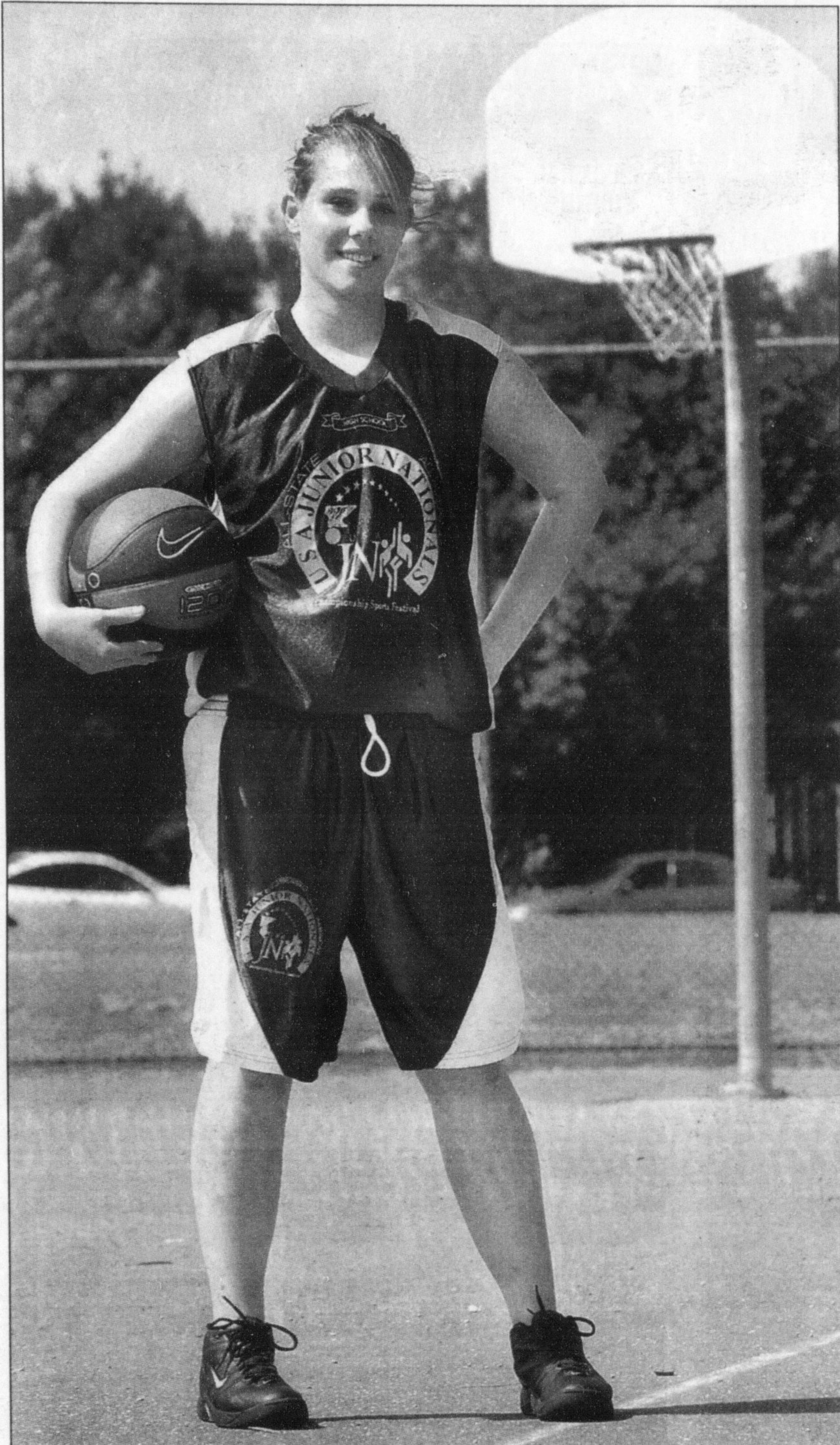


# SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR: STEVE LeBLANC e-mail sleblanc@haltontsearch.com



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**HOOP DREAMS:** Set to begin grade 12 at Bishop Reding Secondary School in just a couple of weeks, 16-year-old Caitlin O'Connor took another step closer to landing a university scholarship with an impressive performance at the recent USA Junior International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio. She was named MVP for Team Canada after averaging 10 points a game and adding some fundamentally-sound play overall at the week-long showcase.

