



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1998

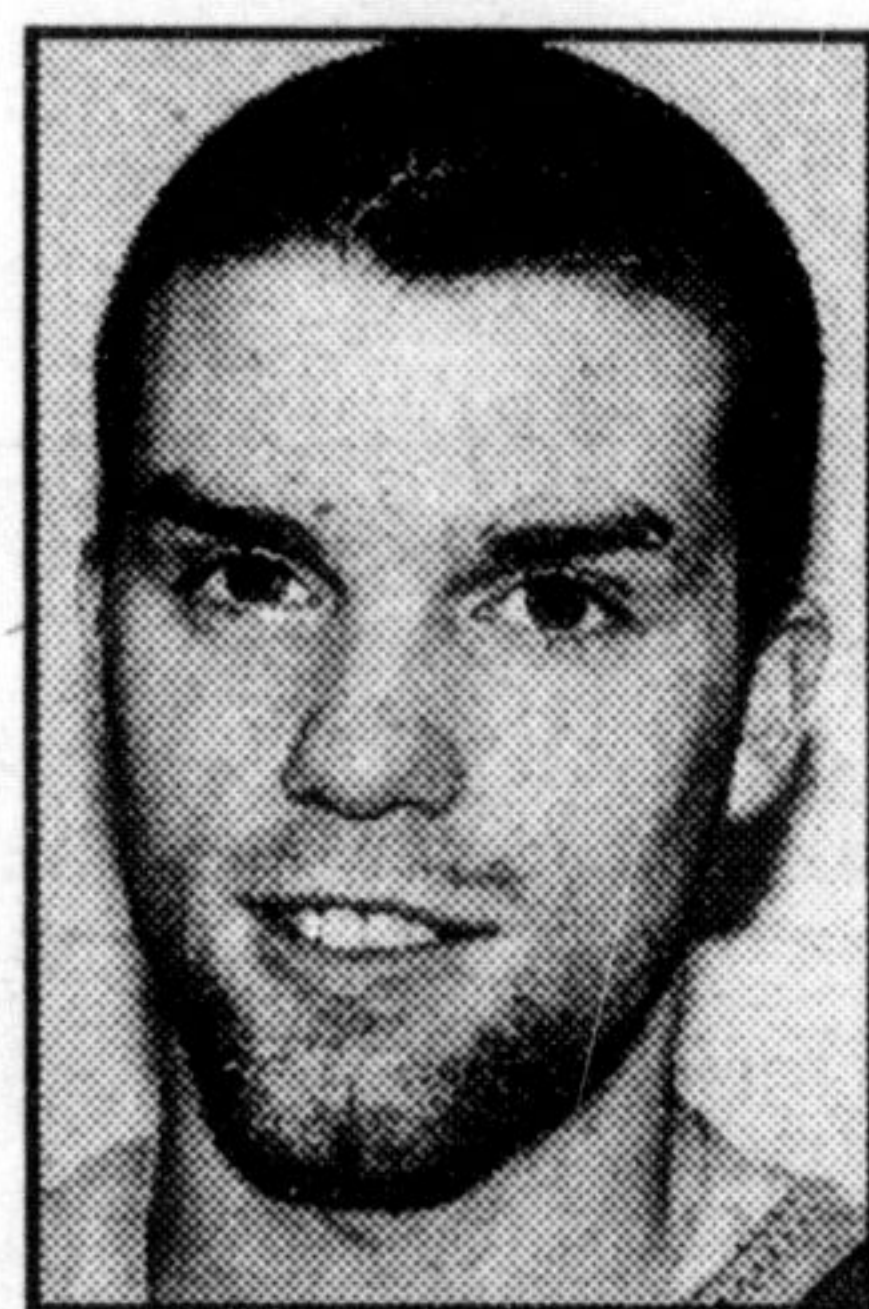


## Jacques new in Merchants' net

By **STEVE LeBLANC***Special to The Champion*

One Merchants deal came to fruition while another fell apart as Provincial Jr. A League trading came to a close Saturday.

In the tradition of signing French goalies for the playoffs, Milton acquired 19-year-old Daniel Jacques from the Guelph Storm.



Daniel Jacques

The Brampton native had recently dropped to third string on the OHL club — with the

addition of Chris Thompson from Barrie — and became somewhat expendable.

In seven games he posted four wins and three losses plus a respectable 2.88 goals-against average.

