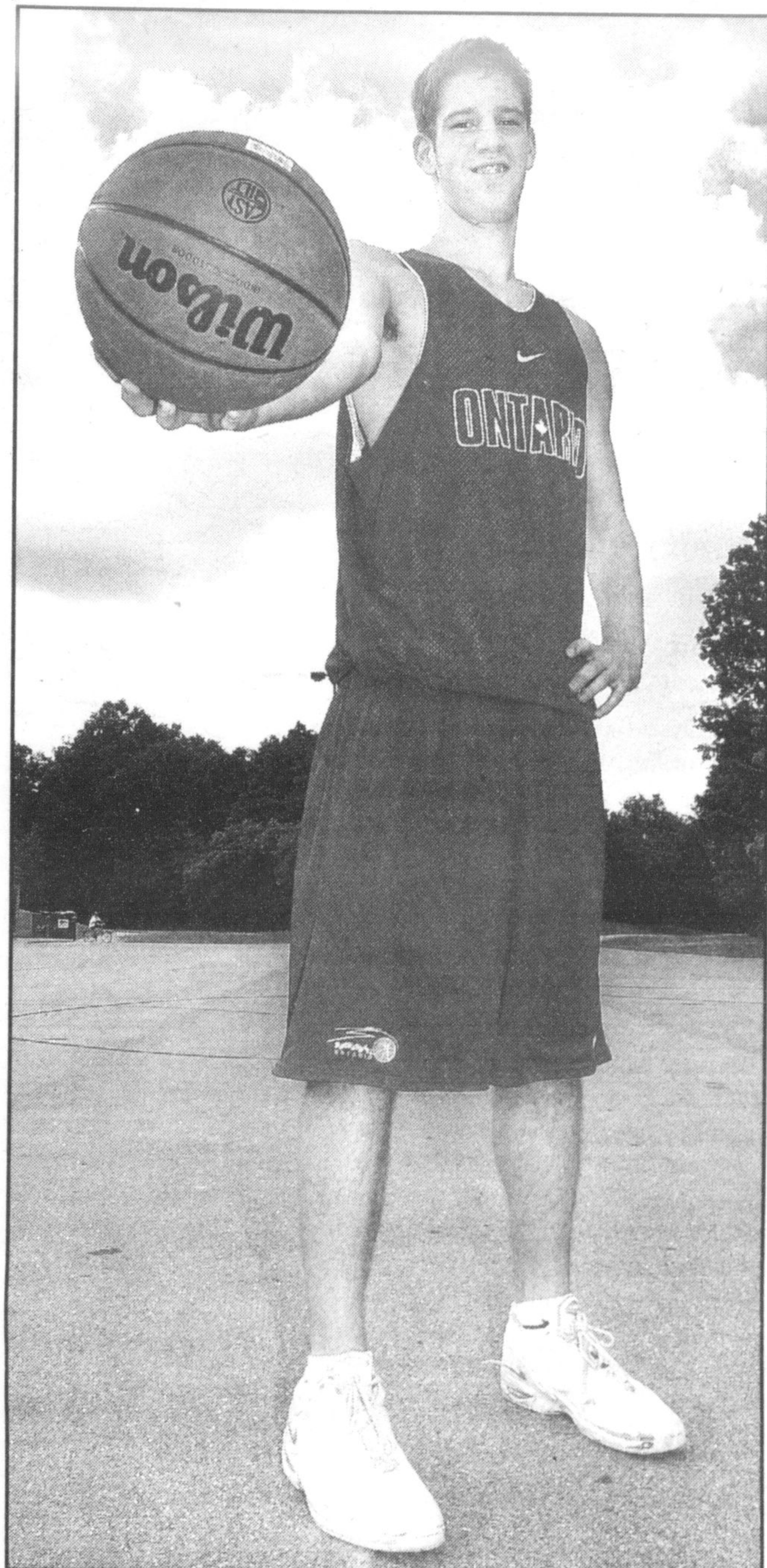


Alilovic helps Ontario Under-15 cagers to national championship



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Al Alilovic stood tall for Team Ontario recently, helping deliver a national championship win in Halifax.

Clutch free throws huge in finals

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Al Alilovic had come through in the clutch before, but never with the stakes quite so high.

With Under-15 national gold on the line in Halifax August 7, Milton's 6'5" power forward scored a dozen points — including a pair of free throws with just three-and-a-half minutes remaining that put Ontario ahead for the first time against fellow powerhouse British Columbia.

Alilovic and company would hang tough and prevail 69-65 — punctuating an undefeated campaign and justifying their number one ranking.

