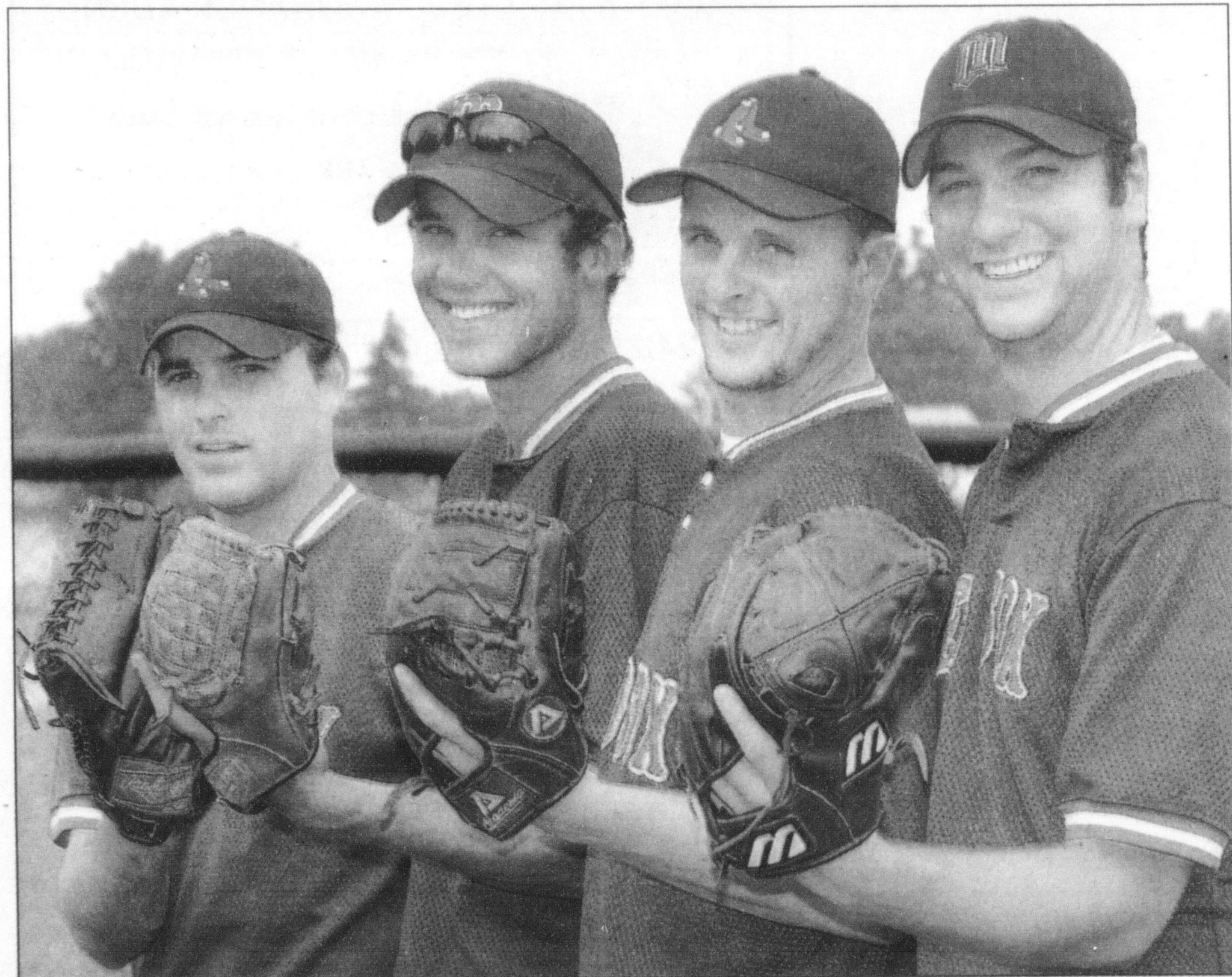


# SPORTS

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## Senior Red Sox set for 'A' eliminations



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**RARIN' TO GO:** Above, COBA all-stars (from left) Jeff MacLeod, Taylor Lawton, Kurt Mitchell and Adam Finkbeiner will help lead the Senior Red Sox at this weekend's Ontario 'A' Eliminations in Windsor. Inset right, Mitchell looks to complete the double play in Sunday afternoon play against Etobicoke.

