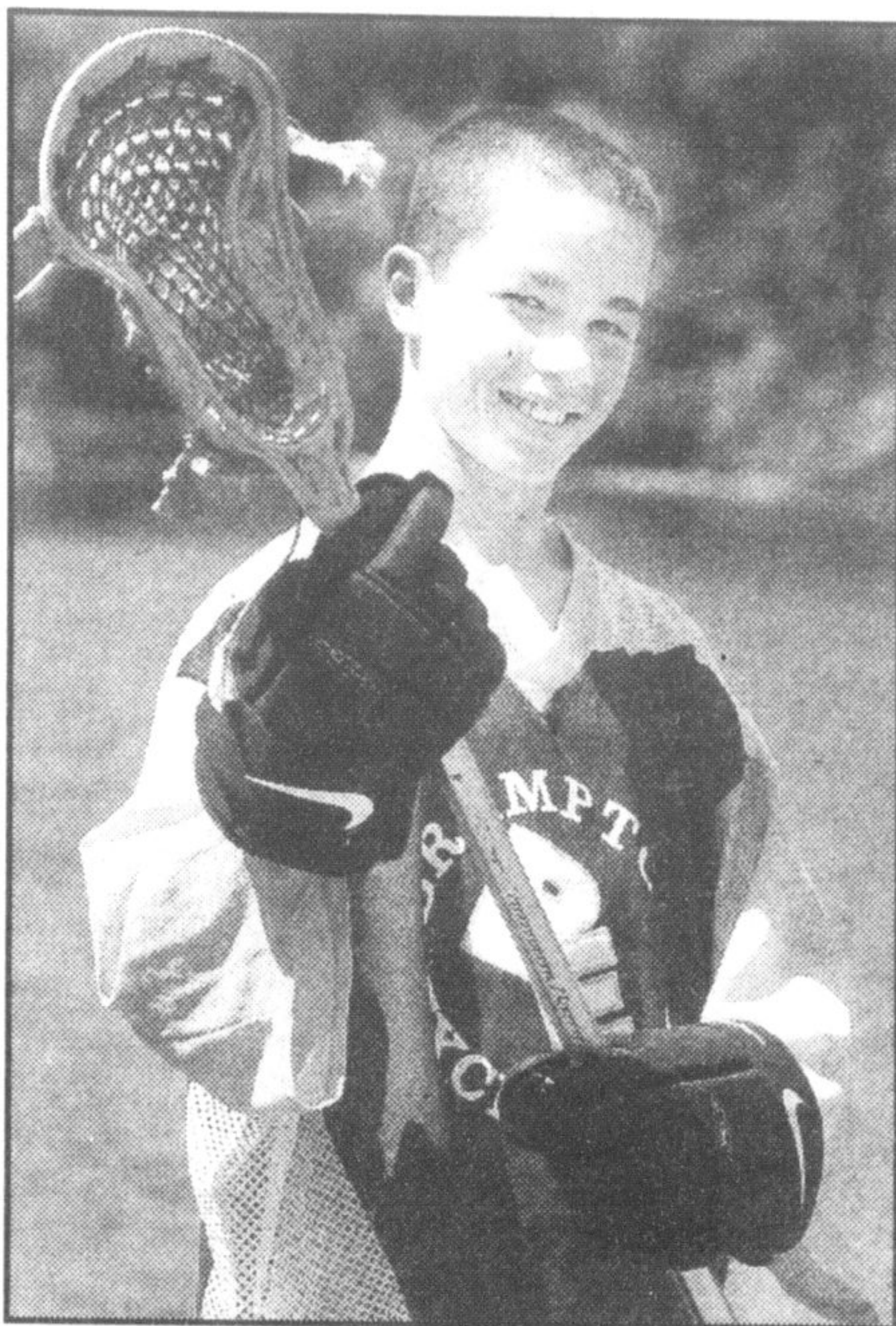


Hoy's Excelsiors falter at provincial showcase



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Campbellville's Brad Hoy had an overall successful season in lacrosse, but his Brampton team was rather lacklustre at this past weekend's provincial championships.

Lacrosse player's team gives disappointing effort at championship

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

Brad Hoy will eventually remember the 2002 lacrosse season as an overall success. But right now, the Campbellville 12-year-old is probably still reeling from the way it ended — quite brutally, to say the least.

His Brampton Excelsiors' peewee team was among the favourites to medal — or even win it all — at this past weekend's Ontario 'A' championships in Kitchener.

However, sub-par goaltending and defense put those hopes in the deep freeze. Brampton won just one of five round-robin games for an early exit at the six-team provincial showcase.

An Ontario all-star this season and top sniper with the Excelsiors, Brad was instrumental in their lone victory with a pair of goals and two assists to sink Niagara-on-the-Lake 7-3 Saturday.

