



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY JULY 22, 2003



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Hefty hardware haul

Local BMXers Alex Brancier (left) and Tim DaSilva show off the championship hardware they recently secured at the NBL Stars'N'Stripes National in Pittsburgh. Brancier took top honours in the 18-20 year-old novice class, while DaSilva did likewise among 17-year-old novices.

Taylor handily tames Lake Simcoe

On August 13, Gregg Taylor hopes to become the youngest male to ever cross Lake Ontario.

The 19-year-old swimmer's chances for success are looking awfully good right now — after decisively taming Lake Simcoe's 24.6-kilometre stretch on July 13.

The oldest grandchild of local swim instructor Carole Murray, Taylor completed the weekend trial for next month's 51-km challenge in a cool seven hours and 48 minutes.

A slightly quicker pace on August 13 would give him a legitimate shot at crossing Lake Ontario in about 14-and-a-half hours or less, which would give him the

amateur record.

But for that to happen, he'll likely need the same type of ideal conditions he enjoyed on Lake Simcoe — which was a pristine 17 to 21 degrees C and relatively calm on Sunday.

"It was amazing, a really good trial for the Lake Ontario swim," he remarked of the July 13 challenge.

"I'd say my confidence level is the same,



Gregg Taylor

if not higher, than it was when I started training."

Taylor is only the fourth person officially credited with crossing Lake Simcoe, and if successful August 13 will be just the 42nd Lake Ontario conqueror.

His 'Swim for Cure' bid is in memory of his great uncle, Clifford Miller, who died of lung cancer four years ago.

Taylor's family is about a third of the way toward its goal of raising \$15,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Anyone interested in sponsoring his efforts can do so at Carole Murray's Swim Academy, Bill Mathers Men's Wear, Hair Associates, Dr. Grant Woodall's Main Street office or at Scotia Bank.

Goertz helping fuel Spartan's OLA title drive

Jr. B star thriving with Warriors

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

And then there was one.

Once the Jr. B Mavericks' hopes for post-season play were essentially toast last month, four of their top performers were shipped off to playoff-bound clubs.

Now only native Miltonian Kyle Goertz remains in the hunt for provincial championship glory.

Following in the footsteps of former Maverick Kaegen Sherriff, Goertz was dealt to the Spartan Warriors and made an immediate impact with the St. Catharines-based team — amassing 11 points in the final four regular season games.

Since then the Mavericks' two-time season points leader has only bolstered his value, and is one of the chief reasons why Spartan looks poised to retain its Ontario championship.

"It's been really good here so far, the other guys have made it easy for me," noted the 17-year-old sharpshooter, whose

Warriors are now halfway toward a provincial title defense. "There were a few other players who came over from other teams as well, so it's not like I was the only one."

