

Ferrier heads to Canada Games

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

Shayne Ferrier's pitching has earned him a regional title, college scholarships and consideration by major league scouts.

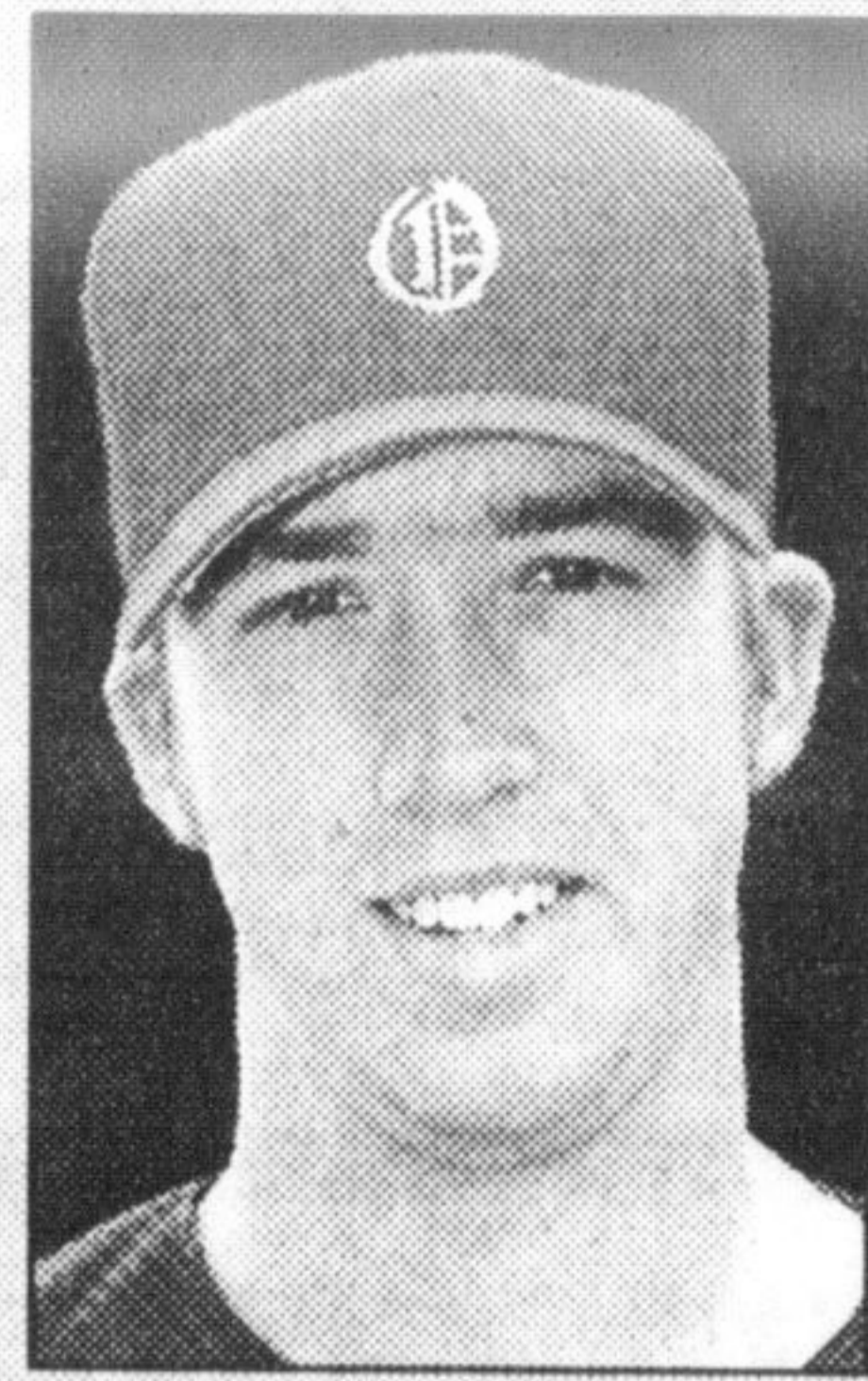
Now, the 21-year-old right-handed hurler is hoping to add a national championship to his list of accolades. A former star with Milton District High School — who led the Mustangs to the Halton crown in 1995 — Ferrier will be part of the Canada Games next month in Brandon, Manitoba.

