



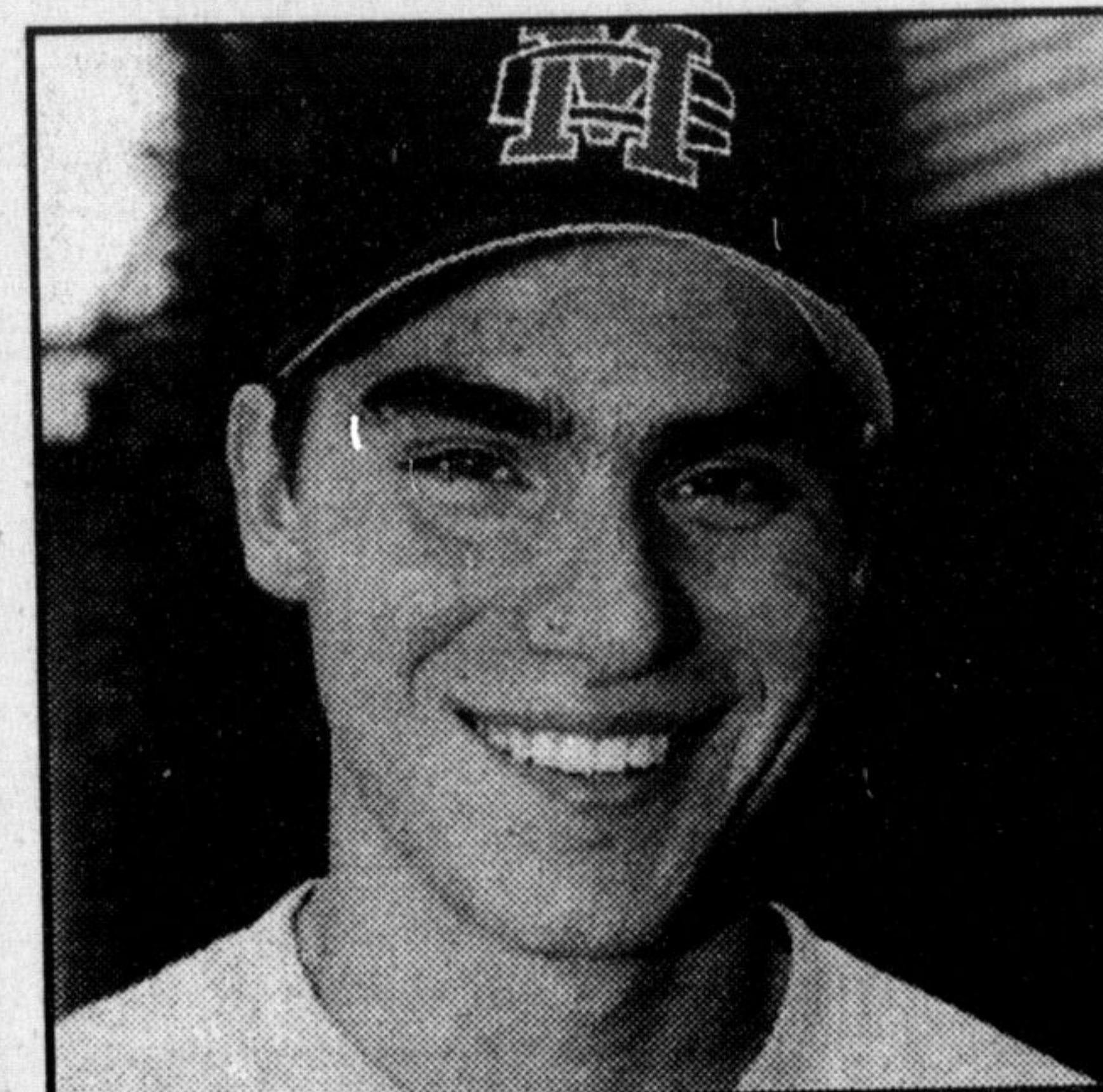
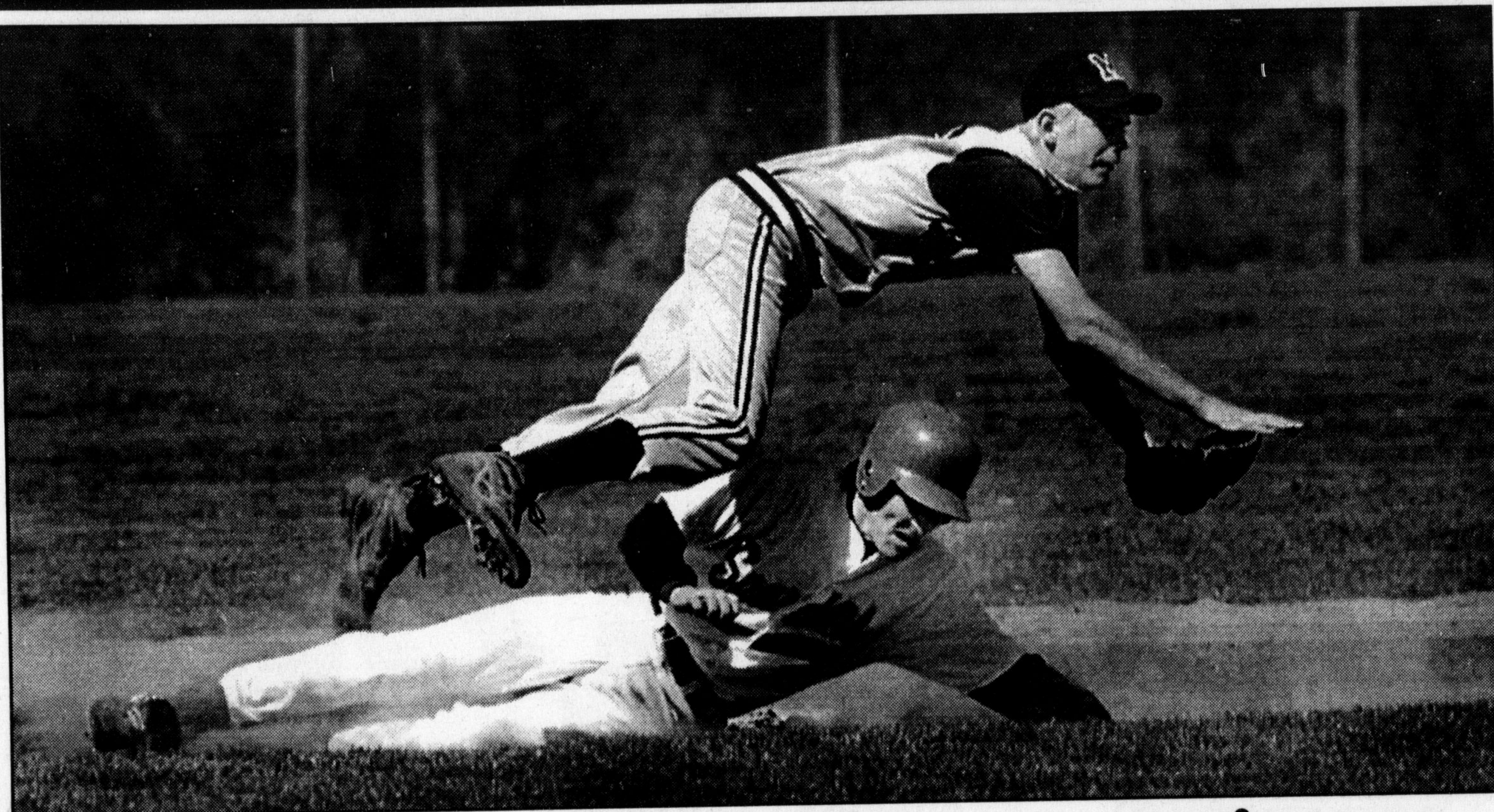
SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1999



