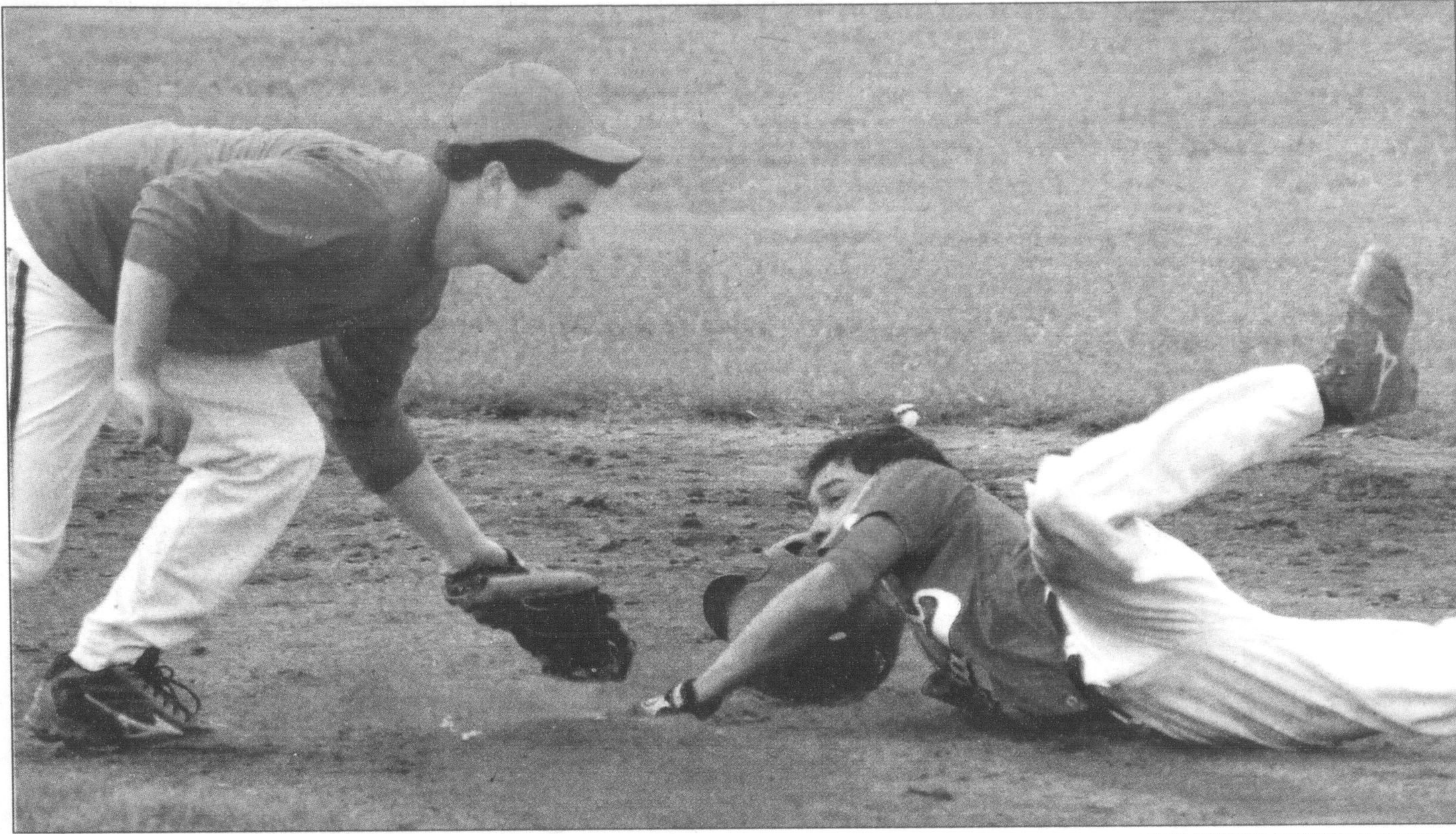


SPORTS

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

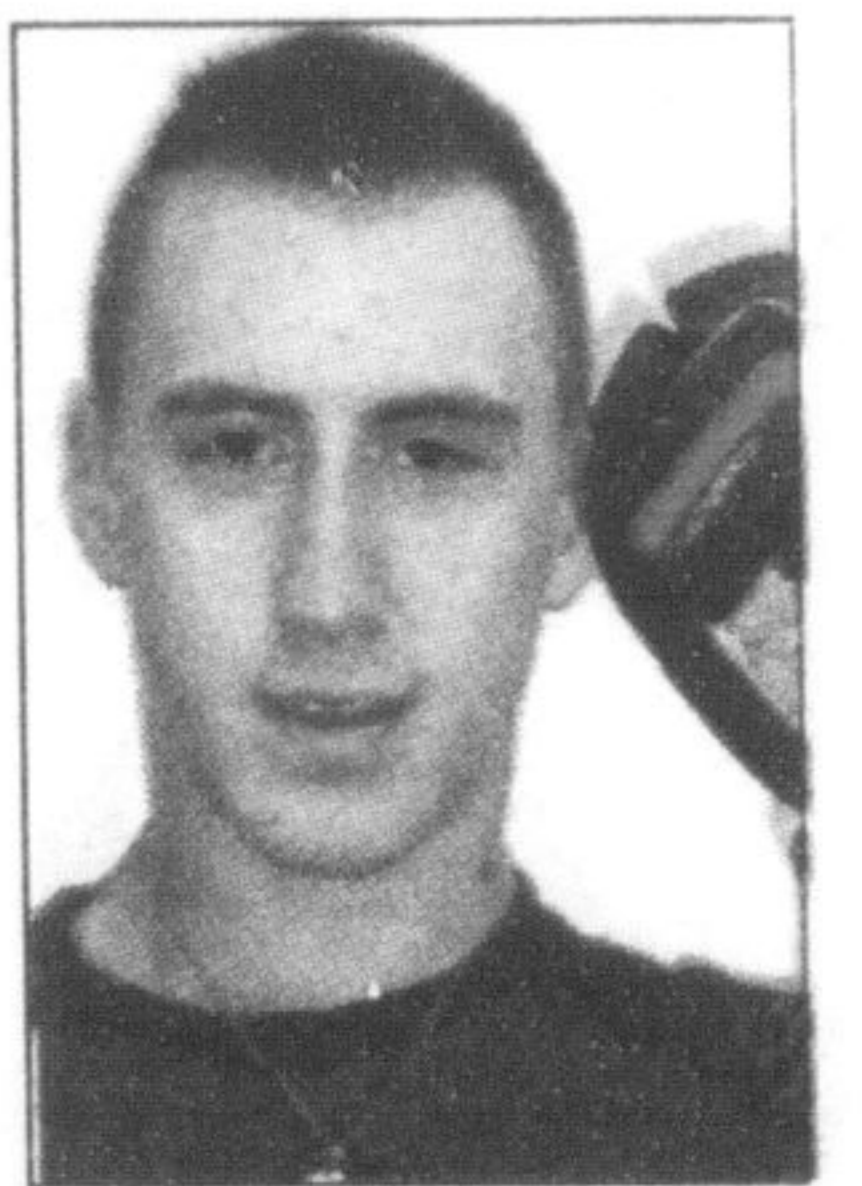
HE'S IN THERE: Milton District Mustang Reshad Nazeer slides safely into second base, ahead of the tag of Lester B. Pearson Patriots shortstop Shaun Kuntz, during high school baseball play Tuesday afternoon at Brian Best Park. Enjoying fbig relief pitching from T.J. Wells, the Mustangs battled back to edge their Burlington guests 5-4.

His cup runneth over

Woodcroft closes out championship-laden year with Sutherland Cup

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

James Woodcroft sure joined the Chiefs at the right time. Making up for lost time — having never won a playoff round in six previous years in Tecumseh — the Windsor-area Jr. B club took all the gold this spring, capping a championship-rich season with the all-Ontario Sutherland Cup Saturday night in Elmira.



“Yeah, I was fortunate to come aboard when I did,” 17-year-old Woodcroft told the *Champion* Tuesday afternoon, still basking in the glow of the title win. “It was great to win it all. It’s hard to describe ... just a great feeling.”

Tecumseh not only gave Essex County its first Sutherland Cup triumph in the 75-year history of the trophy, but did so in a minimum four games against the Sugar Kings — with Woodcroft factoring into Saturday’s 5-3 clincher with a first-period deposit.

He was officially credited with the game winner as well, though admits he didn’t actually pop it in.

