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Shevalier sheds light on life at NHL camp

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

When Jeff Shevalier was a product of the Acton Sabres, he looked up to the older guys who would stop by and offer advice to himself and other youngsters.

Well, at last Monday's rep hockey awards banquet at the Legion, it was a step back in time for the Erin native. However, this time, Shevalier was

positioned at the podium as guest speaker.

He told of his hockey experiences after departing the Acton minor hockey scene and looked out to the excited kids, who didn't blink as they listened intently to the possible NHLer in years to come.

"It's nice to talk to the kids because when I was young I always looked up to the older guys," said Shevalier, who recently finished his season with the North Bay Centennials of the Ontario Hockey League. "It's not like a parent talking to the kids, either. It's more like a friend."

Prior to the evening's ceremonies, Shevalier, who finished 11th in OHL scoring this year with 57

goals and 54 assists, was swarmed mostly by Novice and Tyke players interested in an autograph. Shevalier, sporting a cast on his right (writing) hand, graciously signed every one.

The 1992 draft pick of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings broke two bones in his wrist after being hit from behind in the second game of his team's first-round series.

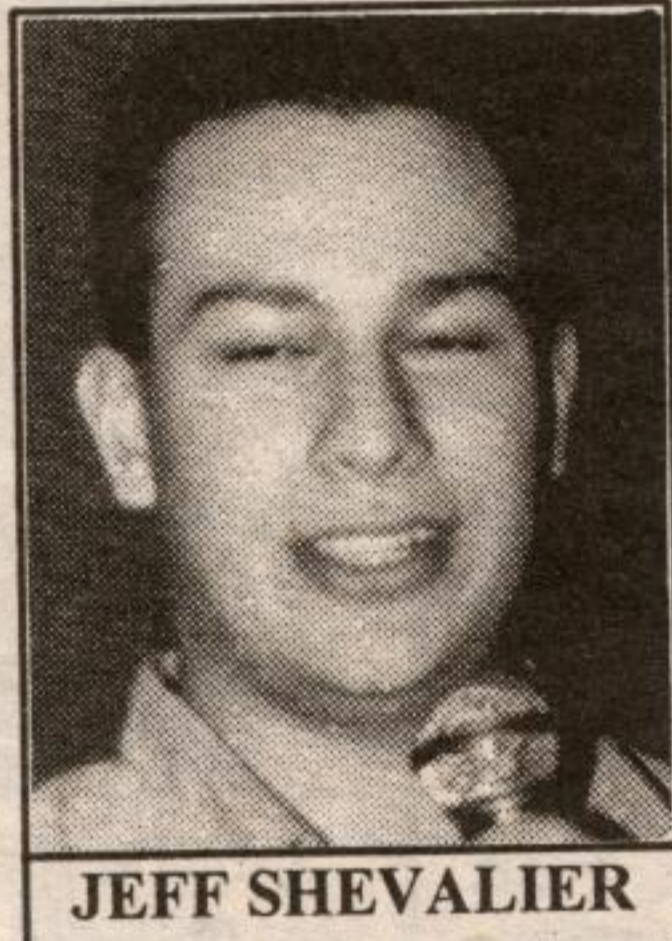
However, after having the cast on for seven weeks, Shevalier will have it removed any day now and will immediately begin preparation for his second NHL training camp.

"I think my confidence has grown from last year's camp," said Shevalier, a former most valuable player with the Acton Sabres. "The L.A. Kings players gave me confidence in all aspects of the game."

