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SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY JUNE 14, 2002



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

A Georgetown runner makes it safely to second base and Bishop Reding's Nicole Gooding can't quite get to this infield chopper during Monday's semifinals at Lions Sport Park. BR was beat 9-1 by the now six-time regional champion Rebels.

Reding softballers get thumped in semifinals

Royals can't change history against regional champions

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

There was just no changing the course of history for Bishop Reding Monday afternoon at Lions Sport Park.

Try as they did to establish a new pecking order in girls softball play, the Royals were clearly out-gunned by the now six-time regional champion Georgetown Rebels — dropping their semifinal showdown 9-1.

Georgetown went on to reclaim its title with a 15-3 drubbing of Notre Dame Wednesday.

BR's only solace Monday was in staving off a mercy, something not all Georgetown opponents — as witnessed Wednesday — have been able to do.

"We made a few mistakes today that really cost us, but we hung in there," said head coach Bob Surge, who guided the local softballers to their best year in recent memory with a 6-1 regular season and trip to the final four. "We had a good season."

Georgetown broke a scoreless game in the third inning with a handful of runs on four hits and a couple of defensive miscues. While BR kept things respectable through the balance of the contest, there was never any real threat of a comeback — particularly with some reliable fielding by the visiting Rebels.

Reding offered some highlights in this department as well, including an amazing over the shoulder snag at second base by Nicole Gooding. Pitcher Casey Ferguson also came through with

three put-outs.

The Royals' lone run was scored in the fourth on a Natasha Tennant double to cash in Melissa Sheppard. Overall, BR managed just five hits against Rebel pitching duo Megan Baldwin and Jenn Lukas.

Gooding, Cassie Crevier and Alex Findley collected singles.

The Royals' 6-1 regular season — which put them atop Halton's Volpe Division — was due in large part to effective pitching by Ferguson and Amanda Robichaud.

The two combined to thrash Oakville's Iroquois Ridge Trailblazers 11-1 in the quarterfinals June 5. Timely extra-base hits by Crevier and Lerah Scott fueled the five-inning mercy.

BR put the game out of reach with a seven-run explosion in the third.

Meanwhile, both E.C. Drury and Milton District were eliminated in opening-round play June 3. Drury was edged 7-6 by the 'Ridge while MD had a short bench and was hammered by Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders 20-6.

Lightning cuts Jr. Sox' rally short

Only Mother Nature could stop the Junior Red Sox Tuesday. Trailing 8-5 with just one at-bat remaining in Brampton, COBA's tier two front-runners delivered another dramatic comeback — the second in just three days — to even things up.

Milton's rally might well have gone the distance had it not been for some late-night thunder and lightning which brought the game to a premature end.

Moments earlier dependable clean-up man Nate Perrott knotted the score with a three-run single to bring home pinch hitter Kevin Cooper, Jeff MacLeod and Reese Davies.

John Melito was left stranded at the plate when inclement weather cut things a little short. As of press time yesterday, it was still unclear whether the game would stand as a tie or if the final inning would be completed when the team's next square off in Brampton July 9.

