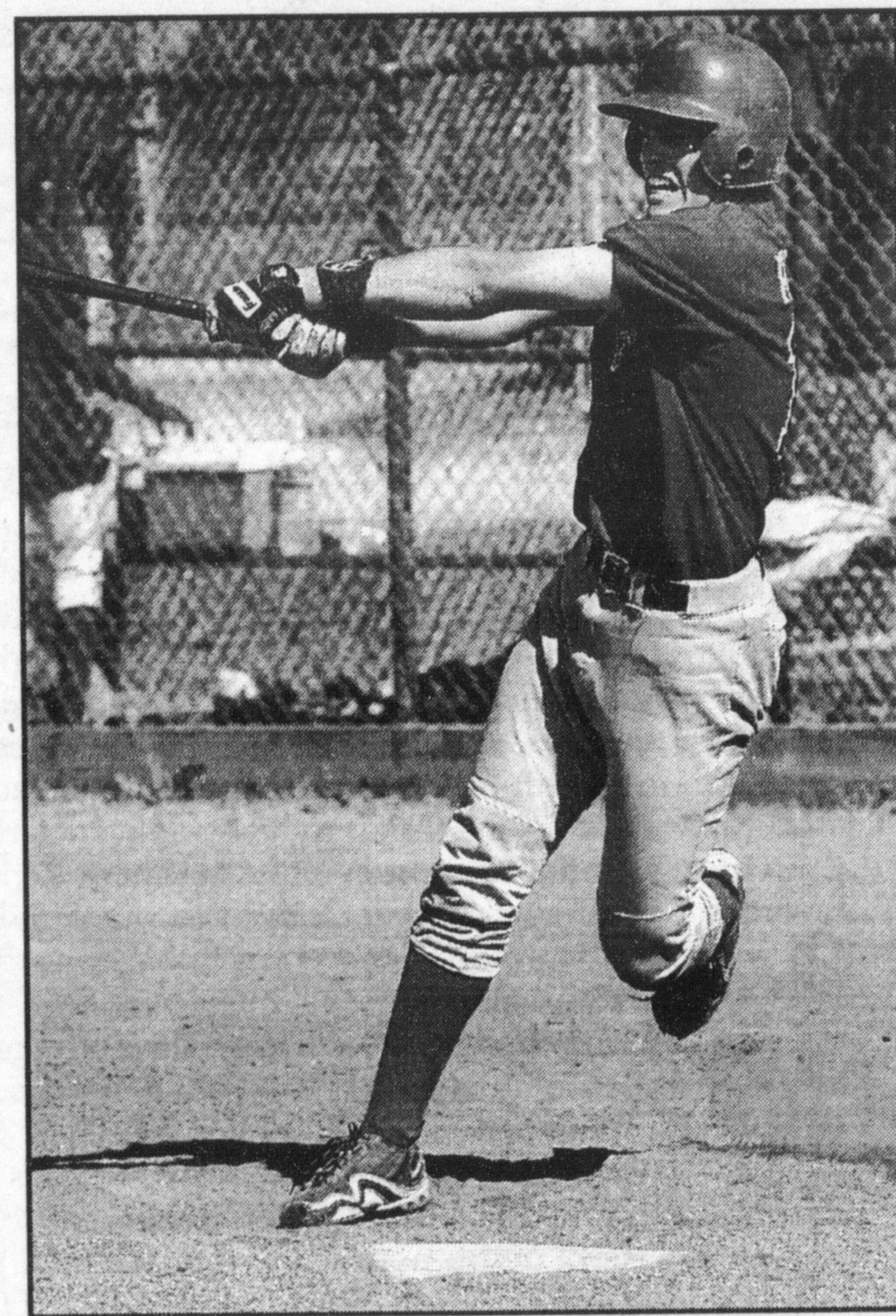
