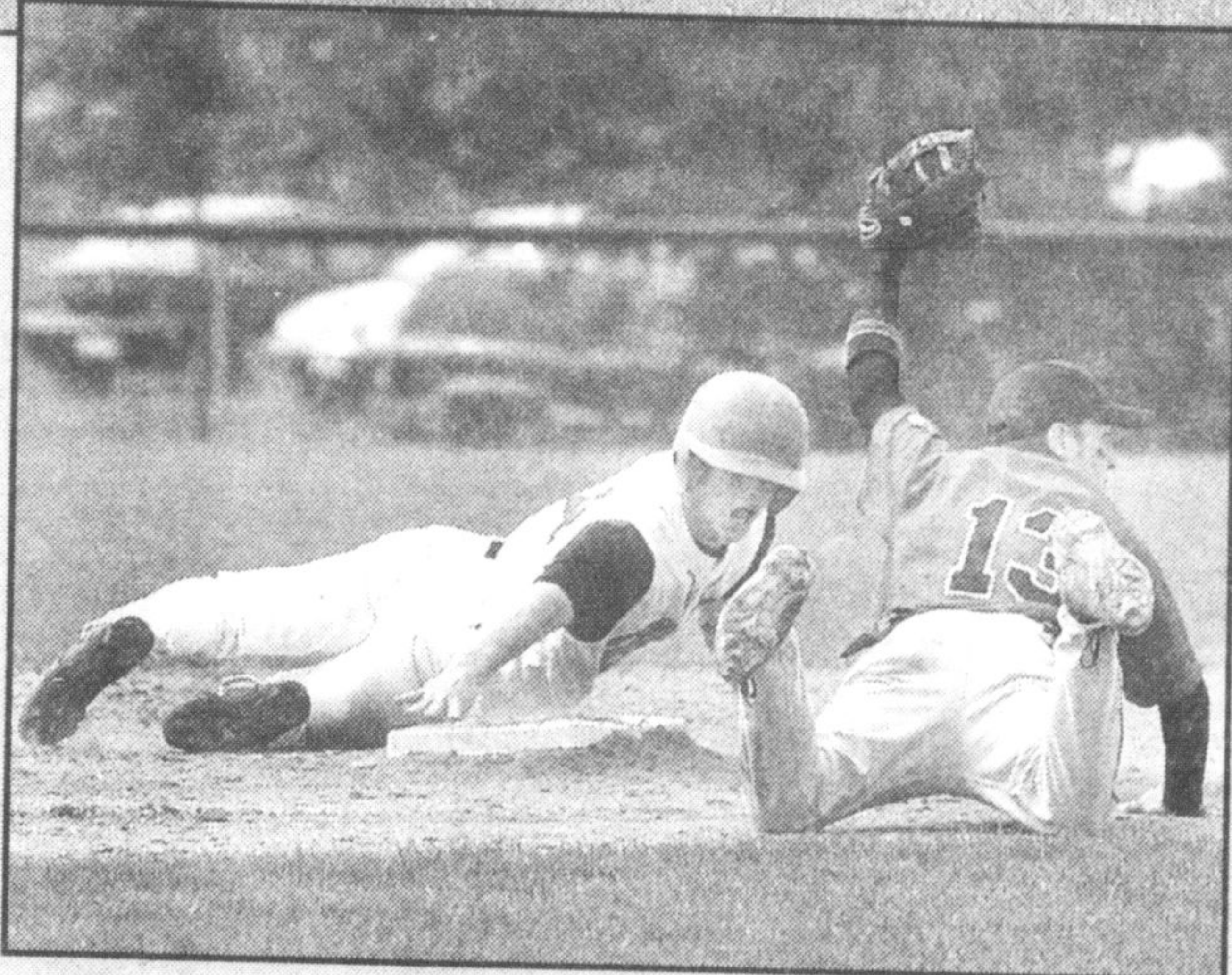
