

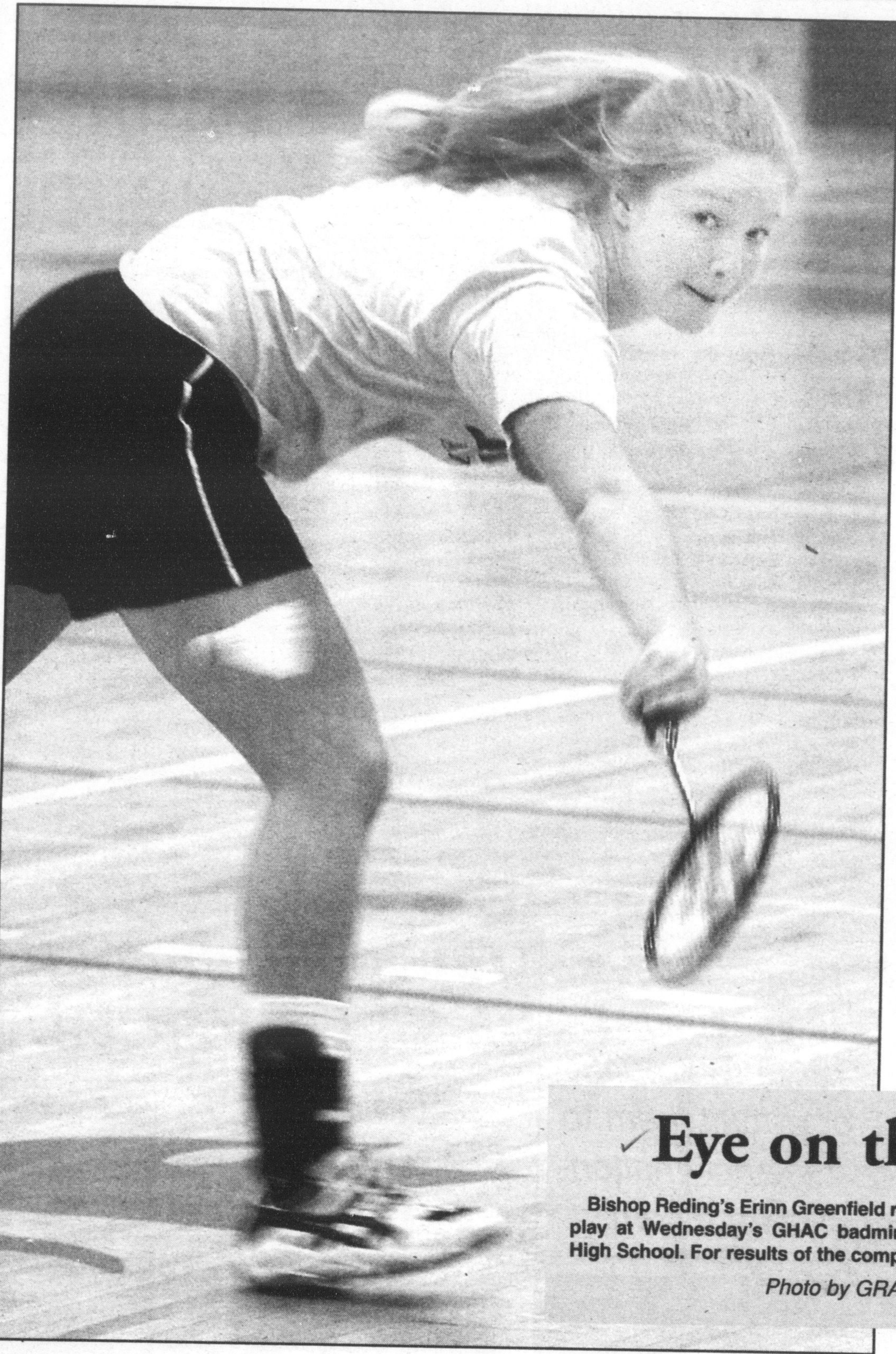


SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2003



✓ Eye on the birdie

Bishop Reding's Erinn Greenfield returns a shot during mixed doubles play at Wednesday's GHAC badminton championships at E.C. Drury High School. For results of the competition, see Tuesday's Champion.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Haydar's Admirals ousted by Houston

Early playoff exit unusual for Mini

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Darren (Mini) Haydar's first year of professional hockey included 88 games — the second most in a single season for the local star.

But for one used to reaching the NCAA's Frozen Four and playing in Jr. A league championships before that, the 2002/03 campaign ended far too soon.

