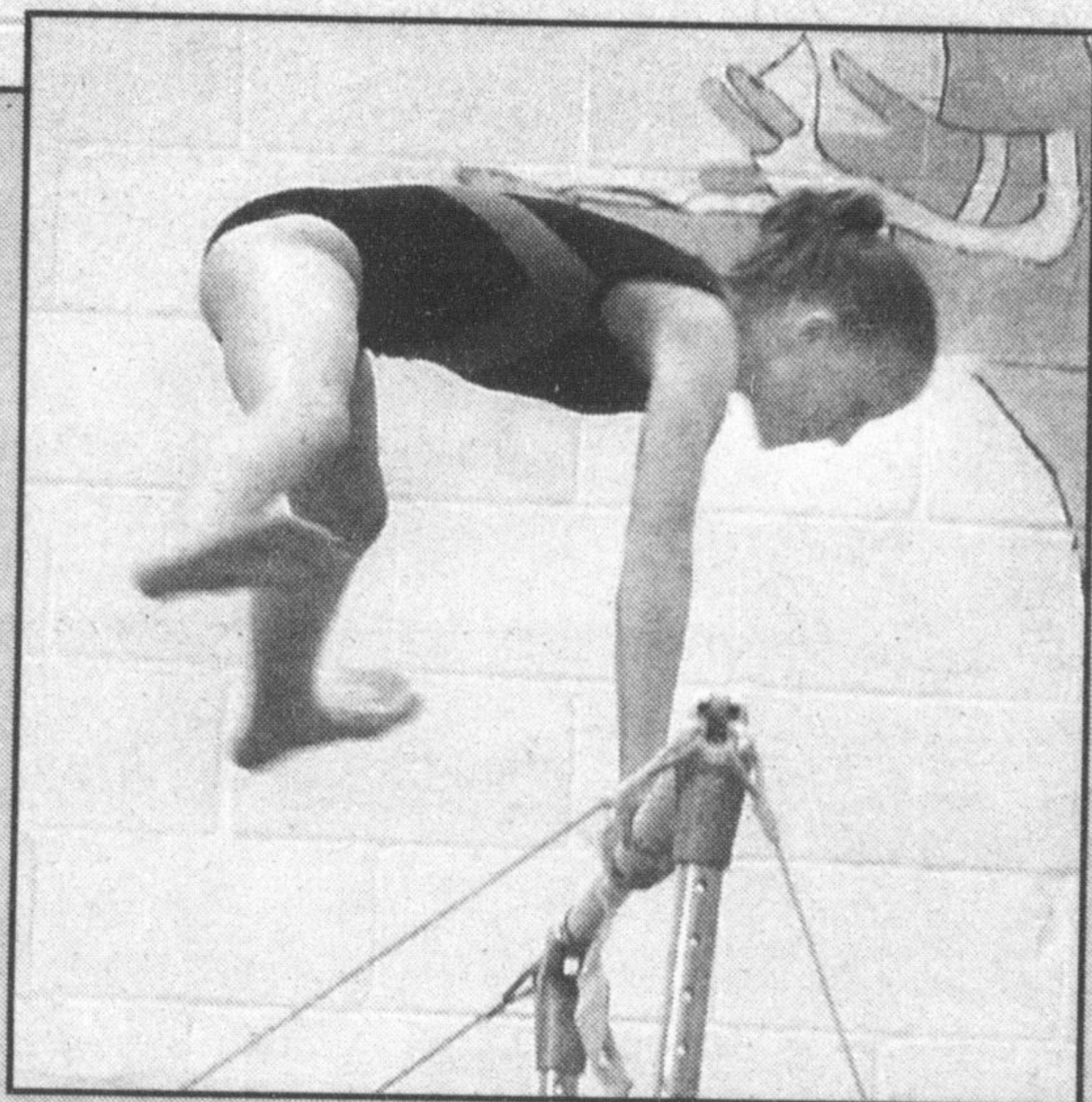
