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THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY MAY 16, 2000



Awesome, Ashley!

Milton Skating Club's Ashley Cupples was recently awarded with Skater-of-the-Year honours - for her age division - from the COS (Central Ontario Section). The eight-year-old topped a class of worthy recipients based on the strength of her efforts at Central Ontario Sectional Interclub Championships in March, when she became the local club's first ever golden girl by winning the Pre-Preliminary Freeskate. Ashley has been skating for three years under the tutelage of coach Nancy McDonnell-Lemaire.

Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE



Winds wreak havoc on EC in semifinals

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Saying E.C. Drury's baseball team was blown away might suggest to some that they played poorly or faced seriously superior opposition.

However, being blown away took on a much more literal meaning for the Spartans Sunday — during semifinal action at the annual Corbett's Tournament.

Especially high winds did wonders for the opposing Nelson Lords — who snuck into the final four round when Milton's Bishop Reding couldn't field a team — whose hits were either unreachable or taken out for home runs.

Drury wasn't nearly as successful in taking advantage of the blustery morning and was eventually massacred 21-6 in a mercied four-inning clash. A shortened lineup, due to work and personal commitments, was also a contributing factor in the blowout.

Nelson's embarrassment of riches began with seven runs in the opening frame and just snowballed from there. Oddly enough it was Spartan Mike Austen — normally behind the plate and arguably the least experienced pitcher of the bunch — who had the closest thing to a respectable effort on the mound. Coming in to finish things up in the fourth inning, he gave up just two runs on as many hits and ended off with a big strike out.

Bearing the brunt of the Lords' assault were James MacDonald and Peter Nikolichuck — who gave up 10 and six runs respectively.

Jed Cosby and Ryan Harper each had two RBI in the losing cause.

Drury was a whole lot more impressive in qualifying play Thursday. They opened with a 13-2 rout of White Oaks. MacDonald got the win with three solid innings on the hill while Jordan Jeans belted a homer and ended the game with four RBI.

From there the local boys bombed Waterdown 9-0. Nikolchuk, Brian McComb and Kevin Sales combined for the shutout. Standing out at the plate with three doubles and four RBI was Cosby.

Meanwhile, Bishop Reding also swept their qualifying campaign with victories over Sherwood (7-2) and York Mills (7-6). In each case, they staked themselves to an early lead and held on with solid pitching.

Chris Dumencu was the hero of the closer game, working his way out of sixth and seventh inning jams to secure the win.

Offensively it was David Lajeunesse who led the way with a two-run homer and three RBI overall. He and Taylor Lawton — who guard third and second base respectively — were exceptional in the field.

Conan O'Brien and Andrew Coe combined to beat Sherwood. Neither of them allowed any earned runs while Coe also kept them hitless over the last four frames.

Coe also contributed at the plate with two hits and two RBI while Lawton was a perfect 4-for-4, including three doubles.

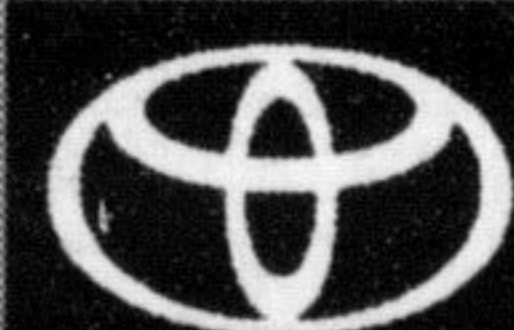
Unfortunately the Royals had too many guys unavailable for the semifinals — pushed back because of Friday's thunderstorm that left Burlington's Millcroft diamonds unsafe to play on Saturday — and had to forfeit.

"It's a bummer, especially the way we were playing," said coach Joe Jurus.

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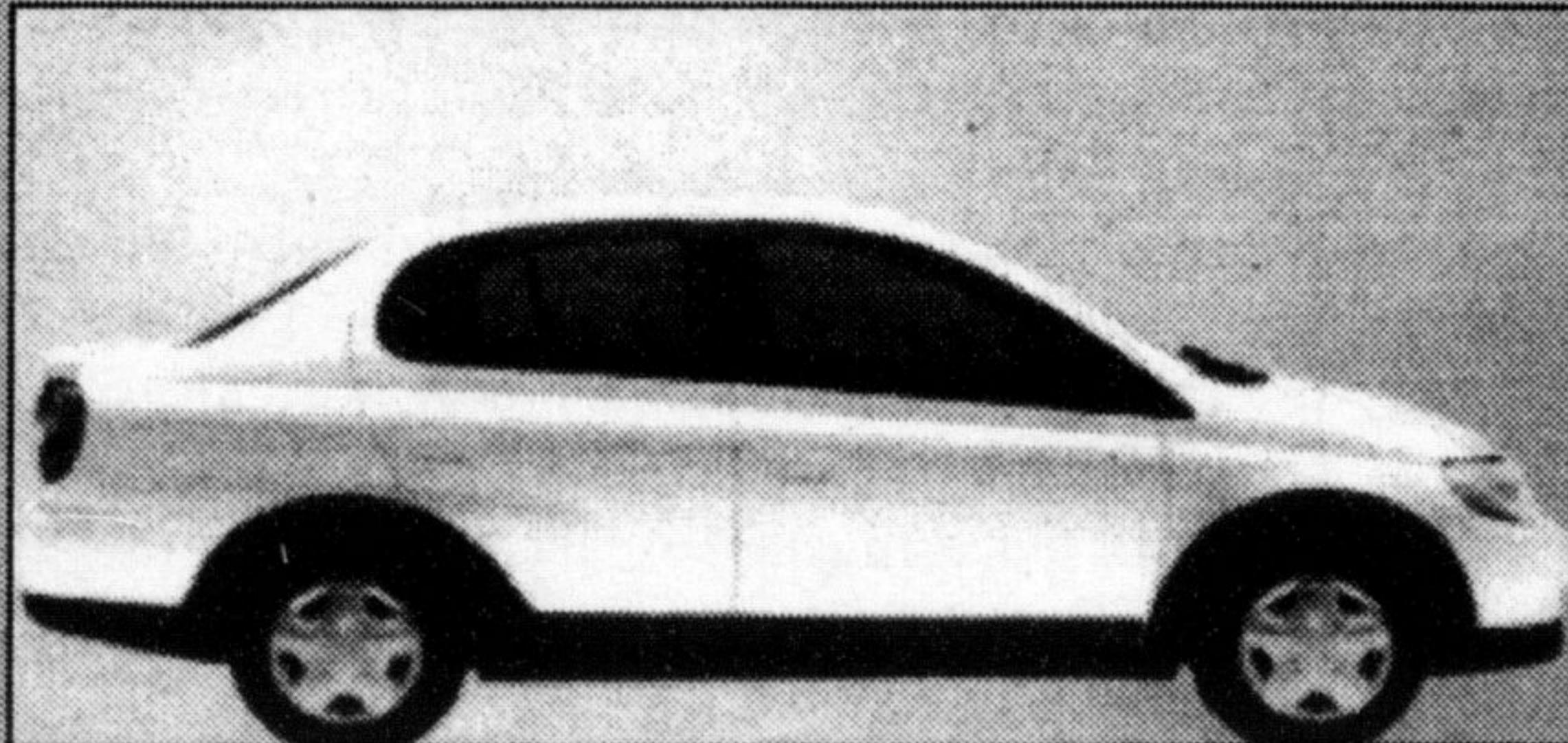
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