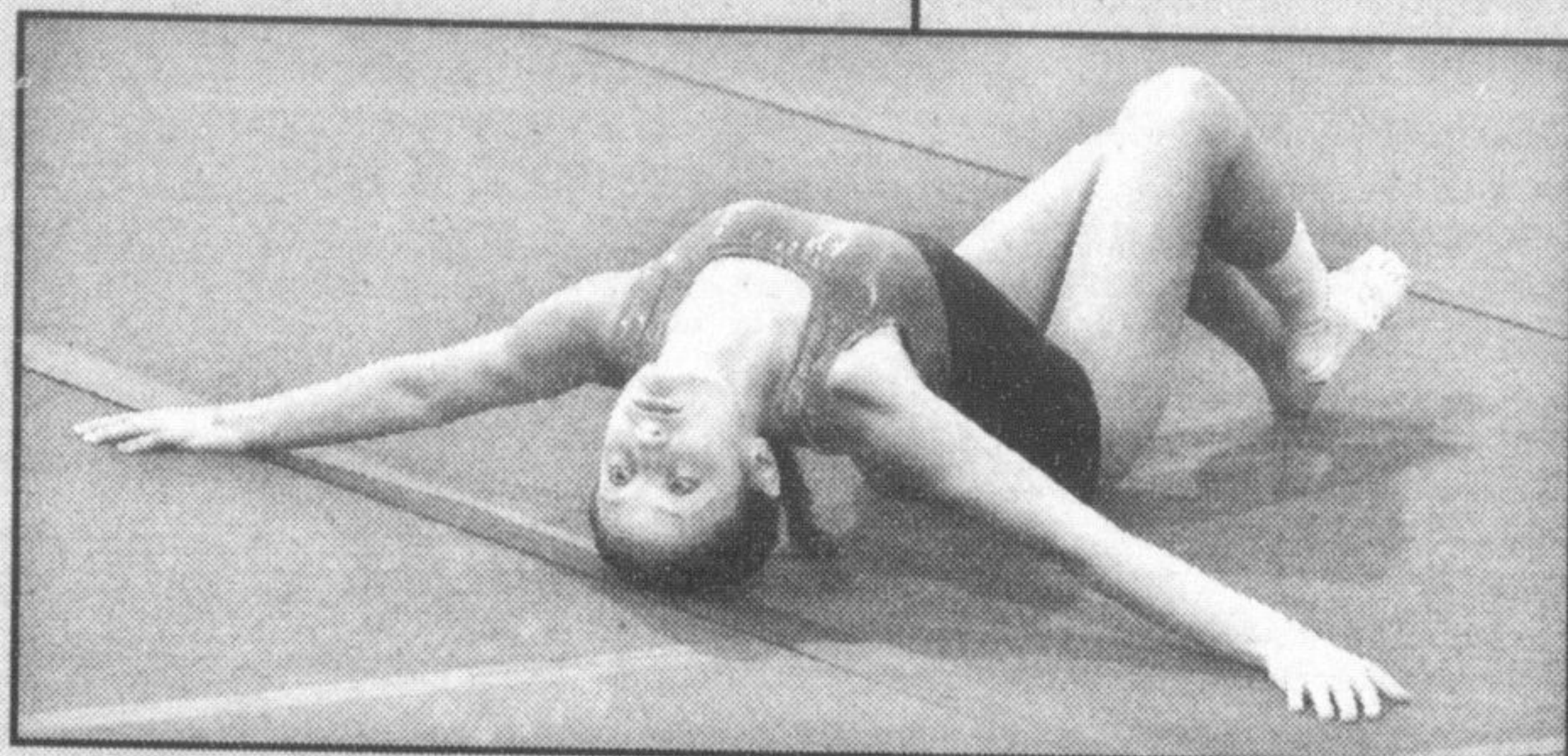


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