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# Sports

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Wednesday, March 15, 1989

## Downed by Dukes

# Uxbridge Bruins bow out of playoffs

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
The Uxbridge Bruins express fuelled by a high-octane blend of grit and determination of late, finally ran out of gas Saturday night.

goalie Wayne Patterson and was four inches away from guiding the puck into the empty net. Long's desperation swipe sent the puck off to the side.

Angelo Perfetti led the way Friday, scoring a hat trick including the game winner. The other Bruin goals were fired by Gregg Pierce, Gord

Roblin, John Steeves and Derek Lee. Phillips, holding court at game's end, had alluded to the fact that the Bruins were running

on fumes. "Some of these guys shouldn't be out there. They are only being held together by bailing wire."

And the wire came unstrung Saturday night at Wellington, where the Bruins never recovered from two early Dukes' goals. Perfetti and Patrick Drohan supplied the Uxbridge scoring, but the Dukes seemed to be able to score at will.

The Bru-crew was repelled 10-2 by the Wellington Dukes in the seventh and deciding game of the round one playoff series they had threatened to steal from the more talented Dukes.

"They (the Dukes) simply came up with their best game of the series," said Bruins' GM Chuck Phillips after the game. "And we just ran out of gas." The Junior C Bruins, who had scrambled to make the playoffs after being 10 points out of contention at one point, had forced the seventh game by defeating the second-place-finishing Dukes 7-5 at the Uxbridge Arena Friday night in a game that ended in a mood of near-ugliness for the frustrated Wellington squad.

The Bruins had erased an early 2-0 Dukes lead and had taken a 4-2 edge into the third period.

After the Dukes tied it with less than seven minutes to play in regulation time, the Bruins roared back with three goals to put the game away.

The Bruins had shown the fight that became their trademark in recent weeks, playing the final minutes of the game two men short.

At one point, John Long, known for his scoring prowess, committed grand larceny on a Duke player who had beaten Bruins'

