

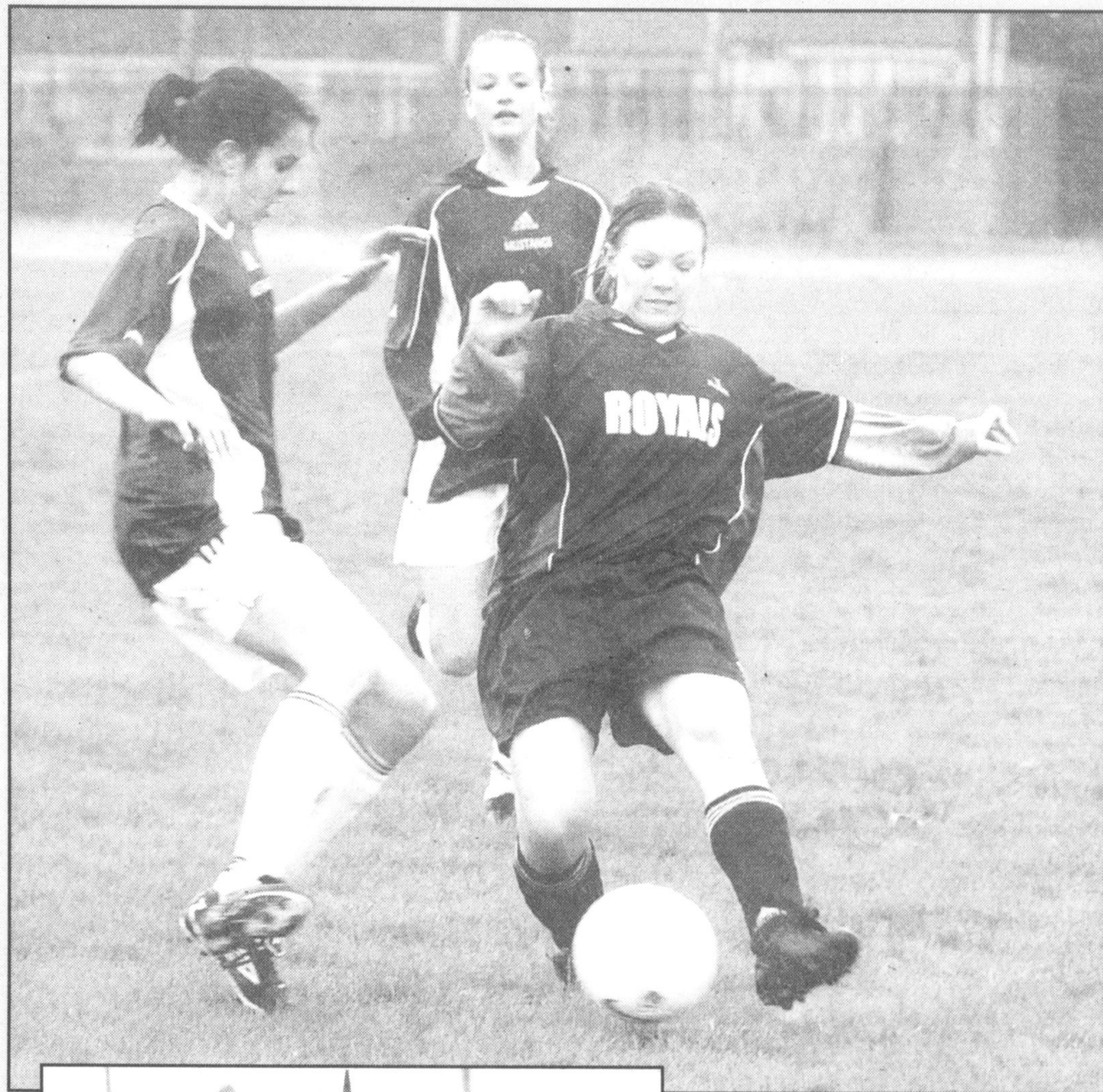


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FRIDAY MAY 9, 2003



Reid goes in first round to the 67's

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Like many major-junior hockey fans last Friday, Elgin Reid was glued to the television and watched as the Ottawa 67's edged Kitchener 3-2 in game one of the league finals.

