

Sports & Leisure

Friday, Oct. 11, 2002

Novak out, Purcell in, as Raiders make coaching switch

Talk about jumping into the frying pan.

The Georgetown Raiders' new coach will get plenty of opportunities to see the team—at least what's left of it—in action. Bill Purcell, who takes over for Randy Novak, steps behind the bench as the Raiders head into a minimum stretch of eight games in the next 10 days.

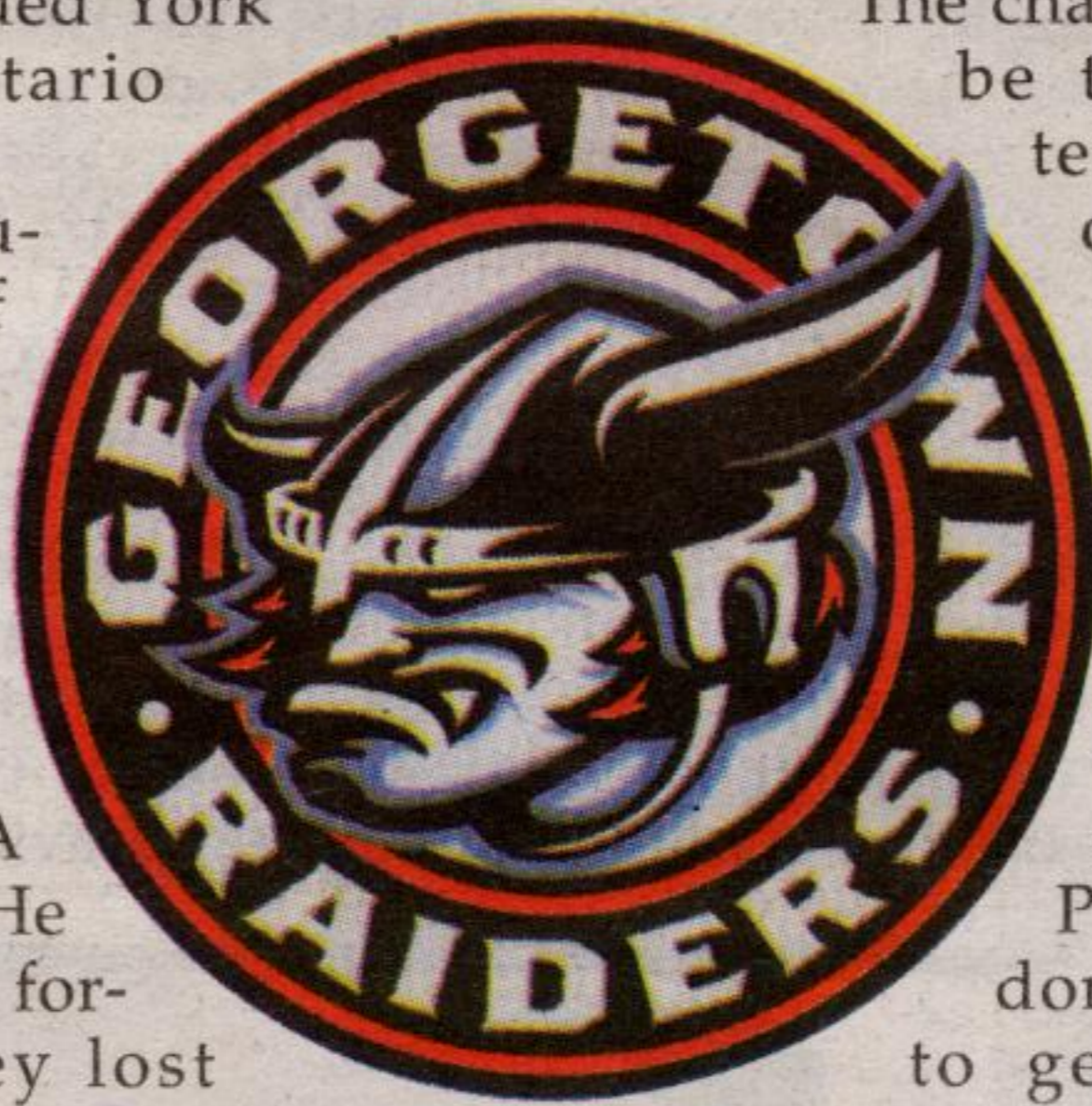
Novak is stepping down to concentrate on his job as the director of hockey operations for the Canadian Ice Academy (CIA), owned by Raiders' owner Stu Hyman.