### Milton's inconsistent hitting against top-level clubs somewhat concerning

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Heading into his team's first trip to the Ontario 'A' Eliminations this weekend, Senior Red Sox manager George Moore admits that he doesn't quite know what to expect.

However, he's got a pretty good idea of what'll make or break Milton's efforts at the Windsor-area showcase.

"We've got to hit the ball, it's that simple," stressed the seasoned skipper.

Inconsistent production against 'A' level teams has been the 29-10 Red Sox's only real shortcoming this season—and proved costly in their last big tune-up to the provincial championships at Brian Best Park Sunday afternoon.

While 11 hits against the Central Ontario Baseball Association-leading Etobicoke Rangers offered at least some room for optimism, Milton was silenced through the final three innings, allowing the perennial powerhouse visitors to squeak by with a 6-5 comeback decision.

This marked the third straight narrow defeat to Etobicoke this year, and dropped the Red Sox's record against 'A' teams to 8-7.

Said Moore, "We played 'em well today, but we just couldn't finish on our opportunities. We've got to get the hits when we need them."

Fresh off an appearance at COBA's All-Star Game, centre fielder Jeff

MacLeod and shortstop Taylor Lawton led the Red Sox's offence in the heart-breaking defeat.

MacLeod — who won the home run derby the previous day with six dingers — had three consecutive singles and scored the potential game-winning run, while Lawton got things rolling with a

first-inning long ball over the right field fence.

Their bats kept humming in Clarkson Sunday night to help annihilate the lowly Twins 16-1.

Lawton highlighted a three-hit evening with his second homer of the day, while MacLeod had a pair of hits.

