

Sports

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Rejuvenated Ferrier golden once again

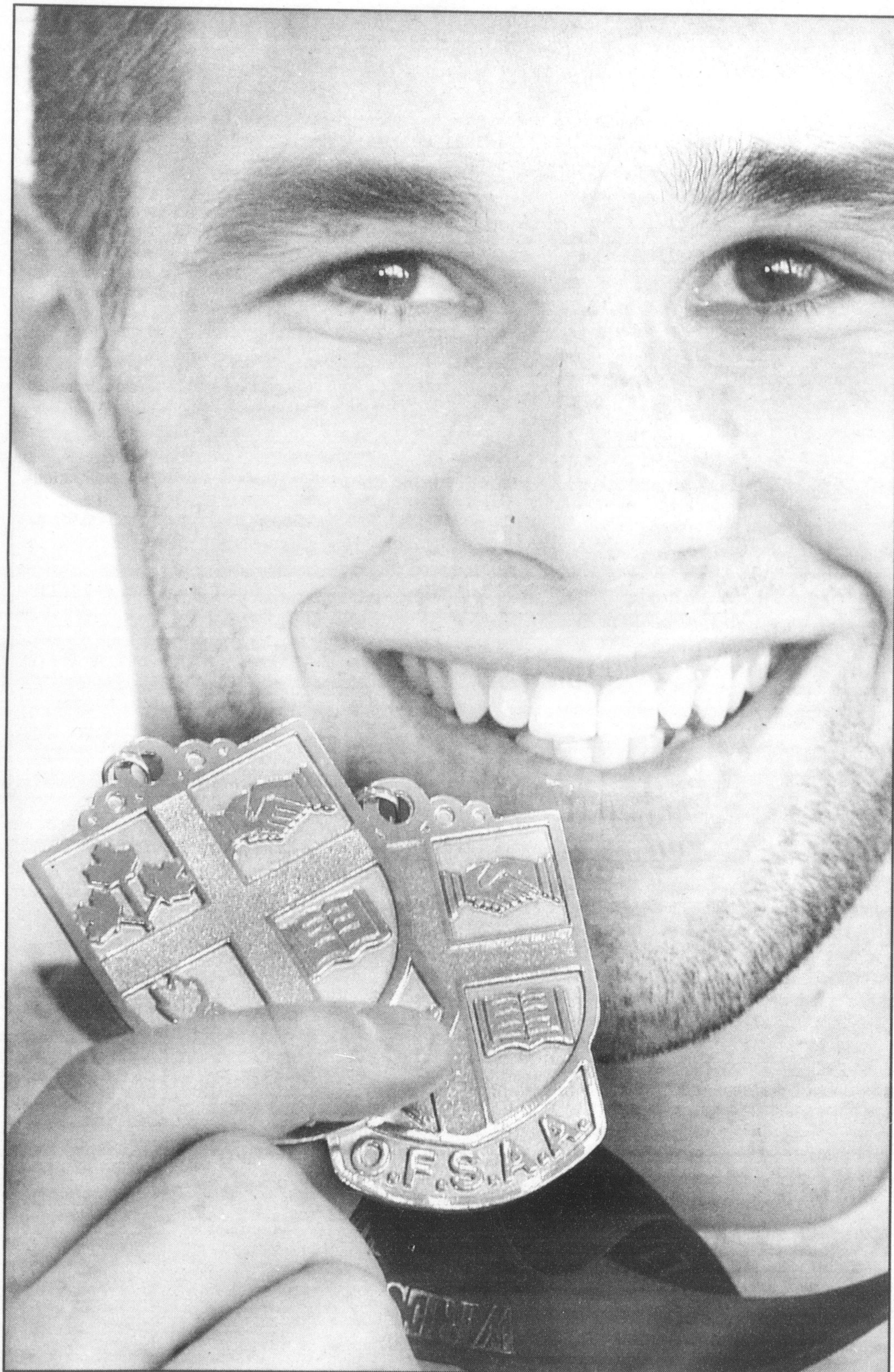


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Veteran Spartan Gary Ferrier is all smiles while proudly displaying his two OFSAA gold medals.

Wins second straight OFSAA title to lead EC wrestlers to team silver

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Spartans' championship dynasty may be over, but their record-breaking ways live on.

Finally de-throned by fellow powerhouse Hagersville after an unprecedented five straight OFSAA team titles, E.C. Drury's wrestlers had to settle for silver this time around at the Brampton Centre for Sports and Entertainment.

But second-place honours weren't exactly tough to take.

For one, the Spartans headed into OFSAA with a smaller contingent and were never really favoured to win again. And two, their collective silver set a new record for consecutive team medals — eclipsing the old mark of seven they'd shared with Hamilton's Bishop Ryan.

"No gold this year, but I can't be any more satisfied with the end results," said head coach Larry Jaroslowski after an adversity-rich tournament that included him being presented a leadership in sports award from OFSAA.

Drury capped the roller-coaster ride by taking four of five matches in the finals Friday to edge Monsignor Doyle of Kitchener by three points.

The biggest of those victories belonged to Gary Ferrier, who upstaged a previously unbeaten Kyle Bershantsky of Sarnia with a 12-2 superiority decision to punctuate a 5-0 run and become the Spartans' first two-time OFSAA champ.

