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Kemp impressive at European events

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor
 For years Darren Kemp wanted a chance to compete in an international figure skating event. When the opportunity became a reality two weeks ago, the Georgetown native made sure he made the best of it.

Kemp took part in a pair of competitions held in France and West Germany. The 19-year-old responded with his best efforts in recording a fourth (in France) and seventh place (in West Germany) finish in the two meets.

Not only were the overseas competitions a first for Kemp, but he skated in the Senior Men's class, which too was a first for Kemp. He said he was quite pleased with his performance overall.

"I'm really pleased, my coach is really pleased and the Association (Canadian Figure Skating Association-CFSA) is pleased," Kemp said Monday after returning home the day before. "I feel confident now after having had one

(Senior meet) under my belt." Kemp was selected to represent Canada abroad last Spring by the CFSA after completing his most successful skating campaign in 1985-86. Last year Kemp was the top Junior Men's skater in the Sectional and Divisional competitions before finishing the season off with a second place effort in the Canadian meet held in North Bay.

Prior to leaving for Europe, Kemp had said he hoped to use the two competitions overseas as learning sessions. Kemp said he did learn some valuable lessons that will provide him with even more of a confidence boost this year.

"I learned a lot about myself," he said. "Like how I compare with the other skaters at this level. I learned a lot about the European skaters and performed before a world panel of judges, which I had never done before."

One element North Americans travelling overseas must adjust to is the six-hour time difference. Kemp said the time change didn't bother



Darren Kemp

him, but added the meets were somewhat different from the ones he's skated in while in Canada.

"When I was in France we did the figures and the short program on the same day," Kemp said. "It was like we'd practise all week then BANG go right into the competition rather than go into it slowly."

The European competitions gave Kemp an opportunity to face some of the better Senior Men's skaters in the world. Two of the competitors in the West German event placed 15th and 19th respectively in last year's World championships. In all Kemp said about nine countries took part in the events, including Russia, Switzerland and Denmark who all were in attendance in the West German competition.

Also, the European events gave Kemp a chance to perform before a predominantly older crowd. Kemp said the older spectators didn't present any major problems for him.

"Not at all," he said. "They came to see the skaters perform."

But the trip wasn't totally an all-work-and-no-play venture. Kemp said he had a chance to see five countries while overseas, including travelling outside of France one night for dinner in another country.

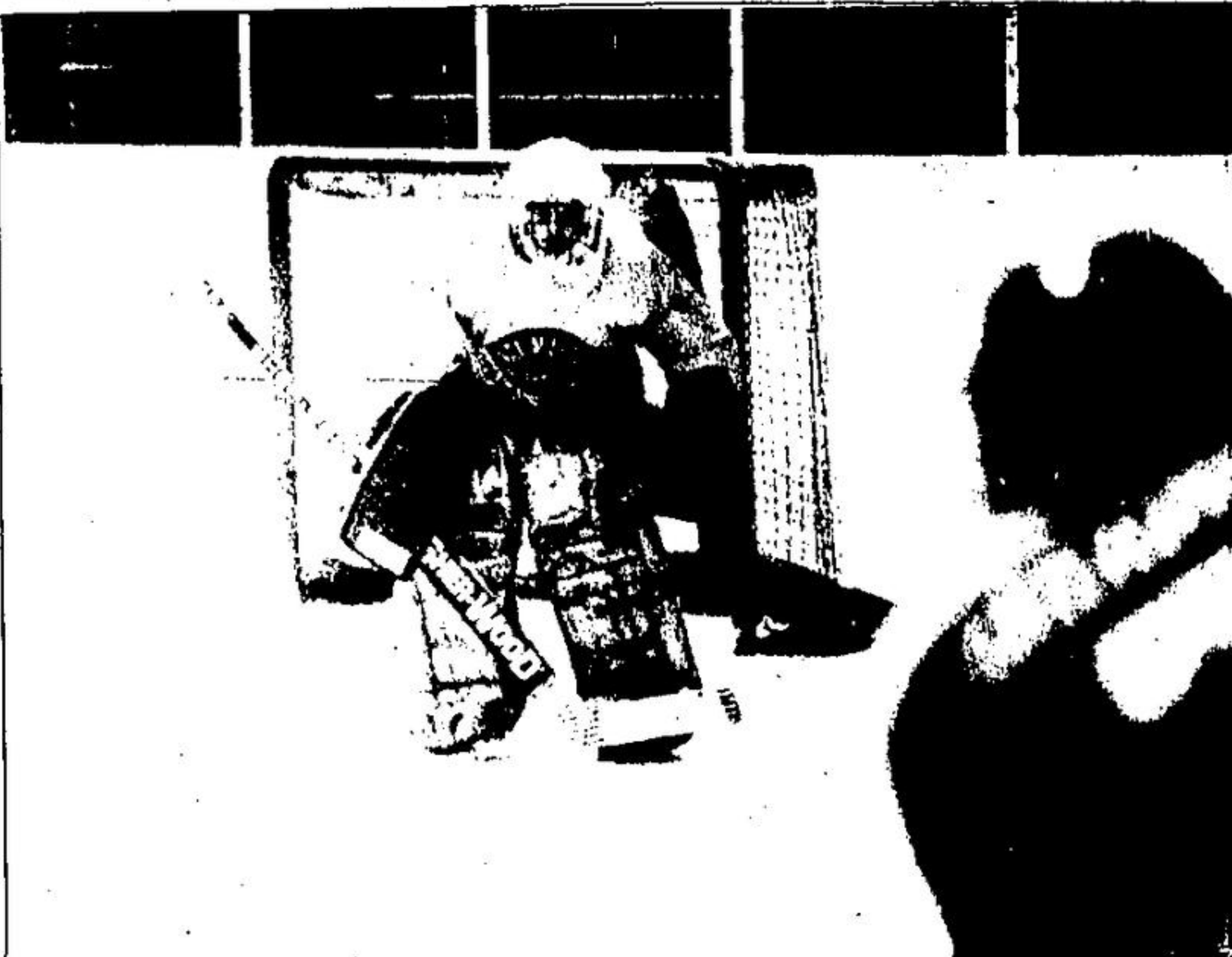
"Italy was just 20 minutes away from the hotel in France so we went there for dinner one night," Kemp said. "There's nothing like going to another country for dinner."

