

Winger has great mix of size and skill, says Kingston scout

• from BRITAIN on page A17

"I'd say being on winning teams certainly helped (my draft position)," said the power forward, a point-a-game performer both before and after his ankle injury and the biggest player — physically speaking — taken in the first two rounds Saturday. "I was really happy to go in the first round. I actually went down to Kingston later that day to meet the coaches and players and it seems like a great organization. I'm pretty excited."

Britain now finds himself in an awfully appealing situation with the Frontenacs, who with only three players lost to overage on a team that finished fourth overall in the Eastern Conference could very well dominate next season.

And with Kingston somewhat lacking in terms of sizable wingers, the local teen shouldn't have to wait long to enjoy substantial ice time in the O.

"Josh gives us something we really needed, a guy with a great mix of size and skill," said Matt

Hallett, head of scouting for the Frontenacs. "He's a big guy who can really skate, which with us having the second biggest ice surface in the league is crucial."

Hallett had expected Britain to be taken a little higher, but figures he was still around for them to scoop up because a number of teams had to use their top pick to shore up their blueline. "We've (Kingston) got our top six defencemen all coming back, which is practically unheard of, so we were obviously looking to build up front and were really pleased that Josh was still available."

One of four Jr. Canadians selected in the first round, Britain said he's always thrived on the physical aspect of the game — and wasn't the least bit deterred by it when a 230-pound opponent fell on his ankle this season and put him out of commission for nearly two months.

"That's hockey. It's the only major injury I've ever had, and it's just too bad it came in my

draft year because that could have been costly," said Britain. "But I love to play physical."

Cragg can certainly attest to the local winger's toughness.

"Josh is a big guy who plays like a big guy, whether it's battling for a loose puck or freeing himself up in front of the net. In fact most of his goals came in traffic. And where some players always find themselves on winning teams, Josh is the type of guy who makes teams win. He was a huge part of our success the last two years."

Britain is the highest drafted Miltonian in at least a decade, eclipsing defenceman Elgin Reid — picked up in 2003 by the Ottawa 67s — by five places.

He's one of four local players taken in this year's draft. Defencemen Jeremy Price and Matt Clark were both taken in the 11th round — by the Oshawa Generals and Brampton Battalion respectively — while fellow Halton Hurricane Brayden Abraham went in 15th round, also to Brampton.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

Ray's Name appeared incorrectly in the Gallinger May 9th advertisement in the Canadian Champion. It should have appeared as



RAY BUTLER

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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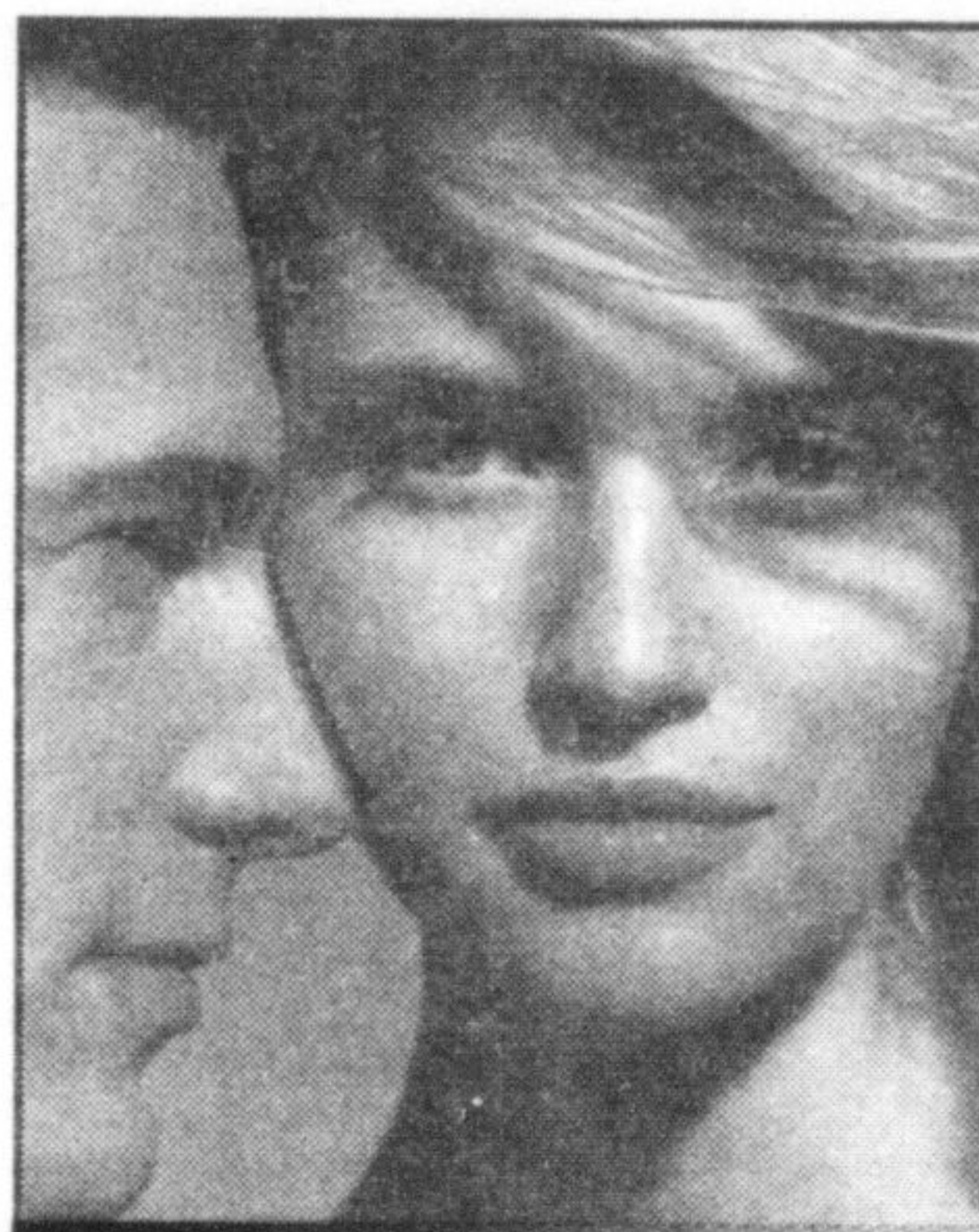
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