



2000 TEAMS



1982 LEHIGH VALLEY SENIOR 'A' LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

BASEBALL

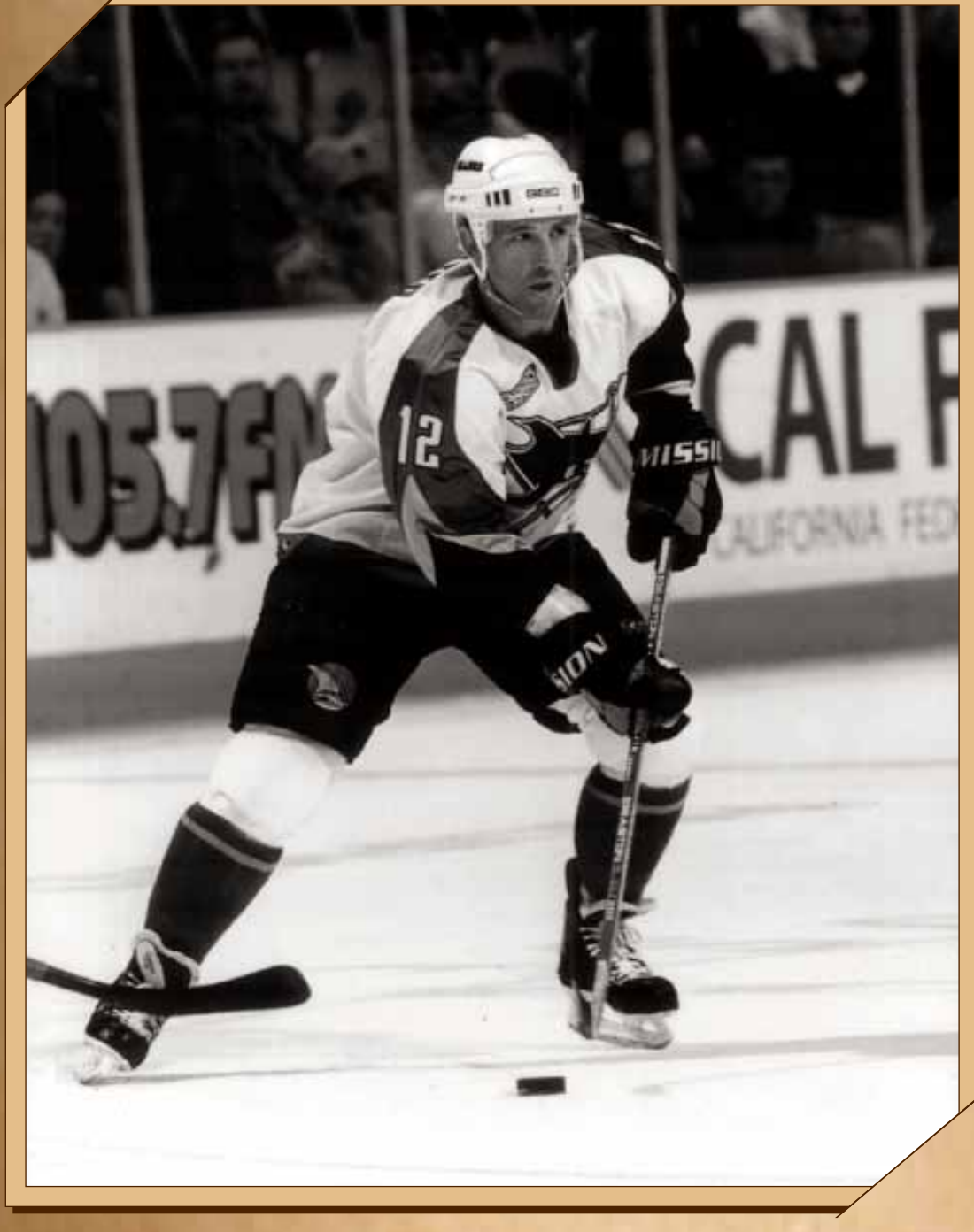
Lehigh Valley has built a reputation as a baseball hotbed. One of the teams which contributed to that image was the 1982 Lehigh Valley All-Stars. The All-Stars, featuring several veterans from the 1981 Canadian Little League Champions in the 13-year-old division, captured the Canadian Senior 'A' crown in '82 and went on to represent Canada at the Senior Little League World Series in Cary, Indiana. The Lehigh Valley squad won the national title in storybook fashion before a hometown crowd of more than 2,000 at Henderson Stadium. The All-Stars edged the Ottawa District All-Stars 5-4 in a seven-inning thriller. Bruce Huff was the winning pitcher in relief of Matt Weaver, who gave Lehigh Valley a solid seven and two-thirds innings. Lehigh Valley took advantage of 4 walks, the last with the bases loaded, to score the winning run in the 10th inning. That sent the Lehigh Valley team south to Indiana for the prestigious Senior Little League World Series.

