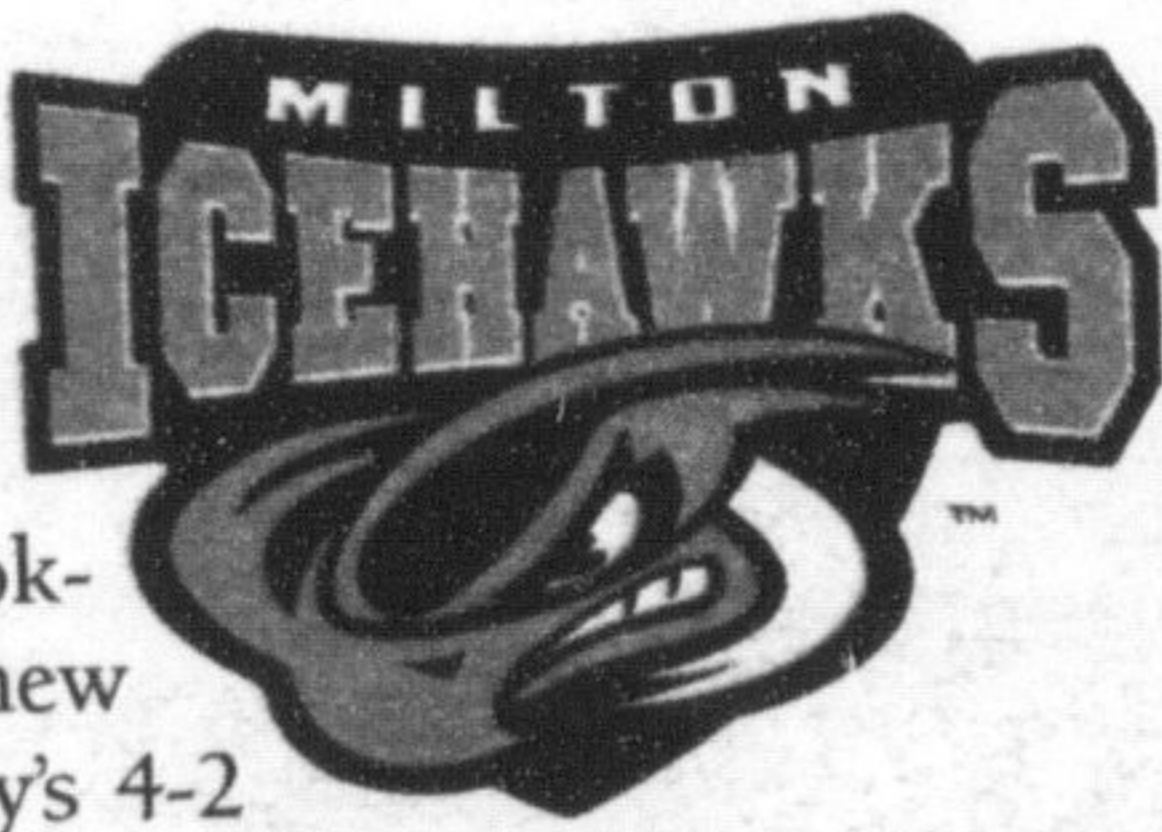


GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

THEY'RE A BIG HIT: Above, Dodgers player Evan Moreau, 7, belts out a hit during the Grasshopper division hitting skills competition, part of Milton Minor Baseball Association's Championship Day Saturday at Rotary Park. Centre, five-year-old Memphis Muise of the Tigers keeps his eye on the ball. At right, Dodger Devin Connelly, 6, grimaces after making contact. Skills competition gold-medal winners included: T-ball Baserunning — Bryce Chapman (StrawBerry Jays), T-ball Ball Throw — Sheldon Winter (GrapeKelly Jays), T-ball Hitting — Bryce Chapman (StrawBerry Jays); Grasshopper Baserunning — Joshua Van Zuylen (Storage Spot Dodgers), Grasshopper Ball Throw — Addison Patterson (Toronto Star Cubs), Grasshopper Hitting — Cameron Hewitt (Manheim Toronto Tigers). In the Rookie Ball division, the Ray Ban Mets beat the Kinsmen Yankees 11-2 in the championship, while the consolation final saw the Towne Dental White Sox defeat the J. Scott Early Diamondbacks 9-3.

