

# Drury wrestlers impressive in pre-holiday meet

## Spartans out-point Hagersville to defend own tournament title

Having lost much of last year's provincial championship squad, the E.C. Drury Spartans will be hard-pressed to capture a sixth straight OFSAA wrestling title in March.

However, they have to be considered a legitimate contender to at least medal — particularly after an impressive performance at their pre-holiday invitational Wednesday.

On the strength of a dozen medal-winning efforts, the hosts out-pointed early OFSAA favourite Hagersville 97-74. Drury outnumbered the runners-up, but the victory was nevertheless encouraging for a team looking to remain atop Ontario's high school pecking order.

Leading the way with gold were Gary Ferrier, Peter Leaman, Alan Moffat and Carl Chan — who secured his second tournament title and sixth medal in as many meets. He continues to lead the team with 25 wins.

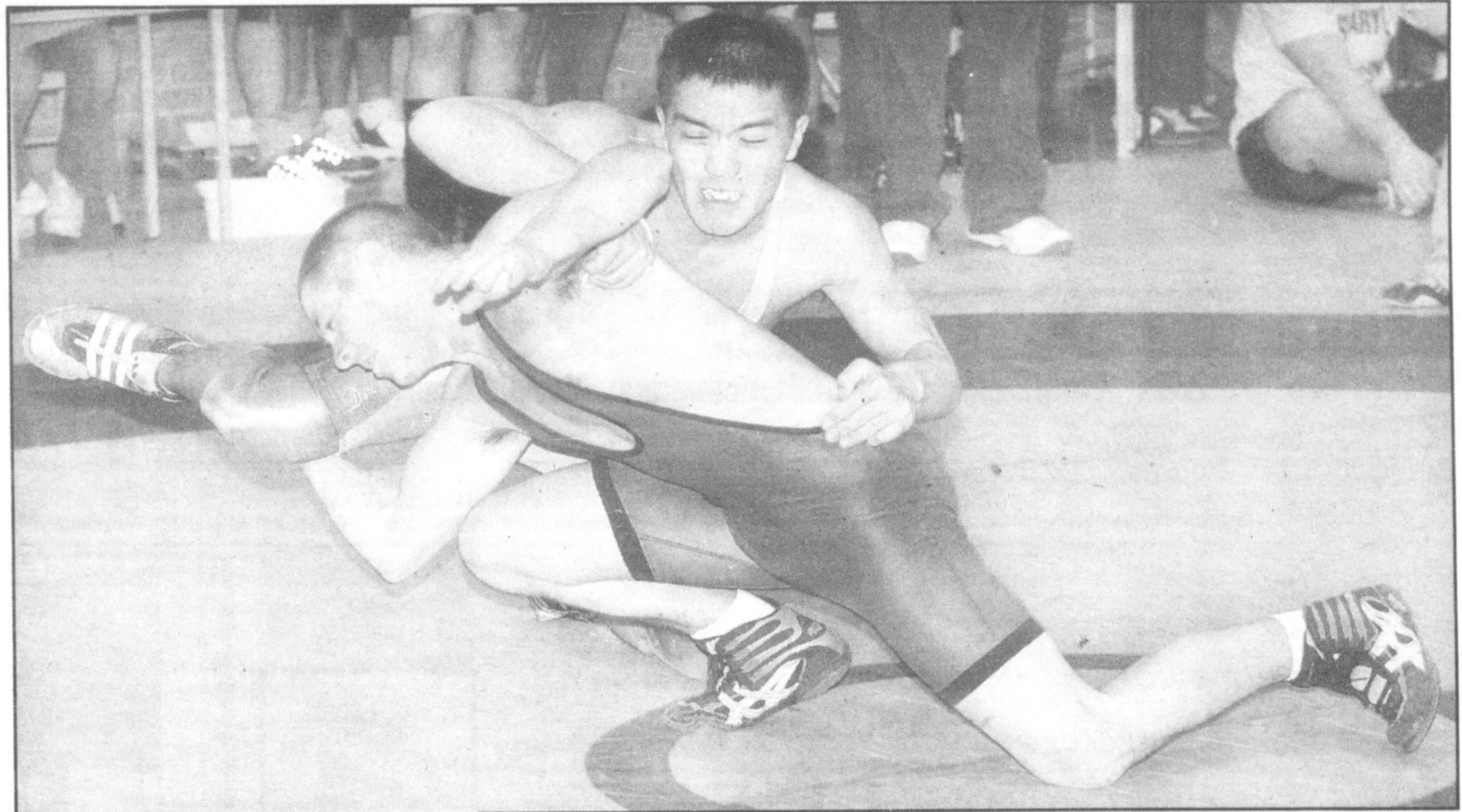
Leaman's gold was his third of the season — as well as his fifth medal — while Ferrier is now a two-time tournament champ. After a slow start to the year, Moffat finally put it all together to reach the top of the podium for the first time.

Taking silver with 3-1 campaigns were sophomores Kevin Iwasa-Madge and Nick Ronan, who're quickly emerging as elite-calibre grapplers. Returning to action after being sidelined for two weeks, Bryan Morgan and Kyle Smith each finished second as well.