The win was all the more sweet given that the 64-kg. grappler had been struggling this year and last month failed to

medal at provincials for the first time in his career.

"It feels great. This was my best tournament of the season and fortunately it happened to come at the perfect time," remarked a jubilant and physically-drained Ferrier, just moments after his golden triumph.

Jaroslowski said a return to his bread-and-butter leg attacks and move up to the 64-kg. ranks combined to bring Ferrier back to top form.

"Gary's back to using his speed, and when he just keeps shooting nobody can stop him."

Employing his trademark all-out approach to the mat, Ferrier grabbed an early lead in the finals and put things away near the end of the first round — scoring about a handful of take-downs along the way.

Drury may well have made it a clean sweep in the finals had it not been for a scoring miscue that inadvertently gave Kevin Iwasa-Madge's early points to competitor Derek Anderson of Central Elgin in one of two battles for bronze.

The Spartans' 51-kg. OFSAA returnee wound up getting pinned with just 11 seconds remaining, but as Jaroslowski points out, the early error "completely changed the way he wrestled the rest of the way."

Moments later, Alan Moffat would give Drury its first of two individual medals of the day, finishing an impressive 7-1 campaign by blanking Ajax's Trent Boughner 2-0 for 57.5 kg. bronze.

"This is great, it was definitely my toughest match all year," he said afterwards.

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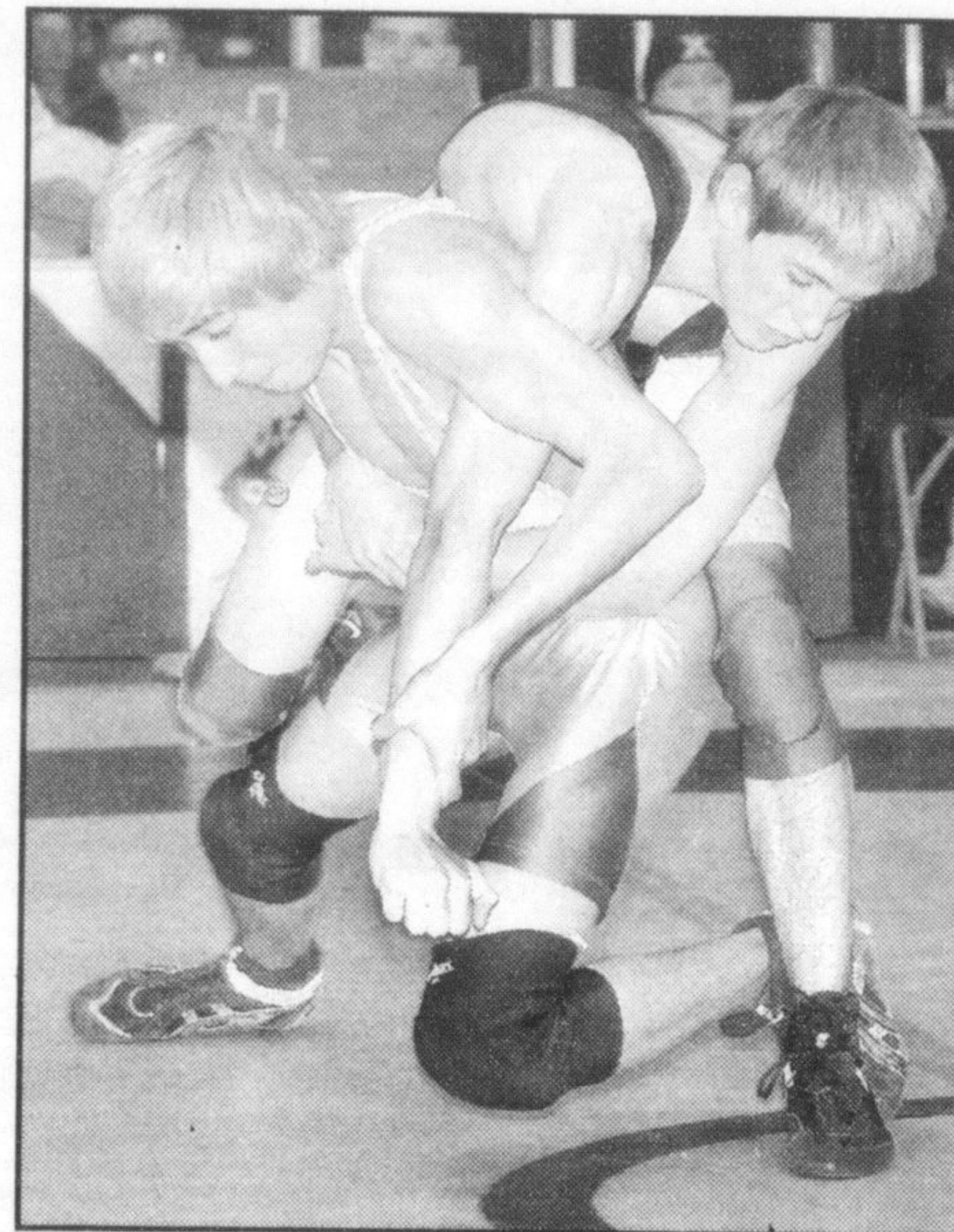


Photo by GEORGE BESHIRI

Drury's Kevin Iwasa-Madge (left) battles Derek Anderson of Central Elgin in bronze-medal competition.



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