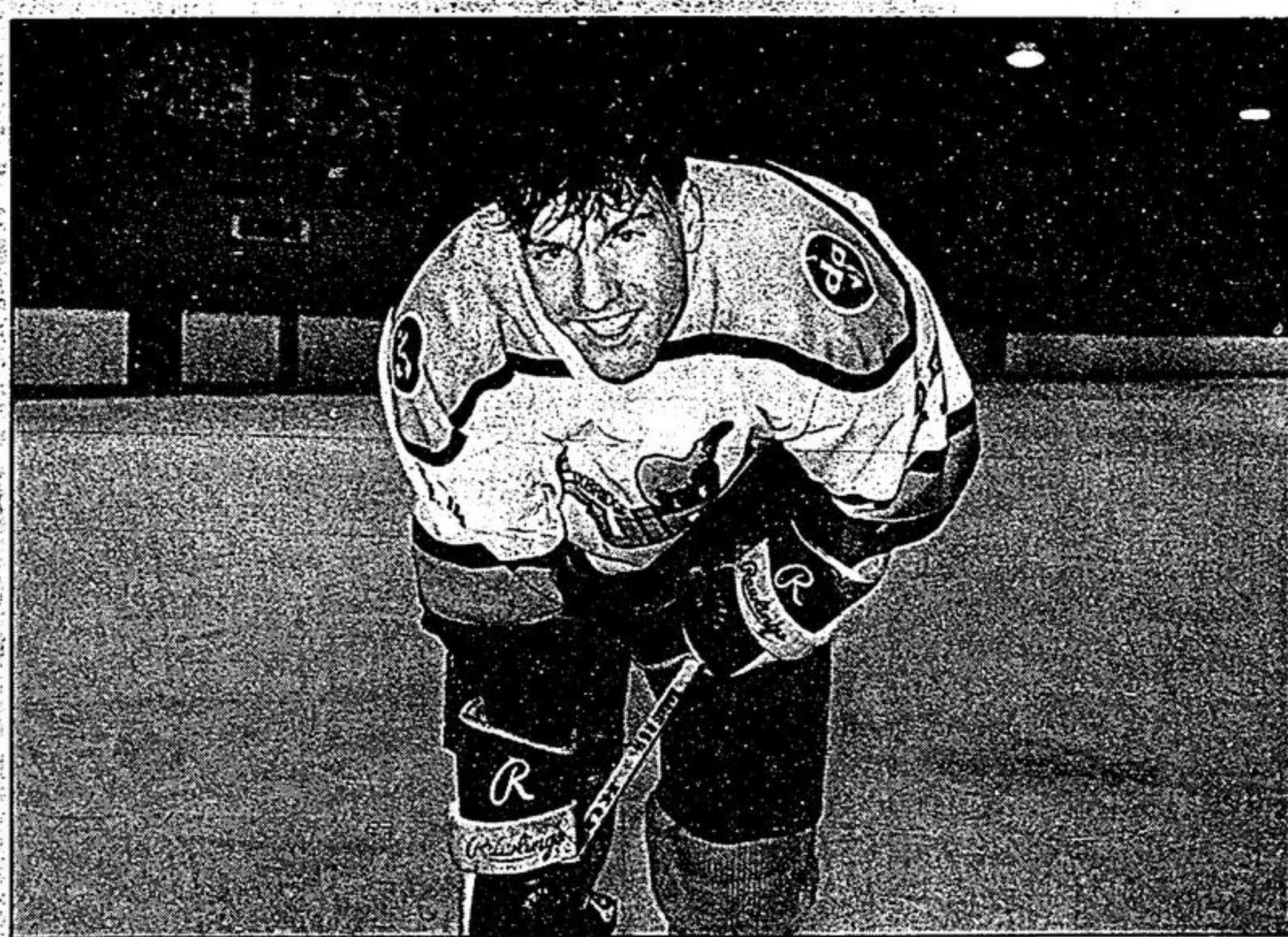


Photo: BRUCE STAPLEY

Angelo Perfetti kept the Uxbridge Junior Bruins alive through game six of the team's playoff series with Wellington on Friday night, and contributed a single goal on Sunday when the Bruins were dropped in game seven. Perfetti logged three goals in the 7-5 on Friday, including the winning point and the series-tying goal.

extended the series to seven games. And we were paid a lot of compliments by the Wellington team and the officials. They all said we were a class act and praised us for not going head-hunting when we were down."

When asked if he'd be back next season, Bruins' head coach Hal Murphy supplied the only humor of the night for the Bruins when he replied: "Unless Pal Hal (Harold Ballard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs) calls me, I'll be back."

Murphy was still able to smile, however, at game's end. "We weren't expected to win and we

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## Hoke Miller walks on the lighter side of life

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Stan (Hoke) Miller is the kind of guy you can always count on for an honest effort, a quick comeback line and a pearl of wisdom as to how life should be lived.

Deland (Florida) Red Hats of the Florida State Baseball League. He impressed with a 15-4 won-lost record, while batting a credible .280, helping his team win the league title.

The Albert Street resident just stepped down from his position with Gormley Aggregates, a company he worked for since its incorporation in 1955. Ask him what he did with the company, and he'll just tell you he did whatever needed doing.

Stan then went to Jessop of the Georgia State League, then wound up his baseball career with Burlington (Iowa) in the Three I League (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa).

In actual fact, he worked his way up from a scale painter to a much-appreciated inside office man.

He still has fond memories of the high jinks that always seemed to surround him wherever he went during his pro career. "In the Florida State League, we would travel by bus to out-of-town games. Every time the bus would stop, we'd go out into the orange and grapefruit groves and load up. Then when the inside lights went out in the bus, we'd start firing them."

"You name it, I've done it," he'll say with a grin. "Public relations work, whatever. And I always enjoyed it tremendously. I'll miss the banter with the guys."

Stan became known in the Stouffville area in the 1940s and '50s for his ability to pitch, and hit, a baseball — talents that saw him enjoy certain success in minor-pro baseball in the United States.

The teams will not play again until March 25, in Trenton. The Clippers can put the cap on a successful season with a win then.

Driving south to play ball each spring was always an experience, says Mary, Stan's wife of 32 years. "He'd pick up the Georgia accent," says Mary, "and some of the stories he'd tell those people. And they'd believe him."

They previously beat Bowmanville and Port Perry in post-season play to take their Lakeshore Division title.

"One time we drove as far as Harrisburg, Pa., on our first day of driving south," recalls Stan, "and Mary asked me how much further it was. I told her it was just over the next hill. I kept saying that for four days!"

Stan was a lumbering righthander with the old Stouffville Red Sox. Along with the likes of former big-leaguer Earl Cook, Bob Hassard, Ted Cadieux and Polly Minton, he helped the team win several Tri-County League championships.

And while there were always fun times, Stan distinctly remembers being surprised at the treatment of black people in the United States in those days. "Blacks had their own grandstands at the ball park. They had separate cashiers and they just didn't mix. Any blacks playing ball were called 'Puerto Ricans' so no one would have to admit a black was playing."

Such was Stan's profile, both literally and figuratively, that he says he is still recognized today when he goes to the towns where the Red Sox would travel to play ball. "We'd compete hard, but we'd have fun," says Stan. "Even today when I run into Polly or the other guys, we end up talking about a ball game from back then."

