

Sports

sleblanc@haltonsearch.com



Haydar re-signs with Nashville

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

There's nothing like a hefty pay hike to follow up a championship-rich season.

Such is the case for Darren Haydar, who earlier this month re-signed with the Nashville Predators — and by extension, their AHL affiliate Milwaukee Admirals.

Finalized July 9, the two-way contract calls for the 24-year-old Miltonian to earn \$75,000 US with Milwaukee next season — which represents a third more money than he made last year.

Should the NHL's 2004/05 campaign go ahead and Haydar make the jump to Nashville, his salary would climb to \$450,000.

The deal includes an option for 2005/06, during which the local right winger will either bank \$450,000 or join the free agent market.

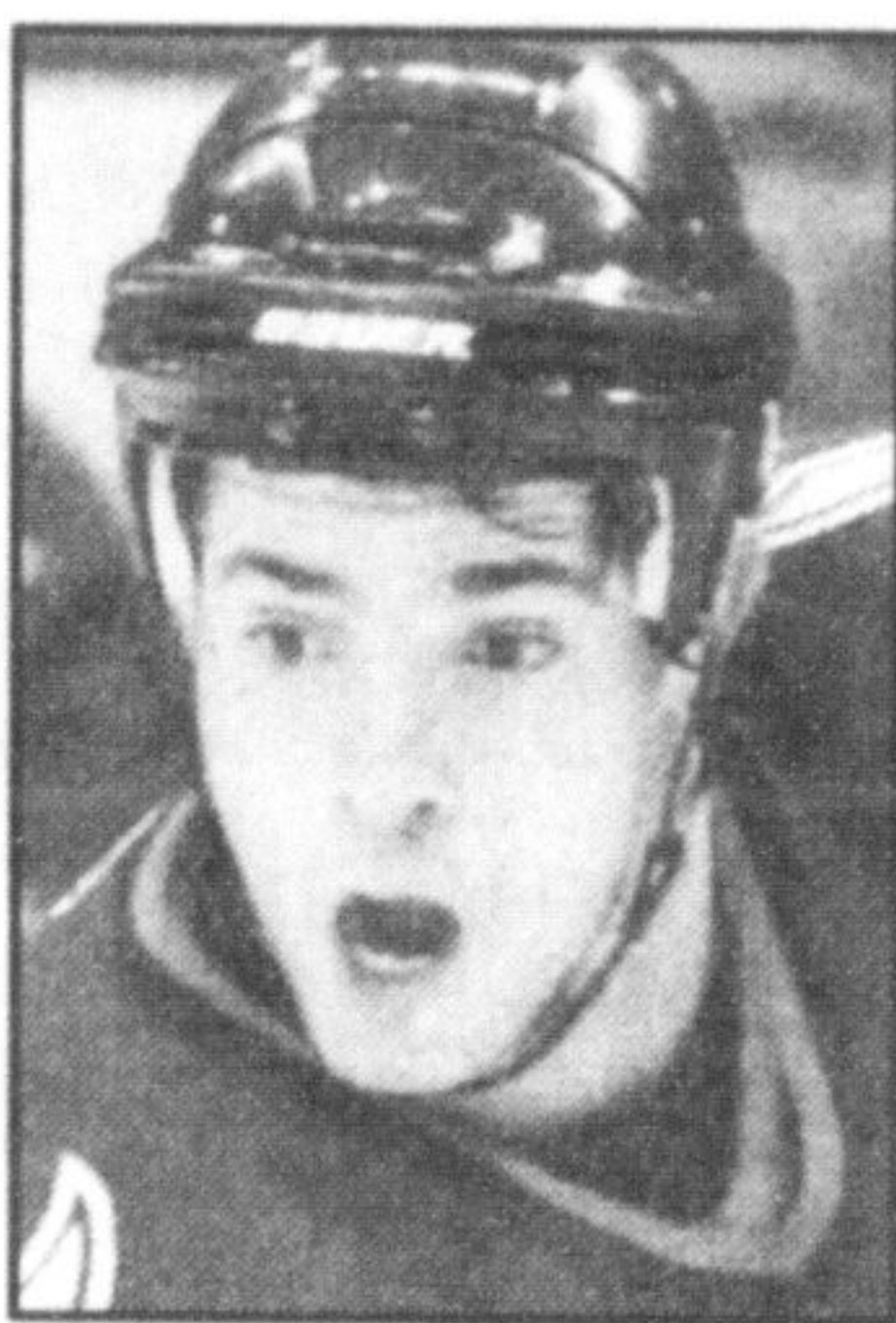
"It's definitely a win-win situation that benefits both parties," said Haydar, who fueled Milwaukee's Calder Cup victory drive with a

league-leading 26 playoff points. "If they're not willing to exercise the option two years from now, I'll have the chance to look at any other team."

An offer to play in Germany next season, he noted, likely contributed to a speedy contract renewal with the Predators.

Recognizing that this fall may be his greatest opportunity to graduate to Nashville — with the momentum of a successful high-stakes spring with Milwaukee — Haydar admits he has some concern about the potential NHL lockout ahead.

"My value is probably at its peak right now, so it is an issue. But it's not as big a worry for me as for the guys that were actually there (NHL) last year. Regardless of what happens I know I'll be playing next year."



Darren Haydar

Nashville assistant general Ray Shero said that Haydar is definitely one of the organization's up-and-comers that should get a much closer look at this fall.

"He's got so many intangibles and brings a lot to the table, including courage," remarked Shero Wednesday afternoon. "He was a targeted guy throughout the playoffs and often scored or made a play by going into those areas where you don't really want to go. That's courage."

"We'd love to see him make the NHL with Nashville versus somewhere else."

Nevertheless, Haydar has yet to crack the Predators' top five prospects list — at least according to most hockey publications — despite leading Milwaukee in scoring the last two seasons.

But Milton's NHL hopeful isn't preoccupied with rankings or speculation.

Said Haydar, "We'll just have to see how this coming year goes and whether or not I become a piece of their puzzle. If I don't they'll give me the chance to make it somewhere else."

Here's the pitch

Junior Red Sox southpaw Kevin Cooper delivers a pitch during game one of an afternoon doubleheader against Georgetown Sunday at Brian Best Park. Cooper went the distance on the mound to lead Milton to a 3-1 victory, while Conan O'Brien turned in a complete-game effort in the second contest to record a 2-0 win. The Red Sox wound up on the other end of a shutout two nights later in Mississauga, losing 4-0 to the Bengals. They're off to the Wallaceburg Tournament this weekend.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Titleist
Scobra
FootJoy

Clarke's Golf

www.clarkesgolf.com



Taylor Made
R7 Quad Driver
Right & Left Hand
\$649⁹⁵

ALL Ladies Clothing
20% OFF



Taylor Made
Stand Bag
Reg. Price \$149.95
\$109⁹⁵

Golf Shirts
Callaway, Adidas,
Roots & more
30% OFF

Titleist
762 Irons
Reg. Price \$979.00
\$779⁰⁰

Great Starter Sets
Mens & Ladies
\$129⁹⁵

Taylor Made
18 Thompson Rd., Unit 7&8, Milton
Callaway

SPALDING
905-878-1818
Golf



MILTON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB



is now accepting applications for

REP TEAM HEAD COACHES

for 2005 Season

Applications must be received by August 1st, 2004.

Please download application and rep team policy/guideline handbook from www.miltonmagic.com or call Martin Warner 905-878-5698





www.miltonmagic.com
