



# SPORTS



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 1998

## Darlene butted out of her title

A head butt between the eyes and Darlene Kelsh's World Jiu-Jitsu Championship was suddenly over.

Hopes of maintaining her women's lightweight crown were shattered in round two when an American opponent-clashed heads with Kelsh.

The official deemed it legal, but had to stop the match as the local black belt began bleeding profusely from above her right eye.

Kelsh was rushed to the hospital — where she received five stitches — and missed the rest of the tournament. She didn't even get to see the U.S. competitor go on to capture the title Kelsh had worn proudly for the better part of the last decade.

"I'm extremely disappointed to have dropped the title," said the four-time champion, of the November 14-15 event in Burnaby, British Columbia. "After she caught me with the head butt I actually kept going for a minute or so before the referee stopped it.

"I never knew how powerful adrenaline can be."

Helping salvage things for the Kelsh family was her 10-year-old son Daniel, who outshone a handful of competitors on the way to a bronze in the junior lightweight blue belt class.

His was one of three medals secured by local jiu-jitsu students, who helped lead Canada to a third-place team finish behind the U.S. and England.

Instrumental in their top three showing was captain Blair Phillips, who ended up third among male heavyweight black belts.

Another standout effort was given by Darren Gallipeau, who showed strongly for the team but failed to reach the medal round in the lightweight black belt division. Team coach Bob Kranz, Kelsh's father, called into question the quality of officiating for Gallipeau's efforts.

Milton's other medal was earned by Derek Baily, who in his world championship debut struck silver in the junior middleweight blue belt class.

Kelsh had planned on retiring after this world championship, but says she may have to rethink that now that she's come home without another title.

"There's an international tournament next spring in Quebec. I might just have to go out for that one," she speculated.

