

Under-18 girls clinch fourth with season-ending blowout

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Talk about a fierce finish. Milton's Under-18 girls soccer squad punctuated league play with an embarrassment of riches against Cambridge Thursday night — scoring at just about every turn for a 9-0 blowout victory at Lions Sports Park.

Amy DiPalma and Ainsley Kent delivered hat-tricks to fuel the mismatch, which represented a stark contrast to the 3-1 defeat suffered at the hands of Cambridge back in July.

The Sargent Farm Magic's regular season-ending triumph — which followed back-to-back losses late last month — allowed them to squeak past Mount Hamilton for fourth place in the nine-team South Regional Soccer League Elite Division. Their 8-7 overall record included a near-perfect 6-1 run at home.

Said head coach Louie DiPalma, "It was great to see the girls play up to their potential. They executed the game plan extremely well with a lot of sharp, short passes that they (Cambridge) just couldn't defend against."

Emma Goddard intercepted a couple of cross passes in front of the net through the second half,

but otherwise she and goaltending counterpart Davida Denich were relatively idle between the pipes.

This was due in large part to some exceptional play by the entire defensive unit. Standout performances in the back field came from Ruth Hamon and Ashley Grant — who not only stymied opposing attackers but initiated quite a few rushes as well.

"They (Cambridge) barely got into our zone. We were just constantly putting pressure on them," Milton's skipper explained.

DiPalma notched the game winner about 20 minutes into the contest, and from there the local ladies exploited the visitors' defense and goaltending whenever possible. Chipping in single deposits were Erin Grevstead, Amanda Kiuper and Sylvie Nooland. The Under-18 girls will close out the year this weekend at the Global Soccer Tournament in Michigan.

Meanwhile, Milton's Under-14 boys were still in line for a second-place finish in the SRSL's First Division heading into last night's showdown with Brantford. This was due to a remarkable eight-game unbeaten streak engineered after a somewhat shaky season start. See Friday's Champion for full results of last night's contest.

Another Merchant set to become Ivy Leaguer

The Merchants' Ivy League roll call grows on.

Defenceman Shawn Mole is set to become the team's fourth player in eight years to join academia's elite ranks — having recently committed to Yale University for next fall.

Ivy League rival Cornell University was also in the running for the sophomore blue-liner's services. However, Mole felt that New Haven, Connecticut-based Yale offered a more appealing overall package in terms of both schooling and hockey.

"I'm just relieved to have it over with and look forward to getting the year started," said the 6'1", 175-pounder — a mainstay on Oakville's Appleby College honour roll who finished last year with a 90 per cent average. "Hopefully we can get beyond the first round this season."

Mole will compete in the NCAA Division I Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) with the Yale Bulldogs next year, where he'll get a



Shawn Mole

chance to play against fellow Ivy Leaguer Jon Glead — a local defenceman with last year's league champion Brampton Capitals who now skates for Cornell.

Until then, he'll look to help Milton rebound from a rather uninspired 2001/02 campaign. Now among the team's top four rearguards and far more assertive with the puck, he should have ample opportunity to build on a 20-point rookie season.

Mole began the year with a goal and an assist in Thursday's 8-3 rout of Brampton and helped anchor a penalty-killing unit that allowed the Merchants to squeeze by Bramalea 4-3 during home-opening play at Memorial Arena Sunday afternoon.

Milton's senior football teams start year Friday

BR's drop to Tier 2 means renewal of crosstown rivalry

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
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The battle for local gridiron supremacy is finally set to continue.

In 1997, Bishop Reding's upstart junior football team shocked their Milton District counterparts 13-0. Since then, the Mustangs have had to wait patiently for a shot at revenge — since the cross-town Royals quickly found a home within Halton's Tier 1 senior division.

That is, until now. With such standout performers as Ryan Taylor, Chris Casa, Chris Dumencu and Matt Ishoy lost to graduation, BR's seniors have been relegated to division two — which now sets up a long-awaited local rematch scheduled for regular season-ending play on October 25.

In an effort to deliver a pay-back victory — and fare well overall — the 'Stangs will no doubt rely heavily on an offensive line that's got a lot more size and experience compared to last fall.

Coach Keith Pearce is hoping this will open up a few more holes for runners like Todd Arruda, Brandon Byers and Dan Cordner — whose efforts will likely be a bigger factor now with the loss of top receiver Louis Delpratt.

"We're probably going to run the ball more," explained Pearce, who's got some more coaching help this season with four new assistants. "MVP Craig Harding is up from the juniors this year, but it may take him a while to being able to replace Delpratt."

Defensively, coordinator Dave Curk has a number of big weapons in the lineup including 6'3", 265 lbs. returnee Alan

Moses, Henri Deepleefs, Lee Frittenburg, James MacIntosh, Josh Suter, Mark Pereira and Dan Greenland-Perry are among others who'll be counted on heavily this year.

First-year senior Jay Price and Ryan Page — last year's senior back-up — will platoon at the quarterback post.

Meanwhile, BR will likely opt for a different plan of attack since the loss of Taylor leaves its ground game a little suspect right now. And a healthy Andrew Pepper — expected to be the starting pivot last fall until a season-opening injury crushed that hope — allows the Royals more air-strike potential.

Suggested coach Joe Juras, "We'll probably go 60-40 (running-passing). Right now we're still searching (for a top rusher)."

The Royals' skipper said the drop to tier two means he likely won't have to play as many guys both ways — which was necessary just to stay competitive in the upper class.

Among those who'll work both sides of the ball anyway is veteran Rusty Parsons, who's currently on injury reserve but expected to be a standout for the latter half of the season.

Others Juras expects to shine include Luke Antonelli, Mike Banks, Rory Johnston and Michael Winiarz — who'll attempt to fill some of the hole left by Taylor.

"We've still got a lot of talented guys here. If we stay healthy we should be right there in the championship," said Juras, whose only help on the sidelines will come from Dan O'Hara of the newly built Christ the King Secondary School in Georgetown.

Reding opens the season at home Friday against Oakville's White Oaks, while the 'Stangs host Oakville's T.A. Blakelock Friday. Both games start at 3:30 p.m.

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