

Bertoli remains positive during injury reserve stint

Still plenty of season left, says veteran ECHLer

In his early days in the East Coast Hockey League, Scott Bertoli might have become frustrated with a three-week stint on the disabled list — and tried to rush his return.

He knows better now.

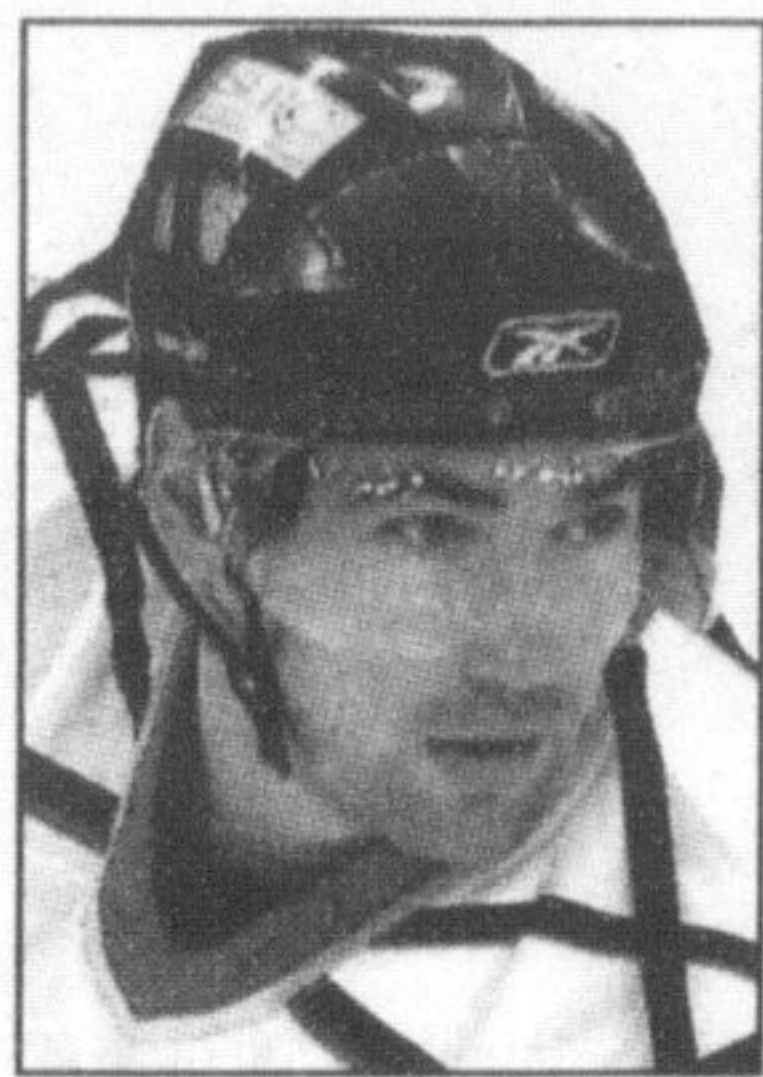
A seasoned captain with the Trenton Titans, the 29-year-old Miltonian is no doubt eager to get back in the lineup since a thunderous elbow to the head by Johnstown Chiefs' forward Adam Henrich left him a bloody mess and in need of 38 stitches.

Although cleared to play this past weekend, both the veteran left winger and Trenton's coaching staff didn't feel he was quite up to game shape — and pushed his return back a week.

"I'd only skated four times in the past three weeks and just didn't feel ready," explained the five-foot-11-inch, 205-pounder Sunday morning, following his team's 6-3 victory over Johnstown the night before — which lifted them into a first-place tie in the North Division with Toledo at 9-4. "It might have been more frustrating if we were losing right now, but we're doing all right and have a lot of depth that it's not just smart to rush it (comeback). There's a lot of season left and this (time off) might actually be beneficial come February or March."

While the injury has interrupted his long-standing run of being first or second in team scoring, the Titans' captain seems more concerned with helping his New Jersey-based club continue their early-season success upon his return.

"We're at least as good or better up front than



Scott Bertoli

we were two years ago when we won it all," said Bertoli, referring to Trenton's Kelly Cup title run in 2005. "We've got a lot of depth and things are looking good right now."

The holder of just about every Titan offensive record available, the local winger will likely be back in action tonight against Johnstown.

Meanwhile, Milton's other ECHLer — defenceman Jon Gleed — has enjoyed a fairly strong start with the Cincinnati Cyclones.

Recently reassigned from the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs, the six-foot-two-inch, 210-pound blue-liner had a tough debut against Dayton but hasn't been on the ice for a single goal against since then — with a plus-3 rating and one assist in those four games.

He's been on the ice for the Cyclones' last two game-winning goals, including the one that gave them a 3-2 decision over Dayton Saturday night.

Cincinnati sits fifth in the North at 7-8, heading into tonight's tilt with Wheeling.

In other pro hockey action, Milton's Dan Giffin was placed on waivers late last week by the Central Hockey League's Wichita Thunder — who are coached by fellow Miltonian Mark French.

This followed a rather tough 2-4 start for the 22-year-old goalie, who was thrown into the number one spot recently after a now healthy Sebastian Laplante suffered an eye injury, but soon had his ice time cut with the arrival of veteran Andrew Martin. Over his half-dozen games, Giffin posted a 5.33 goals-against average and save per centage of 87.2.

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