Heartbreaking finish for local all-star duo

Questionable end to round robin play means Milton pair fail to advance to semifinals

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Controversy reared its ugly head in minor bantam boys baseball play during last weekend's Ontario Summer Games in Clarington.

And a couple of local teens were among those who suffered from it.

Miltonians David Aggio and Liam Tennant — 14 and 13-years-old respectively — were part of the Central Ontario Baseball Association (COBA) all-star squad that competed in the 10-team tournament.

Rebounding from a lacklustre start, the duo and their COBA counterparts were within three runs of qualifying for the semifinals when their final round robin contest reached its time limit and was called.

Questionable conclusion

This in itself would not have been cause for debate had the game started on time — but that wasn't the case, since a number of Inter County team players arrived late.

COBA took the six-inning clash 2-1, but would have needed to score three more times in order to win a runs-for-and-against tiebreaker and advance in their division.

With a couple of runners aboard when the game was cut short, their chances of doing that appeared strong.

"It was pretty disappointing," said Liam, who along

with David was hand-picked for the all-star team.

"They really should have let us play the full seven innings."

A heartbreaking finish aside, Milton's players each enjoyed a fairly impressive showing — at least over the second half of their team's four-game round robin stretch.

Liam was particularly sharp at both second base and shortstop, helping turn two double plays in a 9-1 romp of Windsor's Sun Parlour. He also drove in the first run, on a line-drive single up the middle, in the victory over Inter Country.

Solid on the mound

Meanwhile, David pitched the first five innings of the latter win — giving up just three hits and striking out four batters along the way.

"My bat wasn't really there, but I had a much better effort with my pitching and catching," said David, who last summer was picked up by a Burlington team that captured silver at the national championships in PEI.

Unfortunately, Milton's players and their teammates were a little slow out of the gate and fell to both Eastern Ontario (2-1) and London (6-2) in games one and two.

The two locals play for the Milton Red Sox' combined minor/major bantam team, that has earned an automatic berth to the Ontario Baseball Association "A" division championships on Labour Day weekend.