Purcell brings a wealth of experience to the Raiders. He coached Kalamazoo to two Turner Cup championships in the International Hockey League and coached Adirondack of the American Hockey

League. He also guided York and Toronto to Ontario university titles.

"We're very fortunate to get some of the caliber of Bill Purcell," said Raider GM Jack Moon.

Purcell coached Pickering of the Provincial Jr. A League last season. He did it to help out his former team after they lost their coach just days before the season began. This time it was Raider assistant coach Peter Mavroudis who convinced him to get behind the bench again. Mavroudis played Jr. B on Purcell's team in Markham.



The challenge for Purcell will be trying to teach the team something without the benefit of a practice for the next 10 days. On top of that, the Raiders are missing eight regulars from the line-up.

"It's a dire situation as far as bodies go," Purcell said. "You don't want anyone else to get injured in these games."

Purcell watched Saturday's game against Bramalea and ran Wednesday's practice.

"If you look at the goals against, that tells me they're not playing well

away from the puck," Purcell said. "You have to look at defence first. They've got the guys to score goals but it's no good scoring seven if you're allowing eight."

Novak oversees the Junior Canadiens and Toronto Penguins minor hockey programs as well as doing sales and marketing for Canadian Ice Academy. Novak said there just wasn't enough time to handle both jobs.

"Coaching is my passion and to coach with passion takes a lot of time," Novak said. "My priority is CIA, though, and I have to concentrate on that."

"It was just too much of a workload between the two and his livelihood has to come first," Moon said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Stewarttown tops at meet

Stewarttown won four divisions—sweeping the top three placings in three of them—at the Optimist Club of Georgetown Cross Country Meet at Cedarvale Park Wednesday.

Stewarttown won both the boys and girls 11 and 13-year-old divisions. Joseph Gibbons took top honours in the 8 and 10-year-old girls divisions. George Kennedy, Holy Cross, Limehouse, Georgetown Christian and McKenzie-Smith Bennett also claimed divisional titles.

Ten schools and 560 runners took part in the annual meet. Top-three finishers in each race were:

8-year-old girls: 1. Maggie Darling, Limehouse; 2. Kristen Childs, Joseph Gibbons; 3. Corolyn Hale, JG. Team: Joseph Gibbons.

8-year-old boys: 1. Mackenzie Morrison, McKenzie-Smith Bennett; 2. Trevor Vanderglas, Park; 3. Kyle Burns, Park. Team: George Kennedy.

9-year-old girls: 1. Alice Winter, LH; 2. Jenna Taylor, Harrison; 3. Jaden Todd Holy Cross. Team: Holy Cross.

9-year-old boys: 1. Ben Jolly, LH; 2. Alex Bell, JG; 3. Michael MacDonald, GK. Team: Limehouse.

10-year-old girls: 1. Lauren Vermeulen, Robert Little; 2. Sarah Glassford, MSB; 3. Kristie Laidlaw, Pineview. Team: Joseph Gibbons.

10-year-old boys: 1. Liam Robertson, LH; 2. Brandyn McCarthy, RL; 3. Luke Van Dinther, LH. Team: Limehouse.

