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Sports

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Steamers better with midgets up

By ROB KELLY
Champion Reporter

Seven seconds separated Milton Steamers from the first point they would have earned in months. It was long enough.

It was long enough for ex-steamer Bob Landry to win a draw against Milton's Steve Scannell deep in the Milton zone. In the same movement Landry fired the puck back to Tom Hogg on the right point. Hogg uncoiled a slapshot that almost trailed smoke as it banged into the back of Alex Gianuzzi's net.

It was Oakville Blades' last chance to escape with a win over the last-placed club in the Central Jr. B hockey loop. They made it work, taking a 3-2 win back down Highway 25 Saturday night and undoubtedly breathing a collective sigh of relief as they did so.

"We were damn lucky to get anything tonight," said Oakville coach Ken Moodie. "They (Milton) deserved better than they got tonight."

The previous week Oakville had administered a 12-1 hockey lesson to Steamers on Milton's home ice. Asked if given that spread his players had trouble getting up for Milton, Moodie replied, "You'd better ask these guys (the players). I didn't have a tough time getting up."

Moodie pointed out that Steamers apparently had no motivational moguls to skirt when confronting Oakville. "It takes a lot of heart to make up for a lack of talent and experience." But, he said, "I think that was a totally different team."

Not quite, but it sported some notable, albeit temporary, additions. Milton's minor midget rep hockey team is not slated for playoff action until next weekend, so Steamers delved into their ranks for replacements. Scott Hilson, Rob Wilson and Wayne Rivers came up for two games (Friday, Milton played Mimico and lost by the same score). Phil Collier, Scott Ellwood and Mike Del Papa came up for one-game stints.

They all played well and brought the enthusiasm of rookies with them. Assistant coach Jim Ketchebaw pointed out that no veteran was willing to be shown up by a newcomer midget. Bringing up the new blood had a positive ripple effect in that way, he said. He also complimented the overall style and grit Milton had exhibited in the two close losses.

"I'm very proud of every kid in that room," he said. "They did exactly

what we asked of them. I wouldn't have minded having that bunch of 17-year-olds from the beginning of the year.

The Milton midget team has only 14 players, and has had less than that until recently. That was the justification Milton owner Grant Turner gave when asked why he didn't bring some of the midgets up earlier.

Friday, Mimico scored two early goals and added the deciding marker in the middle period, when Milton came back with two goals. Mimico has taken nine out of a possible 10 points in the club's last five outings. As Oakville's Moodie would the next night, Mimico coach Rick Bince lauded the performance of a Milton goalie. Dan Haliburton faced Monarchs while Gianuzzi took on the Oakville Blades.

"The boys for Milton played well," Bince said. "They dug down deep. Credit where credit is due. Their goalie was good. He pounced on the rebounds. It must be tough to motivate the kids when you're getting clobbered all the time."

Haliburton came up with a performance that harkened back to earlier in the year. In the recent past, he has not been as sharp, but Friday he bounced back.

Saturday, Gianuzzi played superbly, coming up with stop after stop in what could have been his best game of the season. Moodie acknowledged his virtuoso performance.

"With the opportunities we had, it should have been a different situation," he said.

Friday, Milton had a faceoff in the Mimico zone with 48 seconds remaining in the game. Haliburton ventured out to the blue line but no further. It appeared to be a classic six-man attack situation, but Smulders elected to go with five people in the opposition's zone.