The series-opening clash certainly held the Campbellville teenager's interest — overtime encounters always do.

But his excitement over Ottawa's sudden death victory would no doubt have been intensified had he been able to predict the immediate future.

That's because the very next day many of those same championship-contending 67's became his soon-to-be teammates — as Reid was Ottawa's first pick and the 19th overall in the 2003 OHL Priority Draft.

"I just can't put into words how happy I am," said the 16-year-old defenceman, the first Milton-area player in recent memory to be taken in the first round. "To go to a team like Ottawa makes it even better. Some guys were picked higher than me, but they went to teams that aren't very good. This is amazing."

Reid was due for some good fortune after a season that included injury, illness and the passing of his grandfather. Remarked the 6', 185 lbs. blueliner, "Yeah, it's been a tough year."

Persevering with the Jr. B Leamington Flyers, Ottawa's top pick posted two goals and 16 assists while amassing 93 penalty minutes — tempering those numbers with a defensive accountability that obviously impressed the 67's.

In fact there's little about Reid's game that isn't encouraging, at least according to his new team's initial analysis — which among other things describes him as a great passing defenceman who's rarely

caught out of position.

Those attributes — combined with the experience of playing against 19 and 20-year-old in the Jr. B ranks this past year — should serve the Ottawa hopeful well in his quest to reach junior hockey's highest rung.

"I'm really excited. I'm going to have to work really hard, but I think having played against the older guys in Leamington gives me an advantage," said Reid, who officially met with Ottawa personnel during game three in Kitchener Tuesday night.

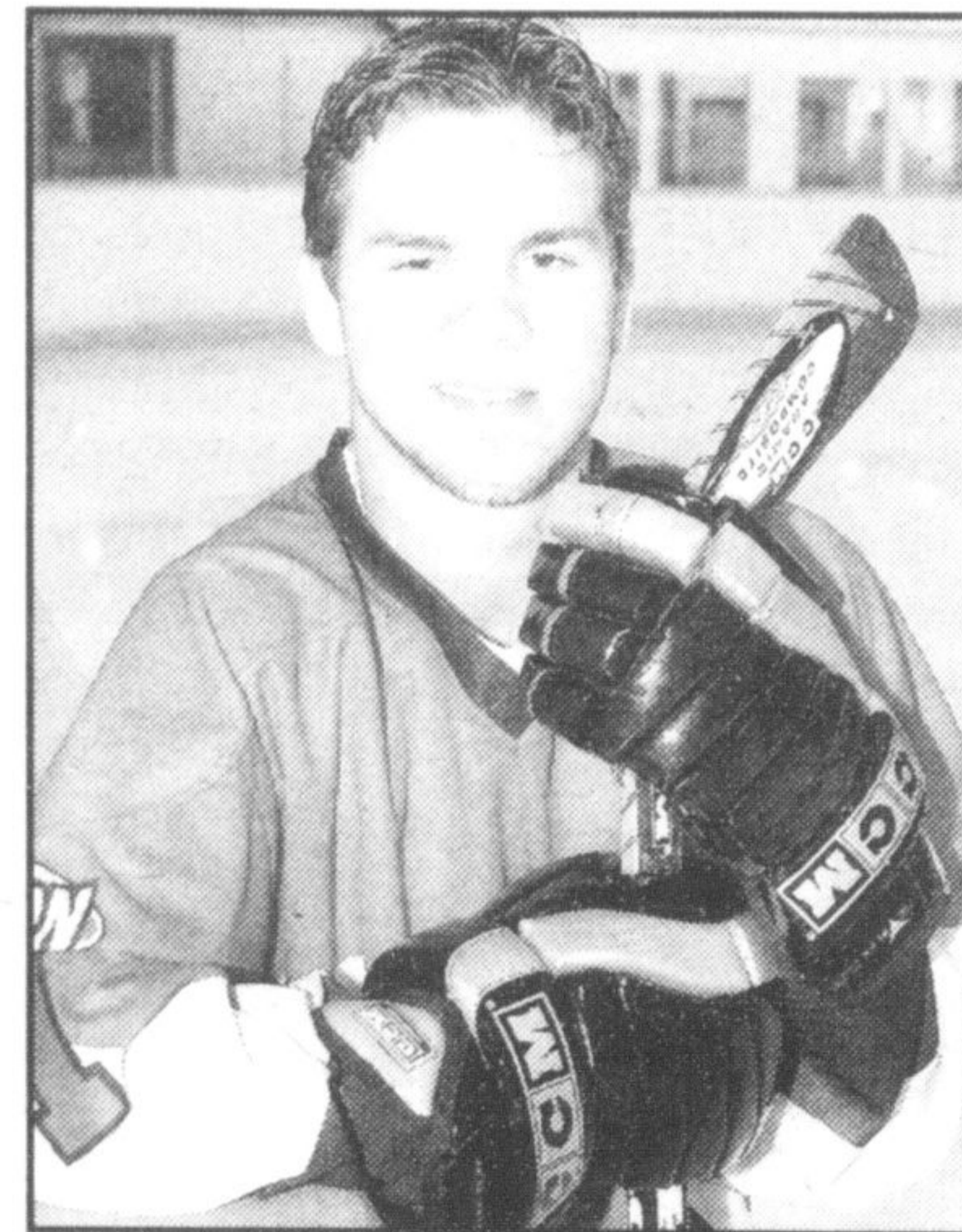
Meanwhile, Milton's other OHL draftees — Kevin Parker and Matt Chuchmach — were both taken by the Oshawa Generals.