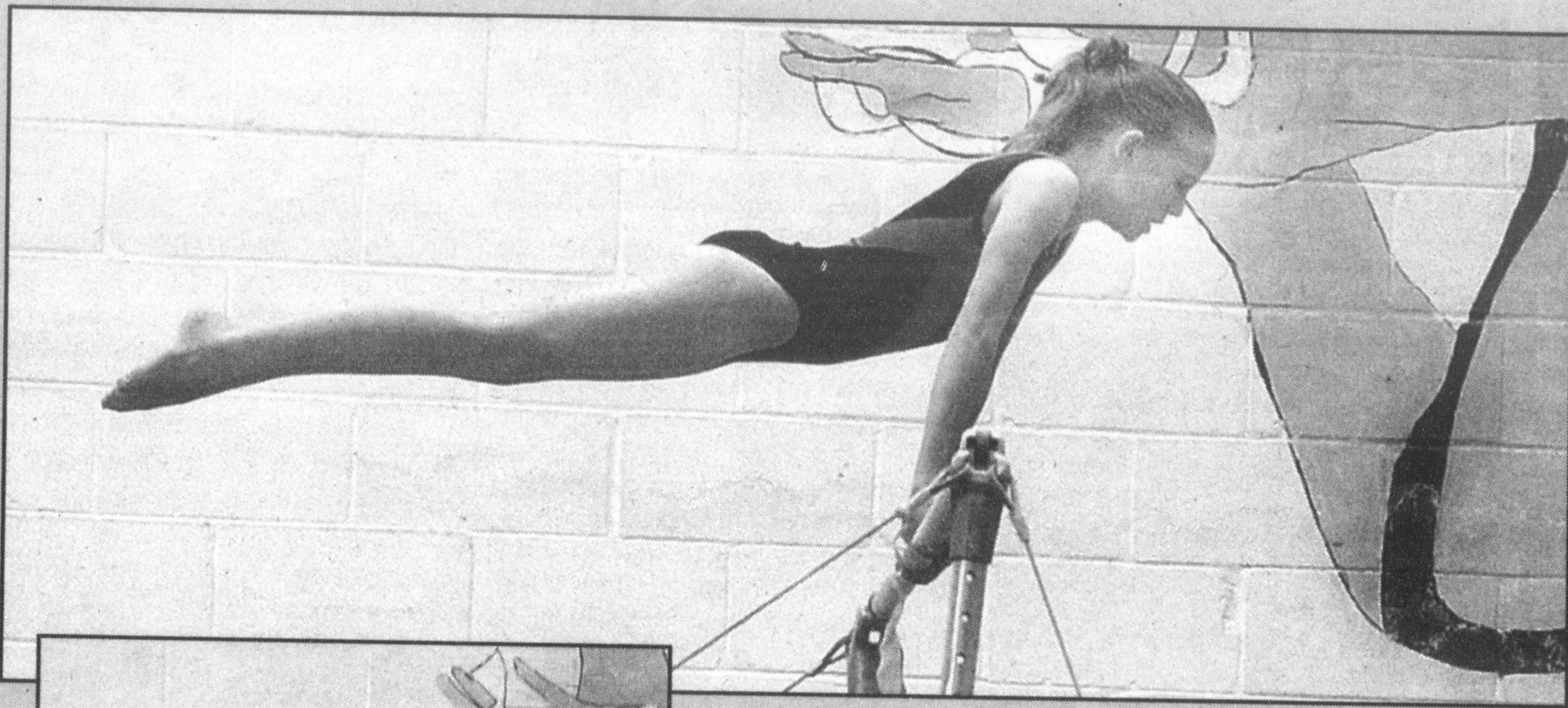




