

✓ Sr. 'Stangs dispose of QEP in first-round playoff clash

Milton District gives solid performance to reach quarterfinals

Milton District's senior boys basketball team cleared its first playoff hurdle in rather impressive fashion — disposing of the Q.E. Park Eagles 57-45 Thursday afternoon on home court.

A second-quarter hiccup aside, the local cagers controlled the game and led from start to finish.

Said coach Vern O'Neil, "Our shooting percentage was up (from last regular season game) and our defense was excellent."

Marty McIntyre delivered a credible effort in the latter department, while directing the offense and collecting a dozen points along the way was point guard Caley French.

Mark Grimwood's 17-point showcase and reliable rebounding from Justin Stanley also factored into the opening-round triumph — which came on the heels of MD's 5-3 regular season, that was good for fourth place in the Halton Region Volpe Division.

The Mustangs enjoyed 20-6, 32-24 and 47-33 quarter leads en route to eliminating Q.E. Park. The 12-point final spread was twice that of MD's margin of victory when these two schools squared off in the regular season.

The win advanced the seniors to yesterday afternoon's quarterfinals against the top-seated St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders — who knocked them off in first-round play last season.

Results were not available at press time.

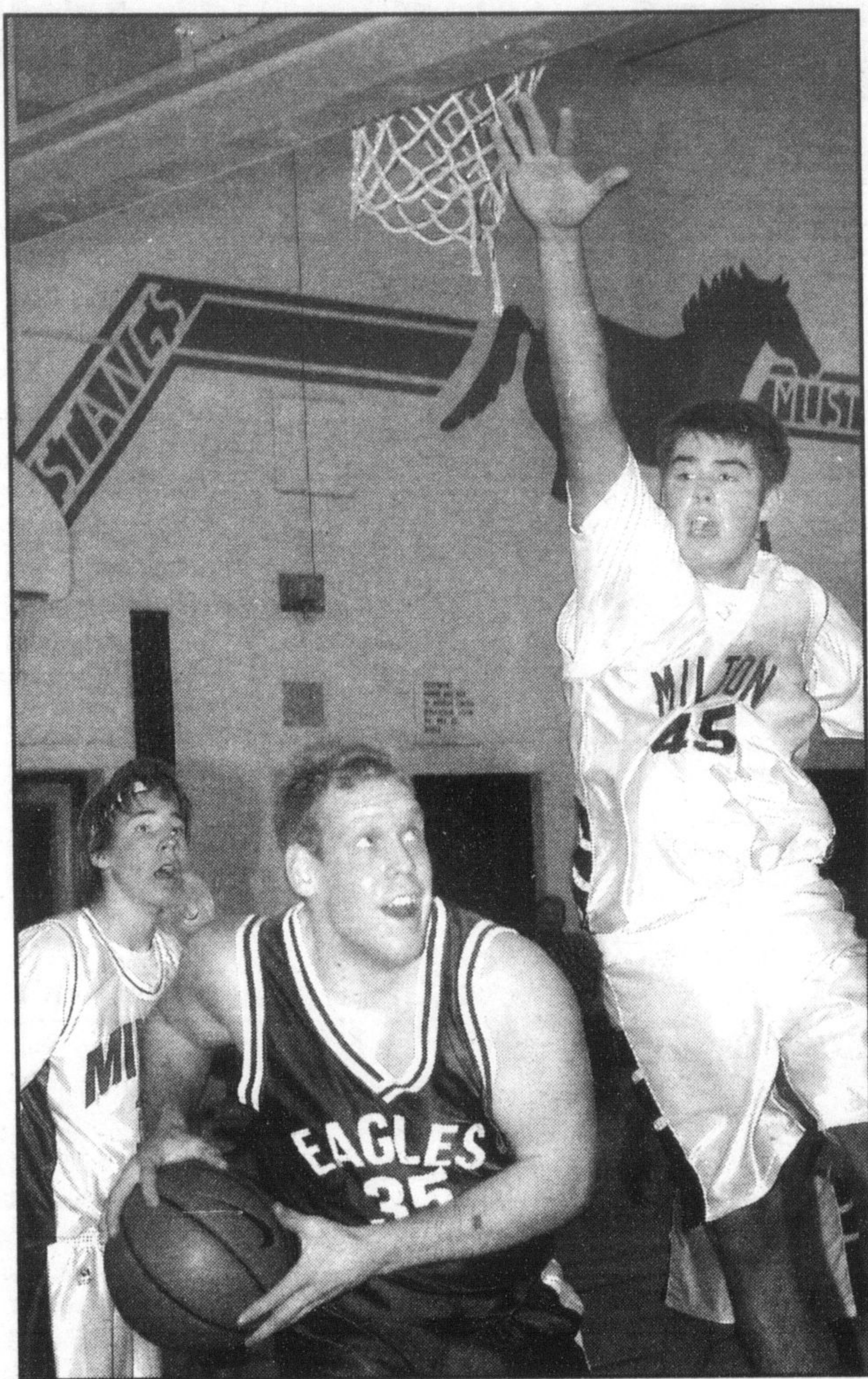


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

MD's Marty McIntyre defends against a Q.E. Park opponent during opening-round playoff action Thursday. The Mustangs won 57-45.

Drury wrestlers reclaim their GHAC title in decisive fashion

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E.C. Drury's GHAC supremacy resurfaced in a major way at Hamilton's Bishop Ryan Secondary School Wednesday — when the local wrestlers reclaimed their title by toppling the hosts 150-94.

Rebounding from last year's defeat to regional rival Georgetown, Larry Jaroslowski's Spartans claimed their fifth GHAC crown in six years by winning six weight divisions and qualifying a dozen grapplers for next weekend's provincial championship in Thunder Bay.