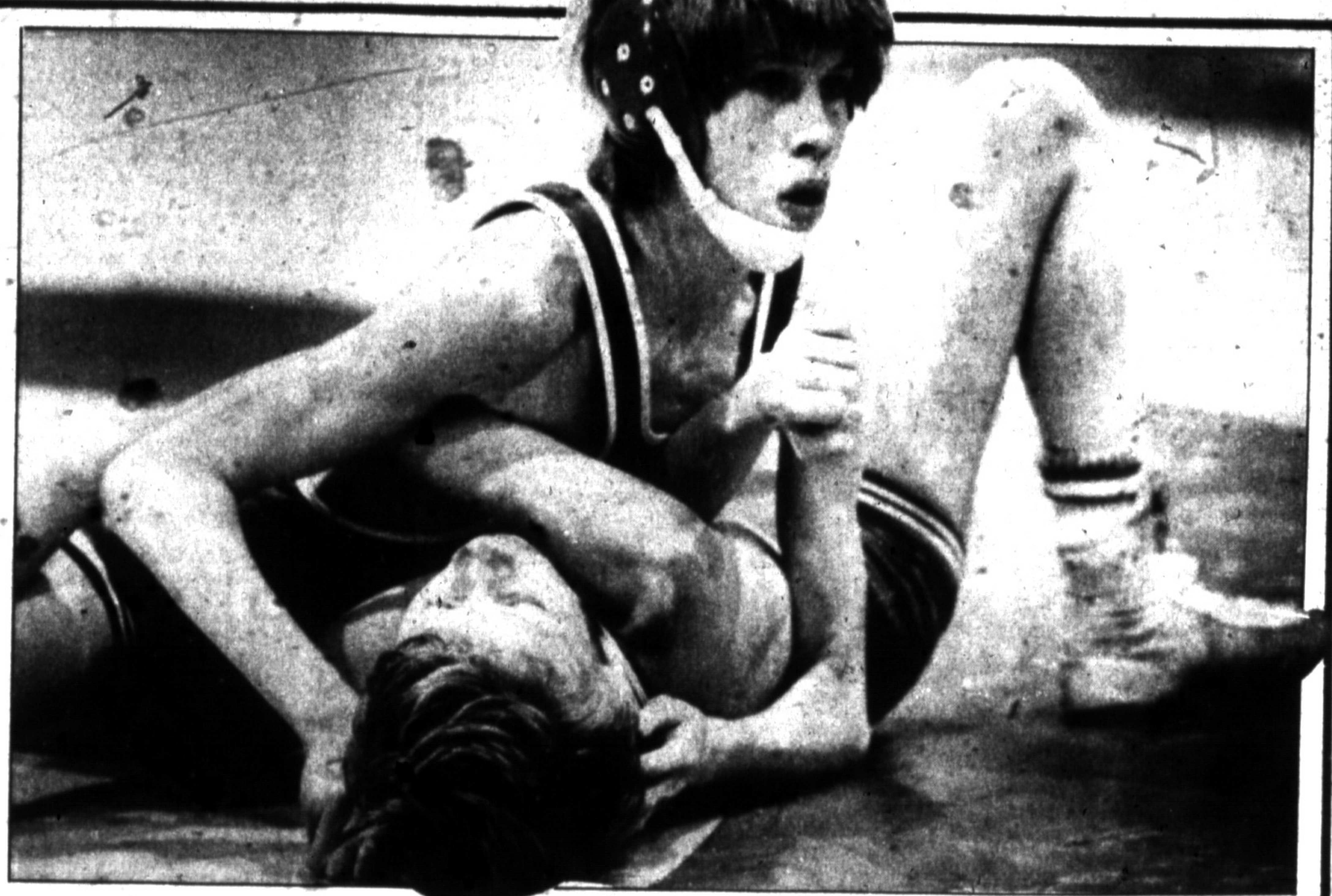
"We never win the draws," Smulders explained. "That's why I had him (Haliburton) out at the blue line. Just in case we needed him." But they (Mimico) got right out.

Mimico had beaten Milton 12-2 in their previous encounter two weeks ago.

"Probably every (Mimico) kid figured it was an easy two points (again) but you can't do that," Bince said. "We tied Nobleton and then squeaked a win out of Milton. It's a called life. You get too positive and it hits you."

Nobody can accuse Milton of being

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E.C. Drury's Dave McKay appears to be looking for a sign from the referee as he works on a pin in Ontario Junior Championship wrestling action at Humber College Saturday. McKay managed a fifth place in the 84-lbs.

category as Milton made a strong showing in a competitive field. Drury will send two grapplers to the nationals.

