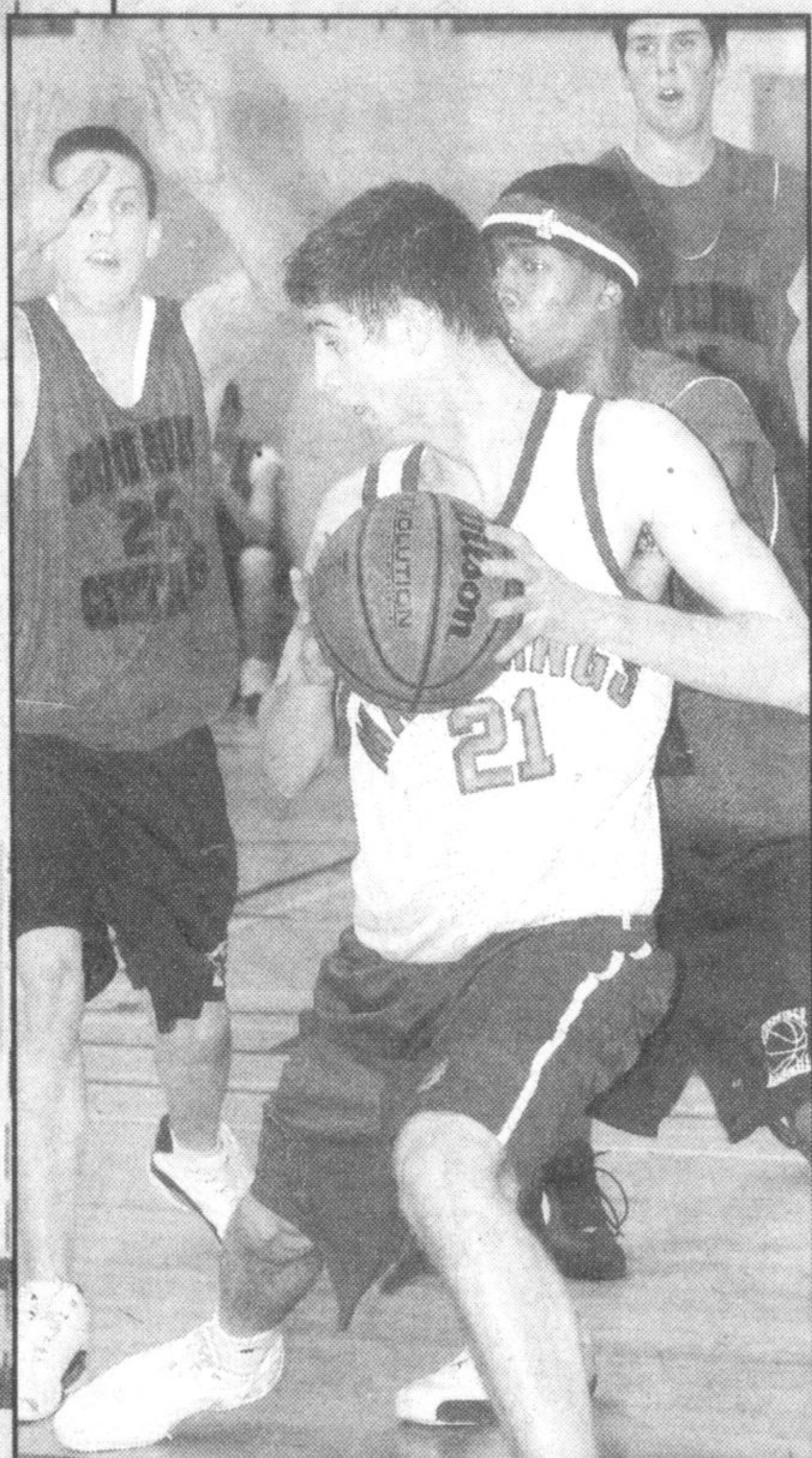
