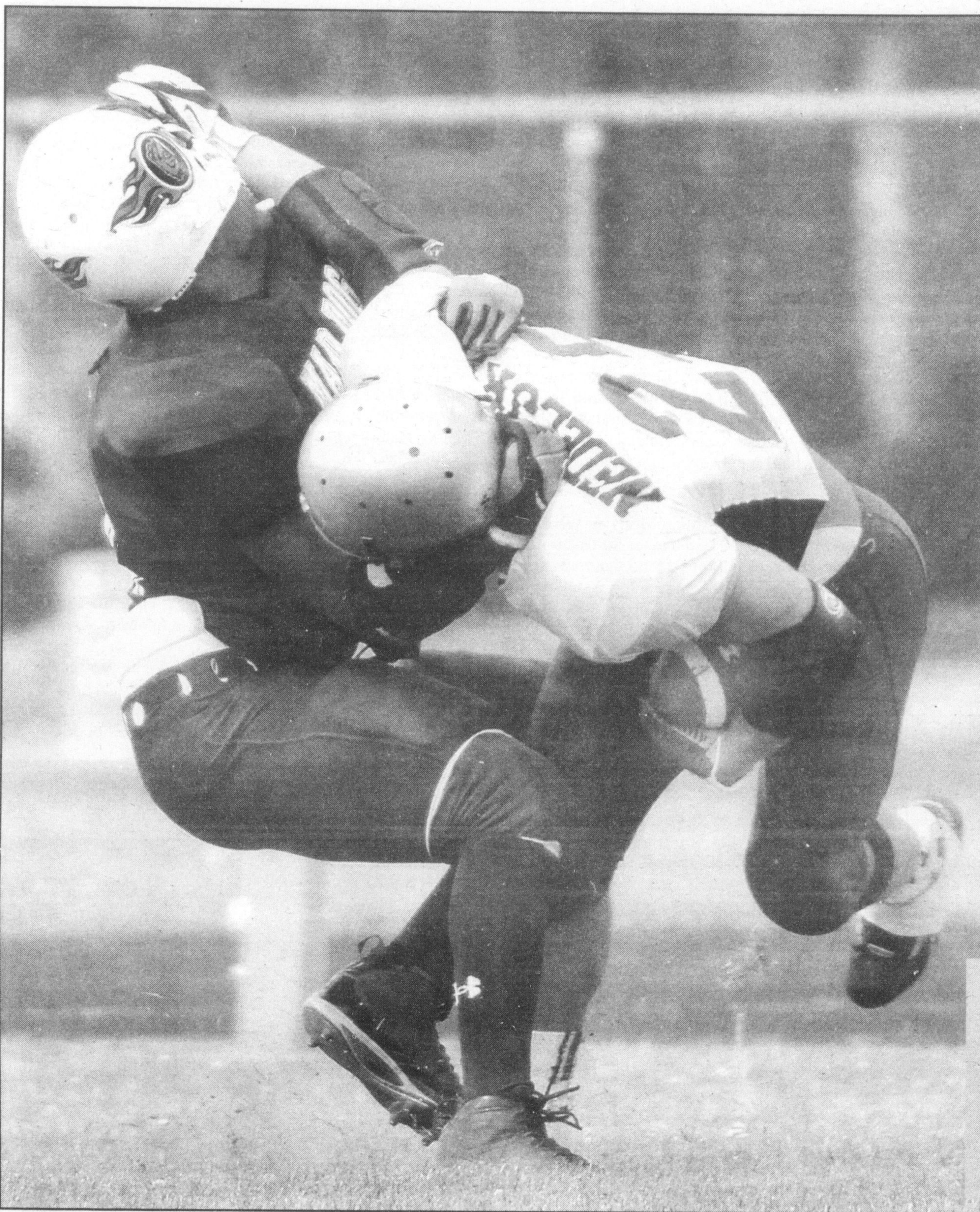


Sports

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Haydar bound for Germany?