He spent much of last season as the number one man with Metro's Pickering Panthers and was picked up by the Jr. C Erin Shamrocks for their playoff run.

Jacques replaces David Cinelli, who has been sent to Metro's North York Canadians.

"We just didn't feel we were getting the same level of play from David (Cinelli) that we had been from Jeremy (Wenzel)," said Milton head coach Marty Williamson Friday night.

One night later his hopes for acquiring rugged right winger Tim O'Brien fell by the wayside.

Burlington's last-minute change of heart put the brakes on the seemingly done deal.

The 20-year-old would have added a lot of toughness to the forward lines — something Milton will need in the later rounds of the playoffs against teams like Brampton and Rayside-Balfour.

Mark Cooper was expected to join Cinelli in North York

but at the moment is in hockey limbo.

His Merchant card has been turned in — as have those of Cinelli, Travis Riggan and Steve Clarke — but he could still resign with the team.

While trading is through for another year, teams can still sign players right up until next month's playoffs begin.

Meanwhile, Jeff Seeds and Jamie Fitzgibbon have been reassigned to full-time duty with Erin, Milton's Jr. C affiliate.

The move, according to Williamson, will keep them in game shape should their services be required in the playoffs.

### On a tear

Darren Haydar isn't content to just have his name in the record books — he wants it near the top of the list.

Having scored 12 goals in the past five games, he's now up to 57 on the season. With 13 games remaining, he stands an excellent chance of moving past Jim McGroarty (with 65 in 1991/92) for second-place on the Provincial Jr. A League season scoring list.

Breaking Steve Walker's league record of 75 isn't out of the question either.

### Big week ahead

Merchant fans are in for a big week, starting tonight at 8 p.m. when Milton hosts the feisty Bramalea Blues.

Friday they'll battle the visiting Rayside-Balfour Sabrecats, in a preview of what could very well be the All-Ontario finals.

The Merchants will open the booster club for this one, as Memorial Arena is expected to house a capacity crowd.

From there, Darren Haydar, Ron Baker, Mark McPhail and Jeremy Wenzel will represent Milton at Sunday's All-Star Game at Iceland Arena in Mississauga. Game time is 12:30 p.m.