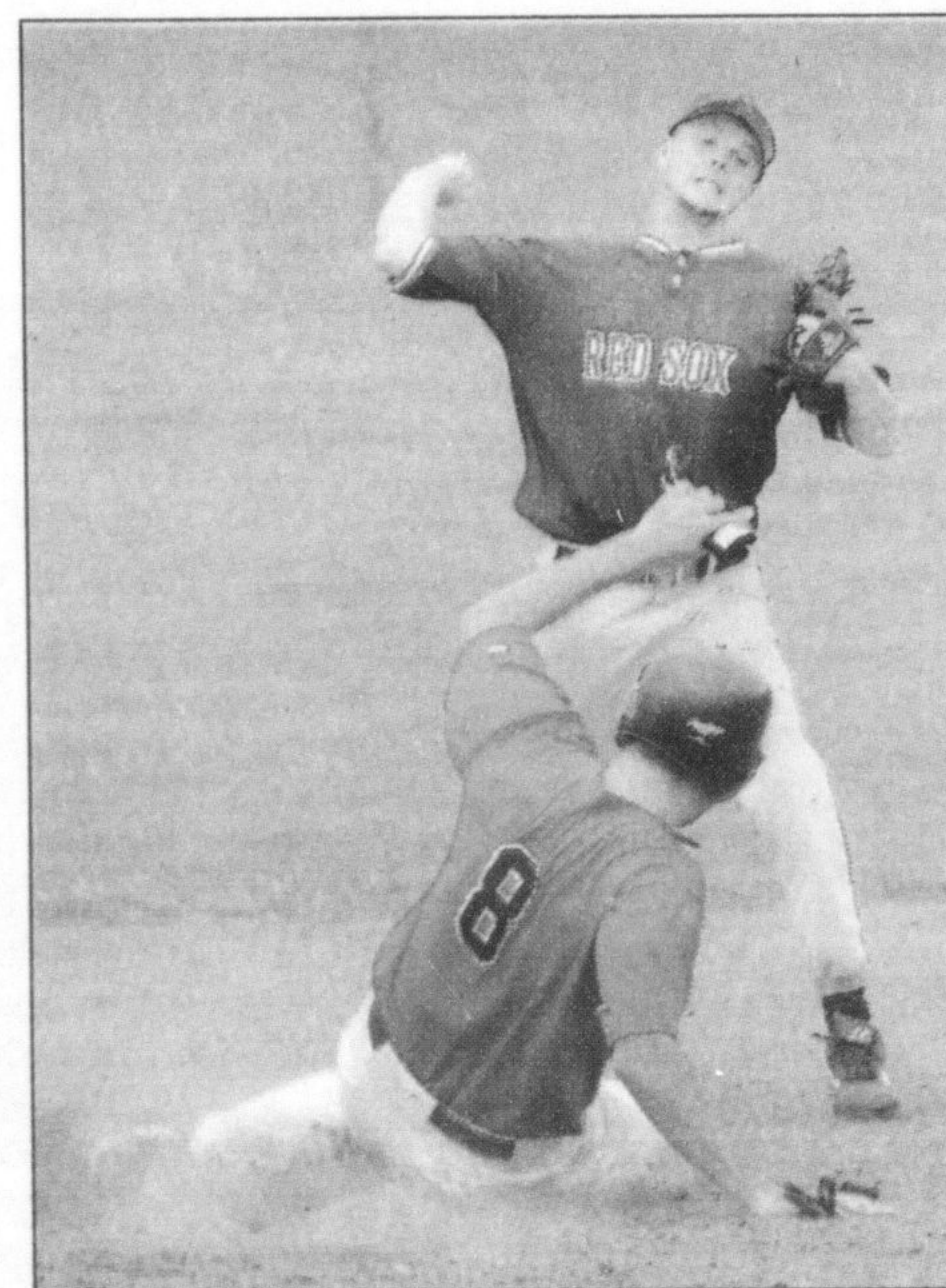
Other bright spots from Sunday's two-game tune-up for the eliminations were a near-flawless fielding campaign and some impressive relief pitching against Etobicoke by young Mike Grabaukas.

Expected to have everybody available for this weekend's 24-team double-knockout tournament, the Red Sox kick things off this afternoon against the Windsor-area Tucemseh Chiefs.

Five other COBA teams will be part of the eliminations, including the Rangers, who won it all two years ago and reached the semifinals last summer.

Arguably one of the most improved Ontario senior-level teams in recent years, the Red Sox made it to the OBA 'B' finals the past two seasons — winning it last summer.

Their COBA league playdowns come later this month.



## Dimitrov shines at jr. nationals

David Dimitrov's swimming success continued recently in Calgary, with a hefty haul at the first-ever junior national championships.

Just two weeks after dominating at the junior provincials in Ottawa, the 14-year-old Milton Marlin once again stood out with five medal-winning performances.

