

SPORTS

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'HAWKS FINALLY GROUNDED:

Following nail-biting comebacks over Georgetown and Ancaster to advance further in OMHA playoff action than they ever have, Milton's AA minor peewees were finally vanquished in the semifinals — losing in three straight games to the Windsor Jr. Spitfires. At left, Winterhawks captain Ben Preisner (12) chases down a loose puck in game three at Milton Sports Centre Friday night. Below, Milton's Alex Webster goes in on a breakaway with three Spitfires in hot pursuit. For more on game three, see page A13.

DEREK WOOLLAM /
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION



Moffat adds to freshman success with CIS bronze

Trademark defence serves wrestler well in Calgary

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Alan Moffat has set the bar awfully high for the balance of his university wrestling career.

In his freshman season at the University of Guelph, the two-time high school provincial champ nearly went all the way — delivering a bronze-medal effort earlier this month at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships in Calgary, which followed a golden performance at last month's OUAs.

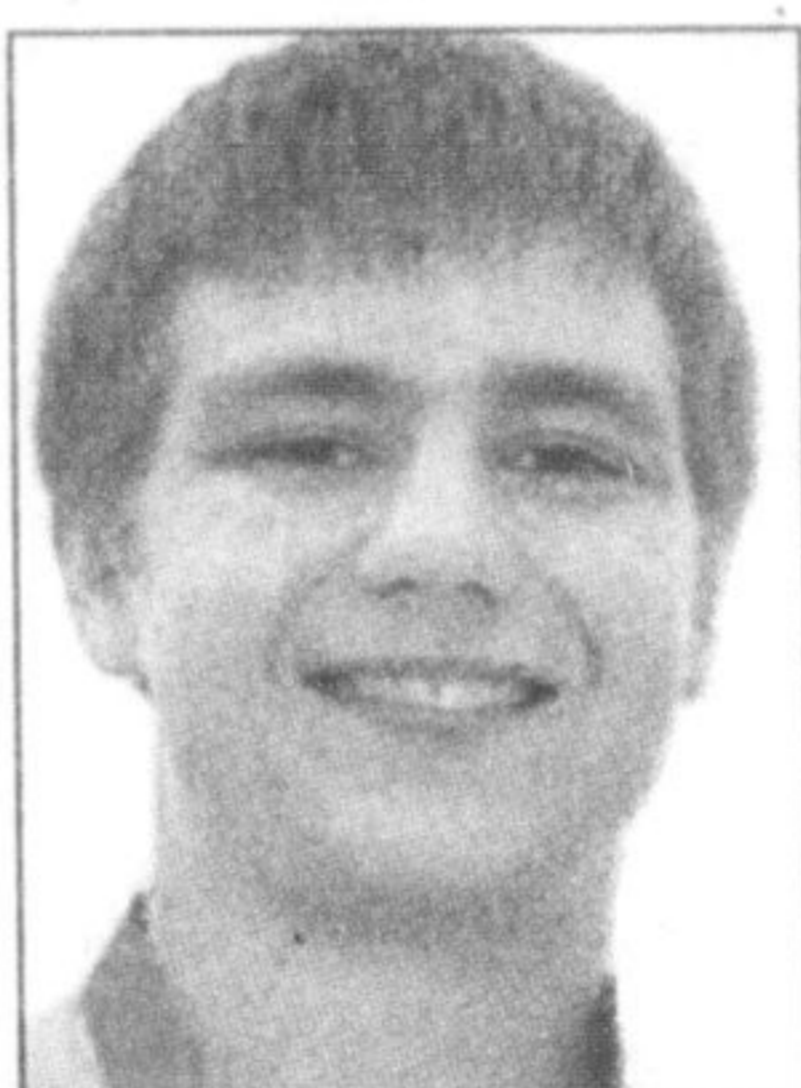
While not exactly unprecedented, it's also far from commonplace for a rookie to cap-

ture a national medal.

"I'd say it happens maybe 10 per cent of the time, so when a freshman does it he's certainly showing a lot of potential," said University of Guelph head coach Doug Cox.

If not for a rather unfortunate placement in his 57kg division, Moffat may well have tasted silver in his CIS debut. Despite going in as the unofficial number two seed after his provincial triumph, the 19-year-old Miltonian was slotted in the same pool as top-ranked Vince Cormier of the University of New Brunswick.

So instead of a likely encounter in the finals, the two contenders met in the second round, which eventual gold medalist



Alan Moffat

Cormier won 2-0, 5-0 — with the last three points of round two earned in the final 10 seconds when Moffat went for a last-ditch scoring attempt.

Undeterred by the early defeat — something he's not used to after a thoroughly-dominant run at E.C. Drury — the OUA champ rebounded with back-to-back shutout wins to claim bronze.

Both were scored with 1-0, clinch decisions — with Moffat first upstaging Regina's Chad Bates and then getting the better of Alex Tuura of B.C.'s Simon Fraser University in the battle for third.

He took both out of bounds to clinch the victory after winning each coin toss.

"I just kept focused (after loss to Cormier) and pulled it out."

Although having developed his attack in recent months, the Guelph freshman continues to rely heavily on his exceptional defence to come through in high-stakes competition. Along with blanking his last two opponents out west, he stoned a University of Toronto rival in the OUA provincial championship.