“Dan Reaume really scored, I just assisted. That first goal was mine, though. The defenceman coughed up the puck

• see WOODCROFT on page A22

Melo named to Canada’s Under-20 team

Set for rematch with powerhouse Argentina Sunday

Joey Melo has already taken advantage of one opportunity this spring, and now hopes to do so with an even bigger one.

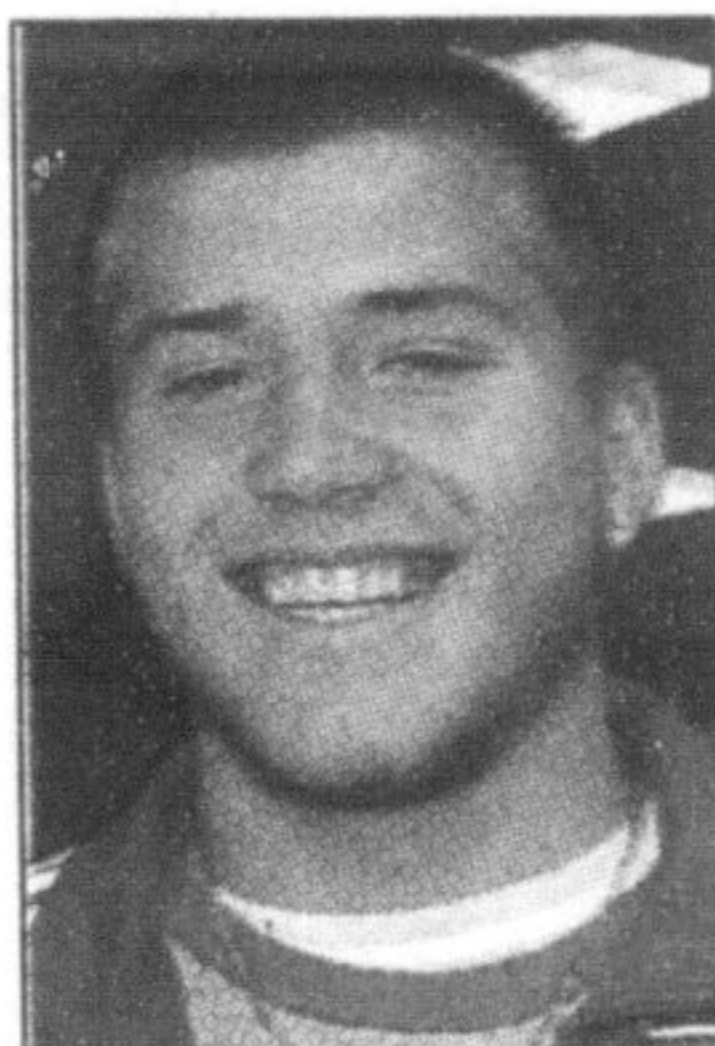
Scoring on a free kick in the seventh minute at BMO Field last Friday, the 19-year-old Miltonian helped the Toronto FC reserves to their first win of the season — a 2-1 decision over the New York Bulls. Now he’ll look to build on that momentum with his latest taste of international competition.

Recently named to Canada’s Under-20 men’s team, Melo is set to do battle with six-time FIFA U-20 World Cup champion Argentina Sunday afternoon in Toronto. It’s a one-year anniversary rematch from the official opening of BMO Field, which Argentina took 2-1.

To say the local midfielder is eagerly anticipating the showdown would be a huge understatement.

“It feels pretty good to be on the team. I’m excited,” remarked Melo, who as a freshman last year got into six games with the big club and is hoping to surpass that number this season. “This is definitely a big opportunity. The FC coaches will be watching, so I want to make a strong showing.”

A two-way anchor with the 2006 Bishop Reding senior boys team that captured ‘AA’



Joey Melo

OFSAA gold, the Toronto FC hopeful said the jump to the Majors has been quite the learning experience.

“I was used to playing with guys my own age, so with everybody being older the game is so much quicker. Everything happens really fast. I had to step up my training to try and keep up,” noted Melo, who’s been part of the national program before, with Canada’s U-17 squad. “I’ve gotten stronger, but there’s still work to do. Last year was about just breaking in, so now I’m hoping to get into more games and continue proving myself.”

Serving as initial preparation for the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt, which Melo will still be eligible for, Sunday’s Canada-Argentina clash begins at 4 p.m.

Tickets are still available at ticketmaster.ca.