That follows a seemingly-endless trend for the local forwards, who've played on the same team since they were novices — and been linemates for at least half of that time.

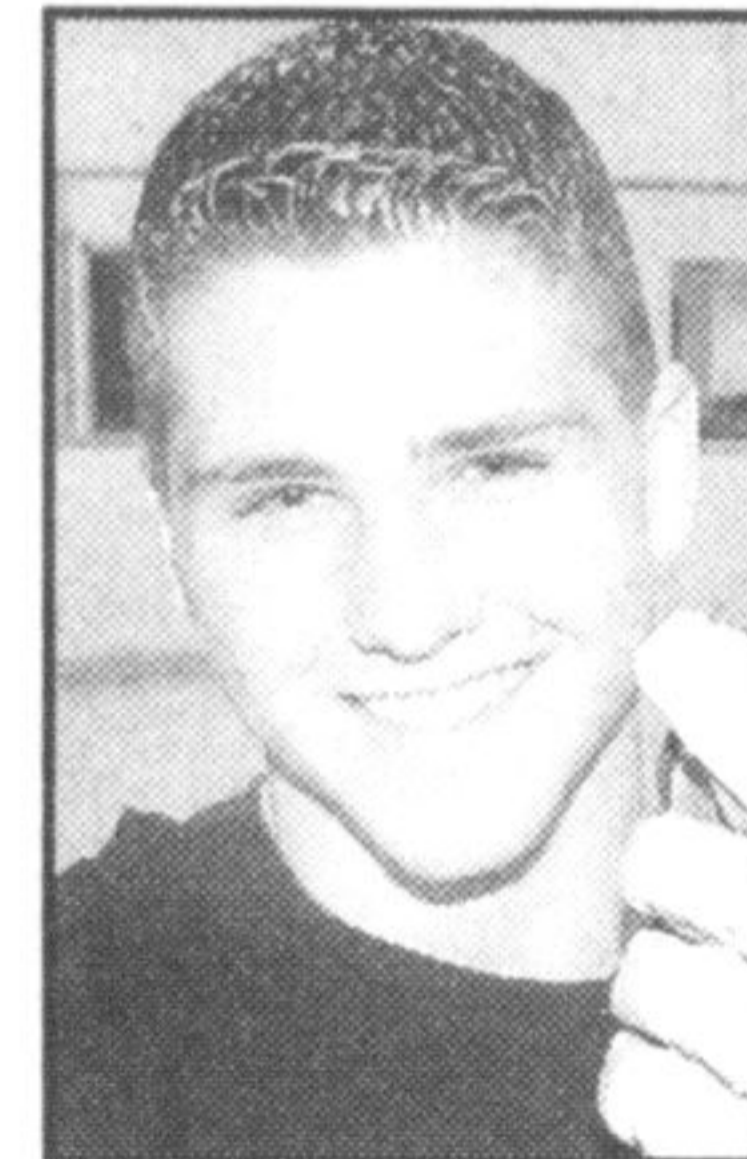
"I kind of had a feeling somebody'd take us both," said Chuchmach, a centreman selected in the 11th round.

