

Yeah! That's the ticket, I'll become a pro athlete, yeah

Have you heard what baseball players salaries are this year. Just last weekend Dave Stewart of the Oakland Athletics signed a contract for \$7 million over two years. That's \$3.5 million a year. Now even mediocre players like Bryn Smith of St. Louis will be pocketing \$2 million a year.

So, I've made a decision. I'm going to give up sports writing and become a professional ball player. It'll be great.

I'll make \$2 million a year, and I'll play for the Toronto Blue Jays. I'll be in the outfield with players like George Bell.

Although my batting average will be in the negatives, and I'll make more errors than Pete Rose got hits (even more errors than Bell), I will be making \$2 million a year and I can live with that.

After two years I will retire. Then I'll fight Mike Tyson. I'll make \$7 million and I'll only

From My Perspective

with MATT GUINEY



be in the ring for just 30 seconds. That's \$235,000 a second. Now that kind of pay per hour I can appreciate.

All Tyson's fights are just 30 seconds long. He might knock me out cold but he'll only hit me once. When the Star Spangled Banner is five seconds longer than the actual fight, it may be a disgrace to the boxing (sporting for that matter) world, but I'll be \$7 million richer.

After the fight I can go into promotions. I can

advertise such things as the best hospital plans, blood donor clinics and Ben-Gay. Hey! I'd have experience with those products and services. And I'll make a mint.

The next thing I'll do is go to a sporting clothes shop, pick out the ugliest clothing I can find, and start hitting a tiny white ball around on the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) tour. Why not?

Golf tournaments like the Masters or the U.S. Open award the winners with about \$100,000 each. \$100,000 in one weekend? I can live with that, too.

What else can I do? Horse racing, they make a lot of money. A Triple Crown winner in Canada or the U.S. never has a lack of money anymore. I'm small enough to be a jockey, but I'm not sure if I can stand the smell.

Other sports such as basketball, auto racing, and tennis (just to name a few) overpay ath-

letes with seven-figure salaries. I can do them all and make millions and millions of dollars.

Why do they pay athletes so much money? Professional sports should entice athletes with money rather than their God-given ability or a love for the sport.

At least that is the clouded message professional sports' big pay cheques tells young athletes these days.

"Who cares about education anymore. I'll play pro sports and have \$45 million in my bank account," is the thought running through the mind of many an athletic hopeful.

Sports should be fun, not a way to make a fast buck. Athletes should be paid for their talent and for the love of the game. They should make enough to support themselves and their families and be able to live comfortably. In no sense should they be millionaires. That's the bottom line.

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Sports

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Thrill of a lifetime

Stacey Bellamy, 11, of Milton was in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania last weekend for the 41st NHL All-Star game. After the game the student of Our Lady of Victory School met Mario Lemieux, her favorite player and the Most Valuable Player of the game. Lemieux, of the Pittsburgh Penguins, scored four goals in the contest setting or tying a number of All-Star game records.

Hockey Mustangs win one

In a frustrating season, the Milton District High School hockey Mustangs needed a big win they could savour. They were working on a five-game losing streak and were on the verge of being the only team in the East division to not make the playoffs.

After a 6-0 loss to Appleby College on Monday, the Mustangs snapped back with a much-deserved come from behind win over Queen Elizabeth Park to split the week. The Mustang record is now a disappointing 3-10, but while still in the basement, they are only one point down from Queen Elizabeth Park Eagles.

In the first game, the Mustangs lost a contest which they had in their clutches. It was 1-0 Appleby after one period when the Mustangs found themselves with a big break.

Two Appleby players were given

Mustang Report
 with MATT GUINEY



minor penalties for tripping and unsportsmanlike conduct, which gave Milton a 5-3 advantage for two minutes. Milton could not make use of it, but Appleby yielded yet another two-man advantage. The Appleby penalty box started to resemble a cramped telephone booth. Once again, the Mustangs came up short, only registering two shots on the power play.

