

Milton Springers strut their stuff at annual meet

The Milton Springers Gymnastics Club delivered topnotch efforts of the medal-winning variety last weekend at their annual Springer Challenge.

Nineteen local competitors secured nearly four dozen medals during the day-long showcase — which included 180 gymnasts from 11 southern Ontario clubs.

Highlighting Milton's collective performance with overall gold in the Cadette A division and Cadette C loop respectively were 11-year-olds Natasha Nunes and Samantha English.

Natasha's efforts included gold medals on beam and vault as well as a silver on bars. Samantha grabbed gold on floor and her beam and vault routines were both good enough for

the bronze.

Fellow Springers Chelsea Bennett, 8, Talissa Champoux, 11, Anna Garcia, 10 and Jessica Makin, 7, struck silver in the all-around standings.

Chelsea was golden on beam and struck silver on bars in the Tiny B division while Anna grabbed gold on the floor and silver on vault and beam at the Tiny C level.

Talissa turned back all challengers on both beam and vault at Cadette C and also delivered a bronze-medal effort on bars while Jessica was the silver medalist on bars and vault and her beam and floor routines were good enough for bronze.

Overall bronze medalists included Eleanor Pineau-Levman and Anne Wormald.

Springers Notes



Anne was a gold-medal winner on bars, took silver on vault and bronze on the floor while Eleanor delivered three bronze-medal finishes on vault, bars and beam.

Meanwhile, Lisa Christmas was a gold medalist for her lively floor routine while other individual event medalists were Maddy Bannock, Emily Goncz, Stevie Koot, Amanda Nellis,

Stefanie Proulx, Amanda Steddy and April Sulsje.

Other local competitors included Sarah Christink, Caitlin Ghoura, Christine Nellis and Rebecca Woolford — all of whom secured top-10 finishes.

"It was great to see our pink and blue colours so well represented at this year's meet," said head coach Janet Campbell.

"They all worked so hard to prepare for this meet and they made up all very proud with the success they showed on the podium."

Milton will be sending Alexis Stoffels to this weekend's senior provincial championships in Toronto and three Springers to next month's junior championships.

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Volpe joins Connie Mach's Astros

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Michael Volpe will be one busy ball player this spring.

In addition to playing for his local high school squad, Milton District's talented pitcher will suit up with the Hamilton Astros — who compete within the prestigious Connie Mach League.

The 17-year-old right-handed hurler hooked up with the traveling team this season and has already made an immediate impact. He did so last weekend at a tournament in Tennessee — where he highlighted the event by one-hitting Wisconsin's state champs over four innings and striking out five batters along the way.

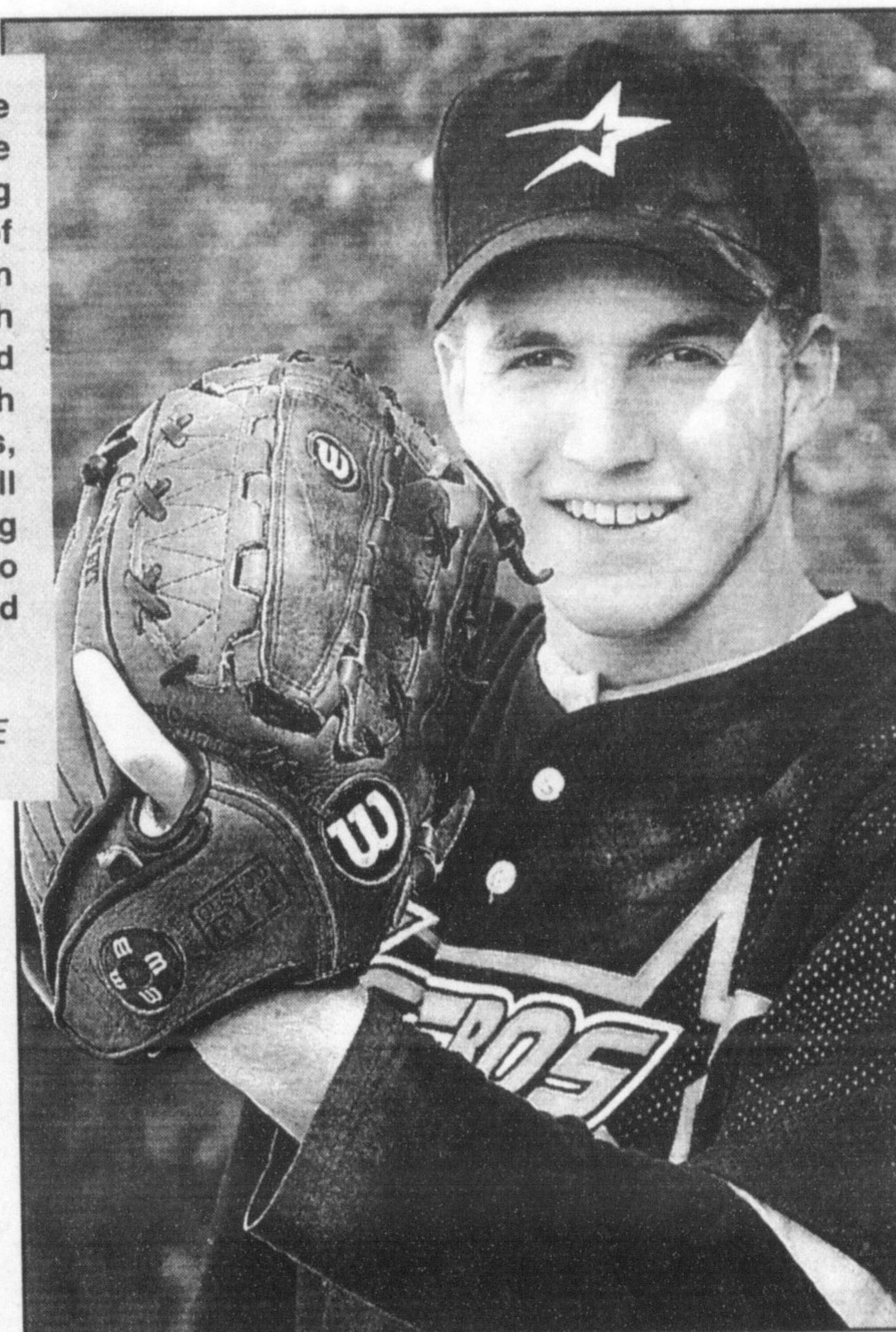
The rest of the weekend he spent in centre field, where his defensive prowess aided Hamilton's strong showing. He also delivered a few key hits to round out his contributions.

