

# Baseball Chan's year-round passion

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Having moved to town last year from Toronto, the five-foot-11-inch, 170-pounder has been on the diamond pretty much his whole life, but didn't start playing rep until his early teens. Soon after that jump he hit a snag that could have easily served as a major deterrent.

"One year in Martingrove the coaches had some sons on the team so it came down to a vote and I got cut," recalled the NCAA Division 2-bound infielder, who made the switch from second base to shortstop last season and will likely remain in that spot with Lansing. "I ended up playing select that year. I used that as motivation, trying to show that I can play at the elite level."

He's proven that at just about every turn since that 2004 setback.

Before finding himself at Bishop Reding, Chan was a cornerstone of perennial powerhouse Silverthorne Collegiate — sharing the MVP award last spring — while on the club front he's now a third-year

veteran of a Royals program that in recent years has advanced dozens of players to the NCAA.

Being part of the nearby club means year-round training — and that's just the way the local teen likes it.

"Baseball is my love. If I'm not playing or practising it, I'm bored," said Chan, whose scholarship will cover at least three-quarters of his post-secondary expenses. "You've got to look at it like a job because guys down in Florida or

California are training every day right now, looking to take my spot, so I've got to work as hard as they do."

While his glove will likely always be seen as his strong suit, Chan — a right-handed thrower and hitter — has developed into quite a reliable contributor at the plate in recent years.

Much like with his fielding, a few adjustments to his plate mechanics have paid significant dividends for the soon-to-be Stars infielder, who with enough prom-

ise shown over the next year or two will have the opportunity to graduate to Lansing's affiliate, Michigan State University.

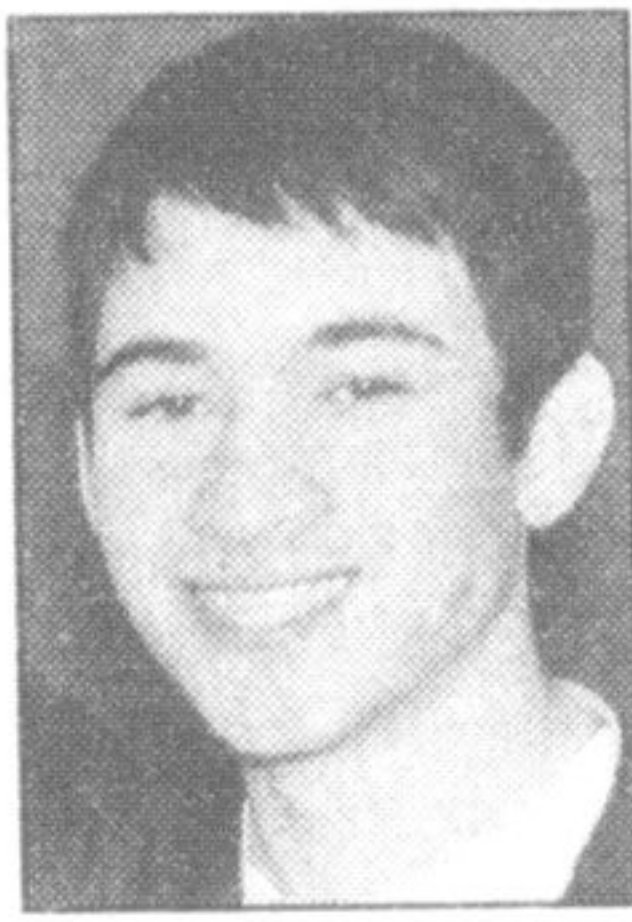
"Up until last year I was hacking the ball too much and they found it was because I was trying to hit everything for a homer rather than being a gap guy like I'm supposed to," said Oakville's two-way standout, who credits a number of coaches with his development — particularly Hung. "I'm definitely a more consistent hitter now."

Echoing those comments is Royals' first-year head coach Jason Booth, who believes Chan has a bright future ahead of him with Lansing.

"Aberdeen is a great character kid with good hands and athleticism. He'll be a good role player in college."

Chan shares that optimism.

"Coach Sanville says I've got a good chance to see real playing time as a rookie. I've just got to keep working hard and improving and my opportunities will come."



Aberdeen Chan

# AA peewees keep perfect playoff run intact

Winterhawks sink late goal to eclipse Falcons

Milton's AA peewees didn't score a whole lot of points for style in St. Catharines Tuesday night, but scored just enough times to keep their unbeaten playoff run intact.

Not quite in sync after an impressive win over round-robin favourite Oakville Sunday, the Winterhawks needed some clutch cage work from Connor Hallyburton and a late goal from Drake Bailey to squeak by the Falcons 3-2.

The win lifted the local peewees to 3-0, with Milton and Oakville on a collision course for the lone berth past OMHA preliminary play.

Hallyburton turned aside a number of big shots from the point to highlight a rock-solid showing between the pipes, while strong fore-checking by Sean Walter and Drew Jones allowed Bailey to break

the tie on a goal-mouth scramble with about four-and-a-half minutes remaining.

Marcus Miller and Alex Webster put Milton ahead, each scoring and setting up the other.

