

Sports & Leisure

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Local foursome play role in Silvercreeks' title win

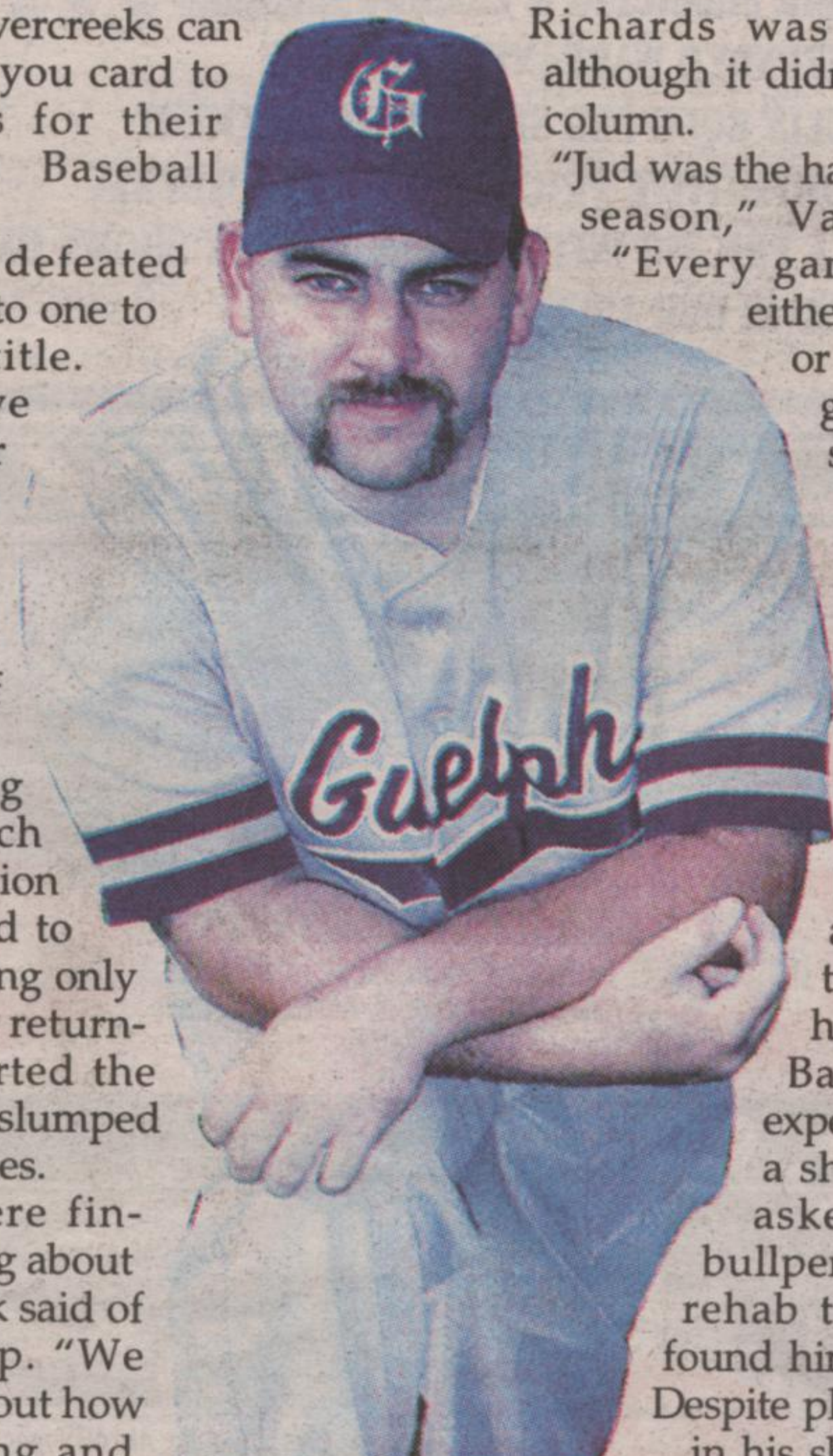
The Guelph Silvercreeks can send a thank you card to Halton Hills for their Intercounty Junior Baseball League championship.

The Silvercreeks defeated Waterloo three games to one to win the league title. Helping them achieve that goal were pitcher Jud Richards of Terra Cotta, catcher Jeff Bahr, manager Scott Van de Valk and third base coach Bob DeZeeuw of Georgetown.

