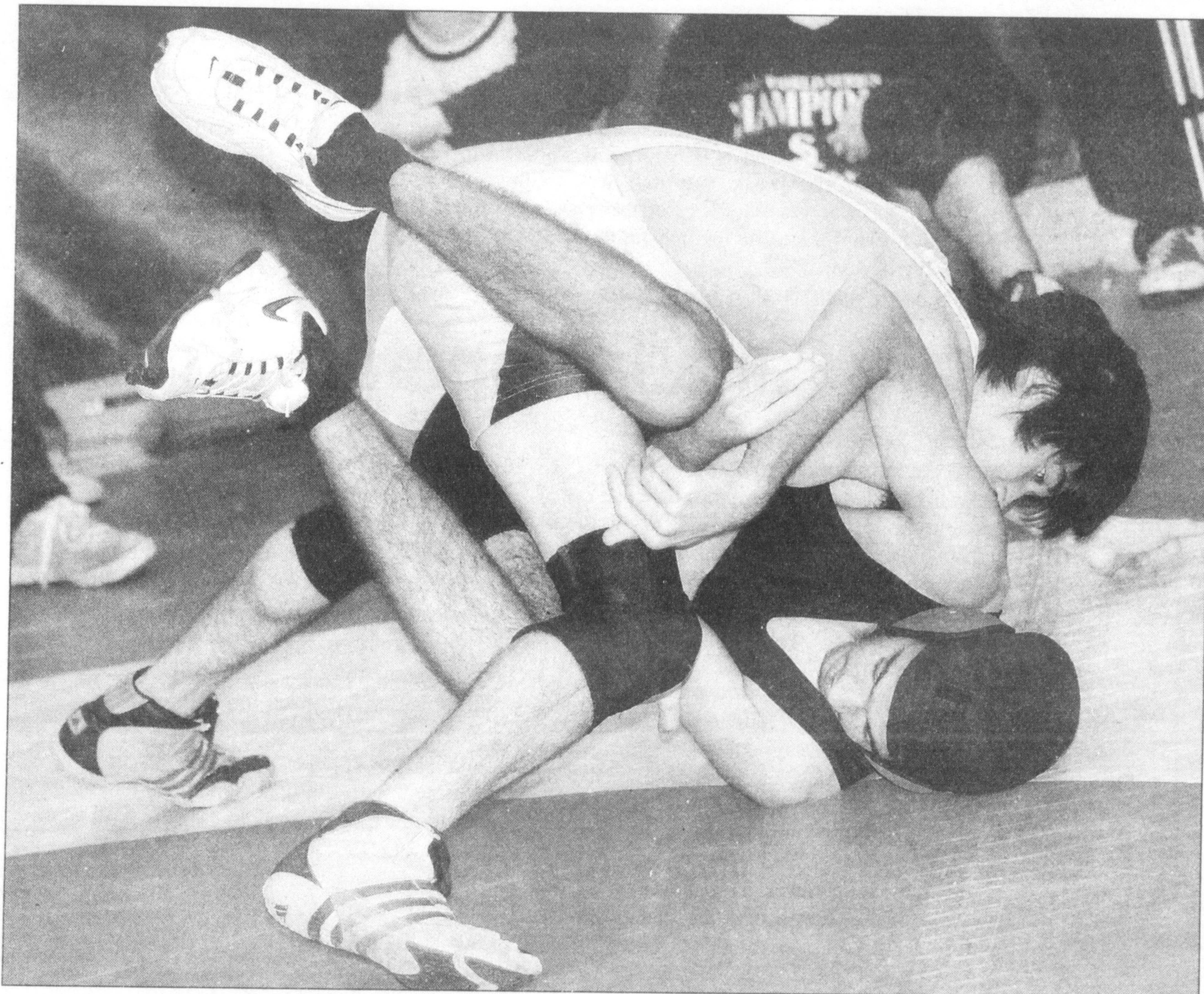


# SPORTS

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## Rutz closing in on Team Canada spot

NCAA-bound lacrosse star looks to cement berth to World Cup

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

E.C. Drury's Kevin Iwasa-Madge takes down Hari Bhatti of Turner-Fenton for the win in 57.5-kilogram competition at E.C. Wednesday.

## Brothers fuel meet win for Drury

Sibling success led the host Spartans to yet another team championship at Wednesday's Drury Invitational.

E.C. recorded five gold medals — four by a pair of gifted brothers — to eke out top spot in an especially competitive 20th edition of the tournament that attracted nearly 350 wrestlers.

Having become the first brother combination to win in the same year in 2005, Mac and Bobby Fillman both maintained their supremacy this time around. With more than 2,000 competitors over the course of the event's two decades, the Fillmans join a rather select group of just 40 wrestlers to ever secure two or more titles.

Alan and Duncan Moffat both turned back all challengers as well, with Alan securing his sixth tournament win of the season and Duncan claiming the first open gold

of his young career.

Rounding out the hosts' victory march was Kevin Iwasa-Madge, who won his eighth straight tournament by gutting out a 1-0, 1-0 decision over long-time rival Jeremy Johns of Hagersville — a three-time event champ.

Marcus Green came away with silver, while James Ponton and Nick Ronan took bronze. Other top-five finishes were delivered by Blake Elliot, Michael McClelland, Sean Coulas, Andrew Croll, Chris Flanigan, Ranbir Hans and Alex Judge.

