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A shot in the Dart
Sat, January 12, 2008
By **MORRIS DALLA COSTA, FREE PRESS**
SPORTS COLUMNIST

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The London Majors have signed several big-time additions to their Intercounty Baseball League team.

The biggest addition will be a man who has made a comeback from a life-threatening situation.

Majors co-owner Scott Dart will be a regular at Labatt Park this season, doing what he's done since he bought the team four years ago.

He later sold part of the team to Roop Chanderdatt.

Dart will handle the off-field activities. You may even see him slinging popcorn. It will be a big step for the 40-year-old who last summer wasn't sure if he was ever going to get out of hospital.

"It was right after we put the banners up for the advertisers on the outfield fence," Dart said. "Two days later I was in hospital."

And fighting for his life.

Dart entered to have his gall bladder removed. On May 7, he went back in for a second procedure, a scope to chase a gall stone that had gotten caught in his bile duct. The scope is called an ERCP and it "nicked" his pancreas.

"I had it done first thing in the morning. Then on May 8, after I took

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my son to school, I was driving home and started to get pain in my abdomen. I was vomiting bile everywhere and I knew something was wrong. It was the worse pain I'd ever experienced," Dart said.

They tried another ERCP but couldn't do it because all Dart's organs had swollen.

"It was crazy," Dart said. "It was terrifying because I asked the surgeon 'I have a totally inappropriate and stupid question. Is there a chance I could die from this?' And he said 'I'm not going to lie to you. We're just waiting to see which way your body is going to go.' That scared the hell out of me. I'm just not ready for that. I've got two little boys.

"I still like to think I have something to offer them and the community."

It was a tough battle. Dart spent four months in hospital. He lost 120 pounds. He developed diabetes and basically couldn't do a thing.

"I had to leave everything to Roop to handle on and off the field," Dart said. "Normally he handles everything on the field and I handle everything off. He was under quite a bit of stress because of it. Roop did a great job recruiting last year and getting guys to move on, being drafted. I like to think we have a good process in place to get quality guys that not only will help our club but will be able to move on to the next level."

Dart said it was difficult because people were sending their support but it was hard to get information out.

"Roop was unsure about how much information to give out because at one point things were kind of bleak and he didn't want to say too much."

But it was more than the physical and emotional pain and missing the Majors that played on Dart's mind.

"The worse was not being able to see my kids the way I had prior to that and having them down to the ball game the way I used to," he said. "It was horrible."

Dart has regained 45 pounds but is still under treatment. There is hope his pancreas will eventually produce enough insulin where his diabetes will recede.

He's looking forward to simply getting back in the swing of things, especially going back to his day job and sitting at Labatt Park.

"I was just there (Wednesday). I missed it so bad. I got a couple of leaves of absences from the hospital, but it just wasn't the same. I was so weak. A lot of times I just couldn't stay for the whole game. I couldn't even get to the July 1 game and that's usually my favourite. I just wound up watching the game on TV. Thank God that Rogers covers us.

"It will be great to just be able to get some structure back in my life."
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