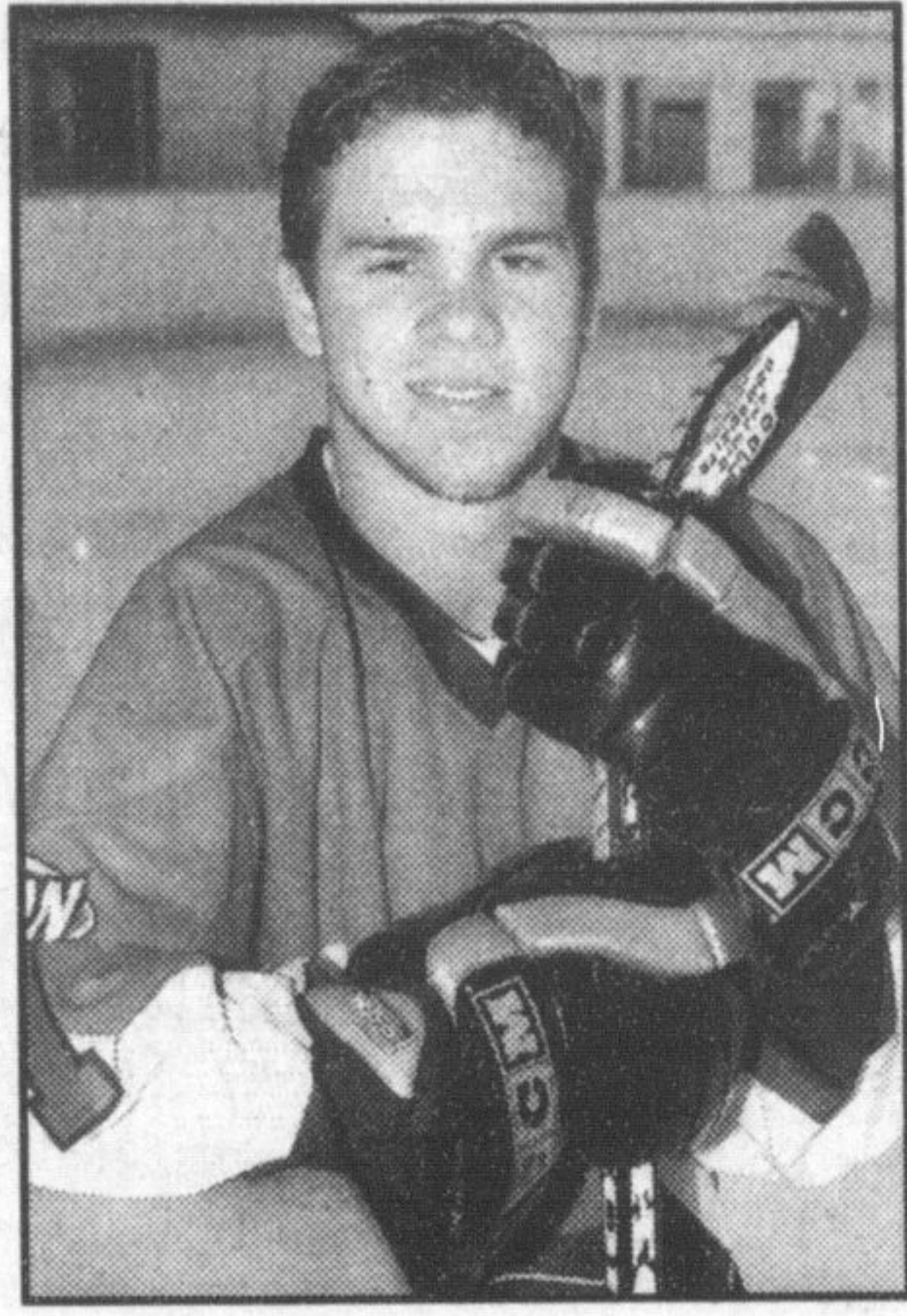


Reid ready for OHL challenge with perennial contender 67's

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion



Elgin Reid

Elgin Reid knew a one-year stopover in Jr. B would make for a much smoother transition to the OHL.

After just two games with the Ottawa 67's, Campbellville's 16-year-old defenceman no longer considers last season's stint in Leamington a good decision — but rather a vital one.

"I can't imagine how some of these guys make the jump from bantam," Ottawa's 2003 opening-round draft pick said following his first weekend of major-junior hockey. "It's so much faster and more physical here. Personally, playing with the older guys in Jr. B last year was pretty much necessary."