Kemp's impressive placings in both Germany and France will help him this year as he prepares to compete with Canada's best Senior skaters. However, Kemp won't be taken back by his Senior rivals this season.

"The other guy I went with (Kirk Browning) went there (Europe) last year and when he came back for his first year of Senior the other competitors were just other skaters," Kemp said. "There's a different preparation involved for Senior because now you are involved with the main event."

"But I'm ready now. I've got to work on some broad training now because all I did in preparation for these competitions is fine-tune. It's going to be a tough road to Sectionals but all I want to do is skate well at the Senior level."

"I went over to skate my program and I skated the best I've ever skated," Kemp said.



WIDE SHOT-Georgetown Gemini goaltending prospect Rob Perkins keeps his eye on the puck, which on this occasion is going wide. The Gemini opened their

main camp last week, and featured a number of talented youngsters who impressed team assistant general manager Jules Russiani. (Herald photo)

Youngsters shine at Gem camp

Assistant GM Russiani impressed with bantam talent

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

With the first week of the Georgetown Gemini's main camp history, assistant general manager Jules Russiani is quite pleased with what he has seen so far.

The play of some rookie players has impressed Russiani as well as the performance of some veterans. All in all Russiani is happy with the talent present, especially at the bantam level.

"I've never witnessed a more talented group of bantam boys in my camp than what I have this year," Russiani said. "I can't believe the amount of good talent."

Even though the bantam players are the age of midget last year (Canadian Amateur Hockey Association increased the minor hockey age restriction one year at that time) Russiani is still impressed.

"Even as a first year midget you normally don't see them (players) that good," he said.

Probably the most impressive of the bantam players has been Chingacousy defenceman Tom Purcell. Russiani said the Gemini knew Purcell was a quality player, and he's further proved that fact in camp.

"From Day One he's caught our eye," Russiani said. "He fit in right off the bat and has improved each time out."

There was talk last week Bramalea Blues of the Metro Junior "B" loop was going to file tampering charges on the Gemini in regards to Purcell. The Blues felt because Purcell played minor hockey with Chingacousy he was their property.

But the Blues didn't offer Purcell a tryout, which left him free to go anywhere he wished. However, a telephone call from Russiani to Bramalea general manager Paul Tuttle had ironed out any loose items involving Purcell trying out for the Gemini. In fact, Purcell skated with Bramalea last Wednesday at that team's tryout camp.

"It was just a misunderstanding," Russiani said.

In addition to Purcell, Russiani has been pleased with the play of Tottenham midget Jim McCabe (a centre), Mississauga Black Hawks' midget Charlie Potvin (goalie), and Toronto Young Nats midget Tim Webster (another goalie). Russiani is also pleased with the performance of local's Mark Zebedee (defenceman), Sunny Acres (midgets), Paul Cargill (defenceman Acton Sabres), Steve Wagner (Acton

Sabres-forward).