Photo by JON BORGSTROM

Drury sends two to nationals

Last year, E.C. Drury High School sent five wrestlers to the Ontario Junior Championships. They earned one victory (Torben Jensen). This year Drury sent five competitors and four placed among the top six in their weight class in the province.

Torben Jensen, Clyde Whidden and Dave McKay finished fifth in their classes while Tom Woodward was sixth. More than 200 wrestlers competed in 15 weight classes.

Drury's strong showing means they will send two wrestlers on the Ontario team that will compete for national titles at the Canadian Junior Championships March 21-23 in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Jensen will represent Drury

and Ontario at 123 lbs and Tom Woodward will do the same at 134 lbs.

Jensen proved he belonged among Ontario's top juniors, narrowly missing a medal. He reached his pool final with three straight victories, including a first-round pin over last year's 51 kg Ontario midget champ, Jim Watson of Ottawa. In the pool final, Jensen came back from a 10-2 first-round deficit to dominate round two, but time was working against him and he lost 11-4 to the eventual bronze medalist, Kevin Potts of Collingwood.

Jensen then faced the eventual tournament champion, Grant Meyers of London and he gave Meyers his toughest fight of the

tournament. Jensen trailed 4-3 when he was injured with 59 seconds remaining. Following an injury timeout, Meyers took control to win 10-3. In the pool crossover, Jensen recorded a 10-1 win over Tim Garel of Downsview.

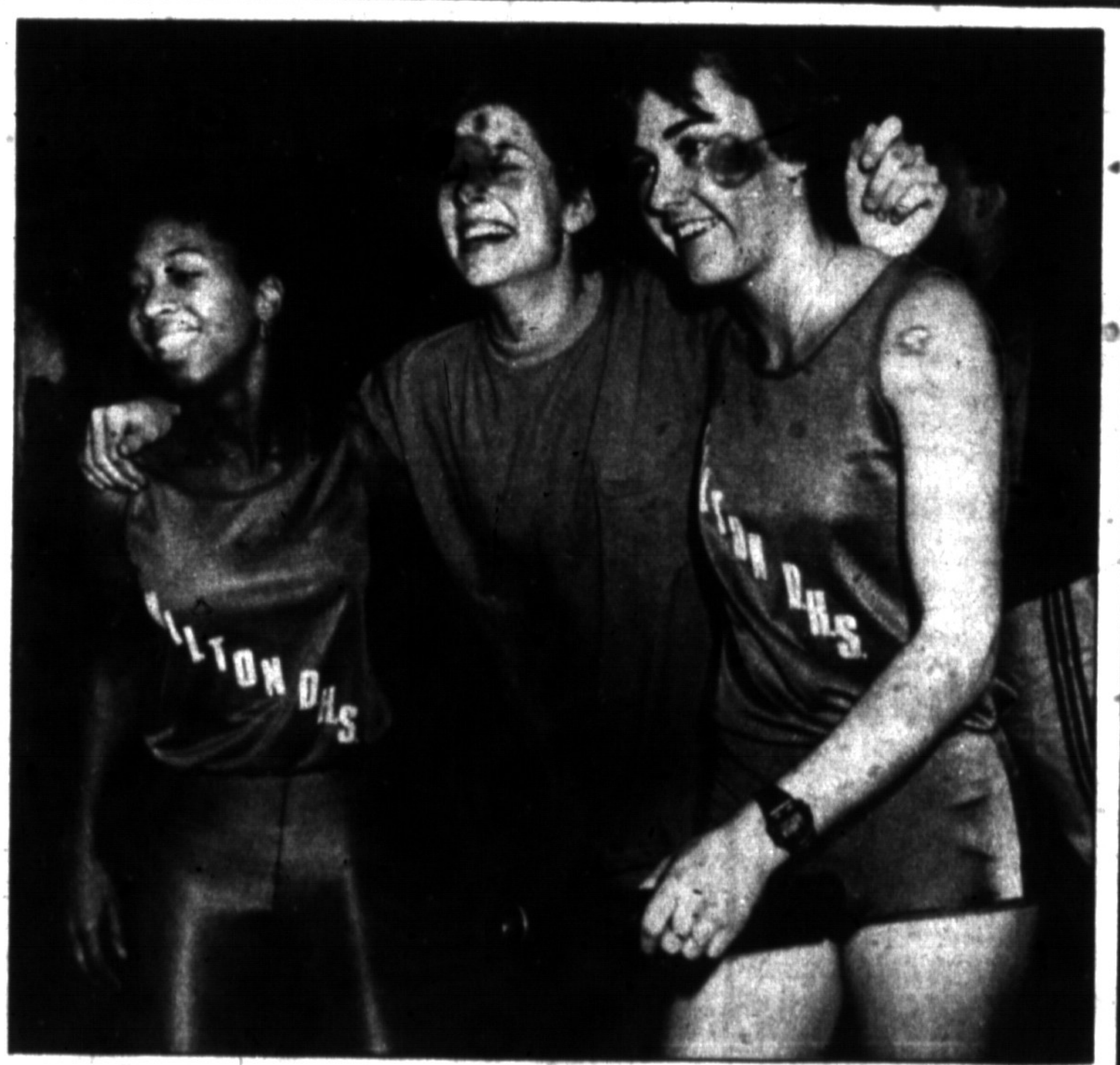
Woodward was still recuperating from the flu at the tournament, but he still appeared to be headed for a medal before injury forced him to forfeit his last two matches. Like Jensen, Woodward won three matches convincingly to reach the pool finals. There he lost a 10-9 decision to Mike Watson of Durham. Although he completed the match against Durham, pulled neck muscles forced him to retire from further competition.

