

Program offers players college showcase

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Phase two involves selling NCAA teams on their players.

"The key is to find out what schools will need, by position, for next year and the year after that and go after those that fit your players," Dermo explained.

The assistant GM/college advisor has 27 years of coaching experience and over two decades as a salesman with Rothmans, Benson and Hedges. "Constant communication with schools is so important as well. We'll be keeping coaches and scouts updated on everything about our players."

Van Arkel said Dermo's efforts made things a lot easier, and allowed him to concentrate more on his game. His goal-a-night pace this season has only served to bolster his potential for the NCAA.

Another Merchant benefiting from the team's

education advancement program is sophomore Doug Janjevich. The 18-year-old Milton native visited Brown University in Rhode Island this past weekend and will likely meet with one or two other schools later in the season.

While a fractured hand kept him sidelined through much of October, he has returned with a vengeance and been one of Milton's top scorers, with 13 goals and 15 assists in 15 games.

"After I didn't get drafted (to the OHL) I focused my attention on college," said Janjevich, who sports an 85 per cent average at E.C. Drury. "Mr. Dermo is doing a lot of work with the program. He really wants to see us go on."

Dermo said he is actively working on promoting 10 Merchants to the university level. "Boston University, Cornell, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, Lake Superior State, St. Lawrence, R.P.I., Yale

and Princeton are all among the schools that have either scouted our games or expressed interest in specific players," he said. "Van Arkel offers us a great drawing card for scouts, who're ending up looking at our other players as well when they attend games."

While the program's success will mean losing some key players next season, it will also mean an additional drawing card for future recruitment.

"We were only going to have a guy like Van Arkel around for one season, that was for certain, but once it becomes public knowledge that guys like him have come through our program the younger players will want to come here."

"We're working towards a successful, long-term program so it'll only be next year that we'll be able to measure this season's success," Dermo said.

Cornering gold market

Justin Billingham may soon run out of space for his high school wrestling awards, if his early 1996/97 pace continues.

The veteran E.C. Drury High School grappler collected two more medals this past week and now sports three for the season, which is only two weeks old. He began last week by capturing his second straight gold in Guelph at the Centennial Cadet/Intermediate Invitational.

His efforts came in the intermediate class.

Billingham extended his medal count two days later in Mississauga with a third-place showing in the intermediate division at the highly regarded Matman Classic.


Chris Denich earned his second straight gold in Mississauga, with a perfect 5-0 count in the open division while Clayton Cowton was victorious in the intermediate class.

Brad Madden, Garreth Savage and Chad Merritt all took silver in the intermediate class while Kevin Heffron lost a one-point championship match and had to settle for second in the open division. Scott Mills placed fourth.

Mills won silver in Thursday's intermediate competition, while Nick Barkley, John McCart, Merritt, Paul Perrott and Ryan Tyer all won their respective weight classes in the cadet division, giving Drury a first-place team finish.

Dave McFarlane helped Drury take that title with a silver medal, as did bronze medalists Tom Knott, Greg Moore, Will Van Duyn and rookies Reza Haririning and Andy Wadson.

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