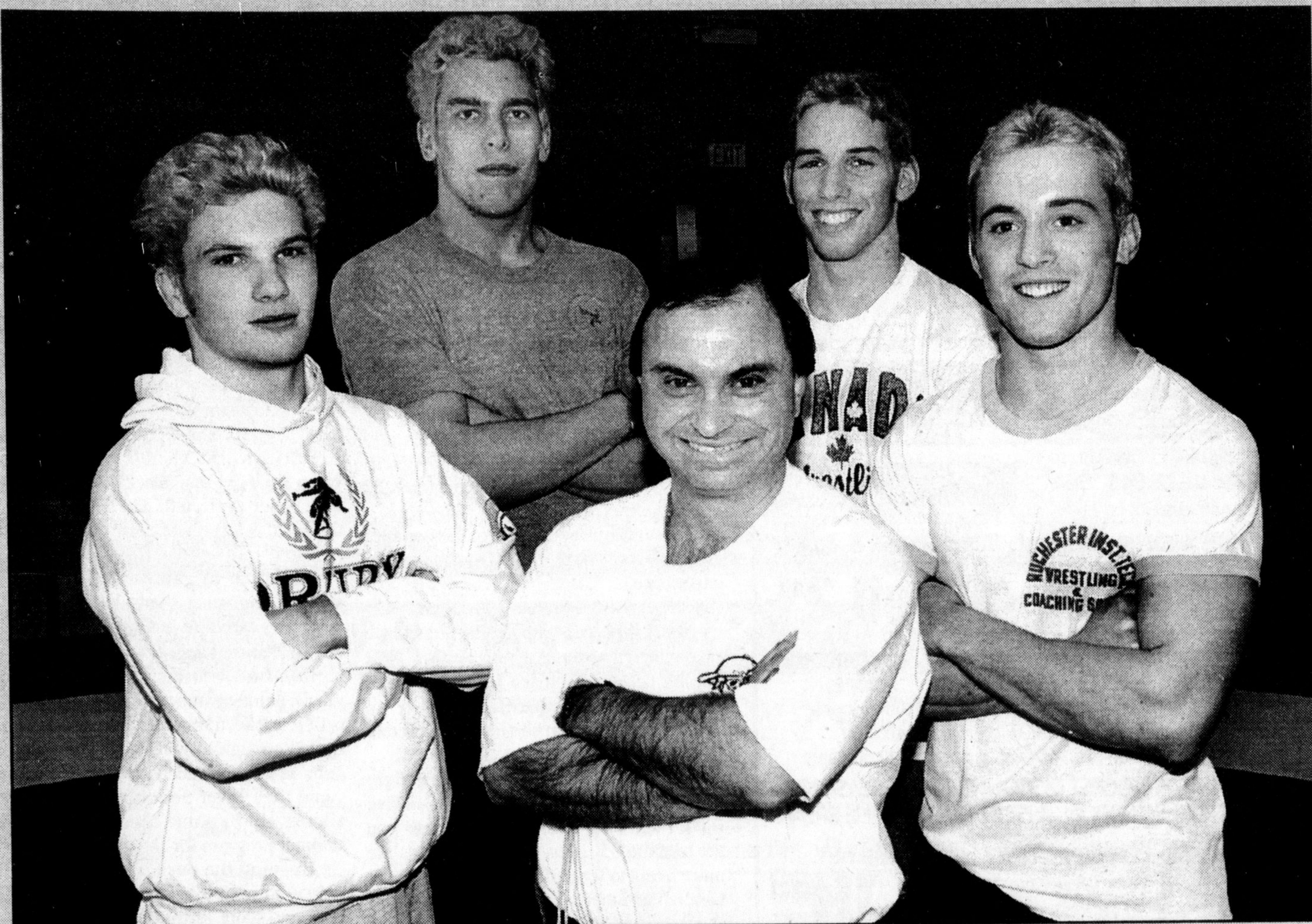




SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY MARCH 3, 2000



✓ Ready, willing and able

The E.C. Drury High School wrestling club is sending its largest contingent, 17 wrestlers, to the OFSAA wrestling championships in Woodstock this weekend. Here, coach Larry Jaroslawski is surrounded by four of his veteran wrestlers (from left) Kevin Heffron, John McCart, Tom Gallinger and Chad Merritt.

Photo by
GRAHAM PAINE

Winterhawks down 2-1 in AA quarter finals

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

Special to *The Champion*

First they had the game lost, then they had the game won, then they lost it again.

It was that type of seesaw affair for the Co-Steel Recycling minor peewees, Milton's last hope in the AA Ontario playdowns.

A 6-4 loss to Burlington Monday put the Winterhawks down 2-1 in the best-of-five-series, and their backs against the wall. Being in that situation, however, may just suit this team.

They know how to battle back.

Burlington was all over Milton in the early going. It wasn't 15 seconds into the game before James Connor, who shares goaltending duties with Austin Vanderboom, had to make three or four outstanding saves. In fact, it was all Connor all the time until Burlington finally solved him with about five minutes left in the first period. A minute later they scored on a breakaway, and 22 seconds after that they added another one.

Down 3-0, Milton had a choice. Either fold up the tent and go home, or start a party of their own. They chose the latter. They've proven all

season that they're not quitters. They finished one point out of first in the regular season with a 20-5-3 record, and went to the finals in three of the four tournaments they were in, winning one. In the Silver Stick they lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winner.

Milton's strong forechecking game started to pay off and they finally got their first break when Chris Pedulla intercepted a pass inside the Burlington blueline and went in all alone, firing it high on the goalie's glove side.

Meanwhile, the Winterhawks' defensive play became stronger. The team was missing their

captain, defenseman Matthew Lenardon, serving the last game of a suspension, which had to hurt. Michael Carn was strong on the blueline, however, and made some tremendous defensive plays, including a diving stop on a short-handed Burlington breakaway. Jeff Kitchen also had a spirited game, handling the puck and checking.

Matt Chuchmach led a rush up the ice and threaded the needle with a perfect pass onto the stick of Kevin Parker who moved in for the blast to make it 3-2. Parker returned the favour on the tying goal by digging the puck out of the corner

• see **PLAYERS** on page 22

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