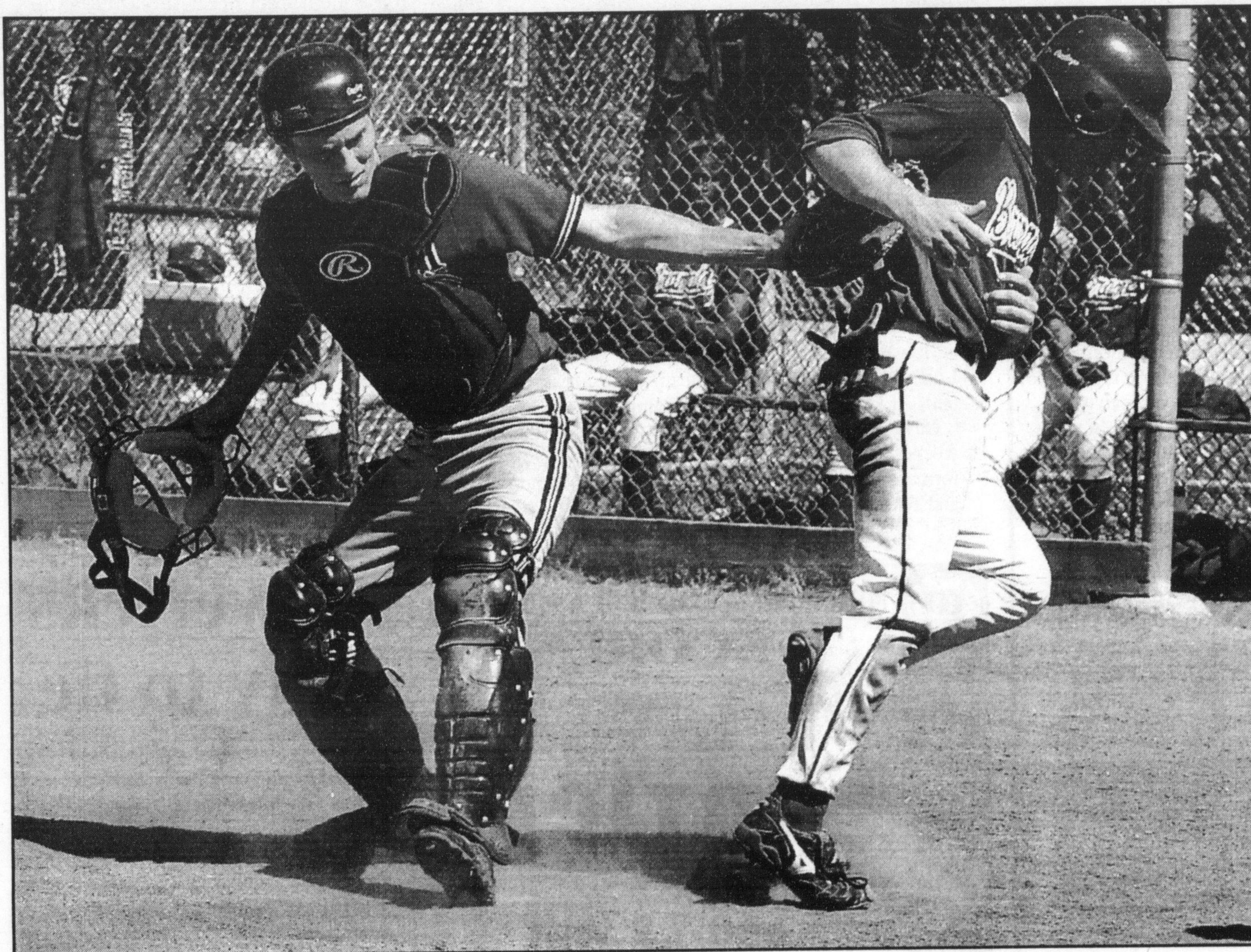




SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2001



Red Sox catcher Mike Austen is narrowly beat at the plate by this Brampton base-runner while (above) Jeff McLeod belts out a hit during Sunday's doubleheader at Maplehurst. Milton split the back-to-back games.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Junior Red Sox split double-header at home

By MURRAY TOWNSEND

Special to The Champion

The way the local junior baseball team started the first game of a double-header Sunday against Brampton, you might have thought they were the Boston Red Sox instead of the Milton Red Sox.

Adam Ahearn struck out the first five batters he faced and the Red Sox batters opened with four straight hits. The damage was done early in the 7-3 victory.

Ahearn, who is from Acton and also pitches for Brock University, didn't give the Brampton hitters a chance. They not only couldn't hit him, they couldn't see the ball. It wasn't until there were two outs in the second inning that they got their bat on one, an accidental excuse-me single to the opposite field.

By this time, he had been staked to a healthy lead. Jeff McLeod opened with a hit, followed by singles from John Melito, Taylor

Lawton, and Nathan Perrott. When the dust had settled, the Red Sox were up 3-0 after the first inning.

Brampton got a couple runs back in the third inning, mostly from aggressive base running as opposed to good hitting, but the Red Sox put it away in the fourth inning, after Jed Cosby reached base on an error, followed by singles from Todd Black and McLeod.

With the bases loaded, Melito punched a single into right field to score one, and then Lawton worked a walk after falling behind in the count 0-2 to score another. Perrott accounted for the third and fourth run of the inning when his fly ball fell into no-man's land between the infield and the outfield.

The Red Sox would have scored more except for spectacular defensive plays.

On one play, Black drove the ball all the way to the fence in left-centre only to be robbed by a great running catch.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Reese Davies hit a home run, McLeod continued a good day with a triple and an RBI, Jarrett Konkle had two RBI and Andrew Nielson had a double and scored a run. It was all for not, though, as the Red Sox dropped an 8-7 decision.

Milton now sports a 3-3 record. "That's just where I expected we would be," said manager, Glenn Turner. "Once things get rolling and we get a few games under our belt we can improve that record."

The team has been strong so far in all facets of the game, according to Turner. "Pitching has been terrific and the hitting has been above average. Basically, the games we've let slip away have been mostly caused by defensive miscues, but for the most part our defense has been pretty strong as well."

Milton's next home contest is Monday at Maplehurst against Dundas. Game time is 7:30.



