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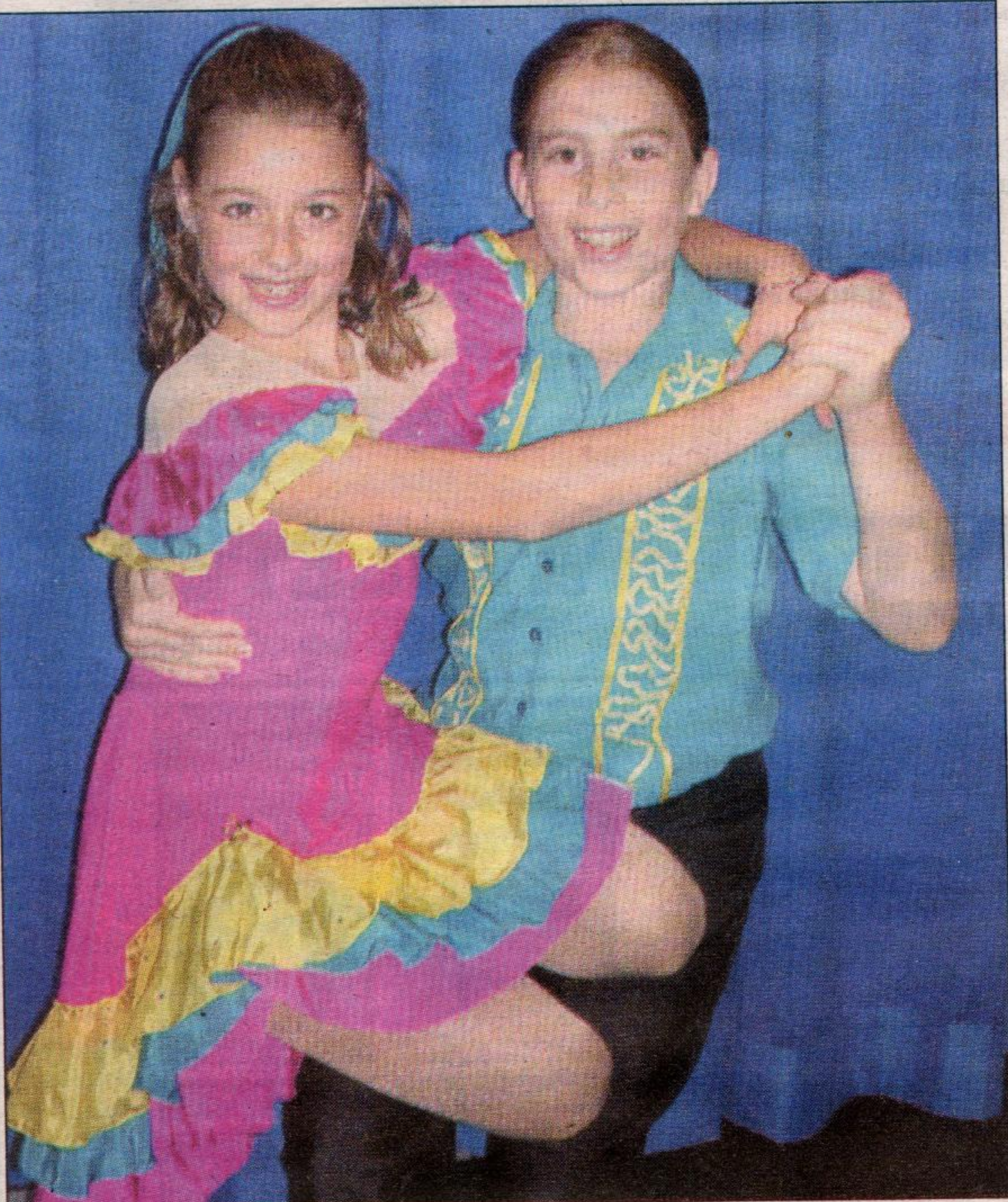
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Bronze medalists

Acton's Rebecca Nelles and her partner Dylan Simpson from Kitchener-Waterloo won a bronze medal recently at the Western Ontario Sectionals figure skating competition. This is Nelles's first year skating competitive dance. She was invited to try out for the dance program at the Kitchener-Waterloo Skating Club late last December and started skating with Simpson in January of this year. The pair's third-place finish has earned them a spot on the Western Ontario Provincial Team and they will now go on to represent the Western Ontario Section at the Trillium Cup in the spring. Nelles represents the Guelph Figure Skating Club and travels two to three times a week to Kitchener-Waterloo to train with her partner.

