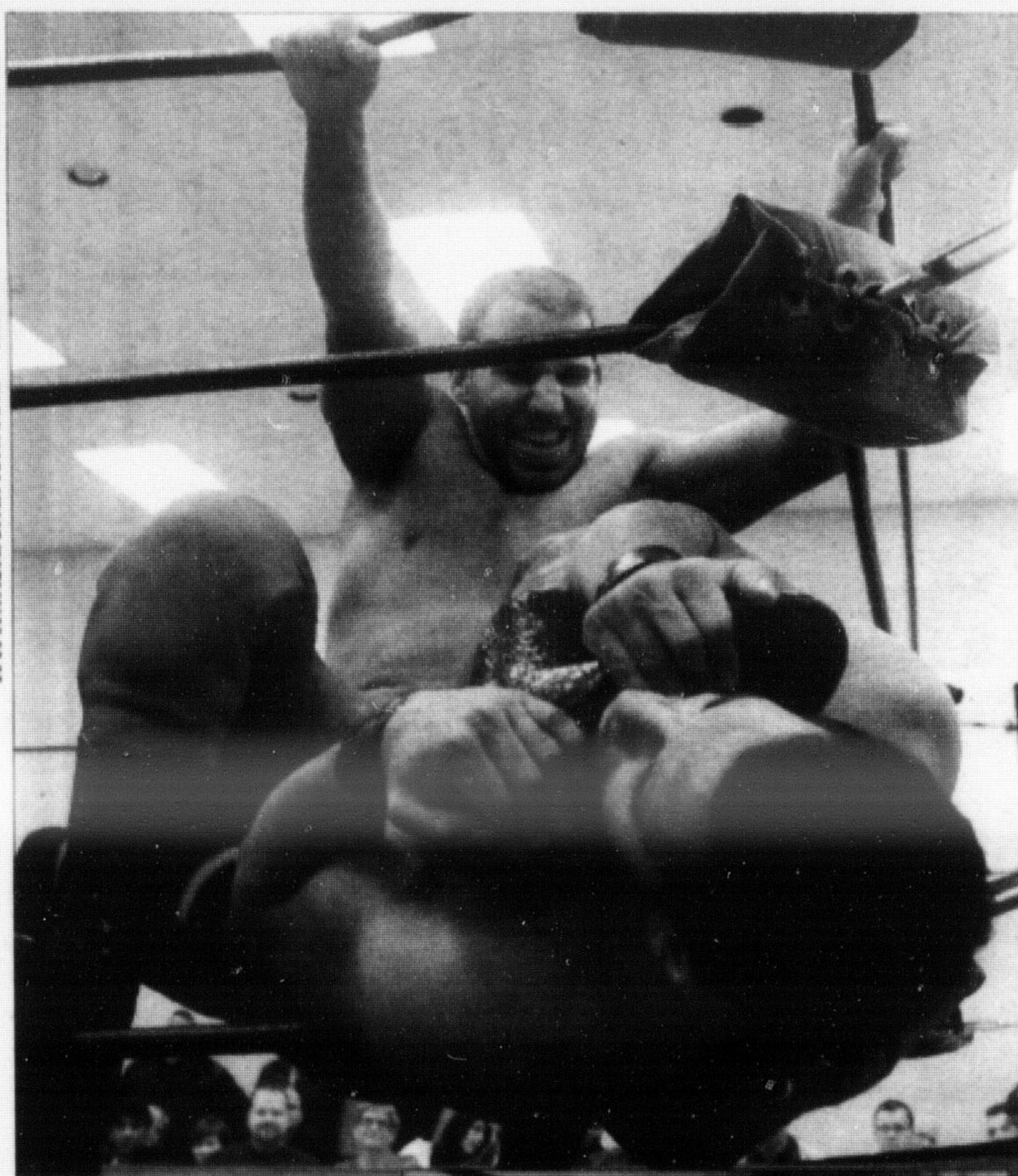


SPORTS

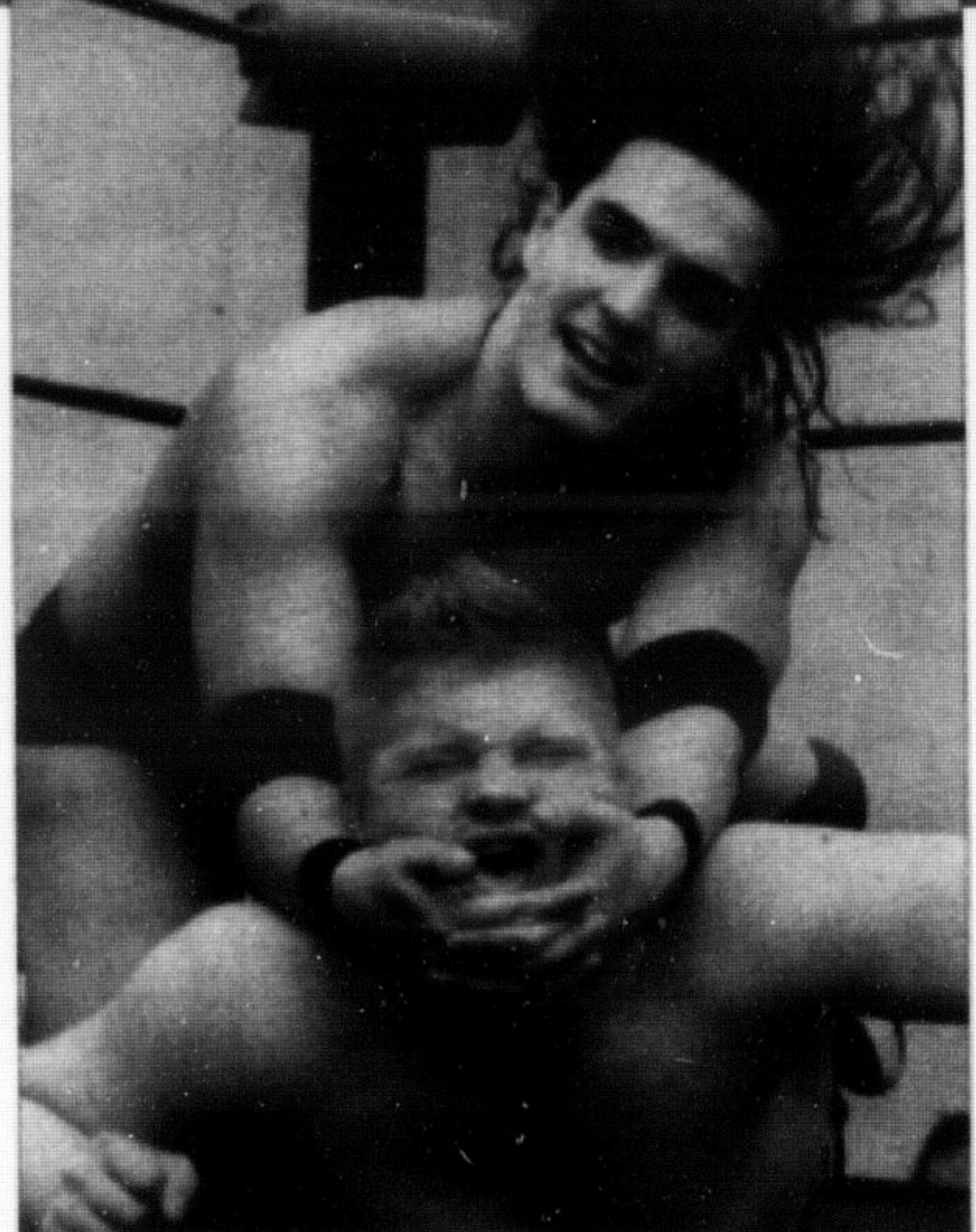
SPORTS EDITOR: STEVE LeBLANC e-mail sleblanc@miltoncanadianchampion.com



PLAYING THE HEEL:

Sebastien Suave uses his foot and the ropes to put a choke hold on Alex Vega during Saturday's Milton Mayhem wrestling card at the Milton Seniors Activity Centre. The event was organized by Milton's Greg Gibson. Gibson, known as Jason Chase in the ring (right, bottom against R.J. City), is discovering that it's a tough go both in and out of the ring to establish yourself in the pro wrestling game. Still, he managed to turn the tables for a victory Saturday.

