

Sports

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THREE CHEERS FOR MILTON!

Local club earns two golds, two silvers at Ontario championships

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Once again Milton has something to cheer about. Quite a lot, actually.

Re-establishing themselves as a provincial powerhouse last Friday night at Mississauga's Hershey Centre, the locally-based Super Cheer Scorpions built on their 2003 success with two golds and a pair of silvers at the Ontario Championships.

Taking top honours were the debuting primary team and the medium-class seniors — who won in commanding fashion, prevailing by about 30 points.

Added creativity to their pyramids — which according to head coach Andy Cecchini were particularly well executed — factored heavily into the seniors' impressive victory against four other teams. In the open seniors division, they placed third.

What the primary cheerleaders lacked in experience, they more than made up for in enthusiasm and fundamental prowess.

Those attributes combined for a fairly convincing win over Midland's Cheer Extreme.

Coach thrilled with efforts

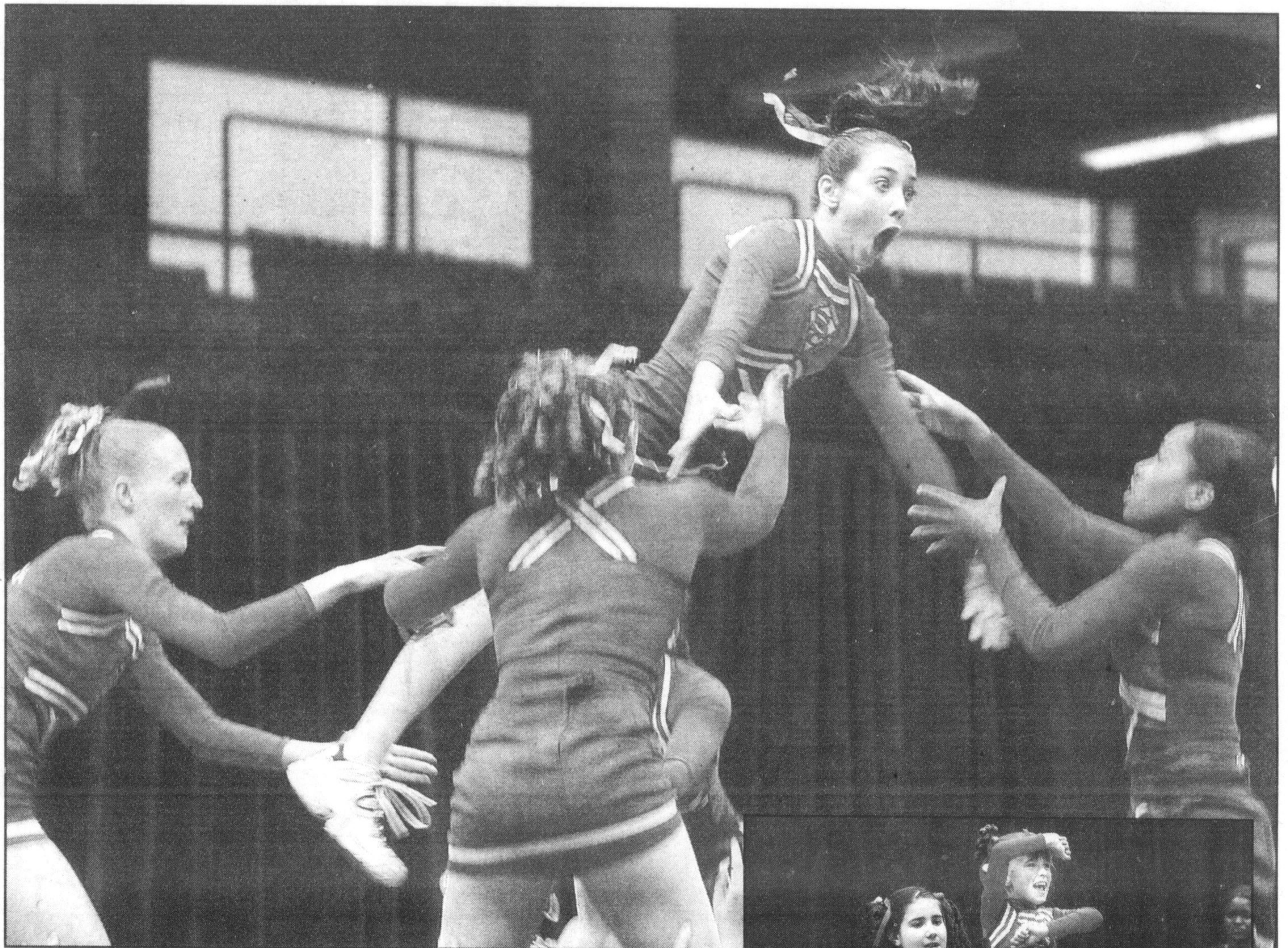
"These girls range in age from six to 10. They've got so much potential, I can only imagine what they'll be able to do in the years ahead," said Cecchini, who began the Super Cheer program in the fall of 2002 and just eight months later guided both the senior and junior teams to provincial gold at last year's inaugural championships in Kitchener.

According to their coach, both winning teams delivered stronger second-round performances.

The same goes for the two silver medalists — the juniors and senior co-eds.

