

Hamilton franchise would hurt Mavs'

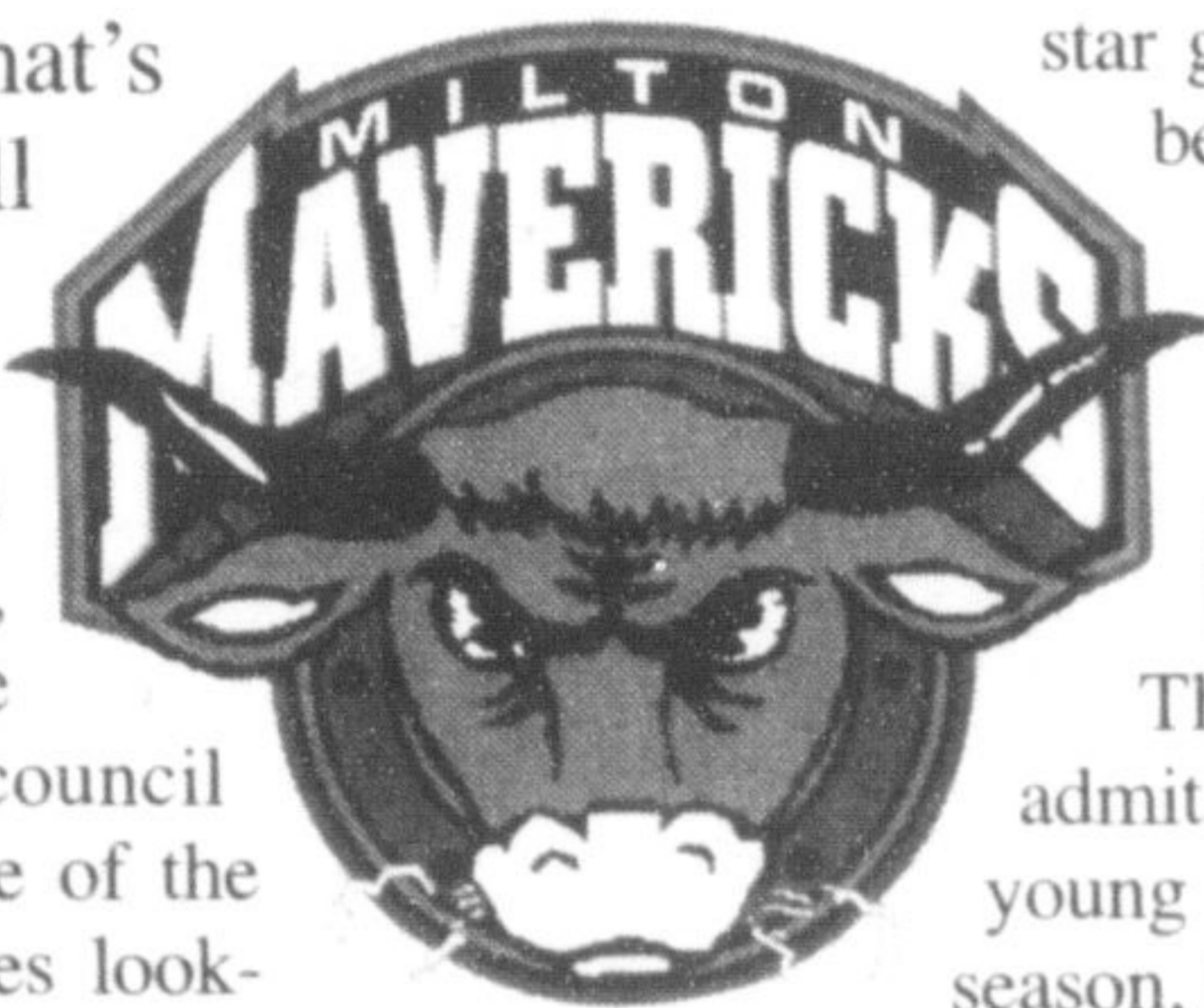
But owner says Milton will have enough players one way or the other

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Jr. B Mavericks are set for another comeback, one that's sure to be an uphill climb.

But Milton's return could get a whole lot tougher later this month, if the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Jr. B council approves a bid from one of the two Steel-town franchises looking to join the league.

Hamilton has been a main drawing area for the Mavericks and without that player base, flooring a competitive team after



being off a year could be awfully difficult.

However, new Mavericks owner Craig Ferchat said he and head coach Jim Meagher received quite a bit of interest recently at both the midget and intermediate provincial championships and that they've currently got a list of 60 potential players.

"Jim's got a good reputation, and I really don't think getting enough players should be any kind of a problem," said Ferchat, whose Mavericks were officially welcomed back into the fold at the league all-star game in early July. "We'll be inviting players out for (dryland) training later this month and will run a full winter program. Our guys will be in shape before the season starts."

The Mavericks owner admits that he'll likely have a young squad on his hands next season, but that there's a few local veterans out there who could come back from other teams and provide some much-needed leadership.

Staying on for at least a year to offer some behind-the-scenes support is Jim Goertz, who'll now assume assistant general manager duties.

Financially, Ferchat said he plans to operate with a \$54,000 budget next year — which even when factoring in expenses for an affiliate intermediate team is a significant increase over 2004, when the Mavericks suffered from a lack of player and community support.

Milton's Jr. B club will keep the Mavericks logo and continue to play home games at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

Unconfirmed reports have a number of other communities vying to join the Jr. B ranks next year, including Brampton and Cornwall.

Just a few tips for writing those minor hockey reports

Summer's nearly over, and that means hockey's just around the corner.