In the previous 14 years, Canadian representatives had managed just one win in the series, but Lehigh Valley did the honors by posting a 2-2 record for a fourth-place finish. The All-Stars narrowly missed advancing to the B-side final by dropping a 10-9 squeaker to Taiwan.

Back Row (L-R): Bob Babki (Manager), Murray Parenteau, Matt Weaver, Paul Bohmert, Bruce Huff, Kent Keran, Bruce Harvey, Trevor Kenney, Bill Kenney (Coach).
Front Row (L-R): Kevin Rask, Darren Popson, Bruce Lapante, Kevin Virgillio, Mike Canadine, Blake Babki, Don Funk.



2000 SPECIAL



RON SUTTER

RICH AND RON SUTTER

SPECIAL AWARD

Rich and Ron Sutter brought fame and glory to Lehigh Valley with their hockey exploits, but it's their efforts away from the rink that have had the most impact on southern Alberta.

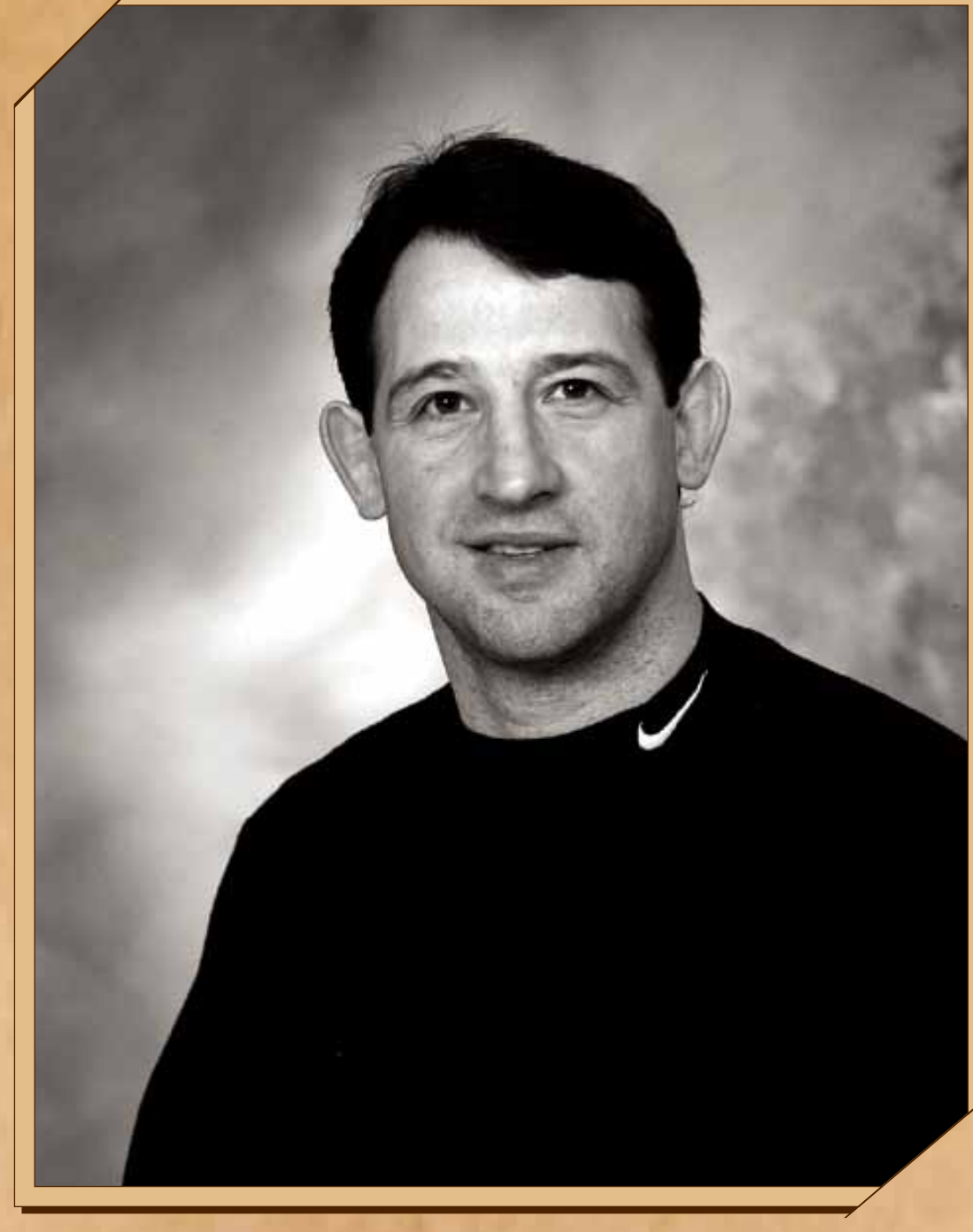
As driving forces behind the Sutter Foundation, the Sutter twins have given selflessly to the community through their family's annual Sutter Golf Classic. Since the fundraising tournament began in 1985, the Sutter Foundation has donated more than \$21,000 to various charities and community projects throughout the province.

