

# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10, 1997

## Milton shakes off rink rust

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

The Milton Merchants were as rusty as a junkyard scrap heap through much of Tuesday night's visit to Iceland Arena.

But beneath their corrosive exterior lay a brilliant performance, that ultimately fought its way to the surface.

Having competed just twice over the previous 17-day stretch, Marty Williamson's crew came out flat as a pancake against the hometown Mississauga Chargers.

A gradual yet exciting metamorphosis however, would turn a two-goal deficit into a 6-2 triumph for the Merchants — who now enjoy a two-game win streak and 4-1 season record.

Star sophomore Darren Haydar would lead the comeback campaign with four points over the final 23 minutes of play.

He buried rebounded slapshots by defencemen Matt Bannan and T.J. Lee and set up close-range tallies by Mark McPhail and Randy Stolec.

Chad Blundy cut into Mississauga's lead at the midway mark of the evening, on a beautiful quick-release goal off

a pass from Bannan, while Troy Walczak poured salt in open wounds with a shorthanded upstairs blast.

Also drawing two assists each were captain Jeff Haydar and Rich Williams — who made a noteworthy return after a nine-month layoff for a fractured hand.

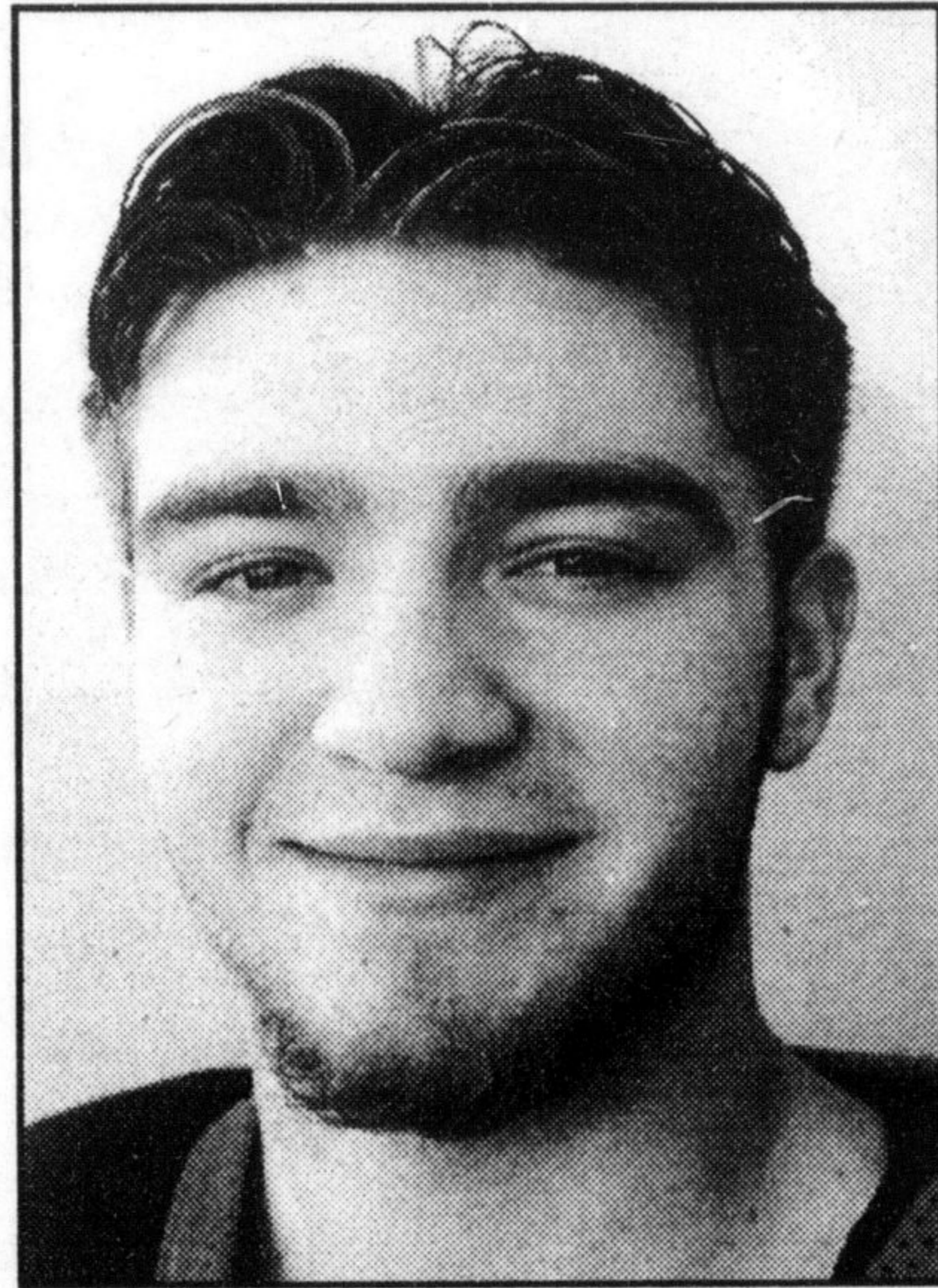
As impressive as their late charge was, it took a back seat to Jeremy Wenzel's crafty goaltending.

Coming off a substandard effort against Brampton, Wenzel saved Milton's bacon for two periods with key glove saves and outstanding bottom shelf coverage.

He was beaten by Ryan Eby and captain Matthew Dzieduszycki on two big defensive miscues.

After shaking off their early rink rust, Lee, McPhail and Steve French led an effective penalty killing unit that thwarted eight Charger powerplays.

**Merchants notes:** Troy Walczak has collected points in all five regular season games ... Milton has given up just three powerplay goals on 29 penalties ... Milton hosts the winless Georgetown Raiders tonight (Friday) at 8 p.m.



