

Seven veterans return from OMHA finalist atom AA squad

The 1990-91 edition of the major atom AA Canadian Legion hockey team will be stressing teamwork and speed in Tri-County action. Between the goalposts are Robin McCall, returning for his fourth year of AA action, and Blair McTrach, who graduated from last year's A team.

On the blueline veterans Brian Kitchen and Jared Robinson will be required to provide

leadership and stability. Steve Turner is a new addition and Chris Noronha has returned after a year's absence.

The forward lines have only four veterans returning from last year's OMHA zone finalist team. Jason Pento, Todd Warren, Jeff Burnett and Lucas Redditt are expected to set the pace in the early going. David Slessor, Robert Herbert and Daniel McDuffe have also returned to

the first team after a year's absence.

Rounding out the line-up are Ryan Lawrence, another graduate from the second team, and Adam Rooke, who transferred this year from the Brampton AA hockey system.

The team travelled to Pickering for exhibition play recently and came back on the short end of a 6-2 score. Pickering held a large advantage offensively but found themselves down 2-0

after the first period on goals by Steve Turner and Warren. Rooke and Pento earned assists.

Robin McCall looked sharp in net, handling everything that came his way until early in the second, when Pickering finally got on the scoreboard. Midway through the second the hometowners notched another to tie before Milton lost their skating legs and allowed Pickering to count four more times.

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Photo by JOHN WARREN

Flying high

Campbell Miliken, 30, of London won the cruiser class race for 28 to 33 year olds in the BMX Ontario Grands held at Milton's Track 2000 on Saturday. The BMX Canadian Championships are scheduled for the same location at Drumquin Park this Saturday and Sunday, with the big races beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday. Results from last week's Ontario Grands will be in Friday's *Canadian Champion*.

Get three from Kitchener

Juniors into major roster juggling

By BRAD REAUME

In the evolution of a contending Milton Merchant hockey team, the missing links may have been found.

Merchant coach and general manager Rick Bince has completed a number of deals which could make the Jr. B squad a team that nobody looks forward to playing.

Brian Casey, a 6'1" left winger from Newfoundland, is on loan to Milton from the Major Jr. A Kitchener Rangers. According to Bince, Casey will play most of the season with Milton.

The Merchants also picked up defenceman Rod Saarinen through their affiliation with Kitchener. Saarinen will only play about half the season in Milton, Bince says, so the team is still looking for a defenceman.

Kelly Leroux, the first player Kitchener loaned to Milton, has fitted into the system well and Bince says he's pleased with his play. Leroux picked up a goal in the

Merchants 8-3 season opening victory in Peterborough.

As all the affiliated players were coming into the Merchant line-up, Bince traded goaltender Jay Evershad, who shared duties in the crease with Chad Muldoon last season. Evershad, a student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, was sent to the Burlington Cougars for the rights to four players and cash. Bince refused to name the four players.

"Jay Evershad was not in our plans," Bince said. "He wanted to play down there (Burlington) and Richard Kim worked hard in training camp and in preseason to earn a spot.

"I'm not scared to put the boy in. As long as he's consistent he'll be successful." Kim started the final preseason game for the Merchants against Aurora. He maintained a shutout until he was pulled in favour of Muldoon at the halfway point.

Merchants split pair on the road to open new season

By BRAD REAUME

Two games into the 1990-91 hockey season, the Milton Merchants sport a 1-1 record following a lopsided 8-3 win in Peterborough and a 3-2 loss in Burlington.

The team opens its home season Friday at Memorial Arena when the Georgetown Raiders come to town. The Raiders dug the cellar last season in the Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League's Western Division.

"We've come out a little flat," admitted Merchant coach and general manager Rick Bince.

"I've got a lot of talent but it's all come from different directions, so we're not playing together. It's going to take time to put it all together. I'm a good month behind where I'd like to be."

In Peterborough the spread could have been even wider but wasn't due to numerous missed chances, Bince said.

Four in the third

Milton led 2-1 after the first period and 4-3 after two before breaking the contest open with four unanswered goals in the third.

"Everyone was panicking because of opening night jitters," Bince said.

The Merchants had eight men out of the scoring gates — nobody managed a pair of goals despite the onslaught.

Jeff Daw, Chris Clarke and Rob Figliano scored, as did Kelly Leroux, Shawn Simpson, Ken Guilford, Shawn Healey and Paul Hartley, who also copped four assists. Guilford collected three assists and Clarke added a pair.

Newcomer Brian Casey, acquired from the Kitchener Rangers major Jr. A franchise, played only spot duty but will join Healey and Guilford on a line as the season progresses, according to Bince.

Simpson has been slotted with Hartley and Jason Ritchie, who looked good in the preseason.

Lots of fights

In the fight-filled Peterborough contest the hosts took a run at Milton goalie Chad Muldoon, who suffered a shoulder injury. It was enough to keep him out of the second contest in Burlington last Friday.

Richard Kim started against the Cougars and it was expected that Jay Evershad would be between the pipes for Burlington after being traded from Milton, but he didn't get the call.

"Penalty problems were our downfall," Bince said of the loss. "We had numerous opportunities with empty nets, breakaways and rebounds but we couldn't score."

Burlington goaltender Glen Erskine had a strong game, as did Kim. Both goaltenders stole goals from opposing sharpshooters.

For the Merchants, Daw scored in the first period, with assists going to linemates Clarke and Figliano. Hartley scored in the third, with an



assist going to Daw.

"I didn't see a whole lot from Burlington," said Bince.

"But then I didn't see anything special out of my team, so I can't go pointing fingers. We're much more talented but that doesn't mean we're going to win."

Bince said the team will continue to practise breakouts and the "specialty stuff" like power plays and penalty killing.

"We're going to score more goals than anybody thinks we will," said Bince.

"It's going to take time. Two three-hour practices each week are not enough."

Champion issues touch football challenge

The Canadian Champion touch football team will take on all comers.

Publisher Ian Oliver issued the challenge, primarily because his "Canadian Champions" have had trouble finding teams willing to stand up to the gridiron onslaught the "Champions" usually inflict on opponents, and because "we want to play, but we don't have enough for two teams."

Team numbers and specific rules are negotiable. Games are slated for weekdays at 5:30 p.m.

Call Neil Oliver at 878-2341 if your company can muster the courage, and the necessary four or five players, to take on the Canadian Champions.