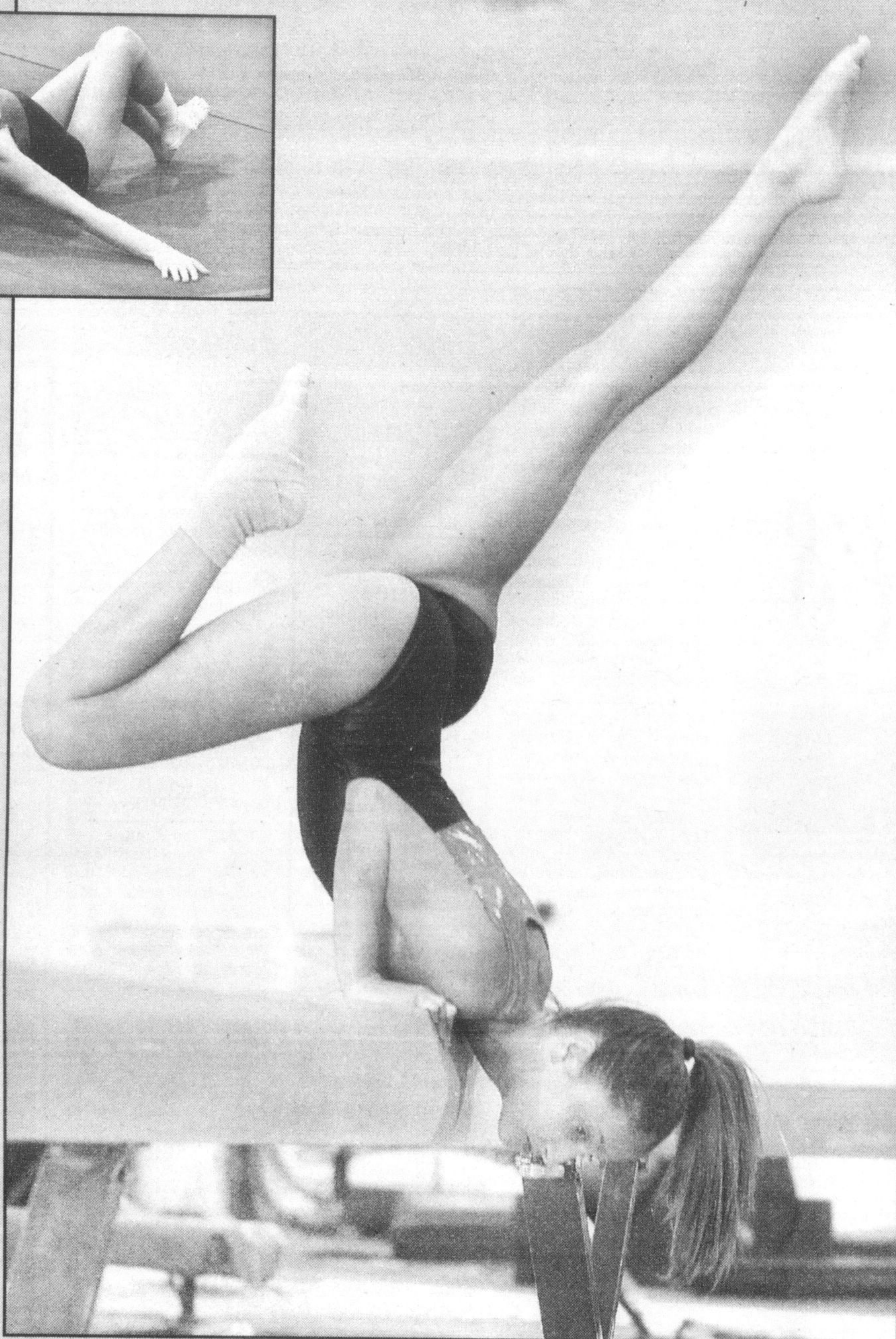
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Skillful showcase

