

SPORTS

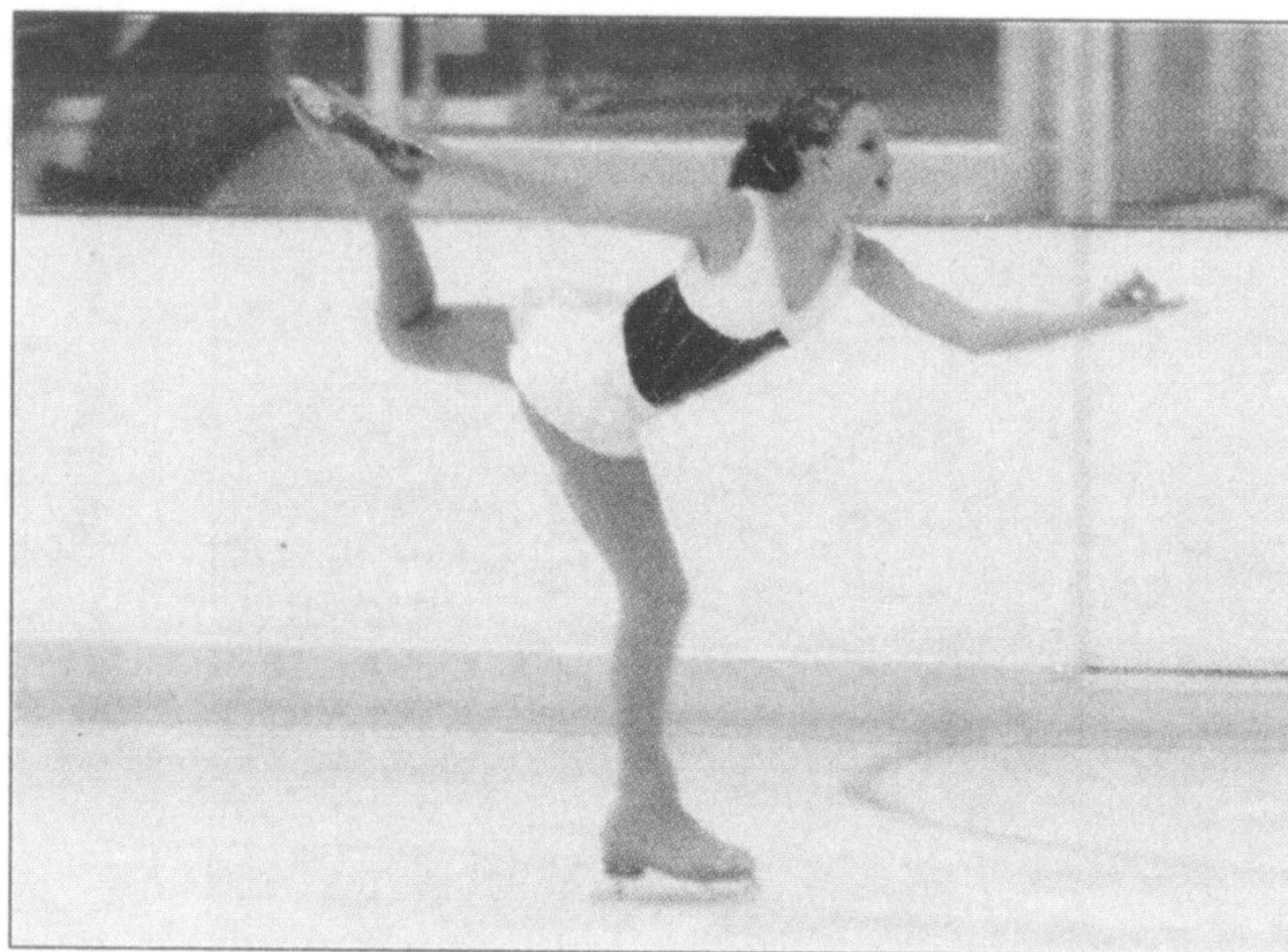
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Poetry on ice

Clockwise from left, Kaitlyn Bell and Emily Williams of the Milton Skating Club and Acton Skating Club's Danielle Spear compete in the Junior Bronze Starskate division at last weekend's March Mania Invitational at the Milton Sports Centre. Bell tied for top spot, giving the hosts one of six first-place finishes. Other Milton winners included Hayleigh Bell, Rebecca Cherry, Faith Harris, Jamie Knoblauch and Lindsay Mindenhall. Roughly 750 skaters from across southern Ontario competed.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION



It's do or die time

Minor peewees face elimination in semis

In what's become all-too-familiar this post season, Milton's AA minor peewees once again find themselves behind the proverbial eight ball.

Having pulled off do-or-die comebacks for upset victories over Georgetown and Ancaster last month, the Winterhawks will now need their biggest clutch performance yet in order to climb out of a two-games-to-none OMHA semifinal hole against the Windsor Jr. Spitfires.



Despite some topnotch goaltending and fairly gritty play last weekend in Windsor, Milton suffered back-to-back shutout losses — and now faces the towering task of engineering three straight wins on home ice to clear the final hurdle to championship play.

A 2-0 series-opening whitewash Saturday saw Alex Webster deliver a big physical effort and Connor Hallyburton show strongly between the pipes. Unfortunately, Windsor's netminder was equal to the challenge, robbing the visitors on a number of key scoring chances.

Anthony Henein would hold the Spitfires to a single goal the following afternoon, but like his tandem partner couldn't get any offensive support.

Sean Walter nearly put one in on a backhand tip, which dribbled along the goal line before being scooped up. Michael Bergman stood out with some fierce forechecking.

The best-of-five series continues tonight (Friday) at Milton Sports Centre, starting at 8 p.m. If necessary, games four and five will be held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. — also at MSC.

The AA minor peewees are now the last remaining Winterhawks team in the OMHA playdowns, with the AE2 peewees getting swept in the best-of-five semis with Tuesday's 4-0 whitewash in Newmarket.

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