

Late surge powers Panthers to north Halton boys title

St. Peter's exacts payback for two narrow losses to Angels

The first cut is always the deepest, and is especially painful when suffered in championship play.

Guardian Angels' boys basketball team can certainly attest to that.

Hopes of maintaining their perfect league record were dashed in the north Halton Catholic finals Wednesday evening, when the host Angels surrendered a fourth-quarter lead on the way to being outlasted by the St. Peter's Panthers 31-24.

Having lost by the narrowest of margins in two previous meetings this season, the Panthers knew a title win was well within their reach for the rare all-Milton championship, and turned that notion into reality with six straight baskets midway through the final frame.

Chris McIsaac and Kevin Thompson powered St. Peter's reversal of fortune — after trailing for

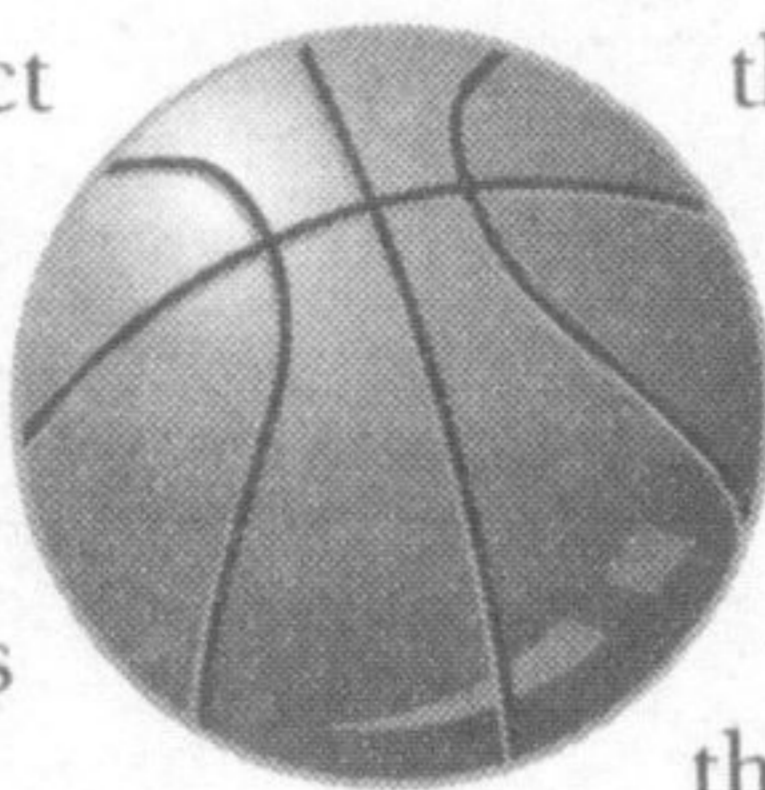
pretty much all of the first three quarters — and finished with eight and seven points respectively.

Josh Berza and Mikey Borlongan sank two baskets apiece, while four other Panthers reached the score-sheet to help showcase the team's depth.

Losing Miguel Sanchez to a nasty leg cramp in the third quarter definitely hindered the Angels, who had gotten six points and a credible two-way effort from the starting guard. Brian Lopez led with 11 points, while Casey Te hit three of St. Peter's seven foul shots and counted six points overall.

David Fik provided some solid defence through the early going to keep the hosts ahead.

The north Halton finalists both compete at the regional playdowns today at Burlington's Assumption Secondary School for a shot at next week's semifinals.



CHAMPIONS: St. Peter's Panthers celebrate their title victory over Guardian Angels.