Matt Martin delivered a top-three finish for his first open medal, while also securing bronze were Blake Elliot, Chris Flannigan and Kyle Shernet.

Other top-five finishers included Andrew Croll, Mac Fillman, Jared Robb and Justin Webber.

Brampton's Heart Lake High finished third with 60 points at the meet, which drew roughly 350 wrestlers from 22 schools.



E.C. Drury's Carl Chan takes Andrew Hodson of Sinclair to the mat in a 61-kilogram match at Drury Wednesday. Chan won the match and went on to secure one of five gold medals for the host grapplers.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Juvenile 'Hawks outdistance St. Kitts in battle for top spot

Milton all but guaranteed first now

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Milton's AA juveniles had plenty of motivation for their big showdown with host St. Catharines Thursday night, and delivered plenty of grit once it began.

The result was a 6-4 victory, which should essentially lock up first place in the Niagara District League standings and give the Winterhawks home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs.

The win also served as pay-back for losing their spot at the upcoming Silver Stick Tournament to St. Catharines late last month — when a computer error had Milton's loss count at three instead of two.

"It was a good, hard-fought game ... one of our best this year," said

assistant coach Dave Burrell. "Everyone was there to play, they knew what was on the line."

Adam Rutz put the visitors ahead just 26 seconds into the game, laying a thunderous forecheck on one of St. Catharines' defencemen and slipping one in from close range.

He'd set up Chris Coates later in the period, while the Winterhawks would strike three more times in the middle stanza and put things away with Wes McDougall's last-minute empty netter — after the hosts' provided some late drama with a couple of deposits.

Also lighting the lamp were Thomas Patrick, Robbie Hunt and Harley Mouscos — who offered a particularly impressive effort with linemates Derek Blanchard and

Chris Whiting.

Two nights later at Memorial Arena, Milton staved off a potential upset loss with three third-period goals to dispose of Pelham 4-2.

A brief letdown from Thursday's big win saw the Winterhawks fall behind by two goals before rallying to secure their 12th straight league win. Barry Kosmalski sank both the game winner and insurance tally in close-quarter battles.

Jason Strong was between the pipes for both games last week as tandem partner Cory Curtis continues to nurse a groin pull.

The local juveniles will compete at the Paul Coffey Tournament in Mississauga over the holiday break. They have four league games left, including a January 8 trip to Cayuga.

## Atoms' shutout streak finally ends

Christmas may be a time of giving, although Milton's AE2 atoms have been anything but charitable when it comes to their opposition these days.

Heading into Sunday afternoon's road trip to Acton, the Winterhawks hadn't allowed a single goal in four straight games — and would have stretched that to five, had it not been for a last-minute goal by the Tanners.

While breaking a highly-memorable shutout streak, the deposit meant little to the afternoon's verdict, as Milton prevailed 3-1 for its fifth consecutive victory.

Tristan Kivac was rock-solid between the pipes, while Andrew Smith had a goal and an assist. Also scoring were Ryan Tanason and Kyle Waters, with a two-assist contribution coming from Marcello Mule.

Earlier in the week the Winterhawks whitewashed Elora in both halves of a decisive home-and-home

series — kicking things off with an 8-0 cakewalk in Elora Wednesday.

Complementing Kivac's second goose egg of the year was a thoroughly-balanced attack, powered by four-point efforts from Smith, Tanason and Zach Wadham. Seven other players added points to the blowout.

The following evening at Milton Sports Centre, Milton blanked Elora 5-0 — on the strength of two goals by Tanner Briggs and top-notch cage work by Justin Davidson, whose season shutout tally now stands at two as well.

The Winterhawks are now unbeaten in six games and sit top-three in Tri County play with a 13-7-2 record. They'll look to keep their hot streak going at Milton Sports Centre Thursday night, when they take on Fergus. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



## Semi-pro locals come through in key games

Scott Bertoli's first multi-goal game of the season couldn't have come at a better time.

