

Strong showing in finals

Winning weekend nets novices OMHA gold

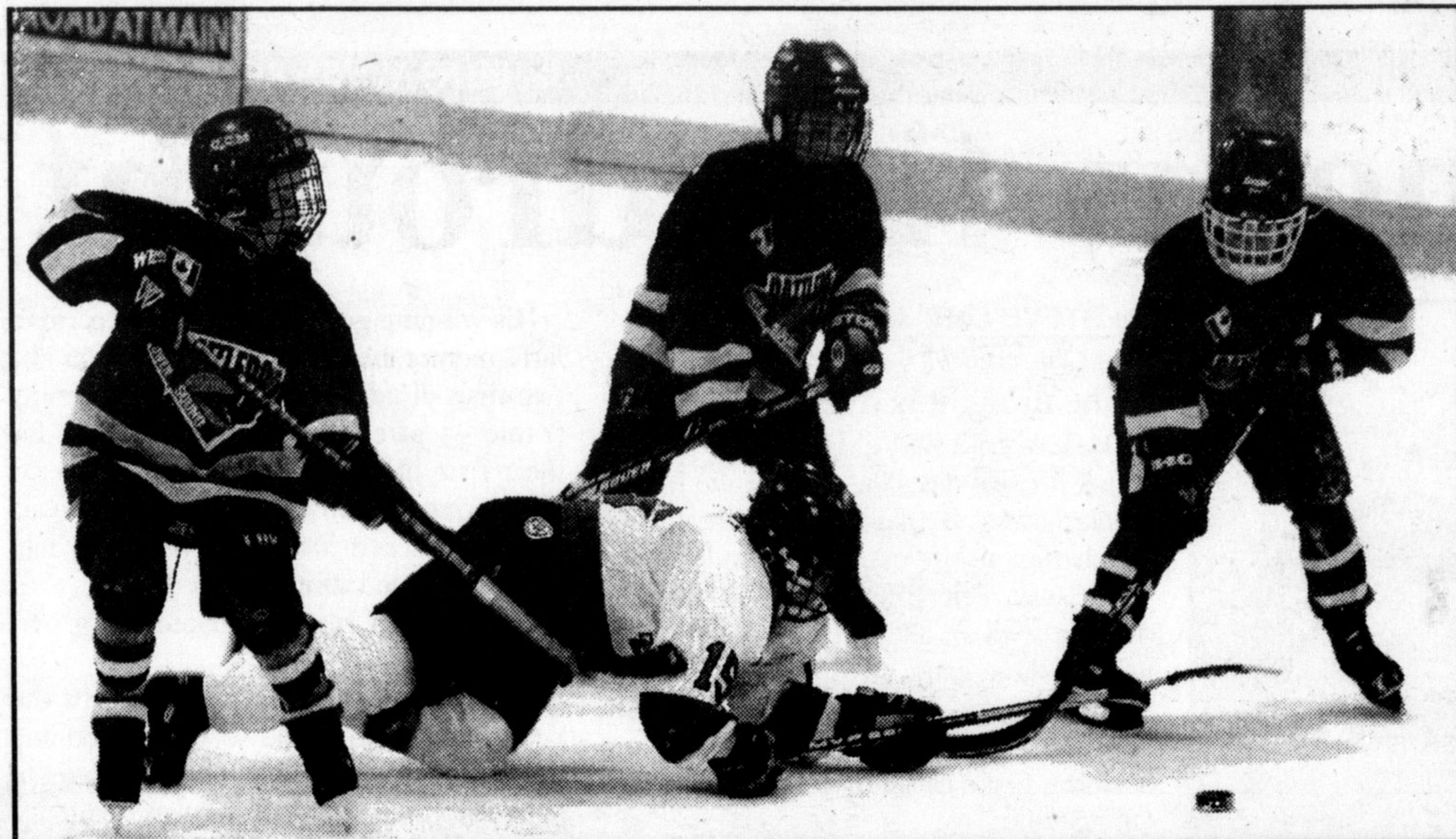


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Winterhawk Brandon Rae-Hunt may be outnumbered on this play, but his Milton A major novices outshone Owen Sound in the OMHA championship series — which they clinched Sunday.

Milton's A major novices punctuated their OMHA championship drive with a huge exclamation mark.

The Sandstone Transport Winterhawks took their six-point series with Owen Sound in four games — capping things off with three straight wins, including a 4-2 clincher at John Tonelli Sports Centre Sunday.

Eager to put things away, they scored three times in the opening two minutes of play. Through the balance of the afternoon clash, they relied on solid defense and crafty cage work by Adrian Eppinger to hold off the Rattlers.

"Our guys knew what had to be done and came out fighting real hard, like they have all year," said head coach Doug Riding. "I'm real proud of the effort put forth."

Tyler Lafontaine deposited the game winner — on a long-range wrist — while the locals' other marksmen were Ryan Cheeseman, Wade McGinnis and Jonathan Riding.

Assists went to Kris DelNin, Krista Dermott, Jordan Haggart, Brandon Rae-Hunt and Marshall Vince.

Eppinger stopped 13 of 15 shots and enjoyed sound support from his blueline unit, especially through periods one and two.

He was equally sharp in game three — during which the 'Hawks controlled the entire afternoon and dumped Owen Sound 6-1.

DelNin and Dermott stood out with two goals each while chipping in singles were Haggart and McGinnis.

Riding, John Grant and Brad Mazzocato all drew a pair of helpers.

Meanwhile, Milton was poised to become two-title champions last night — when they headed into game three of their best-of-five Tri County final series with Georgetown leading two games to one.

Making up the rest of this year's OMHA championship squad are Jonathan Cragg, Kienan Farrell, Matt Fratarcangeli and Eric Gottwald.

