



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

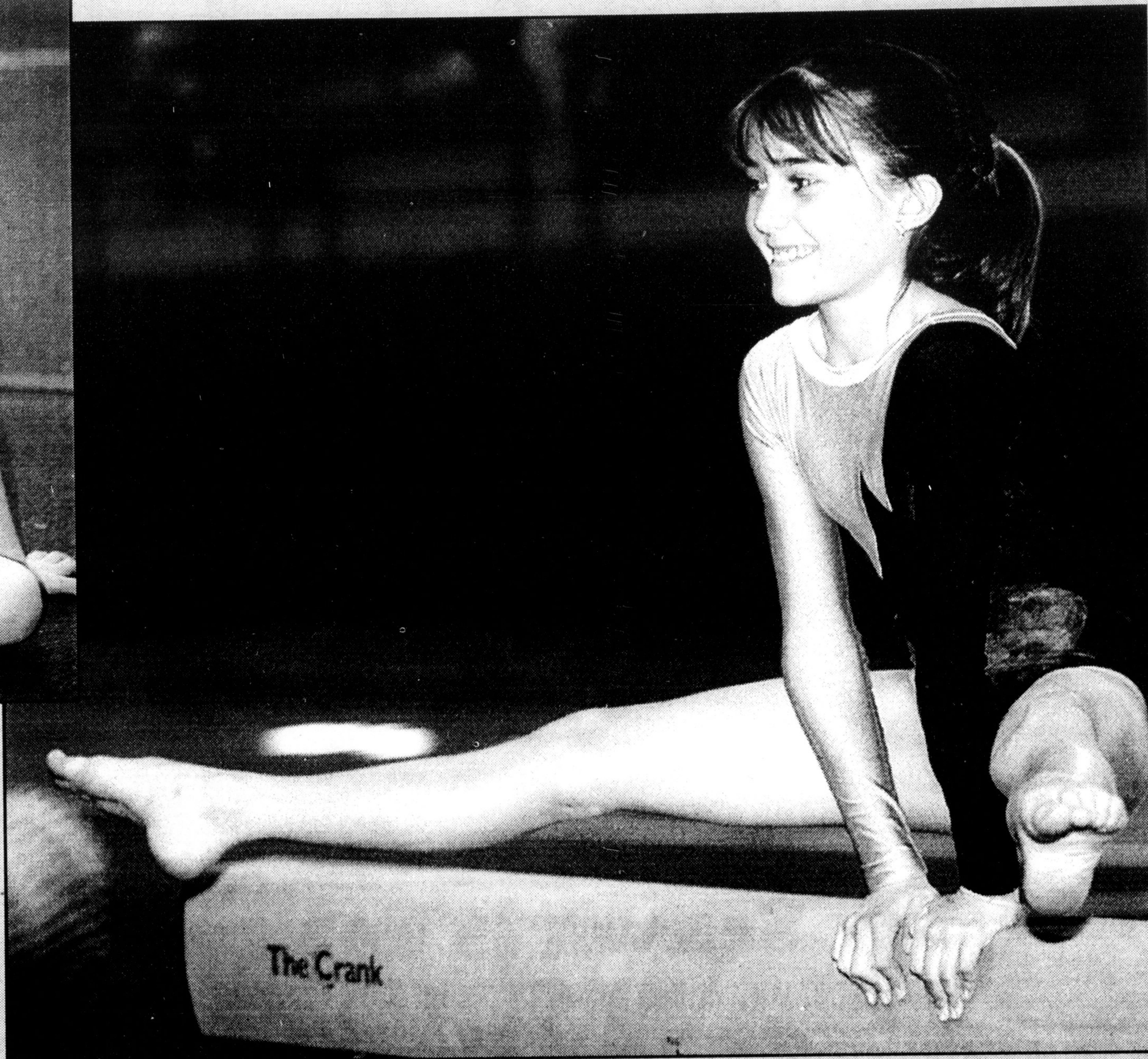
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 1998



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Doing, and waiting

Christina Shipowick, 11, a competitive gymnast with the Milton Springers, swung through a beam routine while Sydney Bonin, 3, waited to perform in the kindergym display during the gymnastic club's Gymstrada show at E.C. Drury High School Saturday.



Okay, O'Flaherty, it's do or die OT

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

It's nice to know that when all else fails, the Merchants can rely on the luck of the Irish.

Breathing new life into his Jr. A club's post-season campaign, Kevin O'Flaherty scored a double overtime game-winning goal to deliver a 4-3 victory Tuesday night in Oakville.

The 19-year-old centre — ironically an Oakville resident — picked up Ron Baker's wraparound attempt and popped one over John Lubera's left shoulder at 12:06 of the second extra session.

It was his sixth goal of the playoffs.

Rich Williams also assisted on the play, which

ended game three of the West Conference semifinals just shy of the four-hour mark.

The Blades led the series 2-1 prior to last night's tilt in Oakville. Results from the latest game weren't available at press time.

While coming out on top, Milton was out-hustled through the bulk of overtime play as their rivals rang up more quality shots and far more checks — at either end of the ice.

Daniel Jacques proved to be the great equalizer. Rebounding from a sorry game-one exhibition, he turned aside 14 overtime shots and 40 overall for his third playoff victory.

"It was nice to see Daniel back on his game and

I thought T.J. (Lee) was excellent on defence," said a wired and weary Milton skipper Marty Williamson, who had held a crash-course practice and team meeting earlier in the day.

"We looked a little panicky in overtime, however. This win was a door-opener for us but we've got to get better.

"We need all four lines gelling again."

Capitalizing on a big defensive miscue and two man-advantage, the Blades erased a pair of one-goal deficits in the third period.

Spark plug Kevin Voit notched the powerplay goal at 4:19 — with Jacques down from an initial

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Kevin O'Flaherty

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