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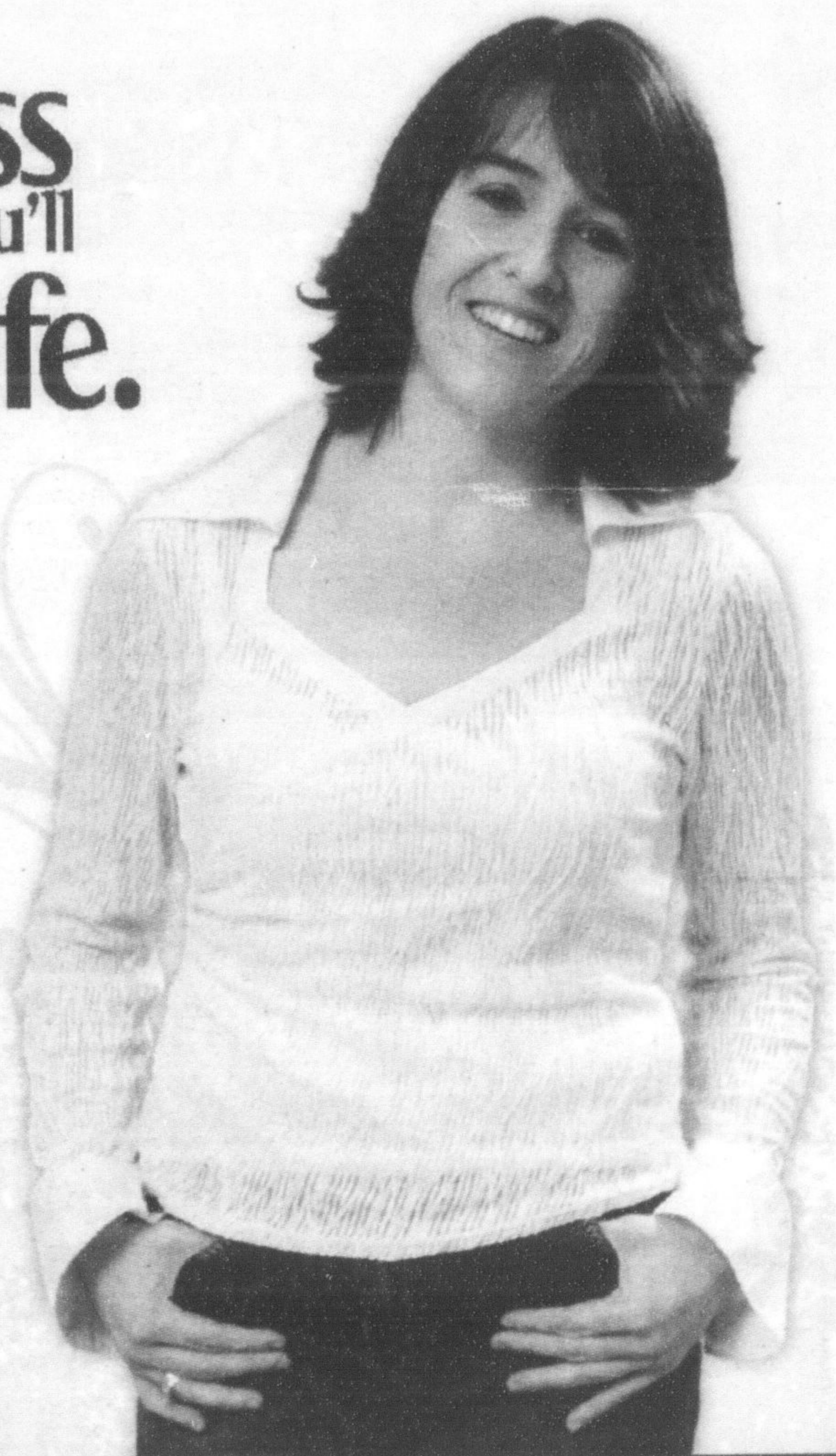
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Céad Bua hosts martial arts fest next Saturday

Martial arts competition — in all its many forms — will be in ample supply at John Tonelli Sports Centre next Saturday, Apr. 21.

That's when Céad Bua Fighting Faction will host the second annual Greater Toronto Martial Arts Championships — featuring a handful of local clubs and a host of others competing in karate, traditional kung fu, sport jiu-jitsu, contemporary wushu and newly-added Korean styles.

Among those taking part in the day-long festivities will be Elvis Stojko, who trains at Céad Bua and will vie for top honours in forms at about noon and will then test himself in the day's main event at 2 p.m. Opening ceremonies are slated for 10 a.m. From there, both youth and adult competition will be held in a variety of different disciplines.

Admission is \$5 per person. Proceeds will go to Independent Living Halton.

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