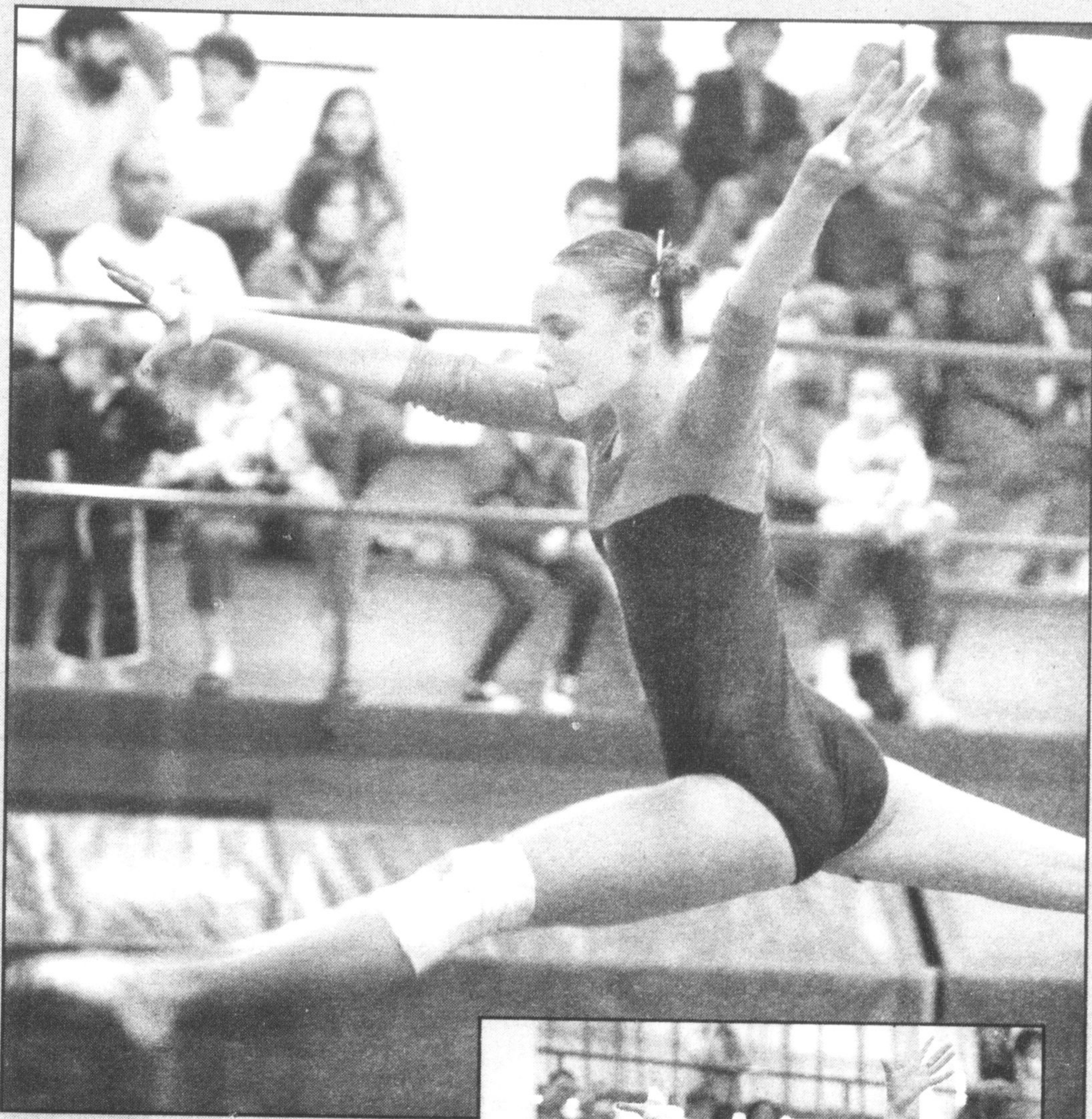




# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

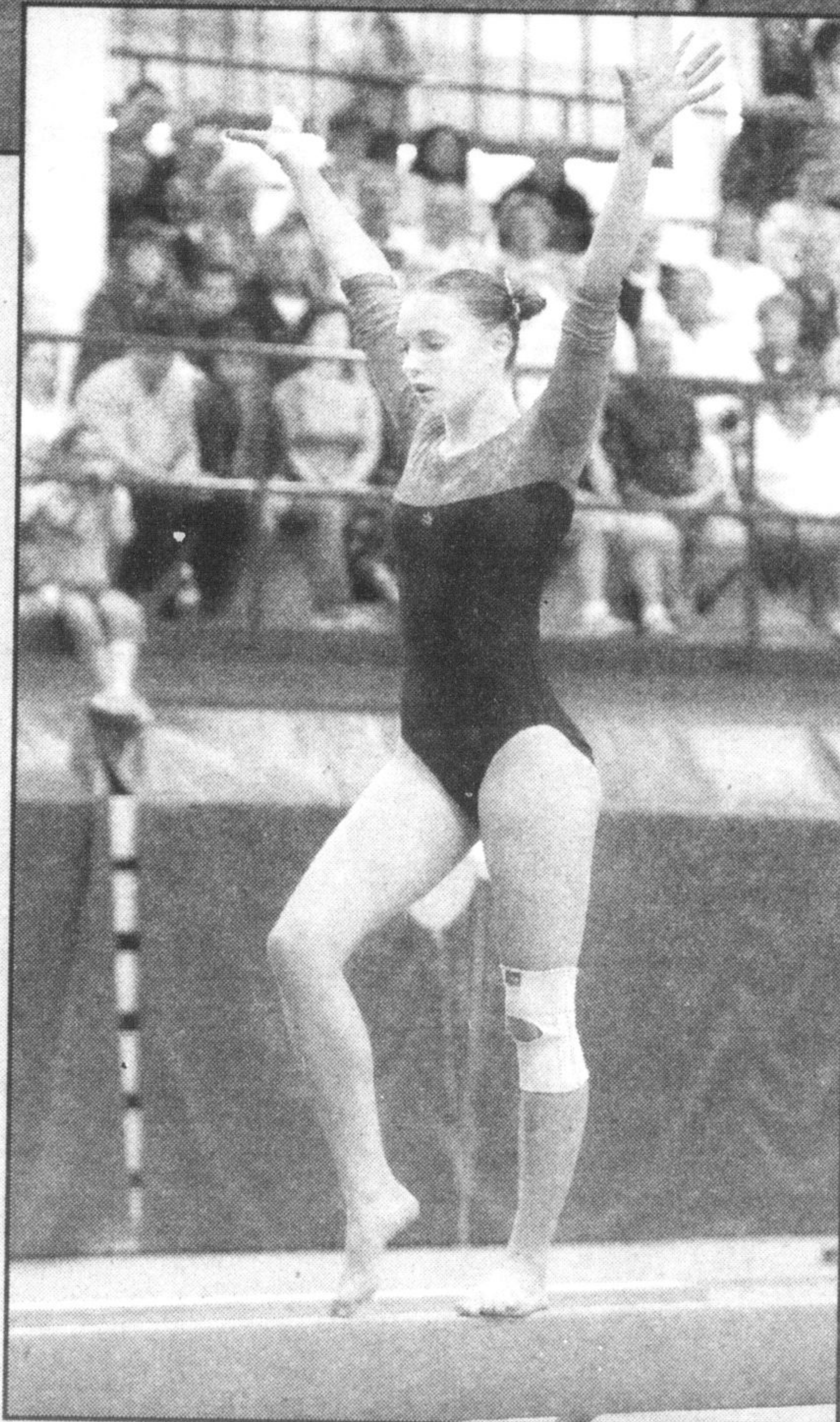
FRIDAY MAY 30, 2003



## It's all a matter of balance

Milton Springers Gymnastics Club veteran Jaimi Fellows displays her skills on the balance beam during Sunday's Gymstrada event at E.C. Drury High School. The annual spring showcase — which capped one of the more successful seasons for the club's competitive squad in recent memory — featured a full complement of performances over two afternoon sessions, and drew about 100 spectators.

Photos by  
GRAHAM PAINE



## Baseball Royals stage huge upset

### Reding shocks top-ranked LBP to reach finals

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Score one for the underdog! Playing the role of giant killer to critical acclaim at Burlington's Millcroft Park Tuesday afternoon, the Bishop Reding Royals pulled off this spring's biggest baseball upset — stunning the seemingly invincible Lester B. Pearson Patriots 4-2.

The semifinal shocker put BR back in the regional championship for the first time since 1992, and left the heavily-favoured hosts — expected to win the whole shebang again this year — downright devastated.

Rob Bennett caught four balls in centre field and made the final out to touch off a huge celebration shortly after 5 p.m.

"I just thought 'I don't care where this thing goes, I'm getting to it'," said the dependably-sharp outfielder, of his feelings as the semifinal-clinching fly ball flew toward him. "We were pumped for this one. We knew how amazing these guys are, but we were ready."

Given Pearson's recent track record, it was hard to view this match-up as anything less than a bonafide David Vs. Goliath encounter — albeit without the violent implications.

Still sporting the majority of last spring's Prentice Cup championship squad, the Patriots rode into the semifinals on a 31-game unbeaten streak and as the season-long number one seed in the Toronto Star's GTA rankings.

But the Royals — who by all logic should have been just another victim, despite their credible 5-2 regular season run — refused to be intimidated by all the hype.