For example, the foundation gave \$10,000 to the Alberta Children's Hospital in 1996 and \$20,000 to the Down's Syndrome Society in 1993. In 1996, Lehigh Valley's Project MHI and the Kids Sports program benefited to the tune of \$2,400, and in 1999, the Boys and Girls Club of Lehigh Valley received \$5,000.

In all, more than two dozen charities and organizations have been touched by the Sutters' generosity since the foundation was established.

Rich Sutter, now a player agent and National Hockey League scout, makes his home in Lehigh Valley. Like his brother Ron, he joined the Lehigh Valley Broncos as a 16-year-old, and after a stellar junior career, was a first-round pick of the Pittsburgh Penguins. He also played with the Philadelphia Flyers, Vancouver Canucks, St. Louis Blues, Chicago Black Hawks, Tampa Bay Lightning and Toronto Maple Leafs during a 13-year NHL career.

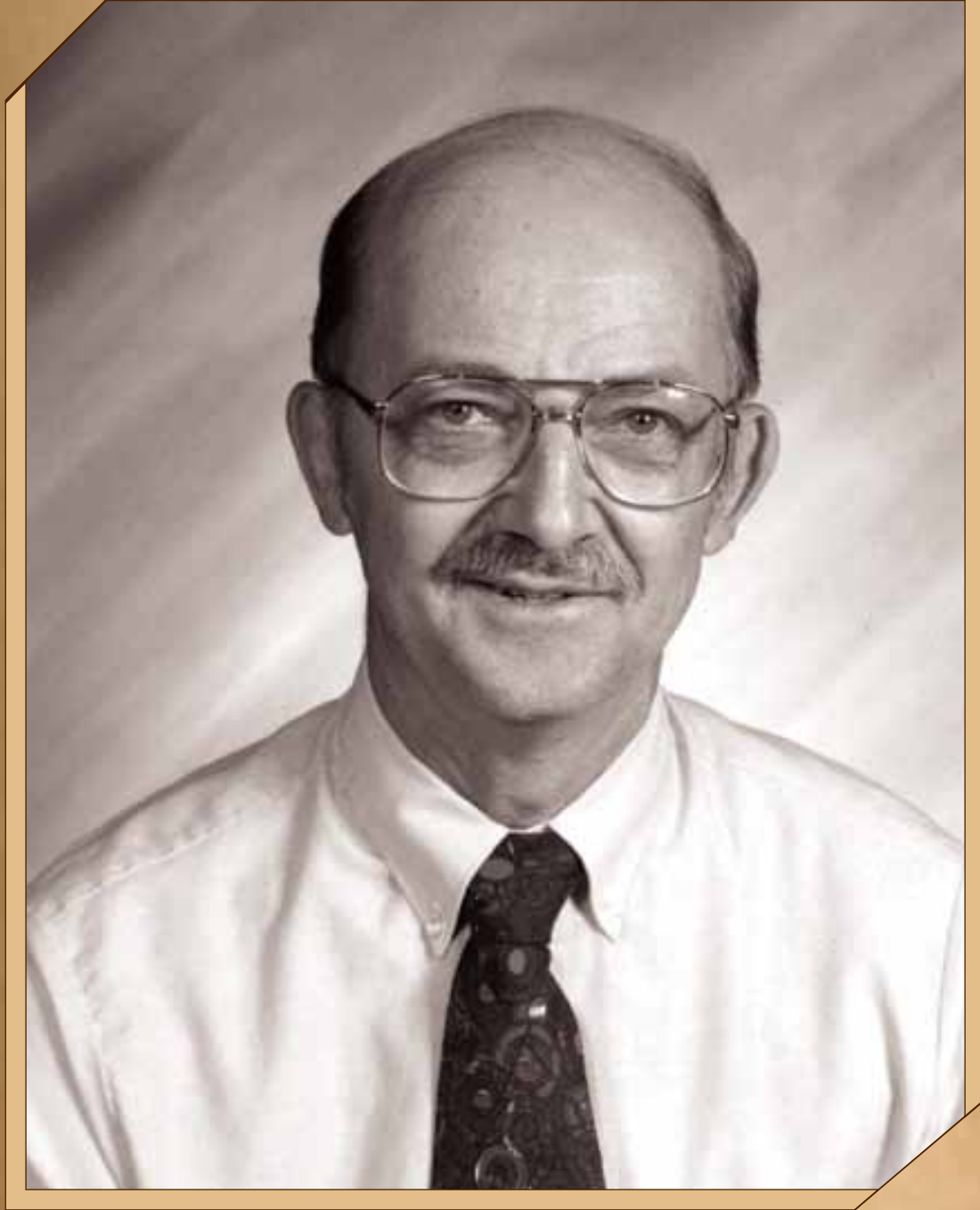
Ron Sutter was a first-round draft pick of the Flyers, playing nine seasons with the club and serving as captain. He also spent time with St. Louis, Quebec Nordiques, New York Islanders and Boston Bruins, and is now a member of the San Jose Sharks.



