



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 1999

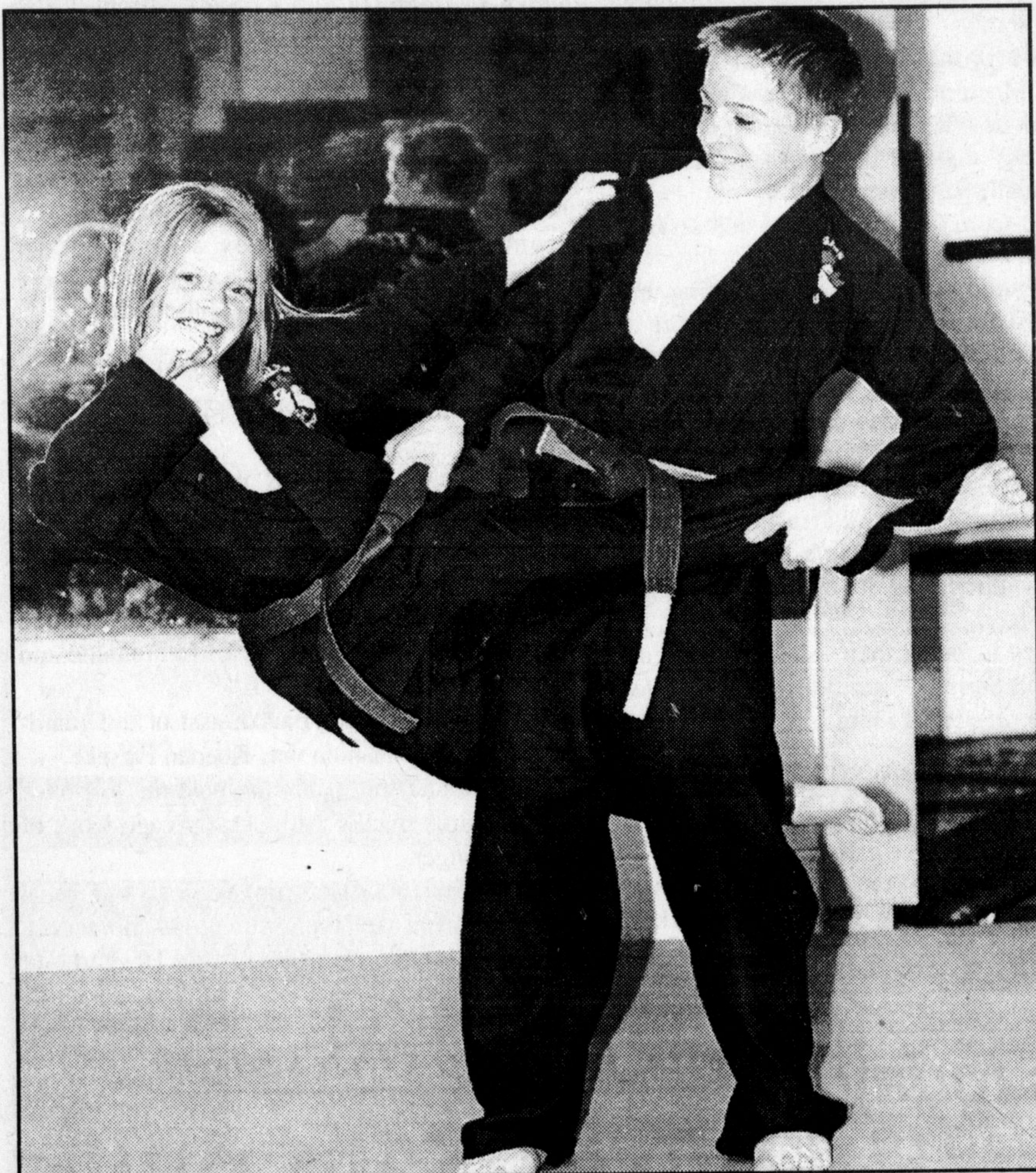
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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Shannon and Gary Laing (above) added to their extensive trophy collection recently at the Milton Sport Jiu-Jitsu Tournament. At left, they playfully grapple with each other — but they're all business when it comes to real competition.

## Siblings shine at event

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Milton's Laing siblings delivered a mighty one-two punch in jiu jitsu competition recently. Or rather the young pair offered a one-two throw or hold, since those are their strengths in this form of martial arts.

That's what won them top honours at the Milton Sport Jiu Jitsu Tournament November 28. Twelve-year-old Gary and 10-year-old Shannon each took first place at the local event, in which competitors of equal size and belt level attempted to best their opposition with a combination of sparring and grappling.

The brother and sister act specialize in the latter and both finished off their final round rivals with an authoritative throw.

Said Shannon, "I like competing and knowing how to defend myself."

Sensei Bob Kranstz says she's had a competitive spark since stepping foot in the club five years ago. For her big brother — who began at the same time — that drive didn't come until later.

"Gary's really started coming into his own in the past year or so," commented the longtime local instructor. "He has

improved immensely."

Evidence of that was seen over the weekend when the preteen passed the test for his red belt — which is the equivalent of a brown belt for adults.

Gary is quite pleased with this accomplishment, and with what jiu jitsu has done for him over the past half-decade.

"It's taught me a lot about respect and good sportsmanship," he said.

It's also presented his family with the dilemma of just where to put all of his and Shannon's numerous medals and trophies.

This year alone the siblings have won at least a dozen awards a piece — half of which are for finishing first.

"They've just got so many," said mom Linda Laing of her children's hardware haul. "It's (jiu jitsu) done a lot for them in terms of teaching respect, discipline and what it takes to succeed."

Also taking first at last month's competition were Sean Ferguson and Justine Smith. Daniel Kelsh struck silver while coming away with third-place efforts were Brady Currie, Kevin Iwasa-Madge and Aimee Knoll.

Grimsby's Red Griffin earned the title with 14 medals. Milton finished fourth.

## Unbeaten run at 10 games

# Merchants deep-six Blues

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

The Merchants probably could have been excused for a less than inspiring performance at Victoria Park Arena Tuesday.

After all, they had just gutted out a major weekend sweep over Georgetown — and regained sole possession of first place in the process.

Not to mention that they'd been going hard for the past few weeks, and either a tie or loss wouldn't have done much to jeopardize their hold on top spot.

But Marty Williamson's charges have relinquished their lofty position as the West Conference front-runners once already this year, and aren't about to take any chances with their lead this time around.

Or so it seemed, judging by their efforts against Bramalea.

Milton was unable to deliver much in the way of quality scoring chances, but their attention to detail and overall work ethic was more than enough to beat the Blues 4-1.

This was their sixth straight victory and extended

their unbeaten streak to 10 games.

The Merchants' win, which pushed them to 22-4-1-3 and opened up a six-point bulge on Georgetown, was highlighted by a three-point night from Ian Malcolm.

The 20-year-old sniper deposited the winning goal a mere 21 seconds into the middle stanza, finishing off a terrific feed from linemate Rob Martin.

Malcolm also assisted on goals one and three — by Martin and rookie Richard Peverley. Matt Belanger sealed the deal with seven minutes remaining, scoring on the powerplay and chasing star netminder Nathan Marsters from the cage.

Milton's Joel Cameron was steady between the pipes, making 20 saves and picking up an assist — his third this season — on Malcolm's game winner.

Sinking Bramalea's lone tally was Alex Ward.

Tuesday's contest was punctuated by a half-dozen fights in the final frame — a record high since the two sides squared off in a bench clearing brawl on March 10, 1996. It also brought an end to an 11-game point-getting streak by scoring leader Phil Barski.



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