

Merchants blast Royal York 10-6

• from MERCHANTS on page 17 veterans Steve Rocco and Mike Murray. Good hustle on offence was provided by Lindsay, Travis Riggins, Finn and Mike McPhail.

In the bottom half of the second, McPhail raced up the ice on a breakaway but was unsuccessful in putting one under Ethier. McPhail was elbowed by Oakville's Mike Roberts on the play and was awarded a penalty shot.

He tried going left on Ethier with a low shot to the corner but was foiled once again.

Beals continued to excite Merchant fans with some quick work in net and kept the Blades scoreless through two.

The final frame of the contest was the most thrilling with good, fast skating from both squads, who continued to be strong on defence.

Milton's Adam Hagan and Murray had some good scoring chances in the third but just couldn't find the mark. Murray was able to unleash a few of his patented slap shots but wasn't able to get one past Ethier.

A scramble in front of the Merchant's net resulted in the game's only goal at 9:36 when Oakville's Jamie Legros knocked the puck in. His tally was assisted by Sandy Sajko and Rick MacDonald.

The Merchants grabbed an early lead in last Wednesday's contest against Royal York and never let up. Goal scorers in that game were Clancy Seymour and Mike Murray with two, and scoring singles were Adam Hagan, Pat Henneberry, Sean Lindsay, Ryan Delorande, Daner Finn and Mike Cox.

The Merchants are idle this weekend but return to action next Friday (October 9) when they travel to Burlington to face the Cougars. Their next home game is set for Tuesday, October 13 at 8:15 p.m. against Burlington.

Big win

Scott Hogarth took home some large trophies from the Hurricane Nationals, masters division karate tournament in Texas recently. He won first in traditional hand style forms and also in traditional weapons.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SCOTT HOGARTH

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Merchants mix youngsters with small veteran core

By STEVE LEBLANC
Special to The Champion

The Milton Merchants, last season's Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League Champions, are looking to be serious contenders once again this year.

However, with only a handful of players returning to the team and a young defence in the ranks this year, the Merchants will have to go through a rebuilding period early on before making a run at another championship.

Milton lost eight of their top players to university scholarships and major junior hockey offers this summer and head coach Rick Bince has brought in a new crop of young players to fill the void.

"There are a lot of new, young faces on the team this year, from all different avenues of hockey," explained Bince. "It's going to take a while for them to feel comfortable playing together."

Veterans Steve Rocco and Mike Murray are the only two returning rear-guards. The pair's experience should help the team kill penalties in the early going of the season and with some time, Bince should be able to fine tune his players' talents and show them just what 'Rick Bince style hockey' is all about.

Between the pipes, Bince is presently going with former Sudbury Wolves netminder Aaron Beals and James Canning. Beals was a little shaky in his season debut against Royal York (probably more due to anxiety in his first outing than anything else) but came back with a great performance against Oakville Friday evening. He should play a major role for the team this year.

Captain Daner Finn, Clancy Seymour, Ryan Delaronde, Adam Hagan, Mike Cox and Pat Henneberry make up the nucleus of the Merchants offensive unit and should cause a lot of heartbreak for opponents this year. Newcomer Travis Riggins (who played Junior C hockey in Acton last season) has also looked impressive in recent games and should help Milton out with his strong skating a good work ethic.

With the majority of the Junior A teams lacking strong defences this season, Milton's forwards should be able to put some big numbers on the board again this year.

While a great deal of work will be required in the coming weeks, Rick Bince and company will no doubt be whipping their players into shape and putting together a competitive hockey team once again.

They may not be the team they were last year, but it's still Milton and they'll still be contenders — count on it.

"There's a lot of character on this team and we'll be building on this in the coming weeks," said Bince. "It may take some time, but then championships aren't made in September."

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Thursday, October 1

JUNIOR-SENIOR BASKETBALL

Bishop Reding at E. C. Drury
Milton at St. Thomas Aquinas

JUNIOR-SENIOR FIELD HOCKEY

Q. E. Park at Bishop Reding

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Q. E. Park at Milton

Friday, October 2

SENIOR FOOTBALL

St. Thomas Aquinas at Milton

Tuesday, October 6

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

Bishop Reding at T. A. Blakelock

HALTON NORTH

Provincial Association ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 7, 1992
8:00 p.m.

BROOKVILLE HALL

Membership and
Information
Contact

Carol Barr

877-7744

MILTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 3rd

9:30 am

Rotary Park

for further information contact: Jackie 875-3182

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