That OFSAA qualifying count is up four from last season — which offers plenty of hope for the perennial powerhouse squad's bid for a golden three-peat.

Baxter brothers Adam and Matt — both top-five finishers at last year's provincial showcase — led with first-place performances, as did Chris Guard, Matt Knock, Jason Landry and 84-pound rookie Prashant Naikwadi.

Adam Baxter was particularly dominating in Hamilton Wednesday — winning five straight matches without a single point scored against him by 61-kilogram opponents. Brother Matt's 4-0 campaign in the 64 kg. loop was nearly as impressive — with teammate and silver-medalist Adam Smith representing his only genuine challenge of the day.

Knock won four consecutive battles as well to take gold and up his season record to 26-3, while Guard highlighted a 3-0 showing with a 5-4 nail-biter over Cathedral's Andrew Phillips.

Naikwadi had just one hurdle to overcome for his lightweight title while Landry knocked off two opponents on the way to gold.

Other silver medalists and OFSAA qualifiers include Tyler Saliba, who will close out his high school wrestling career with his first trip to the provincials.

Rob Petherick — who'll go to OFSAA for the fourth straight season — also struck silver, as did Ben Sutherland and Jesse Ronan.

Carl Chan, Jordan Lumb, Jeff Roberge and Michael Zagodzdon rounded out the hardward haul with bronze medals, while other top-five finishes were posted by Geoff Morgan, Paul Filimonov, Peter Leaman, Matt Mantin, Josh Matier and Steve Shortt.

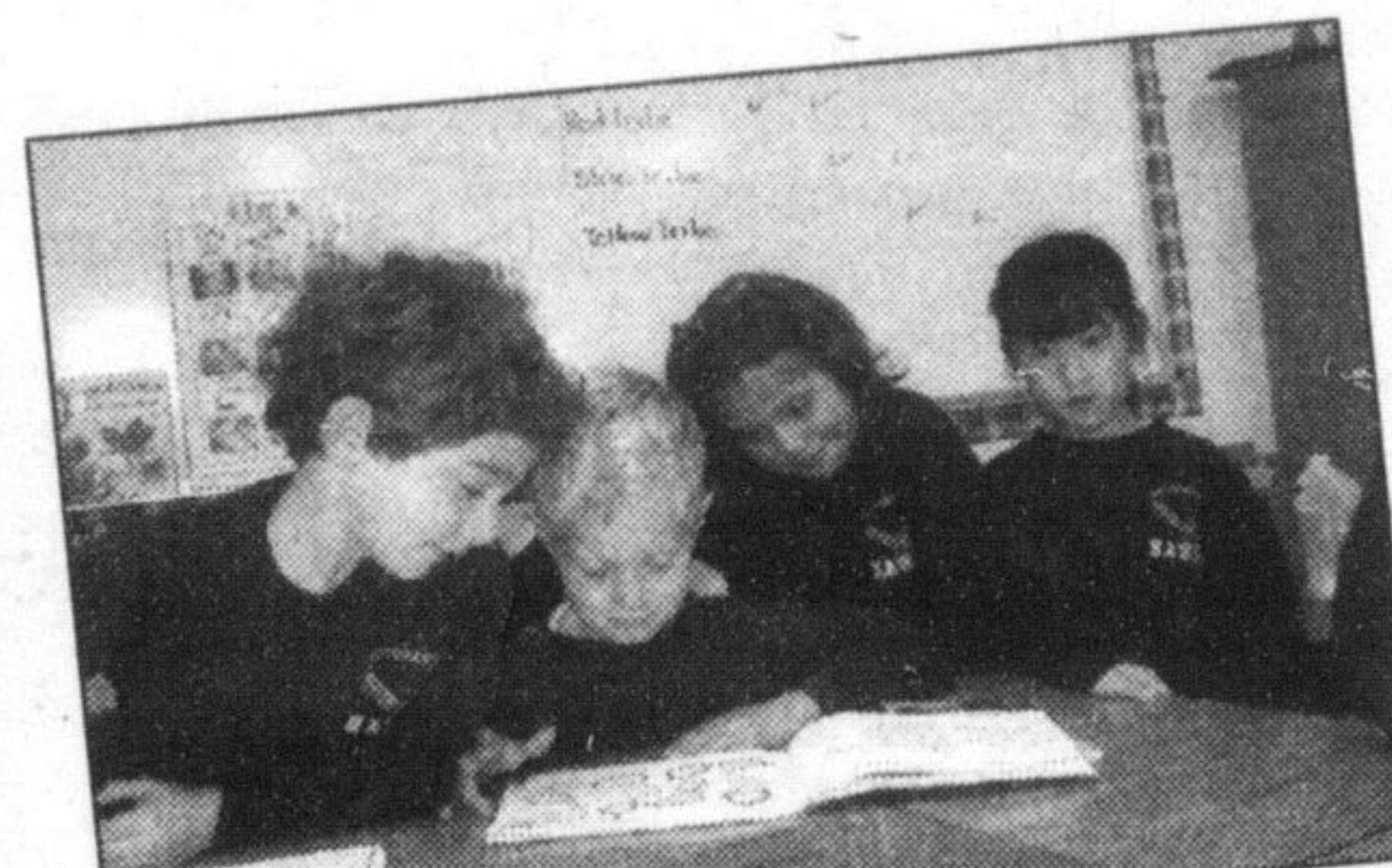
The Spartans now head into next weekend's provincial championship looking to capture their third straight gold and fifth straight medal.

The team is looking for some sponsorship to cover the \$5,000 cost for the trip to Thunder Bay. Anyone wishing to help out is asked to call the school at (905) 878-0575.

Please fax all of your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off anytime at 191 Main St. E. If office is closed, slide reports through mailslot.

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