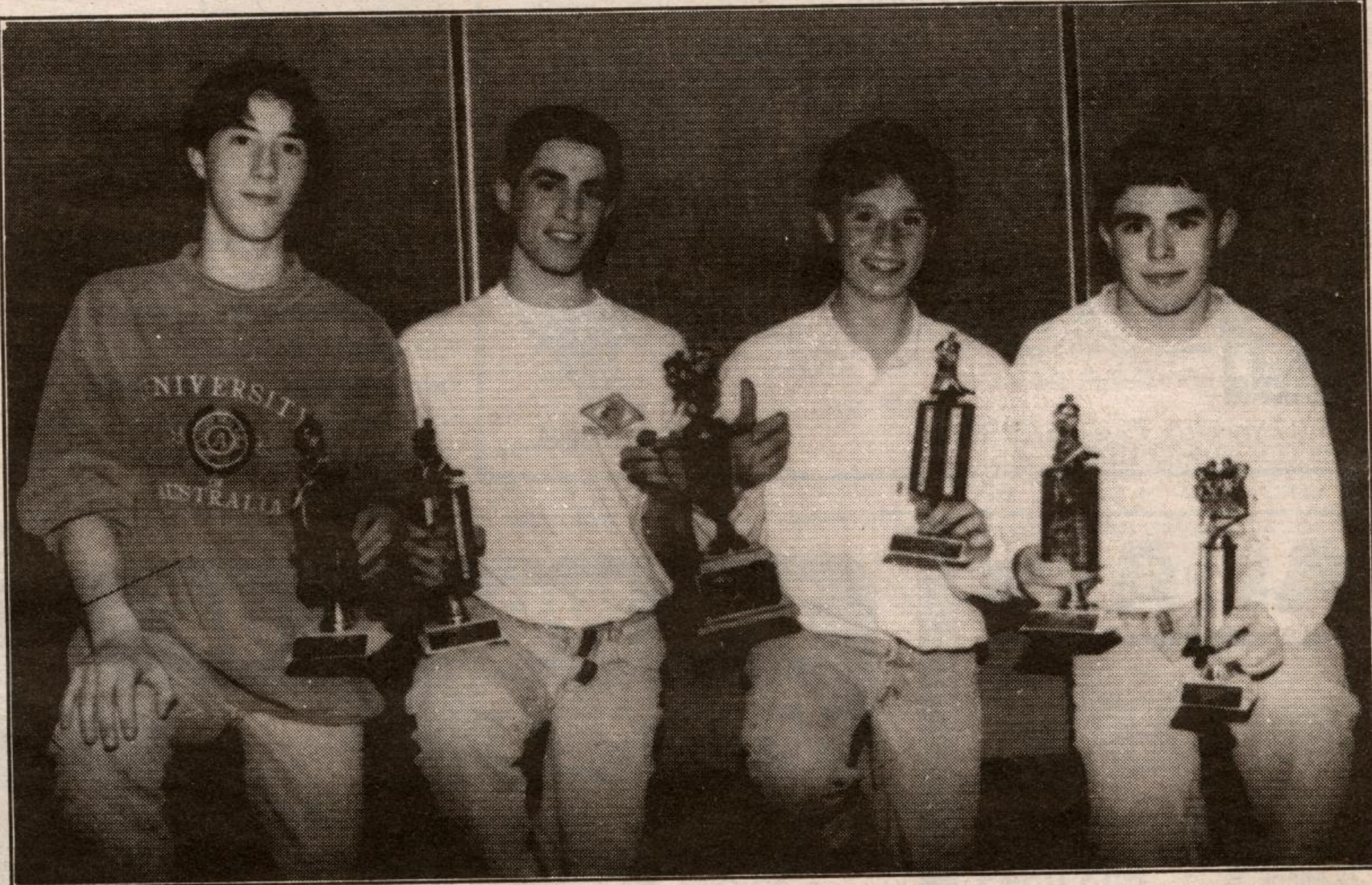
"I was 18 then and you have to have age maturity. And you also have to have muscle maturity because the professionals are stronger and smarter than junior players."

Shevalier earned four of North Bay's awards this season.

And he earned the respect of every minor hockey player at the Legion last Monday.



