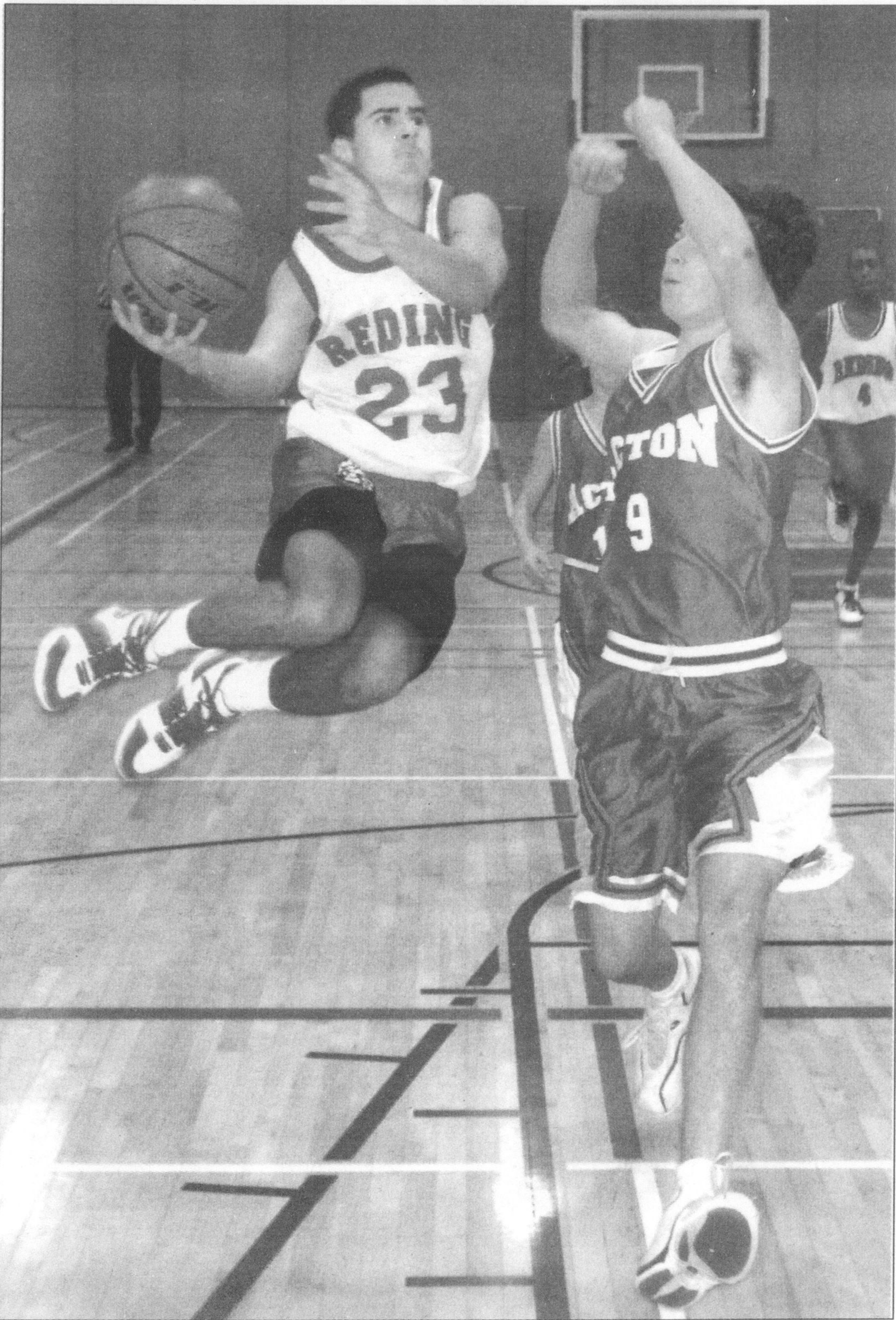


SPORTS

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JUMP BALL: Bishop Reding's Eros Olazabal catches some air while driving to the hoop against an Acton Bearcat defender during junior boys basketball play at BR Monday afternoon. The host Royals won 41-21 to improve to 2-1 on the year.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Winterhawks to fly on big screen

'AA' peewees part of groundbreaking movie *Breakfast with Scot*

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Getting a group of pre-teen boys up before 4 a.m. proved to be remarkably easy for Mike Zuccato and his fellow chaperones.

The Winterhawks AA peewee coach has a pretty good idea why.

"They had a 9 p.m. curfew, but I'm not sure too many of them actually went to sleep — at least that first night," he suggested.

Zuccato was referring to the hard-to-contain excitement over last week's filming of the groundbreaking comedy *Breakfast with Scot*. Part of three days of shooting at Hamilton's Dave Andreychuk Arena, the AA peewees — as well as some other 11 and 12-year-old Miltonians at the additional entry and house-league levels (for just the second day of filming) — were on set hours before most people even wake up.

"It was a good experience, but they were long days," recalled Liam Venerus, who was central character Scot's double for many of the on-ice scenes, including one where in sheer frustration he checks his own team's goalie. "There was a lot of hurry and wait."

While no doubt battling fatigue by each day's end, Venerus and his local counterparts' exhaustion sure didn't reflect in either their performance or demeanour.

"Of course the long hours took a

toll, but the boys really handled themselves very well," Zuccato remarked of the opportunity that arose through friend and producer Paul Brown. "We were told afterwards that they were a great bunch of kids to work with."

While Milton's peewees won't be seeing much actual face time in the movie — having served as either the actors' doubles or background parts for Scot's team — there'll almost certainly be a Winterhawks' presence on camera.

"They used our jerseys for the opposing team, partly because they're the Leafs' colours, so I'm pretty sure you'll be able to see our logo," explained Zuccato.

Although not likely to appreciate it just yet, the local youngsters are playing a part — albeit a small one — in sports and cinematic history.

Due out in theatres this time next year, *Breakfast with Scot* treads uncharted waters with the fictional tale of a gay ex-Leaf, played by Tom Cavanaugh.

He's one-half of a homosexual couple — his partner being the team lawyer — whose lives are turned upside down after becoming guardians of Scot, who's wrestling with his own sexuality and exhibiting plenty of 'flamboyance'.

Despite its rather touchy subject matter, the film, which also stars Graham Greene, has received the blessing of both the Leafs and NHL — while Zuccato didn't express any objection to it either.

"Through most of the three days the kids were probably oblivious to what this movie was about," said the Winterhawks' coach, whose players and their parents had both accommodations and meals paid for during filming, with a team donation rounding out

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