

Samuel earns back-up job with Jr. Merchants

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The battle for second-string status has been won.

At Memorial Arena Tuesday, Sean Samuel clinched the role of back-up goalie for this year's Merchants. The Oakville native got the nod — over three other hopefuls including Erin Shamrock Brad Taylor — following a credible second-period performance against St. Michael's.

"It was definitely a tough choice this year," said general manager Nick Slawson.

Samuels is one of four 16-year-olds who'll start the year with the Merchants. Others include Dan Carcillo, Sean Mole and local defenceman Josh Vanderbreggen.

Fellow Miltonians Christian Nonis, Ian Robertson and Matt Ventura — a late walk-on — were among the final players released from camp. Robertson will hopefully report to the Jr. C Shamrocks and, if so, might see some spot duty with the big club this season.

With OHL tryouts removing a handful of this year's regulars from the lineup Tuesday, Milton was rather punchless up front and — as a result — was disposed of 3-1.

St. Michael's mobile blueliners restricted the hosts to two dozen scoring chances and

held them to just four in the third period to seal the deal.

Veteran defenceman Rick Janco made the lone deposit for Milton. He connected on a rather lucky powerplay bounce with about five minutes left in the middle stanza for his second goal in as many pre-season games.

Assisting on the play were veteran winger Shane Remenda and newly acquired gunner Michel Bond — who was seeing his first taste of competition since last spring and showed signs of fatigue through the late stages of play.

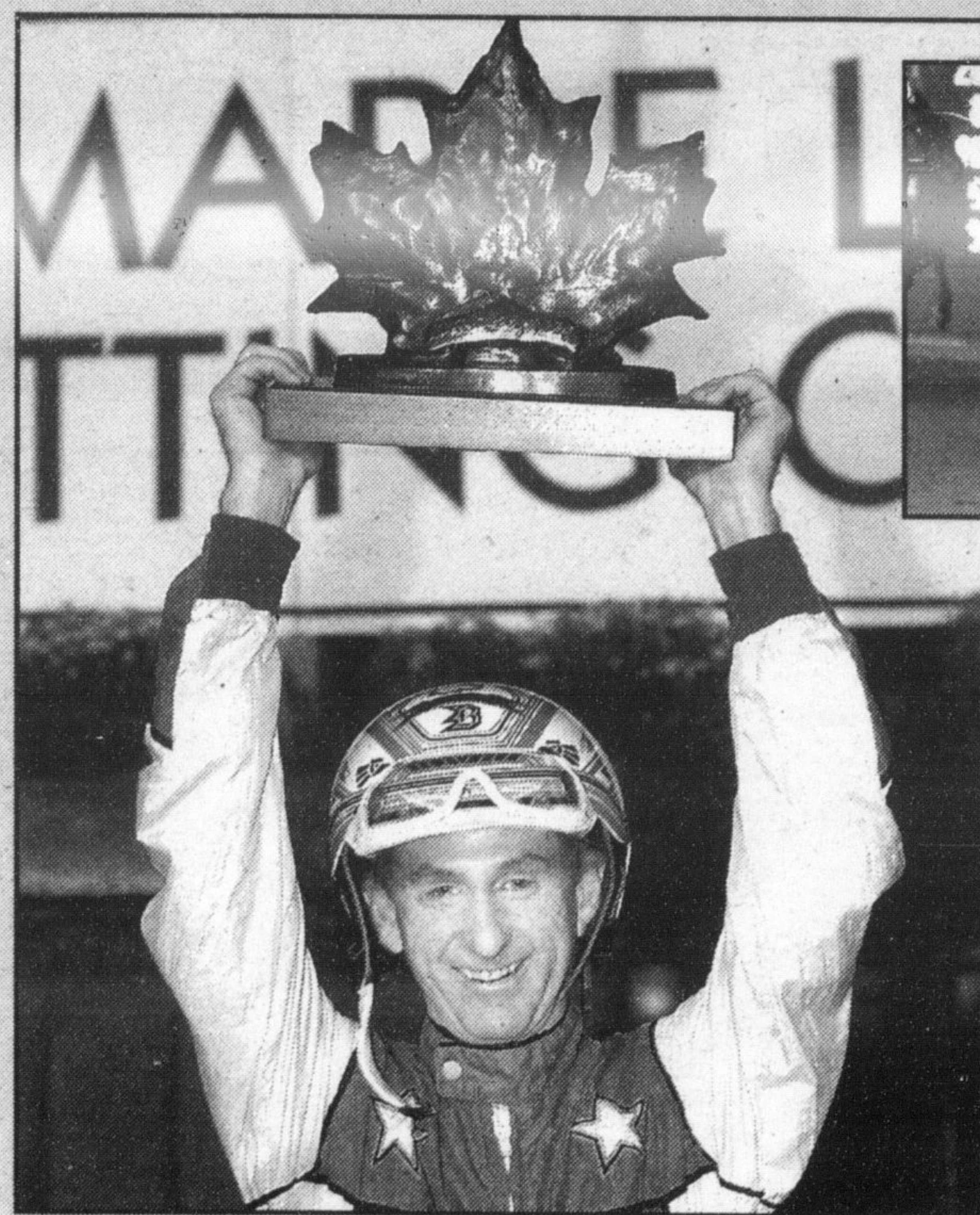
Joe Cooper, Matt McIsaac and Daniel Pegoraro did the scoring for St. Michael's.

