

SPORTS

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Another stellar year for Milton athletes

It was another sensational year for athletes in Milton. Local teams and individuals shone throughout the region, province, country and even the world.

Here are the top 25 highlights — in chronological order (as much as possible) — from 2010, with apologies to those who earned distinction but were not included.

Up-and-coming freestyle aerial skier Travis Gerrits got his first taste of the Olympics — serving as a 'forerunner' (reserved for youth with Olympic potential) at February's Winter Games in Vancouver. The 18-year-old rural Miltonian's 2009/10 season was also highlighted by a credible international debut in Lake Placid and a bronze at the senior national championships in Calgary.

Silke Hynes delivered an encouraging debut at the Biathlon Youth and Junior World Championships in Sweden. The 17-year-old rural Miltonian placed 73rd in the opening 10-km individual event and 71st in the 6-km sprint race.

Giving new meaning to the word endurance, adventure racer Harper Forbes and his Untamed New England team successfully completed the Wenger Patagonian Expedition Race — a 600-km trek across the southern most region of South America. Widely considered the world's toughest expedition — one that was only finished by half of the 14 teams in this year's field — the Patagonian included hiking, mountain climbing and kayaking.

Adding to Milton District High School's recent volleyball success, the Mustangs' junior girls capped an unbeaten season in dramatic fashion — pulling out a tiebreaking win over the Assumption Crusaders (25-18, 21-25, 15-13) to clinch the Halton AAA championship. MD was just four points away from seeing the title slip away before staging a clutch comeback.

Accomplished E.C. Drury High School wrestler Duncan Moffat finally reached the top of the OFSAA podium, clinching 61-kilogram gold. Favoured to win all season, he brought his championship goal to fruition with a low-scoring victory over Ottawa's Steven Delayne. This marked his third



2010
In Review



Clockwise from top left, Boston College Eagles captain Matt Price, freestyle aerial skier Travis Gerrits, adventure racer Harper Forbes (front of kayak) and Milltown FC goalkeeper Scott Cliff were among Milton's 2010 standouts.

provincial medal — following silver and bronze-medal efforts in two previous OFSAA appearances — and led the Spartans to an overall third-place finish for their unprecedented 13th straight boys team medal.

Seasoned curler Ken Armstrong and his Gareth Parry Ontario rink fell just short of the senior national title in Ottawa, losing 7-4 to an Alberta team in the finals after missing a triple-takeout shot in the 10th end. Playing lead, Armstrong was named to the tournament's all-star squad.

Punctuating his NCAA hockey career on a championship note, Matt Price secured his second

Frozen Four national title with the Boston College Eagles. Part of a strong shutdown unit, the 22-year-old BC captain helped keep Wisconsin in check and netted an empty netter with four-and-a-half minutes remaining to cement a 5-0 championship win. This capped a dominating Frozen Four campaign, as Price and the Eagles began with a 7-1 dismantling of top-ranked Miami.

Riding a wave of momentum into the Halton AAA championship, Bishop Reding's senior girls soccer team battled back from an early deficit to edge the defending Loyola Hawks 2-1 for the title. The Royals would go on to qualify for OFSAA,

but a rash of injuries would finally catch up with them at the provincial tournament.

Brendan Farrell and Jake Davis factored heavily into the St. Michaels College's OFSAA AAA/AAAA field lacrosse triumph. The Blue Gaels clinched the championship with an 11-7 win over Oshawa's Paul Dwyer Catholic High School. Moved up to attack, Farrell delivered some great playmaking and scored the final goal, while Davis served as an effective draw specialist and added a strong physical presence.

Well-known racer and coach J.J. Neely was recognized with Ontario

Association of Triathletes Coach of the Year honours. The 40-year-old Miltonian has had a major hand in building area triathlon training programs over the years and instructs racers of all levels.

Multi-sport participant Sarah Quart enjoyed high-stakes success in her latest athletic pursuit, helping her Mississauga-based canoe polo team to the national championship on the Beauharnois Canal in Valleyfield, Quebec.

Adding to their highly-decorated lawn bowling resumé's, David Anderson and John Devonshire were part of the Steve McKerihened (Etobicoke based) team that won Canadian 4s gold in Edmonton. Presented with a dream shot opportunity in the finals against British Columbia, Anderson delivered a pressure-packed takeout to cement a 16-15 triumph and give the squad its fourth national title in the past eight years.

Ethan O'Connor and his Halton Hills Bulldogs reigned supreme in Jr. B lacrosse, winning both the provincial and national Founder's Cup titles. The Bulldogs were particularly dominating throughout the nationals, but needed overtime to edge host Mimico 4-3 in the finals. A two-way sparkplug, O'Connor was named to the tournament all-star team and was a defensive standout in the championship showdown.

It wasn't the way he would have envisioned it, but defenceman Jon Gleed went up against an NHL club for just the second time in his career when as a member of Ireland's Belfast Giants Selects he faced the Boston Bruins in a pre-season exhibition tilt. A first-year standout with the Giants, Gleed highlighted the game by blocking a blueline blast by towering Bruins captain Zdeno Chara.

A couple of accomplished triathletes proved their endurance once again in elite Ironman competition (4-km swim, 180-km bike, 42.2-km run). Making his Ford Ironman World Championships debut in Kona, Hawaii, John Bannock tamed the event in 11:12.04, while Cole completed Ironman Canada in Penticton, B.C. in 13:31.23 — quite

• see NO on page A21