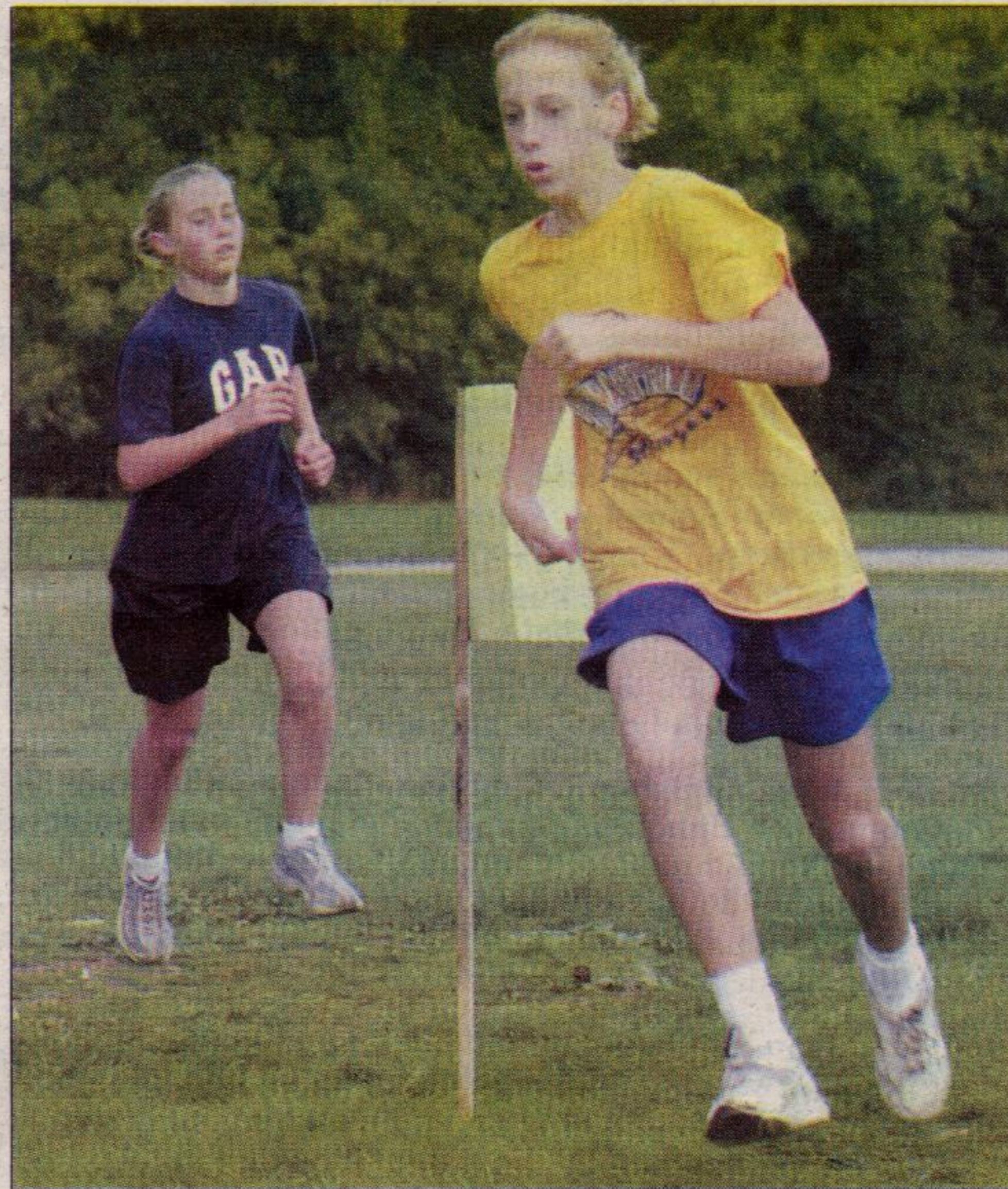
11-year-old girls: 1. Gabby Kosziwka, Stewarttown; 2. Chynell Richardson, Stew; 3. Kelly Laidlaw, Stew. Team: Stewarttown.

11-year-old boys: 1. Liam Heelis, Stew; 2. Cameron Shortt, Stew; 3. John McMulkin, Stew. Team: Stewarttown.

12-year-old girls: 1. Amy Laidlaw, Georgetown Christian; 2. Megan Milne, Stewarttown; 3. Maja Vermeulen, MSB. Team: Georgetown Christian.

12-year-old boys: 1. Blake Seaton, HC; 2. Cory Drumm, MSB; 3. Alex Brake, MSB. Team: McKenzie-Smith Bennett.

13-year-old girls: 1. Katelyn Laidlaw, Stew; 2. Courtney



Gabby Kosziwka (right) and Chynell Richardson of Stewarttown Public School make the final turn in the 11-year-old girls division race during Wednesday's Optimist Club of Georgetown's Cross-Country meet held at Cedarvale Park. The Stewarttown duo finished 1-2.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Richardson, Stew; 3. Ashley Peacock, HC. Team: Stewarttown.

13-year-old boys: 1. Matt Scott, Stew; 2. Brendan D'Agostine, Stew; 3. Brandon Nixon, Stew. Team: Stewarttown.

It's tourney time

There will be more local entries to cheer on at the Georgetown Raiders Earlybird Tournament.

