



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2003



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

OFSAA veterans (from left) Gary Ferrier, Jesse Ronan and Kevin Tyrer are among those who'll be looked upon to help the Spartans continue their OFSAA championship dynasty.

Drury's champion wrestlers begin their 'drive for five'

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The 'drive for five' is set to begin.

Today in Hagersville, E.C. Drury wrestlers start a new season — one they hope to punctuate with an unprecedented fifth straight OFSAA team title.

And as of right now, there's every reason to believe the perennial powerhouse squad will do exactly that.

With 22 returnees and nine grapplers back from the dozen who made it to last year's provincials, hopes of prolonging the dynasty are stronger than last season — when the Spartans broke new ground as the first four-time OFSAA champs.

Encouragement is further heightened by the recent arrival of James Crowe, a prominent member of the national wrestling program who's now lending his expertise to Ontario's premier high school team.

"James is a great addition. He brings a wealth of international experience to our program," said long-time skipper Larry Jaroslowski, who's once again being assisted by Simon Vanellis. "This is the biggest returning contingent we've had since the championship run began. Confidence is sky-high these days."

Added fifth-year wrestler and co-captain Jesse Ronan, "I'd say we've got a really good chance. This may be the strongest group coming back since the beginning (of the title reign)."

As usual, Drury is particularly strong through the middle weight range, but has a few weight classes with more than one representative — which needless to say could cut into their overall success.

"The key as always is to try and spread out our guys," stressed Jaroslowski. "If we can get some people into ideal weight classes, we'll be okay."

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IceHawks part ways with pair of veterans

Angelow, Oreskovic no longer with club

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

George Dupont called it addition by subtraction.

The IceHawks head coach/general manager isn't denying the departure of Ryan Angelow and Jason Oreskovic leaves big holes in both the front-line attack and overall grit department.

After all, when Milton officially severed ties with the two veterans following Saturday's 6-5 win in Brampton, Angelow shared the lead in team points while Oreskovic remained one of the few bright spots in terms of physical presence on the rebuilding squad.

But in recent weeks the two had become increasingly unhappy with their roles on the club and, according to the IceHawks bench boss, were becoming a liability in the dressing room.

"The move was made for team chemistry and morale sake," said Dupont, who'll look to swing deals for the pair in the coming weeks. "I really don't want to bad mouth either player, but when personal goals become more important than team success, then there's a problem. These guys were looking for roles that just weren't available on this team."

While Milton's already limited offensive depth takes a big hit with Angelow's departure, Dupont pointed to Tuesday's 5-2 victory in Bramalea as an immediate sign of improved unity among his troops.

They continued to have trouble converting powerplay opportunities, but overall offered one of their better road-trip performances this season and lifted their fourth-place record to 15-11.

IceHawk rookies held the hot hand at Victoria Park Arena.

In particular, Ryan McInerney pushed his scoring streak to three games — with a fast-break backhand deposit — and assisted on goals by fellow freshman Mike

Sansom and Matthew French.

Returning from an ankle injury, rookie Mike DeMarchi also dented the twine — netting the eventual game-winner a mere nine seconds after Sansom's cross-ice redirect late in the second.

Jonathan Ornelas helped set up French's first-period goal and cemented the win with an empty-netter to boost his team-leading goal total to 18. Aiding the victory with a pair of helpers was Ryan Silveira, while Jamie Flury stopped 23 shots to post his ninth win as an IceHawk.

IceHawk notes: Face-offs continue to be one of Milton's key strengths this season. Overall the team won 58 per cent of their draws through the first half of the season, with regular centremen Dean Strong and Wes Clark winning 62 and 60 per cent respectively ... The IceHawks are back at home tonight to face Buffalo and travel to Port Credit Memorial Arena tomorrow night to battle Mississauga.

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TONIGHT'S TICKET

IceHawks (14-11)
vs. Buffalo (6-18-3)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. at Memorial

Last meeting: Milton won 4-1

Who to watch: Look for rookie forward Ryan McInerney to continue a solid mid-season stretch and create some exciting moments.

The skinny: While the IceHawks have been all over the map these days in terms of both their efforts and results, Buffalo seems to be the one team they've consistently had the upper-hand against. Expect that to continue.

Champion's pick: Milton by four

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