While Glenn Turner has been quite pleased with his team's

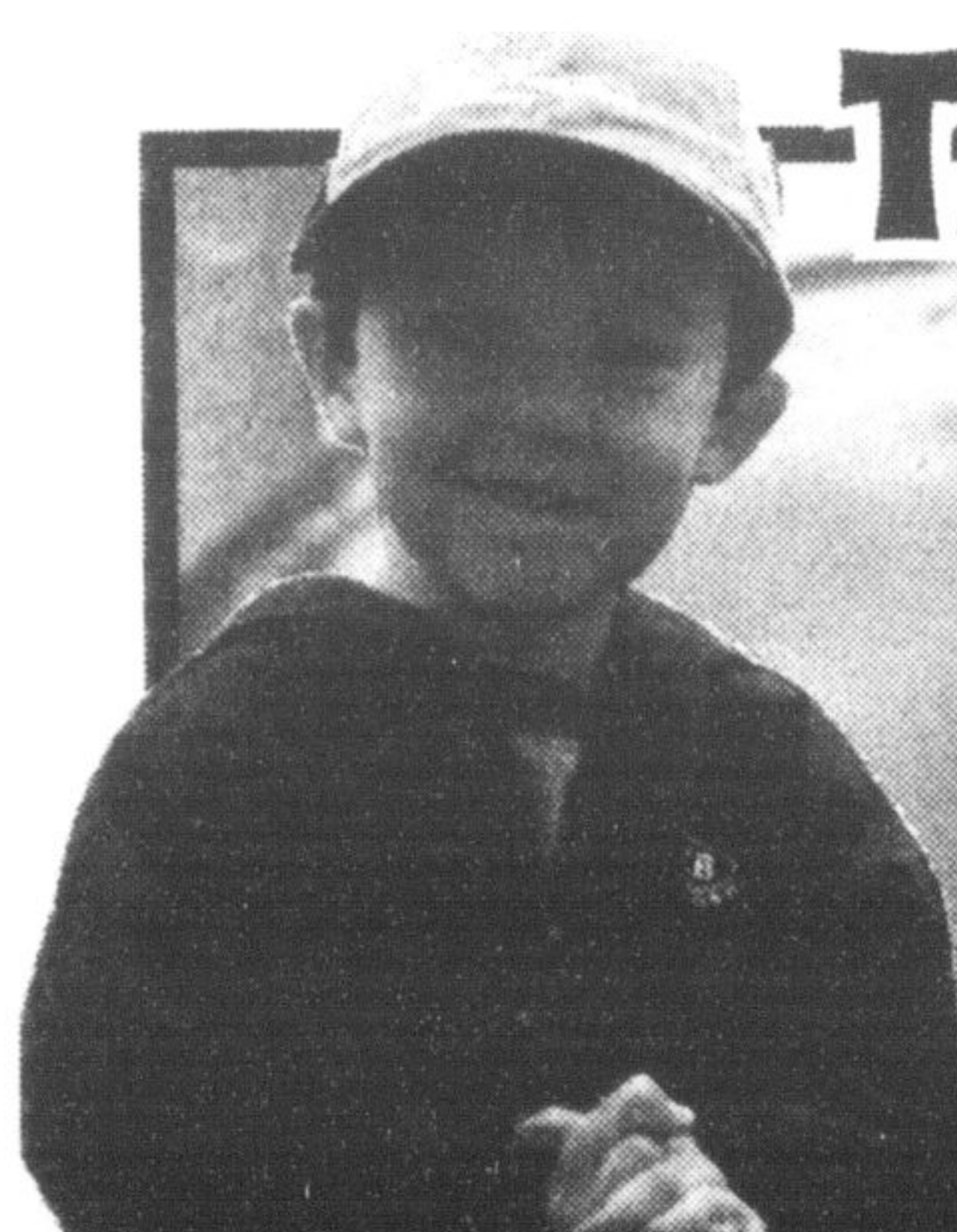
recent comeback efforts, he has to be equally encouraged with the number of contributions being delivered by the well-balanced Red Sox.

"You look at the score sheet this year and there's filled in diamonds and hits up and down the lineup," Milton's skipper said. "We've definitely got a lot of depth."

Another prime example of that was offered in the fifth inning when relief pitcher Matt Dickson — coming in without having seen a lot of work as of late — came in with straight strikeouts to bail starter Andrew Coe out of a bases-loaded jam.

Coe was steady earlier on, scattering half-a-dozen hits over four-and-a-third innings.

Offensively, Taylor Lawton stood out with a couple of homers — one of the inside-the-park variety — while also going downtown was MacLeod. Davies further fueled the locals with two hits and a pair of runs.