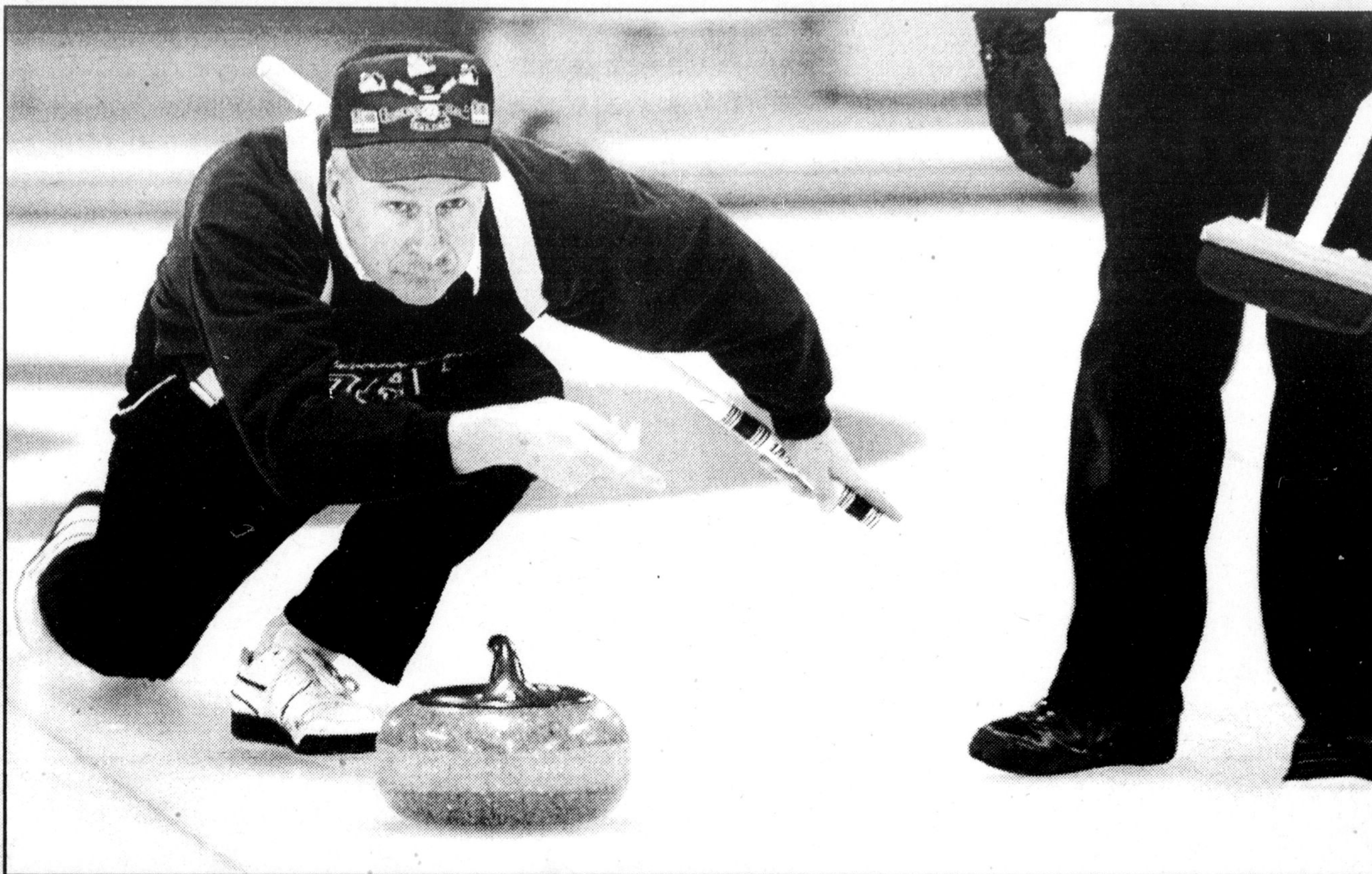


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Simpkins' shuffle

Doug Simpkins of the Milton Curling Club releases his rock Saturday in early Halton/Peel Bonspiel action. His rink won their first two bouts and moves on this week.

### Reding comes from behind

## Mustangs' early lead goes up in smoke

By **STEVE LeBLANC***Special to The Champion*

Ian Robinson led his Milton District High School troops just far enough to see the promised land, but couldn't complete the journey to the pearly gates.

The junior hoopster controlled first-half play at Bishop Reding Thursday. He went 4-for-4 at the line, hit a field goal, scored 17 total points and made half a dozen defensive steals.

But as the tempo gradually increased, Robinson's dominance fell by the wayside — as did the Mustangs' hopes for victory.

He sank just one basket through the second half and his teammates were unable to pick up the pieces. As a result, their initial 12-0 lead went up in smoke as the hometown Royals went on to win 63-43.

"We're a team that needs to play a high tempo, aggressive running game to win," said BR head coach John London. "They (MD) did a good job of keeping the game at a slow pace early on but we eventually forced the change."

Big centre Dan McBride and finesse

guard Joel Castro led Reding's comeback with a fierce inside game and 21 combined points.

Castro turned in outstanding ball handling throughout the second half while McBride posted up on MD four times in the third quarter to put his team ahead.

Rufus Williamson was another spark plug with several turnovers and crisp passing while Jodie St. John and Onel Martino rounded out the offence with nine and eight points respectively.

Anchoring the Mustangs' meager second-half performance was Rob Skinner, who netted three baskets and finished with 10 points.

### Sr. 'Stangs dominate

Earning revenge for their junior counterparts, MD's senior b-ball crew laid a 56-36 beating on Reding Thursday.

On the strength of a 20-point afternoon by Matt Babel, the 'Stangs led through all four quarters and had put the game out of reach by half time.

Benched through the opening quarter for

missing practice last Tuesday, BR point guard Jeff Seeds made some good passes down the stretch but was just as unfocused at times, as was platoon partner Adam Bonin.

Supporting cast member Anthony Giordano was about the only positive thing going for the home team in the second half. He showed great hustle on a late steal-and-lay-up as well as during three fourth-quarter offensive rebounds.

Six-foot, four-inch Craig O'Neil sank 12 points for MD — including nine in the first half — while Sean Postma and Dave Winter scored six each.

Teammate Cam Fraser turned in robust play at both ends of the court.

### Midget Royals win

The midget Royals completed Thursday's cross-town showdown by outdistancing MD 53-43.

Bishop Reding's teams travel to Oakville Trafalgar this afternoon while at the same time Milton District hoopsters host Acton.

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