

Be sure to read about all your favourite local sports teams here every Tuesday and Friday.

Haydar's Wildcats reach the Frozen Four

New Hampshire University has huge rematch set with arch-rival in national semifinals

Darren (Mini) Haydar's New Hampshire Wildcats have already beat Maine once in this year's playoffs.

Now they'll have to fashion a sequel if they hope to reach the innermost sanctum of NCAA men's hockey competition.

UNH's 4-3 win over Cornell and Maine's identical victory against Boston University Sunday set the stage for a Frozen Four semifinal showdown between these Hockey East juggernauts next Thursday, April 4 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Haydar drew a pair of assists in their initial playoff clash two weeks ago — which fueled the Wildcats' 3-1 Hockey East title triumph — and did likewise against Cornell Sunday.

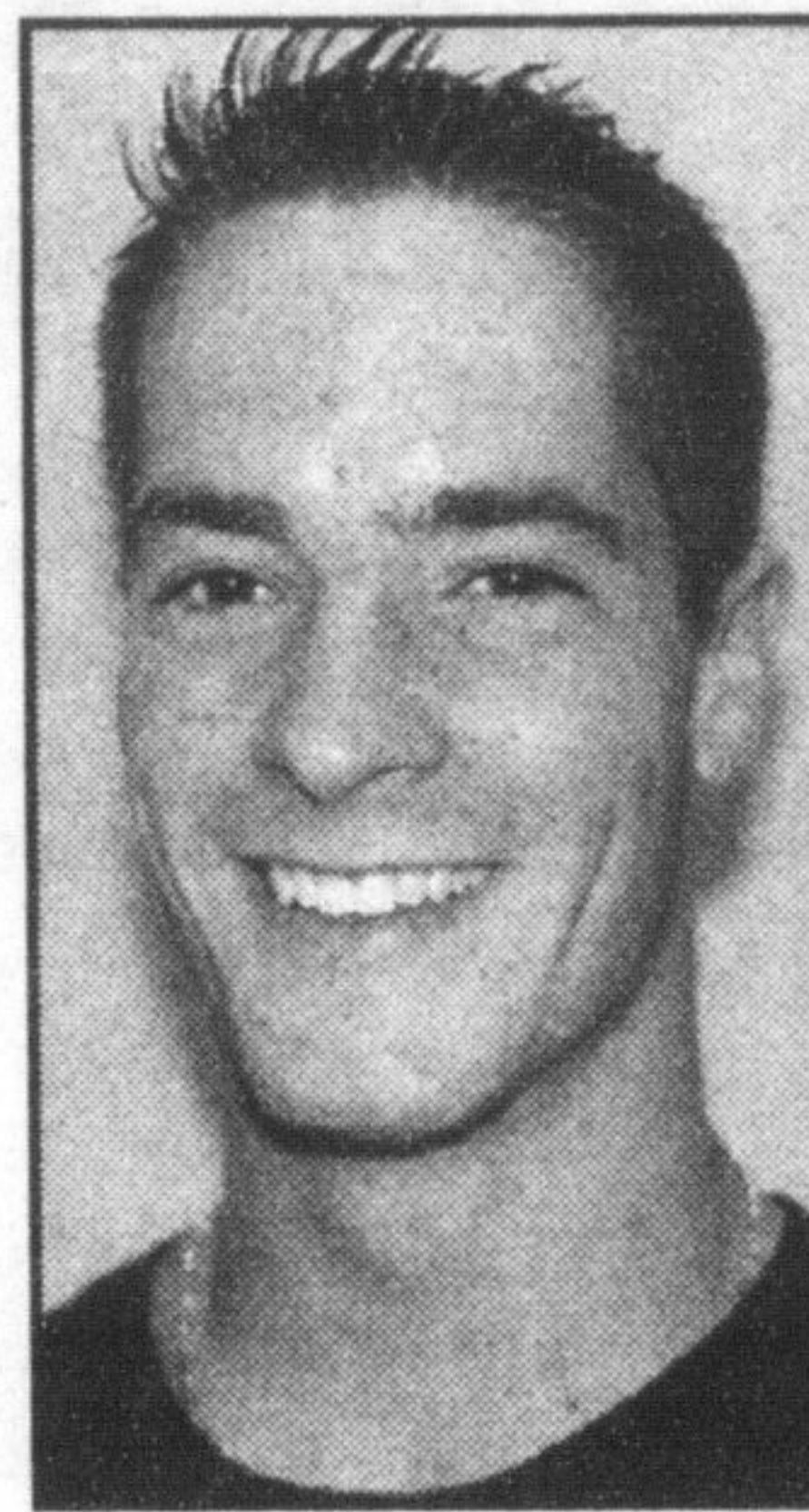
Continuing to thrive on the powerplay, he helped set up both first-period goals by gifted linemate Colin

Hemingway.

