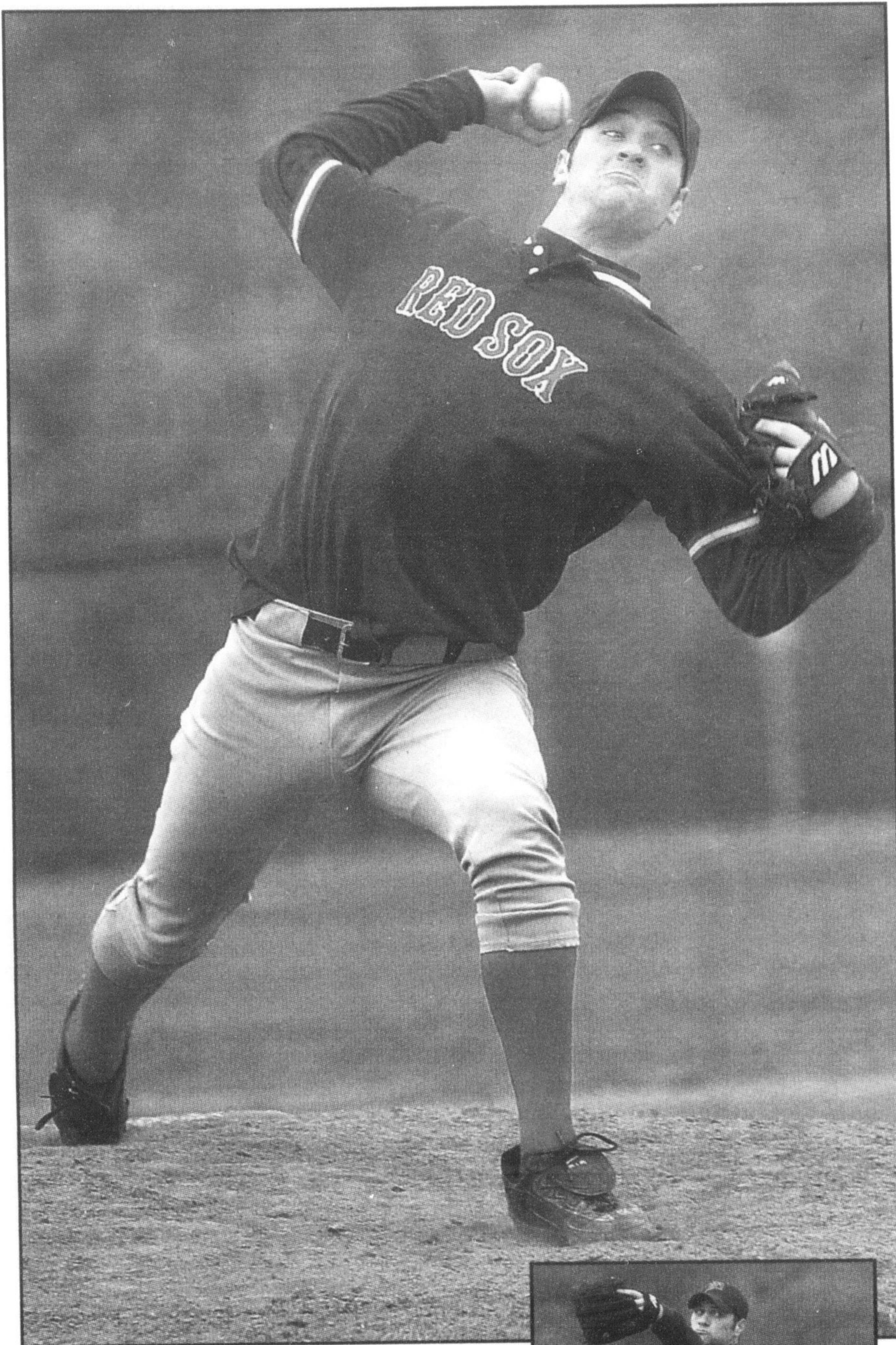




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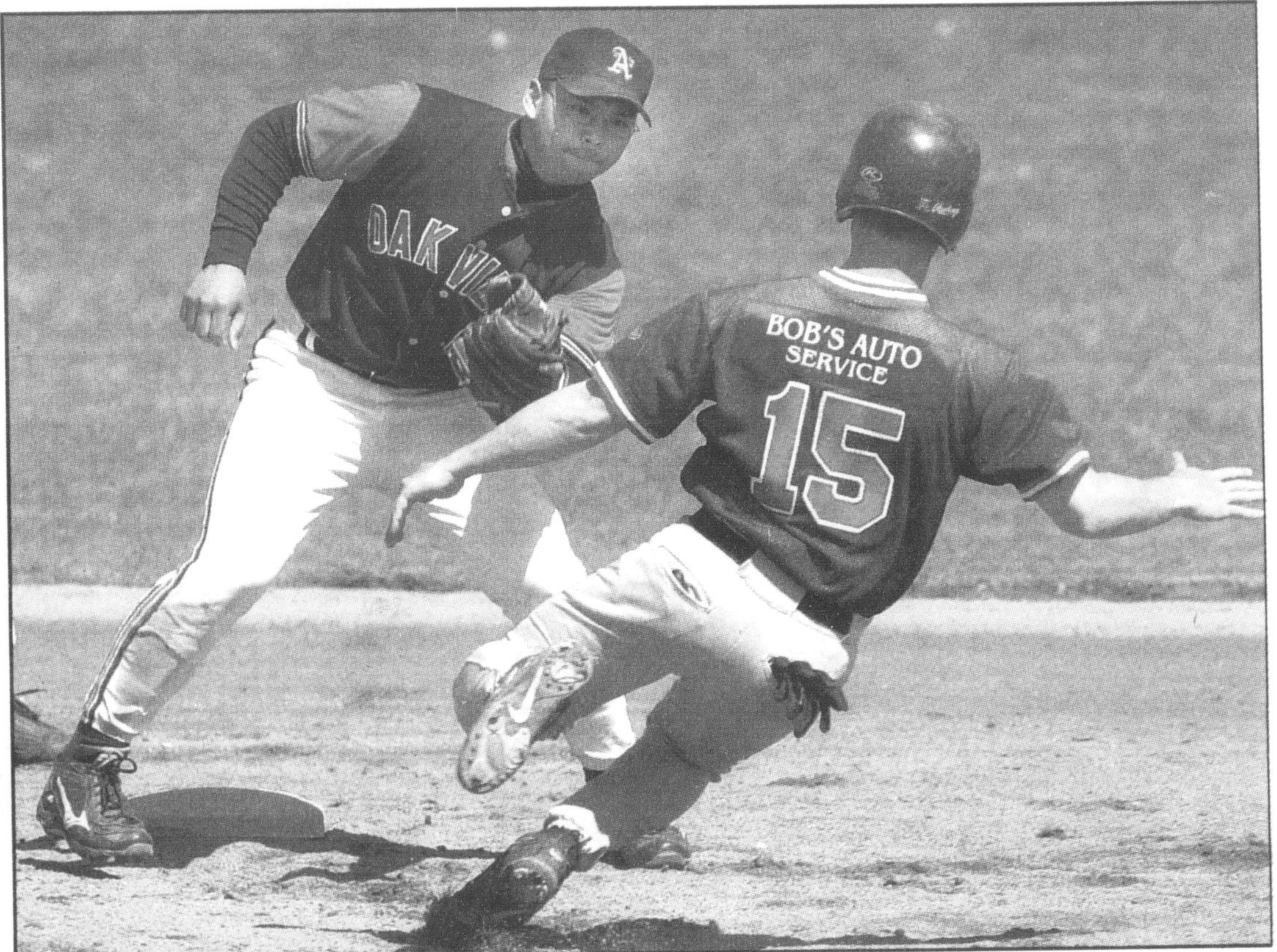
