



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Mavericks look to reclaim last playoff spot this weekend

Will likely need two victories to advance

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The Jr. B Mavericks first season back has to be considered at least moderately successful.

Their half-dozen wins heading into the final weekend of the regular season is certainly a respectable tally for an up-from-the-ashes team, while with a few exceptions — including Wednesday's 20-5 humbling at the hands of Elora — Milton has offered its league rivals a genuine challenge.

However, Glen Little's charges probably won't be satisfied with 2002 efforts unless a post-season berth is reclaimed this weekend.

In order to overtake Owen Sound for the fourth and final playoff spot in the OLA's Mid-West Division, the Mavericks will likely need to be victorious both tomorrow night at home against Wallaceburg and Sunday afternoon in Brantford.

Both are winnable games — and in the case of Brantford, who're poised to go winless for a second straight season, victory is almost a foregone conclusion.

Sweeping the weekend would in all likelihood put Milton in a season-ending deadlock with Owen Sound. The Mavericks would advance under such a finish, by virtue of their two-game season sweep of Owen Sound.

Nevertheless, Milton still has to win this weekend — and certainly didn't create much momentum for that in Elora Wednesday. Fresh off its most productive outing of the year against Samia Saturday night, the local lads were lethargic from the word go and by first intermission were pretty much out of it.

And unlike most losses this season, poor special-teams play didn't factor into a humbling finish. Milton took just six penalties all night and allowed its hosts just two powerplay opportunities — neither of which resulted in a goal.

Elora hit double-digits early in the second and added insult to injury with a couple of deposits in the final 10 seconds of the period.

Captain Kyle Hagel, Derek Blanchard, Justin Corke, Paul Pedulla and Jon Sweetland did the scoring for Milton.

The 6-12-1 Mavericks host Wallaceburg tomorrow at 7 p.m. before heading to Brantford for a 2 p.m. start Sunday. There was still no word at press time regarding a make-up game in Onondaga.

✓ A hair-raisin' play

Megan Wilson of 2-4-1 Pizza (left) battles for possession against a Hydro One opponent during Saturday's under-9 girls tournament action at Milton District High School. 2-4-1 Pizza went on to topple Hydro One 9-1.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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