Tonight, the Merchants will ice a team more closely resembling the one they'll start the regular season with when they look for revenge at St. Michael's. Number one goal-keeper Trevor Battaglia will get the start.

Expected back from OHL tryouts tonight are Carcillo, Mole, Matt Bartlett, Richard Moloche and 2000/01 Western Conference Rookie of the Year Kevin Arruda.

Milton will continue exhibition play next weekend with a home-and-home series against neighbouring rival Georgetown.

Regular season play begins Sept. 14 at home against Burlington.



Trotting triumph

Doug Brown hoists the Maple Leaf Trot trophy high after (above) racing to victory with Plesac at the 50th edition of the \$838,000 race at Woodbine Saturday.

Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**

Midget Sox off to provincials

Milton's midget boys baseball team will be hoping for a power surge of the more favourable variety this weekend.

At Maplehurst Ball Park Monday, Jeff Harper's Red Sox were looking to get in one final tune-up game for the provincials against visiting Orangeville.

But an evening power surge wrecked havoc with the light timer and, subsequently, put the kibosh on evening festivities. Now Milton aims to enjoy a power surge of its own design during this weekend's Ontario 'A' championships.

For the first time this year, all 16 players on the tier two regular season championship team will be suit-

ing up — and nine of them are available for pitching duty. "We've got the depth, that's not the problem. We just need quality pitching, especially for the second and third round," said Harper.

His midgets will open the nine-team provincial showcase tonight against the tournament hosts. If victorious, they earn a second-round bye.

Heading into this weekend's championships with an overall record of 25-8-1, Milton is heavily favoured to capture a medal. The local midgets last secured provincial hardware two years ago in Sault Ste. Marie, where they struck silver — falling to Stratford 5-3 in the championship finals.

Fax your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off anytime at 191 Main St. E.

MILTON INTERCHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS - END OF REGULAR SEASON

Teams	Game	Wins	Losses	Ties	Pts.	W%
1 South Side '1'	22	19	3	0	38	0.864
2 Holy Rosary	21	15	6	0	30	0.714
3 New Life 'A'	22	15	6	1	31	0.705
4 South Side '2'	21	14	7	0	28	0.667
5 Milton Bible	21	14	7	0	28	0.667
6 St. Georges	22	13	7	2	28	0.636
7 New Life 'B'	22	11	11	0	22	0.500
8 Boston	21	8	11	2	18	0.429
9 New Life Deaf	22	7	15	0	14	0.318
10 Knox	22	5	17	0	10	0.227
11 St. Pauls	21	4	17	0	8	0.190
12 Grace	21	1	19	1	3	0.071

Thanks to Terry Rowley for sponsoring the league standings.

