

Sports

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

All roughed up

Nelson's Simon Quick manhandles Bishop Reding rusher Ted Fair during senior football play at BR Thursday afternoon. The Royals took more than their share of lumps, getting annihilated by the powerhouse Lords 56-0. For further results, see page 25.

Softball slugger's successes continue

Another Ontario title for Teague

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Neil Teague's championship hits just keep on coming.

Adding to his laundry list of softball success stories late last month in Niagara Falls, the 37-year-old Miltonian helped guide his Binbrook Easton Brewers to top honours at the SPN Men's 'A' Ontario Championships.

Patrolling first base and delivering his usual fierce plate pop, he stood tall throughout the entire weekend — which was punctuated with a 14-12 decision over South Essex.

Teague went 4-for-4 in the finals and scored all four times to fuel the narrow victory.

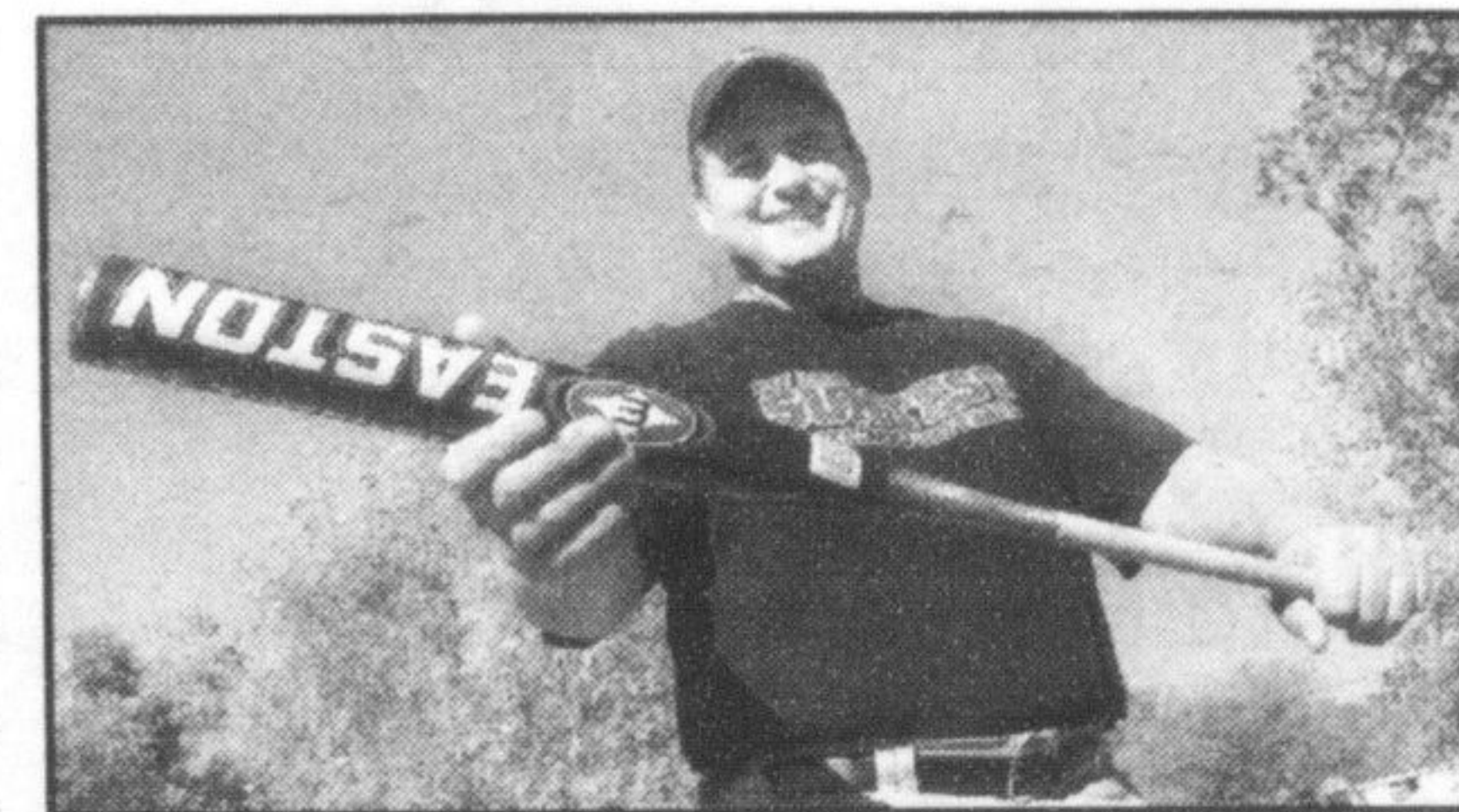


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Neil Teague swings a hot bat with two different softball teams each summer.