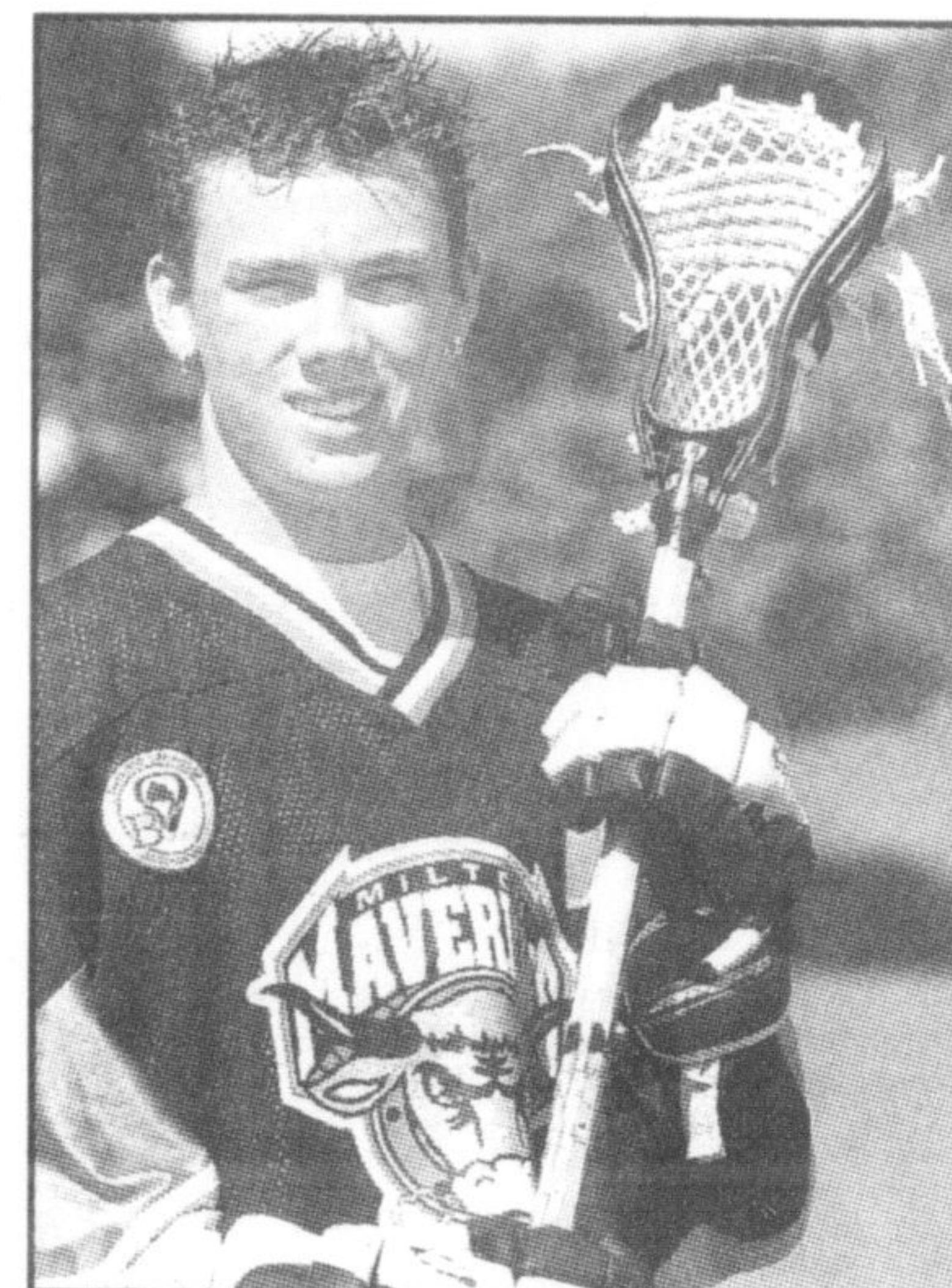
Sporting much of the same team that took silver at last year's Founders Cup, Spartan has thus far made a strong bid to return to the national showcase — eliminating the Windsor Fratmen in the minimum three games and before an equally-quick disposal of the Owen Sound Flying Dutchmen, who were finished off with Thursday's 17-8 victory in St. Catharines.

Goertz has kept pace with his new team's prowess every step of the way. Part of a rather intimidating front-line attack, he continued a potent playoff run with a goal and an assist in the second round clincher, which followed a three-goal outing in game-two's 9-1 rout. Overall, Milton's sniper has 21 points in six post-season contests and 97 points in total this season heading into this week's OLA semifinals.

