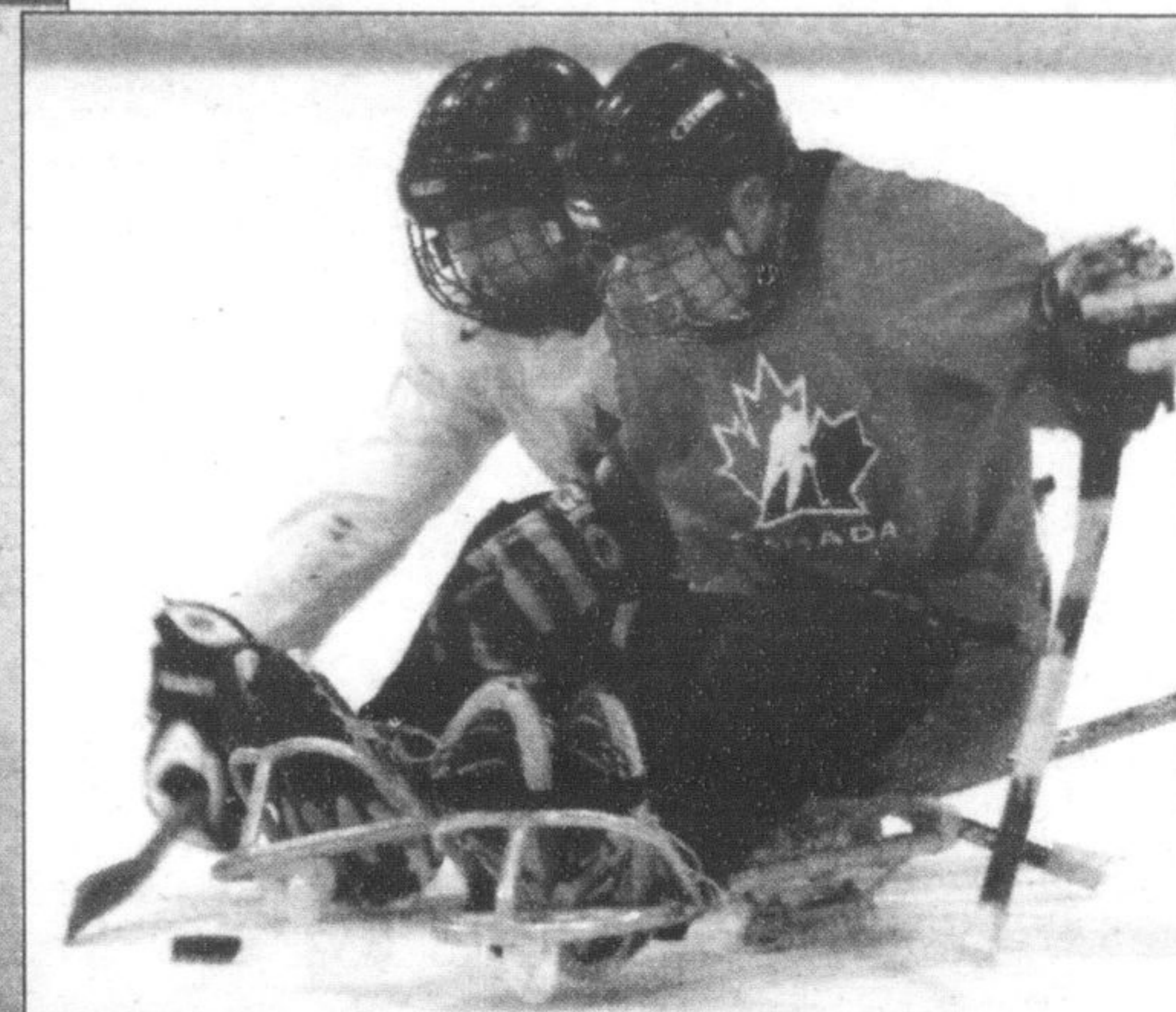
