

Hans makes major strides over high school career

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One of the most improved wrestlers in Drury history, fellow senior and co-captain Ranbir Hans also reached the top of the podium, doing so with a stellar performance in the 47.5-kg division.

The progress he'd made on defence was more than apparent at the provincial championships, where he surrendered just one measly point — in the second round of the finals against defending OFSAA champ Shane Babullal of Brampton's Turner Fenton.

Hans would quickly knot things up and take the match via the last-point wins tiebreaker — having claimed a 7-0 rout in round one — to upgrade last year's bronze.

"My defence has definitely improved and I think my focus late in matches has gotten better as well," said the co-captain, who got behind Babullal to score the winning point after executing a fireman and doubles early on. "This (capturing gold) feels great."

While hopes for a return to the gold-

medal match fell short with a semifinal heartbreaker — in which he got caught in an awkward position in the second round and was subsequently pinned — Duncan Moffat delivered by far the most dramatic medal-winning victory of the day for Drury.

After a 1-0 decision in round one and a scoreless stalemate, the 57.5-kg competitor lost the coin toss for the tiebreaker clinch position.

Nevertheless, he executed an explosive three-point throw just seconds into the sudden death session — getting the wind knocked out of him in the process as Meadowvale opponent Dylan Williams' elbow was driven into his chest.

Uncharacteristic for the defensively-strong grappler, the move marked one of the most exciting finishes of the day.

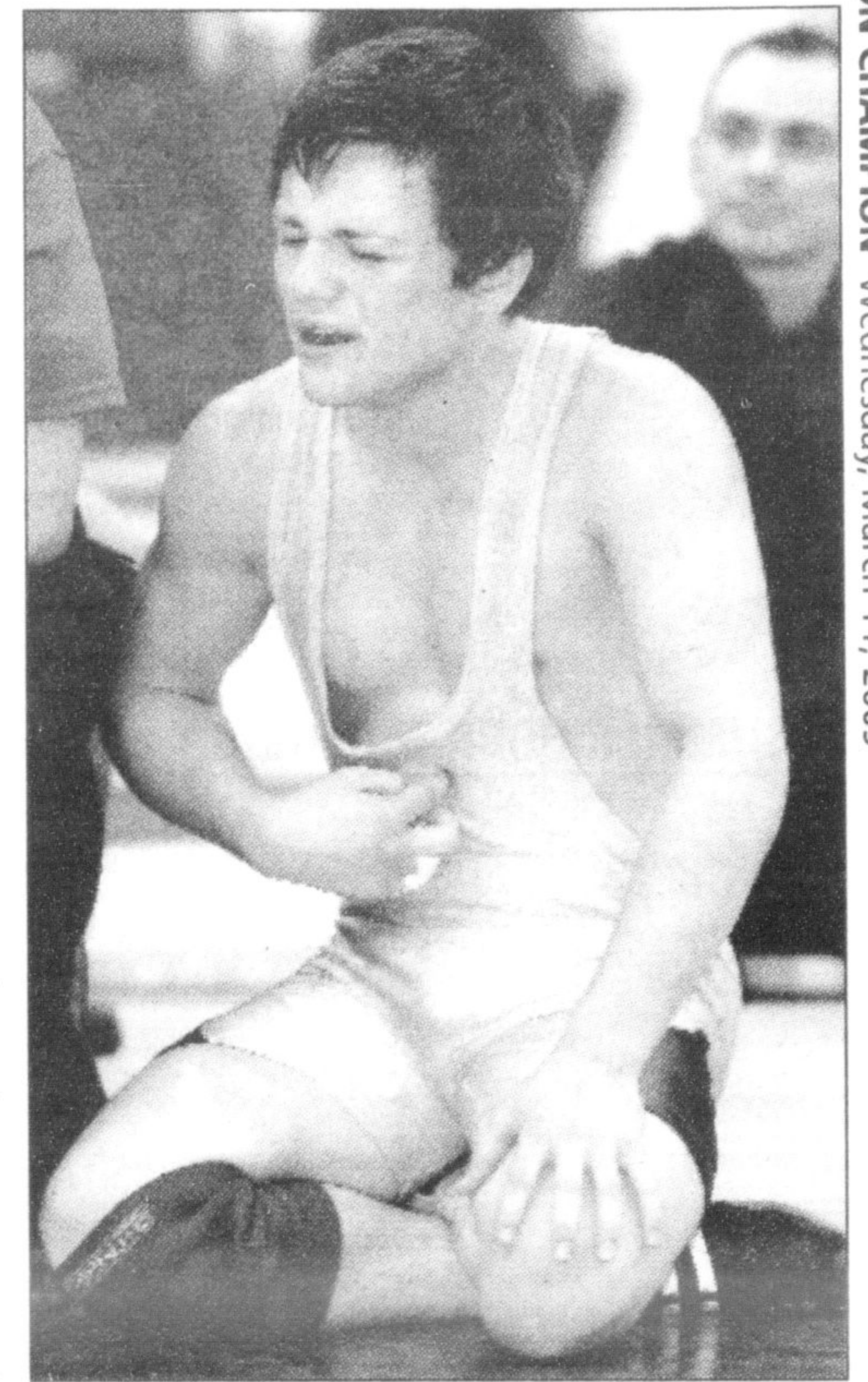
"That (tie-breaking throw) was pure reflex," said a still winded but jubilant Moffat, who claimed silver last year and still has another season left to secure the most

coveted medal of all. "I've never done anything like that in a big match."

