

## SPORTS

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TUESDAY MAY 2, 2000

# Ferrier pins down gold once again

By STEVE LeBLANC

*The Champion*

Positively perfect.

Gary Ferrier was exactly that all year long — and continued the trend at this past weekend's Canada East Youth Wrestling Festival.

Capping an unbeaten season within the friendly confines of E.C. Drury High School, Milton's gifted grappler won all three of his matches and punctuated his efforts with a pinfall victory in the championship finals Sunday.

"It feels pretty good. I wasn't too happy with my performance yesterday, so this was a good way to end it," said the 12-year-old Dynamo Wrestling Club veteran, who's now captured three straight Canada East titles, as well as three in a row at the provincial level.

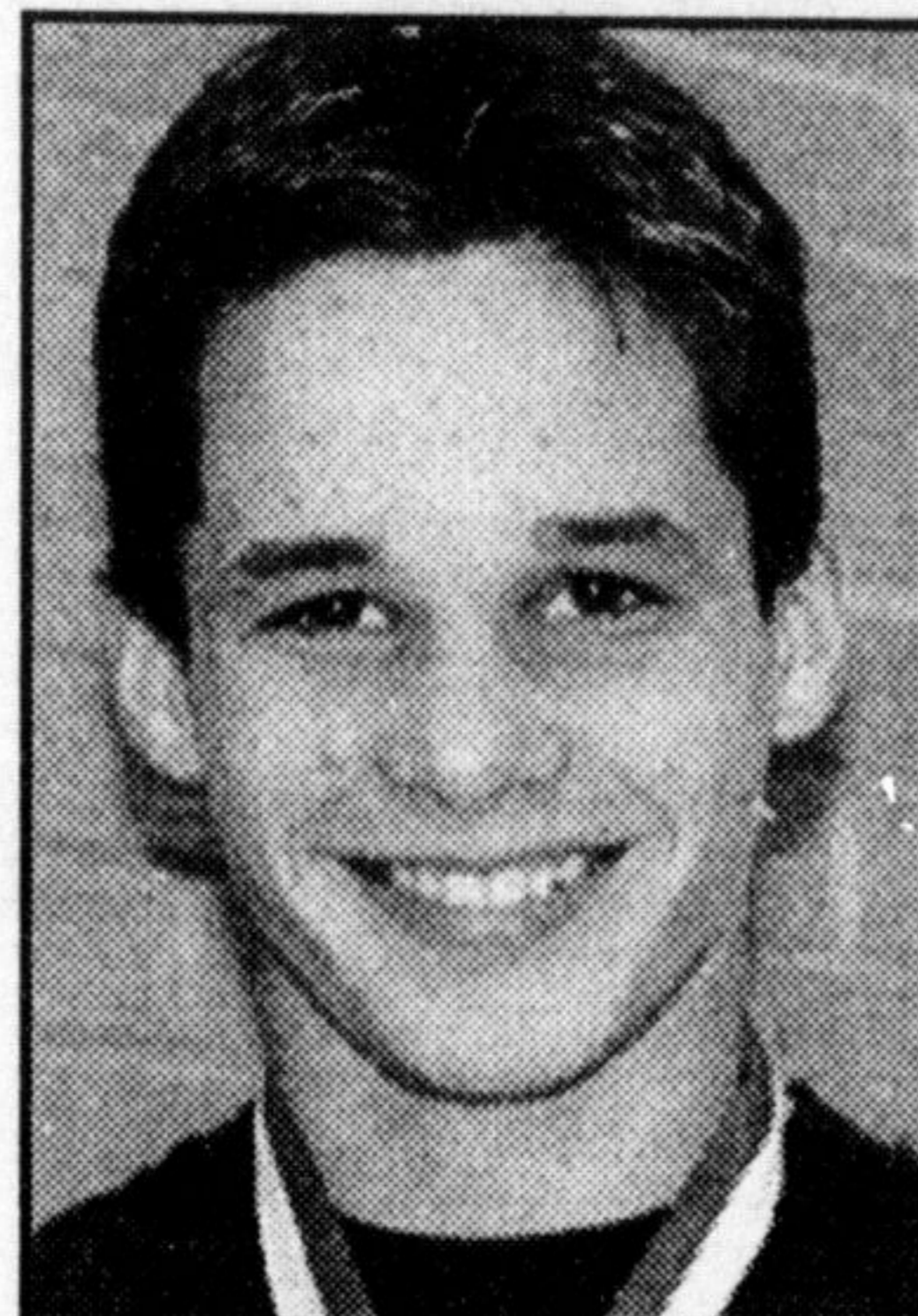
### In complete control

Ferrier, who weighs in at 52 kilograms, dominated his bantam boys final from start to finish.