Soon-to-be free agent signs tentative deal with Hamburg

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

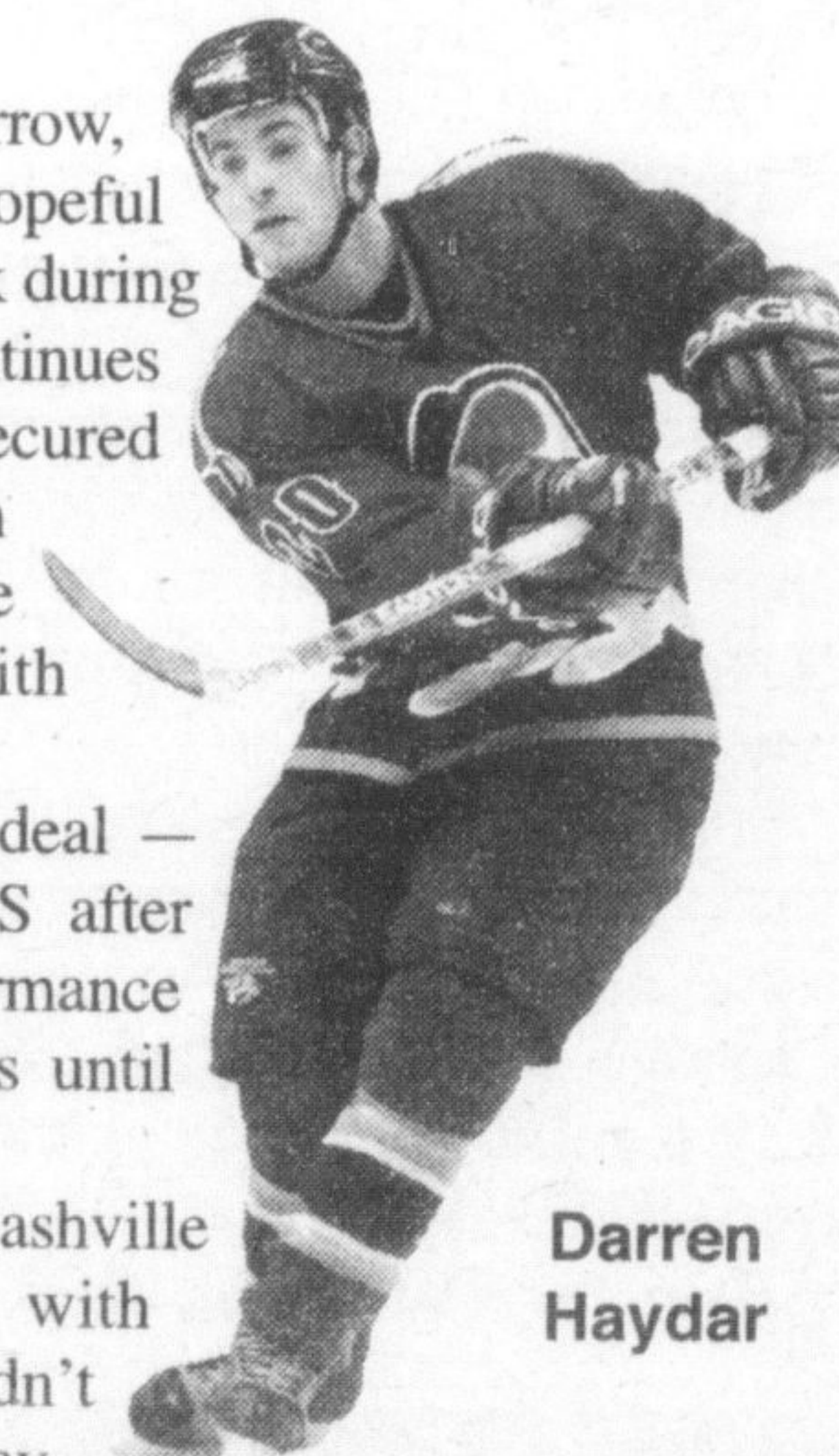
Darren Haydar doesn't know exactly where he'll be playing this fall, but knows he can't leave his immediate hockey future to chance.

Set to become a free agent tomorrow, Milton's Nashville Predators hopeful hasn't been content to just sit back during the question mark climate that continues to engulf the NHL. Instead, he's secured himself at least one viable option for the coming season — in the form of a tentative deal with Germany's Hamburg Freezers.

Haydar agreed to the one-year deal — worth an estimated \$100,000 US after taxes, with the possibility of performance bonuses — last Tuesday and has until July 15 to get out of it.

That'll depend heavily on if Nashville exercises its \$450,000 option with Haydar for 2005/06 — which hadn't happened as of press time yesterday.

"It's (Hamburg) partly a safety net, although I have had an interest in playing either in Germany or Switzerland for a while now," explained the 25-year-old right winger, who's spent the last three years with the Predators' AHL affiliate in Milwaukee. "I just don't want to be labeled as a minor leaguer."