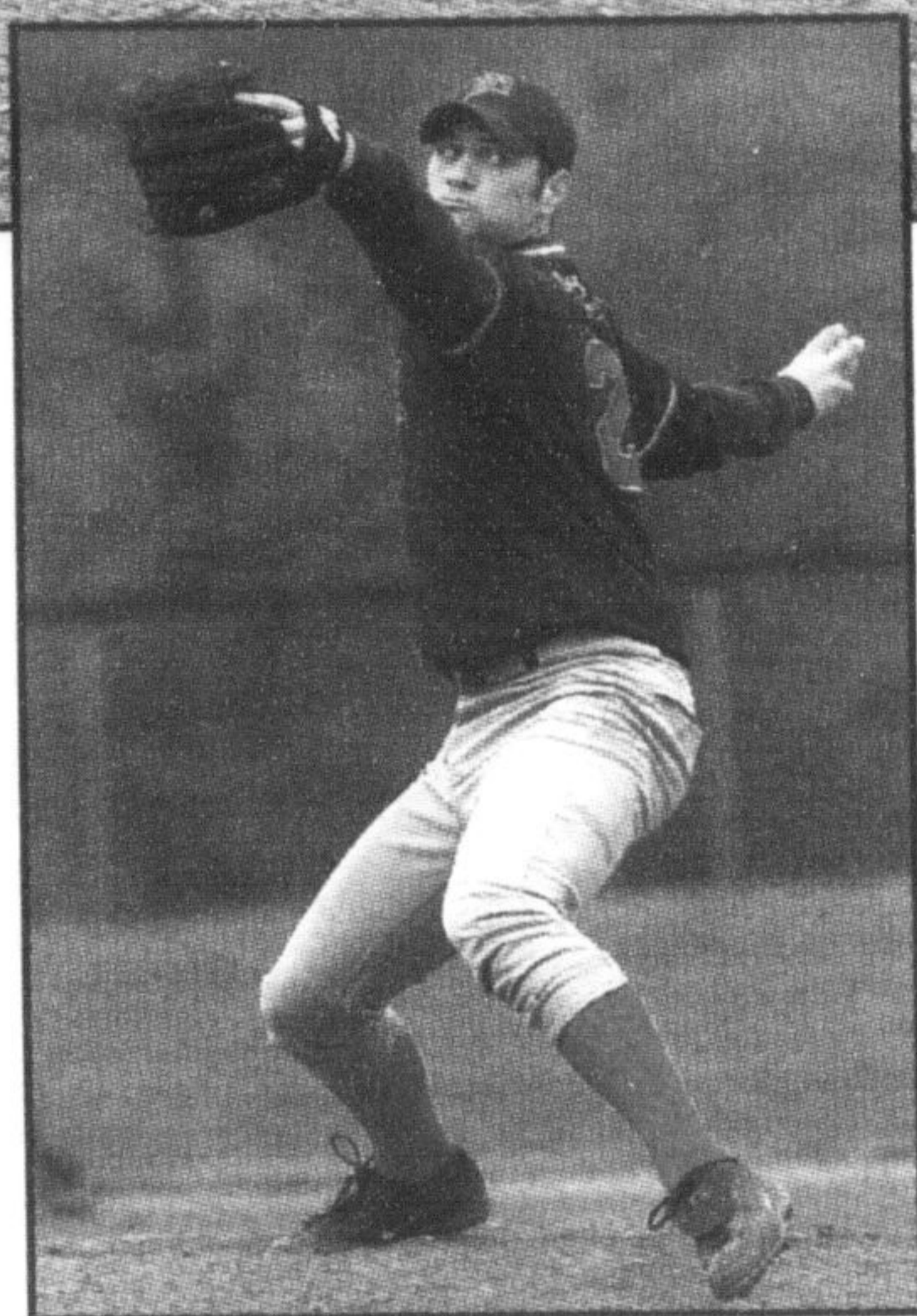
THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY MAY 14, 2002



