

SPORTS

May gets two years with NHL Avalanche

He began his professional hockey career in Buffalo and had stops in Phoenix and Vancouver for two tours of duty.

When the 2005-06 National Hockey League season begins, Brad May will be toiling his trade in another new city.

That being Denver, Colo., where the 33-year-old Stouffville native, who played minor hockey in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham, signed a two-year contract to play with the Colorado Avalanche.

Terms of the deal reached last week were reported to be \$1.35 million U.S.

For the veteran forward, who began his NHL career in 1991-92 with the Buffalo Sabres, the move to the Mile High City was made with great

anticipation.

"I'm looking forward to continue my career in such a great hockey environment," May said on the Avalanche's team website. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for the guys on this roster and I'm looking forward to playing with them. This is going to be a very competitive division, one that could be the most exciting in the NHL."

The six-foot, one-inch, 210-pound May was the Sabres' first-round pick and 14th overall in the 1990 NHL entry draft. He spent the first six and part of a seventh season with Buffalo before he was dealt to the Vancouver Canucks, where he spent the rest of the 1997-98 campaign and two more years.

May then went to the Phoenix Coyotes in the 2000-01 season and was there for two full years and part of a third before returning to the Canucks in a trade at the March deadline. He stayed there before signing as an unrestricted free agent with the Avalanche.

Playing in 804 NHL contests, May has 120 goals and 146 assists.

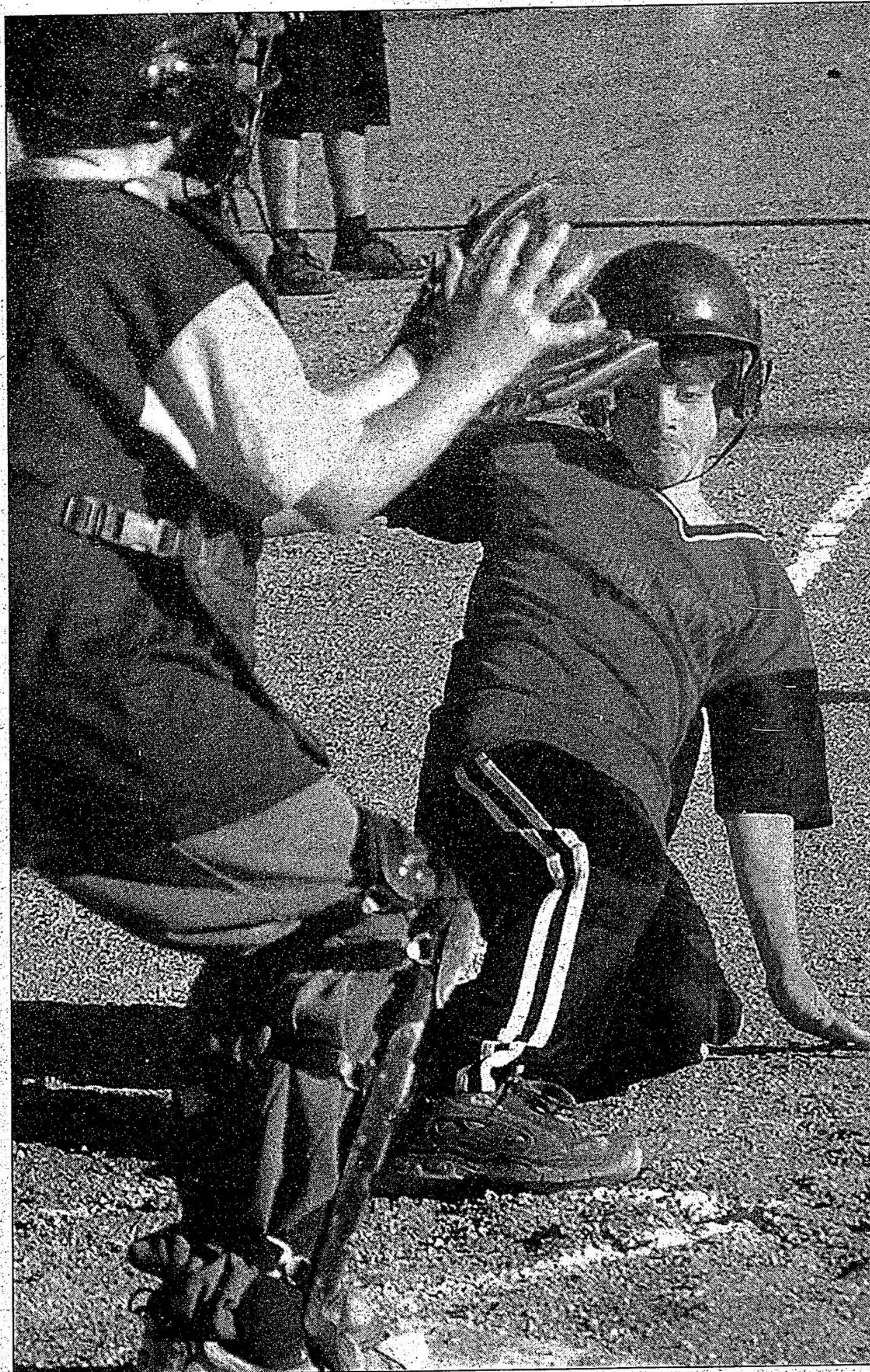
Avalanche president and general manager Pierre Lacroix, thinks May's experience and physical presence, are vital ingredients for his club entering the upcoming regular season.