"I like the way Mark has played on the left side," Russiani said. "I'm also very pleased with Paul Cargill, he carries the puck well and I'm really thrilled about the way he thinks out there."

As impressed as Russiani has been with the rookies and young players, he cautions about making decisions too early about the bantams and midgets.

"It's a little difficult in that there are a lot of young, talented players which make your decisions harder," he said. "These players are good, but they don't have the experience."

NOTE: The Gemini made five cuts this week, bringing the number of players still in camp to around 40. Georgetown native Don Cruise was out for the Gemini rookie camp and was in attendance at the first day of main camp, but won't be around now. He signed with the Tier II franchise in Aurora Thursday night. The two Collingwood players who impressed Russiani at rookie camp too have left. Forwards Shane Sargent and Reg Sheffield are now at Barrie Colts camp. Regular defenceman Todd Cull had work commitments which kept him away for the first training camp workouts. He was on the ice though Friday night. Gemini defenceman Joe O'Toole hasn't reported to camp because he is trying out for Owen Sound's Tier II club right now. Regular camp workouts resumed last night after the long weekend. There weren't any workouts Saturday-Sunday or Monday. The Gemini will be making regular cuts starting this week. Plans are being made for a possible intra-squad contest to be held this weekend at the Alcott Arena. Wayne Morrow and Wally Petrie played on the same line during scrimmages last week and looked good together. The same held true for both Rod McClure and Darin Shaw. Acton Junior Sabres had a representative out Thursday. GM Elmer Dunn was at the Alcott Arena watching the workout. The Sabres begin camp Monday night.

Rod McClure



Smeaton achieves skating milestone

Georgetown figure skater Leah Smeaton achieved a life-long ambition last week when she passed her gold figure test. The accomplishment completes Smeaton's gold skating tests and makes her a triple gold medalist.

Smeaton passed the gold figure at the Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club in Toronto. She passed her gold freeskate and final gold dance in 1984 and also passed her novice competitive test in 1982. Smeaton has skated in many competitions and carnivals throughout the past few years and has remained a Georgetown Figure Skating home club member throughout much of her skating career although much of her off-season skating has been done at several clubs out-of-town. They include: Oakville, Weston and the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling clubs.

In a prepared statement, Smeaton said obtaining the final gold figure test was an accomplishment she never thought would come true. She said a number of individuals helped in the recording of the event.

"Thanks to my grandmother who knit my sweaters and thought I was great no matter how badly I skated. Thanks to the best two sisters in the world (Sherry and Cathy) who supported me and helped through skating competitions and tests. The most thanks goes to my



Leah Smeaton

mother who has supported me financially and has allowed me the opportunity to skate. Also, thanks to my dad who, although not here physically the past five years, has been in my heart and gave me the will to go on."

Smeaton hopes to skate on the University of Waterloo team where she will attend this Fall and will study kinesiology. Smeaton hopes to eventually combine figure skating coaching with her career in the field of kinesiology.

Smeaton's basic coach throughout all her skating has been Janet Fell, who teaches at the Georgetown club. Smeaton and her coach have become good friends through all the frustrations, hard work and pleasures of figure skating.

pleasures of figure skating

Etobicoke drops final in Canadian junior tourney

Pitcher Braun on silver medal ball team

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

Pitcher Andrew Braun might have a golden right arm, but the Georgetown hurler had to settle for silver at last week's Canadian Junior Baseball Championships.

Braun and his Etobicoke teammates represented Ontario at the tournament held at North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Ontario met Quebec in the final, but suffered a 12-7 setback and had to be satisfied with the silver medal.

Braun saw action in two games ironically both against Quebec. In the round-robin the 21-year-old pitched a three-hitter as Ontario received a slim 2-1 victory. Braun had 13 strikeouts in the game and the run was an unearned tally.

However, Braun appeared in the final as a reliever, coming in in the first inning after Etobicoke had surrendered five runs. With Braun pitching Etobicoke came back to tie the game, but being hit in the crotch region of his right leg in the fourth inning came back to hurt Braun later on. The muscle bit began to tighten up, subsequently Braun couldn't get a good push off the rubber and had to rely on his arm strength alone. In the eighth inning he was victimized on a grand slam homer the result of the injury and being tired.

Both Quebec and Ontario qualified for the final by winning three of their four round-robin contests. Ontario had wins against Moncton (6-3), Quebec (2-1) and British Columbia (14-13) before suffering an 8-7 setback to the host Saskatchewan squad.

