

Merchants beef up ranks with pair of acquisitions

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Merchants' search for players has finally bore fruit.

Milton still hasn't gotten its hands on any breakthrough performers, but did make a couple of acquisitions to beef up the ranks this past week.

Miltonian Jacob Vanderbreggen — who toiled with neighbouring Georgetown last year and began this season with Petrolia's Jr. B squad — now joins younger brother Josh as a Merchant.

The 19-year-old has been an all-purpose utility player in recent years and is expected to continue in that role with Milton — helping fill out the forward lines for now.

Vanderbreggen brings both size and junior experience to a lineup that's in need of both. Jacob and Josh represent the first Merchant brother act since Jeff and Darren Haydar.

Meanwhile, Hamilton midget graduate Justin Nattress, 17, is now recovered from a broken collarbone and is set to join a blueline unit that's thinned out and rather fatigued.

Milton's defense will be further fueled by the return of veteran Chris Krieg — who's due back a little earlier than initially expected from a torn MCL.

The Merchants are also looking to acquire Miltonian Travis Van Loosen, but have had difficulty ironing out a deal with the Burlington Cougars.

Also on the team's wish list is an interim goaltender to help rookie Sean Samuel until early December — when starter Trevor Battaglia is due back from a broken collarbone.

"The problem is finding a stop-gap goalie. We only need someone until December, but can we leave Sean by himself for that long?" questioned general manager Nick Slawson.

In addition to Battaglia, captain Kevin Arruda remains sidelined with a broken ankle while veteran rearguard Vince Guiducci — who's been plagued with back spasms in recent weeks — is questionable for this weekend.

The 5-8 Merchants, who're three points out of a playoff spot, host Oakville tonight and then travel to Georgetown tomorrow.

Jr. 'Stangs topple Aquinas

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Milton District High's junior football team will in all likelihood have home-field advantage for opening round playoff action Thursday.

That would be good news for any team — but particularly so for one that has yet to be beat on its own turf. MD maintained that record during its regular season finale against Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Wednesday.

Able to shut down the visiting offense like they did in two previous home games this season, the division two Mustangs knocked off the short-staffed Raiders 13-3 to square their overall record at 3-3.

"We were walking all over them in the second half," said head coach Richard Grant, who at press time yesterday was still awaiting word on his team's placing and first-round opponent. "We were really hitting them hard and they were getting fatigued."

Greg Cole, MD's inside linebacker and defensive captain, added another chapter to

his remarkable season and enjoyed support from up and down the lineup.

Said Grant, "Greg's really starting to separate himself from the rest of the players. He's turning into a real standout."

Ryan Wildfang and Jordan Munn scored the touchdowns, both on short running plays to cap lengthy drives, while kicking a second-quarter single was Todd Arruda.

Some big completions by quarterback Jay Price to Craig Harding and John Van Es set up the game winning major, which following St. Thomas Aquinas' early field goal. From there, the hosts used their half-back option to full advantage in delivering an insurance touchdown.

Limiting their penalties down the stretch factored into the victory for the local juniors, who on home turf this season didn't give up any points past half-time en route to three straight wins.

MD will likely finish fourth on the year and start the playoffs against either Aquinas or White Oaks — both of whom they beat in low-scoring affairs.

Post-season games begin at 2 p.m.

Milton Minor Hockey Association

HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS

Weekly House League Results

DATE	DIVISION	TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	SCORE
OCT 20	PEEWEE	DREAM CAR GARAGE	7	CANADIAN TIRE	5
		PRESSE LAW OFFICE	9	HOME CINEMA VIDEO	6
		SCOOTERS SNACK SHOP	4	TOWNE DENTAL GROUP	1
		BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIRS	5	ROSS DIXON FINANCIAL	4
OCT 21	ATOM	LION'S CLUB	N/A	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIRS	N/A
		GUS MOWBRAY	N/A	SEARS	N/A
		GALLINGER FORD	N/A	MCCUAIG INSURANCE	N/A
OCT 21	NOVICE	GOODLIFE FITNESS BLACK	5	GOODLIFE FITNESS RED	1
		GOODLIFE FITNESS BLUE	N/A	GOODLIFE FITNESS GREEN	N/A
		SHOPPER'S DRUG MART	2	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIRS	2
		AUSTEN NOBLE INSURANCE	5	NU-TECH RECRUITERS	4
OCT 21	BANTAM	ABSOLUTE TRANSPORTATION	N/A	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIRS	N/A
		ROGERS AT&T WIRELESS	N/A	BEN-QUIP LTD.	N/A
		NU-TECH RECRUITERS	N/A	SUNNY OASIS INTERNET	N/A
OCT 22	SENIOR	JOHNSON CONTROLS	5	KEY CENTRE	4
		DOCS & DENTS	5	KWIK KOPY	4
		MILTON CHRYSLER DODGE	7	KFC	1



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