments expected to increase dramatically in the next two years

he just couldn't remain in charge of the Mavericks.

So re-enter Leworthy, who'll look to rebuild the program he created. But since he's unable to assume a hands-on role during the summer — due to his camp-ground venture — the local lacrosse guru's Jr. B squad won't be returning until 2002.

"I can do a lot of work from October to April, but past that I'm really not available and with nobody in place yet we just couldn't have had a team for next year," explained Leworthy.

The Mavericks' founder wouldn't comment on Decaire's brief stint in charge or his decision to leave the club, other than to say he was "disappointed" about how things worked out.

"To go from national silver medalists to zip is pretty bad," he said.

However, Leworthy did offer a ray of hope for the team's reemergence in two years — stating by that time a total of 16 local players will be of junior age, which should form the basis for a solid lineup.

"Player wise and money wise we should be okay," he said. "But will we have enough volunteer support? That's the question mark."

Leworthy's first official act since arriving back on the scene came during a Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B council meeting held earlier this month — when he voted in favour of new franchises for Oakville, Orangeville and Welland in 2001.

He approved the bids on the condition that his own town be allowed to return to the league the following year.

"I really wasn't looking to have this thrown back in my lap, but I just couldn't let it die," said Leworthy.

Oldtimers tourney starts today

Milton's SKD Oldstars are once again set to invade Memorial Arena.

The 19th edition of their old-timers hockey tournament runs this weekend, with a total of 18 teams in four divisions battling it out for annual bragging rights — as well as a potential berth to national competition next spring.

A change in format this time around has teams divided up according to age rather than skill level or ranking, with finalists in each loop qualifying for the Labatt's National Tournament Challenge.

At 5 p.m. today the tournament kicks off with two

local combatants — the Milton Centennials and Bode Belters — squaring off in the 35-and-up age class.

Thirty games will follow, with three other squads representing local hopes for gold.

Round robin action continues through until late Sunday morning, with the four division championship finals following in the afternoon.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to Milton District Hospital — a long-time beneficiary of the SKD Oldstars — as well as the three local high schools, that each receive \$1,000 to be used for student scholarships.



Milton Youth Soccer Club



INDOOR WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Saturday, September 23

9:30 - 3:30

Loblaws Grocery Store

Ages 5-13

Mostly Friday Nights

\$75/player

Saturday, September 30

9:30 - 1:30

Milton Mall

Register early - Limited number of participants