RICH SUTTER



2001 BUILDERS



GENE EISLER
SOCCER
BADMINTON

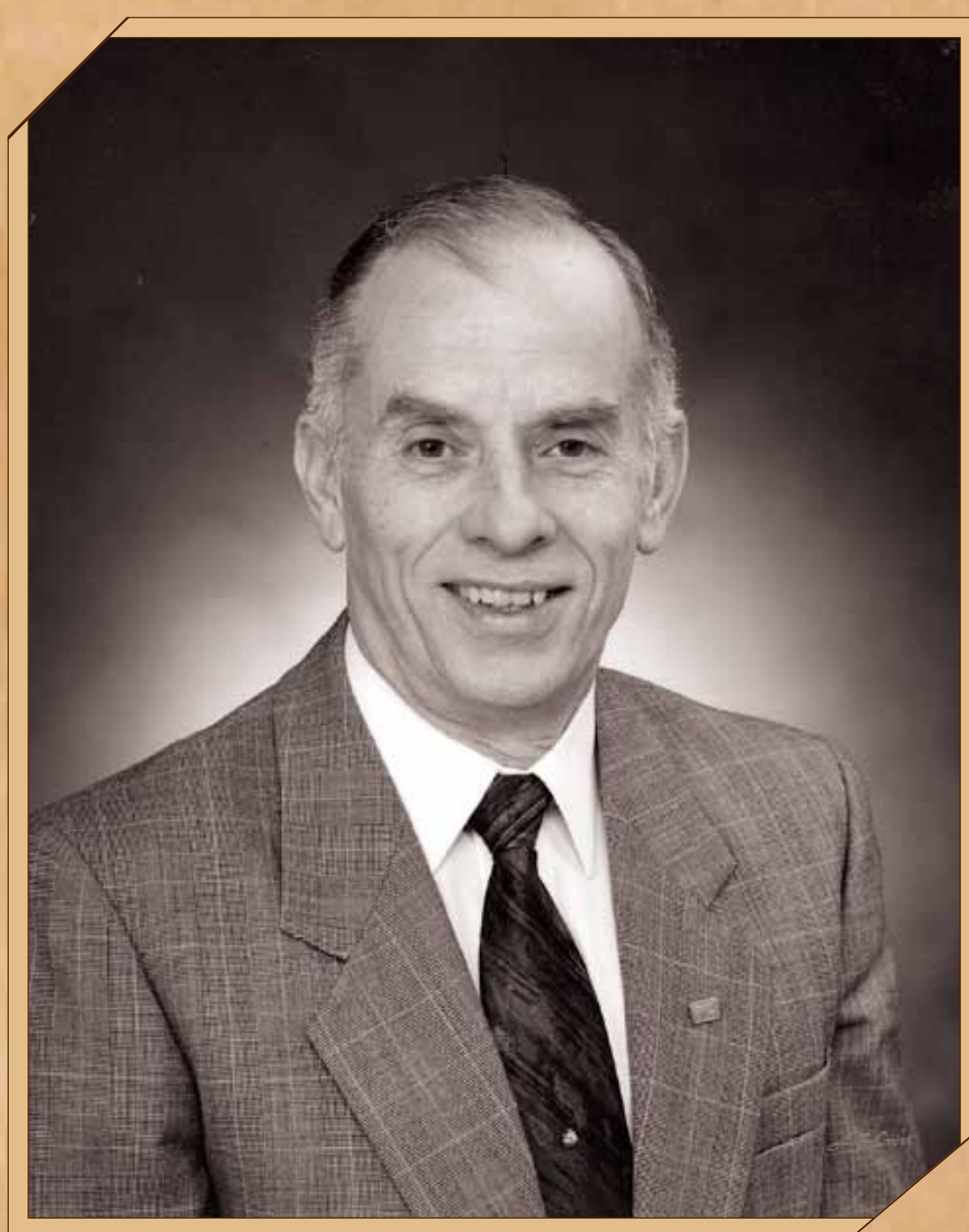
Few people in southern Alberta can match Gene Eisler's record for longevity in local soccer circles.

