



SPORTS

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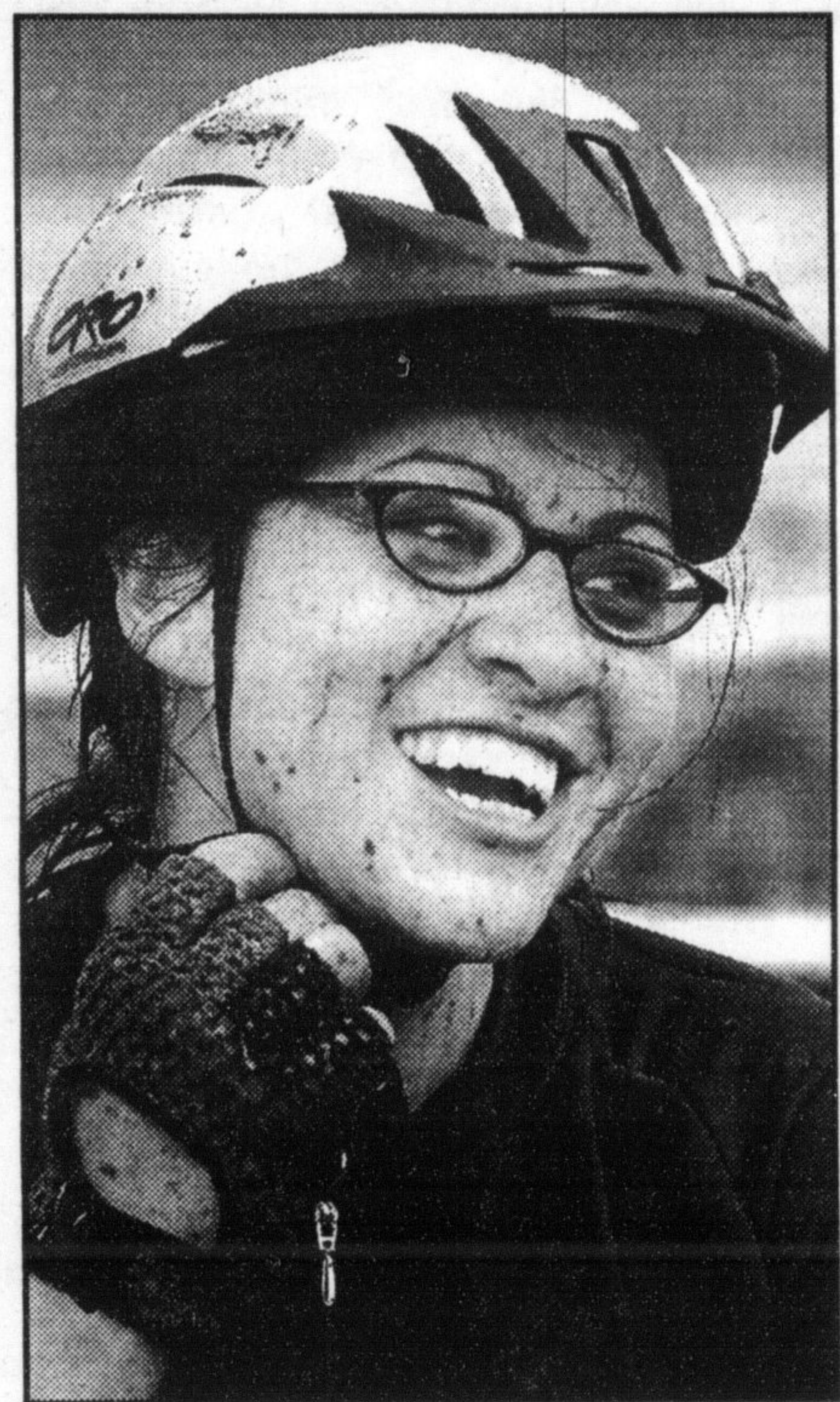
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TUESDAY JULY 10, 2001



In high gear

Mark Thibault (right) heads into the transfer area during the annual Kokanee 24-hours of Adrenalin mountain biking event at Kelso Conservation Area Saturday afternoon while (above) in high spirits after completing the first leg of the race in the pouring rain is Lucy Osorio. Meanwhile (top), a group of riders negotiate the tall grass during the early stages of competition — which was dampened by inclement weather. Hundreds of athletes from across the province took part in this year's event, with Campbellville's PsychoManics taking third-place honours in the female team standings.

Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE

Heartbreaking loss does in Jr. Sox at tourney

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

So close, so agonizingly close.

Milton's junior baseball team came within a heartbeat of advancing to the finals of the Brampton Tournament Saturday afternoon.

The Red Sox matched a three-run last at-bat that equaled victory over the weekend hosts just a few hours earlier, but their crunch time plate pop against the Mississauga North Bengals wasn't quite enough in round-robin closing play — as they could only manage to even the score at 6-6 in the top of the seventh.

Anything less than a win failed to give the local lads a championship berth — so with little motivation to stay focused for the bottom half of the inning, the Sox surrendered another run and were edged.

Jeff MacLeod, Reese Davies and Taylor Lawton all scored in the seventh to make things exciting.

Milton's hopes of advancing looked awfully bleak from the onset. Following a couple of delays due to lightning, starting pitcher Jarrett Konkle and first-baseman Andrew Neilson were sidelined with a sore arm and cut finger respectively during the opening frame — during which their team fell behind 3-0.

Coe's comeback impressive

But long reliever Andrew Coe — back from a three-week hiatus following surgery — kept the Bengals from breaking things open, allowing only three runs over a five-and-two-thirds inning stretch.