He and his front-line counterparts were nearly as productive through the other games.

In fact Brad was held scoreless in back-to-back losses to Six Nations (7-5) and Orangeville (9-2) — something that was practically unheard of this year.

He drew assists in rounds one and two, but it wasn't enough as Brampton fell to heavily-favoured Whitby 6-3 and Halton Hills 9-7.

In a weekend of upsets, long-shot Orangeville went on to capture top honours while Six Nations took silver and Whitby — who hadn't lost a single game heading into the provincials — settled for the bronze.

Despite a disappointing finish, Brad was quite impressive this season as a two-points-per-game player with Brampton. He and his team's goaltender were named provincial all-stars just a few days before the tournament.

Milton Jr. A hockey club adds three gifted forwards

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

Milton's Jr. A hockey club will officially begin rebuilding for the new season this weekend — but three promising forwards have already been enlisted to help with construction.

All three recruits are coming off productive seasons — and three different levels — and look to boost the team's offensive punch.

One of the standouts at the annual OHA Referee Tournament, James Duhamel amassed 40 goals and 77 total points in 57 games last year with Mississauga's Mount Carmel, one of the top high school squads in Ontario.

The 19-year-old is expected to be an impressive presence up the middle, as is 18-year-old Jr. C Shamrock graduate Rob Ricci — who finished seventh in 2001/02 league scoring with 26 goals and 23 assists in 35 games.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Michigan native Lee Swallow brings both size and scoring to Milton. In 56 midget games last year, the 5'11", 186 lbs. right winger collected two dozen goals, 48 total points and 79 penalty minutes.

Among Milton's eligible returnees, only captain Dan Bognar and Dan Carcillo are not expected back as of right now.

Bognar recently accepted a scholarship to New York State's Canisius College — joining David Ovcjak and former teammate Rob Martin for 2002/03 play — while Carcillo will be moving on to the OHL's Sarnia Sting.

The local juniors — who this past spring acquired the services of head coach Mario Cicchillo and general manager David Brown from the defending league Brampton Capitals — will begin their training camp Sunday.

They begin exhibition play August 23 at home against the Collingwood Blues. Milton has changed its alternate home game days from Tuesday nights to Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. this season in an effort to make things more accessible to both local families and youngsters.

The team's first Sunday game will also double as its 2002/03 home opener against the Bramalea Blues September 15.

Milton has also moved its Friday night home games a half-hour earlier, from 8 to 7:30 p.m.

Northern Harmony reclaims two-year-old pacing filly title

Northern Harmony reclaimed the two-year-old pacing filly crown with a stunning track and Ontario Sires Stakes record-breaking performance at Flamboro Downs Friday night.

The Run The Table daughter and regular driver Randy Waples fired off the wings from post five and skirmished briefly at the front with The Patriot before dropping onto the rail in the third spot. The duo watched patiently as Keith Oliver rolled The Patriot through brisk fractions of :27.1, :56.4 and 1:25.2 with Please Me Please pressing the pace from the outside.

As the fillies turned for home, The Patriot was still on top by one length, but Waples was reaching for the turbo button. Storming down the stretch, Northern Harmony reeled in The Patriot and darted under the wire two lengths ahead in a new track and OSS best of 1:54.4 — taking three-fifths of a second off the great Odies Fame's 1998 mark.

The win was the second Gold Final victory for Northern Harmony, who's owned by Gerrie Tucker of Montreal, Sampson Street Stables of Old Forge, Pennsylvania, Don Bray of Newcastle and Angelo Dinardo of Etobicoke.

Hagersville resident Bill Robinson trains the gifted filly, who has only been bested once since her June 25 racing debut. In seven starts, she has posted six wins and banked a total of \$225,310.

The Patriot — owned by Campbellville's Glengate



Hoof Beat

with SANDRA SNYDER

Farms and Suvretta Stables of Toronto — stayed game for second and Tribute To Heroes was another three lengths back for third. Northern Harmony and The Patriot also sit in first and second position in the Super Final standings with 250 and 212 points respectively, and have so dominated the two-year-old pacing filly division that their next closest competitor — Town Jiffy — is 129 points behind them.

The freshman fillies won't make their next Ontario Sires Stakes start until September 20 at Woodbine Racetrack. However, many of them will compete in a series of lucrative stakes events at Woodbine and Mohawk Racetrack over the coming weeks, including the \$200,000 Robert Stewart, the \$750,000 She's A Great Lady, the \$272,000 Champlain and the \$315,000 Harvest. With the impressive resumes they've assembled in OSS action, the province's top fillies will be a force to be reckoned with against any American-breds brave enough to make the trip north.

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