Senior Red Sox Adam Finkbeiner (above and inset) begins his delivery in afternoon competition with Etobicoke while one of his teammates (at right) gets gunned down against Oakville in the morning. Milton dropped both halves of their season-opening double header at Brian Best Park Saturday. The local seniors are coming off one of their best seasons in recent memory and are looking to build on that with a host of new players.

Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE



Lack of offense costly for senior Sox on opening day

Milton leaves too many on base in double defeat

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Milton's senior baseball players spent so much time stranded Saturday that at times they must have felt like castaways on Gilligan's Island.

The Red Sox left close to two dozen runners on base during their season-opening double header at Brian Best Park. And that lack of finish met with unfavourable results for a team that's looking to build on last year's return to respectability.

In morning competition with Oakville, Milton had the tying and winning runs in scoring position but wound up losing 2-1. This disappointing climax overshadowed some rock-solid pitching by returnee Brent Kostal and newcomer Nathan Tami — who gave up a combined seven hits to stay within striking distance of their guests.

Ian Zettle — also a first-year Red Sox — scored the lone run. Milton delivered an error-free performance to start the day, but a rather quiet campaign at the plate proved too much to overcome.

The Red Sox held their own through much of their afternoon clash with traditionally powerful Etobicoke, but short-circuited down the stretch — due in large part to shaky pitching — and were dumped 9-4.

A lack of follow-through didn't help matters either. Milton left a dozen runners aboard and offered little plate pop after erasing a 3-0 deficit in the third inning.

Starter Adam Finkbeiner was somewhat effective early on, but none of his replacements — four in total — had much success in limited duty.

A controversial play at first base and a series of walks opened the door to Etobicoke's fierce finish, which featured half-a-dozen runs in the last inning.

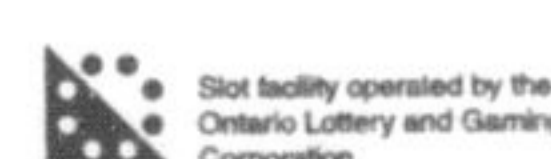
Second-year skipper George Moore has a lot of new players this season and will need to rediscover the chemistry that helped last year's team double its regular season win total and win the Ontario 'D' championship. Milton travels to Dundas Friday and then returns to Brian Best Saturday to play Burlington. Game time for the later is 1:30 p.m.

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