

Wolverines edged 38-33 for Halton championship

Junior cagers' late comeback not enough

There were no mixed emotions as far as Keith Swarbrick was concerned.

There he was, in the Halton championships, coaching Milton Wolverines with the junior girls basketball team from Milton District High School.

Lining up on the other side Friday at MDHS was Pearson Collegiate from Burlington. It wasn't hard enough that Pearson was junior girls' champs for the past two years. But on top of that, it was Swarbrick who coached these Pearson cagers to their two titles.

Pearson ran up a four-point lead after one quarter and then upped the lead to eight at halftime. Although Pearson stretched the lead to 12 points at one stretch in the third quarter, Wolverines rallied but their efforts ran short of time as Pearson prevailed 38-33 for their third title in as many years.

"I had no fixed feelings," explained Swarbrick. "I am totally committed to these girls at Milton. We had grades 9 and 10 girls up against a grade 11 team. I'm proud of each and every one of them."

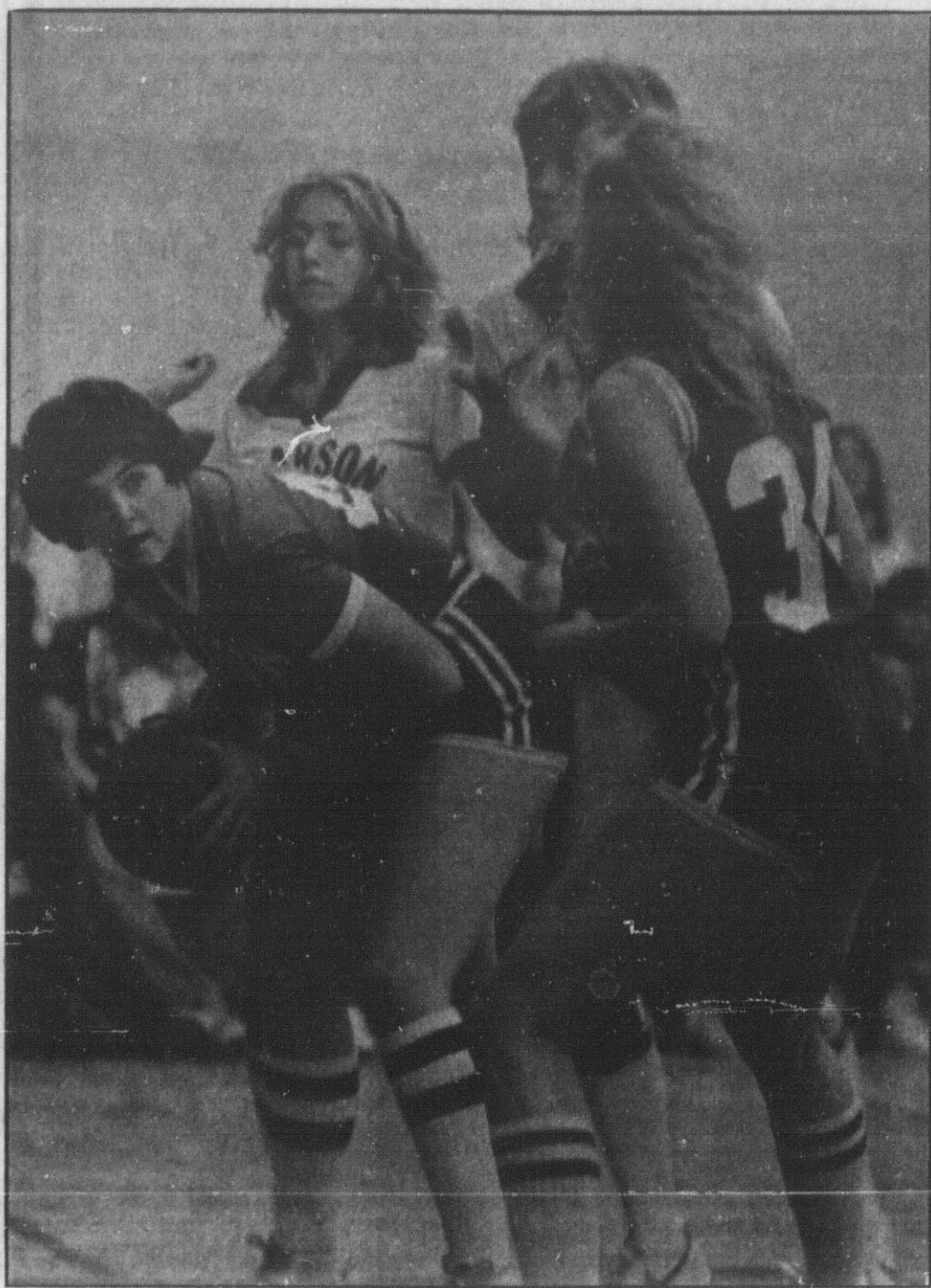
Pearson guard Kari Ross, the smallest player on the court at any time, at five-foot one-inch, set the tone early with her hustle which led to several turnovers in the Milton zone. In addition, the youngster put on a little dribbling show for the Milton spectators with some behind-the-back dribbling.