Rebecca Dias, an Open A level gymnast, practises her balance beam routine and (above inset) competes on the floor during the 12th annual Springers Challenge April 10. More than 150 gymnasts from across the province took part in the event, with a number of Milton girls showing strongly. Delivering all-around gold-medal performances for the host club were Maddy Boyd (Cadet 7A), Victoria Rogers (Cadet 8B), Allie Schmidt (Argo A), and Alex Georgiou (Pre-competitive 7C). Securing first-place finishes in individual events were Tracey Armstrong, Keira Brodie, Christina Donovan, Lindsay Fagin, Haley Haskett, Baylee Kraus, Olivia Lister, Rachel Marsbergen, Zahra Rawji, Amanda Steddy and Anne Wormald.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



Rogers' clutch deposit keeps Raiders going

G'town could force seventh game with victory tonight

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Dan Rogers has kept league championship hopes alive.

Pinching in from the blueline with overtime looming, the 20-year-old local defenceman one-timed a loose puck past St. Michaels' Kain Tisi with just two seconds remaining to give his Georgetown Raiders a 4-3 win Saturday evening at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Fellow rural Miltonian Rob Sgarbossa, an 18-year-old centre, assisted on the game winner.

The comeback victory helped the all-Ontario Dudley-Hewitt Cup host Raiders stave off elimination for the second time in just three nights after dropping the first three games of the Provincial Jr. A League finals.

Hopes of forcing a sixth game looked pretty grim for a while, as

Georgetown gave up two goals early in the third period and then were

slapped with a seven-minute penalty to loose cannon Kevin Harvey with nine minutes remaining.

But the Raiders managed to even things up while shorthanded on a breakaway deposit by Kyle Gurtler, which set the stage for Rogers' heroics.

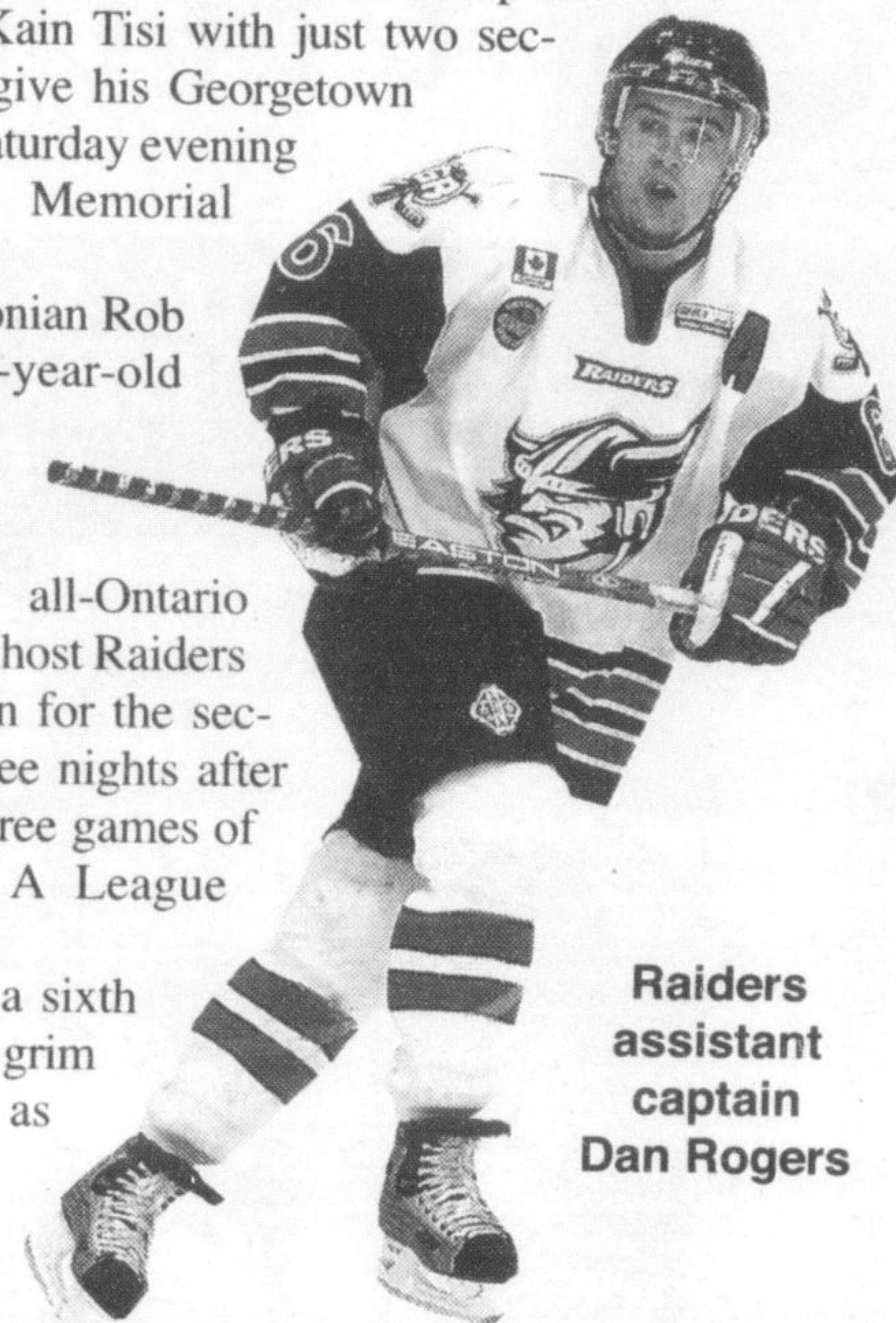
"It feels great. It was pretty tough there in the third but we pulled it out," said the Raiders' assistant captain and blueline anchor. "It's just unreal."

