

Mosquito reps are in the hunt for gold this weekend

The Milton minor mosquito rep baseball team will be in the hunt for provincial gold this weekend in Oakville, when they go head-to-head with seven other teams in the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) Championships. Milton was the first of two teams to qualify for this weekend's showcase, when they posted a remarkable 4-1 record in the Central Ontario Baseball Association (COBA) playdowns.

The local crew started the 12-team, double-knockout tournament in fine style, edging Stratford 5-4. From there, they went on to defeat Martingrove 7-5, bomb Peterborough 19-4 in five innings, and beat North York 7-4 before falling to Stratford in a rematch. Good overall defense and explosive offense helped Milton qualify

for the OBA championships. This marks the third straight year this group of players has reached the provincial finals. Representing their community this weekend will be David Aggio, T.A. Assenault, Tim Colling, Ryan Ketelaars, Hallan King, Chad Leakey, Matt Mastrangelo, Nick Mazzorato, Troy Squance, Liam Tennant and David Tielemans.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1996



Milton Merchant hopefuls listen intently as a coach goes over his instructions during pre-season workouts at Memorial Arena. Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

No shortage of new faces

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to *The Champion*

The Milton Merchants may have lost several big name veterans this season, but don't expect them to be lacking in the talent department next month when they begin their 1996/97 Jr. A hockey campaign.

Gone to the overage restriction are Steve Adams, Phil James, Dave Aussem, David Boldovitch, Wes Barowski, Kevin Lamb, Pavo Kekki and star goaltender David Dolecki. Set to fill the holes they've left — at least most of them — are a host of incoming rookies and newcomers from across southern Ontario and beyond.

One newcomer causing a stir through the Merchant ranks is 17-year-old left winger Matt Van Arckle from Richton, Illinois. Van Arckle, who should help defray some of the loss on the left side caused by the exit of James, was a top scorer with Team Illinois last season and is being courted by several big name NCAA schools including Notre Dame and Yale.

"He'll definitely put some numbers up this season," said newly hired head coach Marty Williamson.

The Milton skipper should have no shortage of scoring

ability in his lineup this season. Along with Van Arckle, GM Sid Urovitz has landed 19-year-old centre Troy Walczak. The veteran junior collected 80 points with the powerhouse Caledon Canadians over the 1994/95 season before taking on the role of part-time player for the OHL Barrie Colts last year.

"We've also got Trevor Downey from Collingwood. He's a 19-year-old left winger who was one of the Blues top scorers last season," added Williamson.

Throw in returning veterans Steve Clarke, Jeff Haydar, Rich Reid, Brian Jones, Doug Janjevich, Tom Baynton and Cory Holland, and the Merchants have a strong nucleus of forwards who can both lay their opponents into the boards and put the puck in the net.

Williamson said he expects to have two of the top forward lines in the entire West Conference this season, and that a strong, balanced roster will once again be one of Milton's strengths.

The Merchants shouldn't be lacking on defense either, particularly with the recent trade that saw Milton acquire Streetsville's Jeff White. While

• see NEW on pg. 22

Mohawk kicks off the season Sunday

Mohawk Raceway bursts away from the starting gate Sunday afternoon, September 1 for the 68-date fall meeting, which will be highlighted by the Cadillac Breeders Crown, October 18. Opening week action features the \$2 million Grand Circuit Week, showcasing North America's finest two and three-year-old pacers and trotters.

Racing will be conducted Fridays through Tuesdays, with a nightly post-time of 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 12:45 p.m. The only exceptions are Saturday, Sept. 7, the night of the Family Fireworks

Festival, when the first race post will be 7:01 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 15 (post time 6:30 p.m.) The fireworks evening will also offer many activities for children, including a petting zoo, pony rides, face-painting and clowns.

To celebrate the September 1 return of racing to the Campbellville plant, opening day offers include a special \$1 admission and \$1 program.

The traditional Mohawk Fall Fair Weekend will be held Friday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 19, and will feature handi-

crafts and baked goods displays, along with a wide variety of special entertainment.

In addition to four \$500,000 Cadillac Breeders Crown races Friday, Oct. 18, which will likely determine North American juvenile divisional honors, the legendary pacer Niatross, now 19-years-old, will make a special appearance and fans will get a photo opportunity with the former champion.

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