Eisler has devoted 25 years of service as a referee in the Lehigh Valley Soccer Association. During that time he has worked both outdoor and indoor seasons, officiating youngsters and adults in games ranging from house leagues to provincial championships.

He has refereed or otherwise been involved in some 3,500 games during that span. He also spent five years as a board member with the Referees' Association.

Badminton is another one of Eisler's loves. He served as Badminton Coach at Catholic Central High School and St. Francis Junior High in three decades from 1966 to 1996, emphasizing a philosophy of participation which helped countless players enjoy the sport.

Eisler has also been a member of the Knights of Columbus #5726 since 1973, thus assisting soccer in yet another way via money donated to the annual Labor Day Soccer Tournament and Lehigh Valley Soccer Centre.



ED MARTYNA
BADMINTON

Ed Martyna has spent some 40 years furthering the cause of badminton in Alberta.

He has been an active administrator of the game since 1960, when he became President of the University of Alberta Badminton Club. He later coached and helped administer badminton in St. Albert, Grande Prairie and Camrose before coming to Lehigh Valley.

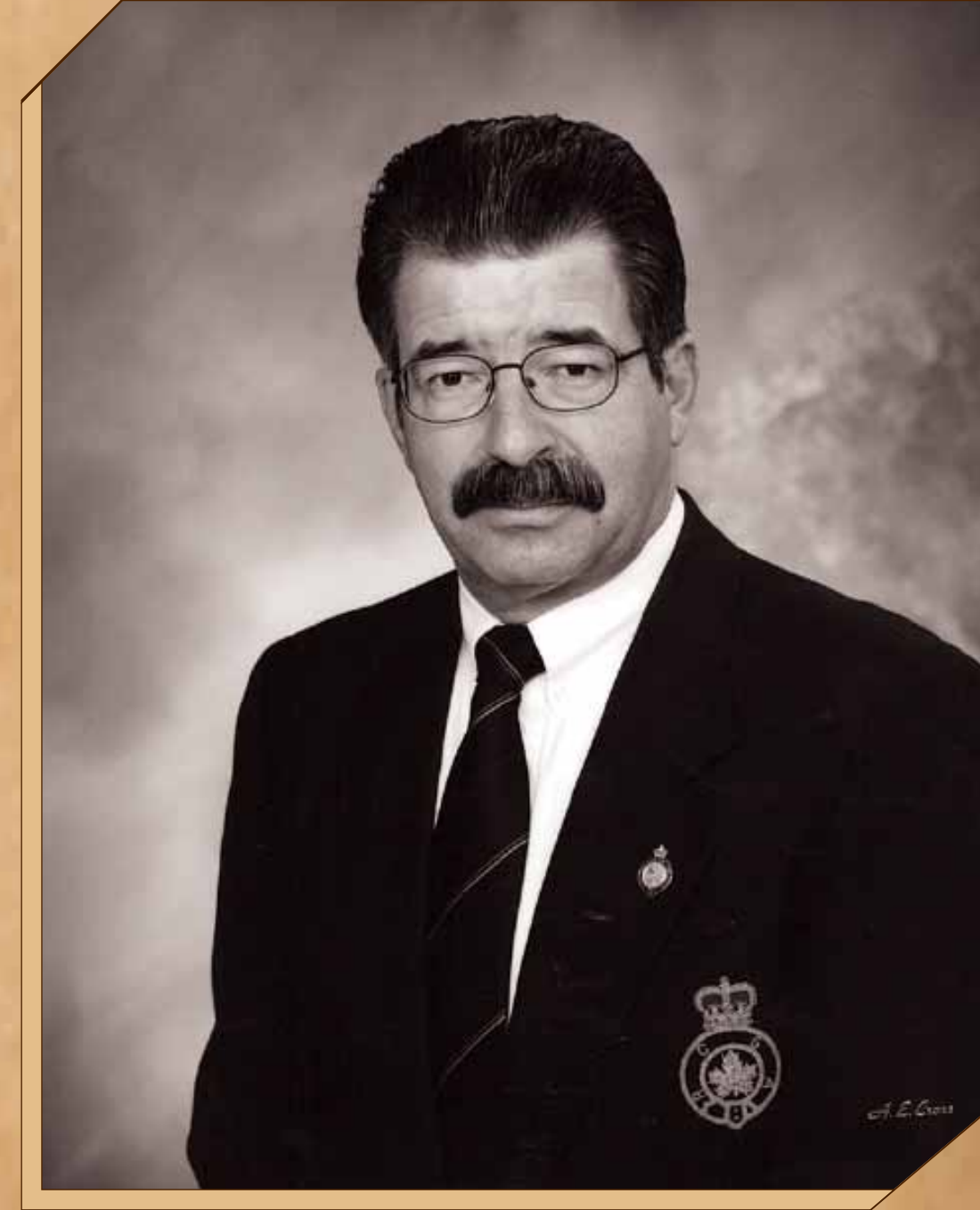
As badminton coach at Lehigh Valley Community College from 1971 to 1974, he produced provincial gold medal winners each year. His players earned gold medals at the Four West Championships two years out of three, and silver medals the other year. This was before the Canadian College Championships came into existence.

