



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 2002



Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Bringing the Milton Mavericks Jr. B lacrosse team back this season are (from left) team president John Arnold, assistant coach Glen Flippance, head coach Glen Little and general manager Jim Goertz.

Jr. B Mavericks set for comeback

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

They're back.

The Milton Mavericks Jr. B lacrosse team has returned from a two-year hiatus, and less than a month from now will officially resume its place within the OLA.

So can the local franchise win back its previous fan following? — and just as important, can it win back its status as a league contender?

With regards to the latter goal, new team president John Arnold and general manager Jim Goertz have enlisted the services of Glen Little, a longtime lacrosse fixture who's toiled in the professional ranks as both a player and coach.

The Mavericks' head coach has no illusions about being in the championship picture this season — especially with just one or two players enjoying previous junior

experience — but does feel confident about his chances of flooring a competitive squad.

"With the talent I've seen here, if the guys buy into our system we should be competitive," said Little, who'll lead the team alongside assistant Glen Flippance. "We may not win too many games, but we're not going to give games away either. The key will be to learn and improve with each shift and game."

He hopes Josh Arnold can provide a stabilizing presence as the number one goaltender and expects fellow Miltonians like Bobby MacDonald, Derek Mewhinney, Matt O'Meara and Kaegan Sherriff — part of last year's intermediate squad — to deliver leadership as well as offensive production.

And while unable to lure some local players away from established teams like

the 2002 Founder's Cup host Halton Hills Bulldogs, Milton does have some bright young stars like Matt Decaire.

Said Little, "There's a solid nucleus here that I think can handle it (jump to Jr. B)."

The job of drawing decent crowds now falls on Arnold, who feels moving home games from Friday to Thursday nights should help boost attendance.

"That way we won't miss the weekend cottage goers," said the team president. "Having a strong base of local players on the team will help too. I think we should be able to get about 200 people a game."

The Mavericks began training camp this past weekend at Oakville's Appleby College and will move over to John Tonelli Sports Centre in mid-April.

They host Mimico in exhibition play on April 18 and begin the regular season at home against Halton Hills April 25.

OMHA title a win away for 'AA' midgets

Could clinch crown tonight

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Milton's AA midgets could return from Barrie tonight with something a lot more precious than their hockey equipment.

The OMHA trophy is now just a single win out of their possession — following Sunday's 6-2 route of the Flyers.

Recovering from a dismal shutout loss the previous evening — during which both head coaches and a handful of players earned suspensions — the Milton Toyota Winterhawks struck early and often to put their championship rivals on the brink of elimination.

Kyle Goertz' continued wizardry between the pipes and a couple of shorthanded goals in the second period highlighted the game four victory, which came in front of a near-capacity crowd at Memorial Arena.

The hometown puckstopper pushed his incredible shutout span to just over 130 minutes with flawless efforts through periods one and two. He was finally beat three minutes into the final frame — but by then a comeback, though possible, seemed rather unlikely.

Mark Galick, Milton's stretch-drive acquisition from the major bantams, crushed any meager rally hopes with two late deposits and created a number of chances earlier in the night with some intense play.

Julian Ricci put the hosts on the board before the game was half-a-minute old — recording the team's quickest post-season goal — while captain Connor Sweeney, Paul Szafer and Michael Winiarz padded that lead in the middle stanza.

Goals by Sweeney and Szafer came while the local midgets were busy killing penalties. An 8-for-8 performance in that department, thanks in large part to Sweeney and Chris Coates, factored heavily into the victory.

With Arnie Parcels relegated to spectator — punishment for the high number of penalties during game three — assistant Tom Baynton picked up the coaching reigns and kept the hosts focused through the early stages of play when rough-housing was in ample supply.

Milton showed a somewhat disturbing lack of finish on the powerplay but displayed a lot of grit in drawing within a win of the OMHA title.

Tonight's game in Barrie begins at 7:30 p.m.

If necessary, game six will be played at Memorial Arena Thursday at 8 p.m.



Milton Minor
Hockey Association



Player Registration for 2002/2003 season

Saturday March 30th 8am-8pm

Memorial Arena (Thompson Rd.) Upstairs

Beginner thru to Juvenile

(new registration must bring birth certificate)

For inquiries please contact Grant Goodings at
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