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Muldoon stymies Oakville, Merchants cough up 2-2 tie

By BRUCE FROUDE

The Milton Merchants, except for a 12-second span, were flawless in their forechecking, defence and goaltending against Oakville Blades at Oakville Arena Tuesday night.

But those lost dozen seconds allowed the league-leading Blades to fight back for a 2-2 tie in the Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League West Division game.

"Twelve seconds," shrugged Milton coach Rick Bince. "That happens."

While Bince was happy to escape Oakville Arena with a tie, Blades coach Ken Moodie wasn't enthralled with the point.

"We can't be satisfied with that," said Moodie as the 23-4-9 Blades had their lead slip to nine points over Streetsville Derbys (19-9-8). Milton is fourth with a 15-15-7 record, four points behind Burlington, which has two in hand on the Merchants.

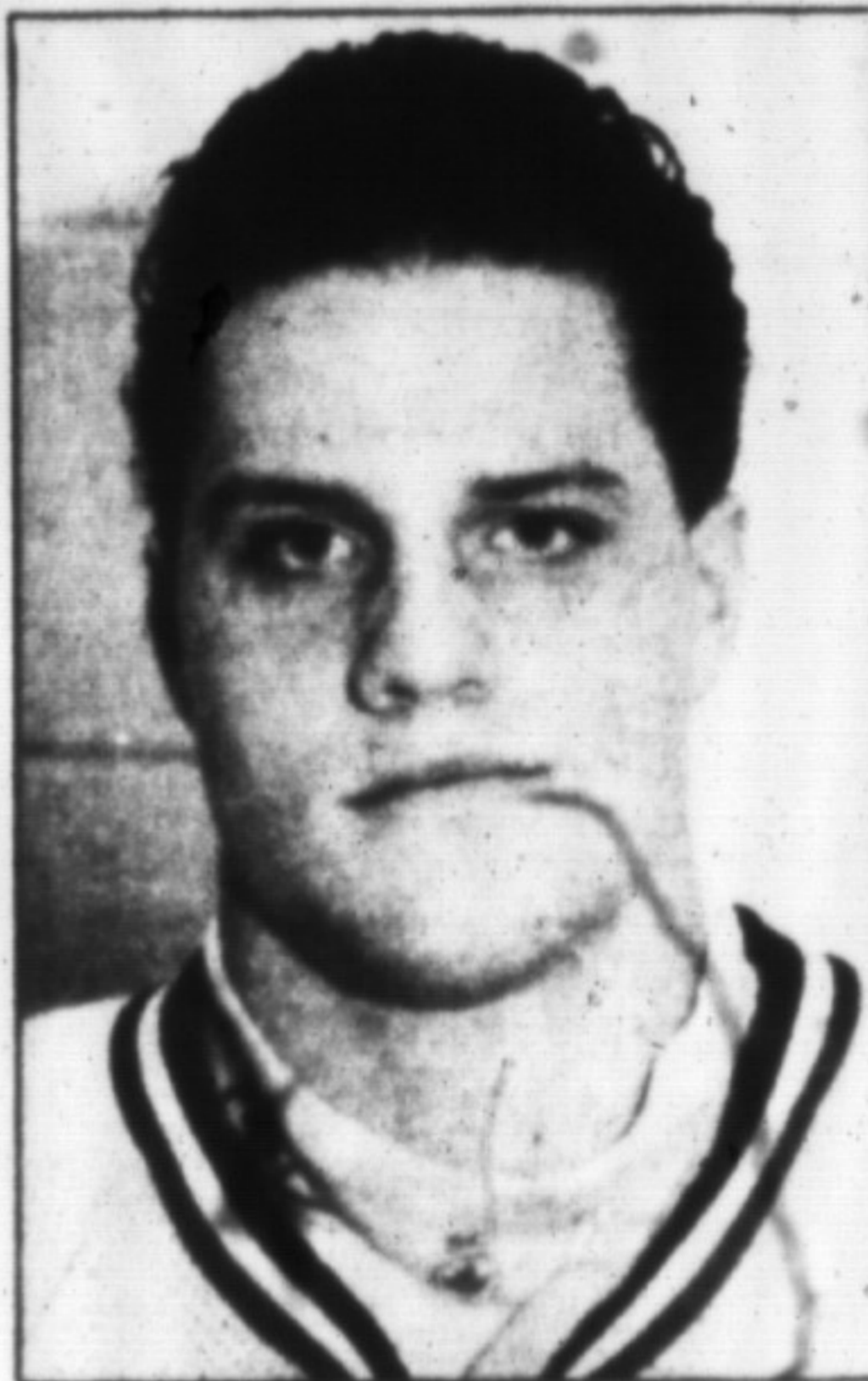
"You have to give the guys credit for not giving up though," added Moodie.