Recording the other assist was Kevin Galley, while Michael Bergman delivered some topnotch fore-checking in the late stages of play to keep the hosts pinned in

their own end. Webster provided a credible two-way effort and was his usual effective self in the playmaker role.

The AA peewees were looking to turn in a stronger overall performance last night at home against St. Catharines. They're in Guelph Sunday and then close out the preliminary round Thursday in Oakville.

# Kids triathlon set for return

Young triathletes will once again have a chance to compete locally.

Taking over for the former Kids of Steel event, the Tri Kids Triathlon Series will feature a four-race swing this year, punctuated with a stop in Milton Saturday, Sept. 26.

Other races will be held in Mississauga, Oakville and Bracebridge.

Tri Kids is open to racers from three to 15 years of age, with each participant receiving a t-shirt, swim cap and goody bag, along with a finisher's medal.

For more information about the series or to sign up, visit [www.runwellevents.com](http://www.runwellevents.com), or e-mail the race directors at [racedirectors@runwellevents.com](mailto:racedirectors@runwellevents.com).



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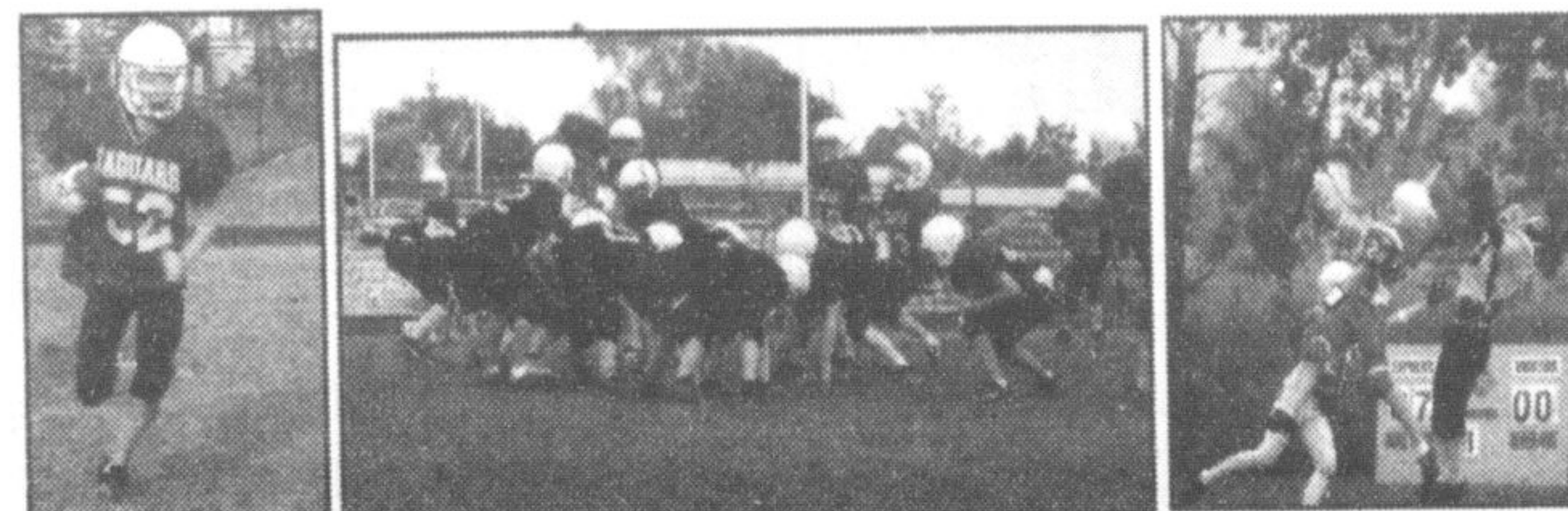
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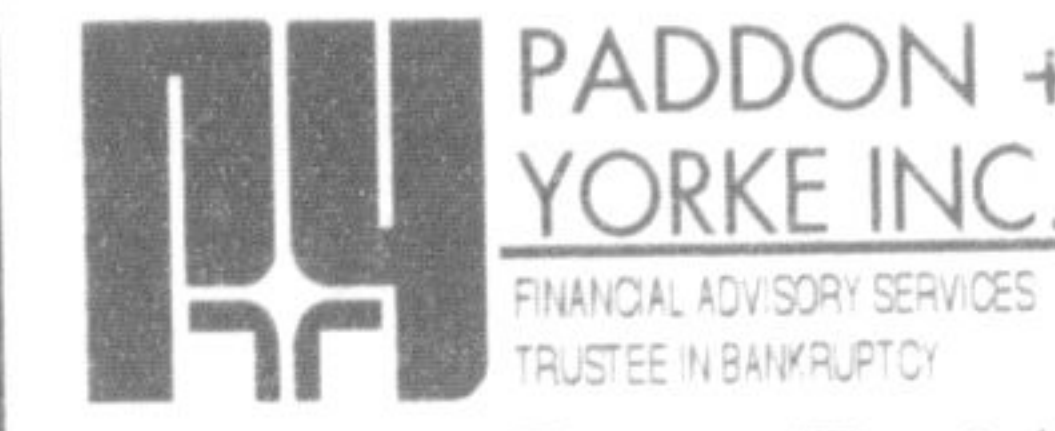


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