

Talent pool deep on pond, say Merchant shinny bosses

By STEVE LEBLANC
Special to The Champion

Well sports fans, it's just about time for another season of high-flying, show-stopping, rock-em, sock-em Friday night hockey at Memorial Arena. Yes folks, Milton Merchants hockey is just around the corner.

The 1993-94 season promises to be as exciting as they come with a host of talented veterans and promising rookies included in the Merchants' training camp this summer, which began two weeks ago.

Milton's line-up will not include three very popular names this season as all-star rear guards Mike Murray and Steve Rocco and scoring sensation Clancy Seymour will be taking their skills down south this fall.

Rocco and Seymour have both received athletic scholarships and will be playing university hockey in New York State while Murray, one of Ontario's top young lacrosse players, will be vying for a spot on the Buffalo Bandits roster.

Also moving on this year are goalie Bradley Glassford, defenceman Matt O'Dette and forward Travis Riffin, who was drafted by Belleville in this spring's OHL Entry Draft.

However, the majority of forwards from last year's squad have returned to action this summer including Ryan Delorande, Mike Cox, Pat Henneberry, Jamie Janjevich, Daner Finn, Sean Lindsay and Adam Hagan, as well as Carmelo Guirleo, who should be Milton's number one goaltender this season.

Also returning will be Gregor Reid and Bill Laforge, who each came to



the team in the middle of last season and added some punch to the attack.

The talent pool at this year's training camp extends out to newly arriving Junior A players Jude Rutland and Colin Anders, who should have hockey fans talking all season long.

Rutland, a 20-year-old winger with the Lindsay Bears of the Central Ontario Provincial Junior A League's East Division last season, recorded 25 goals and 39 assists then and was one of the league's most popular competitors because of his aggressive on-ice play and charismatic off-ice personality.

Rutland was traded to Milton during Lindsay's house-cleaning early last month. He is a big, strong forward who possesses all the necessary offensive skills to shine in the West this season.

With no defencemen returning to the Merchants' ranks this season, Milton owner Bradley Grant and head coach Rick Bince acquired Colin Anders, a 6'1", 190 lbs. rear guard with the Pickering Panthers of the Metro Junior A League last season.

"Colin is a very smart player who

can move the puck well and has great offensive skills for a defenceman," explained Grant, who says Milton's talent pool is the best it's ever been this year. "Things are looking great. We're going to have some outstanding new players and the veterans are playing at mid-season form already."

A total of 80 young players were part of the team's rookie camp two weeks ago, which featured some promising stars, including local players such as Scott Bertoli, Mike Gideon and Matt Downs, a gifted Milton defenceman who stands an excellent shot at making the squad. There are currently three or four young players gunning for the role of back-up puckstopper.

"We've had a few good skates so far and the talent pool and possibilities for the season look great. The veterans have come to camp ready to play but there are many gifted rookies who are pushing some of them for their jobs," said coach Bince.

Bince will be entering his fifth year as head coach of the Merchants later this month, when the regular season gets underway. Assistant coach John Ialeggio will be returning to the ranks again this year as will all of the Merchants' executive members, who will be looking for families to take in some of the out-of-town players. For those with a room available, contact Bradley Grant at 878-8389 or Rick Bince at 1(416) 241-1427.

Gone from the Central Ontario Provincial Junior A West Division are the Caledon Canadians, who will be competing in the Metro League this season. Replacing them are the Hamilton Kilty B's, last year's champions in the Golden Horseshoe League.

Hamilton should prove to be a strong addition to the division. The season has been shortened from 49 to 42 games and will see all eight teams participating in playoff action in best-of-seven battles.

The Merchants began their exhibition season last Sunday with a match against the Cambridge Winter Hawks and host Cambridge this Friday at 7:30 p.m. in their first pre-season home game.

Milton's season opener is on Friday, September 24 when they play host to the Brampton Capitals at Memorial Arena, with a starting time of 8 p.m.

Springers add new programs

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the club. In fact, without a bingo every third week in Oakville, Campbell says, "we couldn't open our doors."

The Springers are opening their doors to some new approaches this year. They have some additional recreational classes on tap and are starting up a program for boys.

While the competitive aspect is certainly important, Campbell says, "the backbone of the club is the recreational program."

Those who go that route may not end up to be the next Olga Korbut or Nadia Comeneci, but that's hardly

the point. "I think gymnastics is the basis for all sports activity," says Campbell. She says it should be considered by children at any level because it will help them develop for any sport in terms of flexibility, coordination and agility in addition to the personality advantages mentioned earlier.

You'll likely see a lot of Springers bouncing around town this year. They've planned special demonstrations as part of their 20th anniversary celebrations and various other in-club activities.

Registration continues tomorrow night at the Milton Mall between 7 and 9 p.m.

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LOST, Multi-colour cat, since August 18, 1993. Last seen in McNabb area. If found please call 875-2816.

70 Found
FOUND - Black & White short haired cat, neutered male. Speyside area. 878-0324.
FOUND - Boy's Bike on Tuesday morning. Please call to identify. 878-0874.
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