The Merchants seemed well on the way to their biggest upset of the season until they abandoned forechecking in favour of the dump-and-defend style of play. This played right into the hands of the Blades, who came to offensive life in the 17th minute of the final period.

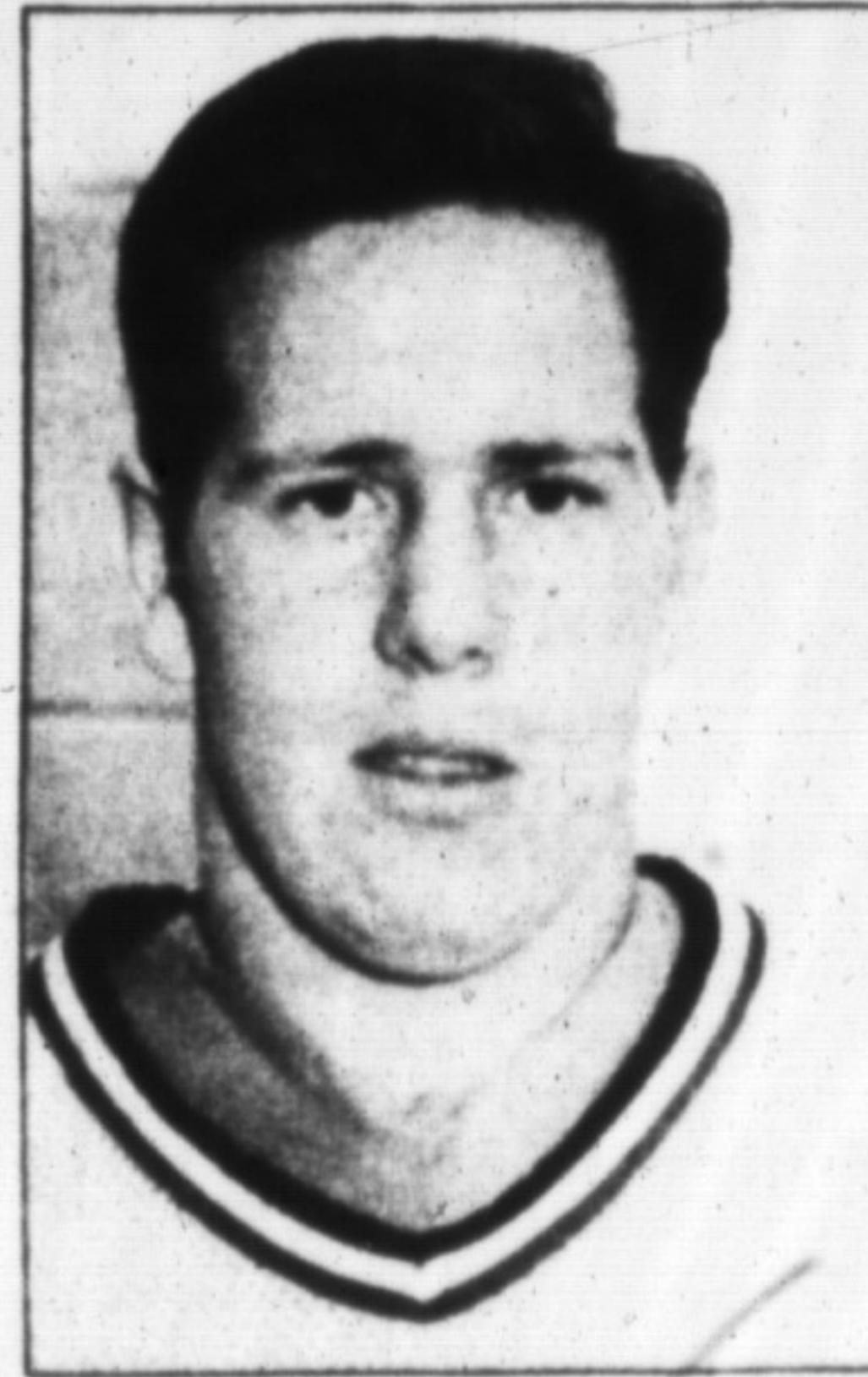
"I wouldn't say they played perfect," said Peter Romeo, who orchestrated the Blades tying goal with 2:11 left. "They played near perfect. In the sense that they know what to do against us, who to watch, and their goalie (Chad Muldoon) played great."