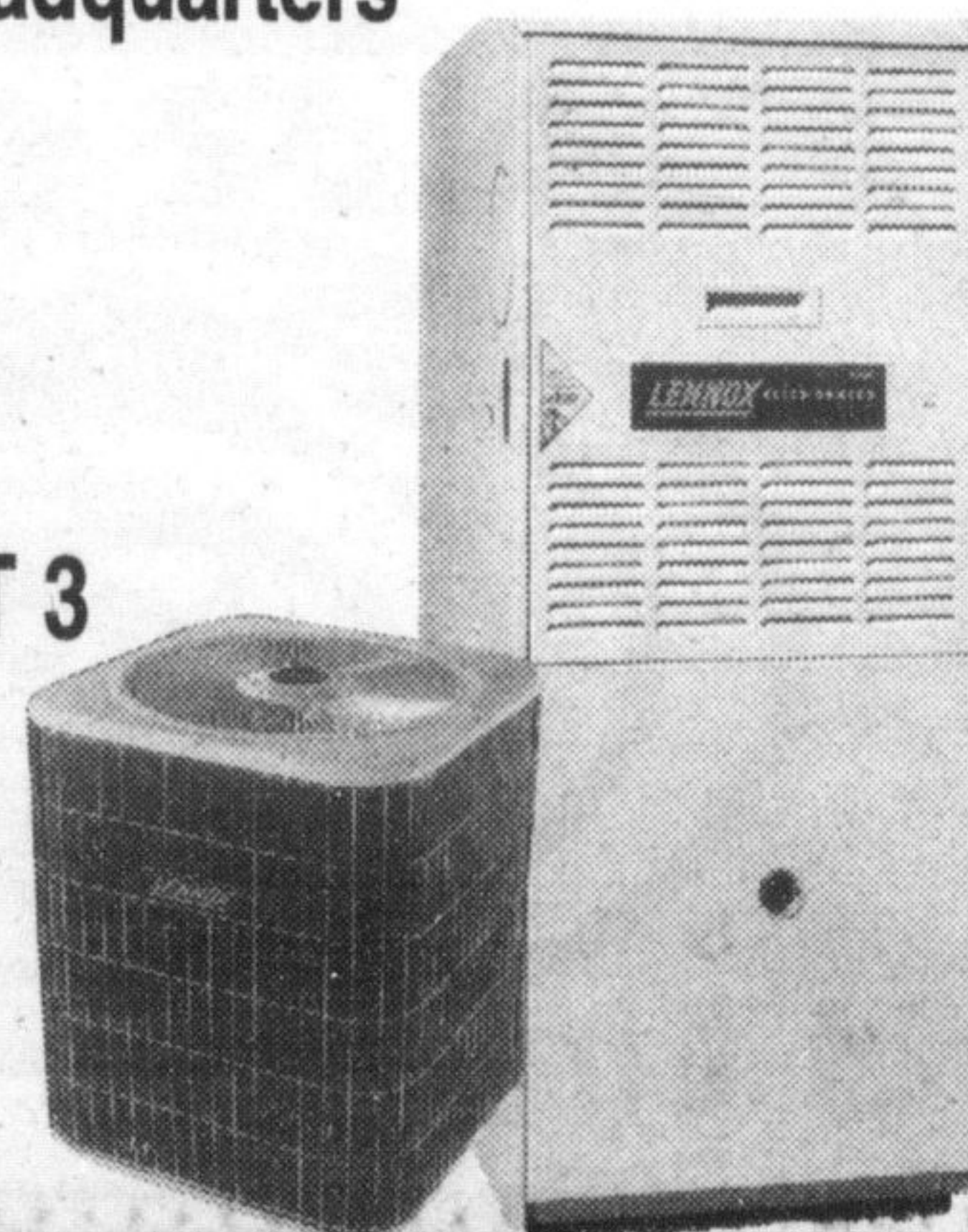
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