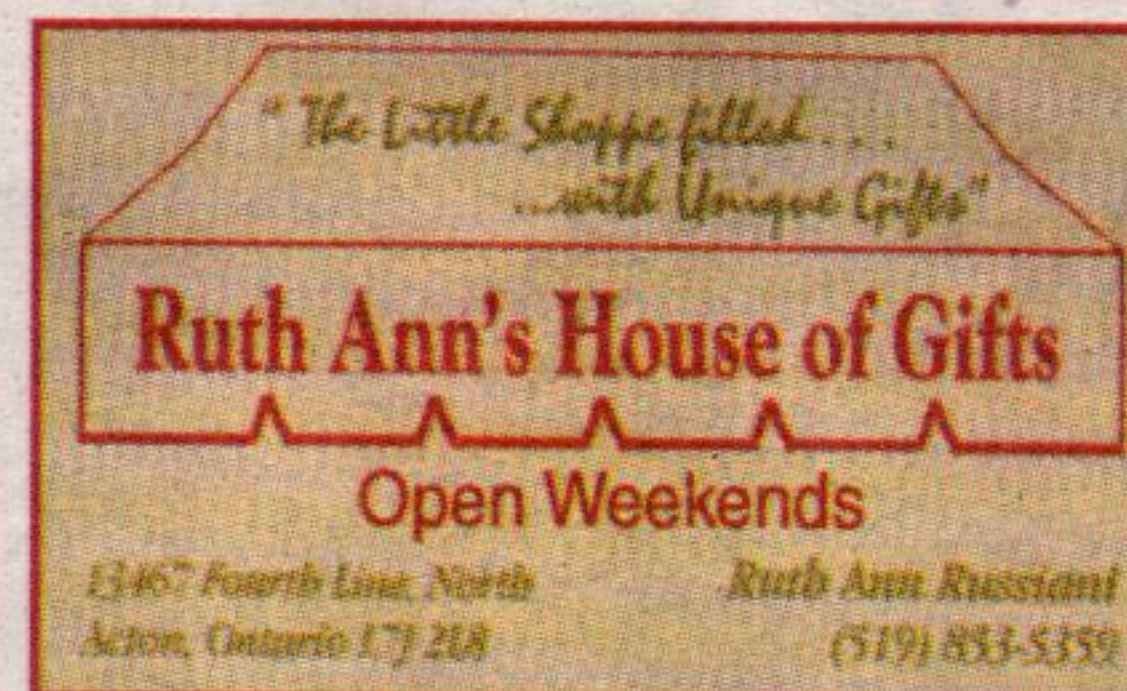


Sports & Leisure

Friday, May 2, 2003



Net result... a heckuva save

Georgetown District High School Rebels senior girls soccer team goalie Tara Sorbie found herself in a horizontal position as she pulled off a great save as the Rebels trounced King's Christian Collegiate from Oakville, handing them a 4-0 defeat Wednesday afternoon.



Photo by Ted Brown

Acton resident in Royal Bank Cup Petkoff thrilled having shot at national title

Having played his entire junior hockey career with one team, Joel Petkoff couldn't have imagined the year of travel he was in for. But he couldn't be happier with his final destination.

The 21-year Acton resident and his Charlottetown Abbies teammates will begin their pursuit of the Royal Bank Cup Saturday in .

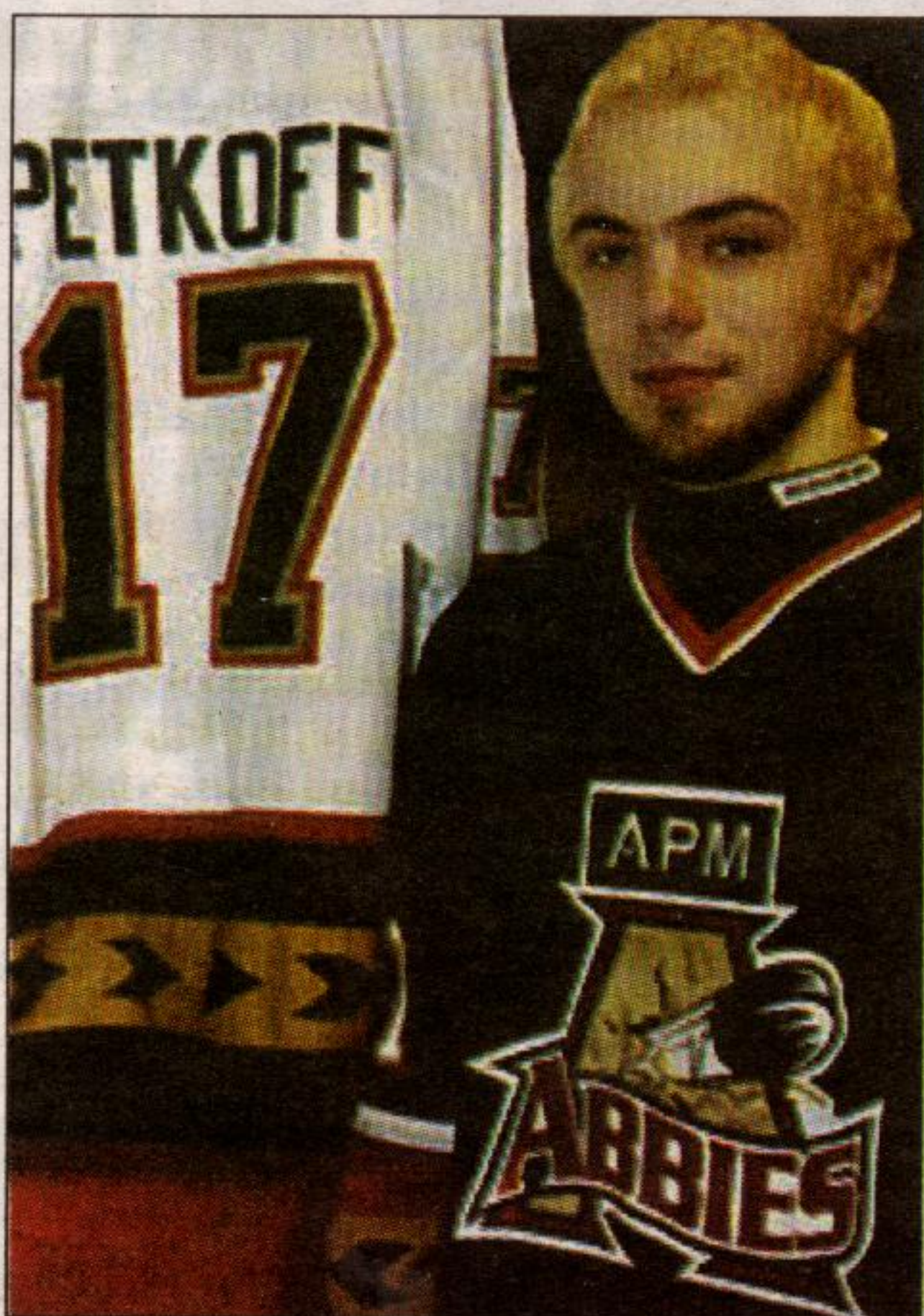
"It's really exciting," Petkoff said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to play in a national championship."