## Durante tumbles way to international gold

### Tops at Indo-Pacific championships

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION  
STAFF

**T**eja Durante's first full season of power tumbling can be summed up in just one word — golden.

Building on the momentum of a triumphant national debut this spring at Quebec's Laval University, the 16-year-old Miltonian recently took top honours for Canada at the Indo-Pacific trampoline and tumbling championships in Pretoria, South Africa.

Overcoming a preliminary round spill that had her ranked third heading into the 15 and 16-year-old women's tumbling finals, Durante delivered two sensational performances when it mattered most to slingshot by a couple of host competitors and prevail in her first international meet.

She finished a razor-thin one-tenth of a point ahead of Malinda Carlini of Windsor in the seven-competitor class, thanks to a 29.9 second round

that eked her past the fellow Ontarian.

"With this being my first international competition, I didn't expect to even medal, much less take gold," said Durante, who switched over to power tumbling after a series of injuries in artistic gymnastics and qualified for the Indo-Pacific championships with a first-place finish at February's Canada Cup in Vancouver. "It was really rewarding to see all my hard work pay off."

A modified routine since the nationals certainly aided in her latest gold-medal acquisition as well. Incorporating a full-in pike boosted her degree of difficulty, and executing it flawlessly no doubt impressed the five-member Indo Pacific judg-



Teja Durante

ing panel.

"I just ran the eight skills well and really stuck the landings," recalled the up-and-coming tumbler, whose gymnastics event can best be described as a floor routine without the dance element.

Part of a national-level training camp last weekend in Calgary, Durante now has her sights set on the 2007 World Tumbling Championships in Quebec City.

That's a pretty lofty goal for someone who's been competing in the sport less than a year. Then again, perhaps it's not — given her ever-growing gold-medal haul and a skill level that continues to climb.

"A few months ago I probably wouldn't have given the worlds serious consideration," said Durante who trains up to 30 hours a week.

"But the Indo-Pacific championships really opened my eyes as to what's possible. If I keep training hard and have the desire, I'd say my chances (of making the Canadian youth team) are as good as anybody's."

## NFC title game time changed

The Marauders will in fact host tomorrow's Northern Football Conference (NFC) championship game at 4 p.m.

The league final had originally been pushed to 5 p.m., but was switched back Tuesday morning.

Milton will play host to the Oshawa Hawkeyes for the NFC title at Milton District High School — marking the third time in its five-year existence that the local team has vied for the crown.

The Marauders finished 6-2 in the regular season, which included a forfeit win over the Hawkeyes, who couldn't secure field time early in the season.

Led by quarterback Josh Spanick and defensive anchor Wayne Sliwinski — one of the NFC's premier players, who's set to retire this year — Milton has outscored its opposition a whopping 141-16 over the last three games en route to the final.

**Golfing This Summer And Now You Are Suffering From Golfer's Elbow?**  
**Noticing Your Backswing is Bothering Your Back?**

Please Join Us...  
**SUNDAY AUGUST 20TH, 2006**  
FROM 10:00AM TO 12:00 NOON  
**FREE COMMUNITY GOLF SEMINAR**  
Hear more about golf technique as it relates to golf injuries.  
Learn more about golf biomechanics.  
Talk about where energy comes from in the golf swing.  
Get some great tips about golf specific exercise... and more!

**Chance To WIN A FREE GOLF LESSON!**

Thanks to  
Golf Expert Jerry Brouwer  
and Physiotherapist Roger Cote  
**17 Wilson Avenue**  
(corner of Wilson & Main)  
**876-1515**

**HALTON COMMUNITY REHABILITATION**

**Coachworks Canada Inc.**  
THE BEST SOUND IN TOWN

WE SELL **GM CRATE MOTORS**  
CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICES

Drop by for a look at our **New Streetrod Parts**

**GENERAL REPAIRS**  
• PERFORMANCE EXHAUST •  
**FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION**

We Specialize in Catalytic Converters

**701 Main Street East, Milton**  
**(905) 875-3740**

Open Mon - Fri 8:00 - 5:30 • Saturday 9:00 - 12:00  
WE CUSTOM-BUILD STAINLESS STEEL MUFFLERS & TAILPIPES

**NEED TOP SERVICE? We are the Muffler & Brake Pros!**  
Same Day Service  
Guaranteed Lowest Prices