Ross finished with just eight points on the day. However, her key plays were made in the first half when with good anticipation, she intercepted passes after Milton had inbounded the ball after a Pearson score and quickly she produced another basket with a pass or a shot of her own.

Judy Riding led the Wolverines with nine points while Robin Haines, whose offensive spurts injected much life into the team's attack, added eight points. Corinne Kollman chipped in with seven points.

Swarbrick accepted the responsibility for failing to adapt to the Pearson full-court press.

"We just weren't well prepared for the full-court press," he said. "I missed a day of school last week and we didn't develop a strategy to counter it. It took our fast-break offence away."



Playing hide-and-seek with the basketball is Milton's Joanne Auger in the Halton junior girls championship Friday. Pearson Collegiate of Burlington opened up a big halftime lead and then held on as the Milton Wolverines closed to within five points at the end of the game.

"Once we caught on to it, we played much better in the second half. But we made some critical errors and also we shot poorly from the foul line."

Swarbrick is looking at a strong nucleus for next year. Just four players, Joanne Auger, Marion Gies, Amanda Kunica and Judy Riding graduate to the senior ranks leaving him with a good foundation. In addition, the midget girls team came off a successful year and should be a source of good players.

Wolverines (the team adopted their own nickname in place of Mustangs), finished the year losing just two games in tournament, league and playoff play. The club finished the league season with a perfect record built on what Swarbrick can't teach.

"Determination," he says proudly. "That was our strong point all year and it showed when we came back even though we were down from the first quarter on."

Champion Sports

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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THIRD SECTION

Thomas has plans for new-look Aeros

Miltonwe Realty Aeros will be making an all-out campaign to bring fans back to see Intermediate B hockey, says Aeros' new owner Gary Thomas.

The owner of Miltonwe Realty says he has large promotional plans for the team. Already one is on the books which will see Milton Minor Hockey honored with their own night when Aeros' arch-rival Rockton Real McCoy's are in town Friday at Milton Sports Centre at Laurier Ave.

The club was suffered from a lack of promotion over the past year when Rockwell International pulled out from sponsoring the team.

Thomas will assume the promotion aspect of the team while leaving the hockey operations in the hands of Russ Lane, Vern Bridgman, Bill Benson and Carl Hymers. Bob Bartlett, who with Lane and Bridgman, ran the team up until the sale last Monday, will no longer be associated with the club.

The Aeros' new owner printed up free tickets and distributed them himself to all coaches in Milton Minor Hockey. Two dozen sticks will be given out in a draw between periods. In addition, National Hockey League referee Bruce Hood will drop the first puck along with a player from Milton Minor Hockey.

While Thomas has several promotional plans in the works, no other have been announced. However, Thomas has put Aeros' signs around sporting areas in town in an effort to better publicize his club.

"My responsibility is with the promotion of the team," he explains. "I'll try to build a good spirit around this team so that people will want to come out."

While the prospect of moving up to a higher calibre of competition has been suggested, Thomas is taking a wait-and-see attitude for this year.

"I want to get a feel for the 81-82 season until deciding what to do next year. We'll see what the reaction is for this year. If

people want to come out to watch, then we'll consider many things."

Thomas' fondness for intermediate hockey goes back to when he first moved here.

"Back in the days when I came here 30 years ago," he recalls, "they used to

pack the Brown Street arena for intermediate hockey. I don't see why we can't get as many or more with the way the town has grown."

Thomas said he is considering looking into the possibility of a split of Friday night home games with Milton Flyers.

Club on a hot streak

The hottest team in the Intermediate B League must just be Miltonwe Realty Aeros. The club won three of four games last week and although they didn't improve their overall standing moved closer to the leaders.

