

Under-11 Stags' OBA supremacy continues

Claim second straight D-1 title

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It may be a little early to predict a full-fledged dynasty.

But after back-to-back OBA Division 1 championships, the Milton Stags' Under-11 boys are unquestionably the team to beat in Ontario. Sporting ample depth and expert guidance from Shane Bascoe — who's coached at the college level — the Stags firmly maintained their spot atop the provincial pecking order all season long.

In fact the Stags faced so few true challenges throughout the year — losing just twice at their own age level — that Bascoe had to put them into a U12 tournament in Toronto a month ago to ensure continued development leading into the OBAs.

"We kind of had to create our own adversity," said Bascoe, who has his team (30-4 overall this season) running systems taught to few other preteen squads in Ontario.

Holding their own against the older competition — going 2-2 — no doubt served as a final spark for the defending provincial champions heading into the D1 showcase in Burlington.

With an insurmountable combination of mental toughness and defensive prowess, Milton reeled off five straight wins — all but one delivered

in convincing fashion — to secure another OBA championship banner.

"We were the top-ranked team again this season, but we never really communicated that to the boys," explained Bascoe. "We always tell them to



never lose focus and play each game like it was their last. To repeat as champions

is very difficult, and to see the guys embracing afterwards was great, especially with three new players this year. They hadn't won before, so our motivation kind of changed... to be able to allow the new guys to taste victory."

A championship rematch presented itself in Burlington, as the Stags met up with the Brampton War-



The Milton Stags' Under-11 boys celebrate after capturing their second straight OBA Division 1 championship banner.

Scott invites fellow youth to annual Healthy Hearts Challenge



James Scott eagerly awaits this Saturday's Healthy Hearts Challenge. Graham Paine / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)

A Milton youth is looking to strike another blow against heart disease.

And this time he's bringing serious back-up to the fight.

The cornerstone of his family's healthy heart care (inspiringkidstoday.com) initiative, 11-year-old James Scott has spent the past two years promoting sports and physical fitness to children and emphasizing how that can curb the chances of heart problems later in life.

Efforts toward that end will see him lace up the boxing gloves on Saturday at the Milton Soccer Centre (821

Main St. E.) as part of his third annual Healthy Hearts Challenge.

James, who trains at Reebok CrossFit FirePower, will be joined by three-time world champion and 2012 Olympian Mary Spencer. The event — open to the public from 2 to 4:30 p.m. — will include a boxing demonstration and various fitness challenges such as Zumba, cricket, power walking, yoga and BMX.

Mayor Gord Krantz will also be part of the festivities, while organizers are expecting about 15 health-related vendor stations — up from three last spring.

There is no cost to attend or participate at the event.

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