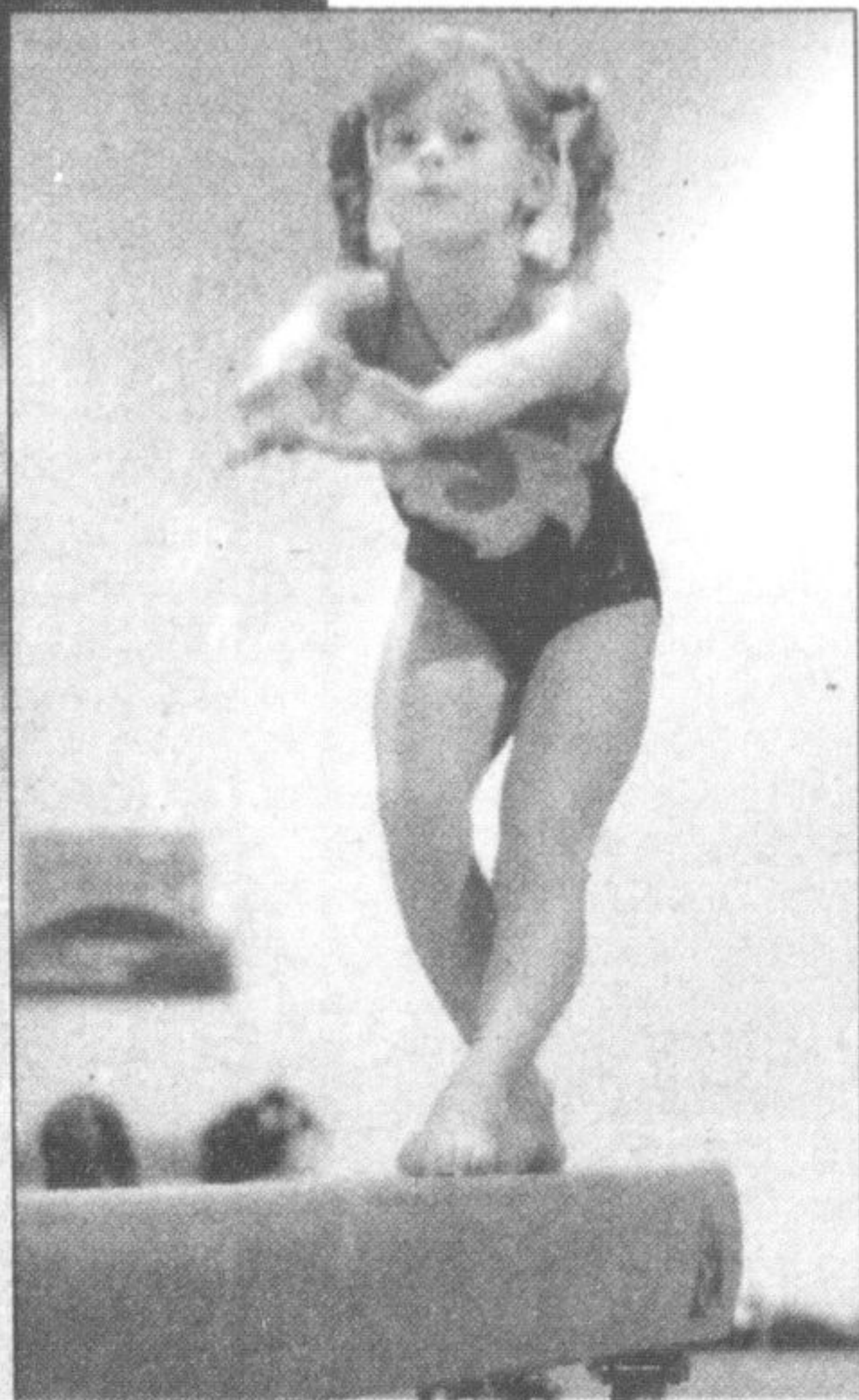
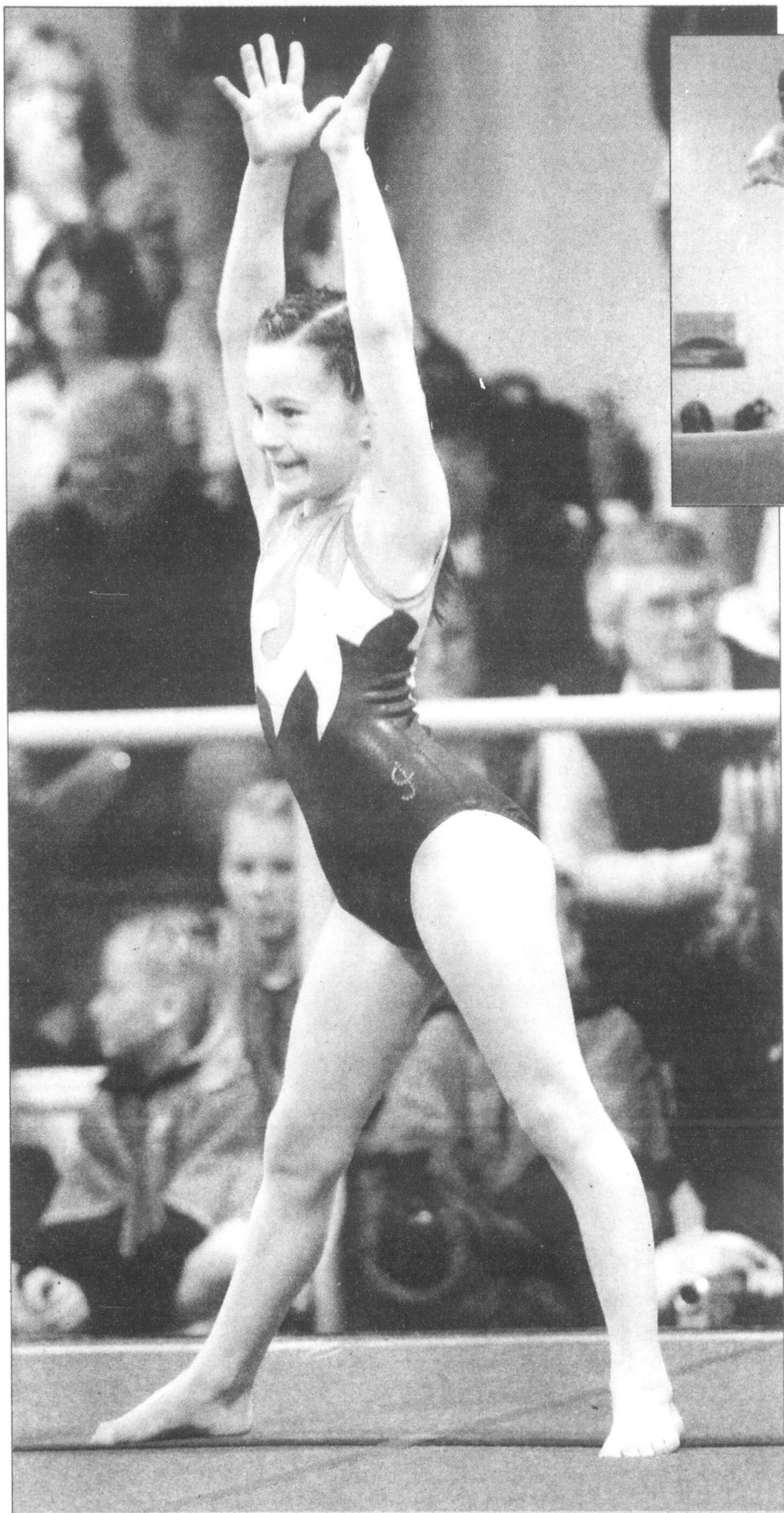