"Brad May is a good skater who brings us additional grit, leadership and experience," Lacroix said on the club's website.

—Mike Hayakawa



BRAD MAY: Is joining his fourth NHL club since making his professional debut in 1991-92 season with the Buffalo Sabres.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Storm peewees win league tournament championship

The Stouffville Storm peewee boys concluded the York Durham Softball League on a memorable note by capturing first place in the regular season standings and winning the season-ending tournament last weekend in Scarborough.

In last week's regular season finale at Memorial Park, the Storm received a stellar pitching effort from Bruce Cringan and Travis Connor, who combined to strike out 11 batters, to defeat Newmarket 10-4.

Cringan and Connor also helped their own cause at the plate by combining to drive in five runs.

Brandon Hampson belted a home run and single while Doug Jones scored twice and drove in a run.

In the end-of-the-year tournament finale against Oshawa, Connor and Cringan tallied 10 strikeouts to lift the Storm to a 9-0 win.

Swinging hot bats were Connor with two RBIs and Brandon Hampson with two hits and three RBIs. Tyler Heffernan, Doug McKenzie and Robert Kay each had

timely singles.

Brahm VanZeeland and Brian Hector split catching duties.

In reaching the final, the Storm won their first game with a resounding 19-0 victory over Scarborough.

Doug McKenzie belted a three-run homer while Connor drove in five runs. Erick Espiritu-Santo, Kay, Hampson, Hector and Chris Paine each drove in a pair of runs.

The Storm's infield, anchored by Mike Finn and Heffernan, made some big plays defensively.

Cringan and Connor combined to strike out 16 Scarborough batters.

Anchored by another stellar pitching effort from Connor and Cringan, who fanned 12 batters in total, the Storm routed Oshawa 10-1 to gain a berth in the final.

Jones had three RBIs while Hampson and Kay each had two. Hector, Espiritu-Santo and Connor each drove in a run.

The Storm will be in Port Perry this weekend for the Ontario Amateur Softball Association A

Anticipating a rough greeting

Ram-Forest catcher Mitchell Vlieg awaits a relay throw as Cook-Canada's Jon Sartor attempts to steal home plate during a Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association squirt boys' contest at Memorial Park. Cook-Canada won the contest 20-18.

Castle downed in match play semifinals

James Castle advanced to the semifinals of last Thursday's Ontario Golf Association's 2005 Investors Group Ontario Junior Boys' Match Play Championship at the Shelburne Golf and Country Club in Shelburne before being eliminated.

The 18-year-old Stouffville

resident was defeated by Brad Larente of Cambridge 2 up.

Larente was up going into the 17th hole where Castle drained a 12-foot birdie putt to force the match to the par three 18th hole.

With Castle safely on the green, Larente stepped to the tee and stuck his shot two feet

from the pin. After Castle missed his birdie putt he conceded Larente's putt giving him the win.

In reaching the semifinals, the Stouffville District Secondary School graduate defeated Alex Carrigan of Guelph in his quarter-final match last Wednesday 1 up.