Even with that season-long tune-up in Leamington, Reid knows he's got a tough road ahead — or at least a long one. The 67's begin 2003/04 play with a five-game-in-nine-days road trip.

And a winless weekend for Ottawa and -4 showing for its newest blueliner was far from an ideal start. "Sunday certainly wasn't a great game for us," Reid admitted of a 6-4 loss at the hands of Sudbury, which followed a 3-3 stalemate with Sault Ste. Marie Friday night.

Nevertheless, Campbellville's OHL rookie was fairly pleased with his individual performance — noting that so far he's held his own physically at junior hockey's highest rung.

Sharing a similar view of his initial efforts is 67's head coach/general manager Brian Kilrea.

Remarked the OHL's winningest skipper, "We were looking for defencemen that could move the puck and Elgin fit into that category. We're happy with how he's worked at camp and expect him to be a quick learner and major part of our defence."

For that to happen, Reid says he'll have to heighten his on-ice vision in order to keep pace with the at times lightning-quick flow of major-junior hockey.

"Everything's just bang, bang, bang. There's very little time to react. You've got to have those instincts sharp."

The local defenceman knows full well that the pressures of breaking into the OHL are compounded in a place like Ottawa — where expectations are almost always sky-high.

And with about a dozen players back from a team that made it to the league finals last spring, this year's no exception.

"It's all business here. If you have a bad game, the media's all over you," said Reid, who's now sporting jersey #85 in honour of his grandfather, who passed away at that age last fall. "But most players want that kind of atmosphere because it makes you better."

His 67's continue their season-opening road trip tonight in London and then face St. Michaels Saturday afternoon and Brampton Sunday evening.

Ottawa's first home game is slated for October 3 against Mississauga.

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

Fax all of your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at (905) 878-4943, or e-mail them to miltoned@haltonsearch.com.