"I'm usually pretty good from the line, but those shots were about as big as I've ever made," said the Bishop Reding Secondary School student, whose overall tournament efforts earned him second-team all-star status. "It was a great game."

While his foul shots provided the spark Ontario needed to clinch the national title, it was Alilovic's consistent rebounding that was most impressive. He averaged a dozen rebounds per game, including a 78-63 semifinal decision over host Nova Scotia in which he made three steals and hit 13 points for MVP honours.

Said the local cager, "Overall I thought my performance was pretty good, but my rebounding specifically was amazing."

Ontario ran roughshod over its round-robin competition, with Alilovic draining 15 points in a 115-46 tournament-opening annihilation of Newfoundland.

From there a 93-46 spanking of Saskatchewan and 98-73 win over Manitoba put the eventual champs in the final four.

Thunderbirds set to begin '05 tryouts

It's tryout time for the Canadian Thunderbirds.

Potential players between 14 and 19 years of age — as of August 1 — looking to join the elite traveling baseball program's 2005 ranks can begin auditioning tonight in Hamilton.

Ten other tryout sessions will be held over the next two weeks, including one at Maplehurst Ball Park August 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. An administration fee of \$10 will be charged to help defer the cost of park rentals. Other nearby tryouts are slated for this Thursday at Oakville's Glenn Abbey Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., August 29 at Oakville's River Oaks Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and September 2 at Brampton Sports Centre from 5 to 9 p.m.

For more information about the Thunderbirds, call (905) 574-1173 or e-mail thunderbirds@quickclick.net.

Milton defense comes through

• from MARAUDERS on page 20

the second play with a lower body injury. Derek Albertini had a good game, with six tackles, two for losses; David Joseph had his usual stellar performance, as did Kojo Millington; and Jay MacPhail also made his presence felt. Mike Bartello had an aggressive game in the defensive backfield, and Kirby Ginn ended Tri-City's final threat with an interception.

Linebacker Brent Barrett, who has made big plays all season long, had more in this game, including a sack and some monster hits. "You can't replace Sliwinski," said the Western University student. "But we were pumped up to make sure it didn't have as much of an impact."

It was another testament to the depth of the Milton defense. And just what is it, besides depth, that makes them so good? "It's heart, attitude and we're extremely aggressive," according to Barrett. "We're a close-knit group. We know what each other is going to do."

On the Marauders' first possession, they got the seven points back. Mike Mallot, subbing for regular quarterback Domenic Camastro, who is out with an upper body injury, pulled a bootleg play and took it in from the five-yard line.

On Milton's next drive, Mallot completed passes to Jamie Radway and former Bishop Reding student Craig Hudak before Nedeljkovic ran it in from the nine-yard line.

The other points came on a Len Watkins field goal, and a safety.