Now that he has retired from Gormley Aggregates and his playing days are a distant memory, Stan claims he is as content as ever. While he sees some people his age out running this way and that, he says he is happy to stop and smell the roses after a long working career.

In fact, up until a few years ago, Stan, Polly and some of the other "old boys" would show up regularly for Stouffville's famed Monday Night Men's Fun League, forming their own team.

And, despite what life throws his way, he says he'll always find it in himself to look at the lightest side of things. "Why cry when you can laugh? If you don't enjoy what you are doing, then it's a short life."

He played ball in Stouffville back in the days when the players did a lot more than just show up to play.

He played ball in Stouffville back in the days when the players did a lot more than just show up to play.

"Back then, you'd arrive at the park an hour before game time with your father's rake. And you'd be playing in your street shoes."

Such was Stan's profile, both literally and figuratively, that he says he is still recognized today when he goes to the towns where the Red Sox would travel to play ball. "We'd compete hard, but we'd have fun," says Stan. "Even today when I run into Polly or the other guys, we end up talking about a ball game from back then."

Ronda Thompson thought the deal would benefit all parties. "I think it's a lot better for both sides. I'll still be a Ken Wreggett fan because he's a good goalie and a nice guy."

Maple Leaf fan Nicole Robinson felt the Leafs would survive the loss of the goalie. "The Leafs still have Dave Bester. But I'll still be Wreggett's fan because he's an okay guy."

So there you have it.

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## Stouffville Clippers one win away from taking Novice championship

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
The Stouffville Novice Clippers are one win away from capturing their zone championship after a pair of impressive wins over Trenton this weekend.

They lead the best-of-five series 2-0.

It was King from Brad Johnston and Mike Wood, followed by a Tardella effort assisted by Grahame Smith, that gave the Clippers a 2-1 first-period lead Saturday.

King counting both Stouffville markers, the first from Matt Turner and Kevin Hackert, the second from Johnston and Wood.

The Neil Patrick Clippers rode the two-goal efforts of Ryan King and Dan Tardella to a 4-2 win Saturday in Trenton, then came home Sunday to take a 6-2 decision, with King netting another pair.

King scored again, from Dan Dickinson, to put the game away in the third.

The second period was scoreless, but the Clippers unloaded with a four-goal volley in the final period to take the game running away.

The teams will not play again until March 25, in Trenton. The Clippers can put the cap on a successful season with a win then.

The two teams were tied 2-2 after a period Sunday, with

Tardella tapped the winner on an unassisted play. Robbie Spytz, from King, made

it 4-2, before the Clippers finished off the scoring with goals by Andrew Hutchison, from King and Hackert, and Mike Wood, unassisted.

## Move to Philadelphia

# Ken Wreggett got a good deal, say fans

Members of the Whitchurch-Highland Public School's Ken Wreggett Fan Club seem to be in agreement that the trade of their hero to the Philadelphia Flyers is a positive step for all involved.

While most agreed Wreggett would be better off with the Flyers, Angelo Zachos felt he would have preferred to stay put.

Still a fan  
"I think he would rather have stayed in Toronto. But I'll still be a fan of his because he's good."

ing to make the playoffs. Lori Giancoules felt the goalie would see more ice time with Philly.

The fan club, made up of students in Marie Lloyd's Grade 5 class, says it will continue to

follow the exploits of the ex-Toronto Maple Leaf goaltender and Stouffville resident who once made a visit to their classroom. "I think he's lucky," said club member Dan McPhee. "He moved up to a better team. As for the Leafs, I don't think they should even be in the league — they don't even try."

Leaf supporters felt the deal would ultimately strengthen the club because of the two first-round draft choices the Leafs got in return for Wreggett.

"It's good for him. The Leafs always played Bester in goal. Wreggett will play more in Philadelphia."



Photo: JIM THOMAS

## Skaters place

Elizabeth Davis (left) and Janine Jeffrey (right) of the Stouffville Figure Skating Club participated in the Ontario Spring Invitational Skating Championships in North Bay March 4-5, and Janine came back with a first in the Juvenile Ladies B final, while Elizabeth scored a fourth in the Pre-Novice Ladies B final. About 300 skaters competed in the event.

## Clint Crust roars to second place finish

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Claremont's Clint Crust went up against the big boys of American Motocross racing last week and wound up bringing home his share of hardware.

On March 4, Clint competed in the Supercross championships at the Gatorback Raceway in Gainesville, Fla., placing sixth overall in the 80 c.c. Expert class.

The 15-year-old student of Pickering High School placed second in the Amateur Supercross Championship at the Daytona Speedway in Florida Tuesday, the youngest rider in a class that included the top 50 riders in the United States.