JEFF SHEVALIER



BIG WINNERS: The Acton Rep Hockey league held their annual year-end awards banquet at the Legion last Monday evening and gave out numerous individual and team hardware. Rewarded for their hard work were, from left, the Acton Fire Fighters Bantam I team of Steven Forbes (most improved); Josh Marcoux (most sportsmanlike); Brian Denny (Carol Smith award) and Roy Stuckless (most valuable player). The team also shows off their trophy for winning the Flesherton Invitational tourney. (Doug Harrison photo)

Acton High track team wins eight events in two meets

Improving more each meet, the Acton High track and field team grabbed four gold medals at the Al Nichols memorial track meet at T.A. Blakelock High in Oakville on Saturday.

The locals proved to be No. 1 in the Midget Girls categories of: shot put, discus throw, 80-metre hurdles and triple jump.

Heather Trotter took first in the shot put with a put measuring 8.34m. Trotter later added a first-rate performance in the discus with a throw of 23.20m.

In the 80m hurdles, Jenny Goy finished ahead of the pack at 14.5 seconds. She added a triple jump first with leap of 8.47m. Goy also finished sixth in the 100m dash in 14.6.

Michael Andrews and Chris Wallis nailed the fourth and twelfth spots, respectively, in the Midget Boys 1500m.

Andrews hit the tape at 5:04.8, while Wallis clocked in at 5:40.6.

Andrews and Wallis also competed in the 800m. Andrews placed fifth in 2:28.1 and Wallis finished ninth in 2:49.2.

Dashing to the line in 14.2, Shelby DaPonte took fifth in the Senior Girls 100m. She also competed in the Senior Girls long jump and javelin. She placed fourth with a jump measuring 4.17m and fourth in the javelin with a toss of 22.24m.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, seven members of the team competed against 10 Halton high schools in the Burlington Central High

Midget track and field meet and also finished first four times.

Goy finished first and third in the 80m hurdles and the long jump, respectively. She crossed the wire at 14.8 and long jumped 4.03m.

Amanda Bonnell captured first in both the 200m (28.3) and the 400m (63.5). A high jump of 1.4m was good for second.

Trotter took her second first of the week in the shot put with a put of 9.42m.

Andrews finished sixth in the 1500m at 5:06.7 and seventh in

the 400 at 62.0.

The relay team of Bonnell, Goy Jennifer McKay and Shondra Stroud clocked a second-place run in the 4 x 100m of 58.2.

Of the non-placings, McKay finished second in her heat in the 100m at 14.5 and ran the 200 in 31.4. Goy notched first in the 100m at 14.7.

Stroud grabbed a bronze finish in the 100m, blazing to a 15.6 finish. She later ran the 200 in 33.7. And Chris Wallis completed the 1500m in 5:45.

Acton rugby squad gets breaks; beats Bishop Reding

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

The Acton High Midget Boys' rugby team ushered in a new season last Tuesday with a 12-5 victory over Bishop Reding in front of the home crowd.

The home side was quite familiar with their opponents as they lost a 15-14 squeaker in an exhibition contest the previous week that Acton coach Dave Boycott figured "could have gone either way."

"We felt better (Tuesday) than the exhibition game," said Boycott. "We felt we didn't get the breaks in that game. We made better use of the field (Tuesday)."

Acton, knowing they were in for a tough match, opened the scoring as Giancarlo Scappin scored a try from 10 metres out making a