"I'm a pretty reliable hitter," he said modestly.

The Brewers booked passage to the championship with a 9-8 semifinal win over Sudbury, which served as pay-back for their only loss of the tournament in round-robin play.

The recent provincial triumph was the third for Teague, who also has two national titles under his belt — the most recent of which came in 2001. Since then, the quest for Canadian gold has been a close-but-nogig proposition.

"We've been stuck in fourth for a while now," he noted.

Teague's diamond prowess hasn't been limited to provincial or national opposition either.

With the British Columbia-based SunTest/Tanel 360 Majors — comprised of players from across the country — he went an impressive 2-2 in Sherbrooke, Quebec this past summer at the 29th annual PIF/Air Vacances Transat Tournament, a world championship qualifier and by far the biggest softball showcase in North America.

Among SunTest/Tanel 360's wins was a 14-10 decision over pre-tournament favourite Beloli's out of Rhode Island.

"Canadian teams are definitely making progress at the PIF," said Teague, who hit around the .700 mark with SunTest/Tanel 360 this season. "One team actually made the finals this year."

"I've played in a number of big tournaments, but for consistently topnotch competition there's nothing else like the PIF. You have to be on top of your game, every game, to be successful there."

So what does Teague do when he's not slugging it out on the diamond? Well coach his nine-year-old son Aaron, of course.

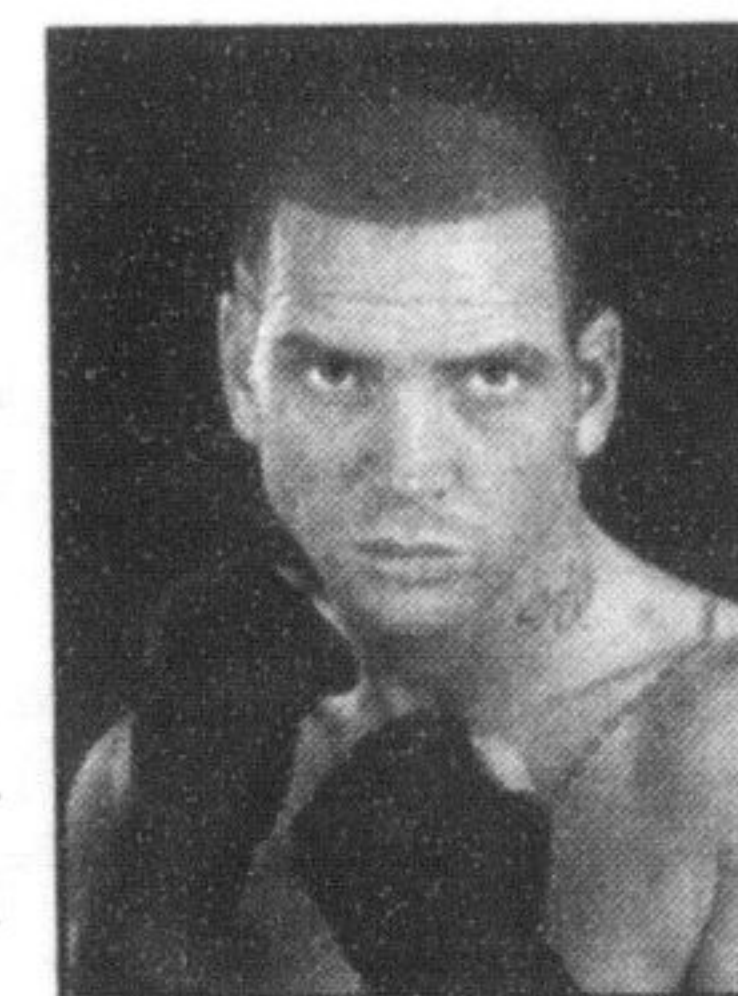
"Coaching Aaron and the other kids is a blast," he said. "I was lucky enough to have some very good baseball coaches when I was a kid growing up in Omagh and Milton, so I know how important volunteers really are. Besides, Aaron playing ball gives me a great excuse to keep a pitching machine set up in my basement."