Aeros will discover just how good they are when the club hosts Rockton Real McCoy's Friday at 8 p.m. at Milton Sports Centre for Milton Minor Hockey night. Rockton suffered its first loss of the year on the weekend to Tillsonburg to break its consecutive 11-game winning string.

Rockton and Aeros have always provided entertaining battles and Friday's match-up should contain all the dramatics of a playoff game.

Aeros won the three in a row last week. The club beat Smithville 721s 8-3 at Memorial Arena Tuesday; bumped second-place Dunnville Mudcats 6-2 Thursday at Dunnville; and blitzed Port Dover Lakers 9-5 Friday at Simcoe. The week ended when Aeros lost 9-4 to Delhi Leafs Sunday at Delhi.

For the first time this year, Aeros had a full complement of players in its game at home with Smithville. The club responded in fine style scoring seven goals over the final two periods to earn the win.

New owner Gary Thomas was incorrectly reported in this paper last week when he said Aeros would be beat Rockton 8-3. He was referring to that game with Smithville and his prediction

(or premonition) provided right on target.

Glenn Murray and Tom Butt led Aeros with two goals apiece while Paul McCann, Archie Chase, Denis Lonpre and Bob Baker added singles. Doug Fry had three assists.

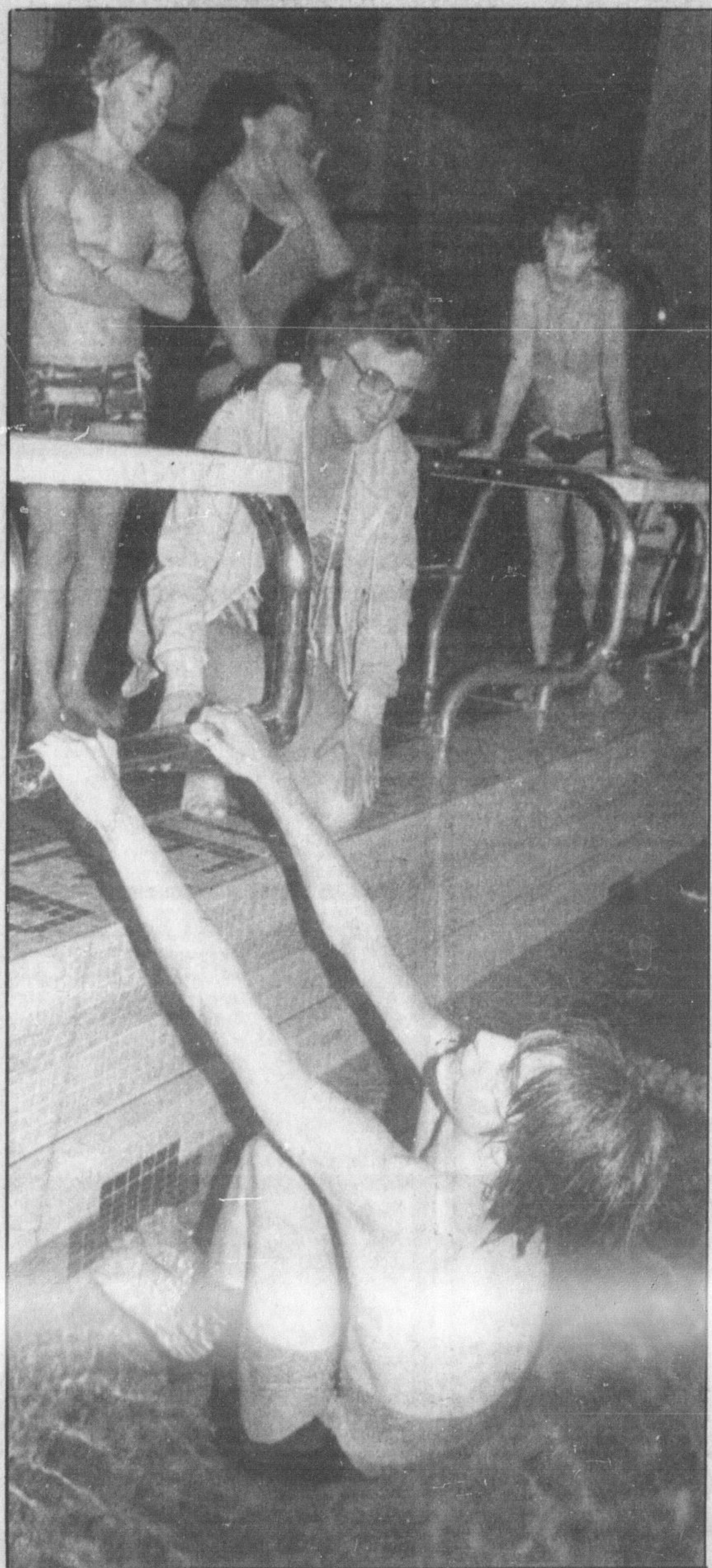
Against Dunnville, it was the Fry-Murray-Butt show as the threesome totalled 13 points to surprised Mudcats. Aeros had just two lines but didn't tire in the latter stages holding Dunnville to just 10 shots in the final frame.