MILTON THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE CLINIC



Ryan Weaver B.Sc., RMT, Lindsey Jukes RMT, Leanna Sargent BFA, RMT, and Jillian Guard HonsBSc, RMT.

Is pleased to welcome Leanna Sargent to our massage therapy team!

In addition to swedish massage techniques, Leanna is also certified in Thai massage, Suikodo and hot stone massage. Be sure to read about these techniques in next weeks “Ask the Professionals.” Please call the clinic to book a treatment with Leanna. Registered massage therapy is often covered under your health benefits plan.

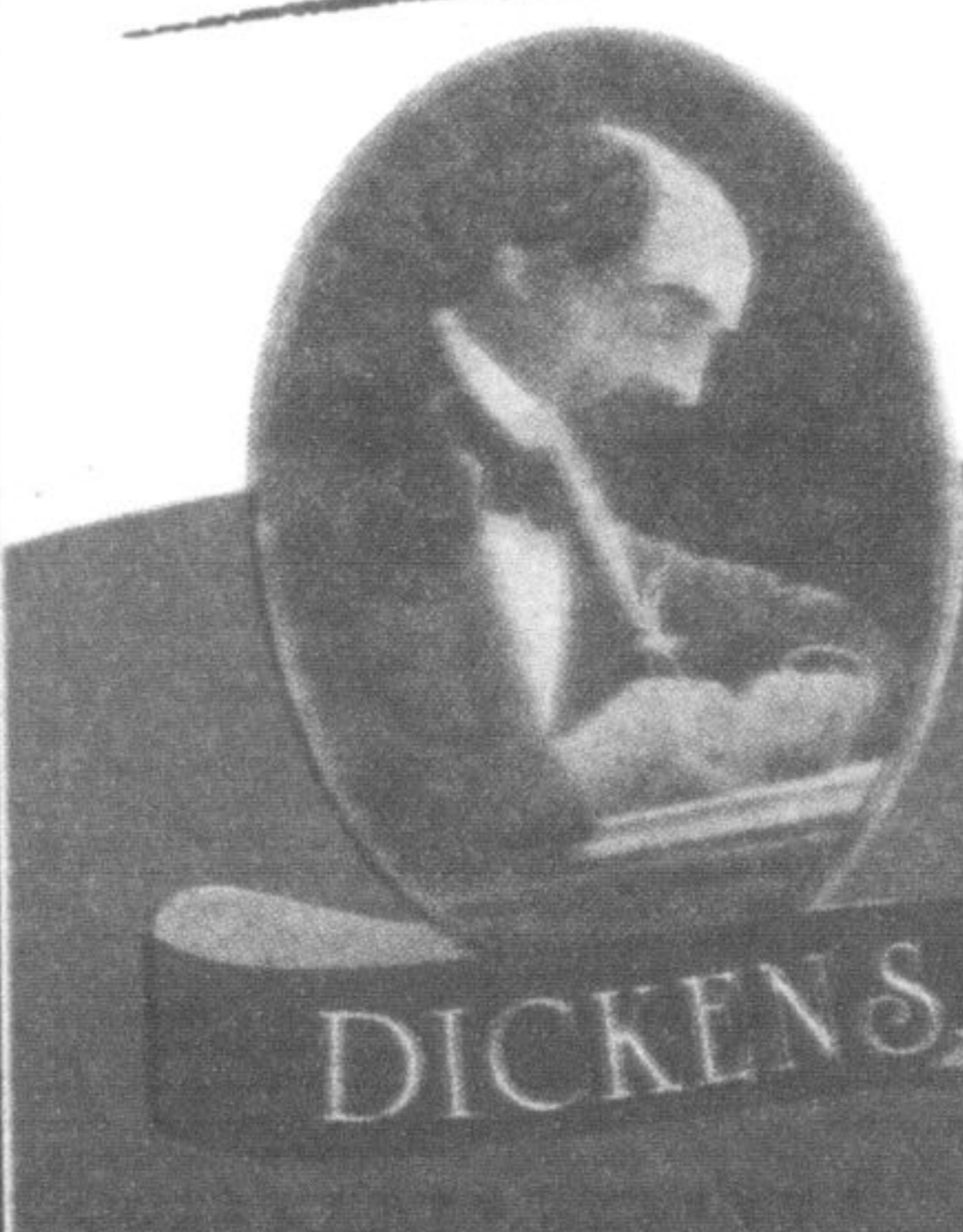
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