Jeremy Wenzel

## Ching sings those blues

The Spectrum Airways AA major bantams broke into the win column with authority Sunday, destroying the Chinguacousy Blues 7-1.

Milton spotted their hosts a one-goal lead before completely blanketing their attack.

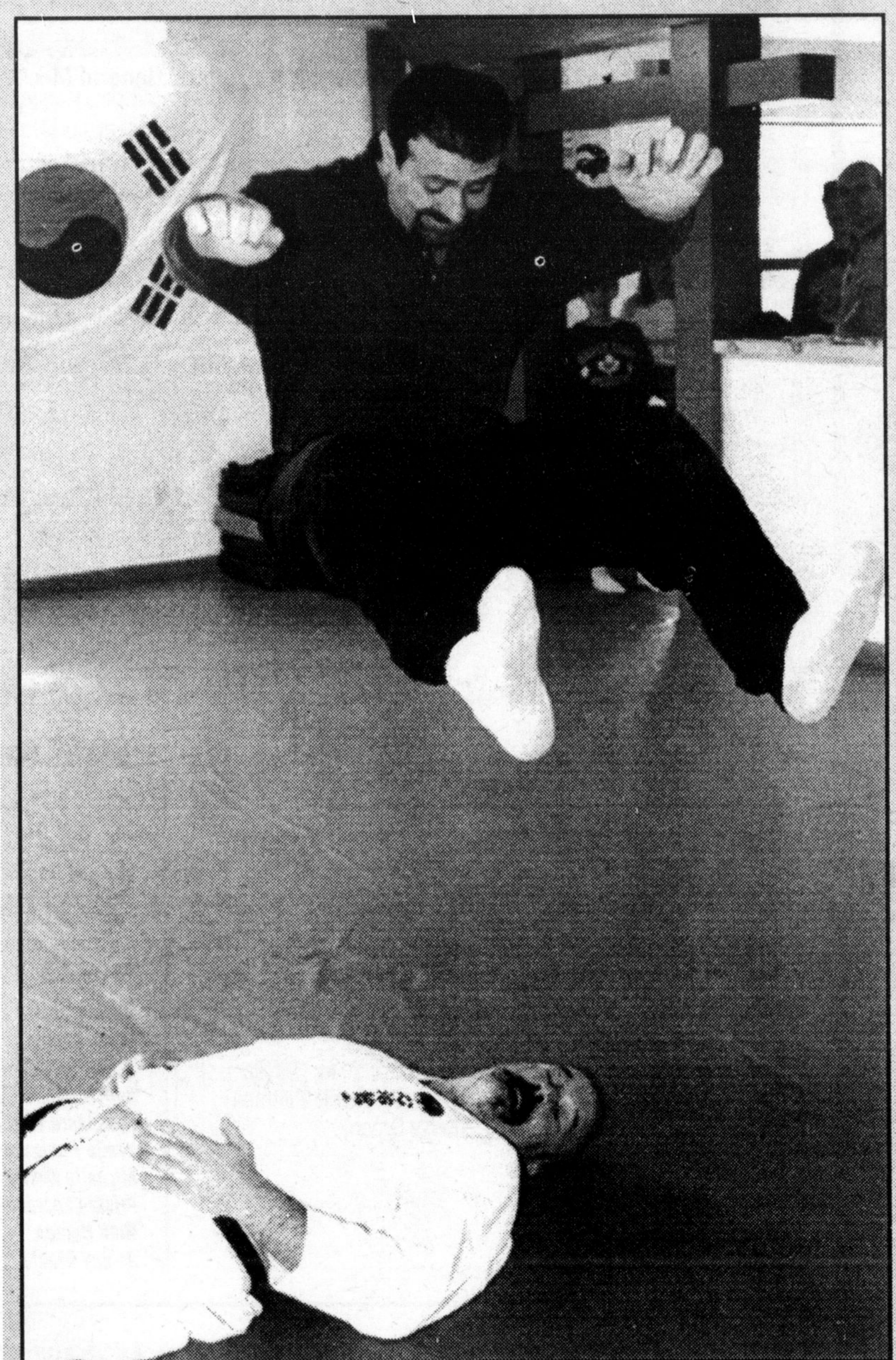
It wasn't long before a low scoring affair would turn into a blowout — and a night for stats padding. Leading the way in this department with a hat-trick and an assist was star winger Jordan Jeans.

Kris Beal tallied twice and drew one helper himself while Derek Mewhinney and Bryan Shaw contributed singles.

Mike Austen, Shawn McConnell, Jacob Vanderbreggen and Chris Wulfers each posted two assists. Chris Kovachik was steady yet relatively idle in the cage, turning aside 13 shots.

Beal and Vanderbreggen set up Dave Kornack Saturday in Burlington, for Milton's only goal in a 4-1 loss to the feisty Oilers.

The hometown crew salted the game away with two unanswered goals in the third period.



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

## Dropping in

Former World Championship Wrestling circuit competitor Layton Morrison shows off some of his moves, at Fighting Griffin Martial Arts studio owner Scott Hogarth's expense. Morrison showed up for Hogarth's grand opening Saturday.

## Milton needs to step up a notch

Milton's Action Utility Trailer 'A' major atoms opened their season with back-to-back losses, dropping decisions to Orangeville (6-5) and Fergus (7-1).

The defending Tri County champions have moved into the tougher Harrison Division and will need to step things up in order for continued success.

Goalie Mike Sanders backstopped the Winterhawks in their 1997/98 opener with Orangeville.

The seesaw battle saw Milton erase a two-goal deficit before surrendering three more goals and their lock on the game.

• see SEESAW on page 19

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