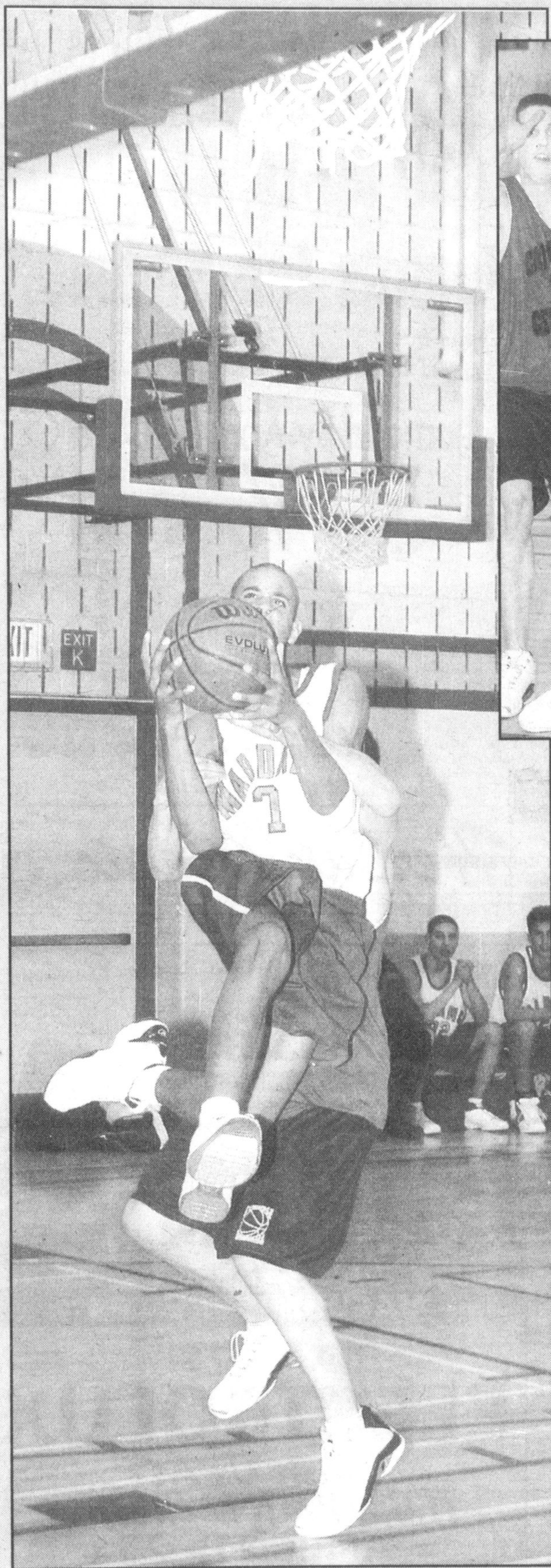