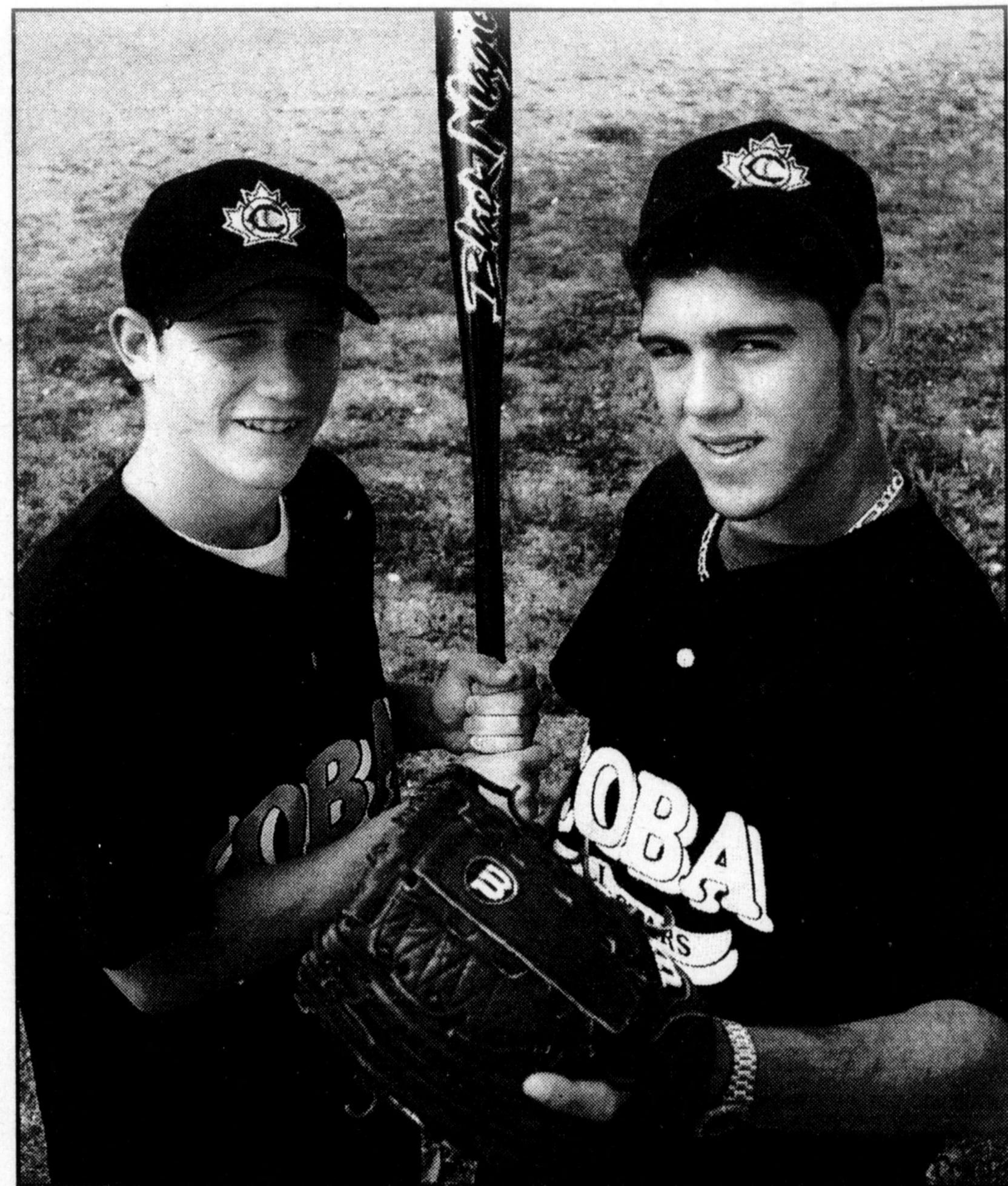


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Miltonians Liam Tennant (left) and David Aggio were part of the COBA allstar team which competed at last weekend's Ontario Summer Games.

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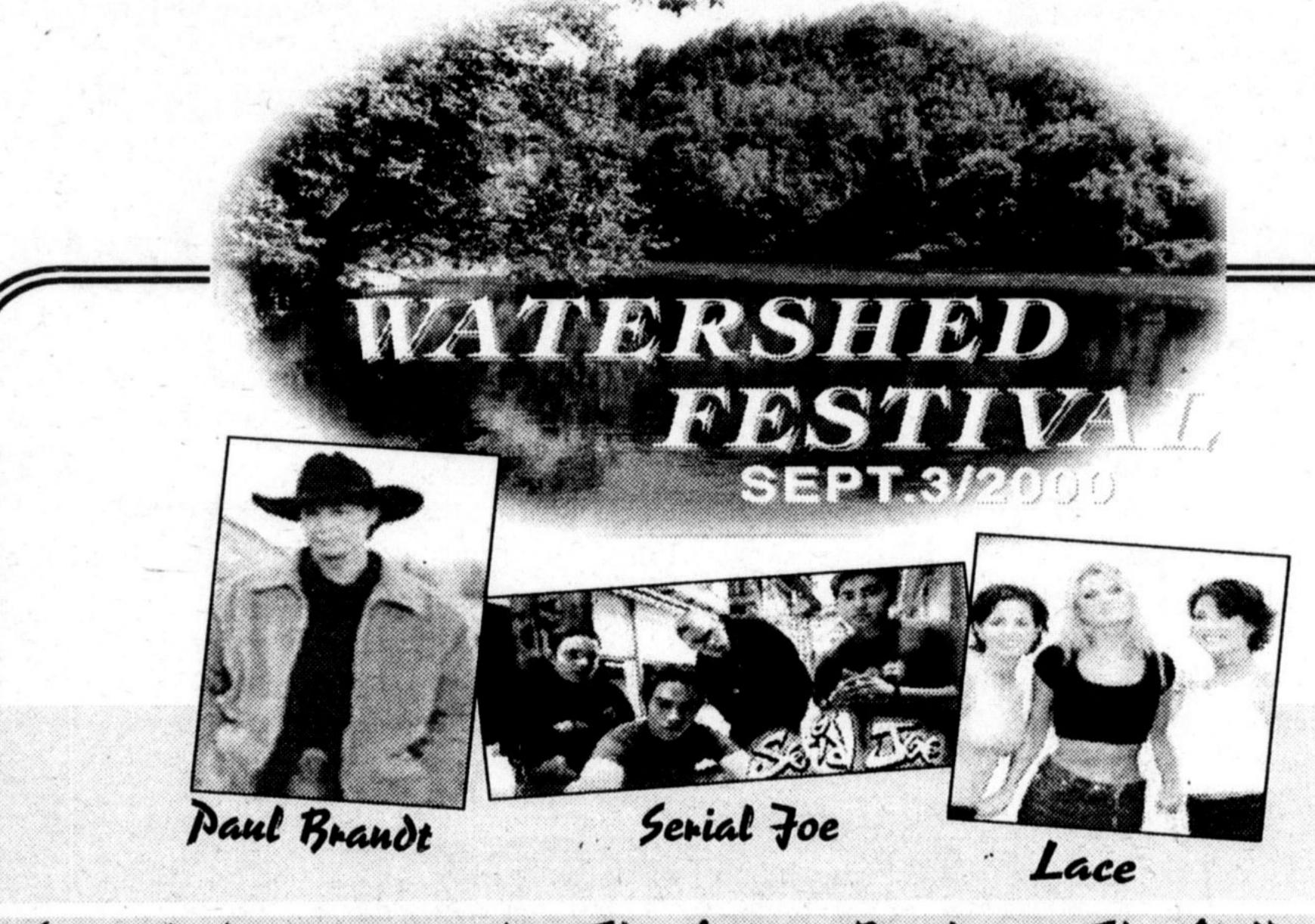
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