Local tumblers golden

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her national 15-and-up age group by just half-a-point.

Sitting second following the Canadian preliminaries, Durante improved slightly on an already polished routine in the final to take over top spot.

"I'd never stuck all three passes before, but I nailed them all," she explained.

On the older end of her 10-14 year age group, Hefford was a little more decisive in finishing first at the nationals — due largely to a fundamentallysound effort.

Impressive overall and particularly so when executing her recently-incorporated double back tumbles, she pulled off all three passes with near flawless precision to turn back all challengers.

She was first after the preliminaries and refused to be overtaken in the final.

"It felt really good (to come out on top)," said Hefford, a consistent topthree finisher throughout the season. "I just stuck the landings well and had good form."

While both certainly possess a great deal of ability in their newfound gymnastics event, their success couldn't have come without desire and effort, said Team Futures power tumbling head coach Nadia Bruno.

The two Milton power tumblers, she stressed, have an abundance of both commodities.

"It's just fantastic what they've done this season," said Bruno. "But it's really

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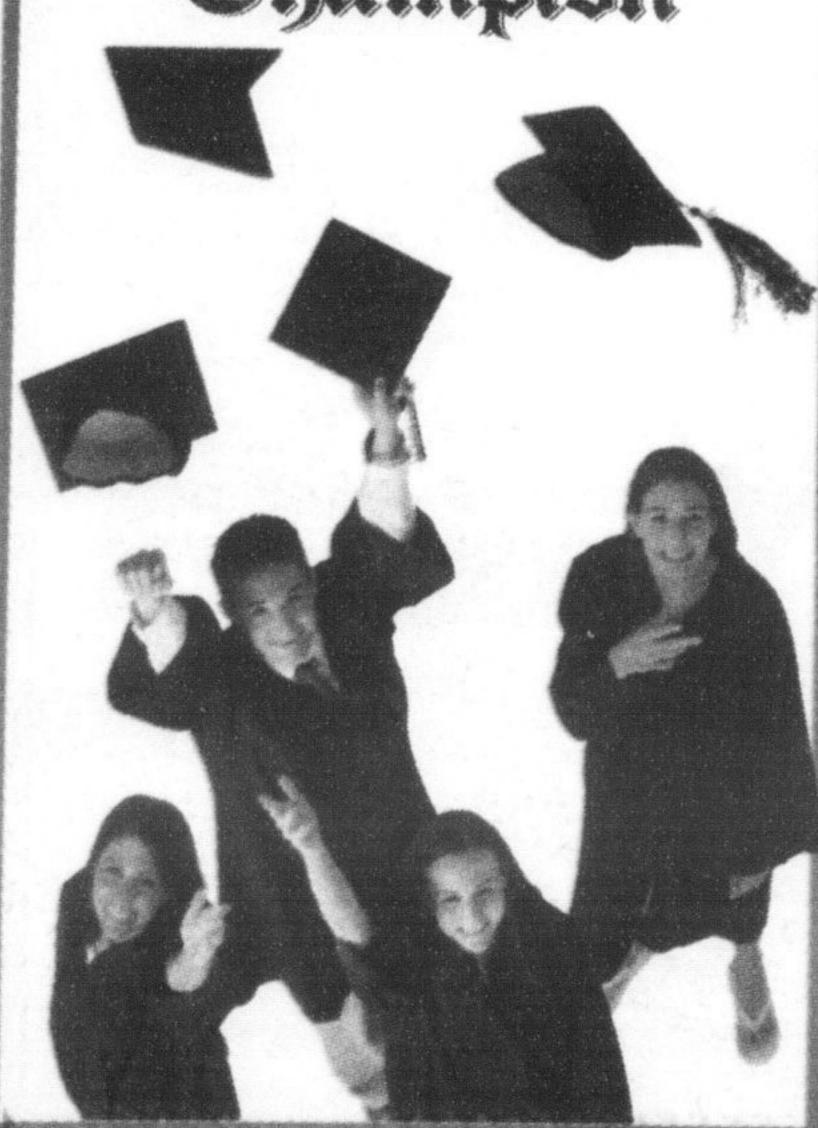
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not that surprising. Teja and Meghan are both extremely motivated and work awfully hard.

"When they're at the club, it's always 100 per cent."

Marauders' season opener rained out

So the Marauders will open 2006 play at home after all.

Milton's gridiron warriors were scheduled to kick off the season in Oshawa Saturday night, but with heavy rains

threatening to damage the against the Toronto Maddogs. field's new turf the game was canceled.

Therefore, the Marauders' first test comes this Saturday at Milton District High School

Game time is 3 p.m.

Milton will actually play their first two games at home, with the Quinte Panthers set to hit town June 17.