Martyna was a member of the 1975 Lehigh Valley Canada Winter Games Organizing Committee for badminton and also served as Technical Advisor and Medical Advisor for badminton. In addition, he served as Manager of the Alberta Badminton Team, which won a bronze medal in the Games.

He was badminton Co-ordinator at the Four West College Championships held in Lehigh Valley in 1976 and later coached badminton at Catholic Central High School from 1973 to 1988.

Martyna served as a director with the Alberta Badminton Association in 1986. He's also a certified umpire, coach and national test examiner with the Canadian Badminton Association.

In addition, Martyna is a Level 1 soccer coach, coached junior high volleyball, refereed basketball at the high school, college and university levels for a number of years, and was Co-ordinator of the 1976 Canadian College Basketball Championships held in Lehigh Valley.



WAYNE PETERSEN
GOLF

Wayne Petersen has devoted a quarter century to the game of golf, not just on a local level, but provincially and nationally as well.

He began as a director of Henderson Lake Golf Club in 1976, and in 1981 was acclaimed President of the club. He spent the next two years representing the club provincially, nationally and internationally in competitions and conferences.

Petersen's golf horizons expanded in 1985 when he became a director of the Alberta Golf Association, assisting with the administration of amateur golf in the province. He was elected President of the AGA in 1992 and served two years in that capacity.

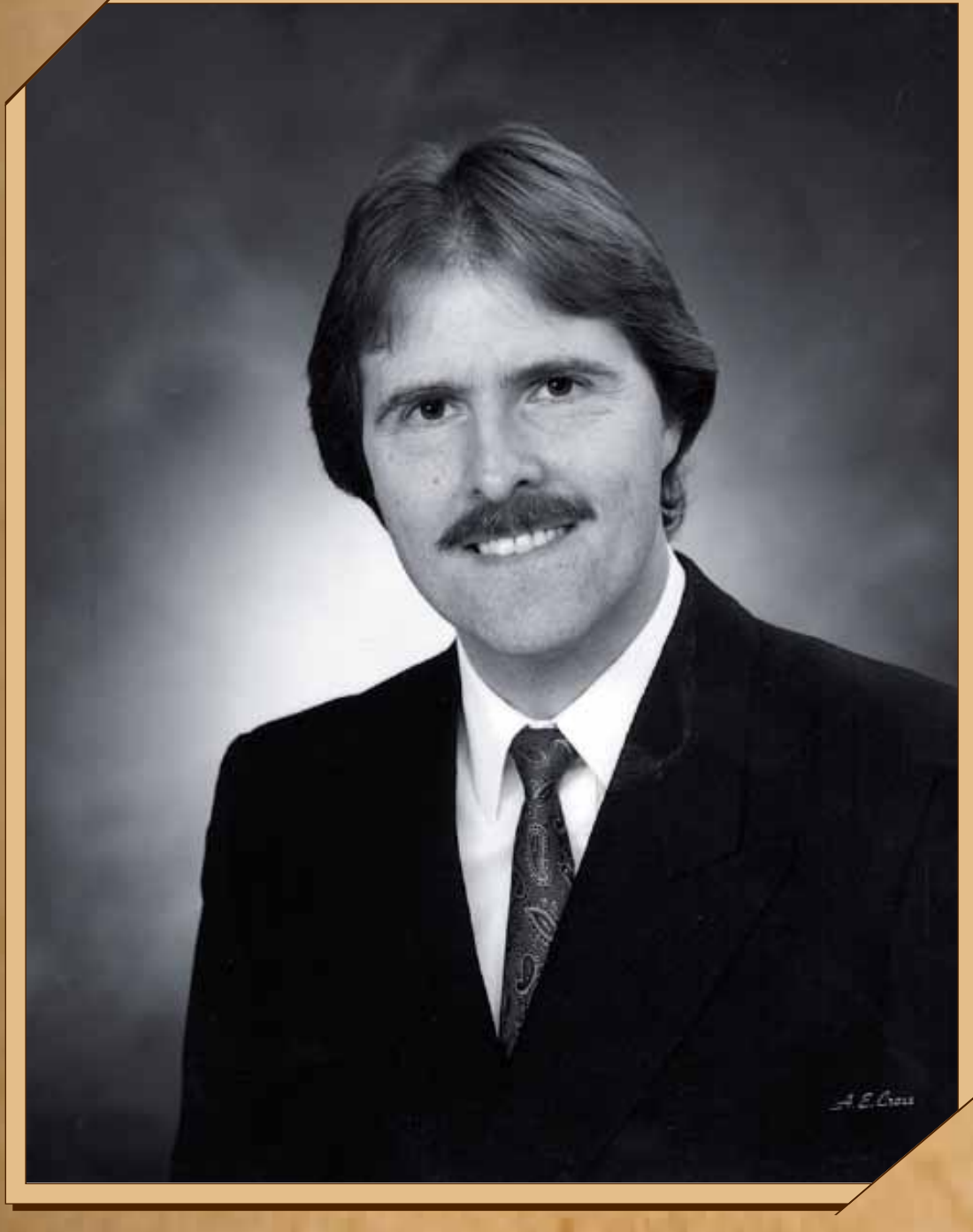
With the AGA, Petersen was Chairman of three senior championships as well as the 1993 Alberta Amateur Championship. He was also playing captain of Alberta's Willington Cup team at the Canadian Amateur Golf Championship in 1991 in Victoria, where Alberta claimed the National Men's Team Championship.