Wednesday's festivities included a ceremony to induct 2001 graduates Chris Holmes, Andy Wadeson, Sean Burnham and Rory McDonnell into the Drury Wrestling Hall-of-Fame, while 2006 provincial champ Kyle Shermet was presented with the OFSAA Legacy Bursary, awarded annually to a graduating wrestler.



Ashley Rutz is hoping to be up to the challenge when she hits the field down under.

On route to Australia today, the 18-year-old Miltonian will spend the next two-and-a-half weeks on a competitive tour that'll essentially decide her Canadian 19-and-under women's lacrosse team fate.

With just six more players to cut upon the trip's conclusion and her stock seemingly rising with each passing test since March, the Team Ontario veteran sits on the threshold to representing her country at next summer's World Cup at Trent University in Peterborough.

"Being a member of the Canadian team has always been my dream," said Rutz, who showed strongly with the now nearly finalized national squad throughout the United States this past summer and fall. "Hopefully in a few weeks that dream will become a reality."

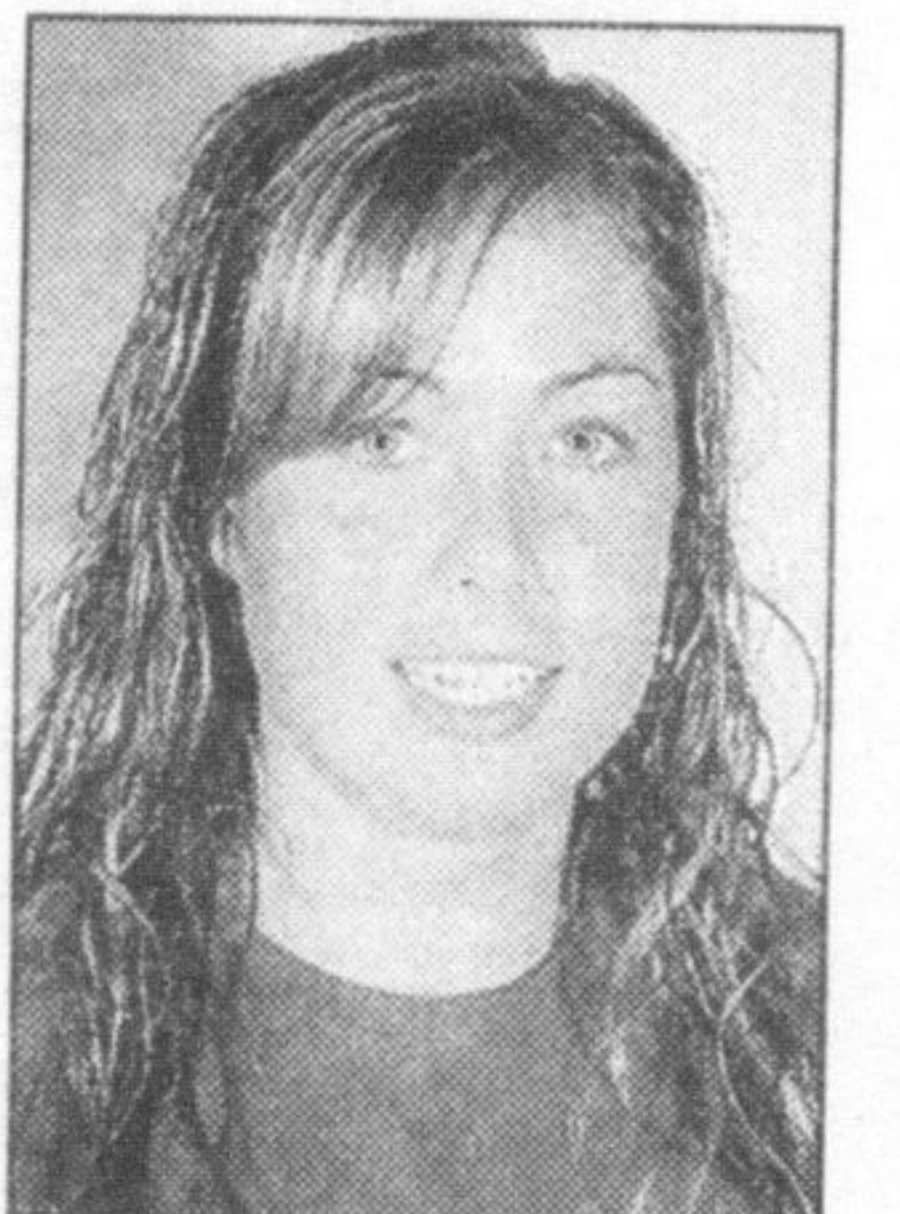
While having already made a strong case for her inclusion, the local teen won't allow herself to ease up now. And that means not allowing herself to get overly confident — no matter how secure her place on the team may appear.

"We're tested at each camp and my scores are constantly improving, but the coaching staff feels I've not yet reached my full potential," she noted. "Each game has to be better than my last. I need to show the coaching staff and my teammates that I deserve to be there, and have a forceful presence on the field. I just need to relax and play the way I can."

Although her work ethic has never been in question, Rutz has stepped up her workout regiment considerably as the battle for a Team Canada roster spot has heated up. The past few months have meant three hours a day with a trainer, and about another hour honing her already impressive stick skills.

"I've been working my butt off on the field and in the

• see TEAM on page A20



Ashley Rutz

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