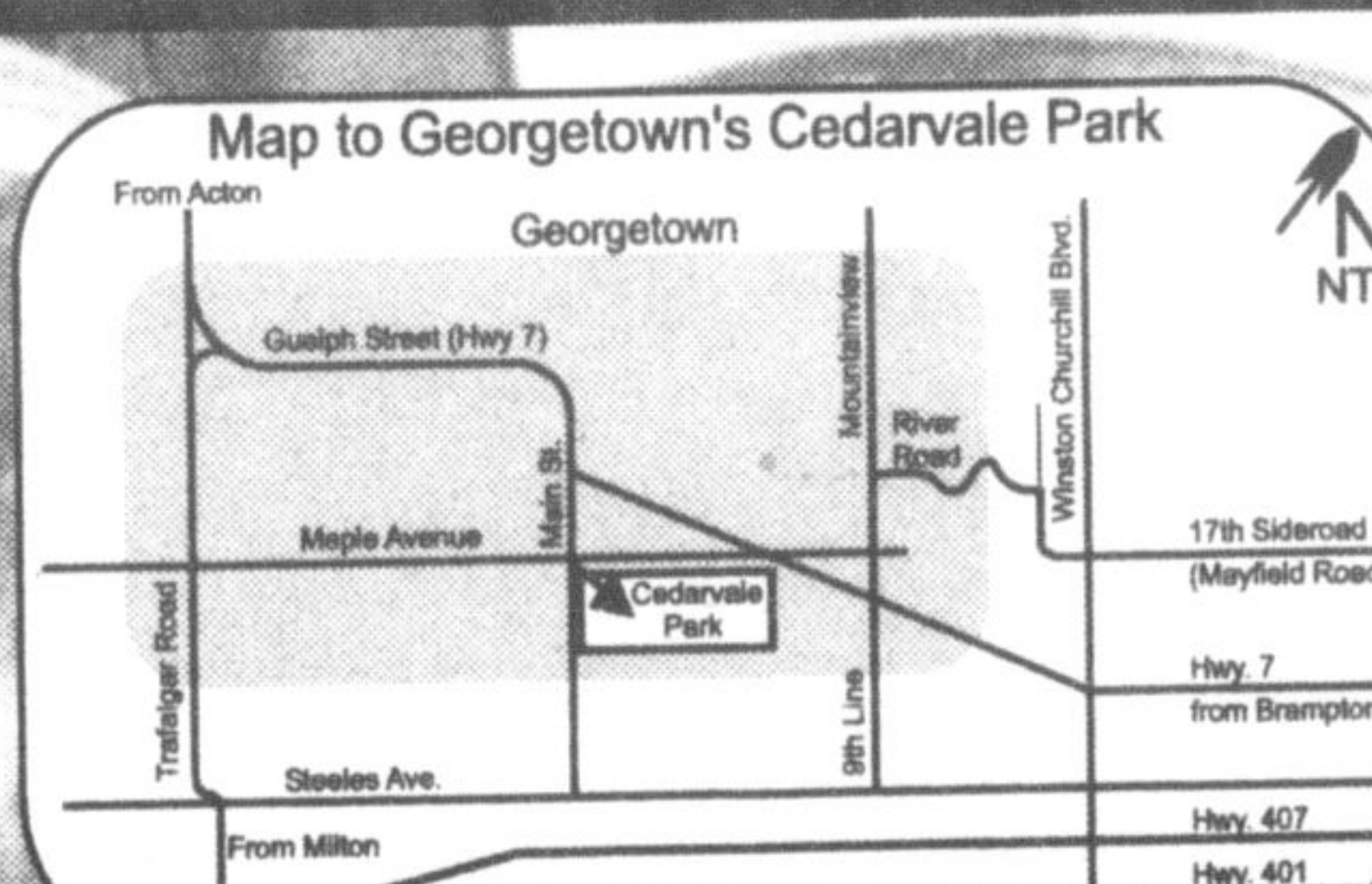


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