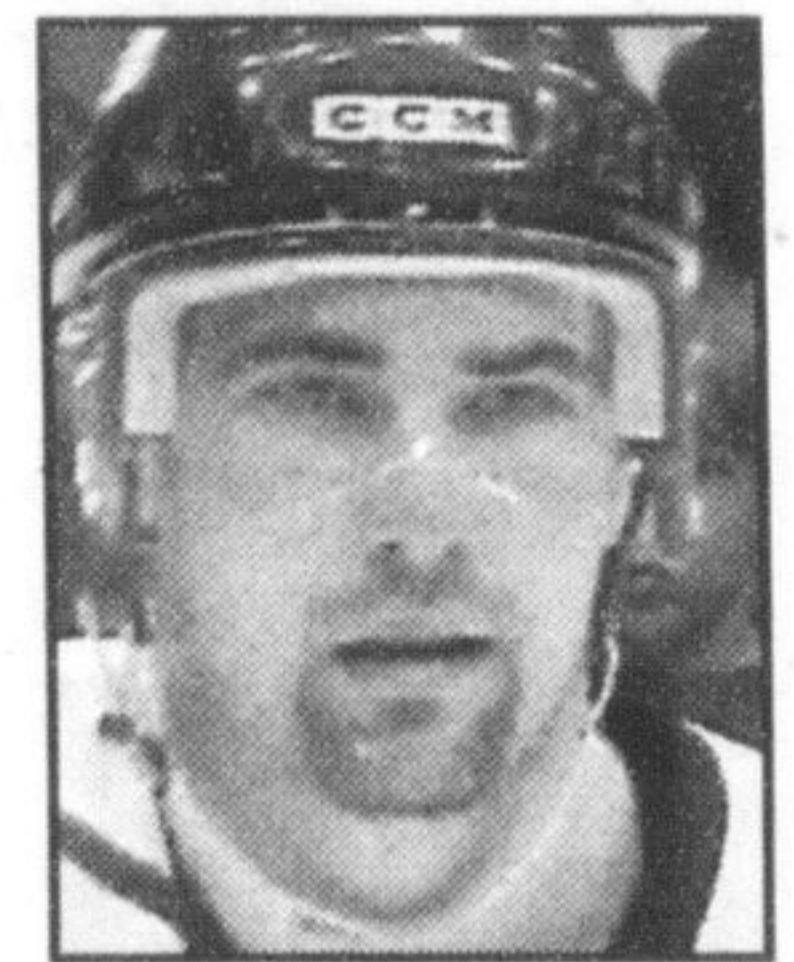
With an opportunity to move into a three-way tie for first overall in the ECHL, Milton's 27-year-old left winger tallied twice Saturday night to lift his Trenton Titans to a 4-2 victory over fellow front-runner Atlantic City.

Bertoli struck in the first period and then buried the game winner on the powerplay in the second, boosting his goal and point totals to seven and 17 respectively in 21 games this season.

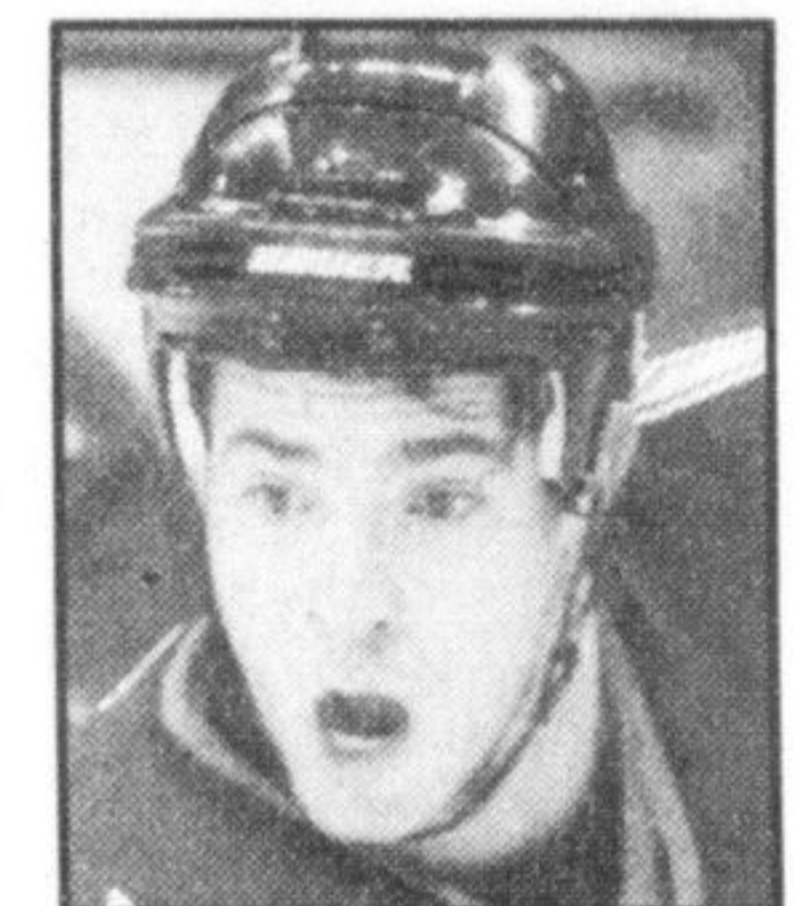
Picked by many to go far in next spring's playoffs, the Titans head into the Christmas break at 15-4-4.

Meanwhile in AHL action, fellow Miltonian Darren Haydar recorded a goal and an assist in the Milwaukee Admirals' 7-2 rout of arch-rival Chicago Friday night — which put them in a tie with Grand Rapids for first in the West Division.

The Admirals would fall to 17-6-2-1 with a 5-4 defeat to Utah the following evening, and capped a two-game road trip to Utah last night. Now in his third year with Milwaukee, 25-year-old Haydar has seven goals and 10 assists in 23 games — having missed three contests early last month with his first suspension ever.



Scott Bertoli



Darren Haydar

# Merry Christmas

and have a  
Safe and  
Happy  
Holiday

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