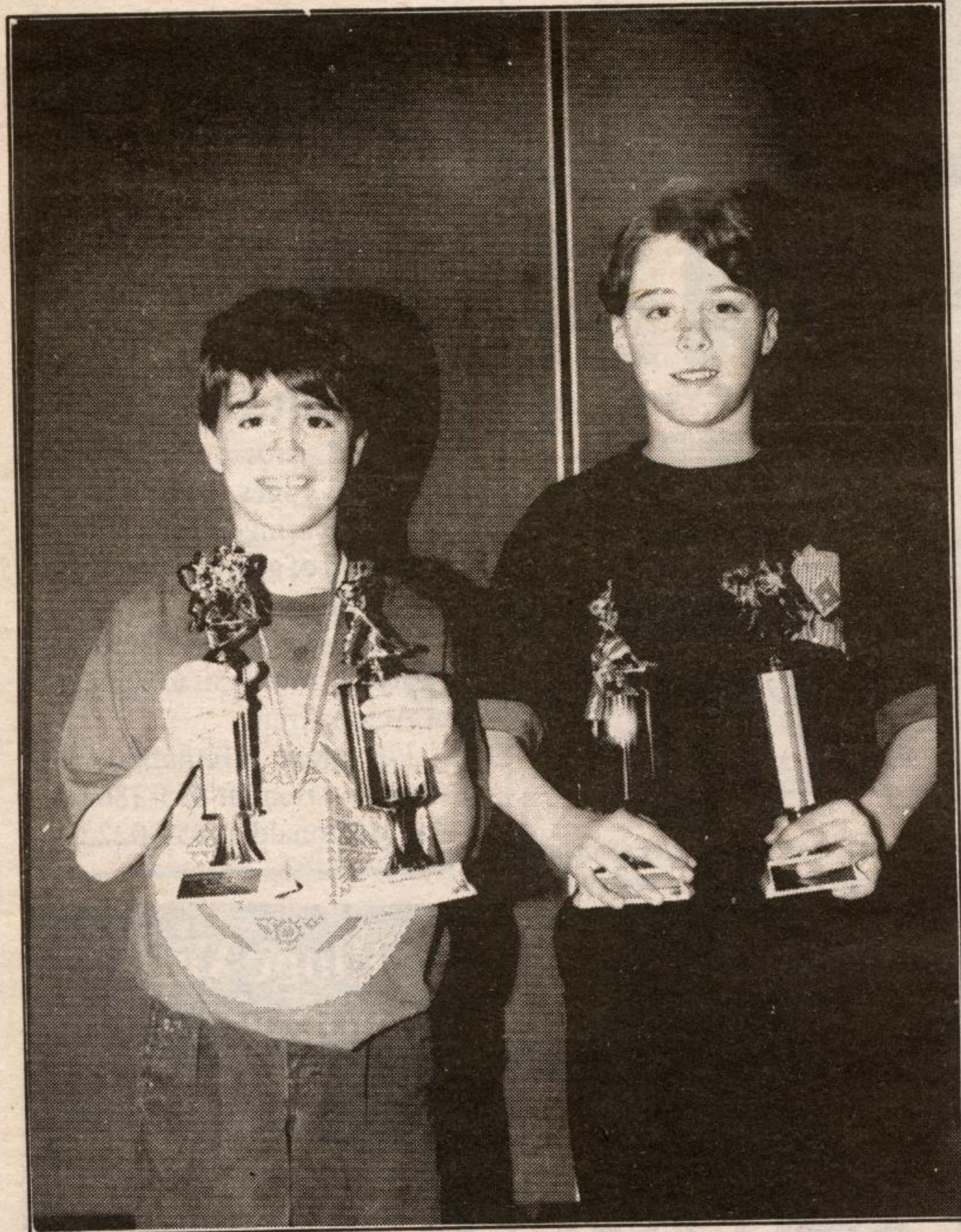
nice run in pursuit of the corner. Matt Boycott made the conversion for a 7-0 lead.

Bishop Reding answered with a try at the end of the first half, but missed the convert to trail 7-5.

In the second half, Acton couldn't get the long run they needed in an end-to-end battle.

However, Dave Dolliver dove in the corner for a try to up the home side lead to 12-5. The convert was practically impossible as it was attempted in the corner.

Acton was supposed to play E.C. Drury on Thursday, but found out upon arrival that the Senior squad was no longer, folding due to a lack of players. But the trip wasn't a wasted one as the locals played an exhibition tilt against E.C. Drury's Junior team.



MVP BROTHERS: Both Ryan Weatherall, left, and brother Shawn took home the most valuable player trophies for their respective teams at the annual awards presentation last Monday at the Legion. Ryan played on the Acton Novice I and Shawn toiled with the Acton Atom I. (Doug Harrison photo)