Rogers was out for the lion's share of the late penalty kill, while Sgarbossa chipped in while shorthanded as well.

Georgetown will look to stay alive again tonight at St. Michaels, and if victorious will be back at home for a decisive seventh-game tilt Thursday evening.

Regardless of the series outcome, both teams will be part of next week's Dudley-Hewitt Cup, which includes representatives from Ontario's two northern leagues and runs from April 26 to 30.

Tisi and St. Michaels defenceman Mike Gershon are both former Milton IceHawks.



Raiders assistant captain Dan Rogers

67s advance, but Reid hurt again

Lengthy injury-free stretches just don't seem to be in the cards for Elgin Reid.

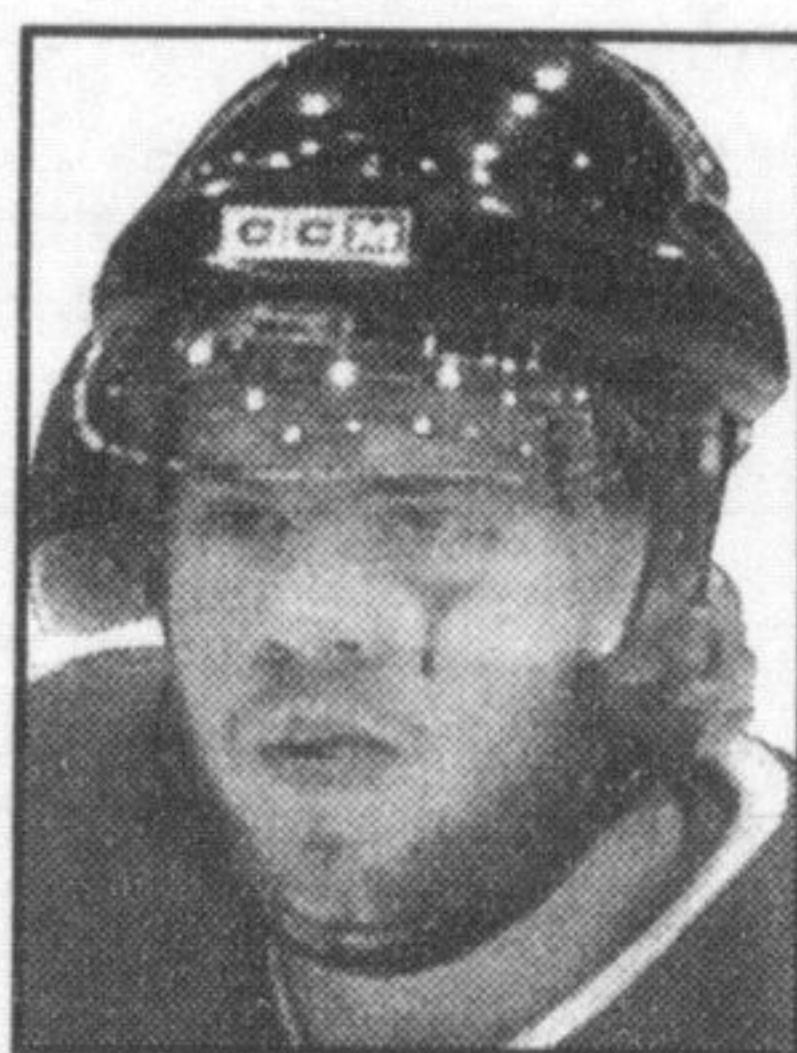
For the fifth time in just a year-and-a-half, the 18-year-old Miltonian finds himself on the sidelines — although for once

it's not just shoulders that are the problem.

A sophomore defenceman with the OHL Ottawa 67s, Reid went down with a twisted left ankle when high stuck during last Tuesday's 5-2 win over Sudbury in game four of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

As a result, the gritty defenceman has been relegated to spectator and had to watch from the press box Sunday afternoon as the 67s finished off the Wolves at home with a 7-4 decision in game six.

"It seems like everytime I get on a bit of a roll something like this happens, but I guess that's part of the game," said Reid during a phone interview late in the third



Elgin Reid

period, just as teammate Mark Mancari completed a hat-trick to essentially ice the series and touch off a huge celebration.

The good news — beyond Ottawa reaching the conference finals for the second time in three years — is that the Milton blueliner should be back at some point during round three against the Peterborough Petes.