Significantly quicker and more agile than his Sunderland opponent, the hometown favourite used a couple of hip tosses and half-nelson flips to mount a commanding 12-2 advantage before earning the pin with 24 seconds left on the clock.

Nearly joining him atop the podium was rookie bantam Liam Tennant.

In one of the more competitive title matches of the afternoon, the 62 kg. grappler held a late lead — built on the strength of two single-leg takedowns — but



Gary Ferrier

was eventually edged 14-12 by a wrestler from Renfrew.

Each combatant was ahead a total of three times in this seesaw battle, which ended in somewhat controversial fashion as a couple of points were awarded while they were out-of-bounds.

Tennant, 13, had a first round bye and then claimed a 15-8 decision to reach the finals.

### Deli takes bronze

Securing the host club's other medals was kids class competitor Shea Deli, who rebounded from an opening round defeat to take bronze in the 44 kg. boys division.

He won a close match over a Renfrew opponent to take third place.

Meanwhile, kids class wrestlers Mac Fillman and Nick Ronan plus bantam Travis Mayhew all recorded top five finishes on the weekend to help the Dynamos to their eighth-place team showing, out of 32 clubs.

Renfrew — who had the biggest representation at the weekend showcase — took top spot in the overall standings.

In total, 253 male and female wrestlers participated at the championships.

