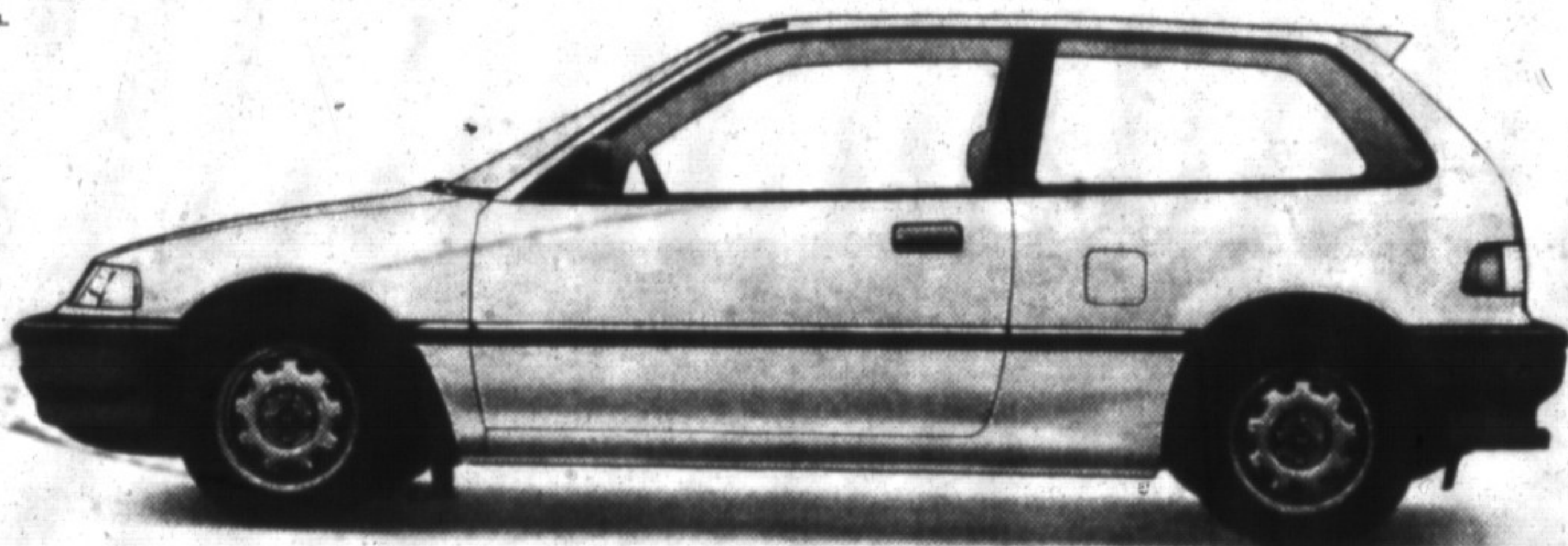


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MDHS loses East baseball final 4-3 to Loyola Hawks

By BRUCE FROUDE
Special to the Champion

The Loyola Hawks survived the first inning.

Hawks, notorious this year for starting poorly, overcame their first inning jitters to win the Halton East baseball championship 4-3 over the Milton Mustangs at Oakville Park May 30.

But it wasn't easy. The Hawks were trailing 2-0 even before they got their hands on the bats.

"We just have to relax a bit," said Loyola coach Leo King. "Today we had two errors in the first inning but against Oakville Trafalgar Monday (a 9-0 semifinal win) (we) were flawless. Hopefully we can go back to that."

Loyola faced M. M. Robinson (Burlington) at Nelson Park for the Halton title yesterday (Tuesday). Results were not available at press time. Robinson were 9-5 winners of the Halton West championship over White Oaks. The Halton champs advance to the Blue Jays Cup playdowns Saturday at Christie Pits in Toronto.

The White Oaks Wildcats reached the Halton West championship with a 12-5 victory over the Lord Elgin Lancers May 29 at Oakville Park. The M.M. Robinson Rams beat the Nelson Mud Hens 13-8 to reach the western division final.

Against Milton, the Loyola Hawks received strong pitching performances from winner Wayne Porterfield and hard-throwing reliever Peter Gibbons.

Gibbons came in during the fifth inning and struck out the first five batters he faced. The sixth, Steve Henderson, waved his bat at the ball and first baseman Dan Gorczyca scooped the weak grounder for the out.

Gibbons ran into a bit of trouble in the final (seventh) inning when second sacker Gavin Bryan's wild relay allowed Mark French to take second on the overthrow.

A passed ball put French on third. Milton's Jody Coulson grounded to Jeff Lamont, but his throw to catcher Mike Gilroy went sailing off his glove and French scored to make it 4-3.

Gibbons fanned Paul Nunnaro and Jody Rowley hit a Fred McGriff pop up to Bryan.

"That's the best I've ever seen Peter pitch," said King. "He had good control, which is a change for our team."

The Hawk hurlers had been guilty of walking batters at an alarming rate but Porterfield issued only one free pass and it didn't hurt.

What buoyed the Hawks was a three run rally in the first with two out.

Gilroy went the opposite way to left field. He stole second, one of six thefts in the game, and came home on Anthony Vaccaro's 0-2 single to centre.

Porterfield struck out but the Rowley pitch hit the backstop and when David McDuffe threw to first Peter Gibbons, who had walked, scored from second.

Two batters later Porterfield was thrown out at home on a delayed double steal with Mark Edmondson. Porterfield finally scored in the bottom of the fourth, when French's throw to first pulled Nunnaro off the bag.



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