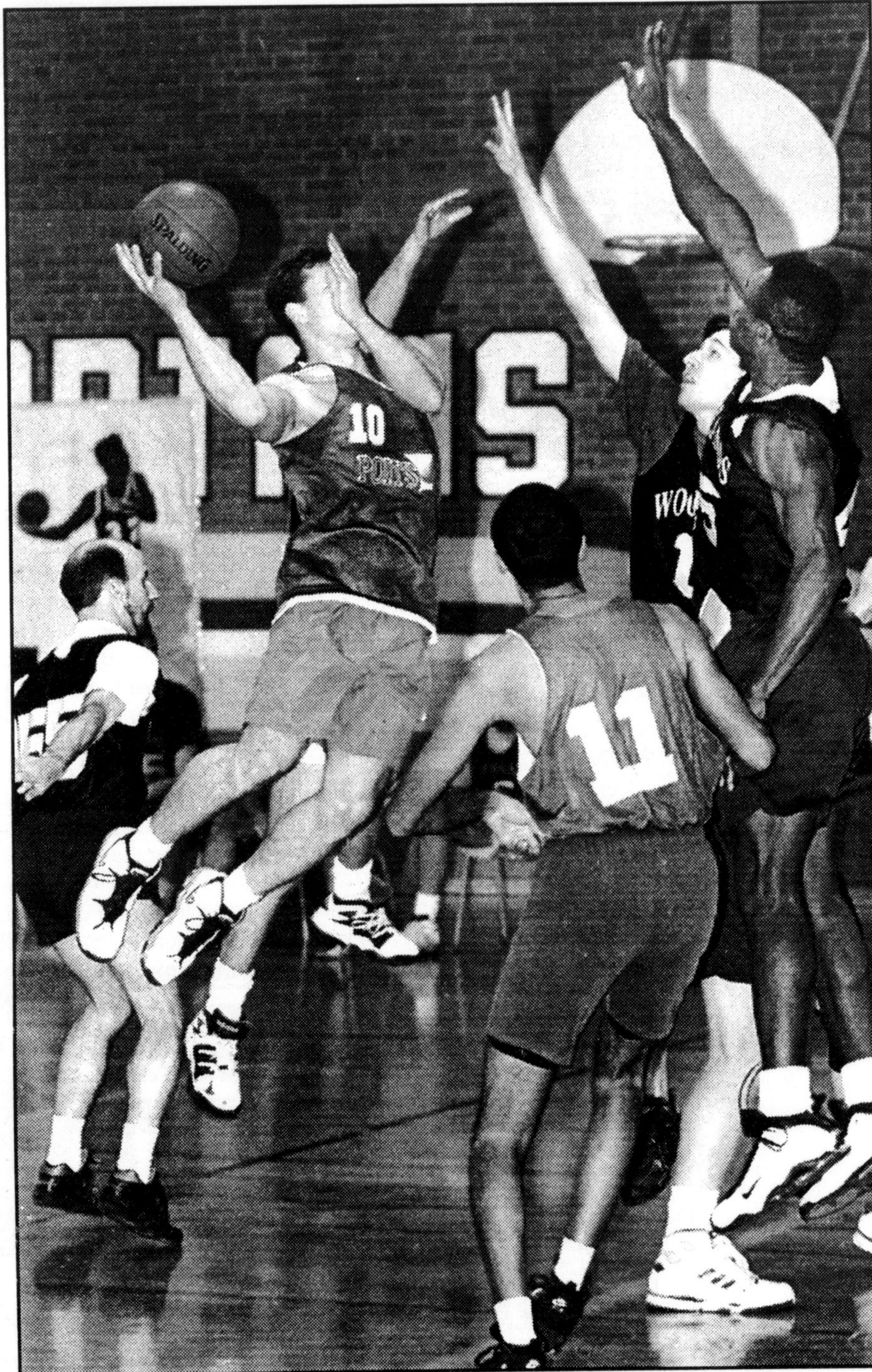


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton White team defenders block this shot in Halton Men's Basketball Tournament play against Fonthill Saturday at E.C. Drury High. They won the game and went on to down crosstown rival Milton Blue in the championship.

## White downs Blue for basketball title

Milton White capitalized at the foul line and from three-point range to humble crosstown rival Milton Blue 62-43 in the A division finals of the Halton Men's Invitational Basketball Tournament Saturday at E.C. Drury High School.

The 25-and-over champions led by more than a dozen points at the half, thanks to a nine-point effort by veteran forward Kevin

Houldcroft, who sank all five of his free throws.

Teammate Shawn Ross was perfect at the line as well, going 4-for-4.

Milton Blue managed to catch up at moments in the third and fourth quarter but their overly aggressive tactics remained a constant stumbling block.

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## Stepping out of a shadow

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

For much of the past few months this year's Merchants have been living in the shadows of last year's success.

Friday night however, they took one small but significant step out of the darkness and into their own light.

In front of their biggest crowd of the season, the defending provincial champs showed they could still win the big ones by toppling Brampton 5-1.

Milton fired on all cylinders to regain top spot in the West Conference — scoring three times in the opening frame and enjoying an exceptional goal-tending effort from Jeremy Wenzel.

"That's really what I needed," said the third-year cager, referring to a big performance against a big team. "I was focusing more and expecting the pucks.

"I think this win showed us something, just what smart and disciplined hockey can accomplish."

