

Standout Seeds takes lumps from ex-teammates

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Jeff Seeds had been longing for attention from the Jr. A Merchants and finally found some — albeit, in unfavourable fashion.

The 19-year-old winger, who felt jilted after being unloaded by his hometown club last week, was all the defending league champs could think about in Saturday's Milton-Georgetown tilt at Alcott Arena.

Or so it seemed as members of the visiting crew took turns shadowing their former teammate, who's now a first-liner with the steadily improving Raiders.

Despite taking more hits than the OHA web site, Seeds still managed to be a factor in what was the closest clash of north Halton neighbours in recent memory.

Competitive game

He lit the lamp early in the third and granted evening long inspiration to his new team. While this didn't quite translate into an upset — with the Merchants pulling out a 4-1 win — it did provide genuinely competitive hockey, which

hasn't been seen between these two clubs for the better part of a decade.

Milton's Daniel Jacques delivered a brilliant 37-save showcase to push the West Conference front-runners to 24-2-3, which is now tops for the entire Ontario Provincial League.

"If it was not only any other team but any other goalie, we would have had a shot at winning that game," suggested Raider bench boss Jay Anderson, a longtime admirer of his newest player. "He (Seeds), Stace Page and Scott MacDonald really dominated."

Rises to challenge

Assistant Arnie Parcels, who coached Seeds as a midget two years ago, added, "Jeff rose to the occasion tonight. He's the kind of player who feeds on attention."

The Merchants staked themselves to 2-0 and 3-0 period leads before Mike Wheelihan scored with 4:33 remaining to seal the victory.

Setting him up was John Nadalin, Milton's hardest working defenceman this past weekend.

Newly acquired sniper Ed McGrane potted his 28th of the season while Mark Beisel and Nathan Gillies tallied as well.

Friday at home they came up with a defensive gem, restricting the Hamilton Kilty Bees to just 15 shots (a new season record) and prevailing 5-

2. This tight-checking affair featured superb performances by the entire blueline cast as well as Ryan Robichaud, who has taken his game to new heights over the last few games.

Dave Csumrik buried an upstairs wire on the team's only shot of the opening frame. He and Geoff Schomogyi led offensively with a goal and two assists each.

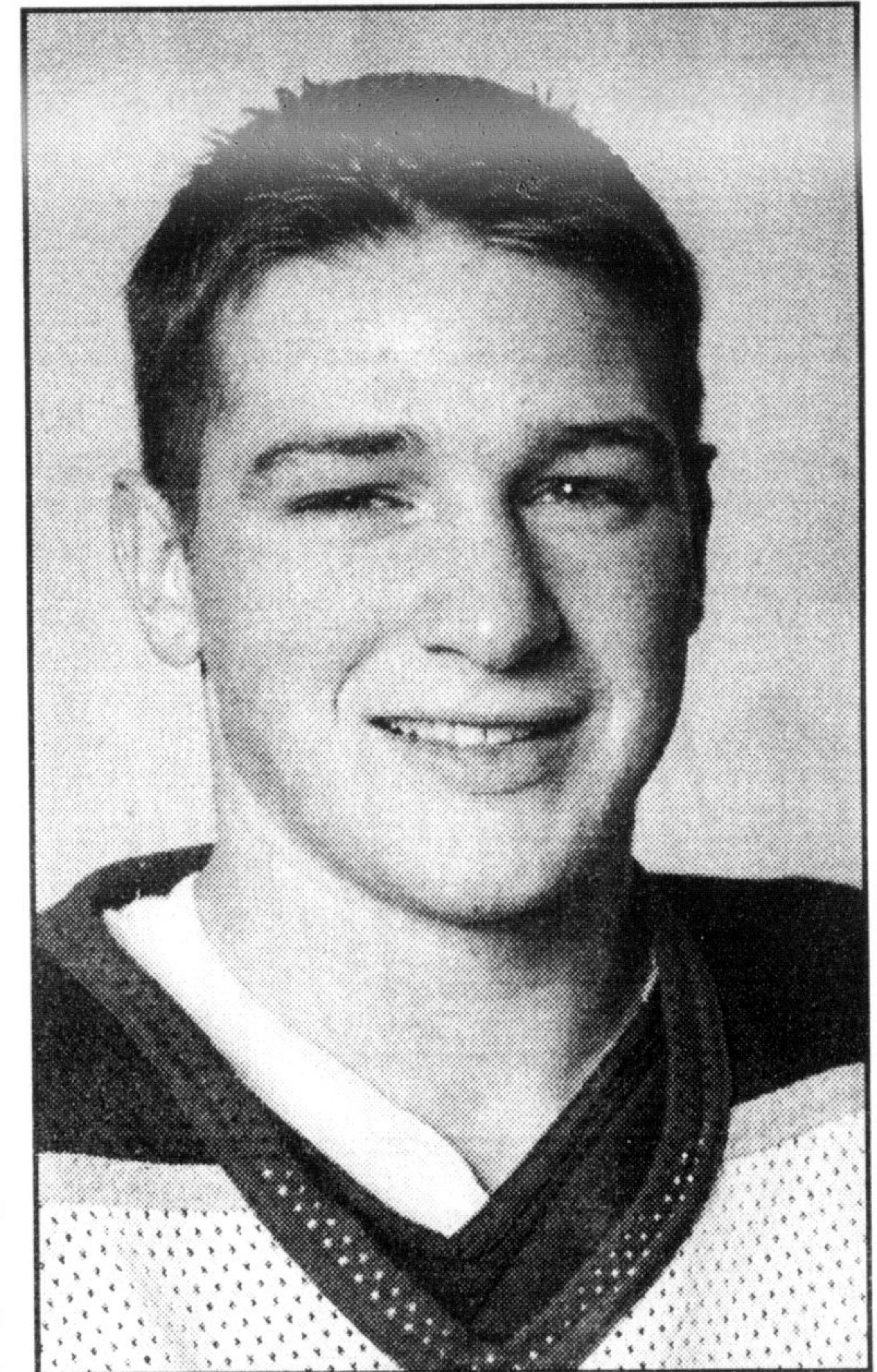
Also denting the twine were Ryan Carrigan, Kevin O'Flaherty and Carter Trevisani.