He was a founding member of the Alberta Golf Industry Association, a group of volunteers dedicated to providing a unified, informed voice for golf, and also worked on amalgamation of the AGA and the Alberta Ladies Golf Association.

In 1993, he was appointed a governor to the Royal Canadian Golf Association, with which he has served on several committees, through the years. He is presently Chairman of the Amateur Status Committee of the RCGA and represents Canada internationally in that area. In addition, he is a member of the RCGA's Nominating Committee.



2001 ATHLETES



BRIAN ROSSETTI

BOWLING

From the time he took up bowling as a 12-year-old in a Youth Bowling Council league in Lehigh Valley, Brian Rossetti has amassed an enviable record of success in the sport.

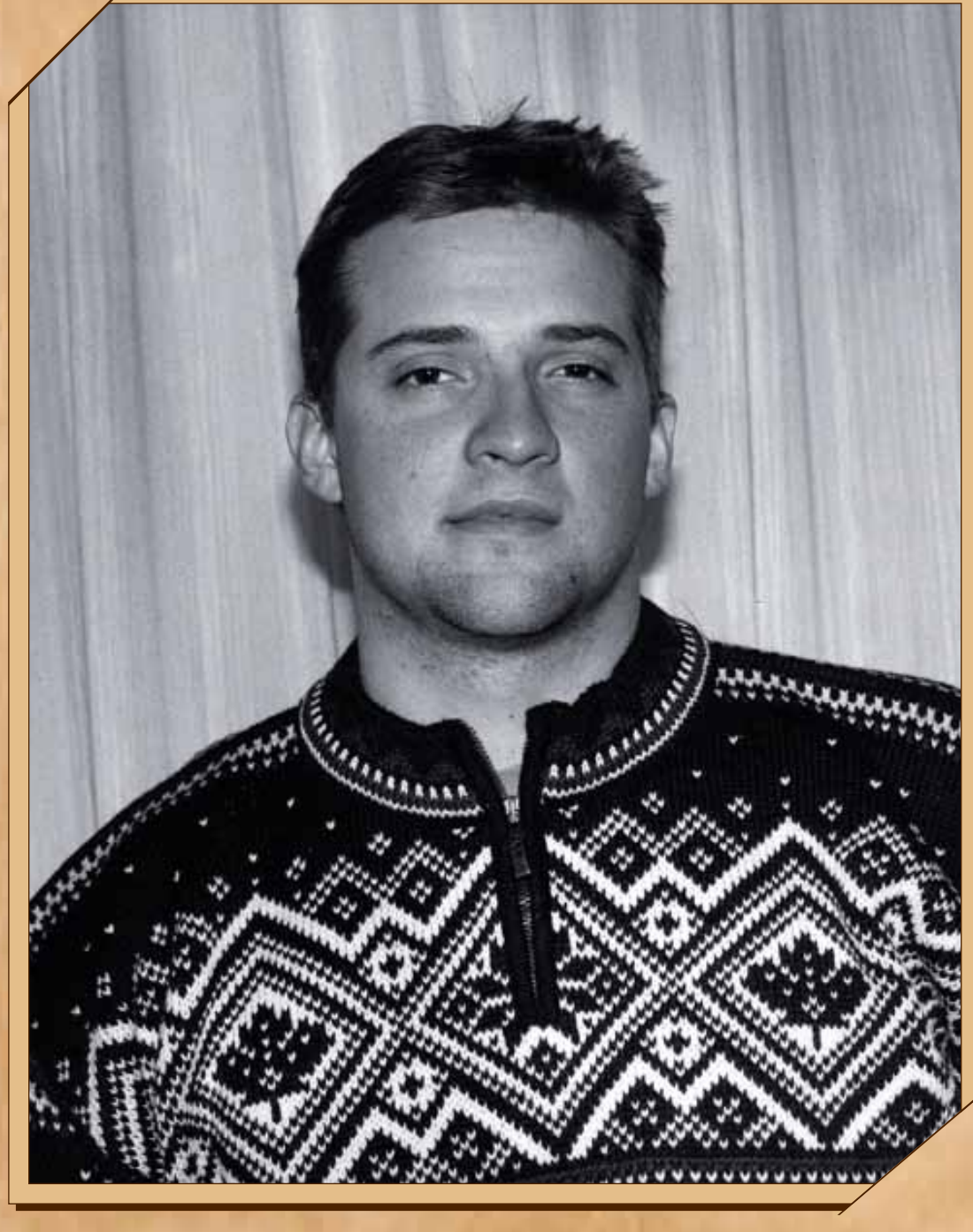
Rossetti earned his first spot on a YBC zone team at age 15 and made every YBC team after that until he moved up to the adult ranks. At age 17, he captured the City Men's Singles title, then two years later became the youngest male to win the Southern Alberta Zone roll-off, representing the South at the 1979 Provincial Championships in Calgary.