SPORTS

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A SKILLFUL SHOWCASE:

At left, eight-year-old Milton Springer Anje Samstag-Schnock showcases her floor routine in Level 5 competition during Sunday's Springer Challenge at Milton Sports Centre. Above, Samantha Moffatt, 8, keeps her balance on the beam in Level 4. The event drew more than 150 gymnasts from across southern Ontario. Leading the host club with a golden sweep in Level 5 was Jordyn Harper, while also standing out with all-around gold were Samstag-Schnock, Sydney Townsend and Alyssa Cox.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Royals win one for fallen 'mates

Emotionally-charged quarterfinal victory clinched in shootout

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It certainly wasn't advancement to the regional semifinals that brought Alessandro Famele to tears Wednesday afternoon.

Moments after turning back the visiting Nelson Lords' final striker to cement a 4-3 shootout win, the Bishop Reding senior soccer goalie could barely get the words out when questioned about the obvious emotional aspect of the day.

"I just wanted to stop it for them," he said, referring to teammates Mario Llanos and Ilija Nourkov, both taken in an early-morning car crash this past weekend. "This game was for Mario and Ilija. They're what matter right now — not Haltons."

That was the overwhelming consensus following what was without a doubt the most meaningful victory in the school's 20-year history.

Added captain Dane DaSilva-Horvat, "This is our trophy win right here... the biggest game of our lives. We played like a family and stuck it out."

Fittingly enough, the Royals prevailed in the most dramatic fashion possible after the two sides managed one regulation goal apiece and were

unable to settle matters through overtime.

From there, Erick Olazabal, DaSilva-Horvat, Krzysztof Staskowiak and Eros Olazabal beat Lords' netminder Johnny Klynkramer with bottom-shelf deposits and Famele denied Nelson's first and finale shooters to take Halton's AAA quarterfinal clash.

In a celebration that's not likely to ever be duplicated, BR's keeper was mobbed by pretty much the entire senior class, who joined with players and coaches for a prayer at midfield where their departed teammates/friends' jersey numbers had been spray-painted for the tribute game.



IN MEMORY: A tribute to Mario Llanos and Ilija Nourkov — complete with their jersey numbers — adorns the Bishop Reding soccer field.

With a sizable fan base and immeasurable emotion fueling them, the Royals came out with a dominating

first-half effort and severely out-chanced their guests overall — testing Klynkramer close to two dozen times, with a handful of key opportunities coming in the extra sessions.

Eros Olazabal was the lone marksman in regulation time — scoring about midway through the first — while he, twin brother Erick, Nikola Repar and Thomas Santibanez-Espinosa had at least two big scoring chances apiece.

Mark Andrade thwarted one of Nelson's few opportunities early on, while with the exception of a brief second-half lapse the Royals delivered its most spirited performance this spring.

"Yeah, emotion was obviously at the forefront. Win or lose these guys were going to leave it all on the field today,"

• see BR on page A21



MILTON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB



Milton Youth Soccer is excited to announce the start of its U4 Academy program. Children born in 2004 that have registered for the MYSC Academy are in for a real treat as they learn about the game of soccer and have lots of fun in the process!

The U4 Academy program is starting on Saturday May 31st and will run for 8 weeks. MYSC provides each child in the program a uniform, so children only need to come with shin guards and shoes. All games will take place at Bronte Meadows over 3 sessions. The first session is scheduled for 9:00 am, followed by another at 10:30 and wrapping up with a third session at 12:00 pm.

Milton Magic looks forward to welcoming the youngest players to the game of soccer! See you Saturday!



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