Added fifth-round pick Parker, "I'm pretty excited. It feels great."

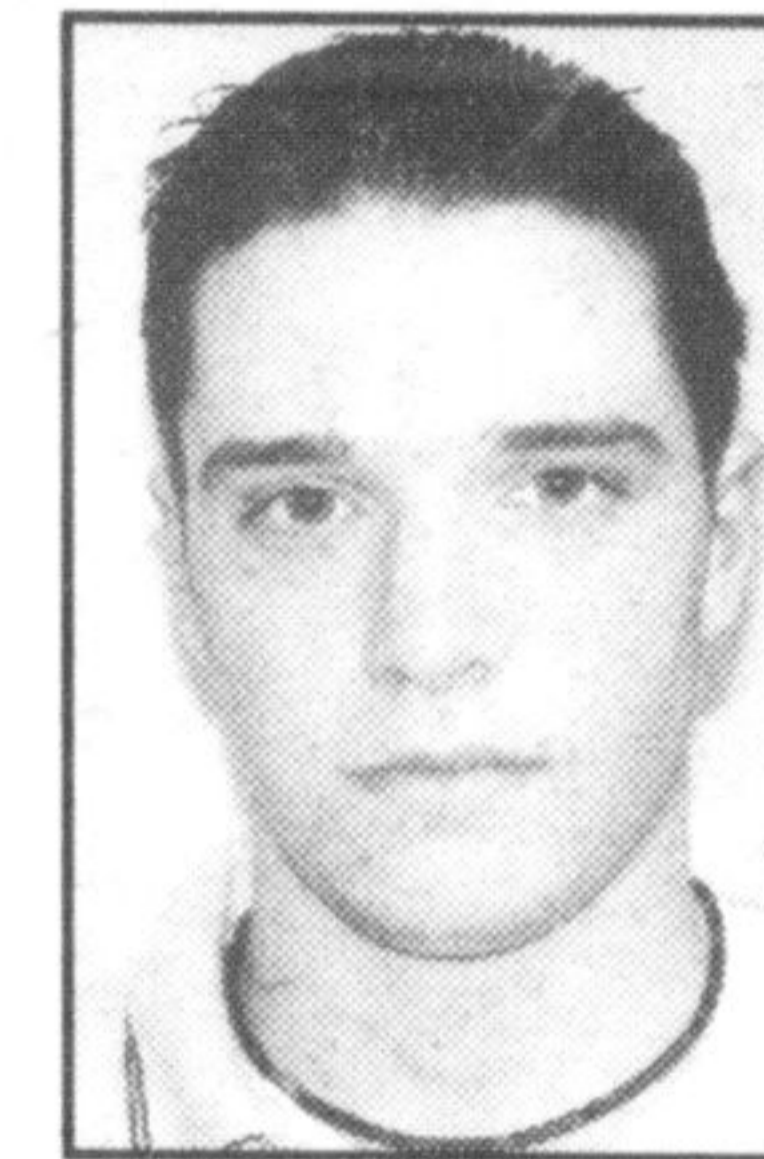
The Milton duo each averaged a point-a-game with the Halton Hurricanes' minor midgets this past season and helped lead them to the league



Elgin Reid



Kevin Parker



Matt Chuchmach

finals.

Parker, a left winger who cracked the top 100 OHL picks as the 97th, has also made it to round two of the OMHA Under-17 playdowns, while an ill-timed injury kept Chuchmach from competing at the first round of the camp. Both feel that like Reid, their path to the OHL may run through a Jr. B or Tier 2 Jr. A club next season.