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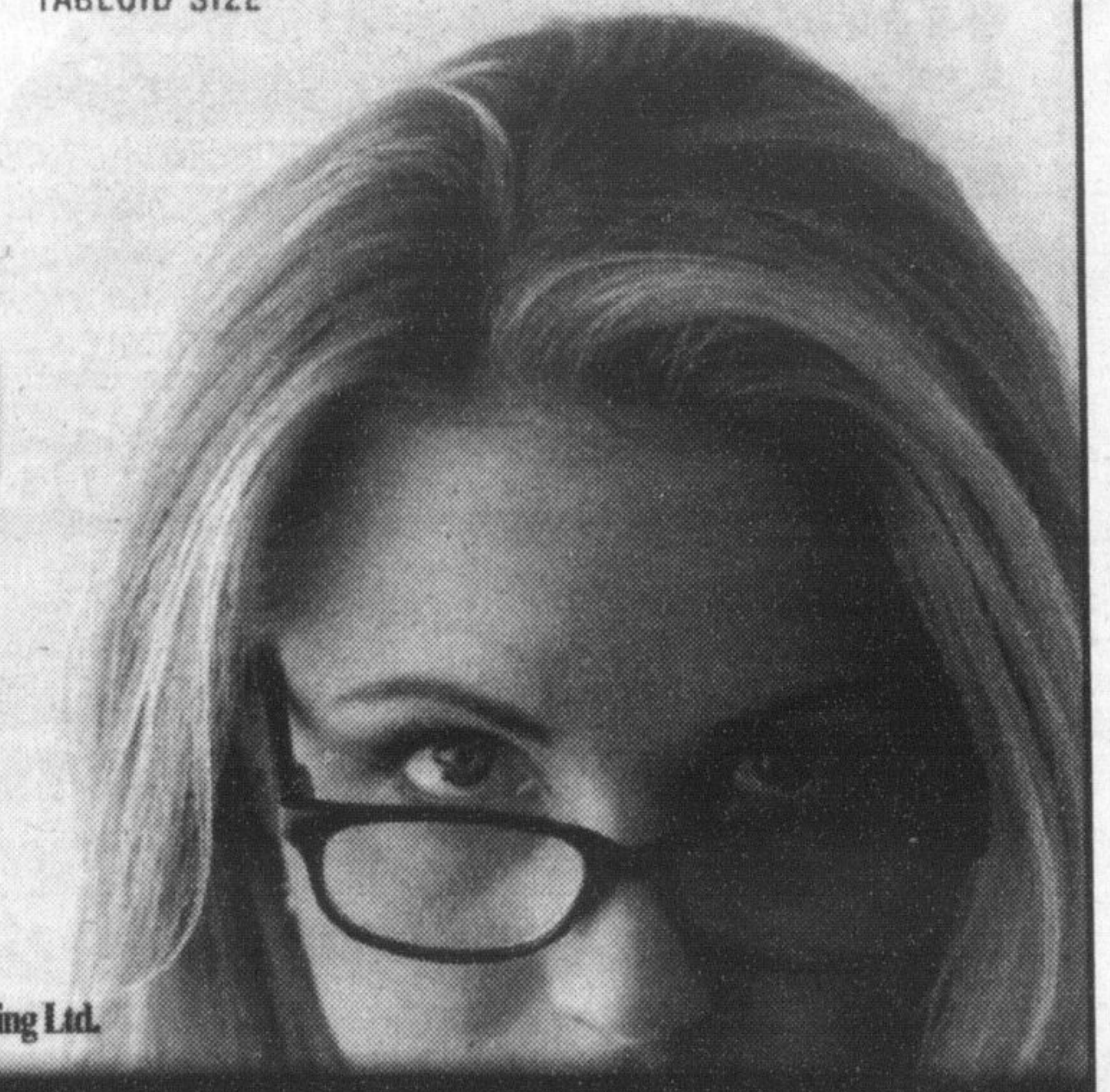
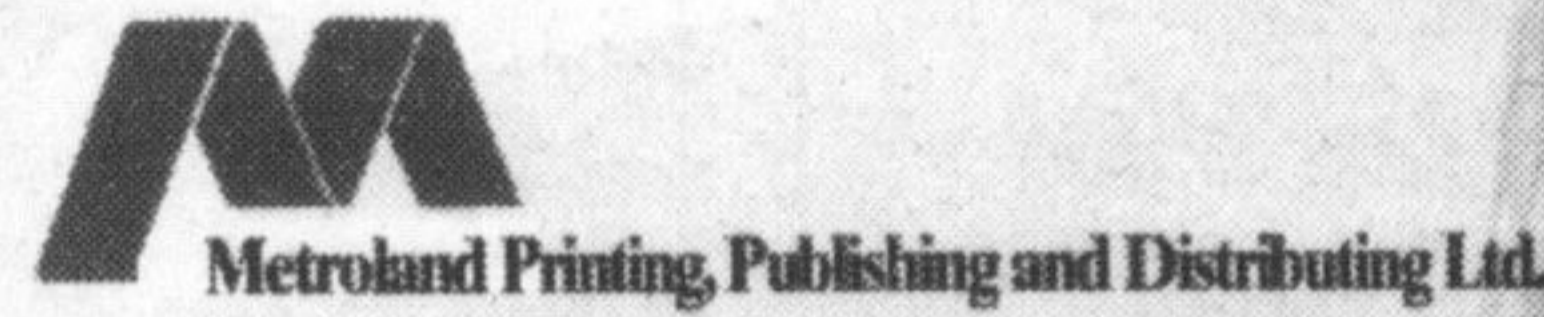
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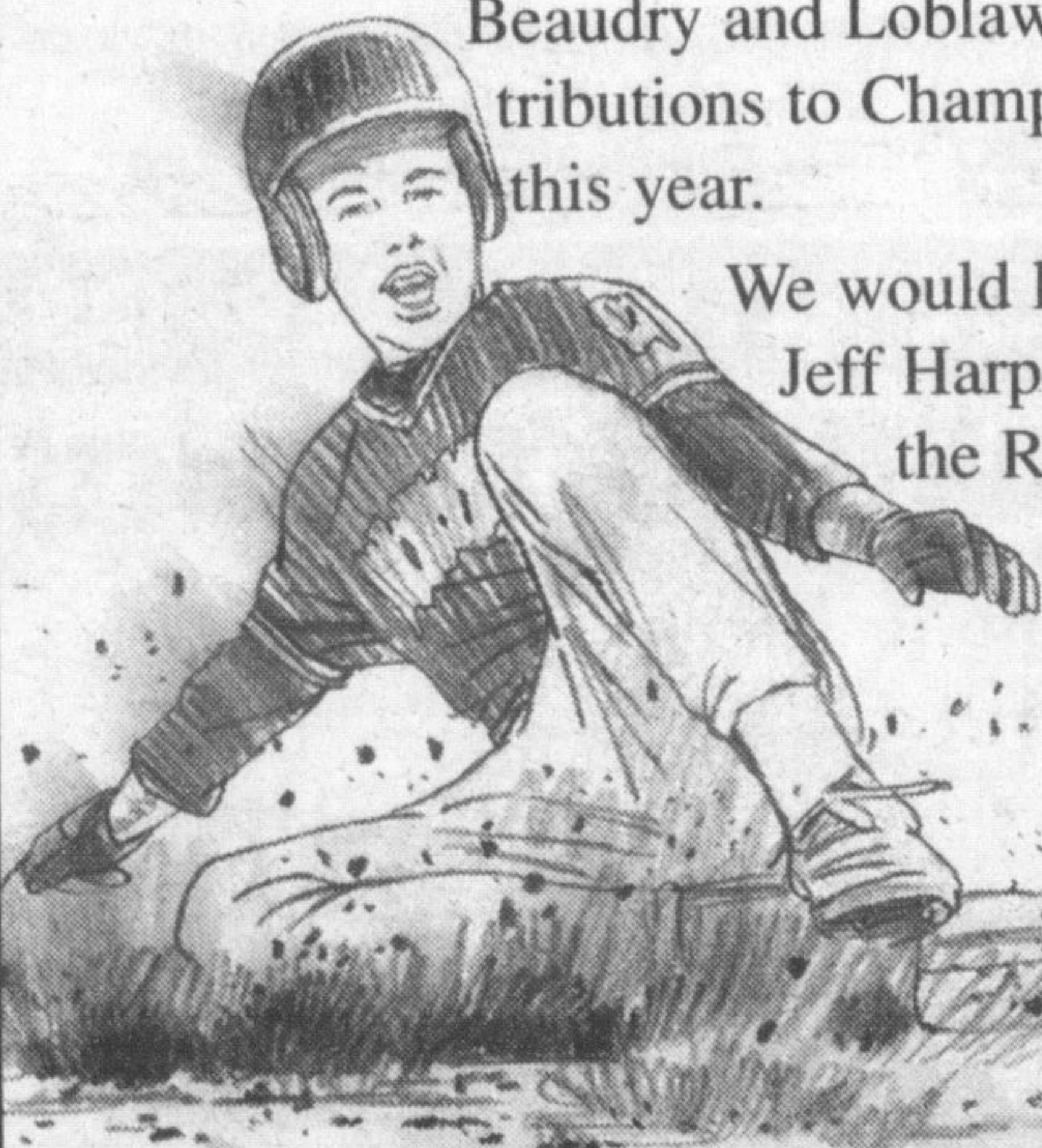
We the existing board would like to express a heartfelt thank-you to all the coaches, sponsors, parents and especially the youth for this past season.

