

Mavericks hoping to build on credible 2002 campaign

By NEIL BECKER

Special to The Champion

With a breakthrough campaign behind them, the question in dealing with the 2003 Milton Mavericks is, what can they do for an encore?

After a two-year lacrosse hiatus, the Jr. B Mavericks, according to general manager Jim Goertz, exceeded 2002 expectations by flirting with the .500 mark at 8-10-2, not to mention making the playoffs, where they lost in the first round.

"We made the playoffs when everyone pegged us as finishing in last," he said. "We have a couple of new coaches, and we'll be looking to solidify the defensive play, and we're confident that we can play .500 lacrosse."

There will be a few changes that the team will have to work around if they are to build on last year's success.

The first involves a rule change where there will be a 24-foot arc that will represent the only place on

the floor where contact can be made with a non ball-carrying player.

A second change is the realignment of divisions. In addition to north Halton rival Halton Hills, Milton will now battle the likes of Oakville and Mimico. With only eight teams in each conference making the post season dance, the Mavericks know that'll be anything but easy.

"We'll be in tough for sure," said Milton's GM.

"The experience and being a more well-balanced team will really help us."

Open against national champions

It will be baptism under fire for the Mavericks, who'll begin the upcoming campaign with a couple of tough weekend home games including a home-opening clash the defending national champion Green Gaels April 25.

"We'll be tested right away, which is a positive for the team,"

said Goertz about Milton playing their first game against the Green Gaels.

The team lost three players due to over-age status, but the nucleus is still strong and developing.

Kyle Goertz did the team proud last season by picking up rookie of the year honours, while Paul Pedulla also showed his abilities by placing second in Mavericks' scoring.

Still, if success is to come their way, it will be much easier if the talented Matt Decaire comes back to the team as opposed to playing Jr. A.

Among others expected back are Kyle Hagel, Drew Petkoff and Rick Gallinger.

Looking at the schedule, Milton will enjoy home advantage to full extent, as six of the first seven games of the 20-game schedule will be played at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

The Mavericks will host expansion London in exhibition play April 17 at 8:30 p.m.

Shack's Battle of the Badges set for Sunday at Memorial

There'll be an awful lot of police presence at Milton Memorial Arena Sunday.

But don't worry folks, it's not in anticipation of having to defuse any on-ice skirmishes. Instead, officers will be the ones lacing up the skates as Eddie Shack's Battle of the Badges is set to invade the local barn for a 4 p.m. showdown.

Halton's finest will square off against their peers from Toronto, with Shack — among the NHL's most personable alumni — donning the zebra stripes to

oversee all the action.

Assisting him as linesmen will be former NHLers Jack Valiquette and Mark Napier, both of whom enjoyed lengthy tenures in hockey's innermost sanctum.

Proceeds from the Sunday afternoon contest will benefit Halton Crime Stoppers.

Tickets cost \$12.50 each, or \$44 for a family of four. Tickets are available at Sports Traders on Thompson Road, or at the door on the day of the game.

Running clinic starts Saturday

Hoping to go on the run this year?

If so, there's some help nearby to help you get started. Oakville's Running Company is once again offering its 'First Step' clinic for beginner runners starting Saturday.

Held in downtown Oakville, 'First Step' is a six-week program geared toward recreational run-

ning. Each session begins at 9 a.m. with a 30-minute lecture followed by a half-hour supervised run/walk and optional question and answer period afterwards.

"We address the fears of first-time runners and stress the fun of the sport," said clinic director Brian Bidwell.

"There are no predetermined dis-

tance goals. It's an ideal and proven program for beginners of most ages. The majority of participants will be able to run 5-kilometres at the end of the program."

The program costs \$40 plus GST per person and registration can be done by calling The Running Company, 118 Thomas St. in Oakville at (905) 815-1952.

First recruits sign up for Milton girls hockey

Game on, ladies.

Milton is slated to enter the girls hockey scene this coming fall and now has its first recruits — with about 50 locals already signed up for 2003/04 competition.

The lion's share of those registered at Milton Minor Hockey's House League Day of Champions March 29, with others adding their names over the past week-and-a-half.

Initial numbers indicate the local house league ranks will reach the anticipated target of 100 girls. Milton's teams will fall under the north Halton

umbrella, while returning rep players will continue competing for the nearby Halton Hills Twisters.

All local games will be played at the new twin pad arena at the corner of Derry Road and Commercial Street. The new league's brass are hoping to secure about 10 hours a week of ice time. Interested players have until May 31 to sign up before a late fee is charged. Registration currently costs \$255 per player.

To sign up or for more information, call Coulombe at (416) 580-3930 or e-mail him at drcoulombe@hotmail.com.

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Inner Sanctum

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WEDNESDAY:	9:30 - 11:00 am Yoga - Intermediate	5:45 - 7:15 pm Yoga - Beginner
	7:30 - 9:00 pm Yoga - Experienced	
THURSDAY:	9:30 - 11:00 am Yoga - Beginner	1:00 - 2:00 pm Yoga - Moms & Babes
	5:45 - 7:15 pm Yoga - Beginner	7:30 - 9:00 pm Yoga - Beginner
SATURDAY:	9:30 - 11:00 am Yoga - Intermediate	11:15 - 12:45 pm Yoga - Beginner

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Community Open House for new public elementary school in Milton

The Halton District School Board invites the community to attend an Open House for the new elementary school in Milton.

Chris Hadfield Public School
(opening September 2003)

Drop-In Open House will be hosted at:
Robert Baldwin Public School
180 Wilson Drive, Milton
Tuesday, April 15th, 2003
between 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm

- Meet the newly-appointed principal/vice-principal
- Learn more about the school currently under construction at 1114 Woodward Avenue in Milton
- View the architectural plans
- Speak with Halton District School Board trustees and staff

Halton District School Board
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