Guelph was coming off a season in which they won the east division but were only expected to play .500 ball considering only 12 of 22 players were returning. Instead they started the year on a 17-4 tear but slumped to 6-8 in the last 14 games.

"I thought we were finished. We were thinking about next year," Van de Valk said of the late-season slump. "We voiced our concerns about how they had been playing and told them they were playing for a job next year. We made a couple of changes and it was a good wake-up call."

Guelph, which finished second in the East Division, eliminated London in four games and met Waterloo in the final. Richards tossed nine innings of two-hit ball in the opener, which Guelph won 5-4 in 13 innings. He came back on three days rest to pitch game four, allowed three earned runs in nine innings in another thrilling extra-inning victory to clinch the championship.



SCOTT VAN de VALK

Richards was the team's ace, although it didn't show in the win column.

"Jud was the hard-luck story of the season," Van de Valk said.

"Every game he pitched we either didn't score runs or if we did score, we gave it back on shoddy defence. We always found a way to lose when he pitched."

Richards, who is attending University of Miami (Ohio), also contributed with the bat, hitting .380 and leading the team with seven home runs.

Bahr wasn't even expected to play due to a shoulder injury. He asked to do some bullpen catching to help rehab the arm but soon found himself in the lineup. Despite playing with six pins in his shoulder, he hit .340 in 20 games while catching, playing first base and filling in as a designated hitter.

"He eventually had to shut it down in the final but he was an inspiration to the other guys," Van de Valk said. "It took a lot of courage for him to play."

Van de Valk also got to manage the Intercounty all-stars at the provincial all-star game at SkyDome, with DeZeeuw as one of his coaches. They had the same role as the league all-stars faced the Team Canada youth squad, a game they lost 5-4.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Hockey players are taught at a young age to keep their eye on the puck and that's exactly what Stace Page (22) of the Georgetown Raiders and Hamilton Kilty B's Chris Langlois did Saturday during their Provincial Junior A Hockey League match at Gordon Alcott Arena. Hamilton won 8-6.

Photo by Yvonne Gaynor

Mixed results for Raiders in tough four-game grind

A gruelling four games in five nights showed there's little wrong with the Georgetown Raiders' shooting eyes, but work still needs to be done in their own zone.

The Raiders capped the four games Monday in Hamilton with a 5-5 draw against the Kilty B's who administered an 8-6 loss to the Raiders Saturday at Alcott Arena.

Georgetown kicked off the stretch of games with a 4-1 win in Brampton over the Capitals last Thursday and downed Collingwood 3-1 Sunday in Mississauga as part of the league's annual college weekend showcase for scouts.

A large part of the Raiders' inconsistency on defence has to do with the fact the squad is playing with only five defencemen—and only two veterans, Bill Fetherston and Brydon Butterworth—because of the injury to Dan Rogers who is out until mid-October with a broken foot.

Monday, Stace Page and Mike

Knoepfli paced the Raiders with a goal and an assist each while Ryan Fairbairn, Ryan Busby and Butterworth added the other goals.

Sunday, Page and Knoepfli each had a goal and an assist in the win over Collingwood while Kyle Rogers and Andrew Reynolds split the goaltending assignment. Scott MacDonald also scored.

At home Saturday, Daryl Knowles fired two goals with Brandon Valente notching a goal and an assist. Busby, Adam Russell and David Lajeunesse also connected with Page collecting three helpers.

In a replay of last year's league semifinal, the Raiders downed Brampton as Page counted two goals and one assist. Knoepfli had a goal and an assist while Tristan Fairbairn scored once.

RAIDER RAP: The Raiders now sport a 3-2-1 won-lost-tied record... Their next game is Friday when they visit Oakville. Saturday they host Burlington at Alcott Arena. Both contests begin at 7:30 p.m.

Acton's Craig honored for volunteer efforts

Christine Craig of Acton received a Special Achievement Award from the provincial government Friday.

The Acton resident, who co-founded the Peel Selects Volleyball Club, received the honor from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation at Ontario Sports Award ceremony at SkyDome. The award recognizes continued volunteer service to amateur sport in Ontario.

Craig founded the Selects, in part to

give outstanding players such as her daughter Susan, a place to further develop their skills. She coached the Selects from 1985 to 1998 and is now club president. She is also the youth competitions chair for the Ontario Volleyball Association.

Craig is also one of only a few people outside of the government to be named to the mission staff for the 2001 Canada Games in London. She will serve as a liaison for the soccer and tennis teams.

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