It was a year that saw changes within the House league division. We had the Rookie, Mosquito, PeeWee, Bantam and the Midget divisions playing rural. We did this because other centres had only 1 team. We felt that it might provide more competition for the Milton House League teams. We will evaluate the rural situation each year. The House League Junior team expanded this year to 2 teams.

The Rep system saw an expansion this year. We had a Rookie team, a Minor and Major Mosquito team, a PeeWee team, a bantam team and a Junior Team.

We would like to thank Jeff Murdock, Joe Beaudry and Loblaw's for their contributions to Championship Day this year.

We would like to thank Jeff Harper for getting the Ridley guys to come out during



ing the winter to run clinics for the managers/coaches and youth.

We would like to thank Susan Hickey for volunteering her time to take the minutes of the monthly meetings. Even though Susan retired 2 years ago she still comes back to help. What dedication!

We are losing a very valuable member this year. Steve Wagemann has decided that his time has come. He has an opportunity to go to China during the upcoming year for work. He thought long and hard about this and unfortunately for Baseball we didn't win. We want to thank Steve for all his dedication, help and knowledge that he has provided Milton Minor Baseball over the many years.

We have had a few new faces come to the board meetings during the course of this year. Some have even expressed an interest in coming out again next year.

There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer some of their time to a very worthy cause. The more help we have, the smoother the organization runs.

Mark Saturday, October 4th, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. to attend the Annual General meeting at the Boyne Community Centre.

Watch the Champion during the 1st part of February for the Sports Weekend Registration for 2004 Milton Minor Baseball will have a booth to sign up the youth for house league and for umpiring.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support during the 2003 season.

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