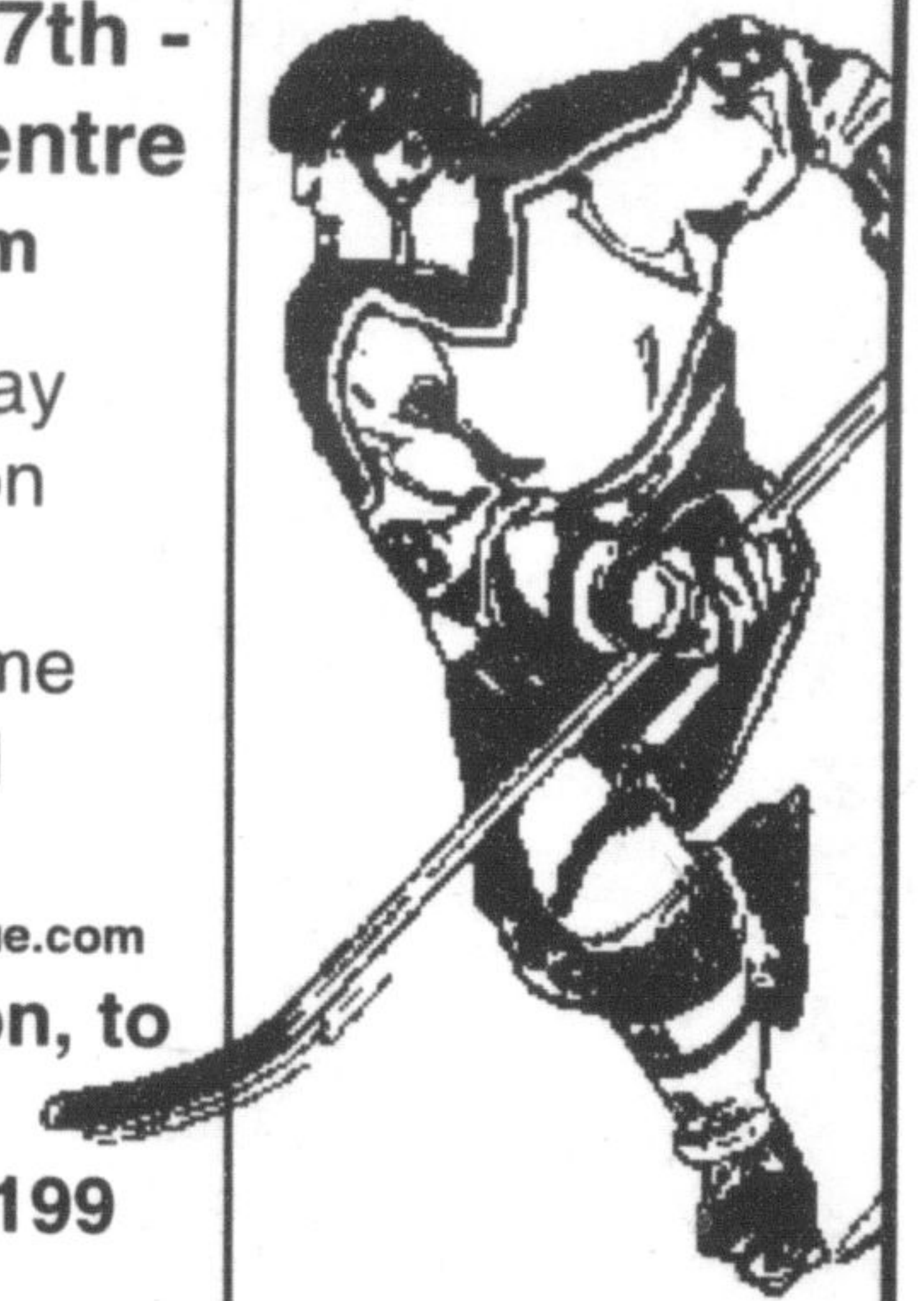
Oakville beat North Bay 17-0 in the other semifinal, setting up the NFC championship game in Oakville Saturday at 6 p.m. at Bronte Field, with the winner going to Edmonton to play for the national championship. Milton beat Oakville by four points earlier in the season, and lost by three in the return engagement. "I can't say enough about the fan support we've received," said Emo. "Bronte Field is only 15 minutes away and we'd love for as many people as possible to come down and help us out."

Milton Adult Hockey League Women's Division Registration

Friday, August 27th -
Milton Sports Centre
6:00pm - 8:30pm

Games are Sunday
Evenings in Milton
19yrs +
Beginners Welcome
Space is limited

www.miltonadulthockeyleague.com
for more information, to
register early
OR call 905-878-8199



Gleed bypasses Habs camp for studies

By **JON KUIPERIJ**

The Champion

Jon Gleed still aspires to eventually forge a career in the NHL.

