

Macdonald's CHL Scorpions stung in South championship

That last step up the Central Hockey League championship ladder proved to be too much for Craig Macdonald and his New Mexico Scorpions.

The Scorpions were knocked off in five games by the defending champion Laredo Bucks in the Southern Conference championship, with their elimination finalized in Sunday's 4-1 loss.

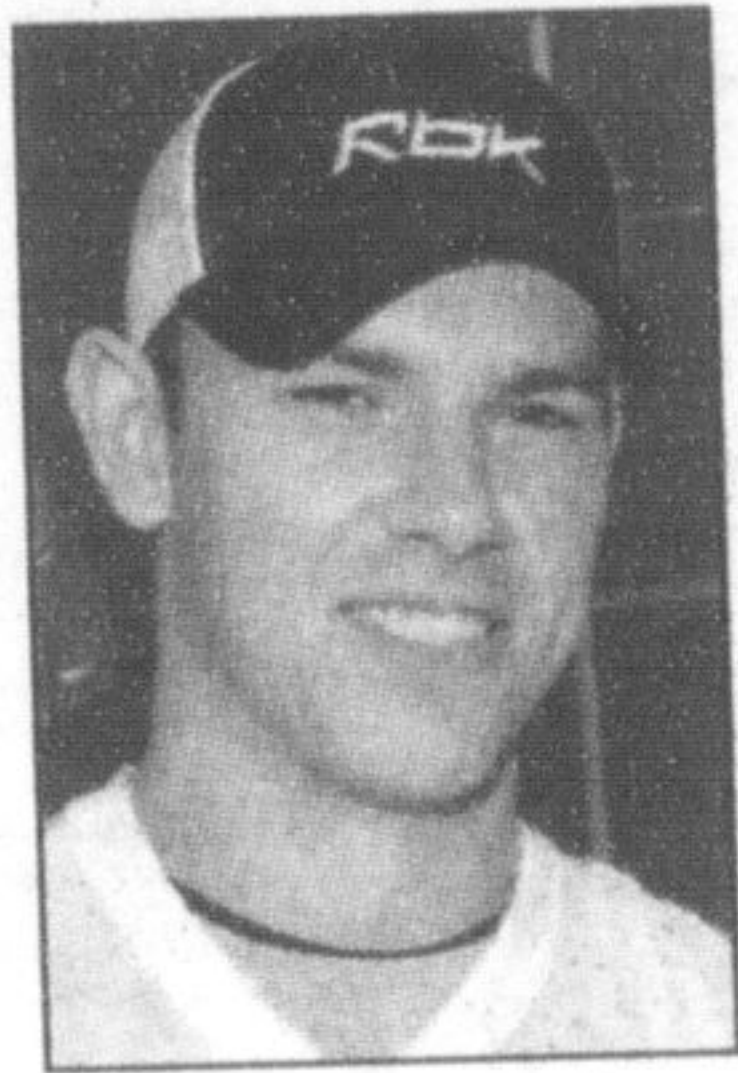
A 24-year-old third-year pro — who finished the regular season with 24 goals and 22 assists — Macdonald assisted on New Mexico's lone goal in the series clincher, which came less than a minute into the game.

From there Bucks sniper Leo Thomas scored his first of two goals just 24 seconds later, and Laredo cruised to a rather deci-

sive victory, its second in as many days after the Scorpions cut their series deficit in half with a 3-1 decision.

Macdonald picked up an assist in that game as well, and ended the playoffs with six goals and seven helpers in 18 games.

Meanwhile, fellow Miltonian Jon Glead — now done his East Coast Hockey League playoffs with the Cincinnati Cyclones — was recalled by the American Hockey League's Hamilton Bulldogs Tuesday, along with



Craig Macdonald

four other Cyclones.

He didn't dress for Tuesday night's game, in which Hamilton lost 3-2 to the Manitoba Moose in the North Division finals. The Bulldogs lead two-games-to-one, with game four set for tomorrow at Hamilton's Copps Coliseum.

A 23-year-old defenceman, Glead had one assist in eight regular season games with Hamilton.

Should Hamilton advance and Glead crack the lineup, local fans could well see a Miltonian-versus-Miltonian clash in the AHL semifinals, as Darren Haydar's Chicago Wolves were poised to beat the Iowa Stars for the West championship as of last night.

Jr. Red Sox's pitching and defence should once again be quite solid

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six-foot-four-inch, 200-pound pitcher who spent last season with the Guelph Terriers.

The 19-year-old hurler should be an adequate replacement for fellow southpaw Craig Howse, who at present is leaning towards a summer spent on the gridiron.

"Ryan's a big guy, and having played at the elite level he's very focused," noted Turner.

Throw in a handful of returnees and a now full-time commitment from capable left-hander P.J. McColl — who split last year between Milton and the St. Mary's Canadians — and the Red Sox's pitching staff measures up well against most of its fellow Central Ontario Baseball Association (COBA) counterparts.

With such a young team last season, the local juniors have lost only centre fielder Reg Taylor to overage, while promising infielder Will Hunter is off to try his hand at 'AAA' ball with neighbouring Burlington.

Milton has three new opponents this season. The most notable is a second entry Mississauga team comprised primarily of last year's midget squad that won the all-Canadians. Also joining the COBA ranks are Dundas and Erindale.

The Red Sox get 2007 underway Sunday at Brian Best Park against Brampton at 1 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Senior Red Sox are back in action tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. against Brampton, looking to break into the win column after an 0-2 season-opening doubleheader.

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