

# Stouffville hurler tosses gem to win Canadian crown

*Koert's relief work golden for Kitchener in P.E.I.*

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It's been a while since Paul Koert was last associated with a team that won a Canadian senior men's fastpitch title.

To be precise, it was back in 2003 when the Stouffville resident pitched for an Owen Sound entry that accomplished that feat.

But last weekend, Koert rekindled that feeling of ecstasy after

playing an integral role in propelling the Kitchener Rivershark Twins to this year's title that culminated with a 6-1 win over Gahan House Fawcetts (Charlottetown) in last Sunday's championship final in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

The lefthander came in to pitch from the third inning with his team nursing a 1-0 lead.

During his stint, he fanned 10 batters in five innings to earn the win and enable the Rivershark Twins to claim their second straight Canadian crown.

"It sure feels great," Koert said.

During the tournament, the

Rivershark Twins reeled off nine wins in as many outings during the round-robin to advance to the playoffs.

In those nine games, Koert worked 21 innings and was the pitcher of record in four.

In the Rivershark Twins' three playoff games, including the final, Koert tossed another 13 innings and earned the victory in their 7-0 semifinal win over the Gahan House Fawcetts.

Entering the tournament, Koert felt his club could vie for the title.

"In playing for Kitchener-Waterloo, they're one of the best teams

in the world. They won the ISC (International Softball Congress) title last year and were runners-up this year. I had a good feeling we had a chance to win," he said.

With the Rivershark Twins going undefeated in the round-robin, Koert said that bolstered their confidence.

"It doesn't happen very often that a team will go undefeated in the round robin, but I think it gave us some added confidence."

In comparing his last title with Owen Sound with last weekend's crown, Koert felt the most recent

one had more significance.

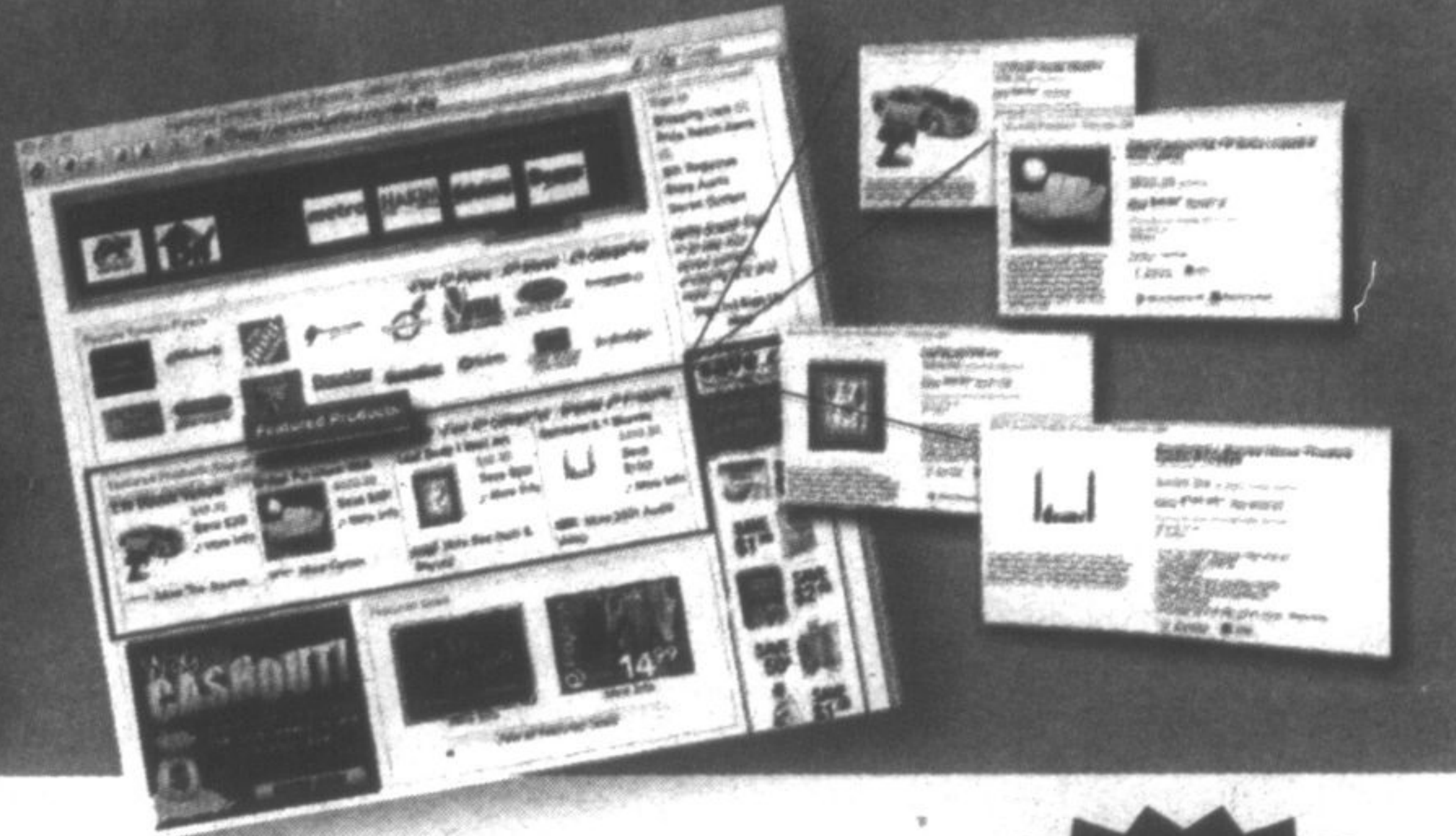
Especially since he was playing with a group of players that he's known for a while.

