

Marlins hold steady at Ontario's top rung

Slip just one spot in second showing at Division 1 ranks

Given the circumstances, the Marlins' one-place drop at the recent Ontario Division 1 championships was hardly cause for concern.

In fact in a season when most of the top local swimmers were in the bottom of their age groups, slipping only one spot from 13th to 14th was more likely to be considered a success — especially when the Marlins collected two more medals than they did last spring.



Negru stands out

Enjoying the lion's share of the hardware haul was nine-year-old Ioana-Maria Negru, who still has a year left of eligibility in the 10-and-under girls loop but is already standing out — with a handful of medal-winning performances.

She struck gold in the 200-metre freestyle and secured silver in four different events, including the 50 and 100m freestyle and 100 and 200m individual medley.

While cutting her meet short due to final exams at U of T, 20-year-old Jennifer Porenta held her own in 17-and-up women's freestyle competition with a second in the 50m, third in the 400m and fourth in the 200m.

Age-class teammate Rachel Robinson, 17, took fourth in the 200m breaststroke, seventh in the 400m individual medley and eighth in the 800m freestyle, while 14-year-old Larissa Ruiz showed strongly in the 100m freestyle to round out the local girls' efforts.

The Milton boys added two medals to the bunch, both of the bronze variety.

In the traditionally-tough 13 and 14 year old ranks, first-year competitor David Dimitrov finished third in the grueling 1,500m freestyle. He also placed fifth in the 200m freestyle and sixth in the 400m freestyle.

Fourteen-year-old Will Wright fared well in the same division only five days after having a cast removed from a broken wrist, delivering a credible fifth-place showing in the 100m freestyle. Age-class teammate Alex Davis, 13, took sixth and seventh in the 200m and 100m breaststroke respectively.

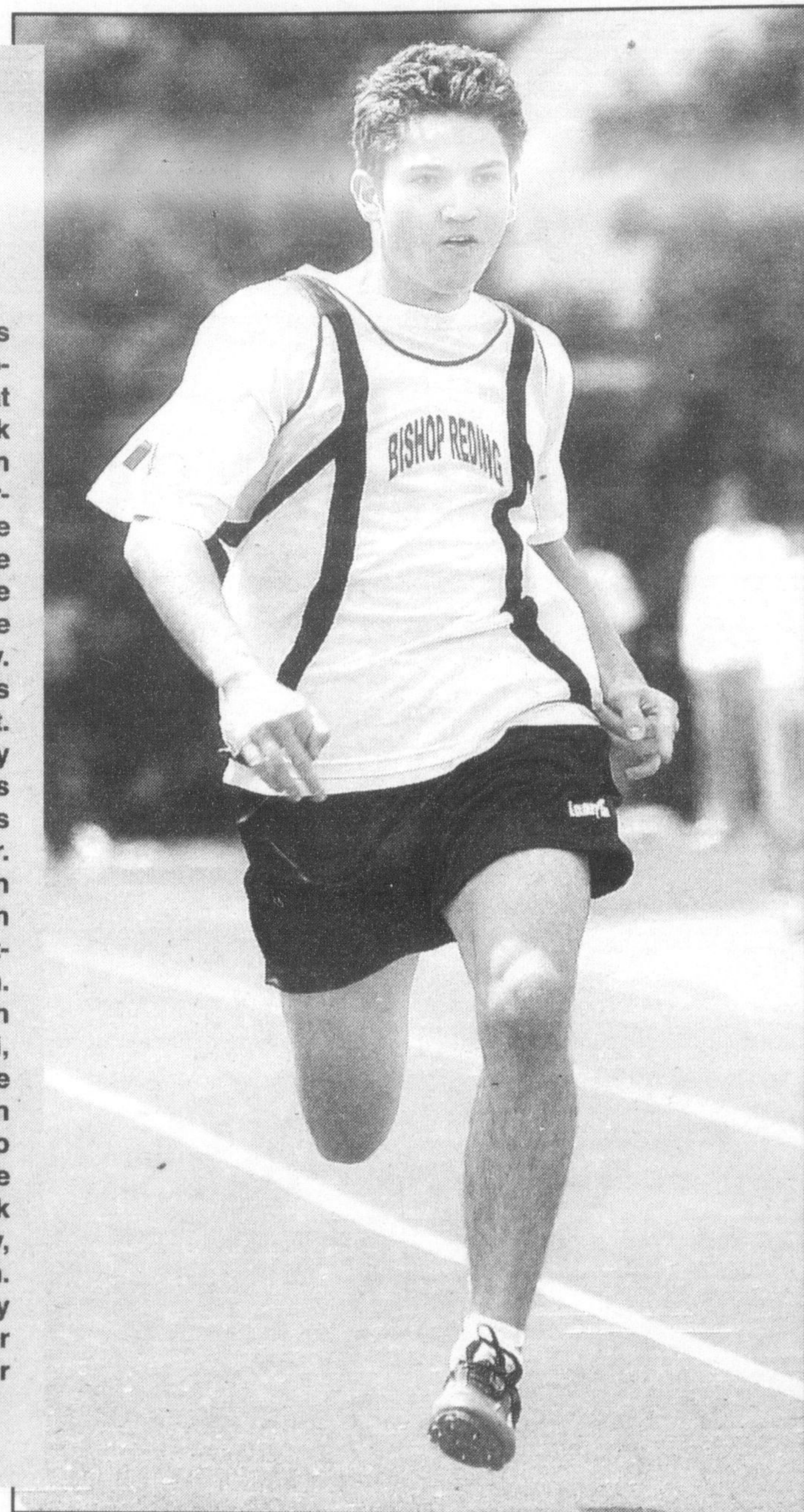
Also reaching the podium with third in the 11 and 12 year old boys 100m freestyle was Brent Burke, who rounded out his division campaign with a fourth in the 400m freestyle and fifth-place performances in the 200m freestyle and 100 and 200m breaststroke.