"Hopefully this is the first step towards getting a four-year scholarship to the States," said Volpe, who's got his fastball up to about 86 miles per hour with good control these days. "That's the ideal situation."

Volpe's next showing with the Astros comes this weekend at a southern Ontario tournament. His Hamilton squad will compete at a number of tournaments across the province and U.S. this spring and summer.

Meanwhile at MD, he'll try to help the Mustangs match last year's impressive 7-2 regular season showing and make a solid playoff run.

MD opens regular season play Monday at Brian Best Park against cross-town rivals Bishop Reding. Game time is 3:30 p.m.



Michael Volpe will pull double duty this spring as a member of both the Milton District High baseball team and the Connie Mach Hamilton Astros, with whom he'll be traveling across Ontario and the United States.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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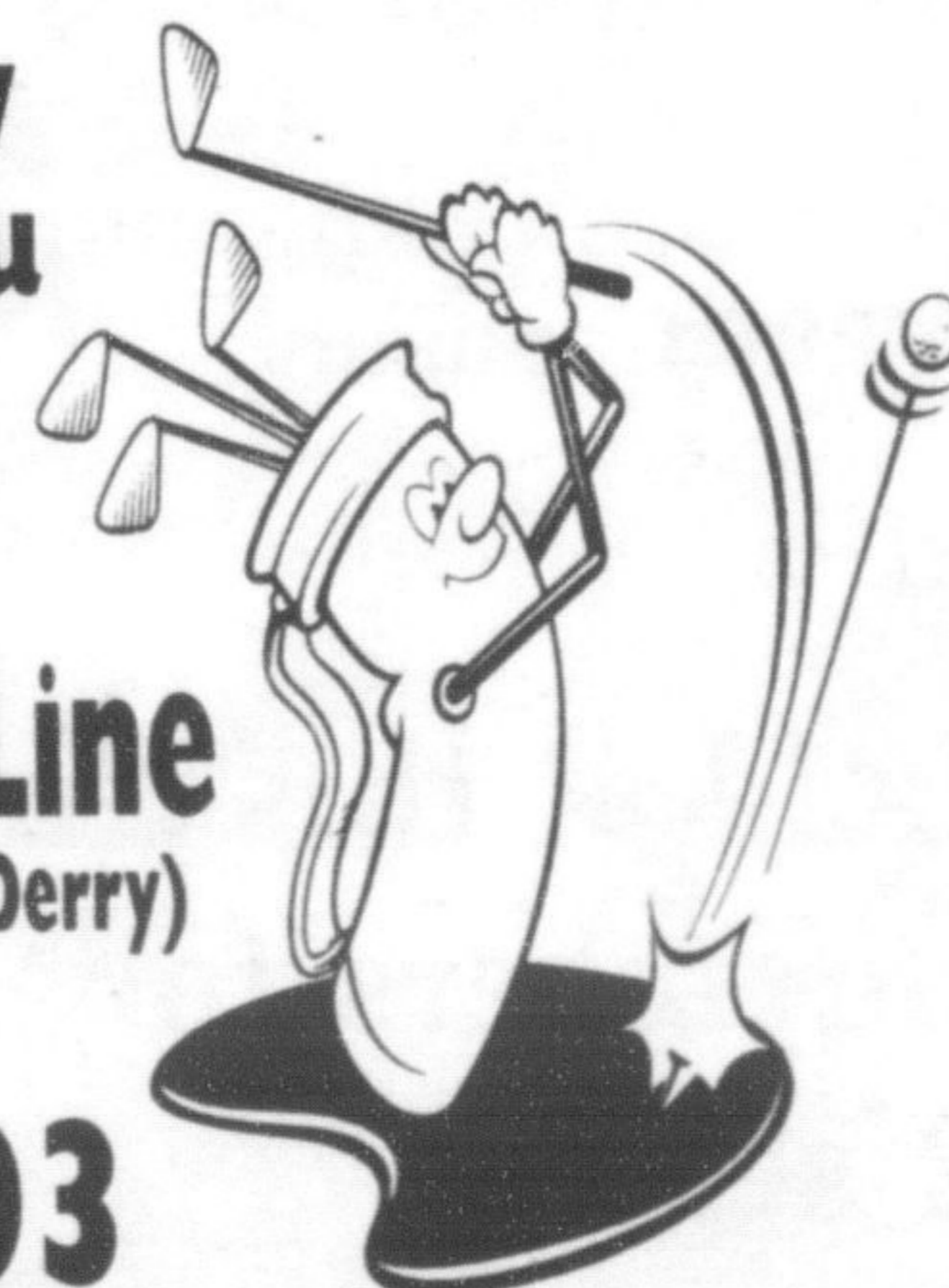
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