With the club-level provincials confined to a single night this year, Cecchini wondered if all of his teams would be able to come through with two solid routines within a four-hour time frame.

He needn't have worried — as Super Cheer's entire provincial complement rose



Photos by JILL KITCHENER

Above, members of the Super Cheer Scorpions' senior co-ed team throw Samantha English into the air during the provincial cheerleading championships at Mississauga's Hershey Centre last Friday. At right, primary team members Danielle Mellis, Jessica MacKenzie and Cassie Davidson-Stewart lift Kennedy Senra en route to their gold-medal showing.

to the challenge.

Stressed Cecchini, "They really stayed focused and were all better in the second round."

The juniors fell just short of maintaining their Ontario crown — losing to an exceptional opponent from Oakville — while the first-year co-ed seniors were upstaged by a strong London rival. Both silver-medal squads competed in divisions of eight teams.

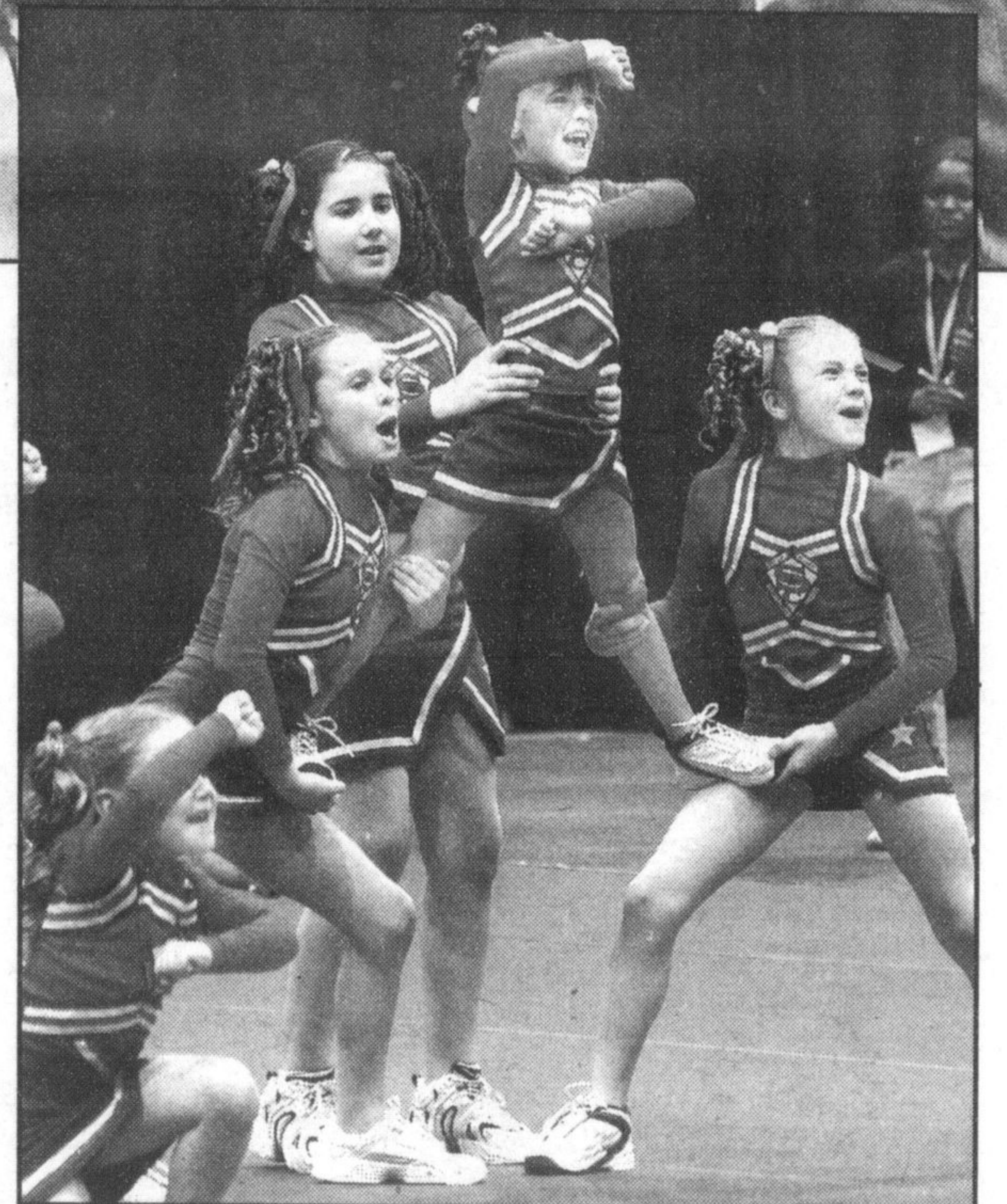
A former university cheerleader at Wilfrid Laurier, Cecchini said the addition of two boys this year is as encouraging as

anything else about Super Cheer's Ontario prosperity.

"It's kind of a breakthrough for us and hopefully a trend that will continue."

Milton's primary, junior and senior co-ed teams will now look to shine on a national stage this weekend, when they return to the Hershey Centre for the Canadian Championships.

The Super Cheer Scorpions will then close out the season with a recreational meet at Paramount Canada's Wonderland over the Victoria Day weekend.



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