Pat Lynch

Lynch jumps up two rungs

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Pat Lynch has learned justice isn't blind — that sometimes it just takes a little longer to focus.

The Milton pitcher, who felt worthy of advancement in the Blue Jays' farm system last season and was disappointed when that didn't occur, recently made the all-important leap up the ranks.

After two years at the rookie level in Medicine Hat, Alberta the former Milton District High School star is now toiling with the single A club in Hagerstown, Maryland.

This boost — up two spots in the organization's pecking order, past the single A short season team in St. Catharines — followed another splendid spring training performance.

For the first time ever he headed down to Florida with some solid professional league credentials, from a 1998 campaign in which he dominated the Pioneer League.

However, the idea that advancement was in the bag never once entered his mind.

"At this level, it doesn't matter how well you performed the year before. You've got to keep proving yourself every time out," said the 20-year-old.

Wednesday marked his second start and fourth appearance of the season. In front of 452 hometown fans, he worked six innings of five-hit ball — surrendering a pair of earned runs while striking out a handful of batters.

These efforts didn't quite translate into his second victory of the year, as the Suns' 7-6 decision over Augusta only came in the 10th frame. It was the team's 13th win in 20 outings this spring and kept them

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Weird MD rally still means victory

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Milton District High School's boys baseball team is not yet in a position to worry about the artistry or authority behind their wins.

So Saturday at Brian Best Park there was no criticizing the rebuilding Mustangs' 6-5 comeback triumph — courtesy of careless defence — against favoured crosstown rivals E.C. Drury.

Up by two runs and just a couple of outs from victory, the Spartans dropped a routine pop-up to shallow right field by veteran shortstop Bud Hall. From there, Drury's infield unit apparently forgot that there was only one away with the bases loaded.

As a result, a haphazard throw to first afforded Jeff McLeod enough time to dash home and complete MD's bizarre rally. Reese Davies and Brett McClure had scored previous runs on the multiple miscue.

This salvaged the opening day of league action for the 'Stangs, who earlier on lost a tough 6-4 battle to Loyola. Missing for both games was heavy hitter Nathan Perrott, who was at provincial team tryouts at the time.

Meanwhile, Drury outdistanced St. Thomas Aquinas 8-5 in their 1999 debut.

While good fortune essentially handed MD the win, staying within striking distance was largely their own doing. Adam Finkbeiner delivered effective pitching through the opening four frames — striking out eight batters and surrendering just

one run — while Hall and McClure provided key hits for scores in the third and fifth respectively.

Reliever Michael Volpe worked the last three innings to pick up the save.

Chris Hunt, Chris Holmes and Ryan Harper split the mound work for Drury. With the exception of the final inning, the trio enjoyed solid defence — particularly from catcher Mike Austen and first baseman Jack Turner.

The Spartans were led offensively by newcomer Evan Jeans, who reached base three times and belted a two-run double in the sixth to put his team ahead.

Austen had a pair of hits on the afternoon while Jed Cosby managed a fine bit of base running in the second for their initial run.

