

Chester Graham dropped hockey in favour of basketball as a youth

While most Canadian boys are born with a hockey stick in their hands and slick strips of metal as feet, Chester Graham spent much of his childhood lobbing a basketball through a hoop at the Midland YMCA.

"I lived at the Y," remembers Graham, instructor, at Midland Secondary School and leader of Ron's Longhorns basketball team. "My mother of-

ferred to send my meals down to the Y if they'd supply me with a bed."

"As a kid hockey was the big thing with all my friends, and my team won the Ontario championships for three years. But, when I turned 16 and shot up in height from 5'1" to 6'2", I turned away from hockey and put all my energies into basketball."

Graham's introduction to competitive basketball

came at Regent School in Midland where he made the school team despite being younger than any of his team mates. While playing for the school team, he also was a member of the "Y" squad that won the Ontario Midget Championships in 1961, taking home the Most Valuable Player award himself.

Midland Secondary School won the Georgian Bay Secondary School

Association championships four times while Graham was on the team. His athletic involvement in all sports earned him the school's all-round athlete award in 1966.

At Lakeshore Teachers College in Toronto and the University of Guelph, Graham again excelled in his favourite sport, leading the Guelph team in assists for three years.

"One of the main reasons I went to

University was to see if I could play College ball," he said. "I thought about the possibility of joining a professional team but for a Canadian it's just impossible."

"Hamilton's Bob Croft was the only Canadian to play American professional basketball. Bob is 6'11"."

Graham landed a job at his old highschool and promptly hit the courts with the Barrie Hustlers.

After winning the Simcoe County Championships with the Hustlers, he returned to Midland and helped form the Midland Mikes, forerunner to Ron's Longhorns. Mikes lost in the finals, as did last year's Longhorns.

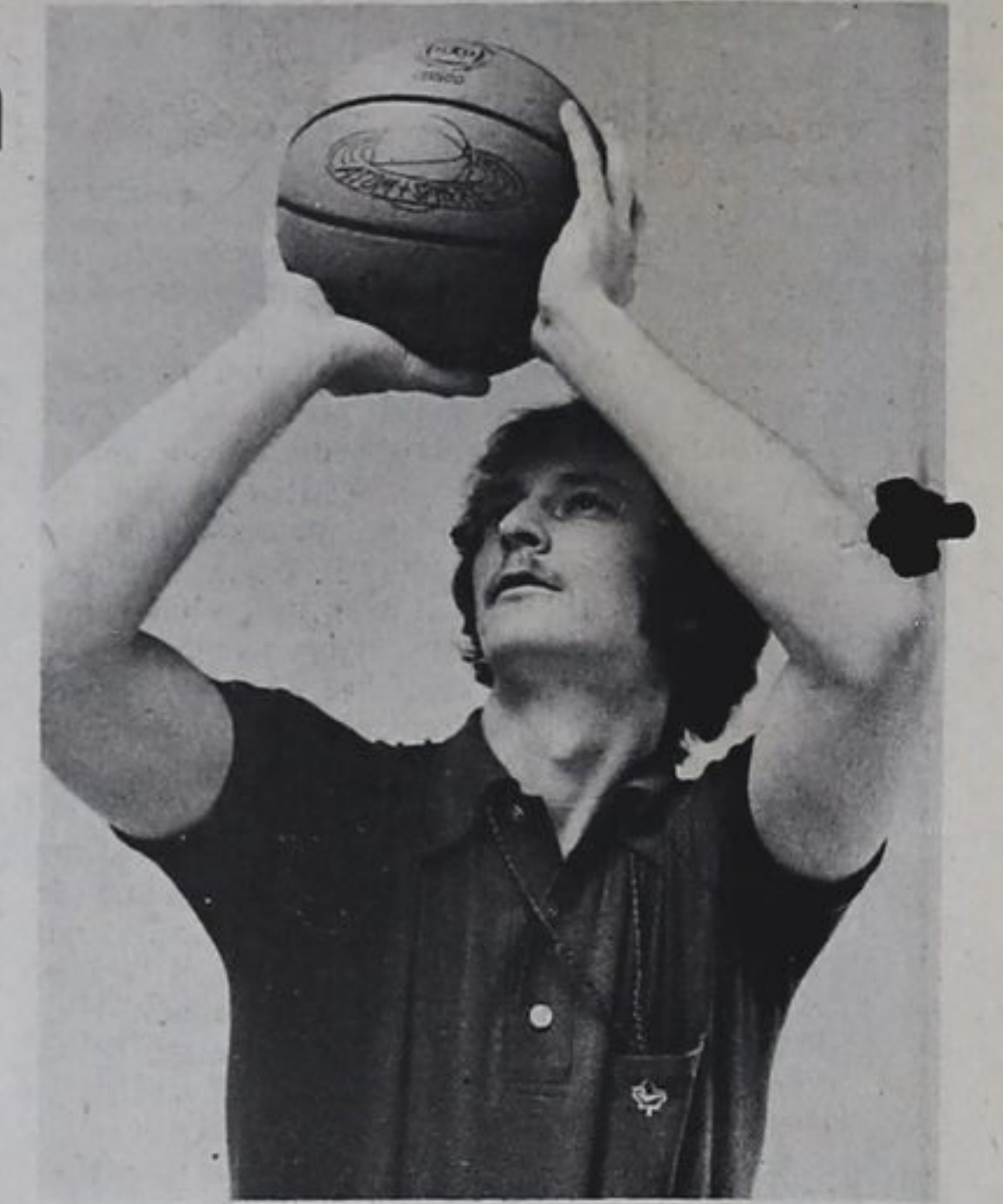
"I'm kicking myself now that I quit hockey for basketball," said Graham, "because I would have had a better chance making it professionally in

hockey." He almost made it to the pro ranks, but not in either hockey or basketball. The Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals gave him tryouts as a pitcher during his 13 years with the Midland Indians.