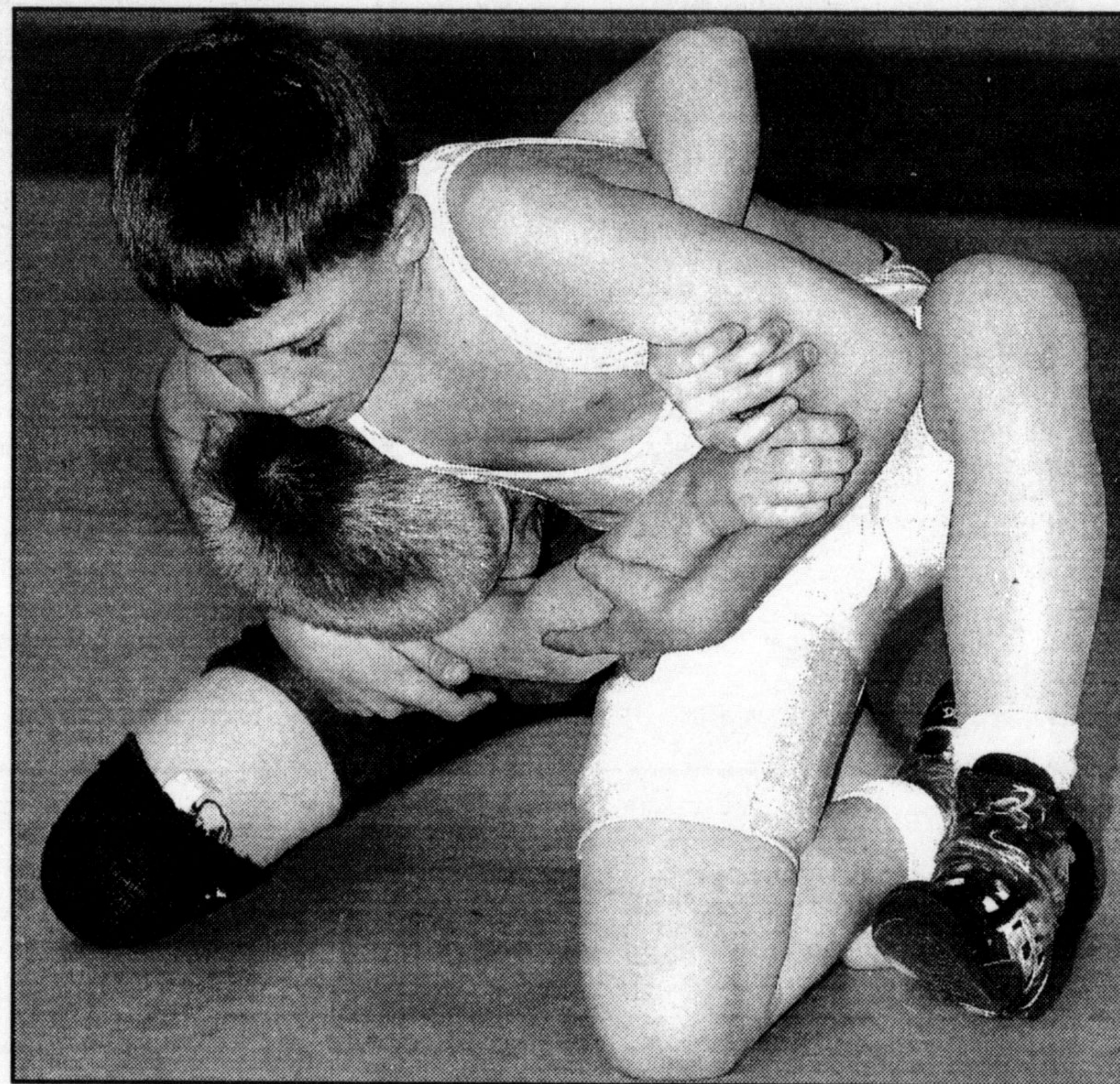


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Dynamo Nick Ronan grapples with London's Brett Cronkwright at the Canada East Youth Wrestling Championships Saturday.

## Obstacles just too much for Royals

# Bishop Reding goes winless on opening day

By STEVE LeBLANC

*The Champion*

Season-opening baseball play couldn't have been less favourable for Bishop Reding Saturday.

The Royals not only faced the top two teams in Halton Region — M.M. Robinson and Nelson, both of whom were also ranked top 10 in Friday's Toronto Star Metro poll — but had to do so without a couple of their better pitchers, including bonafide ace and big league prospect Shawn Hill.

And just when it looked like BR might overcome these obstacles, they squandered a 3-0 lead late in game one of a doubleheader at Burlington's Nelson Park and were edged by the host team 4-3.

This despite some solid mound work — especially by starter Andrew Coe, who put in his maximum allotted four innings and left with the shutout still intact.

Reliever Mike Grabauskas didn't enjoy partic-

ularly strong support from his teammates over the balance of the morning contest, with a pair of defensive glitches — including a big throwing error in the sixth — opening the door to a comeback by the Lords.

BR posting just one hit in the last two frames didn't help matters either.

"With pitching like that, you should win ball games," said frustrated manager Joe Jurus.

### Varied contributions

Coe did a little bit of everything in game one. Along with his impressive performance on the hill — in which he gave up just two hits and as many walks — he initiated a huge double play, hustled to tag out a runner at home and drove in Niko Zentil for the third run.

Also scoring were Mark Antonelli and David Lajeunesse, on RBI singles by Craig Hudak and Andrew Cook respectively. Nelson's winning run came on a line-drive double in its last at-bat.

Game two was a much different story for Reding.

Jurus didn't have much in the way of proven pitchers available for battle against the top ranked M.M. Robinson Rams — and was forced to go with a different hurler each inning.

The move — though certainly sensible — didn't translate into any type of success for BR, as they were hammered for five runs in the opening frame and eventually outdistanced 14-8 in a time-called six innings.

After falling behind 8-0, Reding battled back to make a game of it. Leading their offensive campaign and making the final score respectable with two-run doubles were Coe and Zentil.

Defensively, Antonelli made some big plays in centre field and Lajeunesse — guarding the hot corner — delivered the first four put outs and half-a-dozen overall.

Despite the two losses, Jurus still feels his team should have a better record this year. "Everyone's back. There's no reason why we won't improve," he said.

On a much brighter note, the Milton District Mustangs won both halves of their season-open-

ing doubleheader at Burlington's Millcroft Park.

Behind the near flawless pitching of Jeff McLeod, Jarrett Konkle and Adam Finkbeiner MD held lowly Acton to just a single hit and dumped them 7-0.

Mike Leishman highlighted things at the plate with a solo home run.

From there, they engineered another assault and bombed Lester B. Pearson 10-2. Konkle and Paul Duff were solid on the mound in game two while Finkbeiner's three-run homer kick started a huge reversal of fortunes mid-way through the afternoon tilt.

Meanwhile at Burlington's Ireland Park, the E.C. Drury Spartans were beat 6-4 by Notre Dame and then split the day by thrashing Lord Elgin 10-2.

Further results were not available at press time.

Regular season play resumed yesterday afternoon. In cross-town action tomorrow, MD and EC square off at Maplehurst Park. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

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