

Senior Sox can still get better, says coach

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

The Senior Red Sox have made huge strides in recent years, including a jump to the Ontario 'B' championships and a 2003 winning record in regular-season play — the first in nearly a quarter of a century.

But according to manager George Moore, the best is yet to come.

And there's plenty of evidence to support that belief, including the fact that just about everyone from last season's lineup is back. Nick Aalbers and Murray Lovett represent the only losses, and neither played the entire 2003 campaign anyway.

"It's definitely unusual to have so many guys returning — a pleasant surprise," said Moore, whose Red Sox open the regular season tomorrow with their traditional double-header at Brian Best Park.

While a lack of available players crippled Milton's playoff drive last summer, a short bench is the least of Moore's concerns right now — with two seasoned newcomers and a few over-age juniors joining the ranks.

"Our numbers aren't any kind of a problem," he stressed, adding that recently-implemented off-season get-togethers and training at Frozen Ropes in Guelph have helped to minimize the annual turnover. "If anything, we may have too many players at times."

Moore is particularly encouraged by a beefed-up pitching unit, that now includes

junior graduate Mike Grabauskas and Chris Coughlin — a left-handed hurler and two-time Junior Inter-County MVP.

With nine pitchers in this year's mix — including proven mainstays Adam Finkbeiner, Brent Kostal and Ian Zettle — the Red Sox should have enough arms to get through their more hectic stretches.

But Milton's new-found depth isn't merely limited to the mound.

The Red Sox now have two reliable veterans behind the plate with the addition of Sean Bush — who according to Moore handled the pitchers quite well at McMaster University last year and should be a solid complement to Ryan Davison.

Offensively, Milton is still without a big-game slugger, but has a few young returnees who seem capable of bolstering their production. Among them is Taylor Lawton — last season's division rookie-of-the-year, whom Moore believes has all the tools to become the league's premier short-stop.

"We still don't have a big bopper, but bottom line is that if we've got everyone out at the same time we should be very good. We've made a lot of progress the last few years, but I think there's still room to improve."

Tomorrow's double-header begins at 9 a.m. against Brampton and continues with a 2:30 p.m. start against Oakville. Milton closes out the weekend in Oakville Sunday afternoon versus Erindale.

Fortino goes to Belleville

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blueliner Jason Fortino, who missed last year's draft due to a season-long spleen injury but was taken in the third round by the rebuilding Belleville Bulls this time around.

The 41st overall pick missed much of the first half of this past season with a hip flexor, but showed major progress down the stretch — both in terms of defensive fundamentals and physicality.

"They're losing at least two defencemen, so there's a good chance for me to step in right away," remarked Fortino, Belleville's top blueline pick of the draft. "There were other clubs that expressed more interest in me, but it's nice to go to a team where I can help make an improvement. They seem to like my toughness and the fact that I'm more of a defensive defenceman."

FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE

Canon i960 Photo Printer (sku# 10037202) This printer was incorrectly advertised in our April 30th flyer as having digital memory card slots and a 2.0" LCD. This model does not include these features.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers. Thank you

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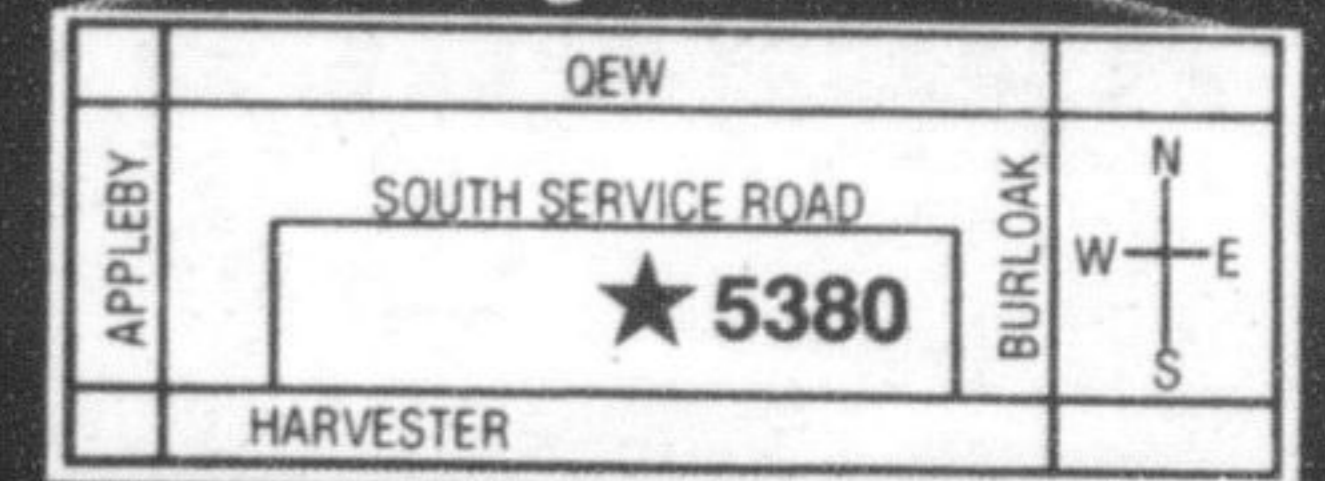
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Girls soccer players sought

The Flamborough Flames Under-15 girls soccer team is looking for local players to fill out this year's roster.

In threat of having to fold if more girls can't be found, the club — which includes veteran mid-fielder Tanya Overholt of Milton — is expected to play in the South Region Soccer League's Premier Division

this coming season.

The Flames play in Waterdown and compete against such neighbouring centres as Burlington, Oakville and Mississauga.

Tryouts will be held over the next three weeks, and anyone interesting in going out is asked to call coach John Padgett at (905) 335-4279 or (905) 681-6448, ext. 11.

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Safety Recall

10 different Mastercraft axes



Canadian Tire is voluntarily recalling a total of 10 Mastercraft branded axes. It has been determined that due to manufacturing inconsistencies, some of the units may develop loose heads, possibly causing the head to detach from the handle. Below is a list of the 10 different products affected by the recall. All were sold between July 2002 and April 15, 2004. Products purchased before and after these dates are not affected.

Item	Product No.	Item	Product No.
2 1/4-lb axe	57-5108-2	5-lb 36" axe	57-5123-4
2 1/2-lb axe	57-5112-0	6-lb maul	57-5126-8
4-lb axe	57-5117-0	8-lb maul	57-5128-4
1 3/4-lb 18" axe	57-5106-6	1 1/4-lb hatchet	57-5104-0
3 1/2-lb 36" axe	57-5116-2	Axe splitter	57-5127-6

How to identify this product

The Mastercraft axes and mauls being recalled can be identified as follows:

- 1) Product number appears on a label on the handle of the axe or maul
- 2) It was purchased between July 2002 and April 15, 2004

Action to take if you have purchased this product

Canadian Tire has not been notified of any safety incidents relating to these products, but given the potential safety issue, is requesting that customers discontinue the use of this product immediately and return it to their nearest Canadian Tire store for a full refund.