Giving the Spartans a 4-for-4 showing in the finals (top six matches), James Ponton — back-up to Hans in the 47.5-kg ranks — was the surprise of the tournament, going 5-2 and pulling off a low-scoring but decisive fifth-place win just a few feet away from Hans' golden victory.

The Spartans would no doubt have matched last year's four individual medals count had co-captain Bobby Fillman (54-kg) — the defending champ — not been plagued by a shoulder injury sustained less than two weeks earlier at GHAC. While winning his first two matches, his injury eventually caught up with him.

Drury enjoyed one of its best overall performances last week, as all nine wrestlers — including Reed Nicholson, Blair Norland, Jeff Sinclair and Devon Whyte — won at least two matches.



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
PAINFUL PROSPERITY: Duncan Moffat shows the ill-effects of his bronze-medal win, having had his opponent's elbow driven into his chest during a victory-clinching throw.

Local duo help MAC to third straight tournament gold

With the help of two local players, the Mountain Athletic Club (MAC) 14U boys volleyball team won its third consecutive gold medal recently in Barrie.

Campbellville's Austin

MacIntyre and Miltonian Matt Kewin delivered strong play on the left side to aid an unbeaten run at the Hawkins Cup.

MAC's stiffest test came in the semifinals, where they rallied

from a 25-22 opening round loss to upstage the Riverside Rage 25-18, 15-11. From there, a championship rematch with the Predators was won 25-17, 25-15.

A combined 14U and 15U

MAC squad secured silver at last weekend's 15U Bugarski Cup in Hamilton. Their title run was finally halted by the Ottawa Roos, who took the gold-medal match 25-20, 25-14.

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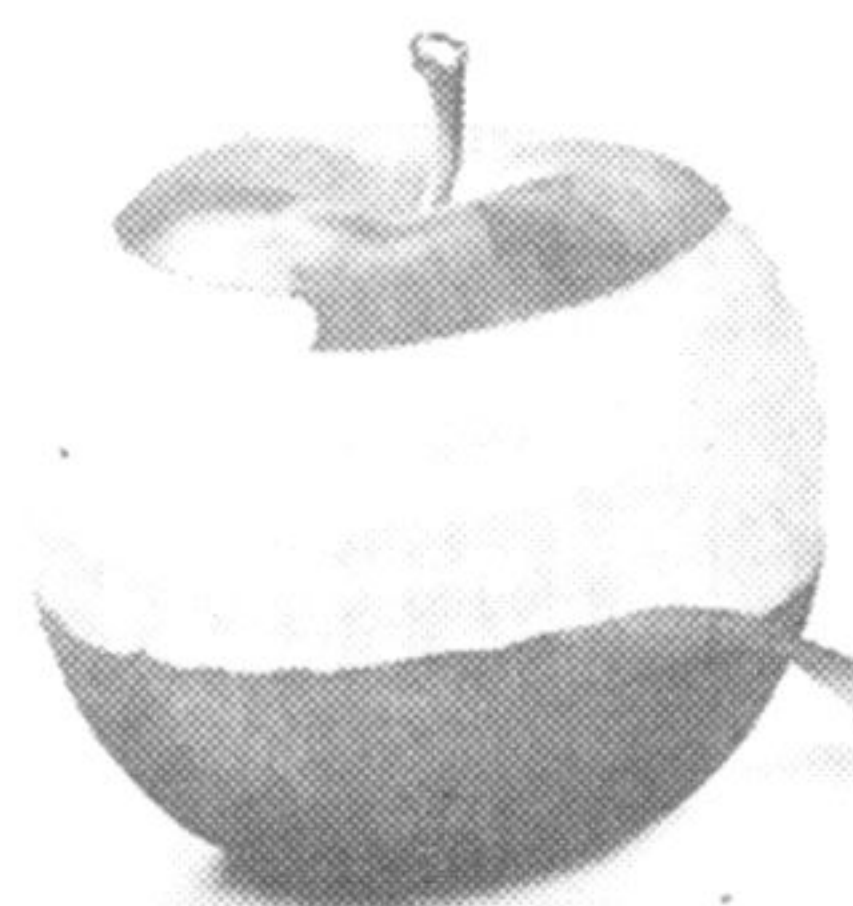
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