Braun said he was pleased with having been able to take part in the tournament (which he did for the first time). However, a gold medal would have been the perfect way to cap off his junior career.

"I wanted to win the gold medal," he said. "It felt good to go out there

and represent our province. I thought I'd be a lot more nervous but I wasn't. Everything was working in the first game. I had my fork ball and fastball going and my curve was clicking."

"That last game, though, was a letdown. We should have won and could have won. But that's life, that's the way it goes," Braun said.

Even though Etobicoke didn't win the gold, Braun did raise at least one scout's eyebrows during the tournament. After his showing against Quebec in the round-robin a Cincinnati Reds scout approached the Etobicoke manager and had him make Braun fill out an information card.

Now Braun will return to pitching for Etobicoke's senior squad presently playing Black Rainbow in the first round of the Labatt's Metro Major loop. This year with the senior team Braun compiled a regular season record of five wins and four losses. Braun pitched 65 1/3 innings, allowed 55 runs, 22 walks, 24 earned runs (16 were unearned) for an earned-run average (ERA) of 3.29. If one takes away the lone bad outing Braun had this year against Leaside (eight earned runs in two innings) that figure would be down around 2.89. In addition Braun had 62 strikeouts as Leaside finished with a record 22-9, three-and-a-half games out at first behind Leaside.

Last year Braun played senior ball with Stratford of the Intercounty major loop. He was 2-2 with 28 1/3 innings pitched and an ERA about 6.35.

Braun still wants to pursue a professional career. Currently Braun is attending University of Toronto majoring in Geography. However, he'd welcome at least a shot at playing pro.

"I have a feeling something will happen just by the way that scout came after the (Quebec) game," he said. "All I would like is a shot. The way I pitched against Quebec (in the round robin game) is what I'm capable of."



Andrew Braun

PONY GLS

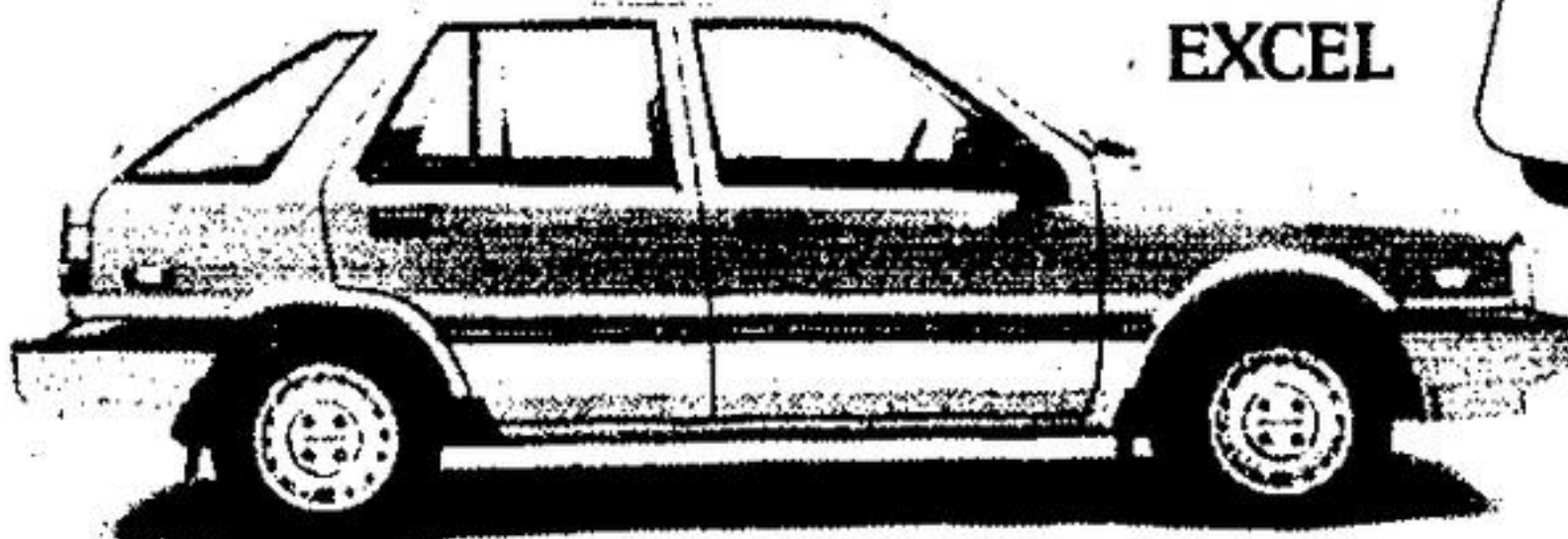


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