Sports

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Dawgs down visitors

Airborne Milton Madd Dawg midget Brandon Greenwood (at left) is held back from making a basket by Cambridge's Ed Kawolski while (inset above) Madd Dawg Al Allilovic looks to break free from a swarm of Cambridge players during exhibition action at Bishop Reding Secondary School last Tuesday. Milton prevailed 63-57, thanks in large part to a 26-point effort from Allilovic. Mailk Diaz-Mercurius and Greenwood aided in the comeback victory with 16 and 14 points respectively. Milton hosts highly-touted Richmond Hill tonight at Bishop Reding. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Photos by JILL KITCHENER

Mavs' pre-season struggles continue

Milton remains winless as home opener beckons

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

It's shaping up to be a rather rocky start for the 2004 Mavericks.

Now just three days away from regular season-opening play and still winless after Saturday's Spartan Tournament, Milton isn't exactly looking like a team ready to return to the playoff picture.

"We're not as far along as I would like," admitted head coach Trevor Reid, whose charges were 0-6 heading into last night's trip to Spartan. "We're still missing about seven guys at college or university, and there's some big holes right now. We're still very much in the building process."

That last comment refers specifically to seasoned right-handers, something the Mavericks are severely lacking right now. Combine that with offensive efforts that remain a little on the stagnant side, and sufficient production could be a tough thing to come by this spring.

It certainly was this past weekend, when Milton scored just 14 goals in four games, and were nearly shut out against Six Nations Saturday afternoon — losing 6-1.

"On the plus side, we did get great goal-tending in that one from Adam Elias," noted Reid.

The Mavericks skipper expects Elias and Brampton's Chris Ingraham — who affords his new club more of a fast-break option than his returning counterpart — to see the lion's share of cage work this year.

Matt Smith of Mississauga has also been retained, but will likely be relegated to third-string status.

Offensively, Milton is still missing notable returnees like Kyle Hagel and Paul Pedulla, and the numbers have reflected that.

"Kyle Goertz is here, but there's not a lot to help him out right now," remarked Reid of last year's scoring leader, who's now back from a brief playoff tenure with Spartan. "One guy we've been quite impressed with so far is Troy Hazzard. He had a great fight Saturday and scored a

couple of goals, so it looks like he could be more than just a tough guy."

The Mavericks' closest brush with victory thus far came at John Tonelli Sports Centre Friday night, when they were upstaged 7-5 by the Orangeville Northmen.

Milton held two earlier leads and tied things up in the third before being outdistanced down the stretch: Ingraham was steady for two-plus periods, while leading with two goals and an assist was Mark Galick. Fellow hometown players Derek Blanchard, Rick Gallinger and Adam Rutz rounded out the scoring.

On Saturday, Milton went 0-3 — losing to Spartan (14-3) and Niagara-on-the-Lake (8-5) as well as Six Nations.

The Mavericks host Guelph tonight and then kick off the regular season against the neighbouring Halton Hills Bulldogs Friday. Both games start at 8:30 p.m.

Vince set for another World Cup

Ainsley Vince will look to shine on a global stage this week.

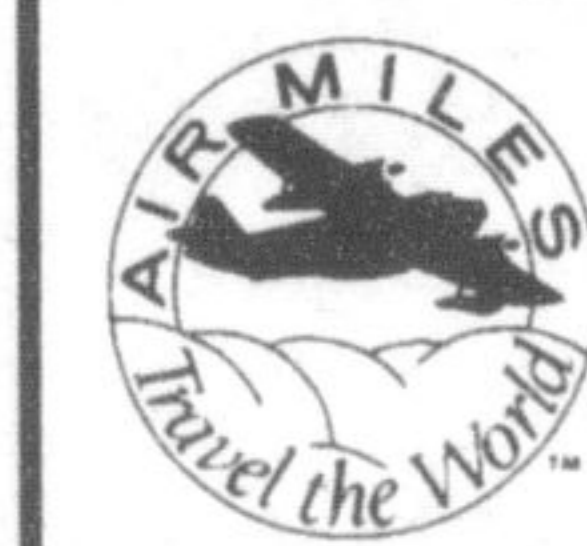
Milton's 27-year-old show jumping ace and long-time partner Catch 22 will compete in their third World Cup in five years starting tomorrow in Milan, Italy.

The duo will be looking to improve on their 30th place effort last spring, when as alternates they had just six days to prepare for the international showcase in Las Vegas.

In 2000, they finished 32nd. Expectations will no doubt be higher this time around, as Vince and Catch 22 clinched the World Cup's Canadian League championship by virtue of four top-three performances last year — including a July 6 triumph in Blainville, Quebec.

Once again spending much of the winter in Florida, the seasoned partners helped Canada take top honours at last month's Nations Cup in Wellington Florida. Vince, Ian Miller, Eric Lamaze and Harold Chopping combined to upstage half-a-dozen other countries.

The World Cup runs until Sunday.



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