

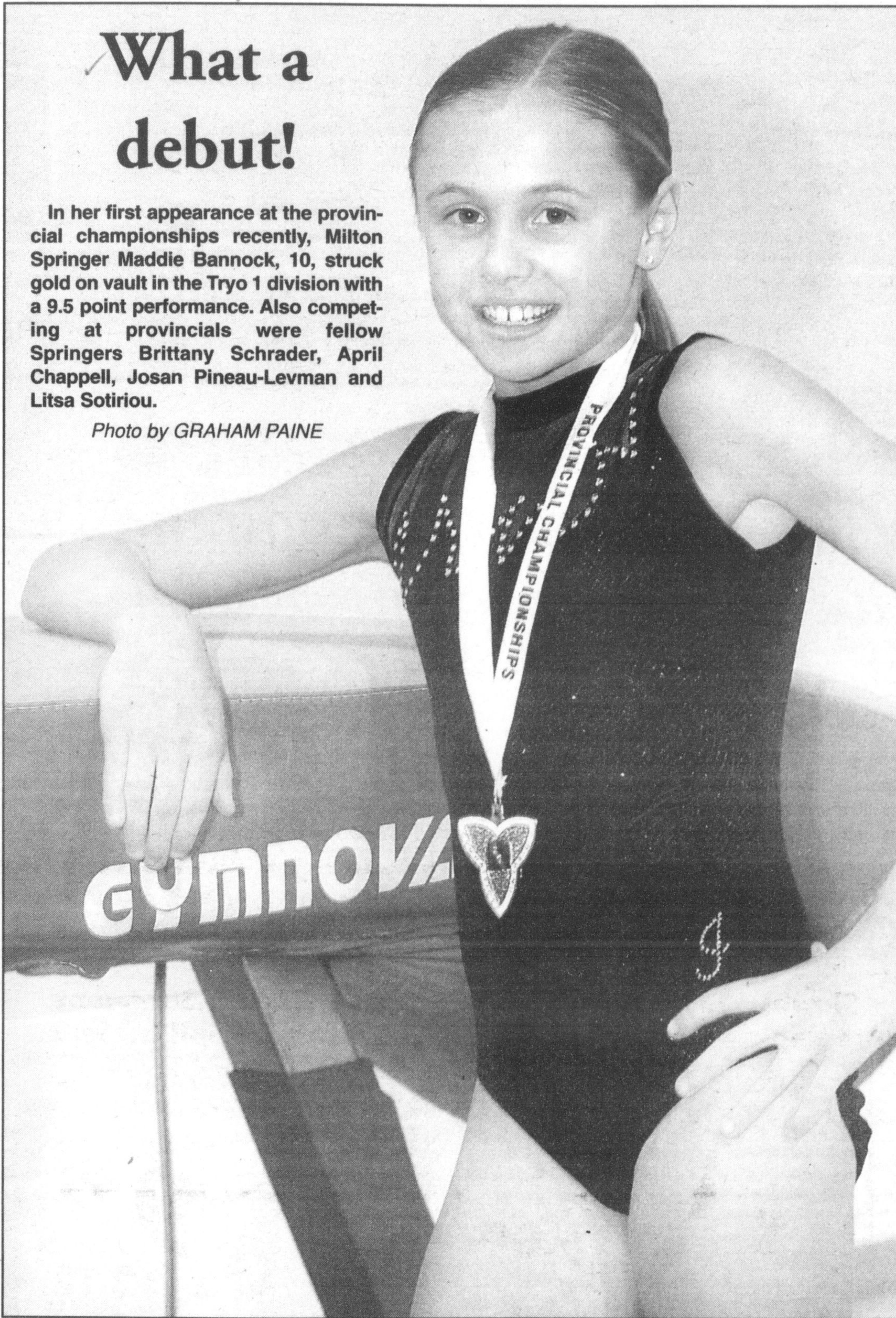
# Sports

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## What a debut!

In her first appearance at the provincial championships recently, Milton Springer Maddie Bannock, 10, struck gold on vault in the Tryo 1 division with a 9.5 point performance. Also competing at provincials were fellow Springers Brittany Schrader, April Chappell, Josan Pineau-Levman and Litsa Sotiriou.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



## Clutch hits keep Royals unbeaten

### BR engineers last inning comebacks

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

On the surface, two ties in as many home games doesn't seem like anything to get excited about for the defending Halton and GHAC champion Bishop Reding Royals.