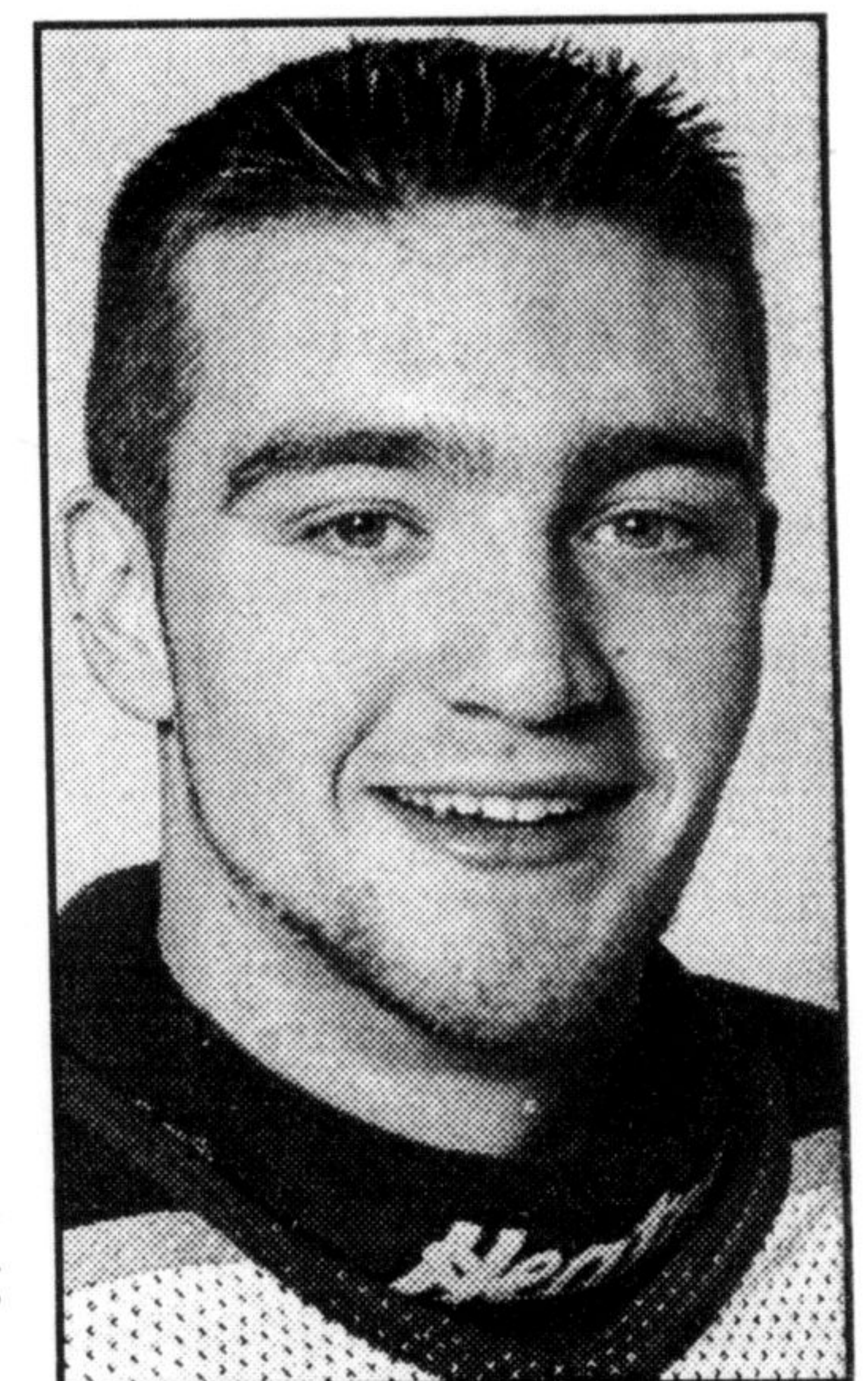
### Stayed composed

Despite a number of skirmishes down the stretch Milton demonstrated a lot of composure and allowed the Capitals just four powerplay stints on the night, none of which were converted.

Milton went 1-for-3 with the man advantage as Mark Beisel tipped in Matt Bannan's blue-line shot late in the first to strike a blow against his former teammates.

Chris Rowan put the Merchants on the scoreboard 5:33 into the game — with a backhand fake after a terrific move inside — while fellow rookie Ryan Stewart deflected in a point shot by John Nadalin one minute later.

The two freshmen, who've started coming into their own of late, showed strongly over the rest of the night as well — particularly Stewart, who was



Jeremy Wenzel

instrumental in a couple of penalty killing situations.

Rounding out the scoring were Chad Blundy and Mike Wheelihan, while spark plug Ryan Robichaud drew two assists in his hardest working performance to date.

### Impressive work

Also impressive was enforcer Jasen Hopiavuori, who did a good job muscling opponents off the puck.

Bronson Dawe potted a cross-ice pass from Matt McRae for Brampton's lone tally. Working their cage was Danny Gould.