SPORTS

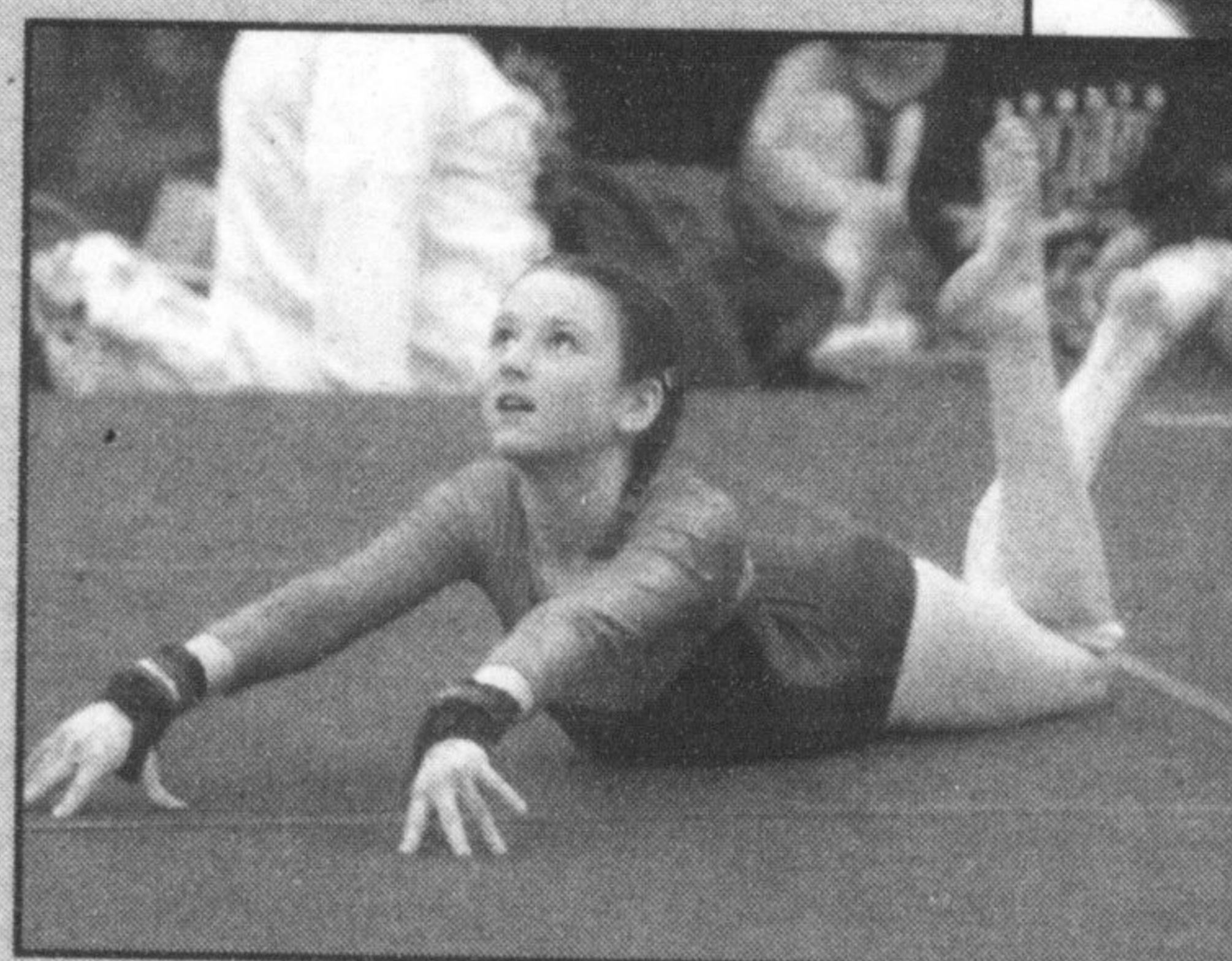
THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003

