

SPORTS

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

HARDWARE HAUL: JSC Tae Kwon Do students (from left) Shan Sehgal, Shantel Vaillou, Daniel Onciul and Martin Szamotulski display the trophies they secured at the recent Nina Kim Tae Kwon Do Tournament at Hamilton's McMaster University. In total the local club earned four firsts, six seconds and six third-place trophies.

Heartbreaking finish to Sgarbossa's Jr. A career

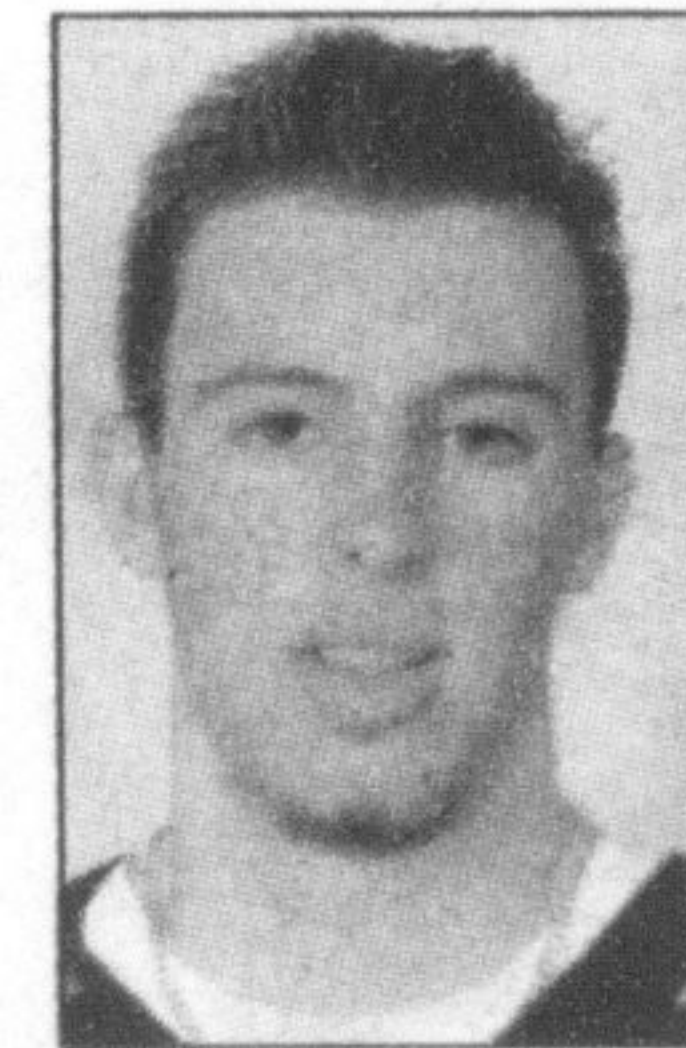
Raiders swept in West finals with 3rd OT loss

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Rob Sgarbossa's Tier 2 Jr. A hockey career was longer and more prosperous than most players can hope for.

But the 20-year-old Campbellville resident can be excused if he doesn't quite see himself as fortunate right now. In fact he's likely feeling just the opposite, after an eight-day stretch that included three overtime losses for his Georgetown Raiders in the Ontario Provincial Jr. A League Western Conference finals.

The last of these came at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena Saturday night and cemented a championship sweep for the Hamilton Red Wings, who finished the short-lived series with back-to-back 4-3 OT wins.



Rob Sgarbossa

Dropping three sudden death decisions in just over a week would have been tough enough to swallow. However, an added measure of despair awaited the Raiders in game four — with Hamilton's Steve Mullin potting an equalizer with a scant 2.9 seconds remaining in regulation time.

From there, fellow Red Wing Mike Galbraith vanquished Georgetown 3:13 into the extra session.

"It was pretty heartbreaking, all right," said five-foot-10-inch, 172-pound Sgarbossa, whose five years with Georgetown included two regular season division titles, a pair of Western Conference championships, an all-Ontario Dudley Hewitt Cup triumph and most recently a Newmarket Showcase victory in December. "Had those three overtime games gone the other way we'd be up 3-1 right now instead of done for the year."

Making the Raiders' quick departure from the conference finals all the more difficult is that they had headed into battle against Hamilton with plenty of rest and a fair amount of momentum, having knocked off the regular season champion Brampton Capitals in a rather efficient — and surprising — five games.

Noted Sgarbossa, "Yeah we definitely had some momentum going in, and we matched up well against Hamilton. They just got the breaks and we didn't."

If there's any solace to be had for the veteran centre — an assistant captain over the past two seasons, who played somewhere in the vicinity of 400 Jr. A games — it's that he made a tangible contribution to Georgetown's last stand Saturday.

Netting his second goal of the playoffs, Sgarbossa dented the twine early in the first period — less than a minute

• see SGARBOSSA on page A18

Big night puts Haydar over 100-point mark

It was never a question of if Darren Haydar would hit 100 points — only when.

Friday night the 27-year-old Miltonian made it official, reaching the century mark for the first time in his highly-productive — and decorated — five-year American Hockey League (AHL) career.

The milestone certainly came under favourable circumstances.