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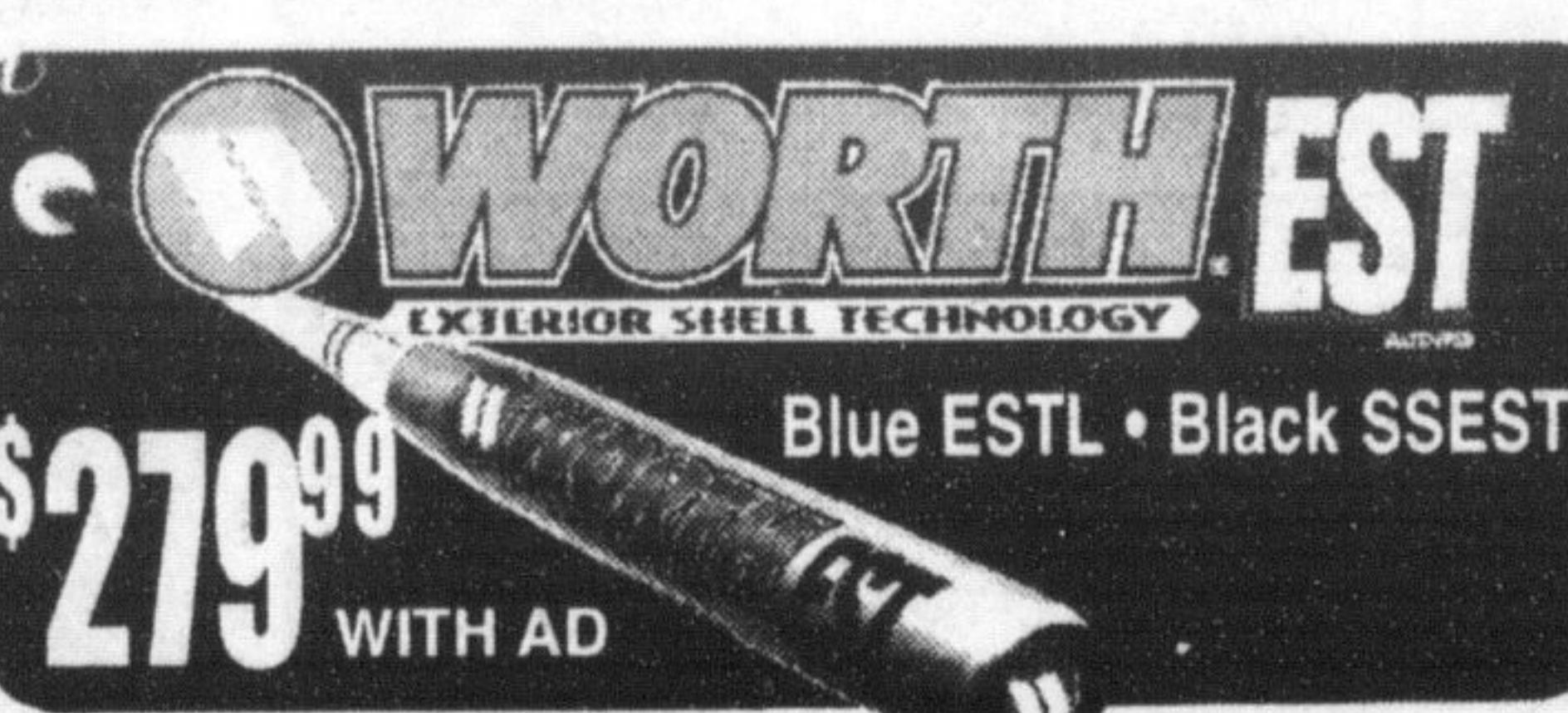
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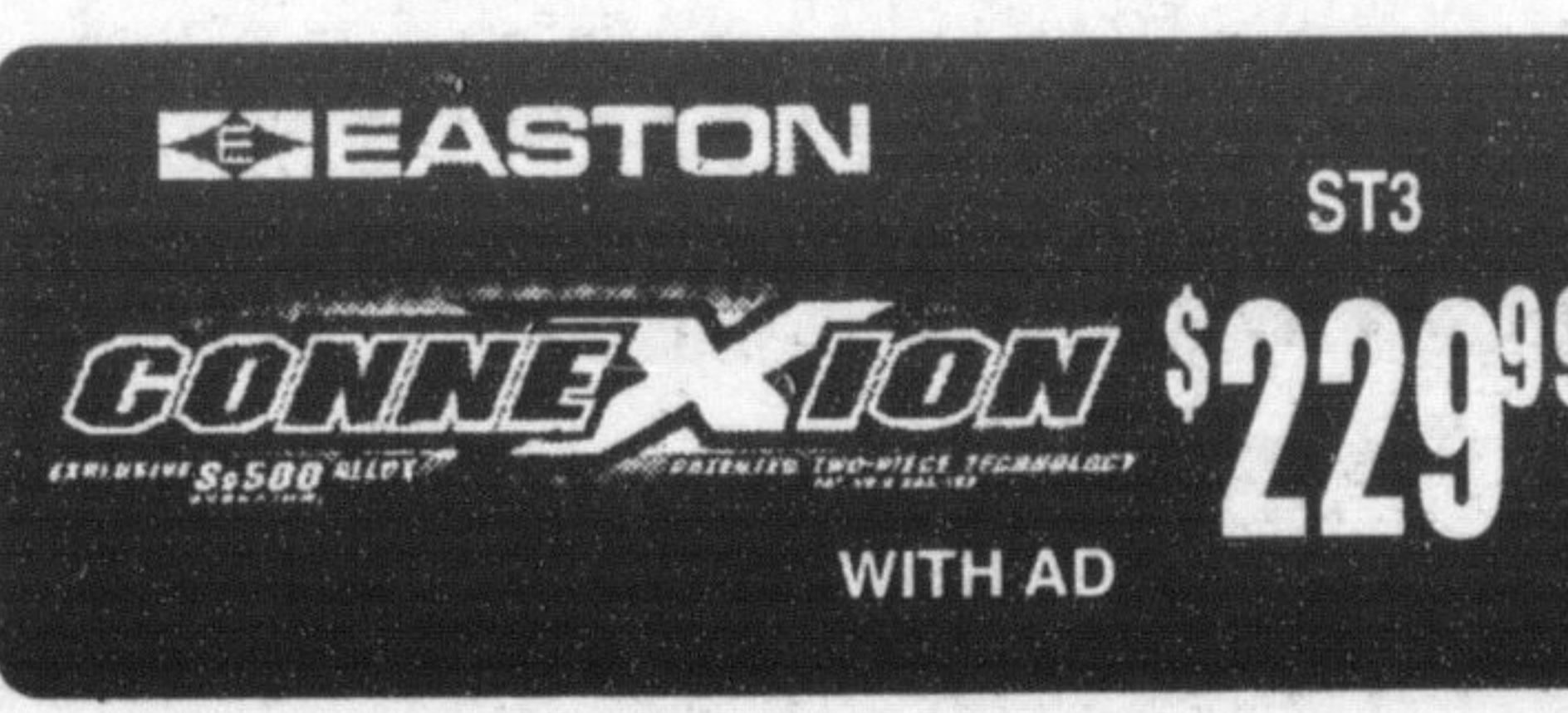


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