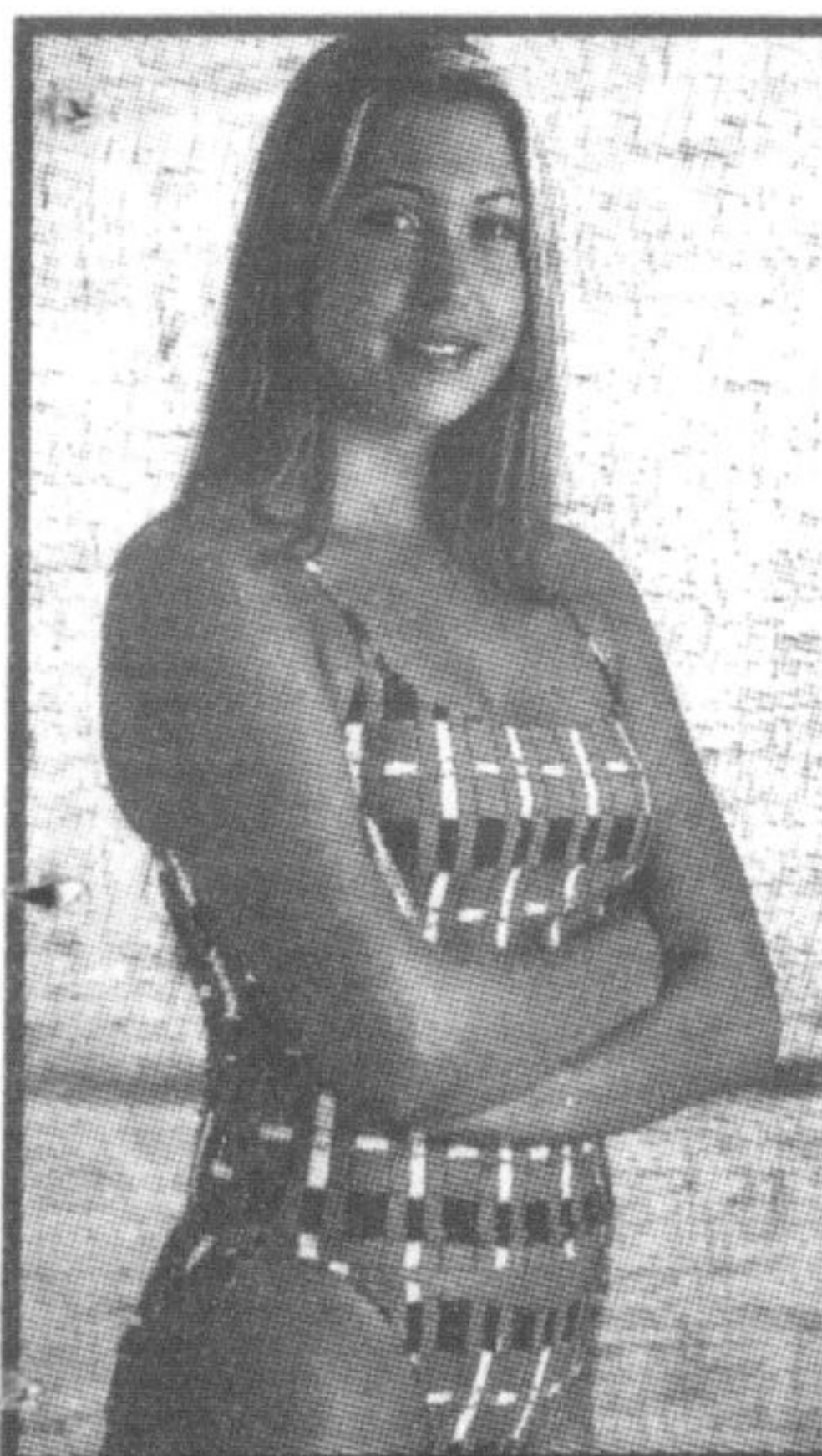
Remarked Goertz, "We can't look past any team, although I think we've got a pretty good chance of winning provincials and returning to the Founders (Cup). The top teams in the West are a little stronger, so I think the next round will determine who wins Ontario."

Spartan will now do battle with Six Nations, who knocked off Elora 9-7 Sunday evening in a fifth and deciding game. The Western Conference finals begin in St. Catharines Thursday.

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Kyle Goertz



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