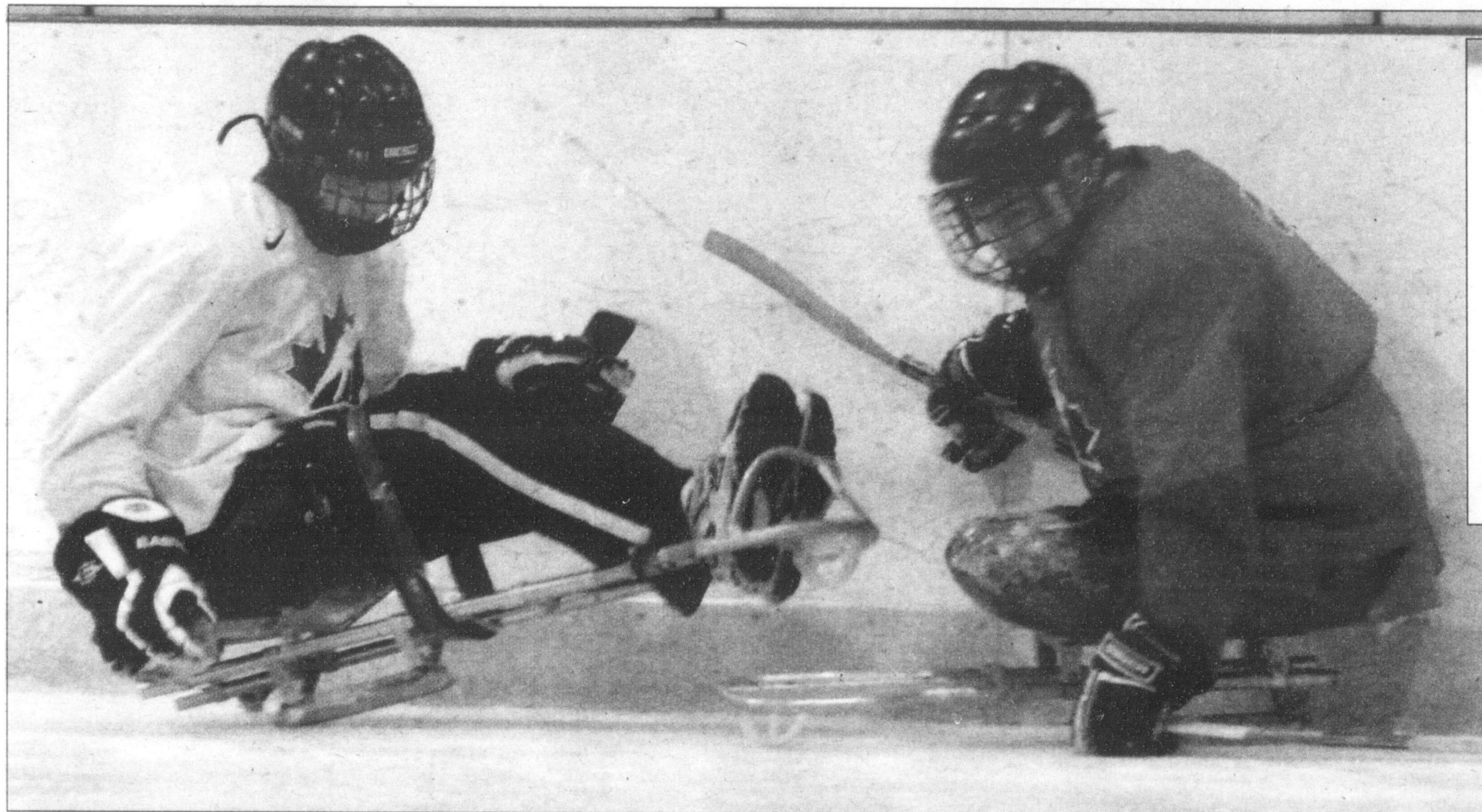


SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR: STEVE LeBLANC e-mail sleblanc@miltoncanadianchampion.com



SLEDGE SHOWDOWN: National sledge hockey team hopefuls compete in Sunday's inter-squad scrimmage at Milton Sports Centre. The game was part of a three-day selection camp in town for Canada's squad. Thirty players tried out for a chance to compete at the 2009 IPC Sledge Hockey World Championships in the Czech Republic.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Kickboxer earns two-fight split in South Africa

End of unbeaten streak doesn't discourage Scarfe

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It was bound to happen sooner or later. With that in mind, Steve Scarfe met his first kickboxing defeat — coming late last month in Pretoria, South Africa — with minimal disappointment.

After all, the 24-year-old Miltonian was facing his stiffest competition to date — and a continuation of his opening-round knockout streak would have been a bit too much to expect at the Intercontinental Championships. To that end, the six-foot-two-inch, 185-pounder was quite pleased to come away from his second taste of international experience with a two-fight split.

"These were by far my toughest matches and I'm a better fighter than I was going in," said Scarfe.

Having needed less than three minutes to beat all seven of his previous opponents —

including one in his international debut last year in Trinidad — there was some question as to whether the local kickboxer could go the distance.

He silenced those concerns in his first challenge, scoring a unanimous decision over a host competitor with about three times as many fights under his belt.

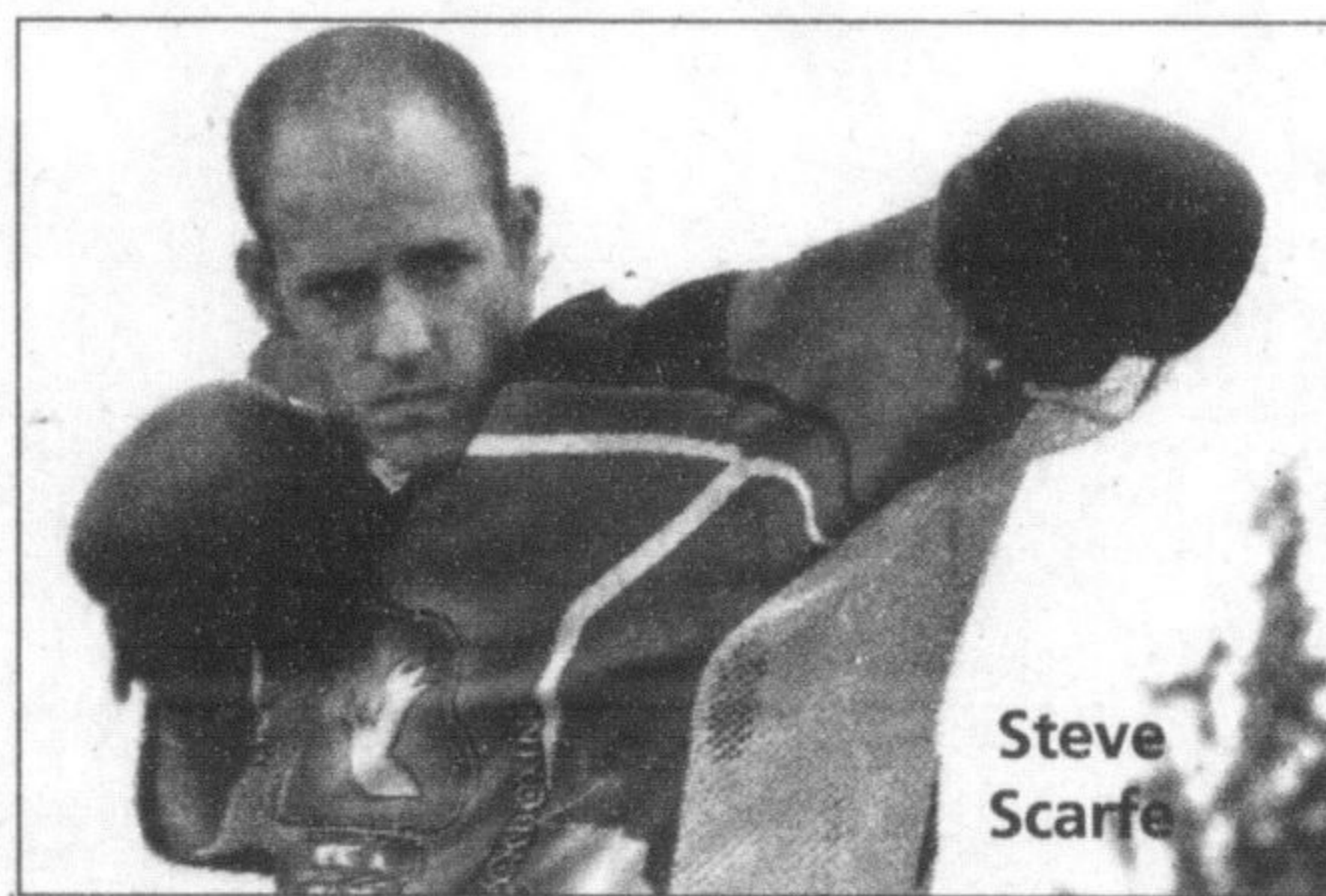
Despite feeling a bit jet-lagged, Scarfe controlled the majority of the three-round bout and nearly grounded the South African in the second — dropping him twice and seemingly doing so again just before the bell.