That would be the understatement of the day. Muldoon robbed every Blade save trainer Gordie Stewart. If he had laced up the skates, Muldoon would have performed grand larceny on him as well.

But Muldoon was nowhere to be found when Romeo unleashed a net-seeking missile from 10 feet outside the blue line to make it 2-2. The goal came 12 seconds after John Duff scored on a centering pass from Shawn Kelly.



Chad Muldoon



Ken Guilford

Afterwards, Bince suggested the curve on Romeo's stick was more pronounced than one of Bo Derek's. He didn't ask for a measurement, but said he would have considered doing so if it had been a playoff game.

"I said to Kenne (Moodie) on the way out, 'Has he ever got a boomerang?', but I don't call that crap. A goal is a goal. Playoffs, I might call it," warned Bince.

Instead, he tried to figure out where the victory went.

"My kid (Muldoon) was just a little flat-footed (on the winning goal). He had a big game and I think he thought he was two minutes away from a shutout and boom, they score."

"I think that will be a good learning experience for him. Just because they score, it doesn't mean you give up."

For the Blades the first score meant a second life, one they deserved.

"As soon as we scored the first I knew we could get another one," said Romeo. "We almost got one at the end too."

The Family Night crowd of 600, although a third had headed home by

the time the Blades knotted the score, left happy.

They almost exited disenchanted after the Blades received blanket coverage from the Merchants for the first 45 minutes of the contest.

"They (Merchants) just dumped it out and chased it," said Oakville coach Moodie. "There was nothing fancy about it and it was hard for us to get going."

Try next to impossible. In the first stanza the Blades outshot the Merchants 16-9 but trailed by one on a powerplay goal by Ken Guilford. The Merchants made it 2-0 early in the third on a goal by Jason Molnar.

Blades eventually outshot Milton 36-23, but half the shots came from the hinterland and the ones in close Muldoon snared with his glove, which at times seemed larger than the goalie.

Part of the problem was the Blades' desire to pass the puck when a shot was in order.

"We tried to be too fancy," said Moodie. "It looked like we were playing with an Indian rubber ball, the puck was bouncing so much."