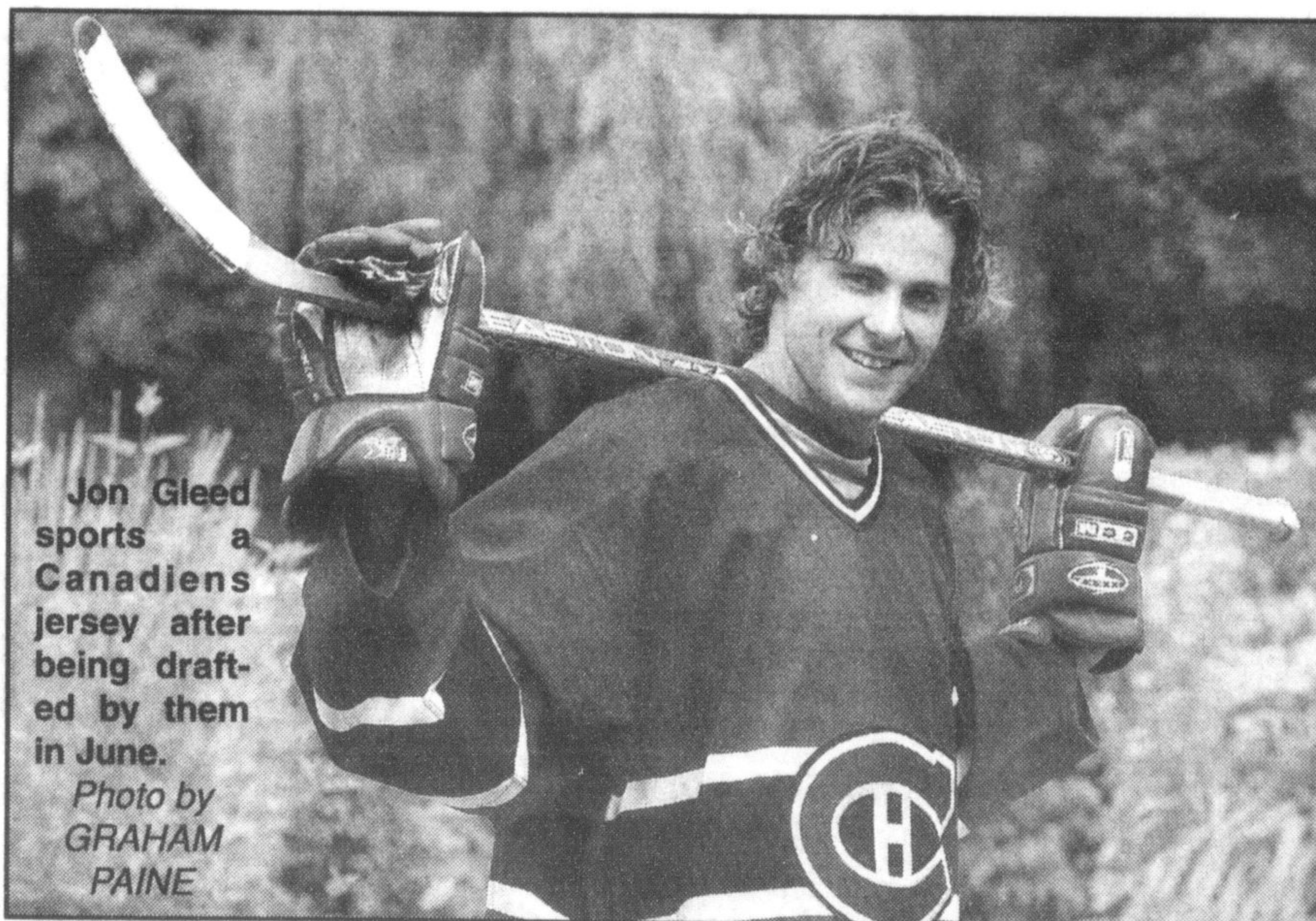
For now, however, pursuing an education is the 20-year-old Miltonian's top priority.

A seventh-round pick by the Montreal Canadiens at this summer's NHL Entry Draft, he recently declined an invitation to the Habs' rookie camp in order to continue summer studies at Cornell University.

"My plan before the summer even started was to take a class and lighten my load for this fall," said the 6'2", 200 lbs. defenceman, Milton's first NHL draftee since Darren Haydar in 1999 and the first local blueliner selected in recent memory. "It was a six-week class that I had already paid for, and I couldn't really miss a week."

Gleed made plans to take the art history course before he was drafted by Montreal — something that caught him completely off guard. In fact, he wasn't even aware he had been selected in the draft until his mother, Jill, called him and suggested he brush up on his French language skills.

"Last year was my official draft year, being (born in 1984), but I didn't play much (at Cornell) my first year," noted Gleed, who had trouble cracking the Big Red's veteran lineup and played only 12



Jon Gleed sports a Canadiens jersey after being drafted by them in June.

Photo by
GRAHAM
PAINE

games as a freshman. "When it happened this year, it was pretty unexpected."

Gleed — who won a Provincial Junior A championship with the Brampton Capitals three years ago — was a much more integral part of last year's Cornell squad, maintaining regular ice time and collecting six points in 28 games.

The Big Red, which approached last season as a rebuilding year, surprised many by

finishing second in the NCAA's Ivy League ranks before falling to Clarkson in the playoffs. This year's Cornell squad, to be captained by former Georgetown Raiders winger Mike Knoepfli, is expected to challenge for a berth to the Frozen Four.

"We've only lost one defenceman, and we brought in some really good players," Gleed said. "This year should not be called a rebuilding year."



MILTON WINTERHAWKS

www.miltonwinterhawks.com

Remaining tryout dates:

Tyke AA: Begins August 26th, 5:00pm

Midget AA: Begins August 17th, 8:30pm

Juvenile AA: Begins September 7th, 9:00pm

All tryouts held at the Milton Sports Centre.

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before tryouts for sign in. There is a \$50 Tryout fee as well that must be paid before stepping on the ice. If registering, you must bring in a copy of the birth certificates as well. For more info, call Wayne Monk @ 905-330-5745.