"I'm probably not ready (for the OHL) this coming season, but hooking up with a Jr. B team like Elgin did would really help," said Chuchmach.

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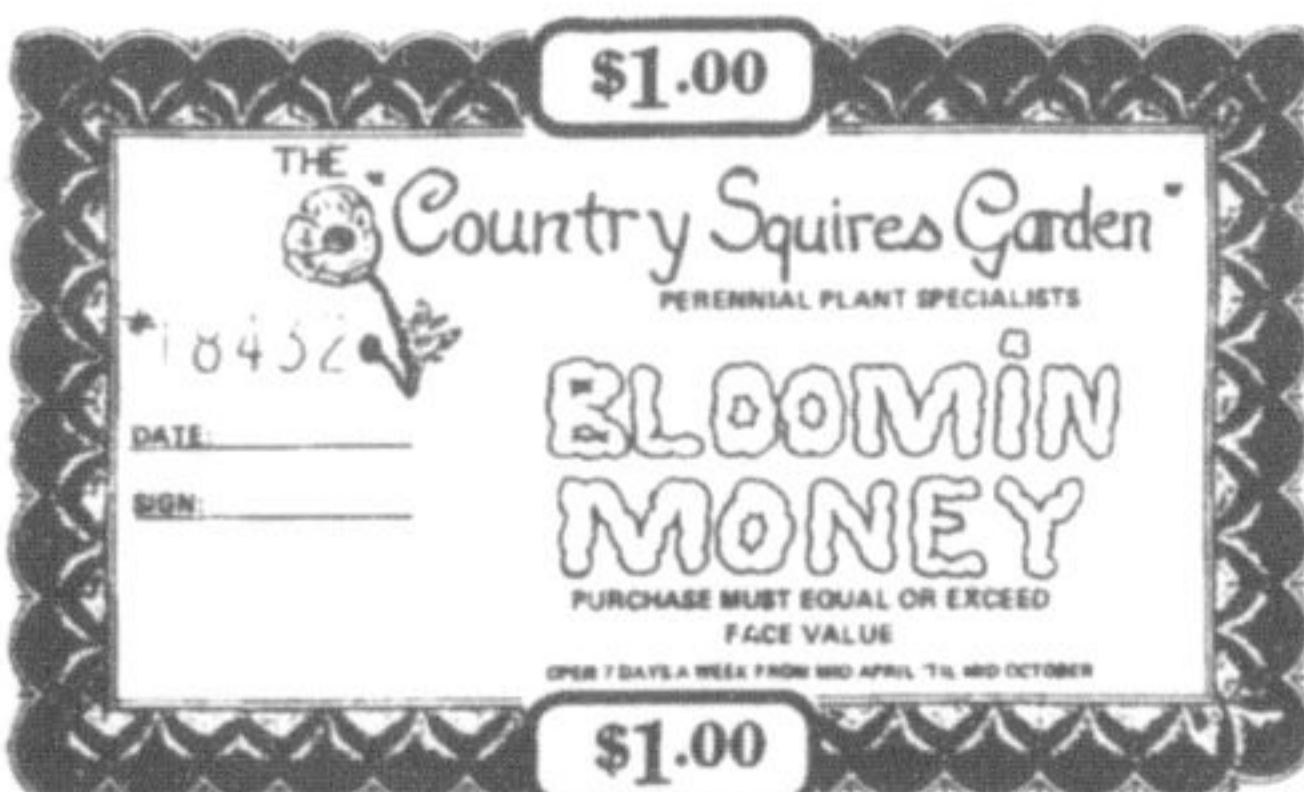
Shower soaks soccer seniors

A Bishop Reding Royals player (above) tries to negotiate by a Milton District opponent while (at left) three MD players take refuge under an umbrella, with the aid of a raincoat, during senior girls soccer action at Milton District High School Monday afternoon. Bishop Reding won the cross-town clash 1-0 and went on to beat KCC 4-0 Wednesday to improve to 3-0 on the season. The Royals have yet to be scored on this year.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

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