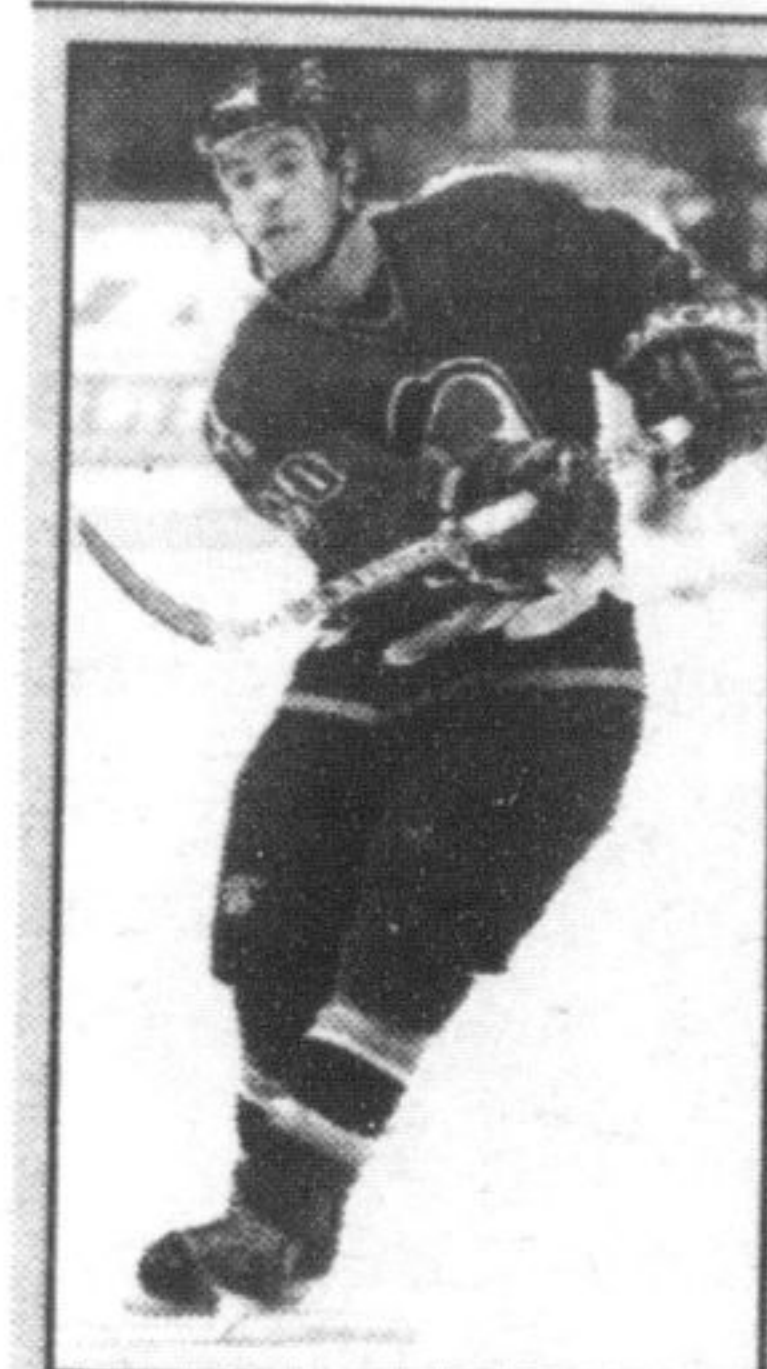
Haydar's AHL Milwaukee Admirals were ousted by the Houston Aeros in the Western Conference quarterfinals.

The second-round sweep, capped with Saturday's 3-2 loss at the Bradley Centre, marked the electrifying winger's quickest playoff exit in — well, ever.

"In a way it's been a long season, but we still should be playing," said Milton's NHL hopeful, who picked up one last assist in the series-clinching defeat — his fourth point in half-a-dozen playoff games. "We were capable of taking it a lot further, but it just wasn't in the cards."

While suggesting Milwaukee simply didn't get the right bounces in the first two outings against the Aeros, Haydar admits that his team was clearly outplayed at home Saturday.

And the AHL Rookie of the Year accepts



"You can never allow yourself to be satisfied, or you won't be playing for very long."

.....
DARREN HAYDAR

partial blame, stating that his own performance — along with the Admirals' collective effort — was sub-par in game three.

He added, "The first two games could have gone either way, but they (Houston) deserved to win that last one. They played a smarter game."

Saturday's elimination aside, Haydar has to be feeling pretty good about his smooth transition to the AHL.

Picking up where he left off at New Hampshire University, Milton's best known active player quickly established himself as a point-a-game contributor and finished top-five in overall league scoring with 29 goals and 46 assists in 75 games.

Along with getting the Rookie of the Year nod, he was selected to the all-star game and stood out with two goals and an assist. He also got a couple of one-game call-ups to Nashville.

One could hardly have faulted Haydar if he'd been caught up in his own success — especially when combined with the fact that he's now being paid to play a sport he's thrived at for so long.

But the always-dependable sniper continued to take his exploits in stride.

"You can never allow yourself to be satisfied, or you won't be playing for very long," stressed Haydar. "Overall I'm happy with how my season went and hopefully it's pushed me up a bit in the (Nashville) depth chart. But I've still got to go down and prove myself all over again."

Steve LeBlanc can be reached at sleblanc@haltonsearch.com.



MILTON MINOR HOCKEY

Annual General Meeting

DON'T MISS THE DEBUT OF OUR NEW UNIFORM!

Tuesday May 13/03 at 7:30 pm

**John Tonelli Arena,
Community Room**

**Come and find out what's been happening throughout
2002/2003 season**

ALSO

**Elections will be held at this time for new Board
members for the 2003/2004 season.**

**Several Executive & Director positions are open -
your help is needed**