However, that third fall — which would have meant an automatic technical knockout — was deemed a slip.

Having since reviewed the footage, Scarfe disagrees with the ruling.

"It wasn't a slip, I dropped him again."

But Milton's kickboxer was hardly irked by the decision, given the fact that it allowed him to further test — and prove — his



Steve Scarfe

endurance.

"My stamina and defence were pretty good. This is the first time I'd had to take any real shots, but it wasn't anything I couldn't handle," said Scarfe, who dropped his latest victim with a right cross and left hook respectively.

However, the two-time national team member admits he wasn't quite prepared for the rigours of fighting in consecutive weeks.

That plus a far more seasoned South African opponent — a world championship competitor with more than 40 fights overall

— proved to be an insurmountable combination just seven days later. Though holding his own through the early going, Scarfe suffered a second-round TKO.

"Near the end of the first round he caught me with a big hook that rattled me. I was pretty hazy for the second round, with a bit of double vision. From there he got me along the ropes and just overwhelmed me."

Nevertheless, Scarfe sees his latest international competition as a positive experience — realizing that more is learned through defeat than in victory.

"Viewing the film, there's some things I need to improve on, like working my jab more on these shorter guys so they don't get inside on me," he said.

Scarfe may not have long to wait before putting his newfound lessons to good use.

Missing his first crack at the Brian Douglas's Canadian cruiserweight title this past spring — due to a broken nose — he's tentatively set for another shot at the Burlington champ next month in Oakville.



STAGS BASKETBALL CLUB OF MILTON REP TEAM TRY-OUTS 2008-09 SEASON

<p>DIVISION: U10 Boys & Girls (Separate) DATE: Thursdays, Sept. 18th & 25th TIME: 8pm to 10pm LOCATION: St. Anthony of Padua School - 1240 Tupper Drive COST: \$10.00</p>	<p>DIVISION: U14 & U13 Boys DATE: Fridays, Sept. 19th & 26th TIME: 8:30pm to 10pm LOCATION: Bishop Reding HS - 1120 Main St. East COST: \$10.00</p>	<p>DIVISION: U15 Boys DATE: Fridays, Sept. 19th & 26th TIME: 8:30pm to 10pm LOCATION: Bishop Reding HS - 1120 Main St. East COST: \$10.00</p>
<p>DIVISION: U12 & U11 Boys DATE: Monday, Sept. 22nd TIME: 8:15pm to 9:45pm LOCATION: Milton Leisure Center - 1100 Main St. East COST: \$7.00</p>	<p>DIVISION: U15 & U14 Girls DATE: Fridays, Sept. 19th & 26th TIME: 8:30pm to 10pm LOCATION: Bishop Reding HS - 1120 Main St. East COST: \$10.00</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR STEVE NASH YOUTH BASKETBALL FALL/WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS</p> </div>

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