'Hawks go unbeaten in pre-season action

Bill McDougall won't allow himself to get too excited about a perfect pre-season run — but he sure likes what he sees so far.



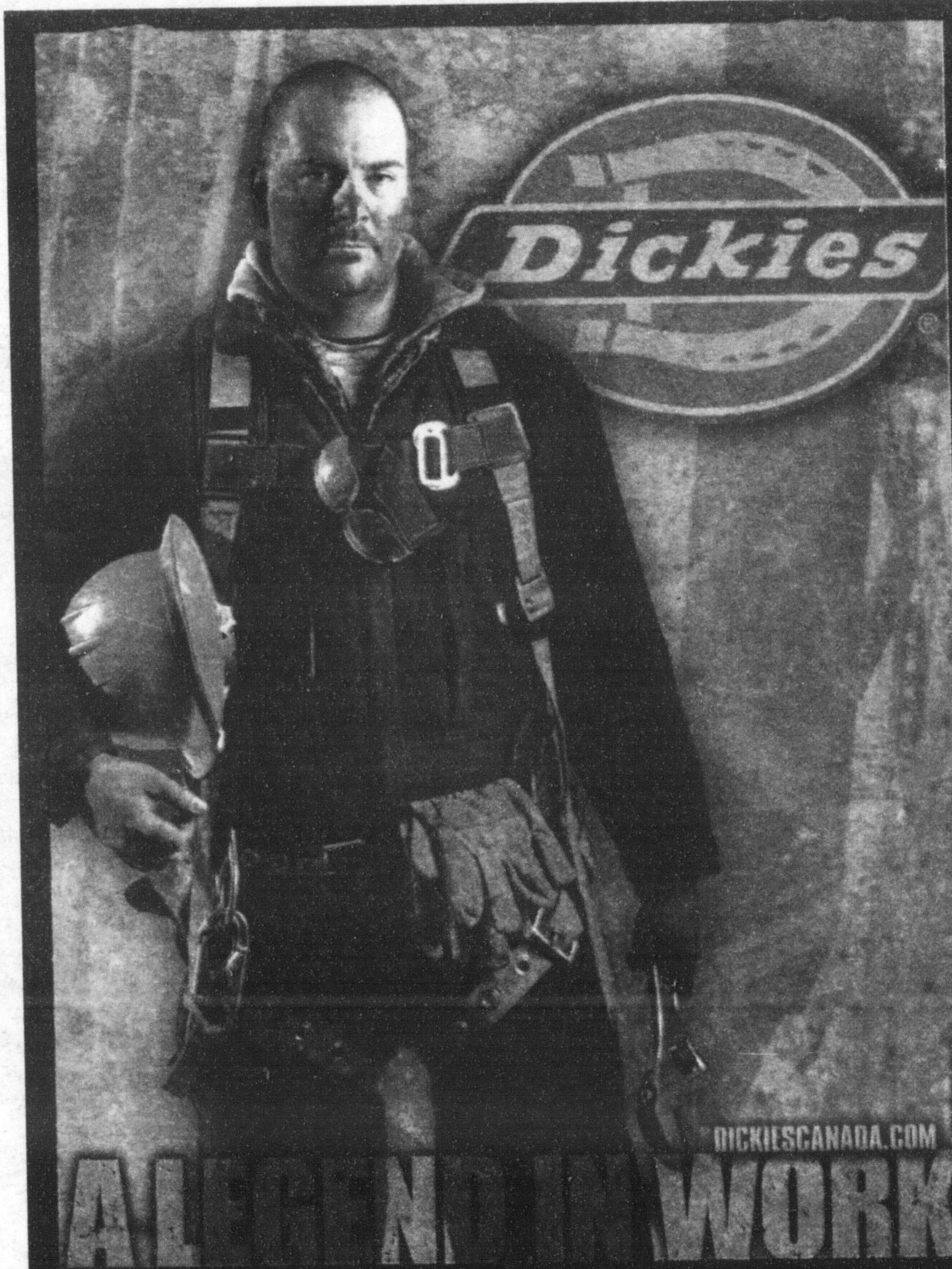
"Absolutely, things are looking good," said the IceHawks' new head coach, following Tuesday's 4-2 decision over the Dixie Beehives, which capped a 4-0 exhibition stand. "In particular I think we have the best one-two punch in the league between the pipes (in returnees Dillon Branco and Steve Zoffranieiri). They both make so many big saves when we need it and honestly I don't think I've seen either of them give up a soft goal yet."

