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TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2000

## Ridleys picked up in major league draft

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Milton's Ridley brothers have finished flying with the NCAA Ball State Cardinals.

But that doesn't mean they'll be turning in their wings anytime soon.

Not after being acquired by a couple of flocks during last week's Major League Baseball entry draft.

Shortstop Shayne, recently named the 2000 Mid-American Conference (MAC) Player of the Year, was picked up in the 19th round by the Baltimore Orioles June 5.

The following day fellow twin tower/second baseman Jeremy was taken by the Toronto Blues Jays in the 34th round.

The 22-year-old switch-hitting siblings were among four BSU players selected in last week's two-day draft — which included 50 rounds — and are currently being scrutinized down south at mini camps in Florida.

### Pleased with pick

Shayne — who's being assessed in Sarasota and will likely spend the rest of the season with the Orioles' Class A team in Bluefield, West Virginia — said he was extremely pleased to go to Baltimore.

"Honestly, that's exactly where I wanted to end up," he remarked, just before leaving for camp Sunday. "They showed the most interest in me."

MAC's top hitter this past spring with a batting average of .434, Shayne said that despite such a successful season he really didn't expect to go any higher than he did in the draft.

"Seniors don't have as much bargaining power," he explained.

"They (major league teams) know they've got you and can wait a little longer than with

juniors. I was just happy to be picked up on the first day."

The talented shortstop — who sits top 10 on the Cardinals' all-time list in nine different offensive categories including runs scored (4th with 167), total bases (4th with 387), RBI (5th with 155) and hits (6th with 222) — gives part of the credit for his improvement at the plate this year to his brother, who passed along some of his patience.

"Jeremy and our hitting coach helped my start looking more for what I wanted and I was really able to cut down on my strikeouts," said Shayne.

That patience should serve him well over the next few years, as he begins the long climb to the show.

"I'm really not going to put any pressure on myself in terms of when I want to be with Baltimore. I'm just glad to have the opportunity to become a major leaguer. When and even if that happens, I don't know."

### Down in Dunedin

Jeremy left for camp a couple of days before his brother and is currently playing in Dunedin. He will likely be assigned to either Toronto's Class A team in Brooklin, New York (formerly in St. Catharines) or their rookie ball club in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

The lanky second baseman — third on BSU's all-time career hit list with 256 — said a less than stellar senior year, compared to his remarkable junior campaign, probably cost him some ground in the draft's pecking order.

But then he's not losing any sleep over it.

"I'm just glad to get the opportunity, it wasn't that important when I went (in the draft)," he said, during a telephone interview from his Clearwater, Florida hotel room Sunday.

Jeremy figures his consistency at the plate and overall solid game will be his strongest asset in his quest to become a major leaguer.

