

SPORTS

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LACROSSE MINERS

The provincial senior B champion St. Albert Miners are loading up for another trip to nationals. See story, page 75.

ON TAP

EDSA soccer

The Edmonton District Soccer Association kicks off league play next week at the Riel Park turf field for three St. Albert Impact men's teams.

On Monday in division 1A at 8:45 p.m. the Impact 2 play AC Milan 2. Last year the Impact 2 (7-1-5) finished second in league play and in the EDSA tier II first division provincial playdown qualifier final lost 2-1 to the Ital-Canadians.

At the tier II provincials, the Impact 2 replaced Ital as the second EDSA rep in the four-team draw and was awarded silver after going 1-1-1.

Wednesday in division 1B at 8:30 p.m. the Impact 1 tackle Polonia. The Impact 1 (9-2-3) placed second in their division and in the tier II provincial playdown semifinals lost 1-0 to the Impact 2.

Thursday in premier at 8:15 p.m. the Impact Rangers battle AS Roma. The Rangers (5-3-8) ended last season in the B pool after going 3-2-6 in the round robin fixtures for seventh place, one spot short of advancing into the A pool.

SAMSL soccer

The 31st year for the St. Albert Men's Soccer League is tentatively scheduled to start May 15.

There are eight teams this year, one more than in 2010. Returning teams include playoff champion Arsenal, pennant-winning Chester City (10-2), St. Albert United, St. Albert City and Crossfire.

Newcomers are CSKA Blues FC, AC Young Boys and GSE.

Not back are the Decepticons because of low enrolment and Strike Force, who will play in the tier 4 Virk division in the Edmonton District Soccer Association.

In last year's final Arsenal defeated United 2-0 for their first playoff cup in team history. Arsenal finished 8-6-3 overall after placing fourth in league play at 4-5-3.

At tier IV provincials United and Chester represented SAMSL as the top two finishers in the regular season. Both teams went 0-2 with line-ups of 13 players each. Chester was outscored 9-1 and United gave up nine goals without scoring once.

SAWSL soccer

If everything goes according to plan, the St. Albert Women's Soccer League is back on the pitch May 15.

Division one features Mavericks 09 (17-1), last year's pennant winners, plus the Storm, Morinville Ladies, Lady Titans, Goal Diggers, Gini's, Fury, Kickers Rev and the top two teams in division two last year: Cosmos FC (10-2-2) and St. Albert FC (9-3-2).

Division two consists of the Devils, Tsunami, Falcons, SA Force, Mavericks 95, Pink Ladies, Snipe and Lady Killers.

Last year Mavericks 09 qualified for tier IV provincials as the division one leaders. In the bronze medal game they lost 1-0 to The Original Joes Crew from Grande Prairie. The fourth-place result was the best finish by a SAWSL team since 2005 when Morinville won bronze.

Runners register en masse for St. Albert Marathon

Deadline to sign up is May 10

BY JEFF HANSEN
Staff Writer

Registrations for the first marathon in St. Albert history have exceeded expectations.

As of Wednesday, 1,150 runners had signed up for the 42-kilometre marathon, 21.1-km half marathon walk/run, 10-km walk/run, five-km walk/run and the WildOnes Marafun for kids.

"We're elated," said Anita Cassidy, race director for the RunWild Leading Edge Marathon on May 15. "Our goal was actually 1,000. We thought that was lofty at the time but we've exceeded it and we'll probably be a little closer to 1,300 or 1,400 by race day."

"It's one of the first races that has all of those events; the 5 K, the 10 K, the half and the full [marathons], plus the kids' race so it's really an event for everyone. You can get the family involved. Your kids can race. Your parents can race. You can walk if you want to."

So far 150 registrations have been processed for the marathon.

"There has never been a marathon here and we have a huge running community in St. Albert so they get excited that there is something of this calibre in St. Albert," Cassidy said.

The race will also help com-

memorate the city's 150th birthday.

"It's really St. Albert's big event," Cassidy said. "There has been a lot of hard work by many people put into this race and we are very pleased that the St. Albert community and surrounding communities have come out and really supported us."

The deadline to register online is 11:59 p.m. May 10 at www.RunWild.ca.

Registrations will also be accepted at any Running Room location.

The marathon gets rolling at 7 a.m. in front of St. Albert Place. Runners wind their way up Sturgeon Road to the city's ravines, and then by road they pass through the Akinsdale and Pinewood neighbourhoods before heading down Sir Winston Churchill Avenue and out to the Sturgeon Valley Golf & County Club. Back in St. Albert along Bellerose Drive, runners go through the Oakmont neighbourhood before joining the trail system that leads past Lacombe Park Lake and Deer Ridge. After crossing the Sturgeon River, they race up Grandin Road, then turn right on Levasseur Road and eventually work their way through Riel Park to Millennium Park, the finish line area for all the races.

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CHRIS COLBOURNE/St. Albert Gazette

RUNNING WILD – Paul Kane High School teachers Josh Machney (left) and Marc Meunier run along Sir Winston Churchill Avenue on Tuesday afternoon in preparation for the RunWild Leading Edge Marathon on May 15. Meunier will run the entire length and Machney will do the 10-kilometre event. Meunier and Machney finished 11th and 24th, respectively, in the recent St. Albert 10-Mile Road Race.

Tough battle for Storm

St. Albert huddles up against the Edmonton Mustangs today in midget spring league football

BY JEFF HANSEN
Staff Writer

To be the best you have to beat the best, and today the St. Albert Storm can prove they are the real deal against the undefeated Edmonton Mustangs.

Kick-off is 4 p.m. at the Riel Park turf field against last year's tier I champions in midget spring league football.

"They're probably going to be our toughest competitors," said centre Zach Piercey. "We're not going into it thinking we're going to win easily. We're going into it thinking that we have to give it our best and hopefully we'll be well prepared."

In three wins the Mustangs outscored the opposition 72-30. The Storm are 1-0-1, with two touchdowns and one Robert Blunden field goal while giving up two converted TDs.

"In the jamboree [April 2 controlled scrimmages at Spruce Grove] we beat them so I'm pretty sure we're going to do pretty good against them but we still need to put more points up, for sure," Blunden said.

Last week his 20-yard field goal following Nathan Mitchell's interception in the third quarter was the game breaker in the 9-7 win against the Parkland Predators (1-2) in Spruce Grove.

"It was just a regular field goal but I felt pretty nervous. I was worried they were going to come through and block it so that was kind of scary but I just hit it and it went in," said Blunden.

His convert try after Nathan Pytel's rushing major in the second quarter was blocked after an illegal procedure penalty wiped out the first point-after attempt that would have tied the score.

See "Storm," page 75



CHRIS COLBOURNE/St. Albert Gazette

STORM BREWING – St. Albert Storm running back Robert Blunden is wrapped up by a pair of tacklers during Tuesday's practice at the Riel Park turf field. Today at 4 p.m. the Storm (1-0-1) host the Edmonton Mustangs (3-0) in midget spring league action.



ZACH
PIERCEY
Centre



ROBERT
BLUNDEN
Running back