Darren Haydar

• see EUROPE on page A26

Crunch time

Marauders ball carrier Jon Nedeljkoivc gets taken down by a Toronto defender — but not before nearly removing his helmet — during Saturday's 23-14 win at Milton District High School. For full results of week two action, see page A25.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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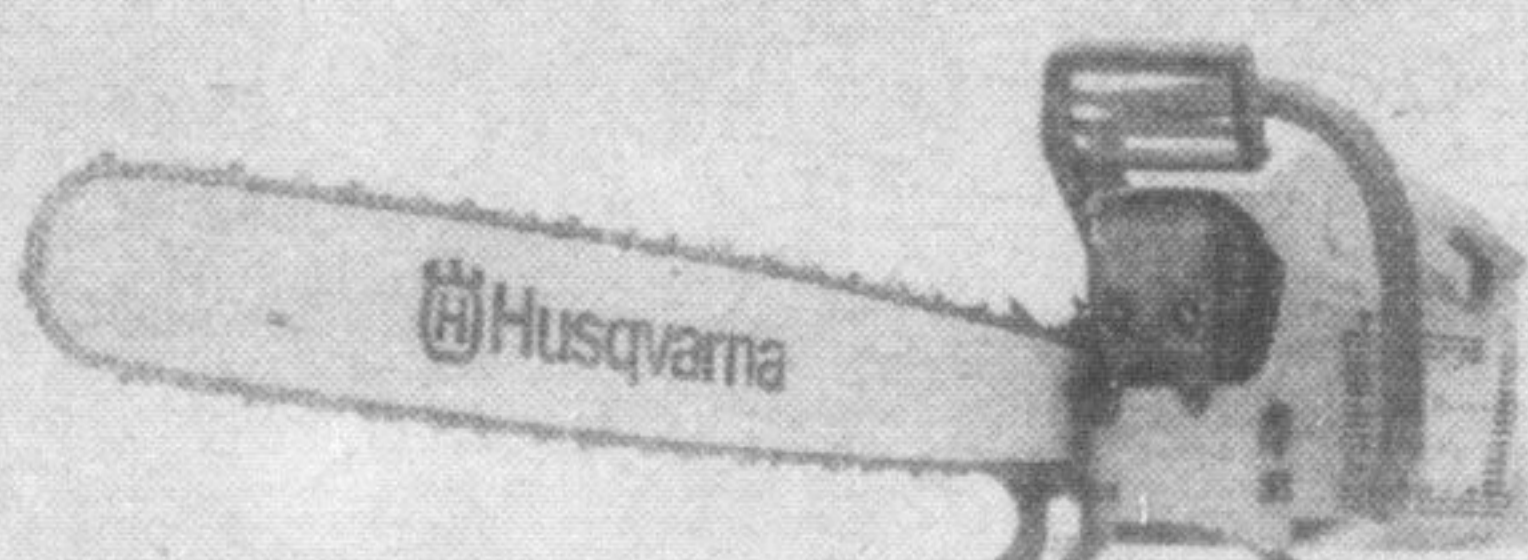
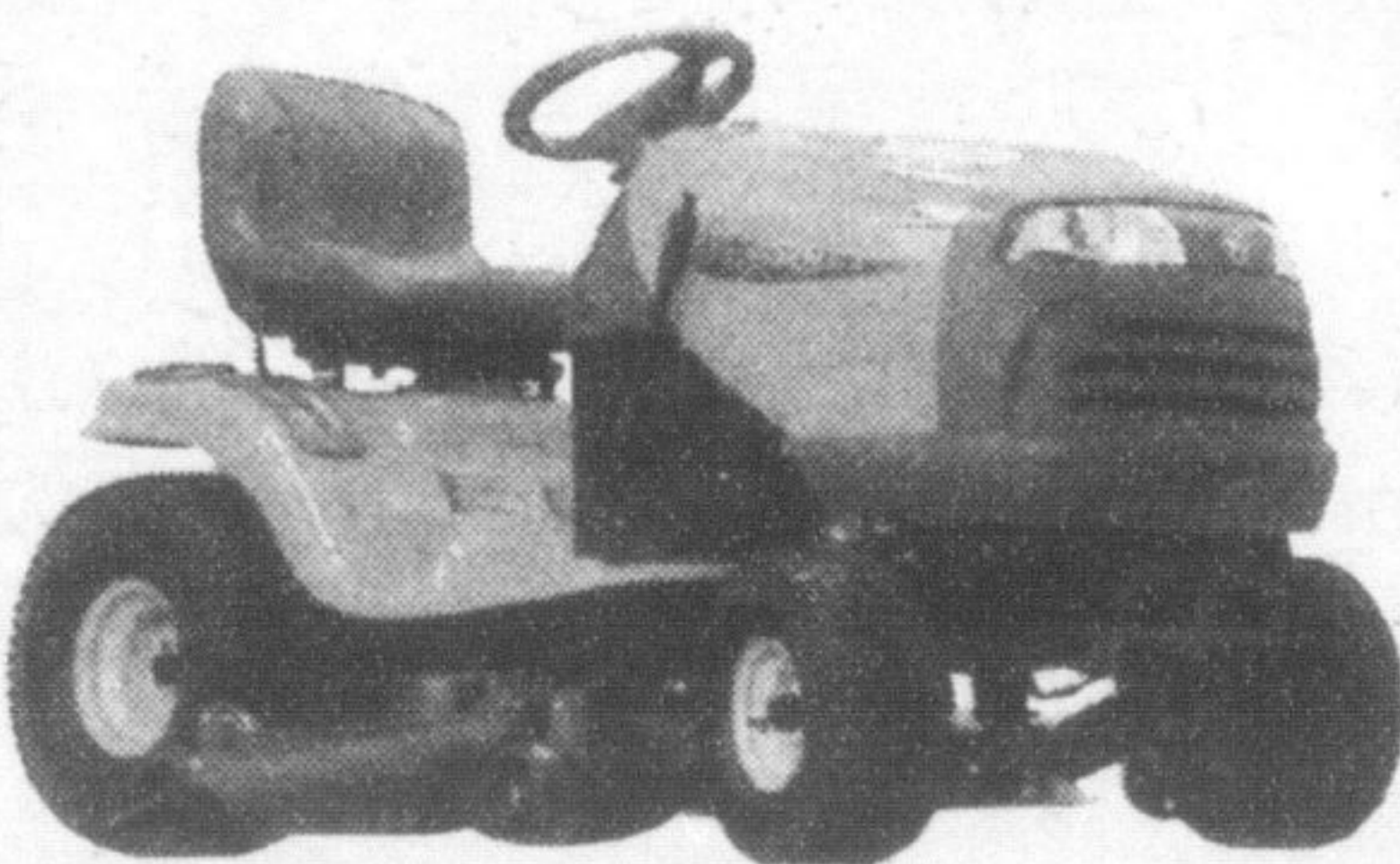
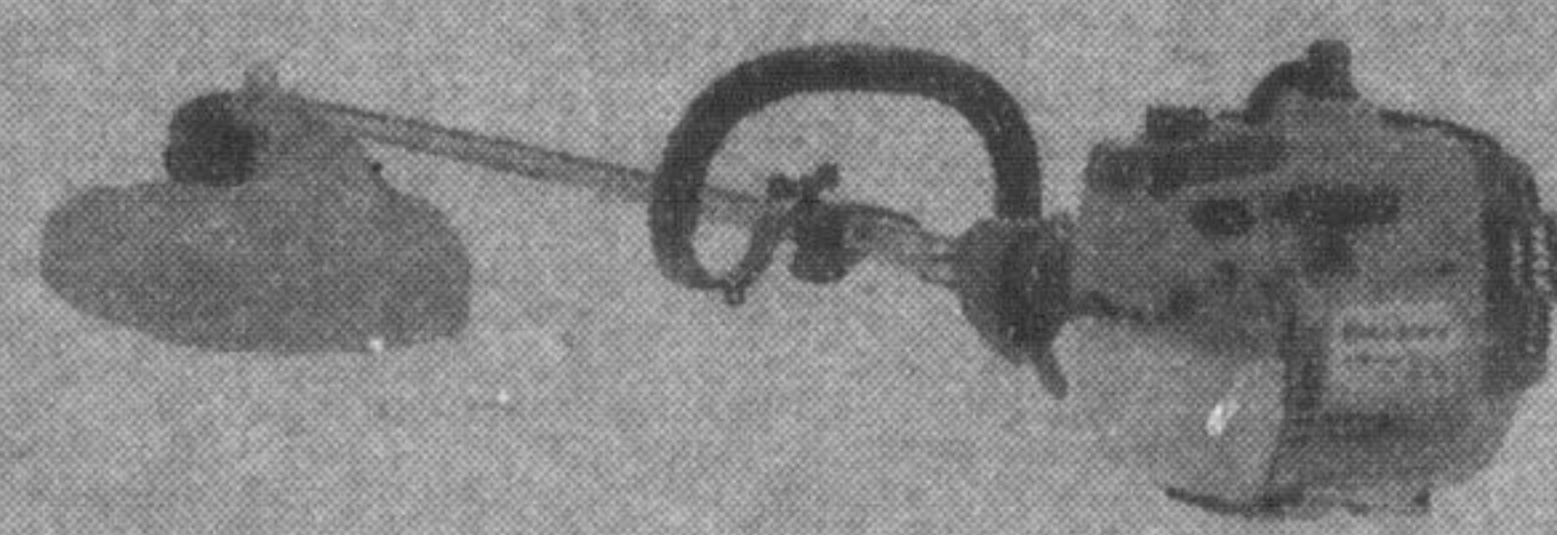
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