He'll assist Team Ontario in their quest for gold. Competition begins August 17, with The Sports Network (TSN) airing a number of games including the finals.

"I'm one of eight pitchers on the team. Hopefully I'll get one of the starting jobs, although that hasn't been decided yet," said Ferrier. "My velocity's up these days and I'm hitting my spots really well."

A dozen pitchers tried out at the invitation-only camp last month. The selection process ended two weeks ago at a cross-border tournament in Windsor — where the team lost to Michigan in the finals.

Ferrier's Ontario team status follows a highly successful spring at Lincoln Trail Junior College in Robinson, Illinois. A sophomore with the Division I Statesmen, he was number one in the rotation and shone all season with an impressive 1.53 earned-run



"I should definitely be taken next year, although I probably won't sign right away. I want to help South West Missouri win the (college) World Series first."

SHAYNE FERRIER

average (ERA) and 50 strikeouts over 87 innings.

These figures helped him establish new school records with a combined 1.67 ERA and 105 strikeouts over two years. He was also voted to the Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC) all-star team.

"My best memory of the past season was in mid-May, in an extra-innings game against Olney. I struck out 10 batters but ended up blowing out my elbow," Ferrier recalled.

His pitching was one of the few bright spots in the Statesmen's lacklustre spring. They finished 20-30 over the regular season and lost to John A. Logan in the GRAC Sectionals.

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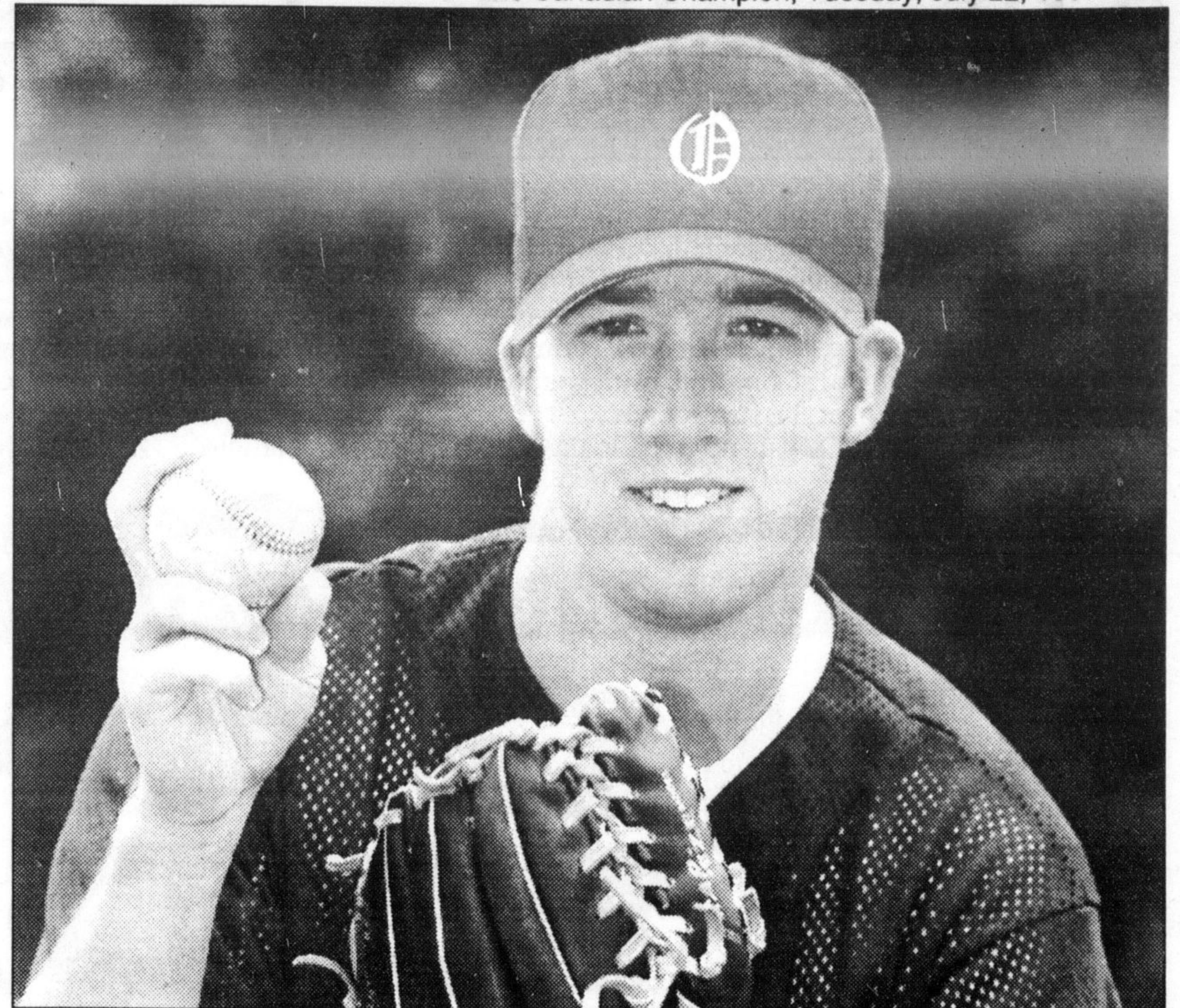