When it comes to on-ice action, of the rep variety, there are a lot of dedicated coaches, managers and parents who help make my job a little easier via team reports. Unfortunately not every team is represented — often because sending in game write-ups seems taxing, or people simply don't know the procedure.

So in order to make the process as clear and painless as possible, here's a few quick suggestions in regard to preparing rep reports.

Of course there's many coaches who've read all this before, but with Milton expanding all the time there's going to be at least a few new people on our local hockey scene for whom this is new, so here it goes.

- Details are important, writing style isn't. Often coaches and parents spend hours agonizing over how to craft a report when they should be focusing more attention on including all the pertinent information such as when and where the game was played and who did the scoring. Reports are almost always re-written anyway, so don't worry about style. In fact, point form hand-ins and perfectly acceptable. I can always work with something if there's enough detail, but not if there's big holes in the story.

- Please don't include every player's name in every report. This takes away from the boys or girls who did stand out and — to be quite blunt about it — I won't include every name each week. That's not to say I won't mention every player over the course of the year, especially if some of the supporting cast members are showing signs of improvement or making contributions other than scoring. But nobody wants to read a laundry list of names — and who can blame them.

- Don't worry about including every aspect of every single game. That may be what makes this task seem daunting at times, and that shouldn't be the case. Sure, some facts like goal scorers and the final score are vital, but other than that just point out some of the highlights of each game. And try to mix



In The Stands

with **STEVE LeBLANC**

it up a little and include stuff you'd like to read about other teams. If your team is on a lengthy winning streak or a certain player had three hat-tricks in a certain number of games, throw that in. That's the good stuff.

- If your team plays both Monday and Tuesday, please just send one report on both games rather than one report on Tuesday morning and one Wednesday morning. And if you haven't sent in a report for a week or two, please just write about the last two or three games and not half-a-dozen or more. Otherwise, things get too watered down and boring.

- Please include a phone number where you can be reached during the day in case there are facts that need to be clarified. Many a time I've seen a 5-2 Milton Winterhawks victory yet there's only four goal scorers listed. If there's no way to rectify this, the report simply can't be published.

- Don't bother with flower comments like the team played well or tried their best, because nobody wants to read them. Remember, you're writing for the whole community, not just your own team. If your team made a gutsy comeback in the late stages of play or held its own against an opponent much higher in the standings, then say that.

- Reports can be dropped off at The Champion (875 Main St. E.), faxed to (905) 878-4943 or e-mailed to sleblanc@haltonsearch.com.

That's all for now. Thanks in advance for all of your help and those wishing further suggestions can contact me anytime at (905) 878-2341, ext. 239. See you in the stands.

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IceHawks kick off new season Friday

The IceHawks kick off 2005/06 play Friday night at home against Brampton, and as always there'll be a host of new faces in the Milton lineup.

The local Jr. A club — led by third-year head coach George Dupont — have just two forwards and three defencemen back from last year's crew.

Replacing them are a group from various levels of junior hockey that, collectively, appear capable of giving the IceHawks a little more firepower this season.

Among the more notable acquisitions up

front are former Newmarket Hurricane Corey Konecny — a power forward expected to provide toughness and put up big numbers — and gifted Matt Read of the Jr. B St. Mary's Lincolns.

Joining the blueline is Welland Jr. B Canadiens graduate Jordan Skinner, while backstopping Milton will be Saskatoon native Zach Kleiman, a 6'3", 210 lbs. cager who put up credible numbers with last year's Gloucester Rangers of the Central Jr. A Hockey League.

See Friday's paper for results on the

IceHawks' final exhibition game against Mississauga, which ran beyond The Champion's holiday press time.

Milton Jr. A IceHawks 2005/06 home schedule

SEPTEMBER		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Friday 9th	Brampton	7:30pm
Friday 16th	Hamilton	7:30pm
Sunday 18th	Oakville	3:00pm
Friday 23th	Streetsville	7:30pm
Friday 30th	Buffalo	7:30pm
OCTOBER		
Friday 7th	Georgetown	7:30pm
Sunday 9th	Burlington	3:00pm
Friday 14th	Oakville	7:30pm
Friday 21st	Mississauga	7:30pm
Friday 28th	Burlington	7:30pm
NOVEMBER		
Friday 4th	Brampton	7:30pm
Sunday 6th	Burlington	3:00pm
Friday 11th	Hamilton	7:30pm
Friday 18th	Bramalea	7:30pm
Friday 25th	Streetsville	7:30pm
DECEMBER		
Friday 2nd	Buffalo	7:30pm
Sunday 4th	Burlington	3:00pm
Friday 16th	Hamilton	7:30pm
Friday 23th	Oakville	7:30pm
JANUARY		
Friday 6th	Streetsville	7:30pm
Friday 13th	Georgetown	7:30pm
Sunday 15th	Bramalea	3:00pm
Friday 20th	Mississauga	7:30pm
Friday 27th	Buffalo	7:30pm
FEBRUARY		
Friday 3rd	Brampton	7:30pm

• all games at Milton Memorial Arena

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Dawg Skills: Tuesdays 1-1/2 Hr. Ages 11-14 years 8:00 - 9:30 pm

Fees: \$110.00 for first child in a family
\$100.00 for each additional child

Dates: September 20th/21st, 2005 - December 13th/14th, 2005

Registration Forms: Please download from our website in the "Handouts" folder mail completed form and cheque (payable to Milton Youth Basketball)

Registration Night: Tuesday, September 13th, 2005 7:00-8:00 pm
Bishop Redding H.S. (gym entrance)

http://www.eteamz.com/miltonmaddawgs

Milton Youth Basketball

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For more information call Brian Schroder: Cell (905) 691-1675



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