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Math champion Glenn taught himself to program computers

Glen Wurster is among 17 students across Canada invited to take part in a University of Waterloo competition

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

OAC student Glenn Wurster is the perfect example of what self-motivation can accomplish.

In the seventh grade, the Milton District High School student taught himself computer programming through self-study at home.

Today, Mr. Wurster is one of 17 students in Canada invited to compete in a computer contest at the University of Waterloo.

The 18-year-old recently participated in the Third Annual Canadian Computing Competition for high school students. He earned first place in Halton after achieving twice the average score of more than 1,000 contestants from across the country.

Now he advances with 16 others to the second stage from May 6 to 9 and if he does well, he will go on to represent Canada at the International Olympiad in Portugal from September 5 to 13.

MDHS math teacher Dean Murray called it a "stellar accomplishment."

"Glenn's results are incredible," he said. "We sure hope he makes it to the finals in Portugal."

The first competition consisted of five problems, which contestants were given three hours to solve using programming skills and a computer.

One of MDHS' top math students, Mr. Wurster said his interest in computers started in Grade 7 when he taught himself programming as a hobby

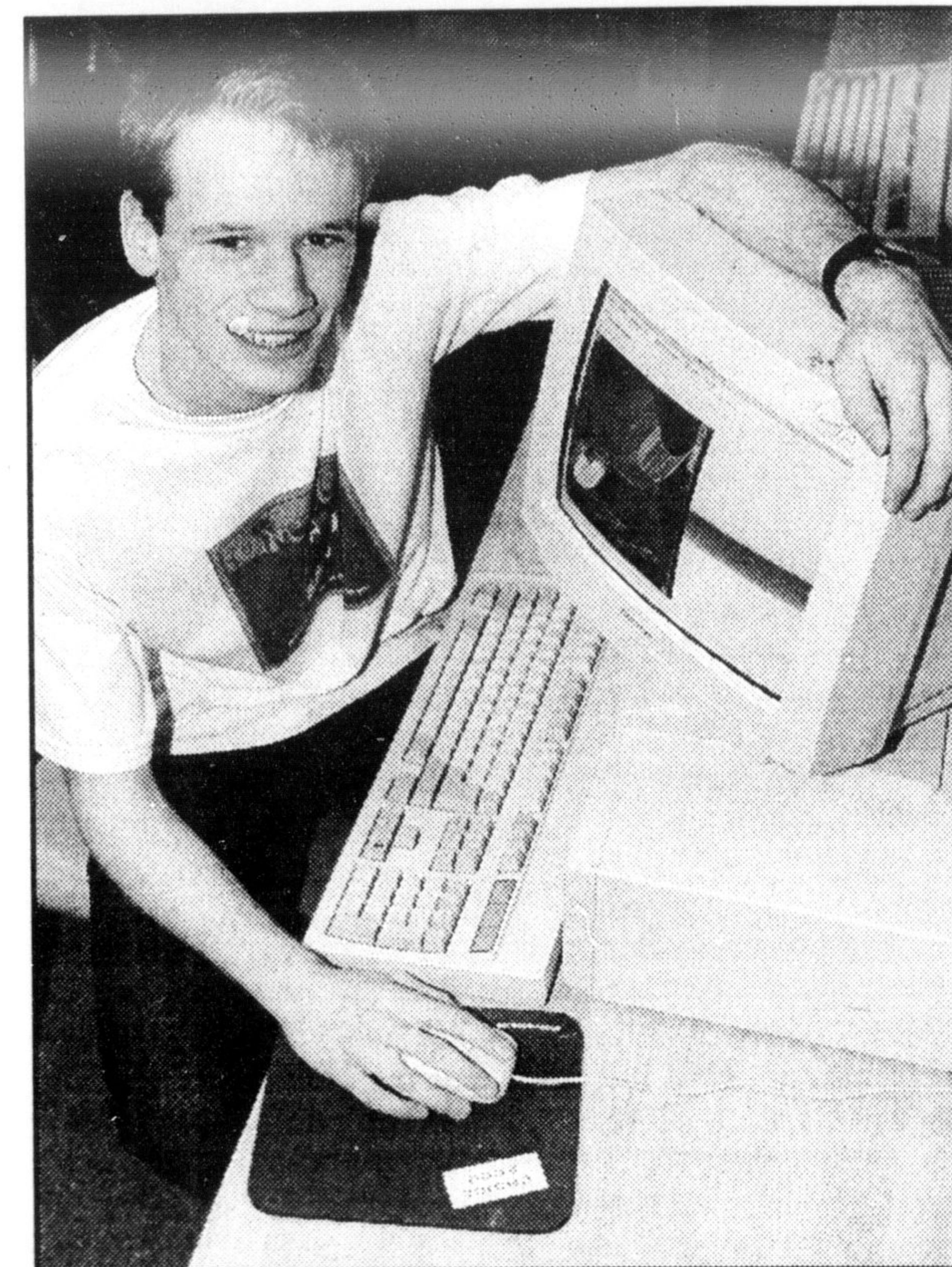


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Glenn Wurster is one of his school's top math students and a computer whiz.

through self-study.

He attributed his success to logical thinking and his ability to work through challenges.

"I'm a logical sort of person and I have a lot of patience," he said.

He said he hopes to study computer science with emphasis on its connection to aviation at the University of Waterloo.



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