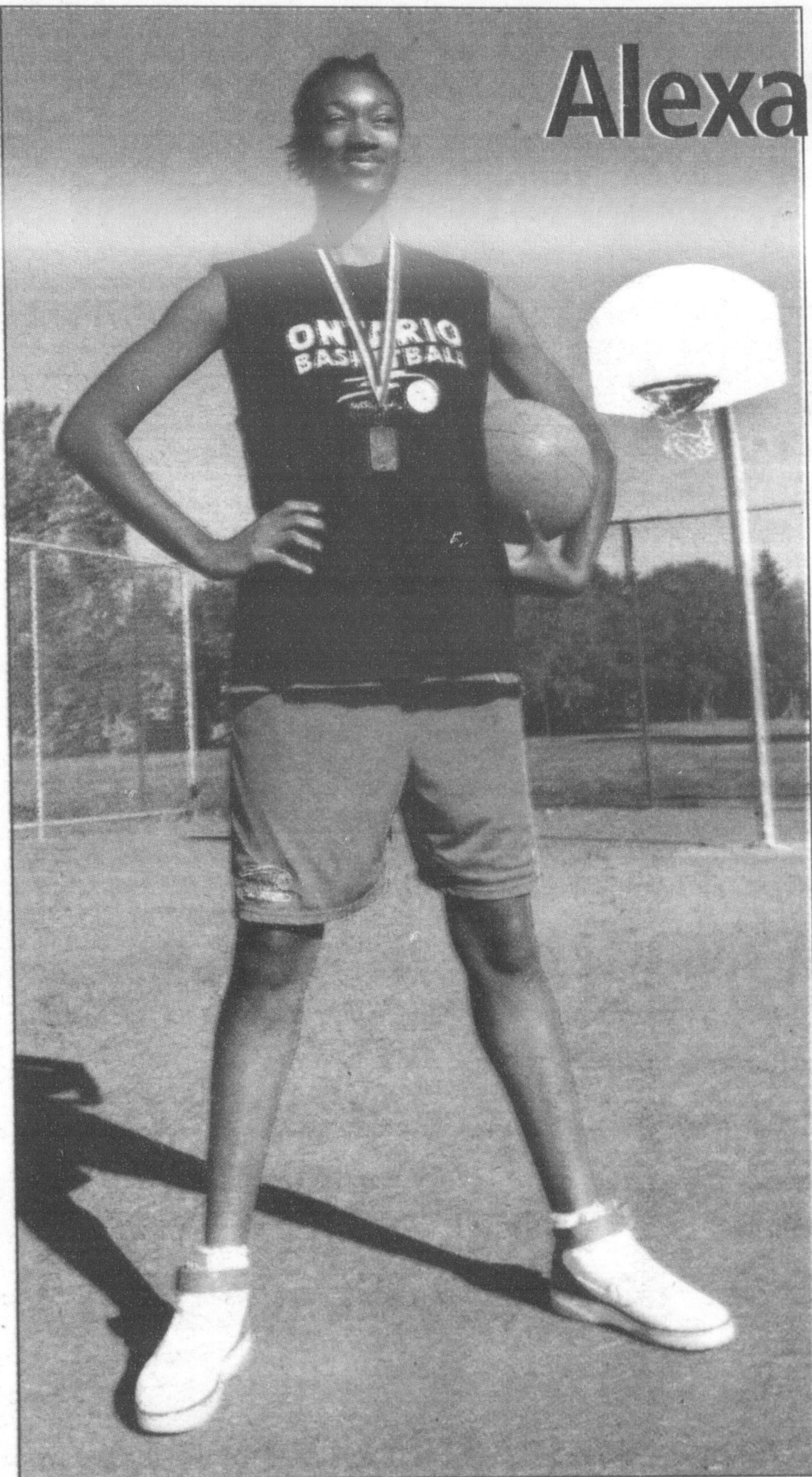


Alexander nets national gold once again



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

TOWER OF POWER: Standing six-foot-four-inches, Kayla Alexander proudly displays her latest national gold medal.

Kayla Alexander aspires to take her court prowess to the NCAA's Division I ranks. Being an intricate part of two national championship teams in the past three years has certainly maximized her chances of doing so.

The latter of these two Canadian golds was secured recently in Vancouver, where the six-foot-four-inch centre and her Team Ontario cohorts ran roughshod over their Under-17 opposition.

An 86-point average throughout the tournament made for some lopsided scores, including a 103-39 second-round massacre of Manitoba. While facing a much stiffer test from Alberta

for the gold, an 80-61 final was hardly what one would call suspenseful.

"Yeah, we were pretty dominating," said 16-year-old Alexander, who's currently doing her grade 11 year at St. Mary's in Hamilton as part of the National Elite Development Academy. "We're a quick team with a really fast break."

Alexander's best efforts out west were reserved for Ontario's biggest challenge — a 78-68 semifinal victory over Nova Scotia in which she netted 10 points and came up with 14 rebounds.

She hit double digits in the Manitoba slaughter as well and — not

surprising, given her size — was effective under the boards all week long.

Said Team Ontario head coach Skye Angus, "Kayla was a very important part of our success this summer. She's a special athlete and I have no doubt that she will be playing for our junior national team within the next few years."

That's a pretty lofty goal, but one that seems reachable with Alexander's physical tools and track record, which includes Under-15 national gold in 2005.

She's garnered interest from numerous D-1 schools, including a few top-25 programs.

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