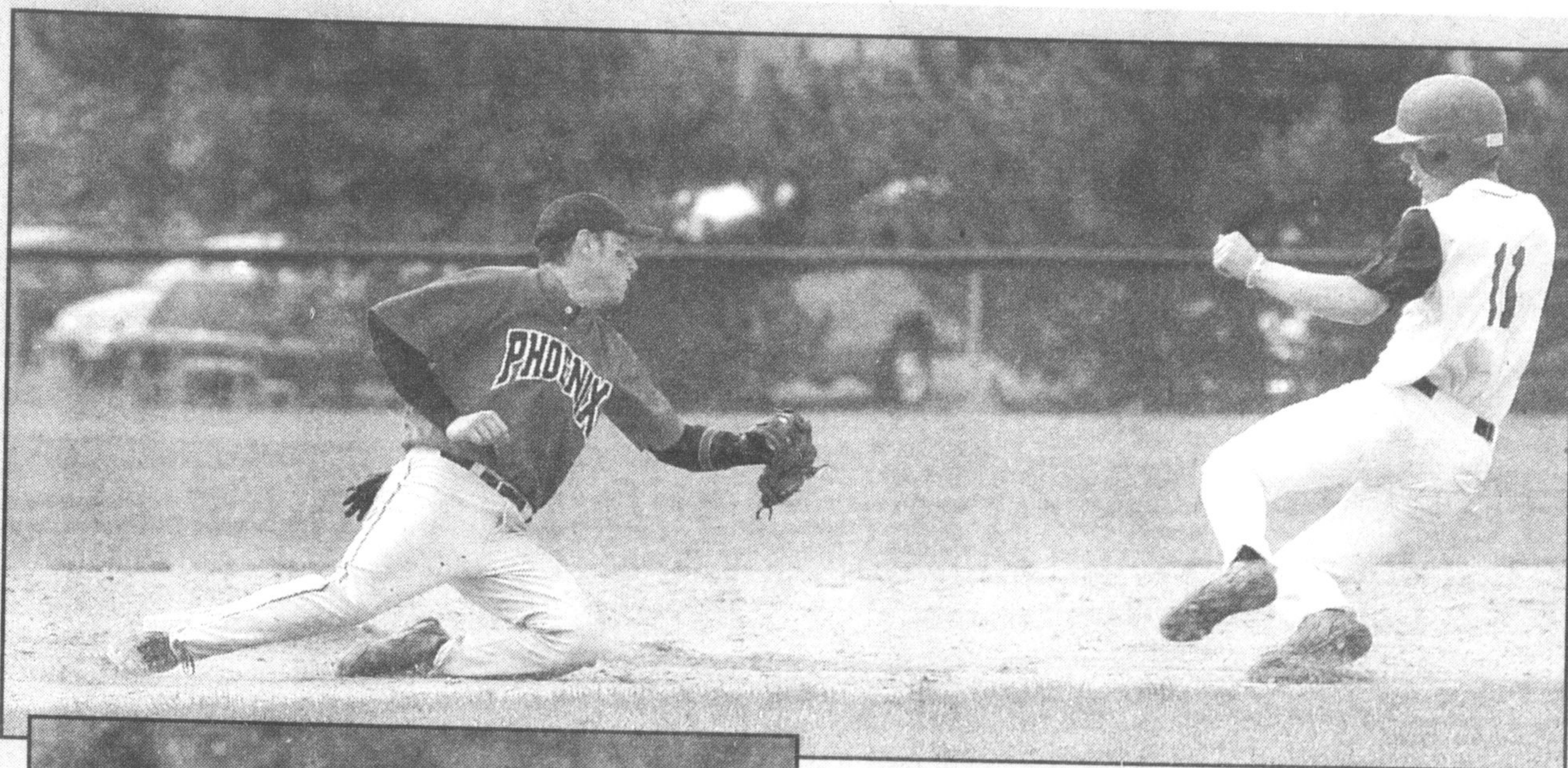




# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

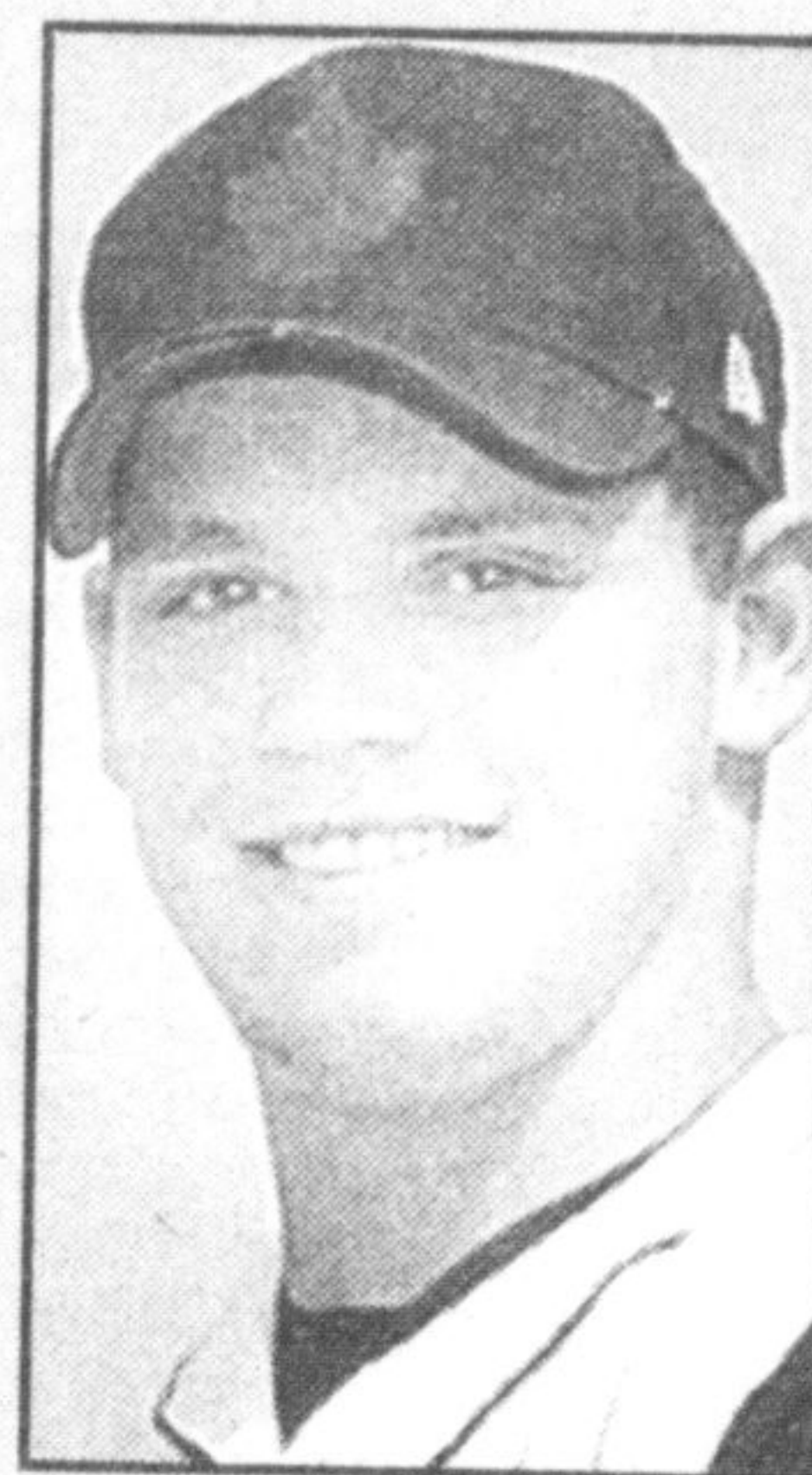
FRIDAY AUGUST 15, 2003



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

## He's in there!

Milton's Steve Spiers (above and left) beats a seemingly easy tag at second base during his Halton Athletic Club's second-round game against Richmond Hill at last weekend's Franklin Cup tournament. At right, fellow Miltonian Nick Mazzorato stood out both behind the plate and at bat over the weekend with a triumphant return from a shoulder injury. HAC lost to the Canadian Thunderbirds 6-2 in the finals.