MacLeod's sharp defense in centre field as well as some aggressive base-running also factored into the comeback. Unfortunately, Milton gave a disjointed offensive effort and were held scoreless until the fifth inning — a little too late as it turned out.

The Red Sox' other runs were delivered by Coe, Mike Austen and John Melito.

Saturday morning the juniors exacted a measure of revenge for Ajax Tournament championship play — rallying to eclipse Brampton's first entry squad 8-7.

Konkle provided the heroics in that one, belting out a bloop single to cash in Davies — who moments earlier knotted things up with a deep single to bring home MacLeod and Ian Moszczak. All three runs were scored with two outs, making the comeback that much more exhilarating. Moszczak went the distance on the mound and showed strongly down the stretch.

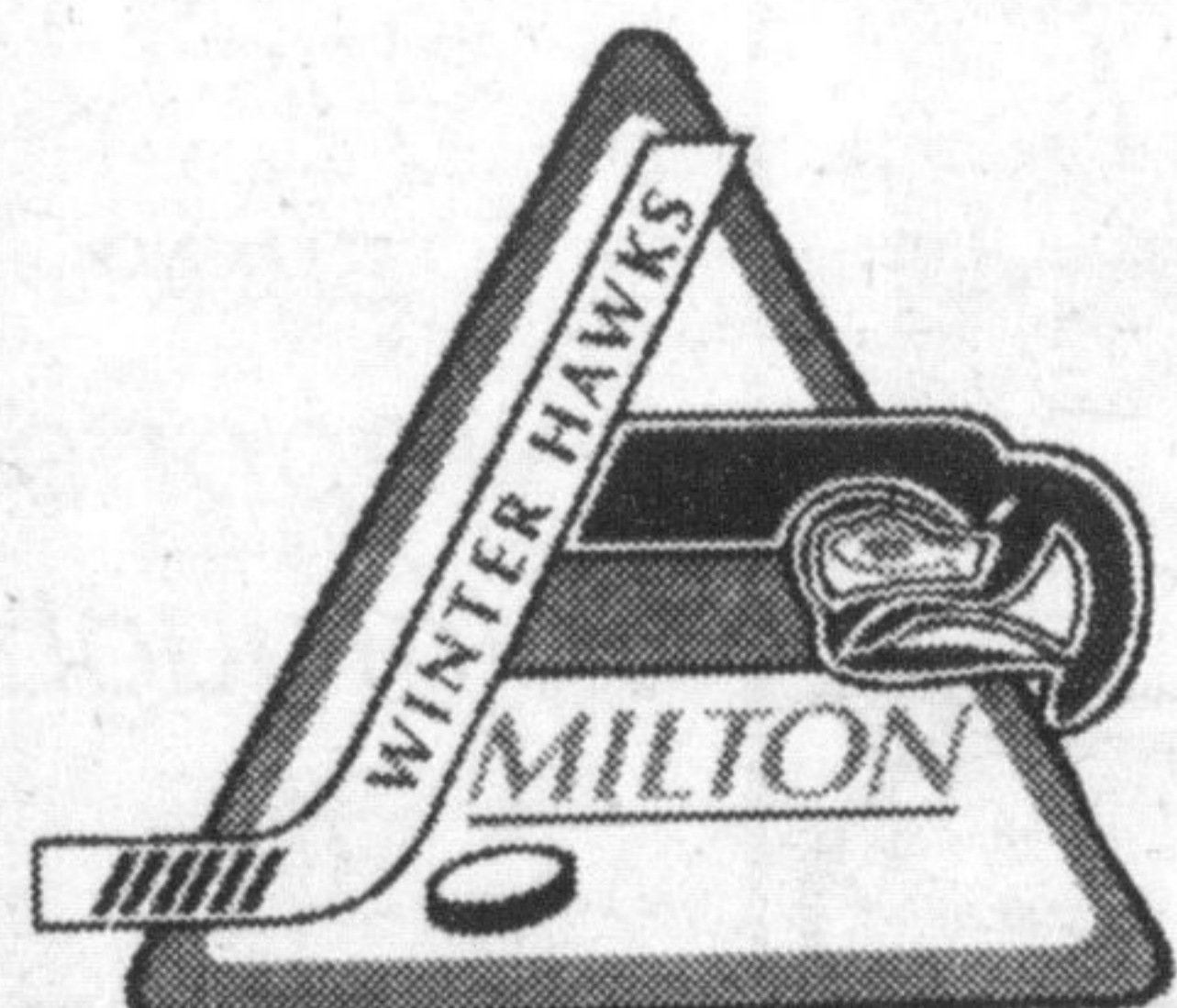
This payback victory followed a tough 13-7 defeat at the hands of the spirited London team Friday night. A balanced offensive effort — led by three-hit performances by Davies and MacLeod — was quite enough to overcome Adam Ahearn's shaky start, that resulted in six runs against in the first two innings.

Melito went 2-for-4 against London while Austen drove in a pair of runs.

This past weekend's tournament was the first of three for the juniors in July. They'll head to Barrie and Wallaceburg the last two weekends of this month.

Before that, they a few league games, including Sunday night in Dundas. Next Monday (July 16) they'll return home to battle St. Catharines at Maplehurst. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Milton's regular season record stands at 7-5.



Milton Minor
Hockey Association

Milton Minor Hockey Association COACHES REQUIRED 2001/2002 Season

The Milton Minor Hockey Association needs coaches, assistants, trainers and convenors for all house league teams and divisions for the 2001/02 season. Coaching clinics and ongoing development will be provided by the association. Without coaching volunteers, the kids can't play, so please apply now. We also still have a few Rep Team coaching positions open as well.

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