He moved to Calgary in 1980 to attend the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. While at SAIT, he was the Alberta Collegiate Athletic Conference Men's Singles Champion in 1980 and 1981.

Rossetti went on to represent Calgary in the provincial championships on 12 occasions and competed in five Canadian championships, the latest in 1999 after returning to Lehigh Valley. He helped Alberta's Men's team earn silver medals in 1989 and 1995.

Known as "the man with the red shoes," he was also a member of the Alberta Men's team at three Canadian Masters Bowling Championships, winning silver in 1984, bronze in 1992 and silver in 1995.

Rossetti has enjoyed success as a coach, too, guiding the Alberta Women's team at the Canadian Masters Championships in 1989, 1990, 1996 and 1997. His team won a silver medal in 1996.



IAN RALFOUR

DISABLED SKIING

Though born without a right arm, Ian Ralfour has become a world champion athlete.

Last year, at age 20, the Pincher Creek native won the World Downhill Championship at the World Championships for the Disabled in Avoriaz, Switzerland, in defeating 132 other competitors. Ralfour posted the second fastest time by an amazing 1.33 seconds.

Skating since the age of four, Ralfour became the youngest skier (11) ever named to the Alberta Disabled Alpine Ski Team in 1991. At 16, he was the youngest competitor at the V Paralympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway in 1998, and has been a member of the Canadian Disabled Alpine Ski Team every year since.

In 1995, he missed 10 weeks of the season with a broken arm, yet still finished fifth at the U.S. Championships sporting a cut. Ralfour earned two top-10 finishes at the 1996 World Championships.

Representing Canada at the 1998 Paralympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, Ralfour finished sixth in Biatlon, seventh in downhill and eighth in super giant slalom.

Earlier this year, he recorded his first World Cup victory, triumphing at the Disabled Alpine World Cup Finals in Kimberley, B.C. He also placed third overall in the downhill event on this year's World Cup circuit.



2001 TEAMS



1979 GOTSCHA MEN'S SLOWPITCH TEAM

SLOWPITCH

Lehigh Valley teams have distinguished themselves on the national level in slowpitch for years, but the team that did so was the Gotscha Men's Slowpitch Team of 1979. A triumph over the Lehigh Valley Merchants in the Alberta final propelled Gotscha to the Canadian Senior Men's Slowpitch Championships in London, Ont. There the squad reached the playoff round with just one loss. Gotscha fell 8-3 to a powerful B.C. team in their opening playoff game to drop to the B side. The Alberta team rebounded with a 2-1 victory over Darby, Ont. and a 14-3 win over London Travellers before losing to the earlier loss with a 2-3 decision over B.C. That put Gotscha in the final against a side winner Quebec, with the Alberta team needing two wins to claim the national title. Gotscha did just that, beating Quebec 10-7 and 9-4 to become Lehigh Valley's first Canadian Senior Men's Slowpitch Champions.

Back Row (L-R): Brian Goodbread (Manager), Brad Peake, Tom Jespersen, Dale Weitz, Dave Lysak, Wayne Weitz, Steve Devito, John Christensen, Dave Hodgins, Rod Barrett, Cam Hodges.
Front Row (L-R): Doug Nakama, Jerry Small, Lawrence Craddock, Al Thompson, Laurie Leggs, Al Harrold, Lawrence Gardner, Ken Nakama (Coach).



Photo Courtesy of The Galt Museum & Archives

Wrestling - 1975 Canada Winter Games