Continuing to distance himself from a somewhat mediocre stretch after being sent back to his Chicago Wolves, following a 10-day call-up to the parent Atlanta Thrashers last month, the AHL scoring leader hit triple digits with a powerplay goal early in the second period against the host Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben Knights.

From there he'd light the lamp again a mere 57 seconds later — once more with his club enjoying the man-advantage — and cap the evening with an assist on Nathan Oystriks overtime winner.

The 5-4 victory allowed the West Division-leading Wolves (40-22-2-5) to widen their lead on the second-place Knights. It was Chicago's AHL-leading 25th win on the road this season, which puts them just two shy of both a franchise and league record.

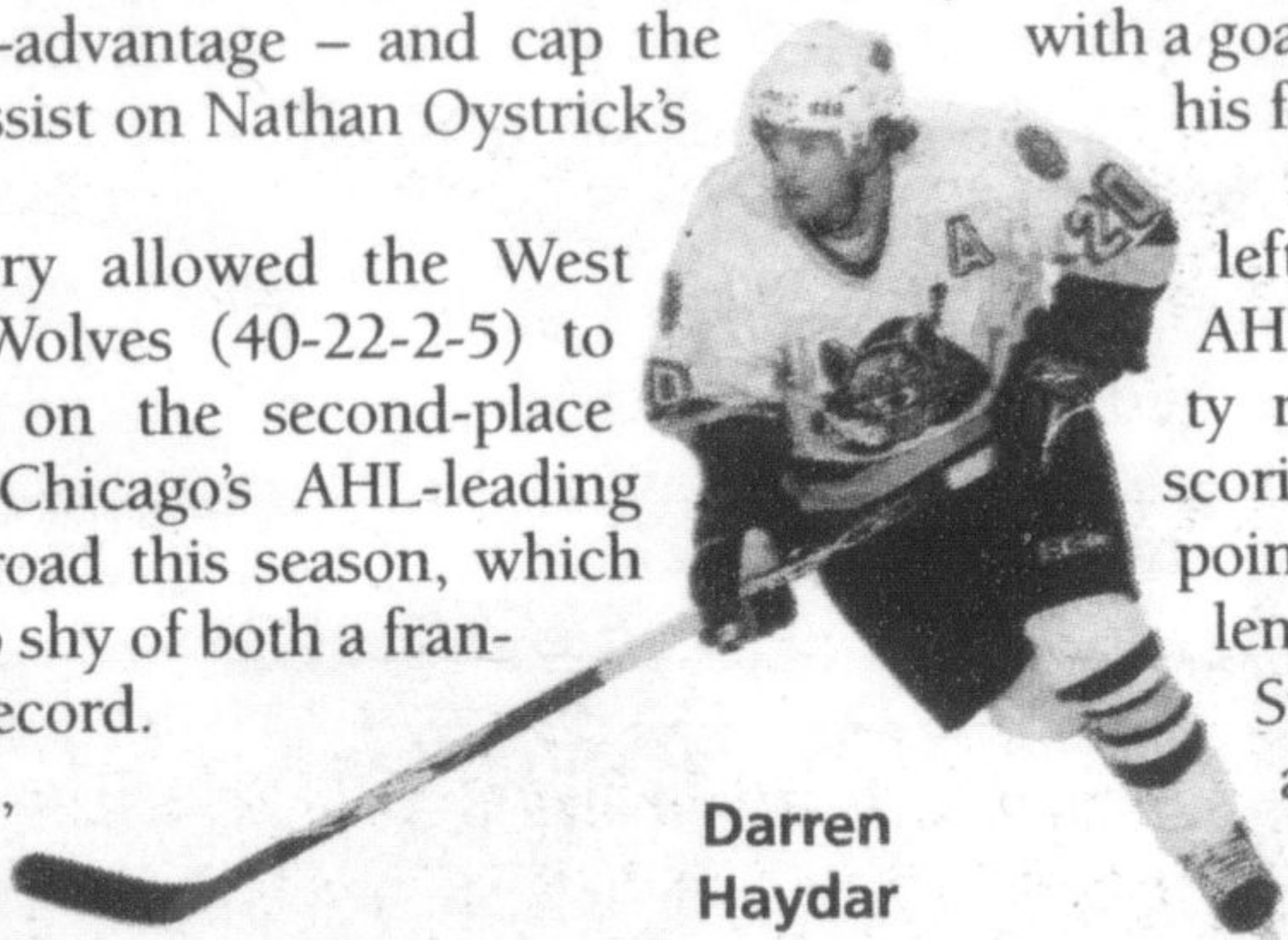
Meanwhile, Haydar is just the third Wolves player to ever hit the 100-point plateau.

Back in Chicago the following evening, fifth in league scoring.

Haydar recorded his 29th multi-point game of the year — punctuating an eight-point week with a goal and an assist in a 5-4 loss to his former Milwaukee Admirals.

While still having 11 games left this season, the 2002-03 AHL Rookie of the Year has pretty much locked up the league scoring race already — sitting 18 points ahead of his closest challenger, rookie teammate Brett Sterling, with 35 goals and 69 assists in 62 games.

That gives him 12 points more than he had last year, which was good enough for



Darren Haydar



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