



Ready to strike

Crystal Gouravski of the North Halton Red Dynamite bantams heads in for a scoring opportunity against the Mississauga Black Panthers goalie during the recent North Halton Twisters House League Tournament at Milton Sports Centre. The Red Dynamite was edged 2-1, while the Niagara Falls Rapids won the bantam division with a 3-0 victory over the Oakville Stingers. The North Halton Oreos blanked the North Halton Wolves for the novice championship, the Burlington Flames nipped the Grand River Mustangs Armstrong 2-1 for atom supremacy, the Port Colborne Wave dumped the Oakville Crusaders 5-0 in the peeewe final and the midget/intermediate division was won by the Oakville Diggers with a 1-0 squeaker over the Guelph Co-Operators. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

Haydar honoured to get to wear red and white for Spengler Cup

At the oldest international hockey showcase in the world, dating back to 1923 — the squad is made up of standouts from the European ranks and a few other players loaned out from American Hockey League clubs. "I've always wanted to represent my country and play in an event like this. It's an honour to wear the Canadian jersey at any event and I'm looking forward to a great experience."

After a somewhat slow start overseas, Haydar is now enjoying a near point-a-game pace with the Red Bulls, sitting (at holiday press time) with eight goals and 14 assists in 25 games. Stepping things up since the country's national break in November, Munich now sits eighth in the league at 15-14.

His German hockey experience follows a stellar 11-year career in the AHL that was highlighted with two Calder Cup championships, a 122-point MVP season with the Chicago Wolves in 2006-07 and The Hockey News naming him the league's Player of the Decade in 2010.

His 788 career points put him 14th in the

record books, while he is 10th all-time in assists (496) and 23rd in goals (292). Even more prosperous in the playoffs, he scored 63 times and added 80 assists, placing him atop the AHL's all-time post-season scorers.

He played 23 games in the NHL and recorded eight points — all with Atlanta — including his lone goal on October 13, 2007 against Martin Brodeur in a 6-5 loss to New Jersey.

Haydar has much more to celebrate this Christmas than just his Spengler Cup inclusion.

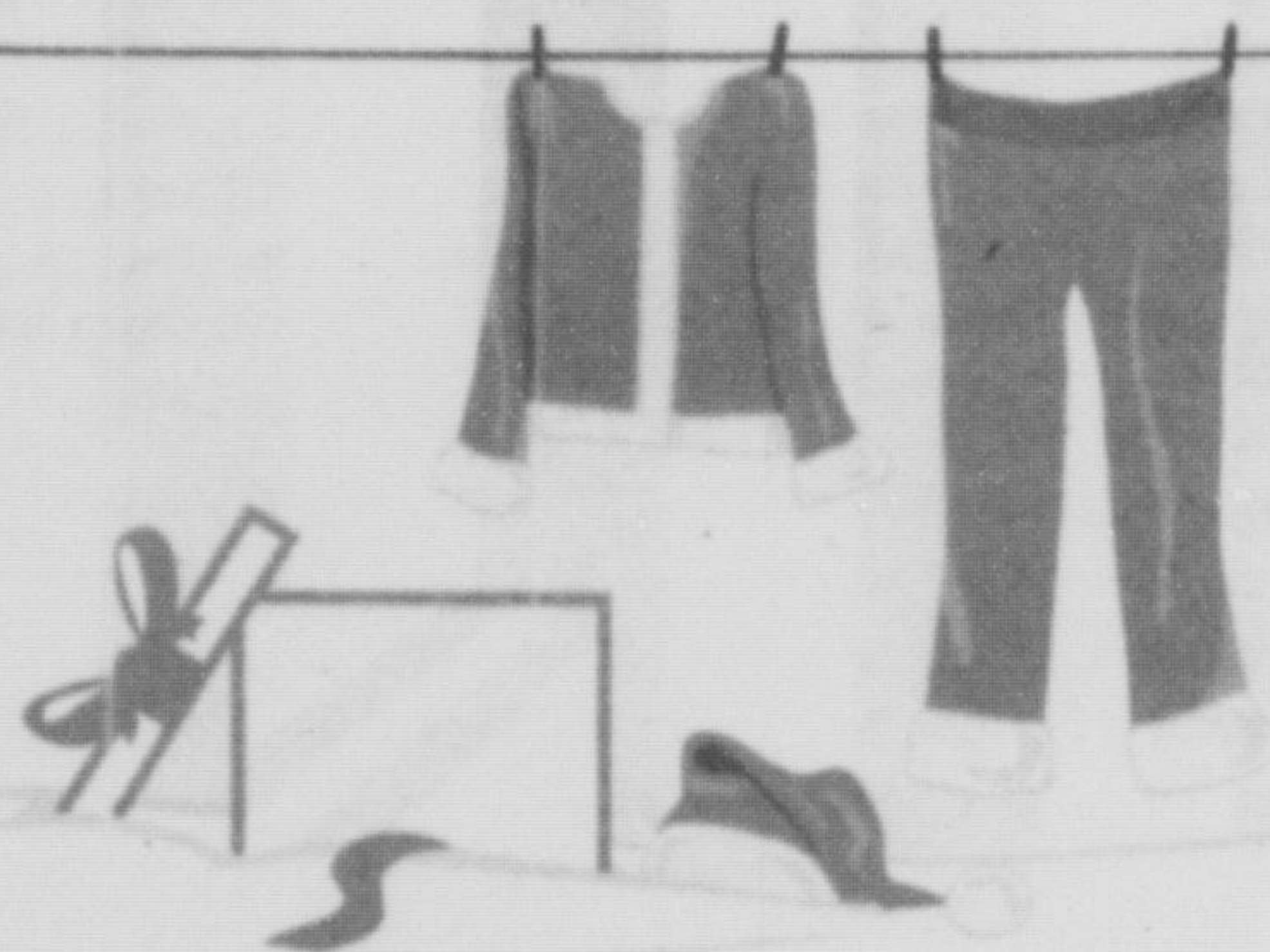
His wife Sara — now recovered from a lengthy and well-documented battle with throat cancer — gave birth to their first child, a son named Liam, on October 25.

"We're enjoying Germany and the birth of Liam in Munich was a blessing."

The six-team Spengler Cup runs today through December 31 in Davos, Switzerland.

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