He placed ninth overall in the 325 c.c. series at the same competition. The youth had travelled to Florida to compete at the Pontiac Superdome in Detroit, Mich., this spring, and will race in the new SkyDome in Toronto in June.

It was Clint's first time competing on a 250 c.c. machine. The bike was a Honda CR250, supplied by Honda, which has taken on Clint's sponsorship this year.

Scott Murray, Honda Canada's race team coordinator, and John Nelson of "The Machine" in Aurora have been instrumental in Clint's success, he says.

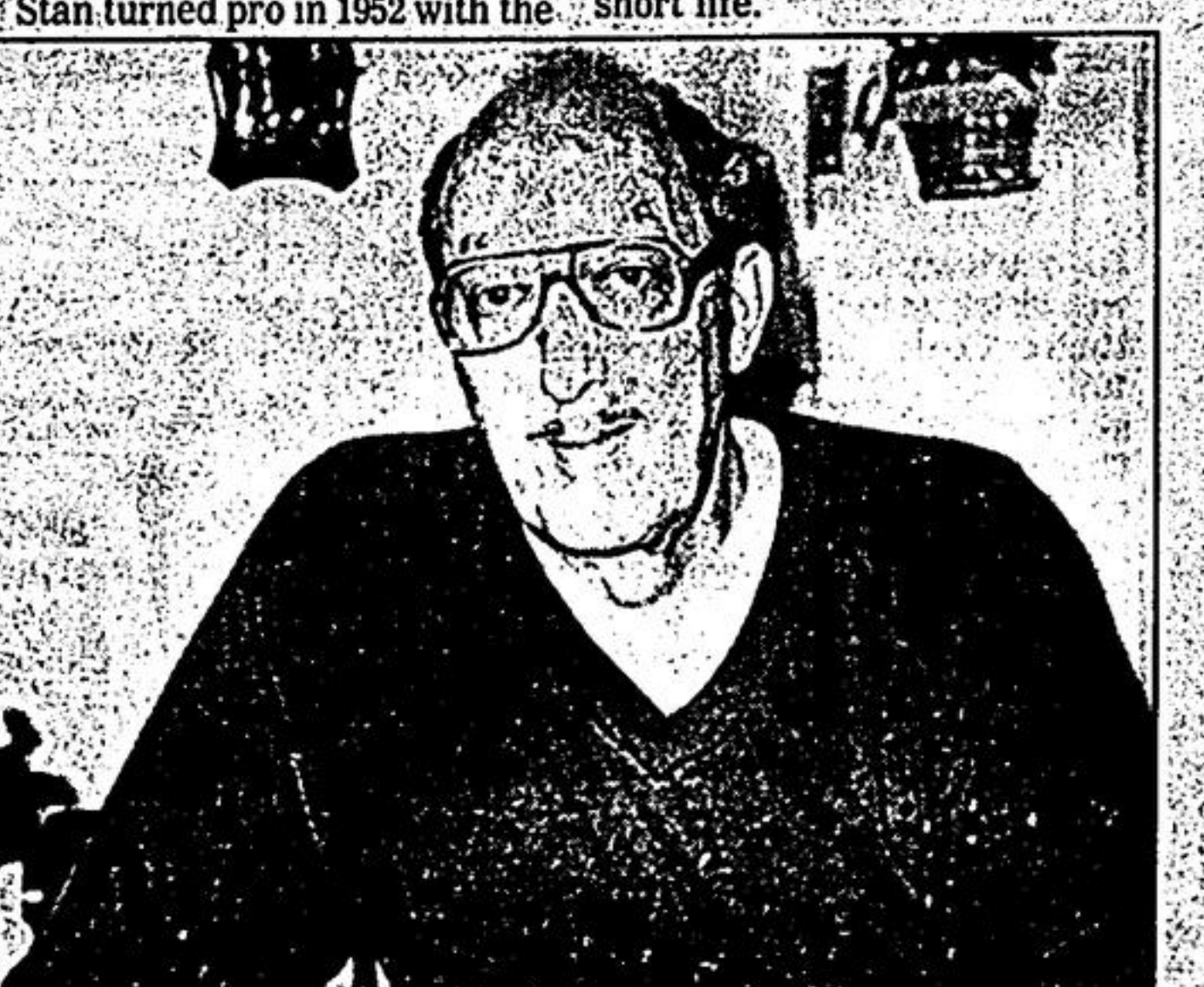


Photo: BRUCE STAPLEY  
Hoke Miller, recently retired from Gormley Aggregates, has fond memories of his days as a semi-pro ball player in the United States. The Stouffville resident believes in confronting life head-on, and with a smile.