The series starts Thursday night in Peterborough, with game two in Ottawa Saturday evening. "I'm pretty sure I'll be back," said Reid, who has four assists so far in the playoffs and sits at a +8.

Peterborough won its regular season series with Ottawa 4-1-2 and reached the conference finals with five-game victories over Belleville and Toronto St. Michaels.

Minor peewee 'Canes claim OMHA bronze

Aided by five Milton-area players, Halton's AAA minor peewees claimed bronze at the recent OMHA championships at Orangeville's Teen Ranch.

The five-team tournament hosts toppled the Burlington Eagles 5-2 April 3 to clinch third-place honours — thanks to some sharp goaltending by Daniel Plater and solid two-way play by fellow Miltonians Spencer Abraham, Nicholas Creamer and Oran Ferguson.

AP Sean McGovern played the first game and

then provided support from the bench for the balance of the tournament.

Ferguson had the only two points of the weekend among the local players, including a goal in the Hurricanes' 3-2 win over the Quinte Red Devils in round two — which represented their only preliminary victory.

Halton dropped 6-3 and 2-1 decisions to championship finalists York-Simcoe and Guelph respectively, and tied Burlington 1-1 in round three.

Plater was between the pipes for all five OMHA games.

Guelph went on to eclipse York-Simcoe 1-0 in the gold-medal showdown. This surprised many AAA pundits, who'd picked Quinte and the defending-champion Hurricanes as the two favourites to win it all.

Halton's AAA minor peewees have now medaled at the OMHA for three straight years — with this season's bronze following a silver in 2003 and gold in 2004.