"It's nothing I did, these guys just came to play," stressed manager Joe Jurus, when asked about any extra pre-game talk before facing Pearson. "We just played great ball. This is fantastic."

Perhaps inspired by the 'Can Anyone Stop Patriots?' headline in Tuesday's Star, BR delivered an error-free performance and got the topnotch pitching required to play the spoiler.

Liam Tennant walked the bases loaded in the opening frame, but battled his way out of that jam completely unscathed and finished his allotted four innings having surrendered just two runs on as many hits. Reliever Matt Tales worked the balance of the game and held the Patriots hitless.

"I just kept thinking I've got to work the ball low, hit my spots and let their (Pearson's) hits get to somebody. This feels great," said Tennant, who was among the veterans who made up for last spring's semifinal embarrassment to Notre Dame with a monumental upset win.

Reding posted all four of its runs in the third on a couple of errors and a two-run double by Cory Hageman. Scoring were Tennant, Conan O'Brien, Andrew Pepper and pinch runner Reg Taylor. Pearson cut that lead in half one inning later, but was handcuffed the rest of the way.

Besides Bennett, second baseman Andrew Pepper and substitute shortstop Tennant shone in the field for the Royals, who went on to face Loyola in yesterday afternoon's Halton championships at Burlington's Nelson Park.

Results were not available at press time. Steve LeBlanc can be reached at [stleblanc@haltonsearch.com](mailto:stleblanc@haltonsearch.com).

## Softballers are perfect

Bishop Reding's girls softball squad punctuated a perfect regular season with back-to-back wins over Acton this week.

Melissa Sheppard and Cassi Crevier powered a 12-3 initial blowout in Acton Monday, while pitching partners Sarah Cartwright and Ashley Edwards were the highlight of the following day's return engagement in town — combining to topple the Redmen 5-2.

The Royals' 6-0 run is believed to be the first perfect regular season for girls softball in school history.

BR began its playoff run at home against Georgetown's Christ the King yesterday afternoon. Results were not available at press time.

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