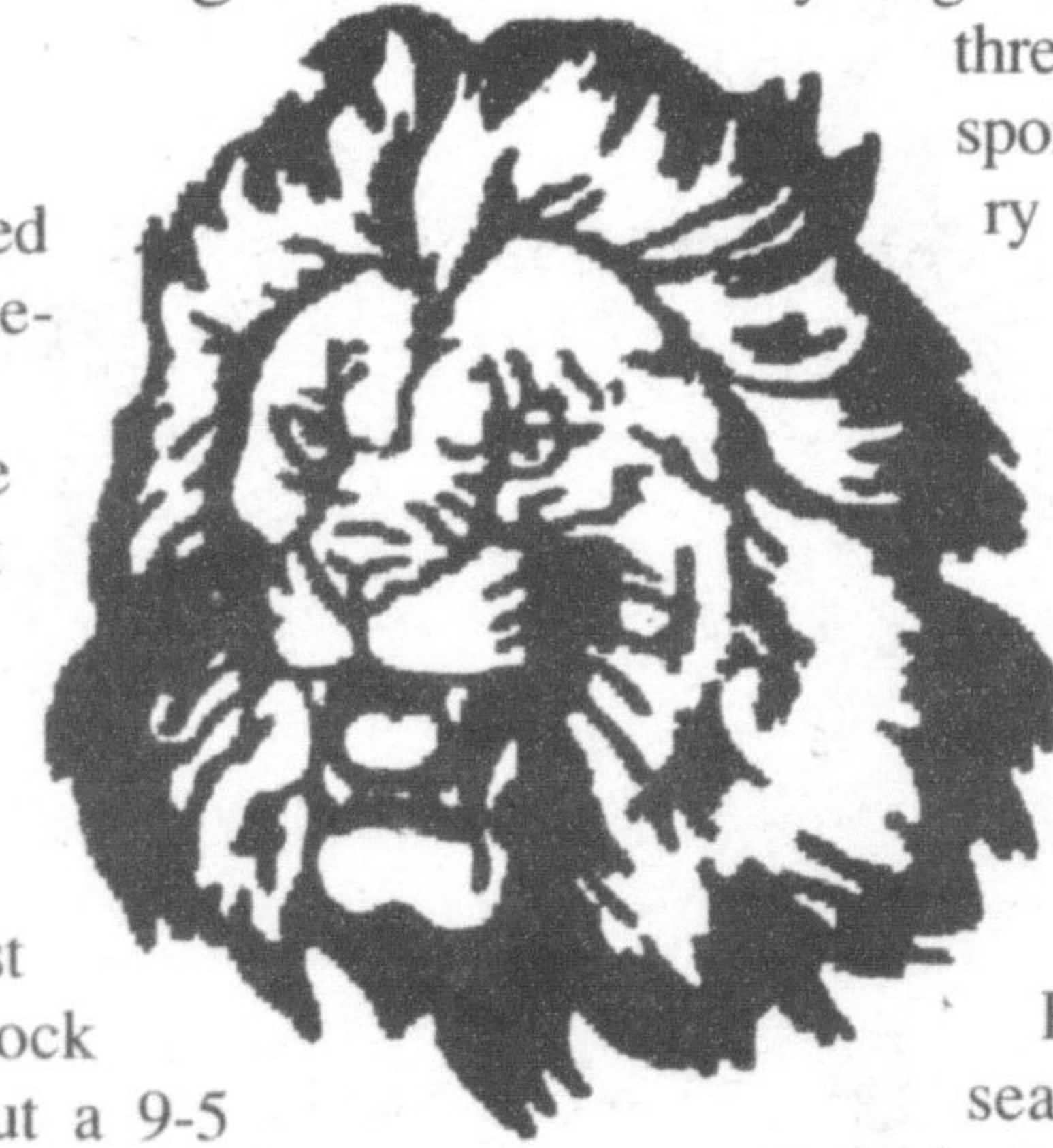
But consider this:

- Both ties were delivered with last-inning comebacks;
  - The Royals were down to their final out before rallying from a 3-1 deficit to tie Oakville's Iroquois Ridge in season-opening play;
  - Seemingly beat against Oakville's T.A. Blakelock Friday, Reding wiped out a 9-5 gap in their last at-bat — with the equalizing run once again scored on a two-out situation;
  - The Royals got key hits from the bottom half of their order in both stalemates, and battled back from two multi-run holes Friday.
- Suddenly BR's no-decisions are a whole lot more encouraging.
- "This should bring the team together," noted catcher Nick Mazzorato, who lashed one through the Blakelock shortstop's legs to drive in Reg Taylor for the tying run at Maplehurst Ball Park Friday. "I think we've shown we've got hitting right down the lineup and that we can come back no matter what the deficit."
- Third baseman Tim Kirk ignited Friday's comeback with a two-run single that

scored Matt Mastrangelo and Marcos Gray. Reding scored four times on two-out situations and got at least one hit from eight of its starting nine.

Defensively, outfielders Taylor and Jamie Pedra made huge throw-outs at home to highlight an impressive fielding campaign, while ace starter Liam Tennant combined moments of mediocrity with some signs of brilliance — collecting seven strikeouts in his allotted four innings.

In BR's season-opening stalemate, Gray and Pedra drove in last-inning runs while young lefty P.J. McColl delivered three big innings of relief to spoil Iroquois Ridge's victory party.



Sandwiched between these two ties was a 10-0 spanking of hapless Oakville Trafalgar.

Sporting a 1-0-2 record heading into yesterday afternoon's cross-town clash with Milton District, the

Royals close out regular season play with tomorrow's double-header at Maplehurst. They begin against Oakville's Q.E. Park at 12:30 p.m. and then take on Oakville's White Oaks at 3:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, Milton District has all been guaranteed itself a playoff spot already after a big 3-0 opening week that was capped with a 12-1 rout of young and struggling E.C. Drury Friday at Brian Best.

The Mustangs also turned back challenges from Oakville Trafalgar and Q.E. Park. They'll battle both Georgetown's Christ the King and Iroquois Ridge tomorrow afternoon to finish out the regular season. All but eliminated from the post-season following an 0-3 start, Drury took on the Ridge yesterday and faces Blakelock and Oakville Trafalgar tomorrow.

The playoffs start May 17.

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