MICHAEL IVANIN / CANADIAN CHAMPION



Gibson chases wrestling dream

As the hometown boy for Friday's Milton Mayhem, Greg Gibson (a.k.a. Jason Chase) came away with the victory in his match against R.J. City.

However, it was the effort fans didn't see that truly speaks to his desire to succeed in the world of pro wrestling.

Still a few months shy of his 20th birthday, Gibson has already been training for two years and has a little over a dozen paid matches under his belt.

But in a business where 'making it' represents the very definition of a long-shot — even for those with ample ability — the local teen knows full well that you have to go that extra mile to get yourself noticed.

That's where the idea to stage a Milton-based show came into play.

"You need to get your foot in the door any way you can and it's important for me to become well-rounded (in pro wrestling business)," noted Gibson, who paid for his entire first year of training fees at North York's Squared Circle Training up front from the money he made at Milton Galaxy Cinemas and is now



with STEVE LeBLANC

In the stands

helping out with some of the newer students.

Under the direction of instructor/booker Rob Fuego, Milton's aspiring wrestler took on a major role in the local event — doing everything from finding the venue (Milton Seniors' Activity Centre) and making flyers to selling tickets.

Even his parents got in the act, realizing just how committed young Gibson is and willing to support his unorthodox career goal.

Judging Milton Mayhem's success all depends on one's point of view.

Looking at the fact that Gibson and company would have been lucky to break even on the night — and that the young wrestler certainly wouldn't have made more than a

few bucks for himself, if that — one might question 'Was it all worth it?'

Welcome to the independent pro wrestling circuit, where paying one's dues in front of modest-size crowds for chump change is as much a part of the game as drop-kicks and body-slams.

But for in-the-know wrestling diehards — like yours truly — the roughly 120 fans at the seniors' activity centre (with a better-than-expected walk-in crowd) is on par with attendance at many shows across southern Ontario. And a bit better than some.

Throw in a fairly decent crowd reaction and that the card drew a couple of recognizable names from the indy circuit — R.J. City of YTV fame and Ring of Honor's Michael Elgin — Gibson should feel pretty good about his first full-fledged crack at the business side of wrestling.

He may have picked a career path with little security and a lot of potential pitfalls, but he's willing to match his passion with plenty of hard work.

You gotta admire that.

IceHawks upend Sabres to extend streak

The Milton Ice Hawks scored four unanswered goals as they rallied to knock off the second-place Buffalo Jr. Sabres in Tuesday's Ontario Junior Hockey League game.

Just 19 seconds after Buffalo took a 3-2 lead, C.J. Stellato tied the game and Kane Elliot's power-play goal in the final minute of the period gave Milton the lead. Kyle Rowe extended that lead five minutes into the third and a shorthanded empty-net goal by Jamie Gulliver sealed the win.

Charles Williams and Jon Johannsen gave Milton two early leads but each time Buffalo replied before taking its first lead of the game with just over five minutes remaining in the second period.

Spencer Gourlay and Justin Devincentis each had two assists for Milton. IceHawks' goalie Paul Favaro made 34 saves for his seventh win of the season.

Milton has now earned a point in each of its last six games, taking 10 of a possible 12 points over that stretch. The win improved Milton to 8-12-2 on the season and moved them within four points of fourth-place Hamilton.

Powered by a Lester Brown hat trick, the IceHawks secured their second win of the season over the Burlington Cougars Friday — dumping them 6-2.

An early lead and two shorthanded goals — from Gourlay and Nathan Renouf — factored into the deci-

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