## Jr. Sox ready for provincials

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

It's high-stakes time for the Junior Red Sox.

The defending league and provincial champs will look to retain both titles over the next seven days, starting with this weekend's repeat bid at the Ontario 'C' championships in Listowel.

Milton will then close out its roller-coaster season with a showdown against the Mississauga North Bengals Thursday night in Clarkson for the COBA crown.

The neighbouring rivals have already had two cracks at deciding the league championship, but were rained out both Sunday afternoon and Monday night.

Finalists in the four-team COBA playdowns, the Red Sox and Bengals each beat the other during the double-knockout showcase last weekend in Mississauga. Milton won the return engagement Sunday morning to stave off elimination and set up the winner-takes-all rubber match.

"Having won the second game (against Mississauga North), we definitely had the momentum going for us and were looking forward to playing Sunday afternoon — especially since it was for all the marbles," stressed manager Glenn Turner.

### Clutch performances

The Red Sox' 3-1 victory over Mississauga North Sunday morning was highlighted by a two-run homer from weekend standout Conan O'Brien and masterful pitching performance by Michael Volpe.

His dynamite mound work and some rock-solid defense helped overcome a rather quiet offensive outing by the league finalists, who managed just four hits overall. Jordan Jeans drove in the other run, belting out a third-inning single to score Kevin Cooper.

Milton was limited to a measly two hits in its initial encounter with the Bengals, which ended in a 6-0 loss Saturday morning. Cooper and Mike Grabauskas were relatively strong on the hill to keep things respectable, while O'Brien was the only contributor at the plate.

He'd go on to light up Guelph Saturday afternoon — going 3-for-4 with a triple and homer to amass seven RBI and lead the Red Sox to a 15-2 rout, which despite having must-win implications was anything but dramatic.

Grabauskas went the distance on the mound, while standing out offensively were Cooper, Ian Moszczak and Nate Perrott.

Milton would kick off the four-team tournament — a wide-open affair after league front-runner Brampton opted out due to a rash of injuries — with a 5-0 whitewash of Georgetown last Friday night. Moszczak tossed a three-hit gem to pick up the shutout.

The Red Sox will have both Jarrett Konkle and Jeff MacLeod back for the double-knockout provincial championships, which begin this afternoon against St. Catharines.

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

## Invictas edged out of division title

Oh so close.

The Halton Invictas 19-and-under football team — which this season included several local players — fell just a field goal short of finishing first in regular-season action this year.

And a single kick proved equally devastating once again in Wentworth Sunday evening, this time denying them division gold.

Deadlocked 17-17 with the Steel City Ironmen at the end of regulation, the Invictas surrendered a final three-pointer

and was eclipsed by their Halton-based adversaries — who booted a field goal at the tail-end of the fourth quarter to force overtime.

"It was a tough loss, but the guys played great," noted head coach Phil Fletcher.

Halton held the upper-hand twice in the dramatic seesaw showdown, thanks in large part to Todd Arruda and Jamie Johnson, each of whom delivered a quarterback sac to crush pivotal drives by the opposition.

Arruda went both ways in the division

finals and offensively came up with a few key carries, including a pair which helped set the stage for touchdown number two. He also opened up big holes for his offensive cohorts with some impressive blocking.

Meanwhile, offering topnotch special-teams play were Brandon Byers and Donny McKenna.

Jason Anathan, Brendon Anderson, Andrew Buckles, Phil Fontaine and Jason Landry made up the rest of the Invictas' Milton-area connection.

## COACHES REQUIRED



- All levels of House League and Select
- Rep Additional Entry Teams: Novice, Atom, Peewee & Bantam

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