Unlikely UNH hero Jim Abbott scored with under three minutes in regulation to pull of the win.

Former Georgetown Raider Michael Knoepfli had two assists the previous night to help Cornell beat Quinnipiac 6-1 in the NCAA Tournament's opening round.

Haydar's Wildcats lost to Maine 3-2 in overtime in the national finals in 1999 and will no doubt be looking for a little payback next Thursday.



Darren Haydar

They head into the Frozen Four has the number one seed, since Denver was upset by Michigan 5-2.

If victorious against Maine, UNH will face either Michigan or Minnesota for the national title April 6.

The winner of the Hobey Baker award — which Haydar is a leading candidate — will be announced the night before.

Meanwhile, Candice Ceelen's Niagara Purple Eagles narrowly missed a shot at the national women's crown when they were edged 3-2 by eventual champs Minnesota-Deluth Friday in the semifinals.

Niagara went on to tie Minnesota 2-2 in the consolation finals while Minnesota-Deluth eclipsed Brown 3-2 in the championship finals.

The Purple Eagles were ranked top three for most of the season.

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'AA' atoms take game one of Tri County final

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Scott Stover delivered a strong supporting role for most of the night, but finished it off as the leading man.

Following up on a couple of impressive play-making efforts to keep pace with Caledon Friday, Milton's AA major atom standout buried a cross-ice pass with under a minute remaining to take game one of the best-of-five Tri County championship finals 5-4.

Assisting on the game winner was Matt Elliot.

Within the friendly confines of Memorial Arena, Gary Abraham's Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks — one of two teams still in the hunt for division bragging rights — erased a pair of one-goal deficits en route to winning the

series opener.

Stover was simply magnificent in setting up the second equalizer — feeding marksman Kyle Johnson with a one-handed centering pass while holding off an opposing defending for at least two dozen feet.

Elliot, Brayden Abraham and Wade McGinnis also scored to extend the team's undefeated streak to nine games.

Meanwhile, Taylor Prestidge came up with a few nifty saves through period two — minimizing the damage from a mid-evening onslaught — and turned back 17 shots overall to record another win.

Though relatively idle through first-period play, the hometown netminder made a terrific pad save to stop a

point blank opportunity just a few moments before intermission.

Ample defensive support was provided by Brian Hunter, who made three crucial takeaways down the stretch and assisted on the second goal with an authoritative blueline blast.

The Tri County finalists exchanged powerplay goals early in the third before the hosts squeaked by.

Game two of the series was played in Caledon Sunday. Results were not available at press time.

Milton hosted game three last night and if necessary, a fourth game will be contested tomorrow evening in Caledon.

GolfScene Tour is scheduled to run again this year

It's time to get in the swing of things by signing up for the 2002 GolfScene Tour.

This tour, for amateur adults as well as juniors from 10 to 18 years of age, is now in its third year and has snowballed from 45 to 175 participants in that short time.

Miltonian Jeff Thomas was among the most successful last year with a dominating performance in the bantam boys loop. He won nine events as well as the overall sea-

son title.

"Our tour has become extremely popular with young and old golfers alike," said director Norm Woods. "We have players as young as 10 and last year, our oldest tour player was 77."

Sponsored by KIWI, the 2002 GolfScene Tour has 15 events this season beginning with one at Cambridge's Whistle Bear May 26.

Most of the participating golf courses are within two hours of Milton and Granite Ridge Golf Club will host one of the last events on August 12.

Interested golfers can receive membership information by calling the GolfScene office at (519) 846-2259 or check the website at www.golfscene.net.

There is no qualifier to play on the GolfScene Tour.

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On The Way wins at Mohawk Saturday

On The Way Again, demonstrating grit and determination reminiscent of the series' legendary namesake, paced away from the field to win the \$127,000 final of the Cam Fella Series Saturday night at Mohawk.

The four-year-old gelded son of another Canadian-owned legend — On The Road Again N overcame post position nine and poured it on from the top of the stretch to score a three-and-a-half length win for

driver Paul MacDonell in 1:53.

La Kaka Roacha was second and early pace-setter Scott Is A Leader taking third. I've Got Life, the 6-5 favourite, packed it in to finish eighth after a second quarter move to the top, while second choice Highest Authority was hampered by traffic congestion and settled for sixth.

"He basically did everything the hard way and overcame everything that came his way tonight," said MacDonnell, who

had On The Way Again on the move up the backside after tucking in sixth before the first turn. "He's just a great horse and (gave) a great effort."

Trained in Ontario by Rene Laarman, On The Way Again picked up \$63,500 for the victory to bump his season tally to \$154,100.

Now a lifetime winner of \$244,878, he's owned by Tanah Merah Farms of Delaware.