Submitted photo

Gym clubs hosts qualifier

The Halton Hills Gymnastics Club will be hosting a provincial qualifier this weekend.

The qualifier will be the first of three to determine which gymnasts qualify for the provincial championships. The competition will draw 192 competitors from 18 clubs. That will include 22 Halton Hills gymnasts, who will be looking to advance to the provincials.

Competition begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and continues until 6:15 p.m. There will be 45-minute breaks between flights at 11:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Competition resumes Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and wraps up at 5:30 p.m. There will be 45-minute breaks at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Spectators are welcome. The club is located at 36 Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown.

Starter leaves team

Rebels handed surprise setback on eve of OFSAA tournament

The Georgetown Rebels will head into today's (Friday's) provincial high school volleyball championship minus a key member of their team.

Nic Turnhout, the team's starting middle and the school's top junior athlete last year, told Rebel coach Jonas Kaciulis that he was leaving the team just five days before the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament was to begin.

Kaciulis said Turnhout did not agree with some of his coaching decisions and was unhappy with discontent that had crept into the team.

Kaciulis said he has had to work hard to keep the team motivated since playing at a tournament hosted by the defending OFSAA champion, London's Saunders Secondary. That tournament drew many of the teams the Rebels will face this weekend.

But returning to league play, the Rebels weren't as sharp as they were before the tournament. They needed three games to down Holy Trinity in the Halton semifinal then staved off match point four times before rallying to beat Oakville-Trafalgar in the Halton final.

"We had some trouble with individualism," Kaciulis said. "The team culture had been dropping. We were on such a roll and feeling pretty good but from then on it's my job to get them ready for OFSAA. I'm taking responsibility for it."

To adjust, Duncan Cairns will move from power to middle to replace Turnhout while Dave Cavasin will step into the power role. Gavin Viray Cox, who is coming off an ankle injury, and Brad Richards will also be

counted on to supply reliable playing time off the bench.

Kaciulis said the Turnhout's decision surprised the team but it may turn out to be the shock they needed to focus on what's ahead.

"They took it very hard but now they're rallying around each other. We had a good practice and the boys are excited and charged up."

The Rebels will be making their fifth appearance at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament in the past six years. They enter the tournament as the fifth seed, putting them among the leading contenders for a medal.

Saunders Secondary return as the tournament's number one seed. Guelph Centennial is seeded second, Whitby's Anderson Collegiate is third and Chatham's Urseline is fourth. The Rebels did beat Anderson in a tournament this year but have not beaten either Saunders or Centennial. They have not played Urseline.

Pool play begins today (Friday) at the main campus of Humber College in Toronto, followed by playoff matches on Saturday. The Rebels open against Toronto's St. Michael's College at noon followed by a game against Toronto's Birchmount Collegiate at 4:30 p.m. The Rebels wrap up pool play against Urseline at 7:30 p.m.

The top two teams will advance to the championship draw on Saturday with the third and fourth place teams playing in the consolation round. Championship semifinal games are at 12:45 p.m. Saturday. The bronze medal game will be at 5:15 p.m. followed by the gold medal game at 7 p.m.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Twisters set sights on own tourney title

The North Halton Twisters enter their fifth annual hockey tournament this weekend looking to complete the hat-trick.

The Twisters have won two titles at their own event since it began in 2000. The second of those came last year but their best year was 2001 when they won one title and had three other teams reach the final.

There will be no shortage of local entries to vie for those titles. Seven North Halton teams will be competing in the tournament, which begins today and continues until

Sunday.

The competition has also increased, though. This will be the Twisters' largest tournament with 76 teams in 9 divisions, that more than doubles the 31 teams that took part in the inaugural tournament.

Games will be played at three arenas. The Mold-Masters SportsPlex will serve as the tournament headquarters with games also taking place at the Acton Arena and the Milton Sports Centre.

Games begin at 1 p.m. today (Friday) and continue until 8 p.m. Sunday.

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