"I'm not really a flashy player or a one-tool

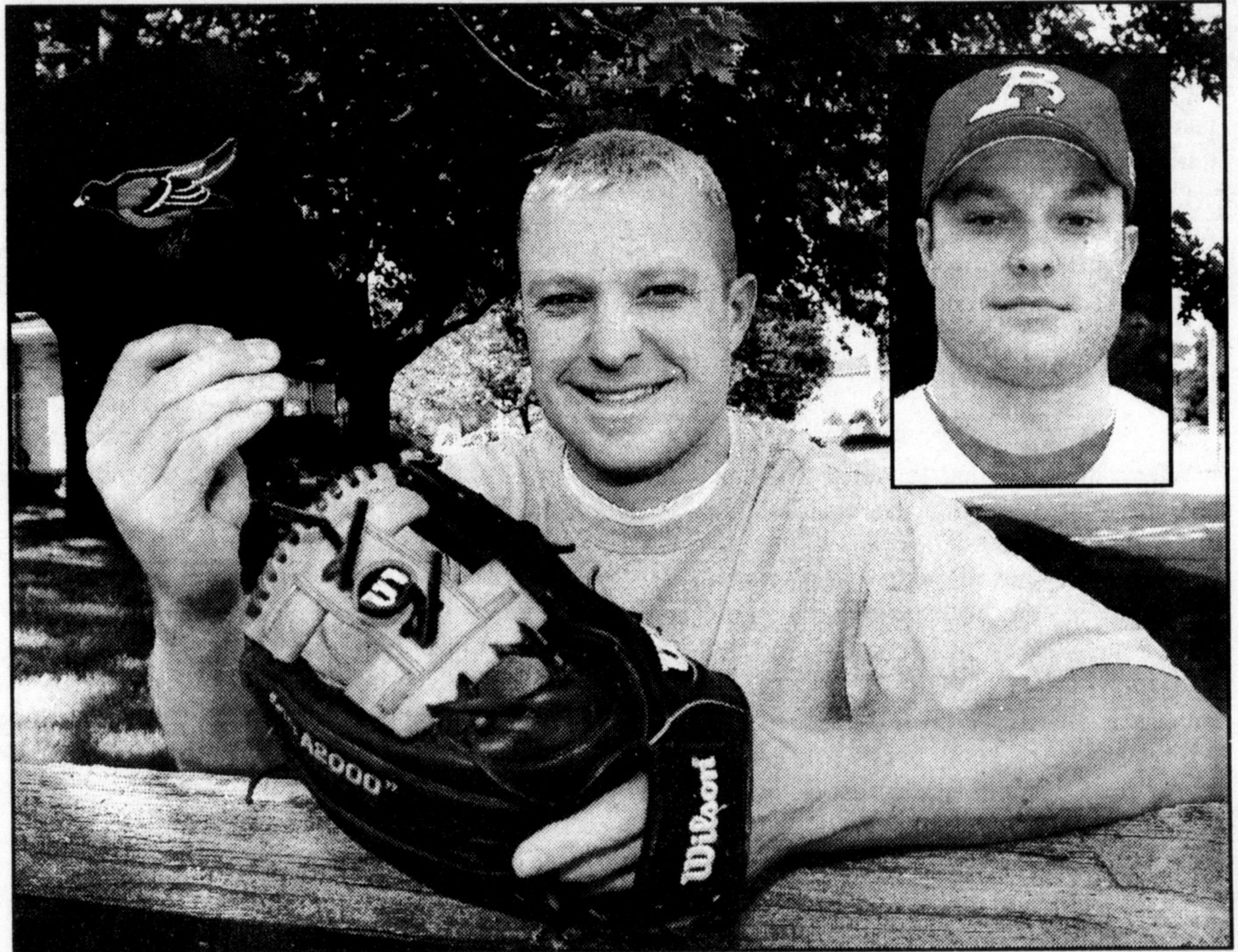


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Shayne Ridley and twin brother Jeremy (inset) who both taken in last week's Major League Baseball entry draft. Shayne was picked up by Baltimore while Jeremy went to Toronto.

guy," he explained.

"I pretty much contribute in every area.

That was fairly evident over his time with the Cardinals, during which he set the team record for both runs scored (194) and games started (221).

Expected to be reassigned later this week, the second baseman said one of the biggest adjustments to be made now will be playing without his brother beside him in the field.

Remarked Jeremy, "I've got a shortstop here

who speaks a different language. It'll take some getting use to."

The Ridleys led BSU to a MAC West Division Co-Championship this season.

Meanwhile, Bishop Reding's Shawn Hill, a right-handed pitcher, was picked up in the sixth round by the Montreal Expos.

The Georgetown native helped the school make the playoffs this spring and guided them past Burlington's Nelson Lords 10-5 in the first round.

## Spartan softball squad advances to semifinals

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

E.C. Drury's girls softball squad wasn't exactly at the top of its game Thursday.

Nevertheless, the local ladies were still head and shoulders above their quarterfinal opposition at Milton's Lions Sport Park.

The Spartans' advancement to the Halton Region final four was a pretty safe bet before the first pitch was thrown — and was all but guaranteed by the midway mark of the afternoon contest, as they broke away and eventually humbled Burlington's M.M. Robinson Rams 10-4.

Drury — who has home-field advantage for the remainder of the playoffs — showed signs of rustiness after being off almost

an entire week, due to the first-round bye they earned for finishing atop Halton's Richardson Division.

This was especially evident in the sixth inning, when the team committed three of its six errors to offer the visitors a faint glimmer of hope.

But for the most part, the Spartans were never really in any threat of being eliminated — at least not after a five-run outburst in their half of the fourth frame.