Hart back in ring Sat.

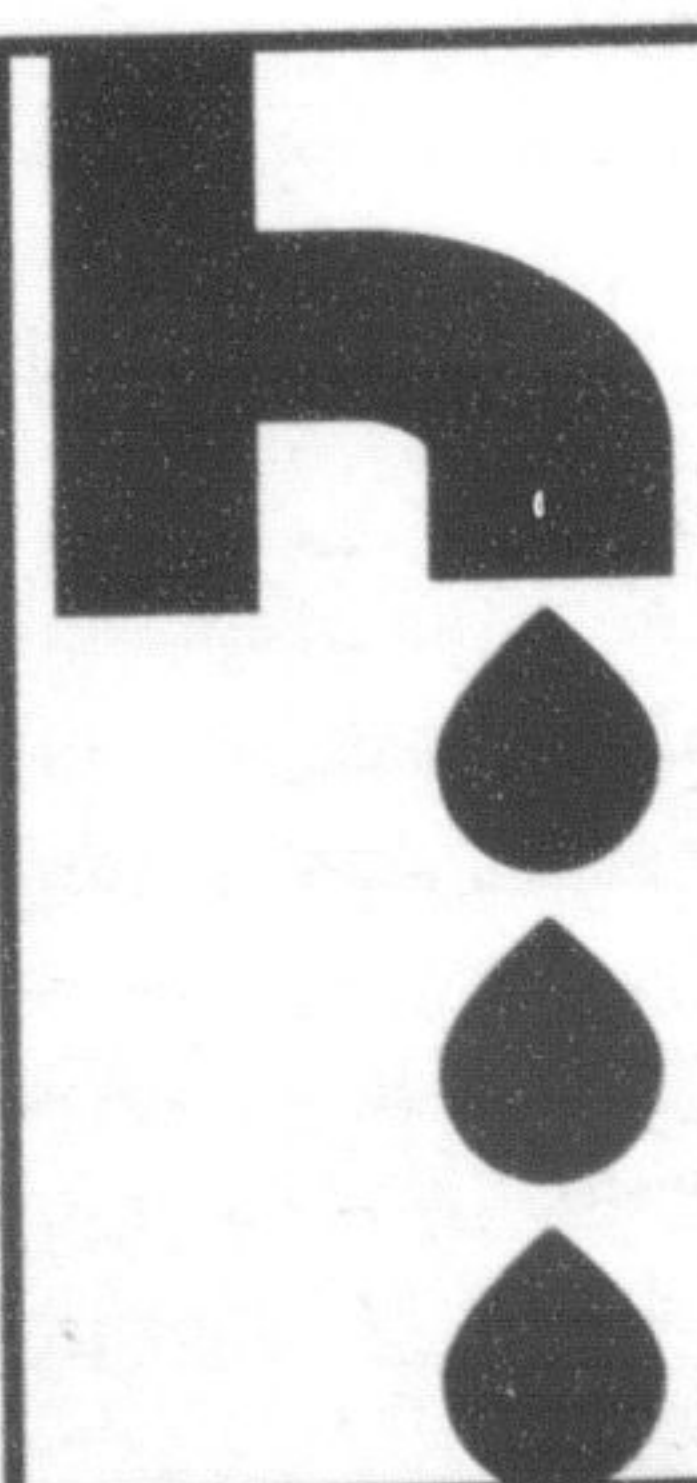
Matt Hart took a long time to get in his first professional boxing fight, but won't have much rest before his second.

On Saturday — exactly one month after scoring a unanimous decision in his pro debut — the 27-year-old welterweight will return to the ring at the Hershey Centre. There he'll look to make it two-in-a-row against a Cincinnati opponent.

Tickets for the evening card, scheduled to include five fights, cost \$15 each and can be purchased by calling Hart at (647) 828-8349 or Don Crowder at (905) 878-7109 or (905) 691-3738.



Matt Hart



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