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Reding football player makes national squad

Bishop Reding Secondary School's Dan McBride is taking his football ferocity overseas this summer.

But first, the towering gridiron warrior will need a little financial assistance to back up his talent and intensity.

The Royals' 6'5", 240 lbs. two-way superstar has been invited to play with the Canadian Under-25 team, that's scheduled to tour Europe in July.

McBride — BR's backbone last fall, who remains a top prospect for several Canadian universities including St. Mary's

Sports Shorts

and Laurier — is looking for sponsors to help pay for airfare and accommodations.

Individuals and businesses wishing to lend their support can do so by reaching him at 873-1725.

Ageless wonder

Like a fine wine or gourmet cheese, Miltonian Ed Whitlock just gets better with age.

The 69-year-old runner proved that once again at Sunday's Around the Bay Road Race in Hamilton — where he tamed the grueling 30-kilometre course in 1:57:39 to place 50th overall.

Milton's most seasoned racer upstaged a number of gifted runners less than half his age and was by far the oldest competitor to break the two-hour mark.

But as impressive as this performance was, Whitlock has higher aspirations for the near future.

"Nobody 70 or older has ever run a marathon in under three hours. I want to be the first to do it," he said last fall.

His latest marathon performance — less than two years ago in Columbus, Ohio — resulted in a time 2:51 flat.

Off to the finals

Milton's ladies hockey team wrapped up an undefeated playoff run by blanking Brantford 5-0 Sunday.

The shutout win clinched them a spot in the Golden Horseshoe Women's Hockey League championship finals against powerhouse St. Catharines.

Crafty cager Tanya Burton backstopped the locals to victory and her teammates controlled the play from start to finish — leading 2-0 and 4-0 by periods.

Krista Lecky tallied twice to lead the charge while adding singles were Melanie Beaumont, Julie Boonstra and Carol Winter.

The best-of-three series started in St. Catharines Wednesday. Results were not available at press time.

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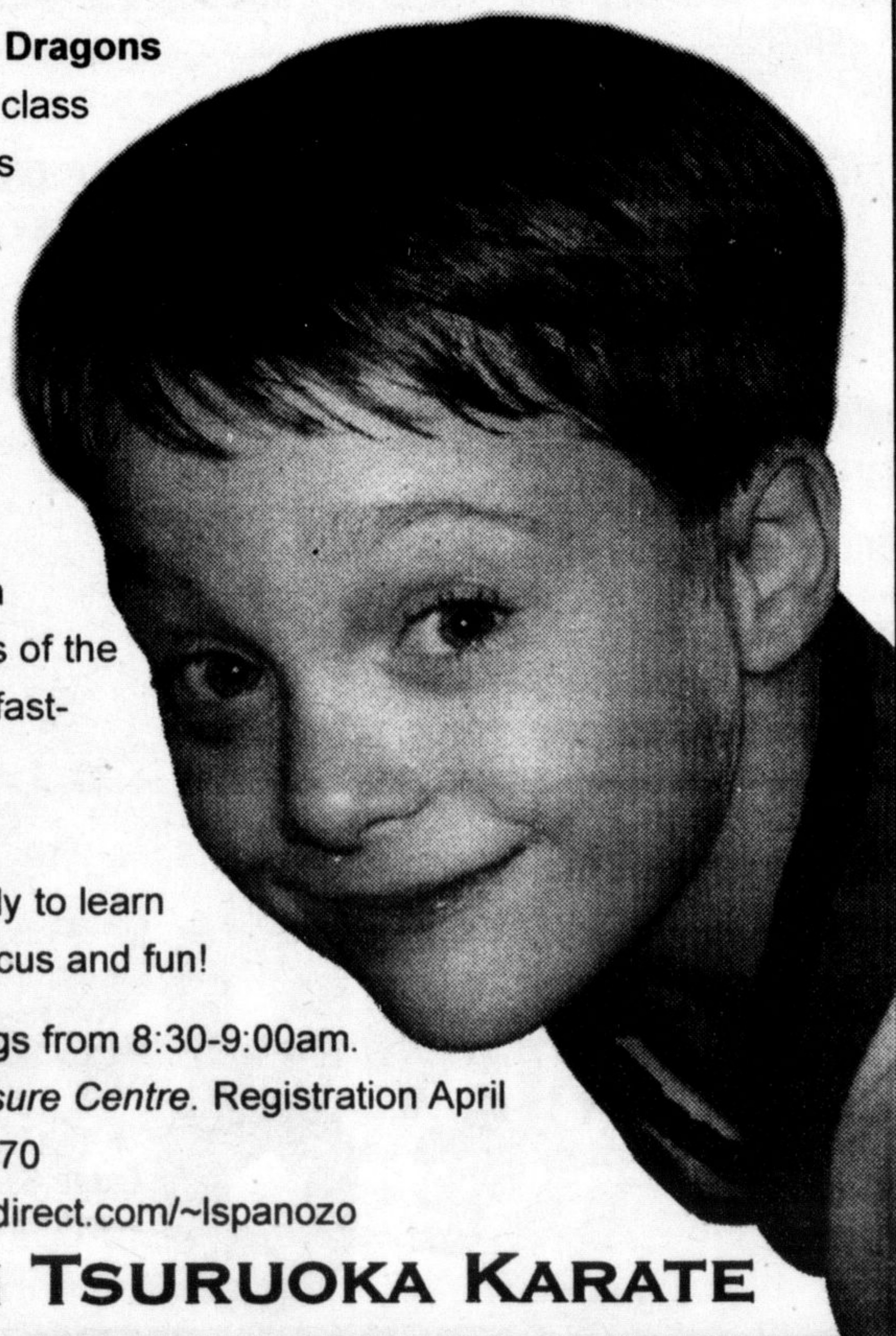
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