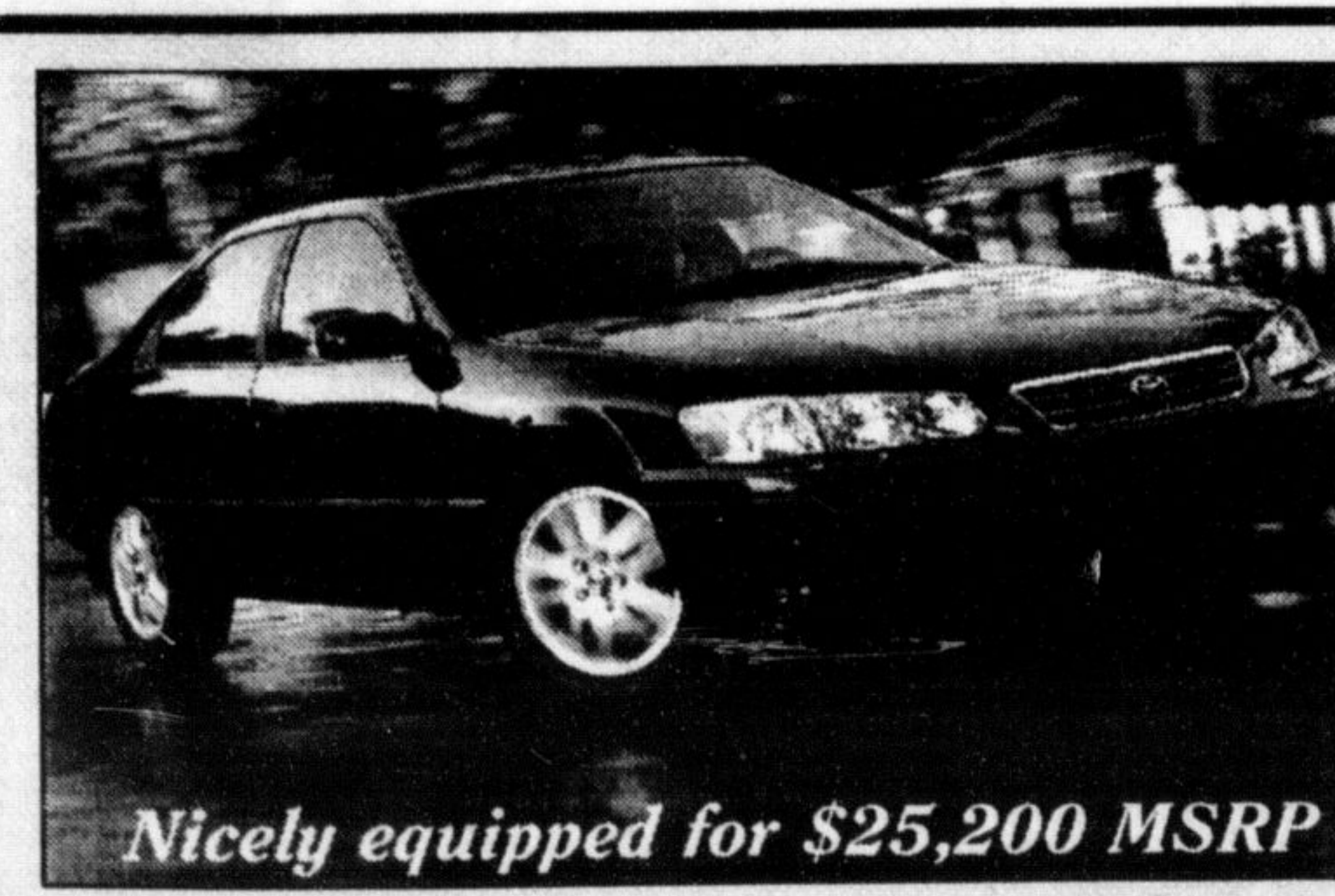
Lindsey Harrold highlighted this surge with a two-run double that cashed in Tasha Leslie and Jennifer Williams. Flawed fielding by their guests led to the fifth and sixth runs being scored by Harrold and Cristina Hutchison, while it was Leslie and Kristin Roberge putting things away with two-run triples.

Other RBI were posted by Hutchison and Alicia Taylor.

As usual it was Harrold and Melissa Park combining for a rock-solid pitching campaign. Collectively the veteran duo gave up just eight hits and held the opposition scoreless through the final two innings.

Drury — who've lost just once all season and were undefeated in league play — will now do battle with Burlington's Lord Elgin Lancers in today's semifinals at Lions Sports Park. Game time is 3:15 p.m. Meanwhile, the Georgetown Rebels and Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders will square off in the other semifinal showdown.

The winners will vye for the regional championship Thursday.



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