"I know most of the guys on the team and we talked of winning a title," he said.

While Koert was the lone Stouffville resident to be on the Rivershark Twins, he noted fellow Stouffville resident Evan Boyd was with them during the last three ISC championships and last year's Canadian title team.

Boyd, a utility player, could not make the trip to Charlottetown due to work commitments.

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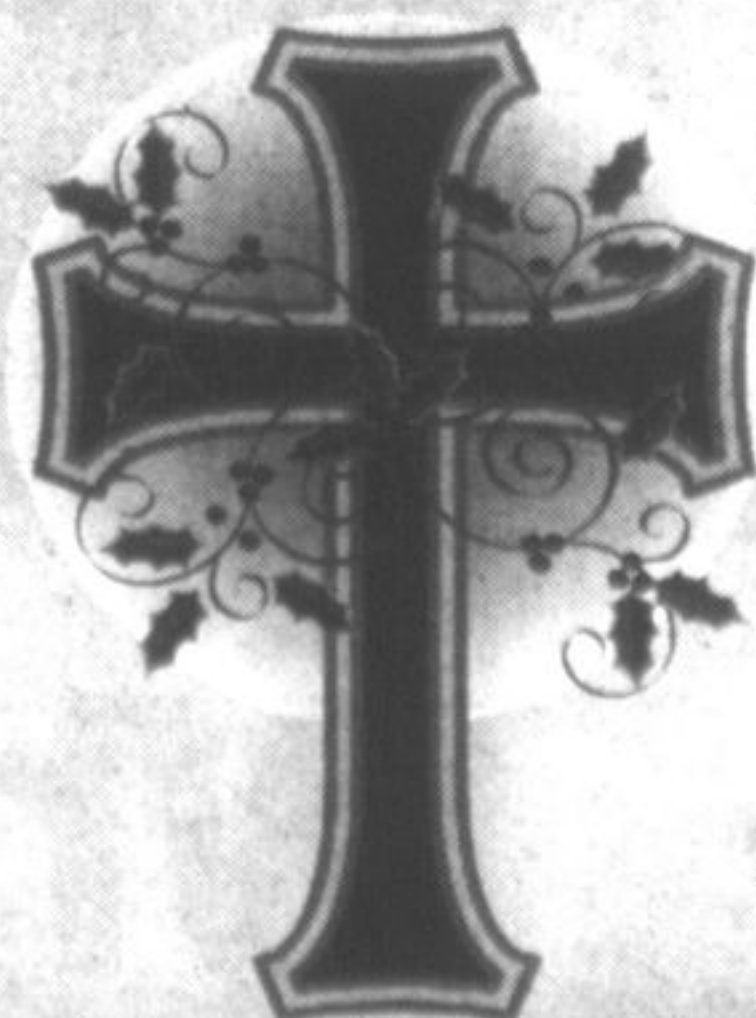
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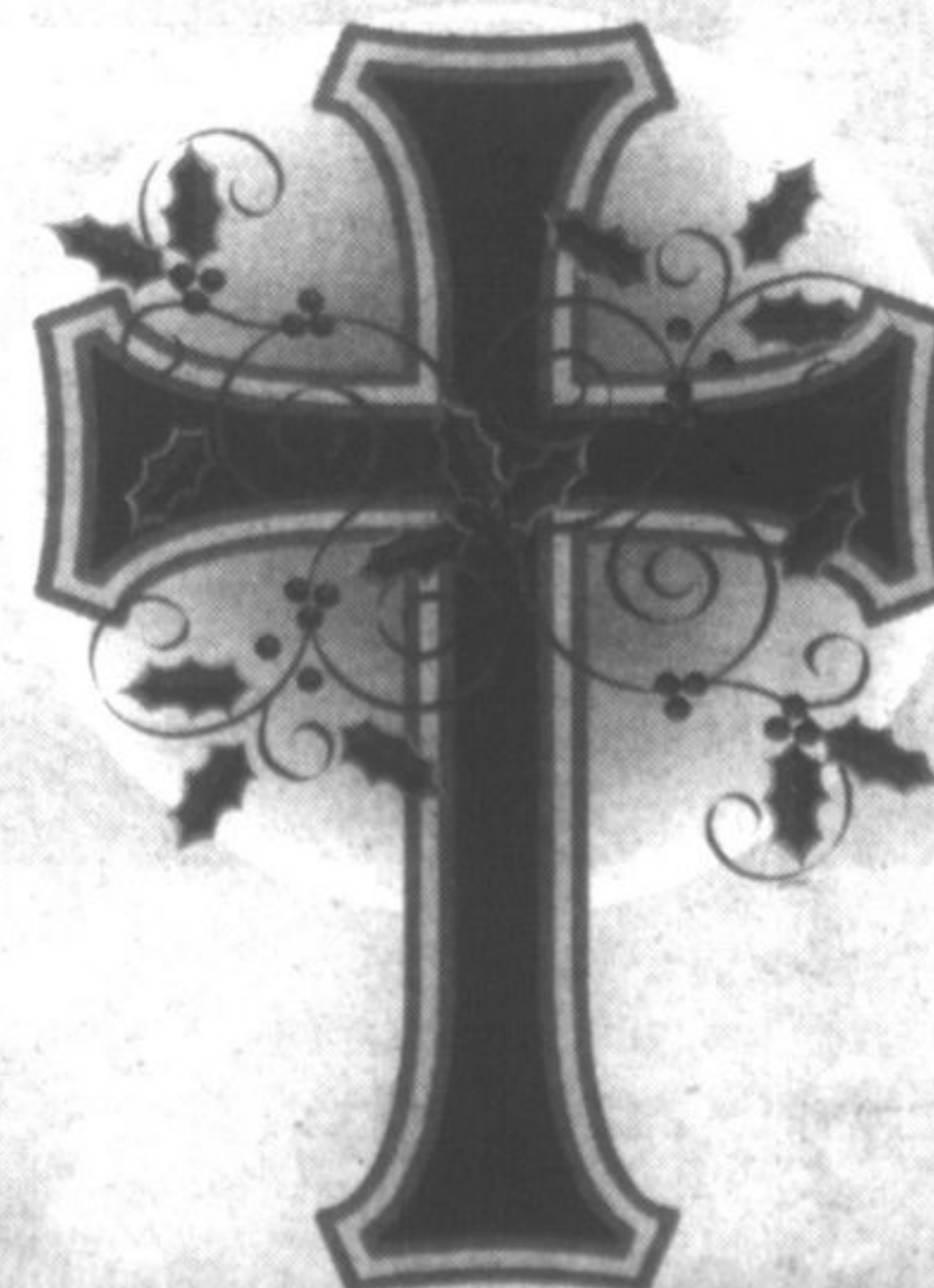
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