Butt had a perfect six-point night with two goals and four assists while Murray had two goals and an assist and Fry had four assists. Steve Cloutier scored twice and added one assist.

Against Port Dover, Aeros bounced back from a 4-1 first-period disadvantage to take a 6-5 lead after two and added three unanswered goals in the third period for its third win of the week.

Fry led the offence with three goals and three assists while Steve Jobiso added a pair. Singles went to Steve Bronizewski, Chase, Lonpre and Baker. Delhi held Aeros to just two goals over the first two periods and scored six themselves on their way to the win Sunday.

Lorne Lesuk, Steve Clewes, Bill Bryant and Fry scored for Aeros. John Muizelaar played all four games and will continue to do so until the goalie-mask situation with Pat Devlin is resolved or until Aeros come up with another goalie.



MAC swimming instructor Carol Murray gives last-minute directions to Hugh Silk in a practice session at the Drury School's pool. The town's competitive swimming program has returned after a one-year hiatus.



Ten-year-old Barbara Silk plows through the water during training runs of the Milton Aquatic Club. The team will participate in its first competition of the year Sunday in Hamilton. It will mark the first meet

for all but two swimmers. Altogether, 36 swimmers are registered in the program with 17 listed in the competitive grouping and the rest in the pre-competitive group.

New program off to good start

Swim club taking initial plunge

Story by Mike Boyle

Photos by Tom Burley

When the Milton Aquatic Club takes to the pool Sunday in Hamilton, all but two of its swimmers will be competing in their first-ever meet.

For coach Carol Murray, it will be a learning experience to see what two months of training can accomplish. For the youthful swimmers, it will be an opportunity to see how they stack up against more experienced clubs.

The club officially got underway at the beginning of September when the Dept. of Parks and Recreation contacted Mrs. Murray to see if she was interested in coaching a competitive swim team for the 1981-82 season.

Mrs. Murray has given instruction in the past at her indoor pool as well as helping

out with several other swim teams in an involvement with the sport which stretches back a few years.

Her involvement is not limited to just coaching. Her daughter, Christine, just missed qualifying for the 1980 Summer Olympics by one-quarter of a second. In fact, all four of her children are accomplished swimmers.

With swim clubs in all surrounding towns, the town considered it was time to bring back Milton's competitive program. Having obtained agreement with the pool at E.C. Drury School, about five hours a week have been allocated to the competitive and pre-competitive sections of the MAC.

"When we started in October," explains Mrs. Murray, "the kids started swimming

an average of two lengths. Now the kids swim 40 lengths in three-quarters of an hour."

The program can hold a maximum of 25 swimmers in each of the two sections. So far, the club has 17 competitive swimmers and 19 registered in the pre-competitive group.

In starting a program from scratch, Mrs. Murray has set certain standards of discipline which she says are working well with the young swimmers.

Among the rules is one which doesn't allow parents to watch. "I want their full attention," she explains. "I don't want them clowning around because their parents are watching."

Among the other rules are no talking, hair cut to a certain length, homework

done before practice and promptness.

The discipline is important, she says, to ensure she has full control in the practice sessions. Anyone who fools around on the deck or isn't paying attention is subject to extra laps or dismissal from the session.

The team has been practising Monday and Thursday nights between 6:30-8:15 p.m. in two groups. In addition, the competitive swimmers practise for an extra hour Saturday at 8-9 a.m.

The meet Saturday will draw some of the top swimmers from south-western Ontario and Mrs. Murray says she is going with the members who have put in the most effort.

"We won't be going with just our top swimmers, we'll be choosing the swimmers who have put the most into it. It should be fun."