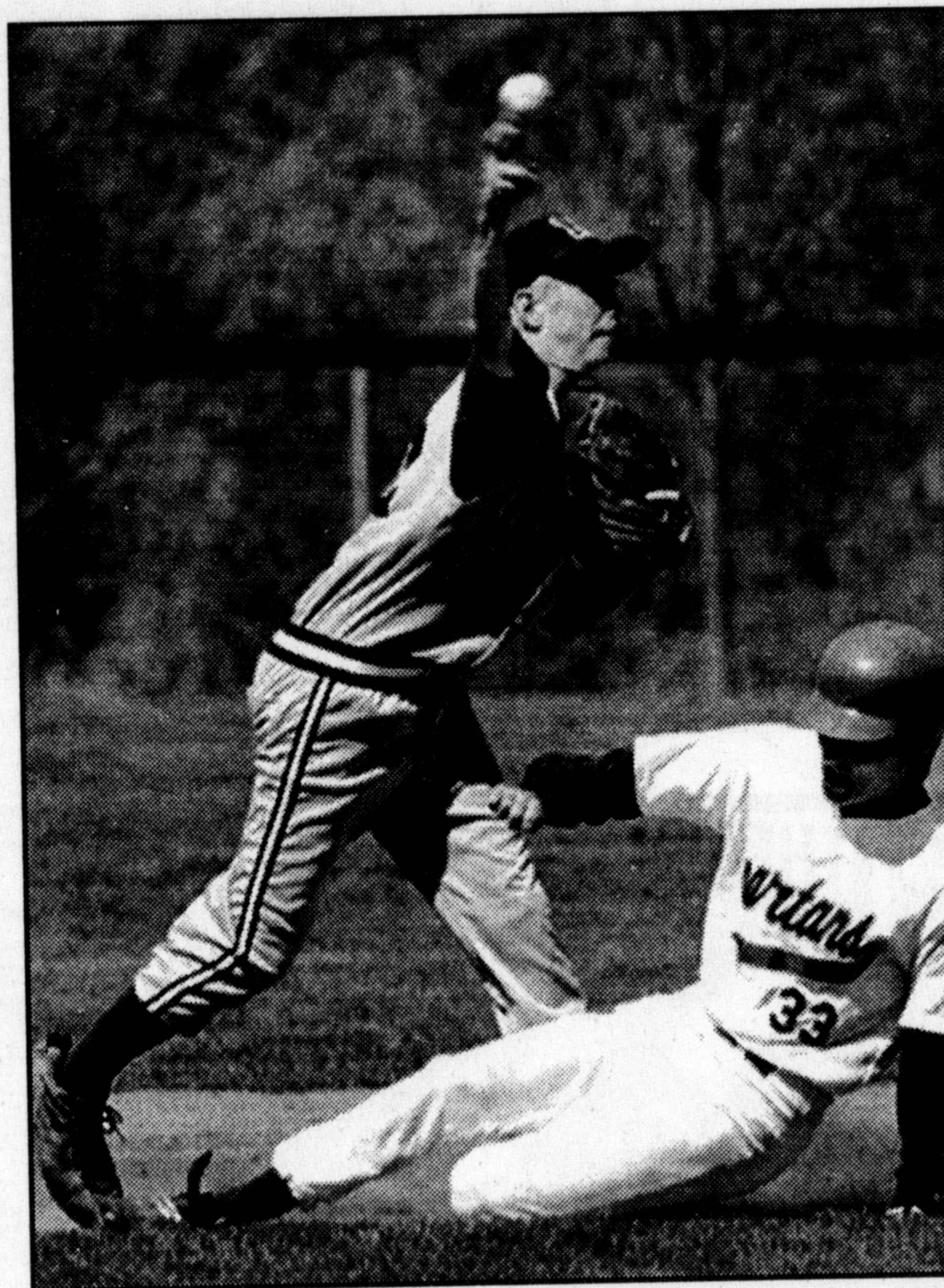
Reding romps by Raiders

Conan O'Brien and Mike Eichstedt, both in grade nine, had remarkable high school debuts at Brian Best Saturday. The Bishop Reding Royals' pitching duo, part of a very young squad, gave up just three hits combined to blank Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders 10-0.

The blowout — which was merited after five innings — saw the rookie hurlers each employ a nifty mixture of fastballs and off-speed stuff to keep batters guessing.

They also enjoyed exceptional defence, particularly from an infield unit that looked awfully seasoned despite its youth and inexperience.

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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

E.C. Drury baserunner Mike Austen completes his slide into second to break up a double play attempt (top) after getting tagged out (above) by Milton District's Reese Davies Saturday. MD scored three times in the final inning to eke out a 6-5 comeback win.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dear Georgetown Toyota:

On March 8th my husband and I purchased a 1999 Toyota Corolla from your dealership. We are very happy with the car and the service we received from your dealership.

We also wanted to let you know how impressed we were with Christian Febel, the Sales Consultant that we dealt with. After having gone around to a number of other dealerships, I can tell you that Christian was by far the most personable and most informed on the cars he was selling. While all of the other Sales Consultants we spoke to were constantly hunting around for the answers to our questions, Christian knew everything about the cars from bumper to bumper. I certainly wouldn't hesitate to recommend him to others.

Have a great day!

Alisa Ogger, Georgetown

