

# Sports

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## Rogers and Raiders clinch Western title

*Milton defenceman will be back for league semis*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

It wasn't exactly the way Dan Rogers envisioned winning his first junior championship.

But after four seasons with absolutely no playoff success to speak of, the 20-year-old defenceman isn't about to be picky.

"It's still really exciting," said the former OHLer, who was sidelined with a twisted ankle Saturday night when his Georgetown Raiders topped the Oakville Blades 3-1 at a sold out Gordon Alcott Arena to clinch the Provincial Jr. A Western Conference title in five games. "I'm so proud of the guys."

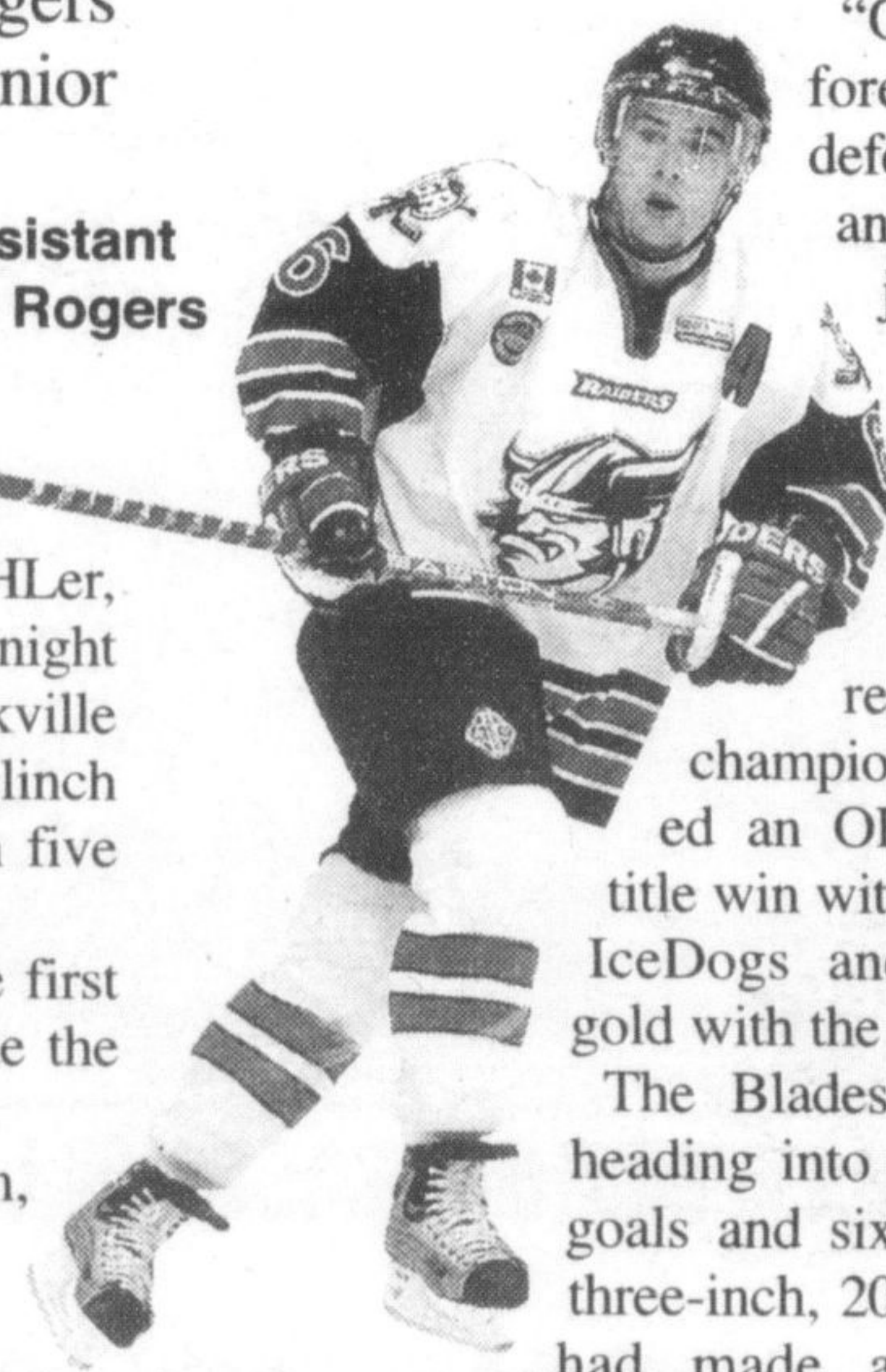
The fact that he'd never even made it past the first round of post-season play before no doubt made the championship that much sweeter.

Said the six-foot, 200-pound assistant captain, "I'm soaking this in big time."

While missing the last two games against Oakville, Rogers has been a huge playoff contrib-

utor overall this year — logging a ton of ice time and collecting half-a-dozen points along the way.

Although recognizing that knocking off the Blades in five games was a surprise to many, he stressed that his Georgetown cohorts stepped it up for the conference finals after getting a legitimate round two scare from his hometown Milton IceHawks.



Raiders assistant captain Dan Rogers

"Our forwards forechecked hard, our defencemen kept it simple and John (Barrow) was just unreal between the pipes after coming back from meningitis."

For fellow Miltonian Daryl Knowles, Saturday represented the end of a championship streak that included an OHL Eastern Conference title win with last year's Mississauga IceDogs and Western Conference gold with the 2002/03 Raiders.

The Blades' second-leading scorer heading into the finals — with eight goals and six assists — the six-foot three-inch, 200-pound power forward had made a sooner-than-expected return from a separated left shoulder just the night before in Oakville.

But despite having a number of golden opportunities around the net both Friday and Saturday, 20-year-old Knowles just couldn't mark his comeback on the scoresheet.

"Yeah I had a bunch of chances, but some of the bigger scorers like myself just weren't finding the back of the net," said the long-time junior, a teammate of Rogers with the 2000/01 Raiders. "I still say we have a better team than Georgetown, but they just wanted it more."

With Georgetown hosting next month's Dudley Hewitt Cup and having an automatic berth to the provincials, many experts figured the do-or-die pressure resting solely on the Blades' shoulders would be enough for them to prevail.

So much for predictions.

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### Golden moment

Milton Springer Lindsay Bright proudly displays the two gold medals she earned on vault and bars at the third and final provincial qualifier recently in Mississauga. For a related photo, see page 21.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Milton Minor Baseball Association

Registration Milton Sports Centre  
Located at the north entrance  
for the upcoming 2005 season

**FINAL REGISTRATION!**

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or visit us online at [www.milton-baseball.org](http://www.milton-baseball.org) and download an application form.

We are also looking for individuals that are interested in **umpiring** games, and have opportunities for individuals that are interested in **coaching**. This is good for community service hours.