The tournament is expanding to three divisions this year, adding a peewee division to the existing novice and atom divisions.

"It fills out Georgetown's ability to compete at a local tournament," said tournament chairman Bob DeZeeuw. "We've always had novice and atom divisions and then we have the bantam tournament. This gives the peewee players a chance to play in a tournament at home. And with the extra ice pad now, why not use it?"

Games begin at 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

The Novice Raiders play Milton at 6:15 p.m. Friday. Saturday they face Brampton at 10:15 a.m. and Aurora at 3:45 p.m. They finish the round-robin at 10:30 a.m. Sunday against Caledon.

The Atom Raiders meet Markham at 7 p.m. Friday. They square off with Ancaster at 2 p.m. Saturday and Simcoe at 7 p.m. Sunday they play Uxbridge at 4 p.m.

The Major Peewee Raiders will begin the tournament against Orangeville at 7:30 p.m. They will play Aurora Saturday at 5:45 p.m. and Stoney Creek at Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

The finals will begin Monday afternoon with the novice championship at 12:30 p.m. followed by the atom final at 2 p.m. and the peewee final at 3:30 p.m.

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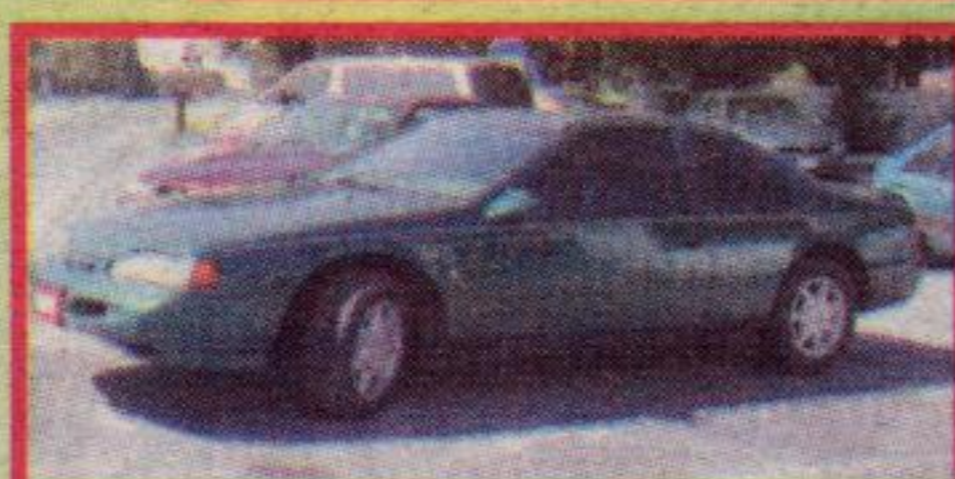
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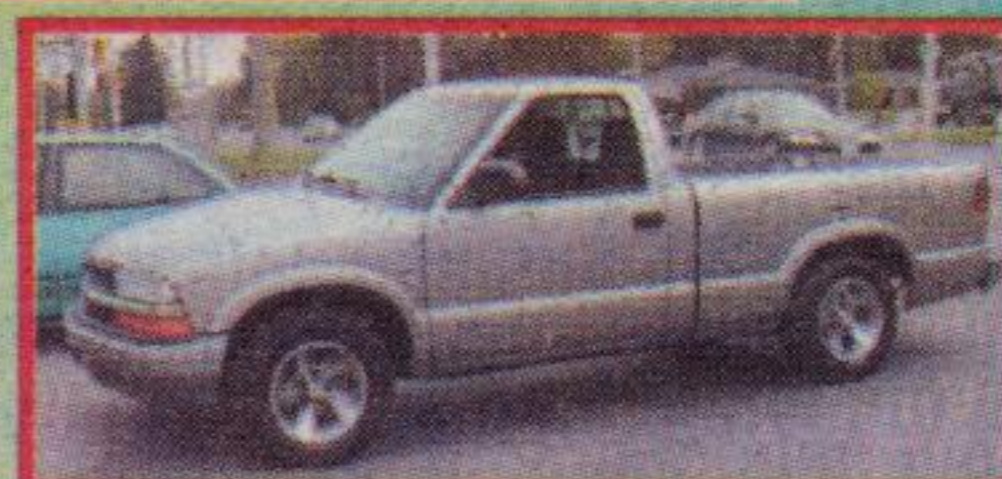
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