



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2002



Locals ready to ride

Miltonian Bob Rowley will be part of the main attraction — the AA pro class — when Track 2000 hosts the Canadian BMX championships this weekend. He and fellow Miltonian Alex Brancier (inset) will be among those representing the local race circuit at the national showcase, which runs tomorrow and Sunday at the Britannia Road facility. For more details, see page 23.

Photos by
GRAHAM
PAINE

Bertoli lands tryout with AHL Admirals

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Scott Bertoli has tasted American Hockey League (AHL) competition before.

But an upcoming tryout with the Nashville Predators' top farm club may just provide the best opportunity for a much lengthier serving.

The Milton Ivy Leaguer turned semi pro sniper heads west later this month to attend the Milwaukee Admirals' camp.

As it happens, the AHL's Wisconsin-based team is now led by Peter Horachuck — who last year coached Bertoli's ECHL Trenton Titans.

Needless to say, this bodes well for the aspiring left winger.

"I think it's definitely a plus," said the Princeton University graduate, who's tried out for three other AHL clubs and seen spot duty about half-a-dozen times. "He (Horachuck) knows the type of player I am and what I can bring to the table if given the chance. This is probably my best opportunity (at making the AHL)."

Auditioning for his 2001/02 skipper has to be encouraging for Bertoli on two fronts. Not only did the Trenton mainstay finish among the top-25 league scorers, but his

leadership helped keep the team atop the standings during a season riddled with player changes.

Said Bertoli, "From his (Horachuck) perspective, he saw how just a handful of us were there and kept the team winning."

Cracking Milwaukee's lineup could very well provide the opportunity of playing with fellow Miltonian Darren (Mini)

Haydar — who'll likely be assigned to the Admirals if not awarded a forward spot on Nashville.

"That would be great — not so much for him but for me," remarked Bertoli, who amassed 25 goals and 46 assists in 69 games with last year's Titans.

Should full-time AHL duty not be in the cards this season, he'll return to Trenton, where he just inked a new one-year contract. Though preferring not to divulge specific terms of the deal, he described it as 'a considerable raise'.

Prior to this year, Bertoli had the distinction of being the first Miltonian in nearly a decade to attend an NHL camp — having earned an invite to last season's Washington Capitals tryouts where he faced off against all-world snipers Jaromir Jagr and Peter Bondra.

He heads to Milwaukee within the next two weeks. Haydar starts camp in Nashville today.

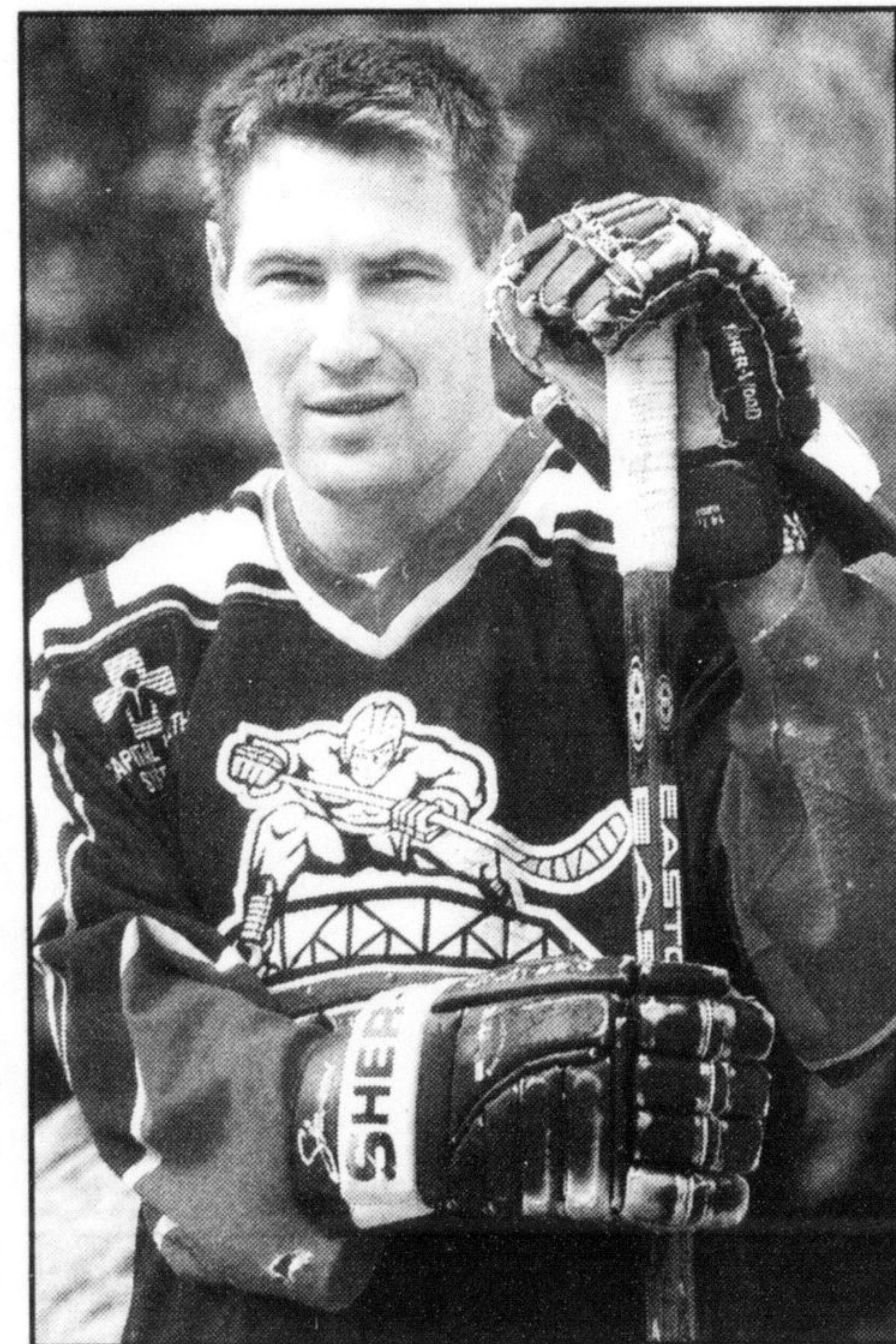


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Scott Bertoli aims to move up on the semi pro hockey scene with the AHL's Milwaukee Admirals.



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