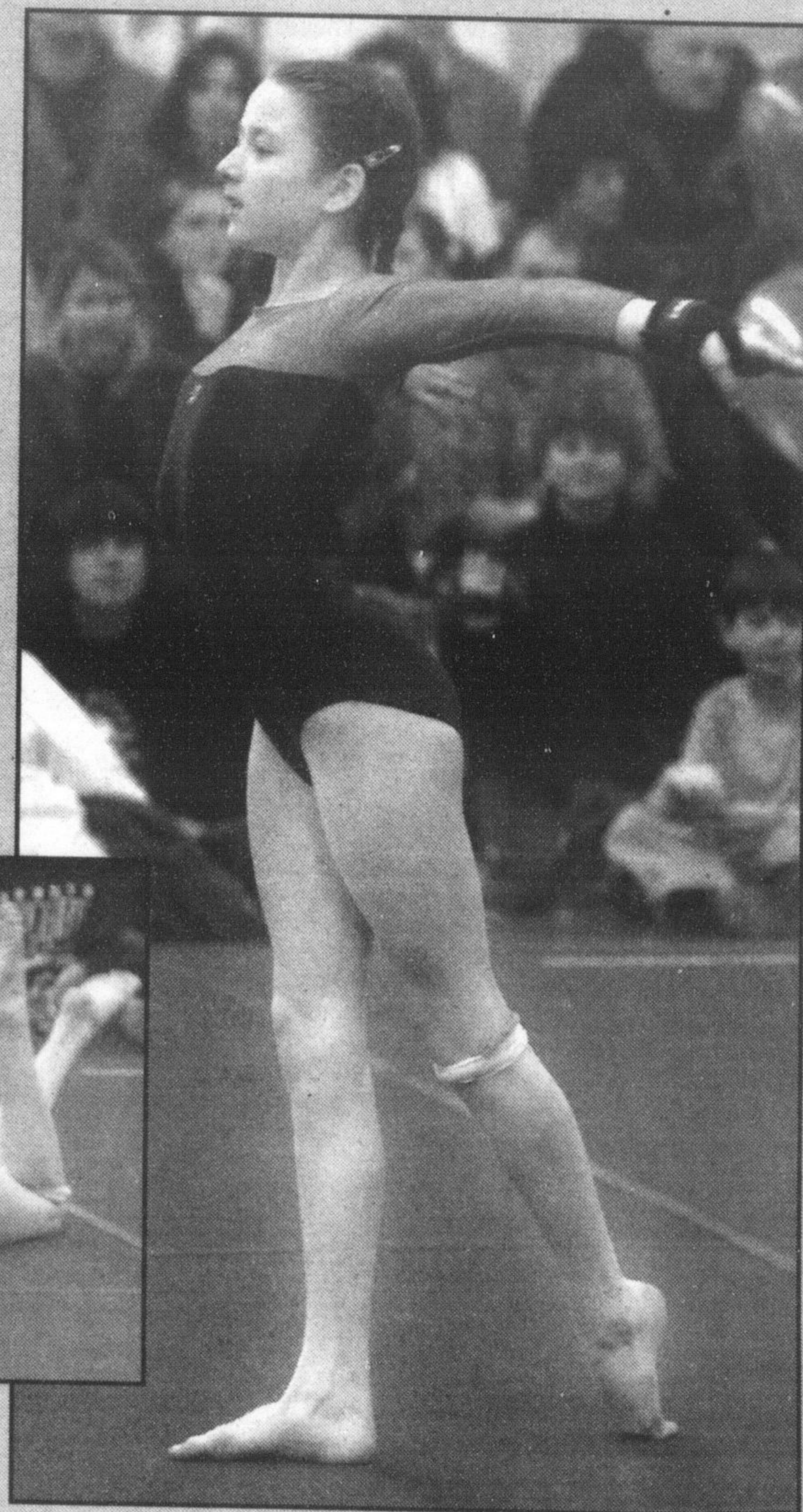


✓ Skillful showcase

Lindsay Fagen (above and left) tames the uneven bars while fellow Milton Springer Anne Wormald (at right) showcases her skills on the floor during the 10th annual Springers Challenge April 6. For results from the meet, see page 20.



Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE



Mavs' GM expects team to be faster this year

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Jr. B Mavericks hope to get out to a quick start this season, and expect added quickness to be key in doing so.

"We're a lot faster this year," stressed general manager Jim Goertz. "That was one of the things our coaching staff focused on, creating a more high-tempo team."

Milton's GM is counting on his still young club to turn that extra speed into a little extra suc-

cess this year, particularly during a home-heavy span through the early going of 2003.

The Mavericks play six of their first seven games within the friendly confines of John Tonelli Sports Centre — and needless to say, getting some wins in right away could be a major catalyst to achieving a somewhat lofty goal of finishing above .500.

Said Goertz of the early home-floor advantage stretch, "We're hoping it gives us a good jump."

Among Milton newcomers being counted on to help open things up are promising Port Elgin native Derek Eans and gifted local Mark Galick,

who most recently completed an impressive tenure with the midget Halton Hills Bulldogs.

Of those returning to the fold, captain Kyle Hagel and 2002 West Division Rookie of the Year Kyle Goertz will be expected to shoulder much of the offensive load.

Meanwhile, defensive anchor Drew Petkoff — whose OHL Brampton Battalion were eliminated by St. Michael's Friday night — will be looked upon to provide a stabilizing influence on a team that's not quite out of the growing-pains phase yet since returning from a two-year hiatus last season.

According to Goertz Sr., Milton's biggest question mark right now is goaltending — which was, to say the least, shaky through much of 2002.

While still without a proven junior between the pipes, the Mavericks have been enjoying some quality training camp play from juvenile graduate Craig Willis, who stood on his head during a black and white inter-squad game Friday.

As of now he's the front-running candidate to backstop the locals, while Miltonians Josh

• see MAVERICKS on page 20

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