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Shayne Ferrier, 21, is moving on to Missouri in his quest for a national college title. This summer, though he will represent Ontario at the Canada Games.

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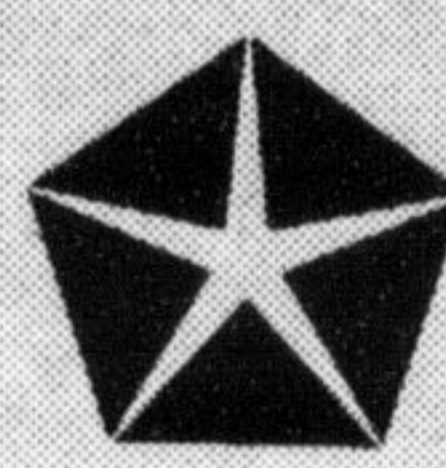
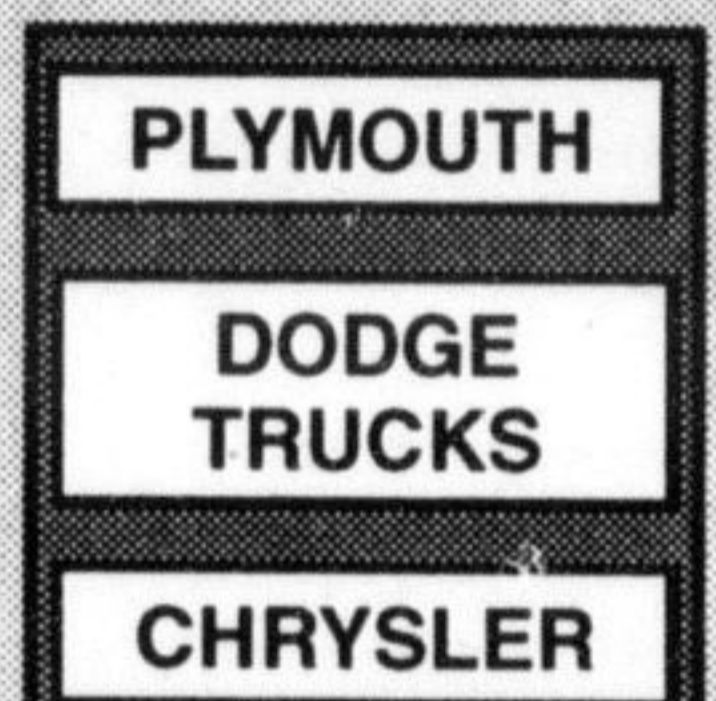
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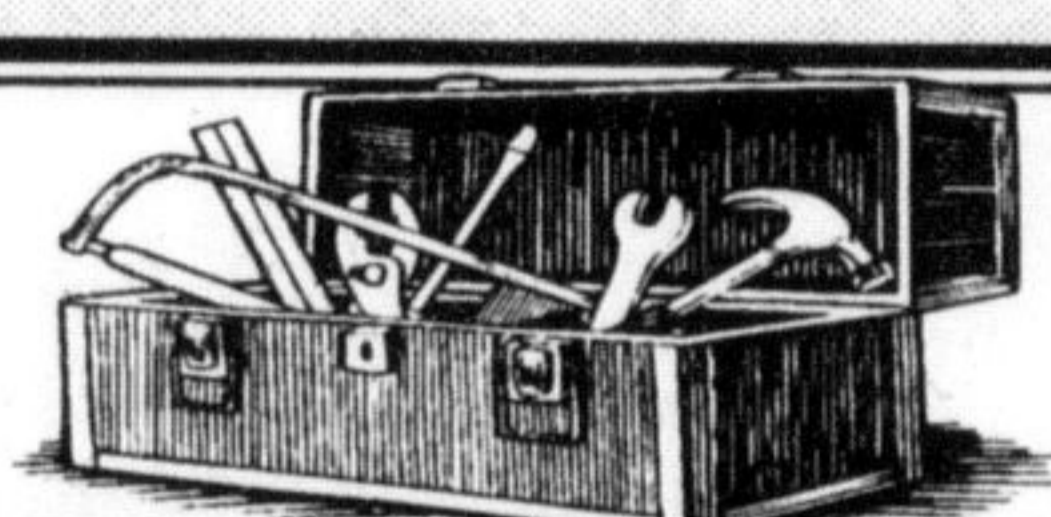
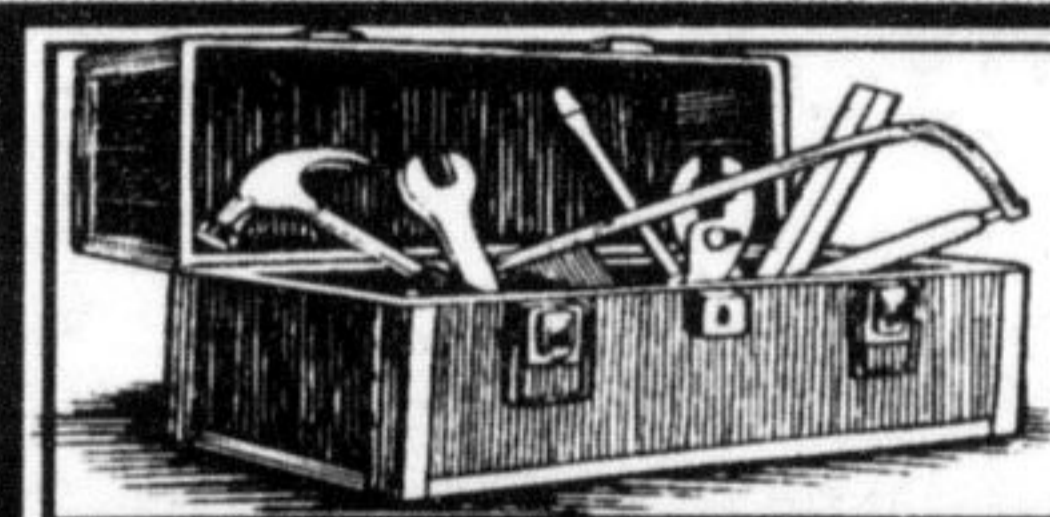
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