Both Hamilton goals were recorded in the third period by Joel Campbell, the second of which came on a two man-advantage.

Milton's powerplay produced three times.

Robichaud finished the night by rag-dolling veteran rearguard Marcus Hunter. Moments earlier, Ryan Eby and Mike McGrane fought to a no contest.

Merchant notes: Captain Kevin O'Flaherty's goal and assist this past weekend pushed him ever closer to the coveted century mark. He now has 61 points, one less than new teammate Ed McGrane ... Milton remains in good position to improve on last year's 42-8-1 record ... Their goals-against average of 2.9 is tops in the conference and third best in the league ... The Merchants host Jeff Seeds and the Georgetown Raiders Friday at Memorial Arena.



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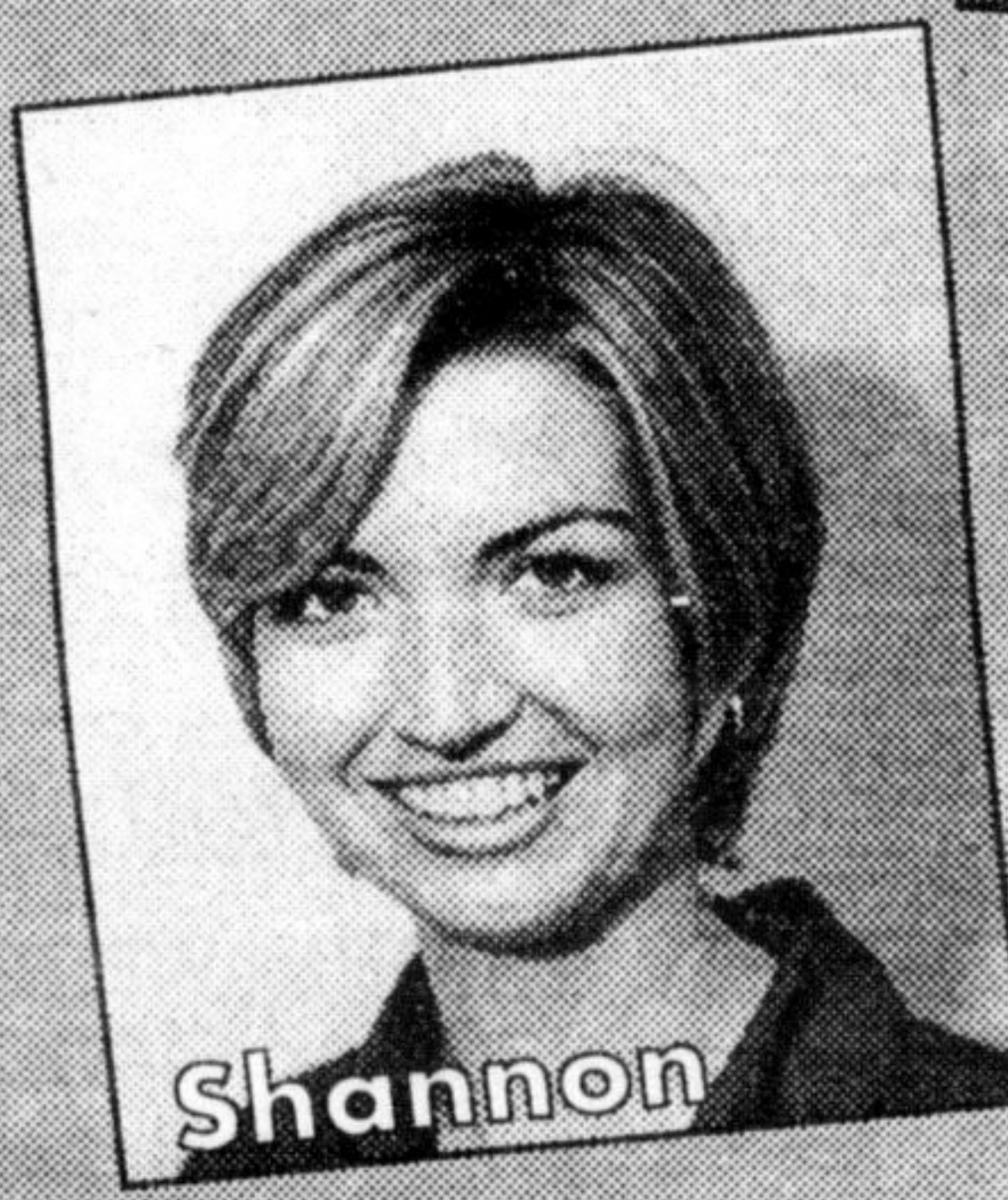
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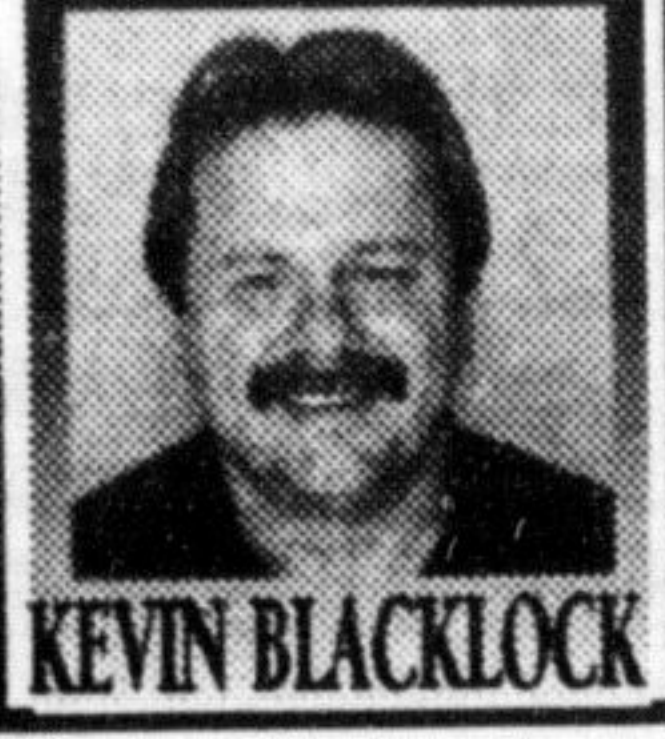
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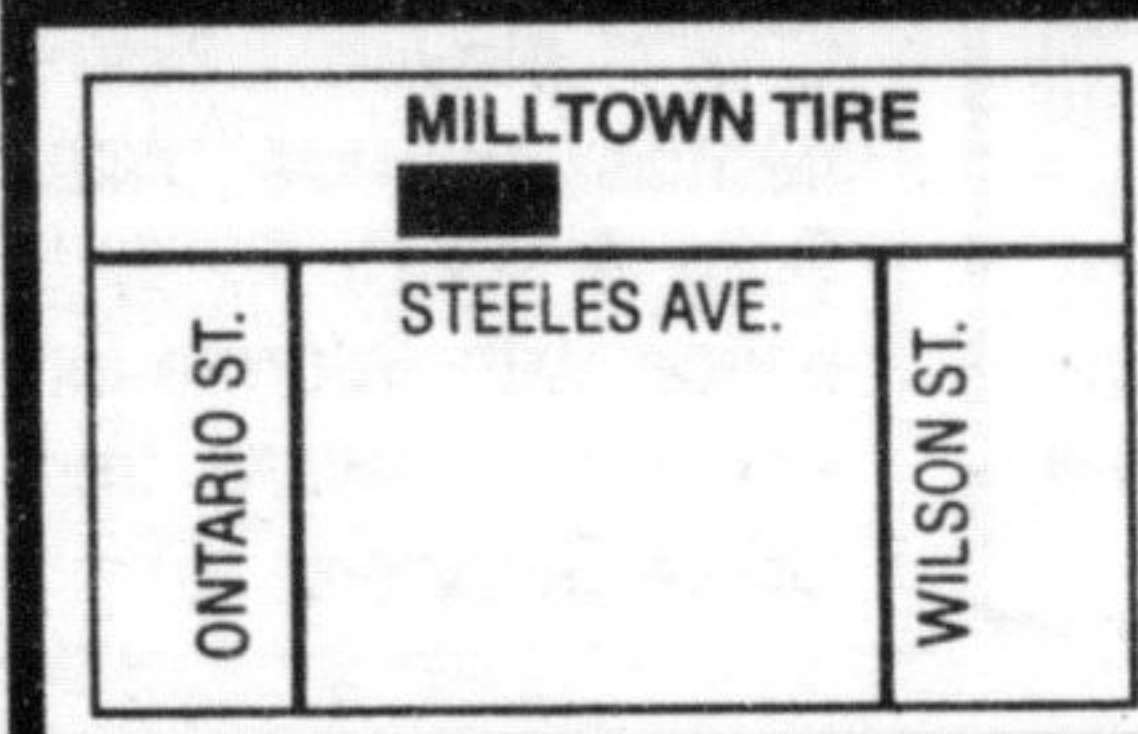
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