

Not up to par, admits O'Shea

Linebacker feels he let Stubler down

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Rich Stubler may have taken the bullet for the Argos' current struggles, but their stalwart linebacker accepted part of the blame in the wake of this week's coaching change.

"As a defence we have enjoyed consistent success for the last five years, so I feel like I have let coach Stubler down by not performing to the expected level," Milton's Mike O'Shea told the *Champion* yesterday morning, following Don Matthews' replacement of the first-year head coach Tuesday.

The CFL's longest-serving active player, O'Shea is among a

select few who were around when 'The Don' led Toronto to back-to-back Grey Cup victories in 1996 and '97.

Despite that familiarity, the 16-year pro is one of several players who'll be under a microscope in the coming weeks, as the 4-6 Argos look to regain the formidable defence that's made them a perennial contender.



Mike O'Shea

"We all know this is a business, so when a player gets cut or a coach gets fired you still have to win the next game. And with coach Matthews, he reminds you of that fact fairly quickly," said O'Shea, who turns 38 next weekend. "You have to find your passion and prove

your worth the next time you step on the field."

While re-inserted into the starting lineup for Sunday's 45-19 loss to Montreal, O'Shea was used sparingly the week before against Hamilton and admits he's been having to work much harder as of late to make a contribution.

The three-time Grey Cup champion and his Argos will look to get Matthews' return off to a good start tonight, when they host the Blue Bombers.

The last Toronto-Winnipeg showdown saw O'Shea go head-to-head with fellow Miltonian Matt O'Meara, who was making just his second CFL start on the offensive line during a stretch of injuries.

The 26-year-old has since returned to back-up duty with the 2-8 Bombers.



FIELDING FINALE: Taylor Payne of Doug Howden-Royal LePage competes in the Rookie Division's Golden Glove event during the season-ending skills competition for Milton Girls Baseball Saturday at Sam Sherratt Park. Skills winners were as follows: T-Ball Division (age 5-6): Speed Demon (fastest around bases) — Kinsmen Club Tigers; Batting Champs — Wallace Pontiac Buick Cubs; Golden Glove Champs — Kinsmen Club Tigers; Overall Winners — Kinsmen Club Tigers. Mite Division (7-8): Speed Demon — Aimie Pecharich, State Farm Insurance; Batting Champ — Aimie Pecharich; Golden Glove Champ — Aimie Pecharich; Overall Winner — Aimie Pecharich. Rookie Division (9-10): Speed Demon — Megan Briard, Home Depot; Batting Champ — Mykaela Ezeard, Home Depot; Golden Glove Champ — Taylor Payne, Doug Howden-Royal LePage; Overall Winner — Rachel Duivesteyn, Home Depot. Weekend rain left the field unplayable for the Rookie Division championship between Home Depot and Doug Howden-Royal LePage.

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Under-12 girls set for League Cup semis

Unbeaten Magic clash with Welland

One more hurdle to championship play.

That's what Milton's Under-12 girls are facing tomorrow afternoon in Hamilton, where they'll look to down Welland for a shot at the SRS's League Cup title.

The semifinal showdown had initially been set for last weekend, but was postponed due to rain. It will now be held tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Hamilton's Mohawk Sports Park.

Sitting at a near-perfect 14-0-1 in Second Division regular season play — following last week's 6-0 rout of Mississauga B — the Magic will take on Oakville B if they reach the finals.

The Under-12 girls have already cemented first place in their division, and have given up a measly four goals all season, with just one game remaining this Monday against Oakville C.

Despite this, they could be looked upon as underdogs for both the semis and finals, as both Welland and Oakville B are part of the First Division.

Should they prevail tomorrow, the Magic will play in the finals next Saturday, Sept. 20.



That's when Milton's Under-14 girls will battle either Niagara Falls B or St. Catharines — slated to clash Sunday — for the championship.

Also undefeated in the Second Division at 13-0-1 — following Tuesday's 2-0 victory over Brantford BICS B — the older Magic have been nearly as dominant in the regular season, having been scored on just six times.

Like the Under-12s, their League Cup challenge will come against a First Division opponent.

The Under-14 girls have four games left in the Second Division, including Monday's trip to Erin Mills C.

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