

Cheskey comes up just short in bid for a fourth Ontario title

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Rob Cheskey's Ontario dynasty is finally over. The Milton cyclo-cross competitor came up a mere half-a-bike length shy of securing a fourth straight provincial championship among 40 to 50-year-old males in Port Hope November 25 morning — conceding the title to archrival Glen Laycock of Toronto. Cheskey had been eclipsed by his big city rival one week earlier during a tune-up race at Etobicoke's Centennial Park, and knew retaining his provincial crown would be a tall order — even with a personally strong ride. The 47-year-old delivered exactly that, but it just wasn't enough to stay on top. "I'm happy for Glen. He had come close the past two years and this was his turn," said Cheskey. The Milton racer — who earlier this month took second-place honours at the national championship in Edmonton —

negotiated the mud-soaked, 21-kilometre course in about 50 minutes. His bid for provincial gold looked rather bleak from the onset of competition, when a junior-age racer immediately in front of him sustained a broken chain — causing both of them to crash. Said Cheskey, "I hurt my hip and knee a bit, but basically I was okay." He enjoyed a trouble-free ride for the balance of the event and caught Laycock at the midway mark — but couldn't pull away, despite his best efforts. "I just couldn't shake him," explained the silver-medalist. Nevertheless, Cheskey was pleased with his efforts — feeling he handled the unseasonably sloppy terrain in fine fashion. "I'd say I had a good ride. We get so many cold, dry days for racing this late in the year that it's nice to get a different kind of condition, like they do in Europe."

Haydar now tops in NCAA after an explosive weekend

Miltonian's efforts keep UNH first in Hockey East

It's official — Darren (Mini) Haydar is number one. Milton's most prolific scorer vaulted himself into a first-place tie among NCAA Division 1 point-getters with what was arguably his finest weekend at the university level.

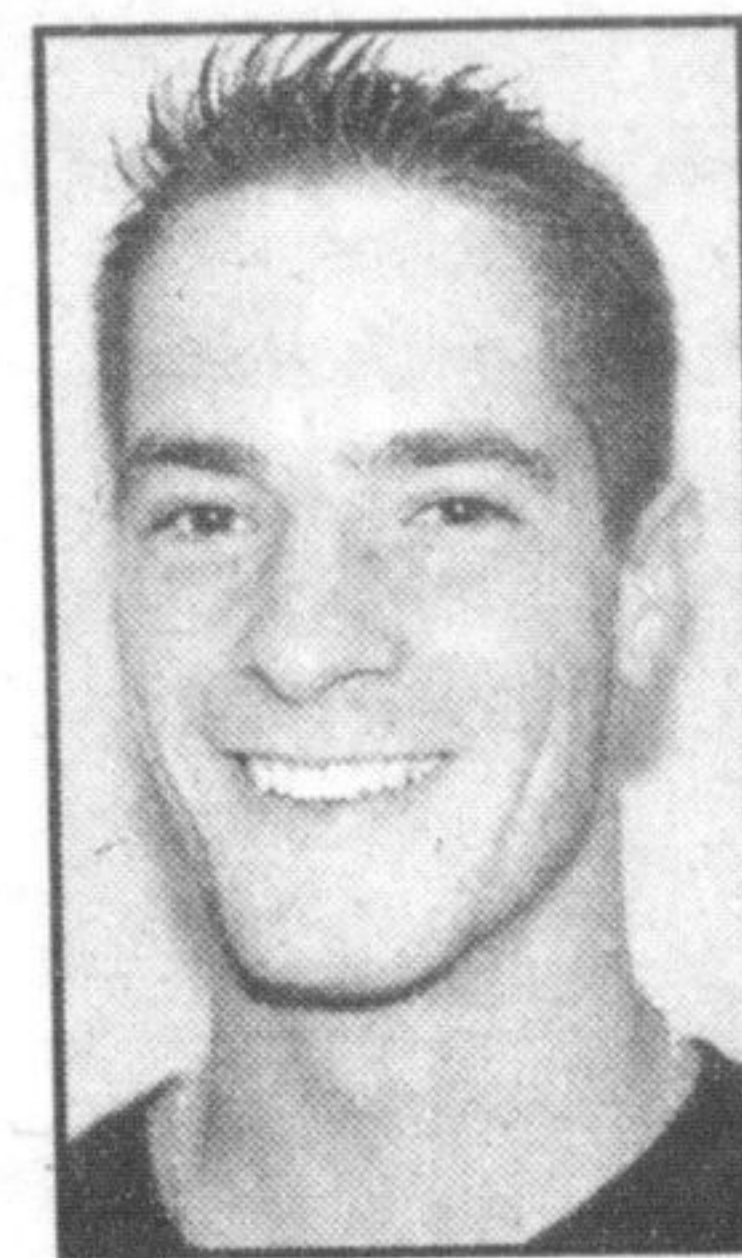
Haydar not only reached the peak of the nation's individual leader board but kept his New Hampshire University Wildcats — whom he's captaining as a senior this year — atop the standings in the NCAA's Hockey East.

The Milton Merchants' record holder for both goals and total points did what he does best this past weekend — come through in big-game situations.

With UNH needing consecutive wins to maintain top spot in Hockey East, Haydar amassed seven points to knock off conference rivals Boston College and Maine.

His biggest contribution came against BC Friday night — when he capped a four-point output with a five-hole, sudden death deposit to triumph 5-4.

Boston College had rallied from a three-goal deficit before being vanquished in overtime. Haydar tallied twice in the second period and again



Darren Haydar

with under three minutes remaining in the extra session for his third hat-trick in the NCAA.

Versus Maine Saturday, New Hampshire's offensive standout once again provided the fuel for victory. He drew three assists — the second of which represented his 100th university point — to help win 4-1.