Persevering through ill-timed sickness, fellow preteen swimmer Colm Whitford raced both the 200m backstroke and the 400m and 800m freestyle to sixth-place honours.

Good as gold

Bishop Reding's midget boys runner Patryk Bugaj races to victory in the 100m Thursday morning at the combined Halton/GHAC track and field championships in Burlington. He delivered a four-event sweep with other wins in the 200m and 400m plus a first-place finish with teammates Wayndale Bennett, Matt Kerwin and Vince Marshall in the 4x100m relay. Reding qualified 20 athletes for this week's Southern Regionals in St. Catharines — about twice as many as last year. Top-four finishers there advance to next week's OFSAA championships in Windsor. Among BR qualifiers in Burlington was Mike Sonsogno, who won both the senior boys discus and shot-put and took third in the javelin. Also advancing to Southern Regionals are Simon Akiki, Danielle Clarke, Ted Fair, Julie Gagnon, Jaheal Johnson, Erin Lecky, Derek Malone, Bruno Mangiola, Sarah Mitchell, Mike Rego, Mike Rubino, Nick Tielemans, Brandon Timothy, Krista Ward and Lindsay Wernham. Brad Hoy is Milton District's only track and field member this year and qualified in both the junior boys 400m and 1,500m.

Photo by RON KUZYK



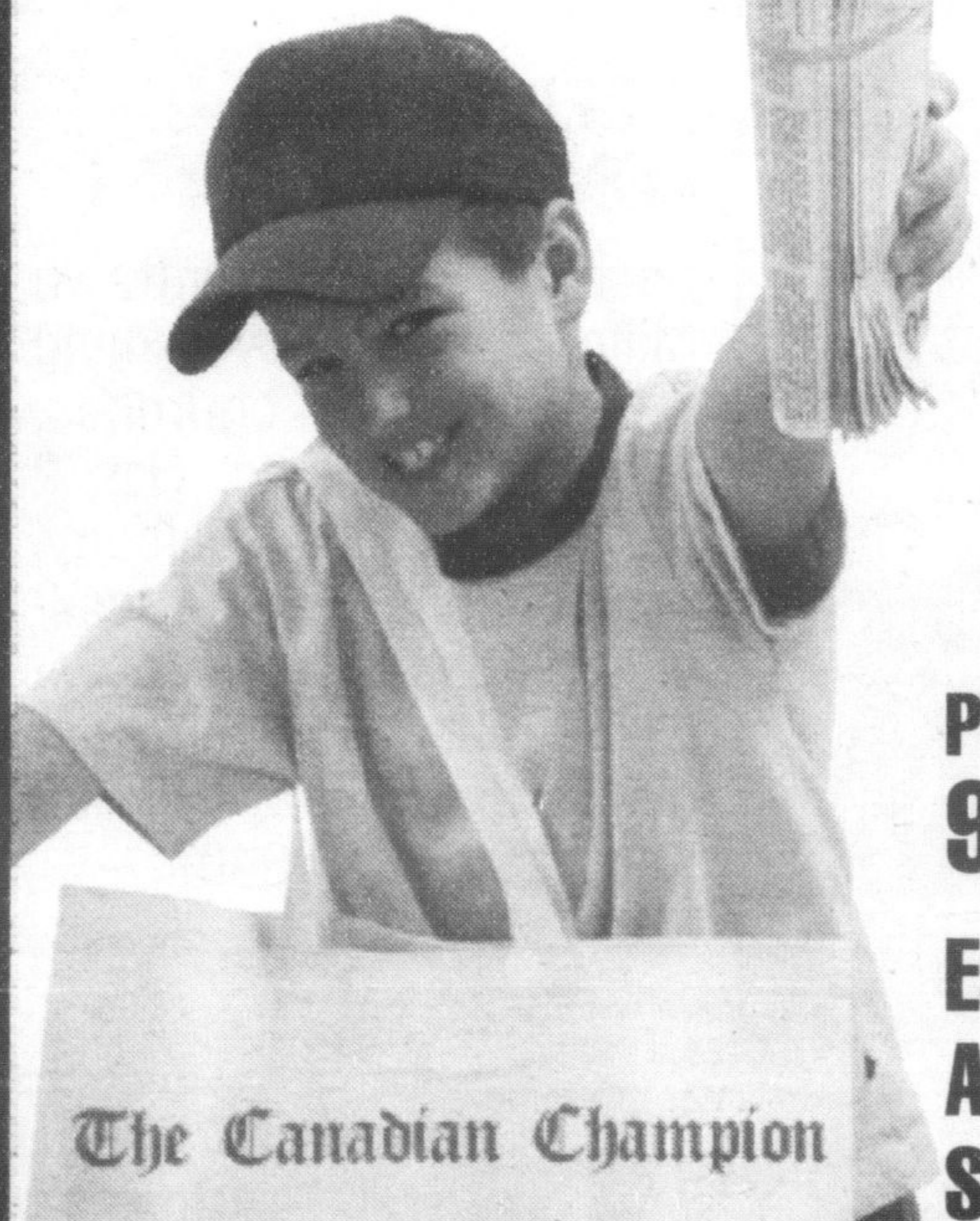
CARRIERS NEEDED FOR MILTON CHAMPION DELIVERY

Tuesday's and Friday's on the following streets:

- Commercial Street
- Martin Street
- Woodward Avenue
- Laurier Ave
- Heslop St
- Marcellus Ave
- White Drive
- King Street
- Mary Street
- Graham Bell Court
- Cabot Trail
- Sunnyvale Ave

Please call Sandy 905-878-5947

Earn Extra Money And enjoy the Spring weather!



The Canadian Champion

Springers pile up the medals in season-ending competition

The Milton Springers Gymnastics Club wrapped up 2004/05 competition recently, but not before enjoying one more hefty hardware grab.

A trip to Orangeville garnered 11 medals for the pre-competitive team, which was led by all-around golden girl Alex Georgiou. The 7C champion's overall triumph was fueled by top marks on vault plus a silver on beam and bronze on bars.



Baseball Royals outlast 'Ridge

The Royals live on — again.