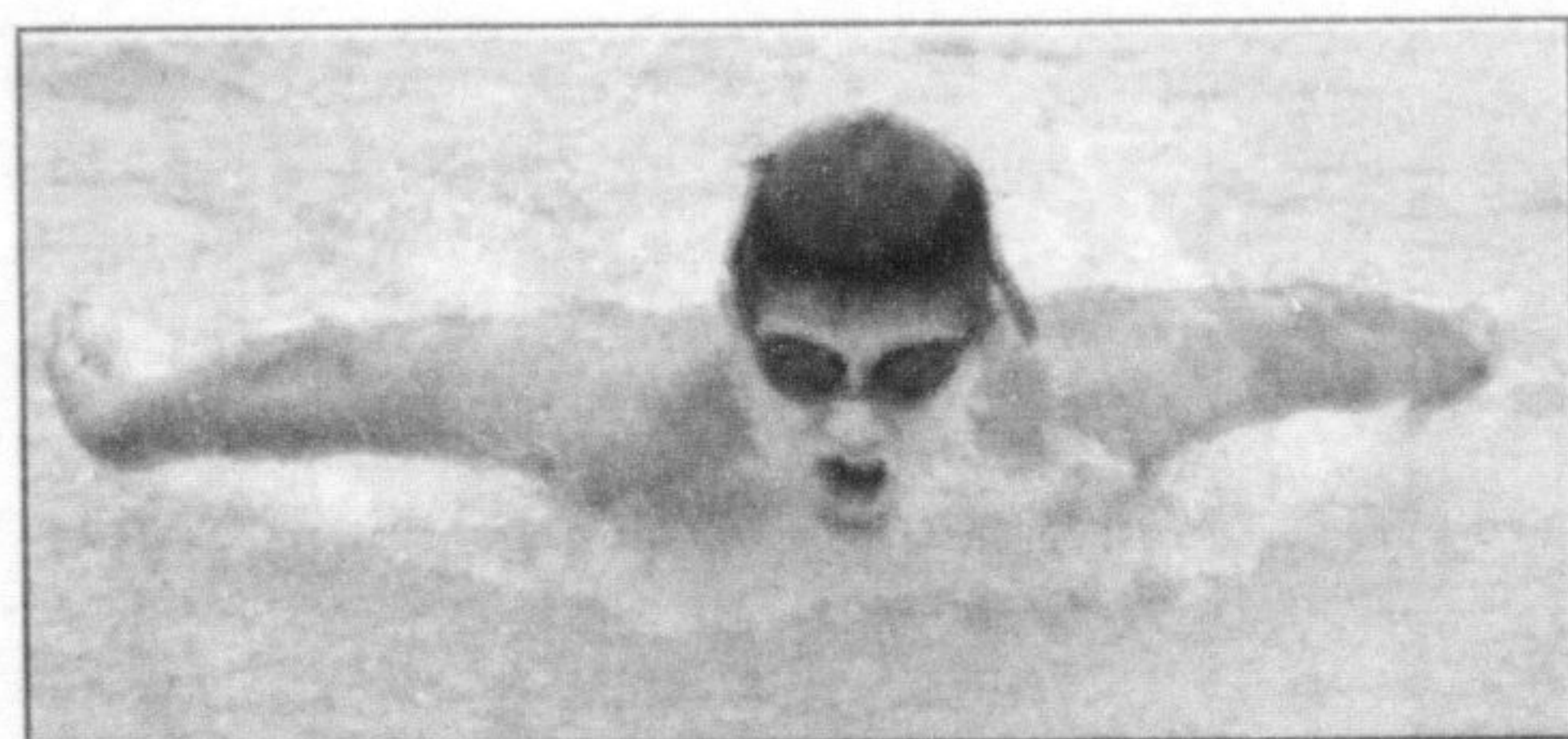
His best efforts were reserved for the 400m individual medley, which he won by a full four seconds. Trailing the leader by a sizable margin midway through the race, Dimitrov delivered a sensational breaststroke leg to completely turn the tide.

This golden weekend finish followed second-place showings in the 200m freestyle and 200m

IM and bronze-medal efforts in the 400 and 1,500m free.

About as active as any Marlin at any single meet in recent memory, Dimitrov also swam the 5,000m open water race to fourth-place honours and was fifth in the 100m free. These finishes allowed the Marlins to place among the top fifth of the 175 teams — putting them 35th overall.

Brent Burke was Milton's other junior national medalist, claiming bronze in the 200m breaststroke. Alex Davis, Colm Whitford, Will Wright and Paul Zielinski also reached event finals, while rounding out the Marlins' contingent in Calgary were Catherine Boyd and Larissa Ruiz.



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