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Gleed and Brampton Capitals clinch Western Conference title

Miltonian Jon Gleed and the Brampton Capitals are the best in the West.

Brampton clinched the Provincial Jr. A League's Western Conference title in commanding fashion Saturday N disposing of the Hamilton Kilty Bees 7-1.

This followed a bit of a scare for the division champs, who after winning 11 straight playoff games — highlighted by sweeps of Streetsville and Georgetown — dropped two in a row last week to Hamilton.

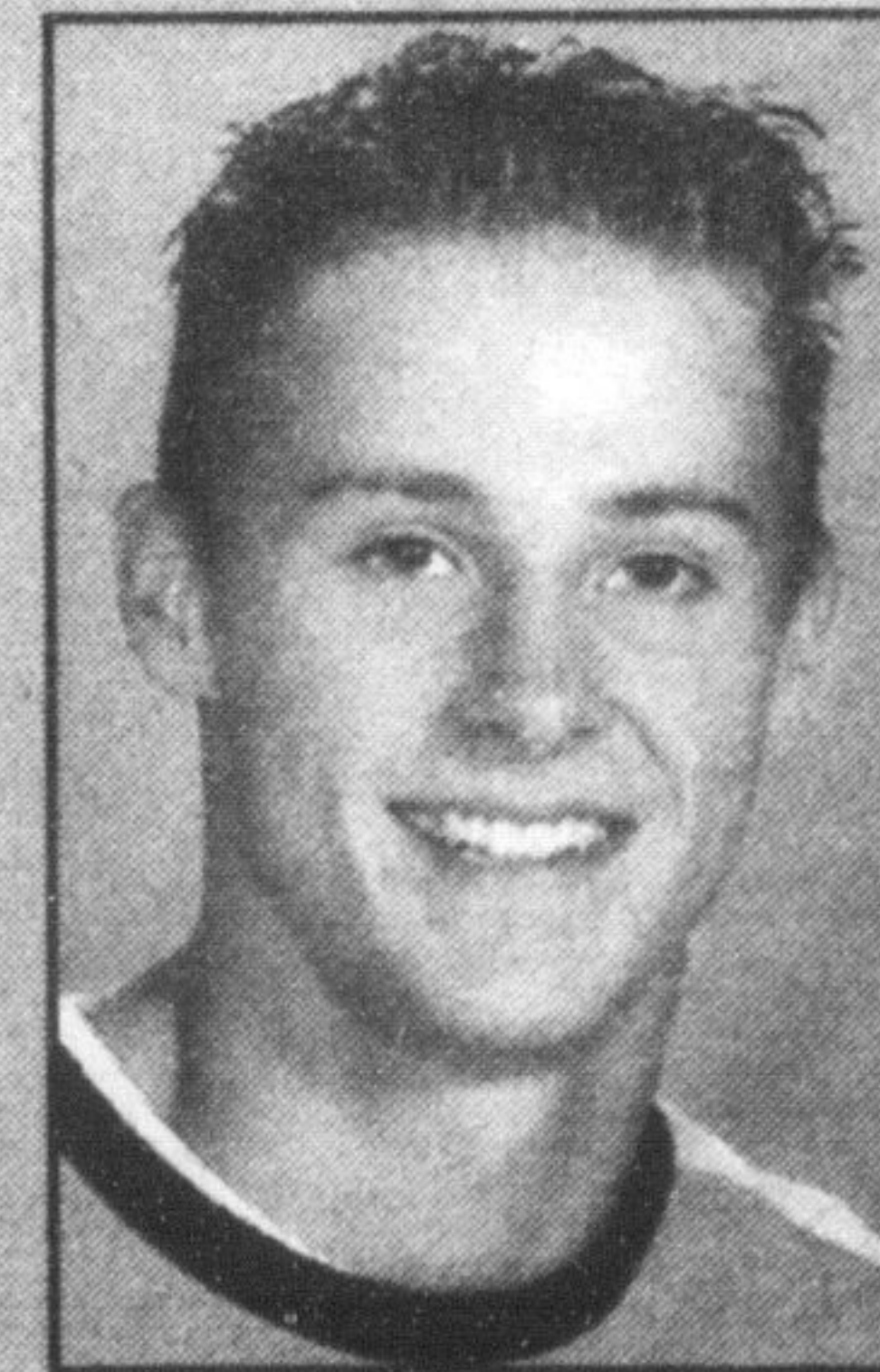
Gleed, a sophomore defenceman

who's off to the Ivy League's Cornell University in the fall, picked up an assist in the conference-clinching victory and so far in the post-season has two goals and 13 helpers.

The Capitals will now face the Aurora Tigers in the league semifinals.

The best-of-seven series begins in Brampton Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Gleed helped Brampton win the regular-season championship as well and was named to the all-star game this year.



Jon Gleed