Willing its season to continue for a second time in three days, Bishop Reding's baseball team flexed its scoring muscles in Oakville Wednesday afternoon to out-distance Iroquois Ridge 17-16 in first-round playoff action.

The high-octane triumph came on the heels of a 4-3 do-or-die squeaker over Georgetown's Christ the King Monday in regular-season ending play — which gave BR the sixth and final playoff spot in Halton's Volpe Division.

Lee Mathé, Marcas Gray and Nick Mazzorato led an explosive attack Wednesday.

The win sets up a cross-town quarterfinal encounter with Milton District this afternoon at Brian Best Park. Enjoying topnotch pitching this spring, the Mustangs finished first with a 6-1 record.

Today's showdown — beginning at 3 p.m. — offers a pay-back opportunity for both clubs, since MD beat the Royals 6-4 in their regular-season clash and BR crushed the Mustangs 8-0 in last year's quarterfinals.

Age class teammate Traci Armstrong wasn't far behind — earning silver on beam and sixth on both bars and vault to secure an all-around fourth-place finish.

Division C's eight-year-olds also showed strongly, especially Christina Donovan. She reached the podium in overall competition — taking the bronze — due in large part to silver-medal performances on bars and vault.

Two spots back in the all-around standings was Holly Bennett, who placed fourth on bars, fifth on beam and sixth on the floor.

Celena Morgan delivered a silver-lining campaign in the 8B ranks — finishing second overall, as well as on the bars and beam. Complementing those efforts were fourth and sixth-place efforts on vault and the floor respectively.

Not to be outdone, three members of the Springers' provincial team attended an invitational meet in neighbouring Georgetown and also came away covered in medals.

Argo 1 gymnast Lindsay Bright placed second overall, thanks to top-honours on vault and silvers on bars, beam and the floor.

Thriving in Tyro 2, Maddy Bannock also struck all-around silver — winning on vault and placing second on bars and the floor along the way.

April Chappell — sidelined all season with a heel injury — competed on bars and beam, matching Bannock on bars and coming fifth on beam.