Haydar now sits tied with the University of Minnesota's John Pohl with 27 points — 10 goals and 17 assists. His 9-2-2

Wildcats should no doubt maintain their fifth-place ranking with the two wins.

Meanwhile, Haydar is one of only two players in the nation averaging more than two points per game and is in excellent shape to break the half-century mark for the second time with UNH.

He'll continue toward that end against former teammate Kevin O'Flaherty Friday evening at Clarkson University.

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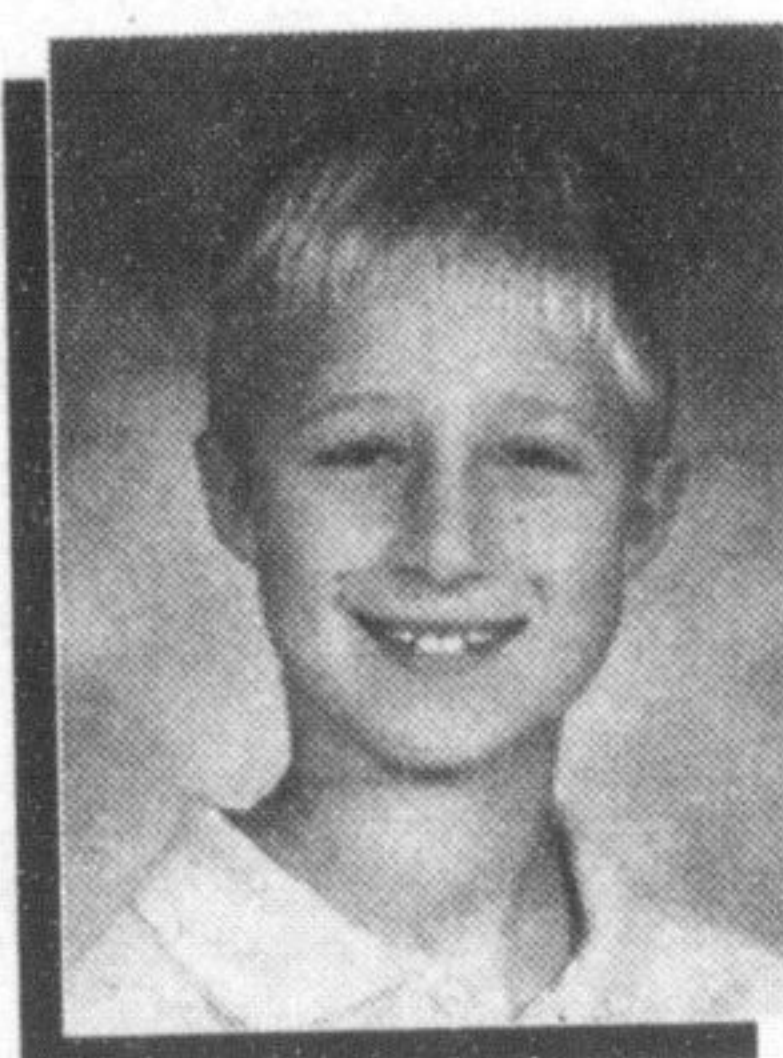
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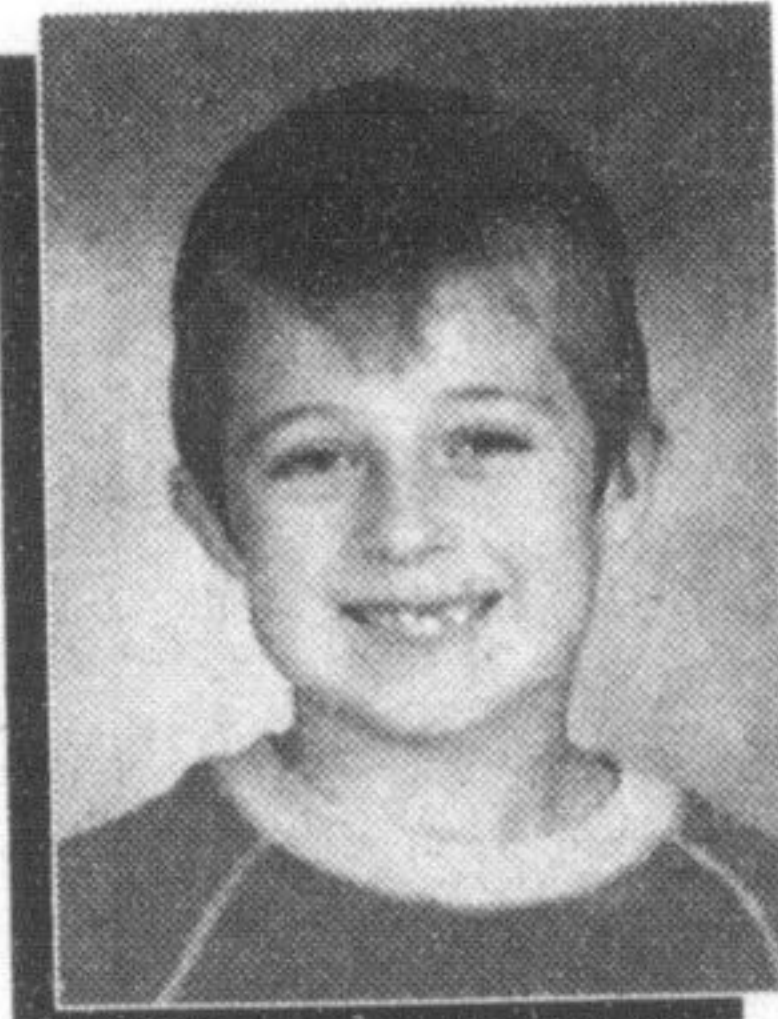
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