The Abbies will host the championship but they didn't exactly just slide in the back door. Charlottetown posted a 43-7-2 record, setting a Maritime Junior Hockey League record for wins on their way to the league championship. The Abbies beat their first opponent, the Lennoxville Cougars, 7-5 in the Fred Page Cup but two earlier losses kept the Abbies out of the final.

"That one will be a good test," Petkoff said. "We were undefeated on the road during the playoffs but we want to prove ourselves here."

The Abbies will have plenty of support behind them. The team averages about 2,500 fans a game and that's expected to increase to 3,500 during the Royal Bank Cup.

"There's only 10 teams in all of the Maritimes— there's more than that in the GTA," Petkoff said. "They really love their teams and it's a great atmosphere. It's the highest level of hockey so we get a lot of



Acton resident Joel Petkoff, a member of the Charlottetown Abbies, is hoping his roller-coaster season ends with a national championship in this weekend's Royal Bank Cup in Charlottetown.

Submitted photo

exposure and they treat us like the biggest team around."

It's certainly a big change from Streetsville, where Petkoff started the year. He was among the league leaders, racking up 17 goals and 34 points in 19 games. But the Derbys were struggling badly and Petkoff was looking for something more in

his final year of junior. The Sudbury Wolves of the Ontario Hockey League contacted him and he jumped at the chance to play in the O.

"It was a great opportunity," he said. "It's the best junior league there is and I wanted to take advantage of the chance to play against the best players."

Although Petkoff's stay in Sudbury was brief, he did score a goal in his six games with the Wolves. He returned to the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League with the Thornhill Rattlers and scored 15 goals in 13 games. With the January 10 signing deadline looming and Thornhill fading from the playoff picture, Charlottetown contacted Thornhill.

"We had heard about Joel through our scouts in Ontario," said Abbies general manager Rory Beck. "We tried to get him when he was in Streetsville and when we went into the Christmas break, our one weakness was offensive players."

Petkoff fit the bill and despite a slow start finished with 10 goals and 21 points in 20 games with Charlottetown.

Charlottetown meets Lennoxville Saturday and then plays Camrose on Sunday. After a day off they play Humboldt Tuesday and Wellington on Wednesday. The semifinals will be played Saturday, May 10.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Bulldogs clobber London Devils 17-3

Three days after getting a scare in their season-opening win, the Halton Hills Bulldogs left little to chance.

The Bulldogs rolled to a 17-3 victory over the expansion London Blue Devils Wednesday night to improve their Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B record to 2-0.

Five different players scored at least twice for the Bulldogs, led again by captain Richard Haan, who had two goals and seven assists to tie a team record for points in a game. Haan has racked up 17 points in the 'Dogs first two games.

The Bulldogs again got a solid contribution from rookies Chad Artem and Matt Lyons. Artem scored three times and Lyons had two goals and an assist. Also scoring twice were Chad Henry and Matt Walinga while Jordan Armstrong had a goal and four assists. B.J. Brown, Aaron Chaisson, Tyler Phillips, Adam Holton and Travis Bland had the other Bulldog goals.

Halton Hills opened up a 4-0 lead before the teams exchanged goals late in the opening period. The 'Dogs added five more goals in the second while John Edwards blanked the Devils as the lead was extended to 10-1.

DOG BITES: Haan is the third Bulldog to record nine points in a game, a feat previously accomplished by Ryan Busby and Bulldogs' coach Shane Bigler....The Bulldogs play in Mimico Saturday and then play their home opener, sponsored by Rainbow Trophies, against the Milton Mavericks on Sunday at 6 p.m. The first 300 fans will get a free hot dog and pop.



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