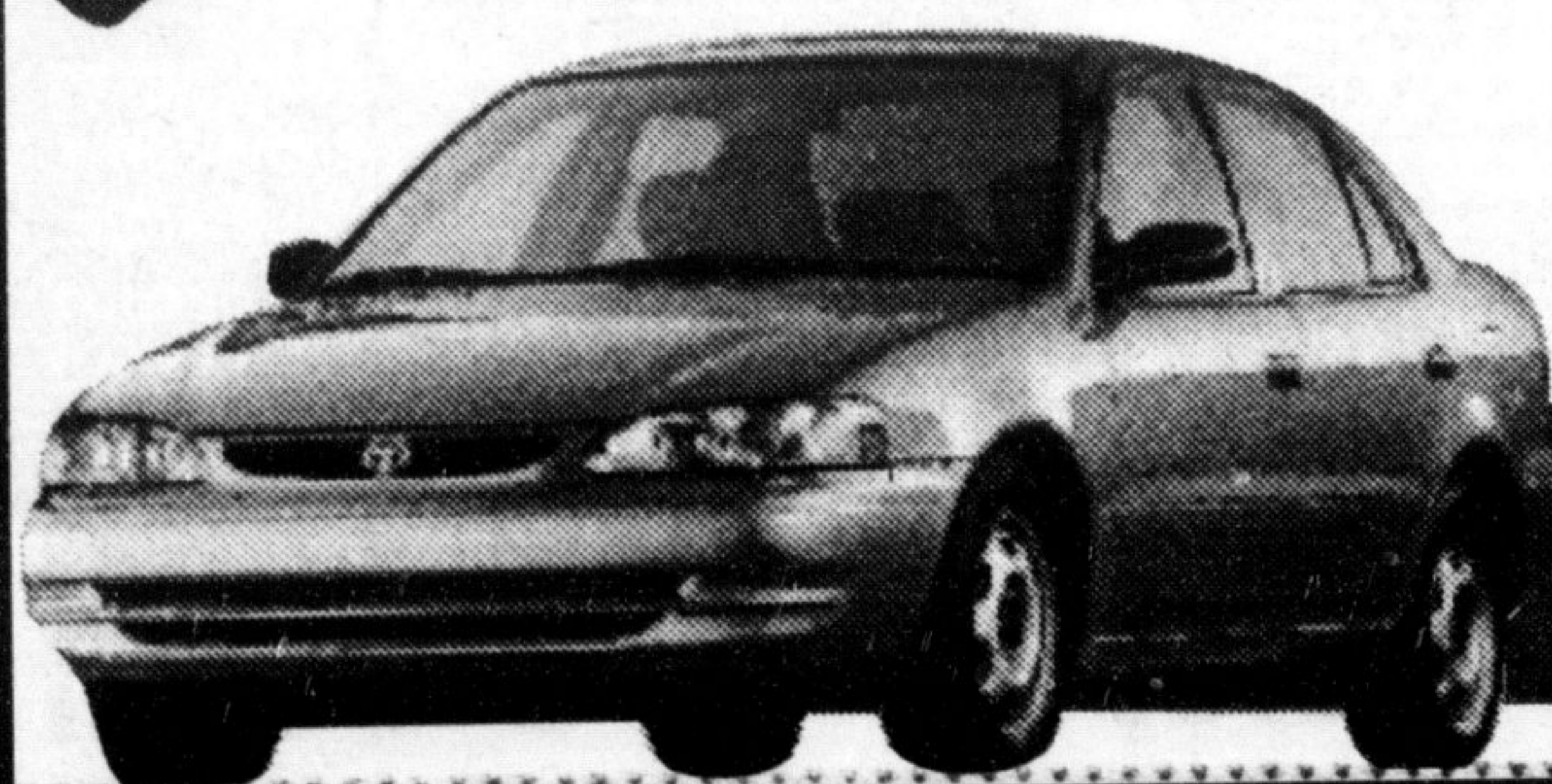
In the most noteworthy fight of the night, Bannan held better footing than the Caps' Steve Bebis and in doing so maintained his undefeated record.

Two nights later in their first trip to the new IceSports Arena, Milton looked sluggish for periods two and three against the Oakville Blades.

• see KEY on page 25

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