Graham takes his performance with the Longhorns seriously. He's a fierce competitor who is not out for recreation, but is out to win.

"At 29 I'm still keen enough that I want to win. It's frustrating at times because some of the other members of the team haven't had a lot of training and are just out for the recreation. It creates personal conflicts."

The Longhorns' ex-



Chester Graham

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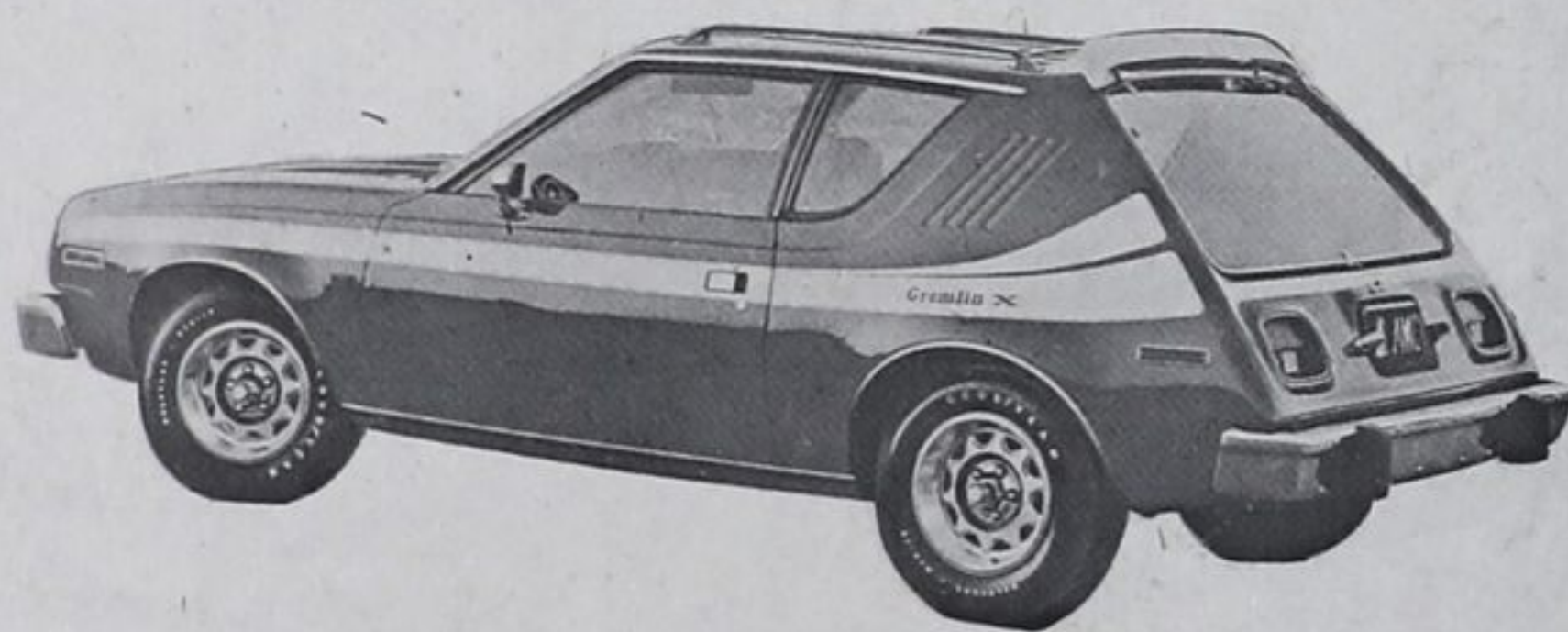
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Rules established to improve fishing

A new set of ground rules to improve the Lake Simcoe fisheries, lake trout and whitefish in particular, has been established by Ministry of

Natural Resources biologists. Natural Resources Minister Leo Bernier announced today. Open season for whitefish and lake trout

will be shortened. It will now extend from January 1 to March 15 and from the second Saturday in May until October 5; (the former season for these species extended from December 18 to October 5).

A creel limit of two whitefish per person per day will also be in effect, commencing January 1, 1977. There will be no change in the present limit of two lake trout per day.

Ice hut removal will be required by March 15 instead of March 31. All ice fishing huts must be registered.

The fisheries biologists point out that changing lake conditions now favor yellow perch and smallmouth bass instead of the prime favorites, whitefish and lake trout.

In recent years, whitefish catches have declined considerably with mostly large, old fish now being taken. Reasonably good fishing is being maintained to some extent by hatchery-raised trout. In short, natural reproduction of both whitefish and lake trout has declined.

In announcing the changes, Mr. Bernier said the restrictions to Lake Simcoe fishing do not indicate the Ministry is placing the blame on the

angler for the decline in whitefish and lake trout. "Rather, we are indicating that conditions for these species are now less than satisfactory and something must be done to perpetuate coldwater fish stocks. Therefore, a shorter open season and a creel limit will help 'spin out' remaining lake trout and whitefish populations by reducing the numbers taken by fisherman," the Minister said.

Natural Resources biologists say that gradual changes over very long periods of time occur in every cold water lake. Natural processes tend to change deep, cold, clear lakes to a shallower, warmer, more enriched, weedy state.

They say these very gradual changes have been greatly accelerated on Lake Simcoe during the last few decades by man's activities which are placing stress on the aquatic environment.

Other indications that Lake Simcoe has deteriorated as a fish habitat include critically low oxygen levels in the deep water zone in late summer, an increase in pollution-tolerant sludge worms on the lake bottom, increasing growths of aquatic weeds and periodic algae scum.

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