"I'm just able to block well and not give up any positions."

Having come from an extremely structured high school wrestling program, Moffat admits he wasn't quite prepared for the

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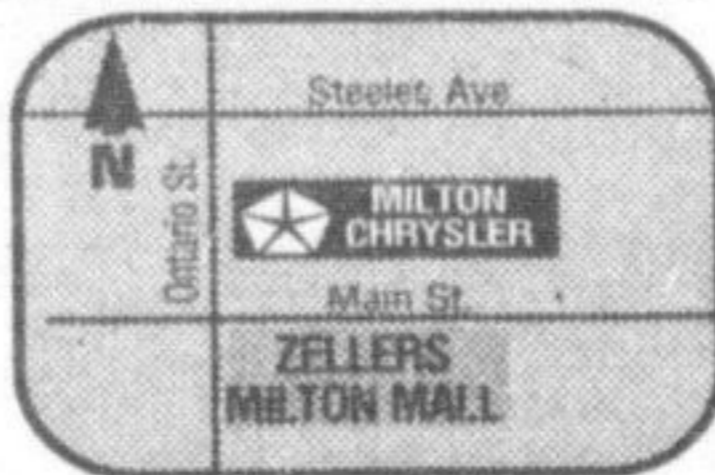
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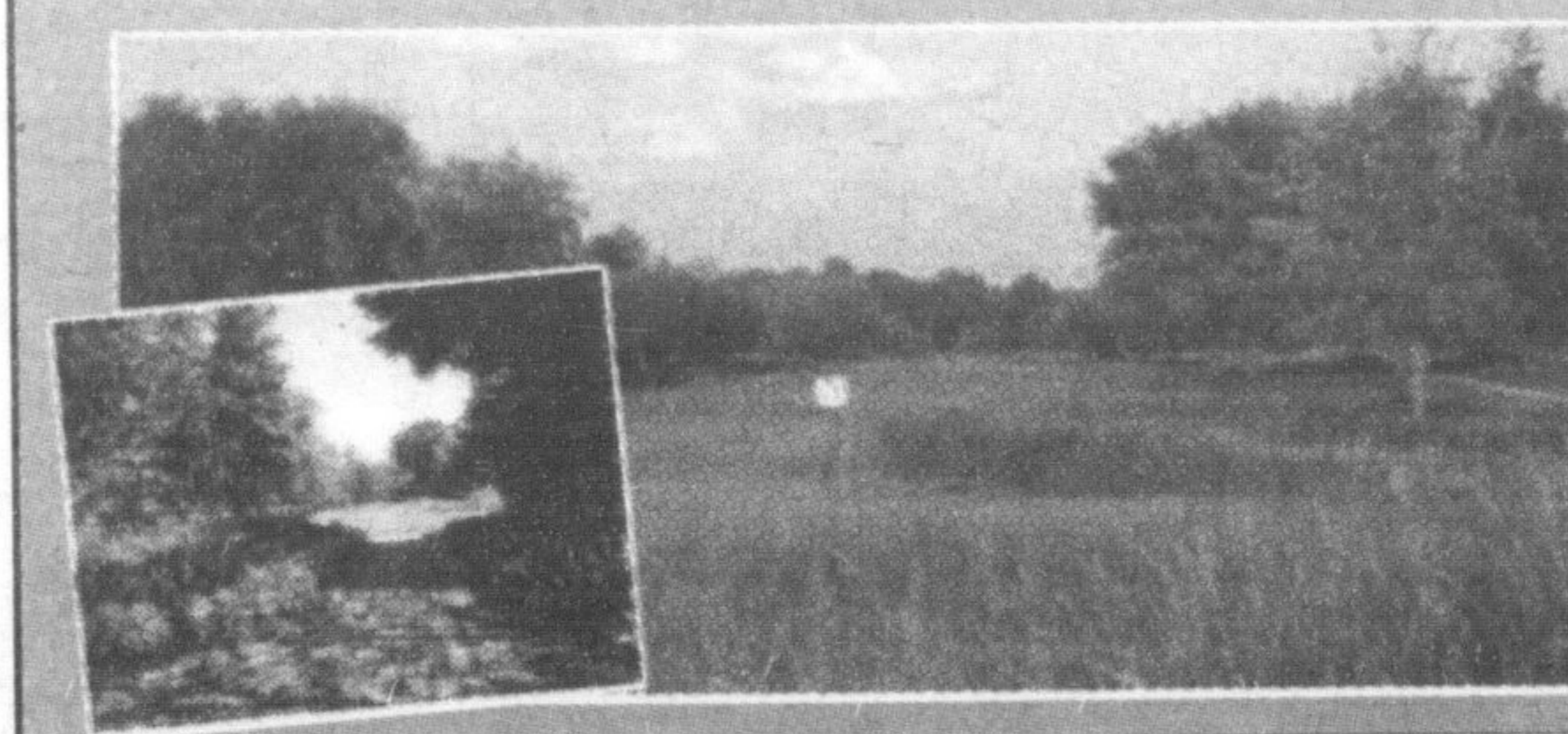
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