While hard-pressed to replace the 87 points (32g, 55a) lost by the departure of David Vallorani — now at UMass-Lowell — Milton has a number of key forwards back this season. They include Kevin Caister, Justin Basso, Tyler Stothers and Ryan Stroz.

Furthermore, McDougall has been quite impressed with some of the incoming midgets — most notably Peterborough Petes draft pick Ricky Bueller.

Milton took two games against both Dixie and the Toronto Jr. Canadians through pre-season play, which was highlighted with last Thursday's 3-0 shutout of the Jr. Canadians.

Due to a few nagging injuries, the IceHawks have canceled tonight's exhibition game with Hamilton. They kick off the regular season next Friday at Memorial Arena against the Brampton Capitals.

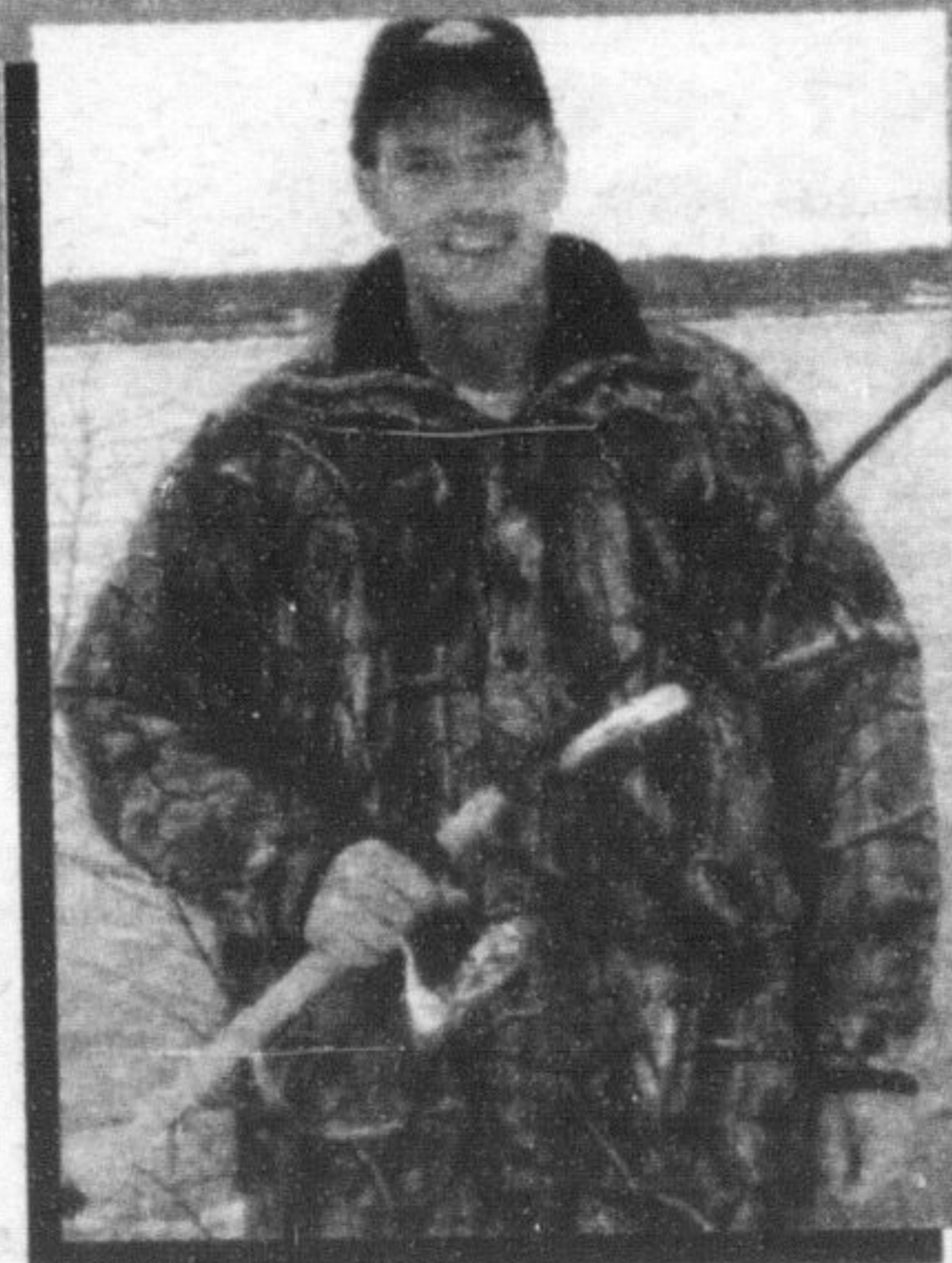


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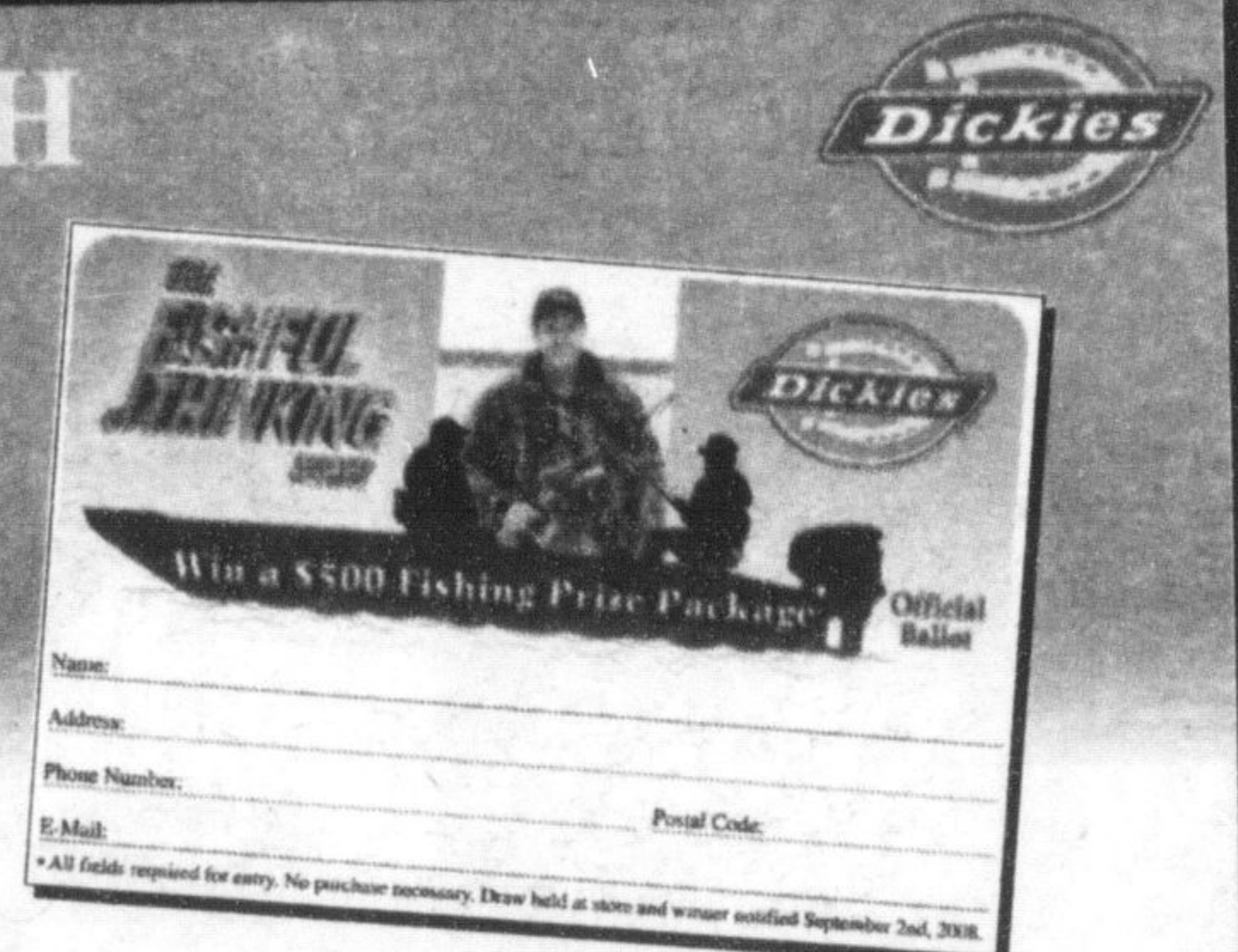
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