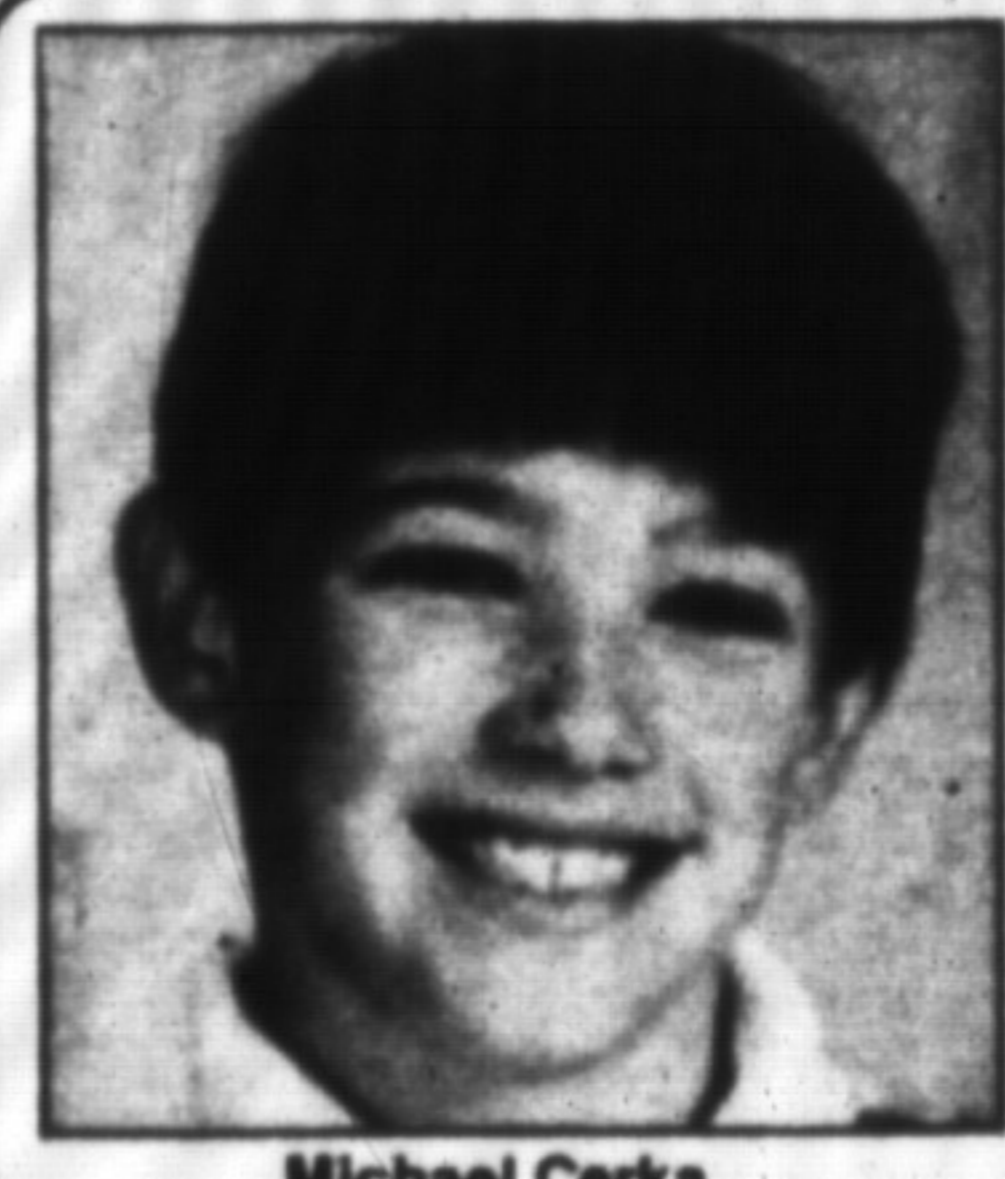
In nationals

Cerka fourth in qualifier

Milton gymnast Michael Cerka managed a fourth overall finish despite moving up from the provincial stream to compete in the tough Argo National Category in a Newmarket meet this past Sunday.

Cerka, 10, of the Burlington Gymnastics Club, in only his second year of serious competition found himself competing against 12 year olds at the meet. He managed a personal best mark of 9.30 on the parallel bars good for second place, a third on pommel horse with a 9.10, fourth in the floor exercise and the vault at 8.70 and 8.25, a fifth on the high bar and sixth on the rings to amass 51.45 points.

Cerka returns to his 24-hour-a-week practice schedule in preparation for his second national meet on March 10 in Burlington.



Michael Cerka