Whidden, like Jensen only in

his second year of wrestling, enjoyed one of his better days, but advanced to the 154 lbs. pool final on two first-round pins, but he dropped his next two matches. One of those losses was to the eventual silver medalist, Karl Bulitka of Sarnia.

Rookie Dave McKay did not have one of his better days, but still went 2-2 in the 84 lbs. category. McKay was losing 7-1 in his final match but fought back to pin Chris Bell of Hagarville, which earned him fifth place.

Milton finished eighth overall, one of the finest high school placings. Team standings were dominated by community and regional clubs. The Scarborough Wrestling Club took the top team placing.



Janice Faulknor, Anne Fleming and Tracey Smith (l-r) at Maple Leaf Gardens Friday. Not pictured is Carrie Powers, the other member of the Milton team.

Steenhof tops at Games

Brenda Steenhof lapped a good many competitors and had better than a 13-second lead on her nearest rival as she easily captured the senior girls high school 3000 metre championship at the Toronto Star Indoor Games Friday.

Steenhof burned up the track in 9:58.4. Second-place finisher Michelle Foley of Moira ran the distance in 10:11.9. Denise Verschuur of Paris was third in 10:18.7.

Steenhof, the defending OFSAA champion from Milton District High School, was approximately

three seconds off the record pace for the event (9:55.00).

The Milton District girls relay team placed first in the qualifying heats for the Royal Bank mile relay but they were edged in the final Friday night by Oakwood Collegiate of Toronto.

Milton's relay team of Janice Faulknor, Tracey Smith, Anne Fleming and Carrie Powers ran a 4:12.5 qualifier, soundly beating Oakwood's 4:17.8 time. But Oakwood saved their best race for the final, sheding Milton. Oakwood set a 4:09.96 pace and Milton finished in 4:10.19. Catholic Central was third in

4:18.94 and Assumption fourth in 4:29.96.

The Milton relay team has been training consistently all year and enters winter meets as a measure of progress. Milton coach Bryan Camani said. The team's goal is success at the OFSAA championships in June.

Steenhof, 18, on the other hand, will be tested this weekend against the country's best in Victoria, B.C., as she attempts to qualify for the national team which will compete at the World Cross-Country Trials, scheduled for March in Switzerland.

Medics look strong as ever

They finished the regular hockey season in 21st place, with only three losses in 24 games, and the playoffs so far look like just more of the same.

Milton's minor atom AA reps, last year's zone champions, polished off Georgetown in two one-sided games, 7-3, 7-1 and Medics will now face Burlington in round two of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs.

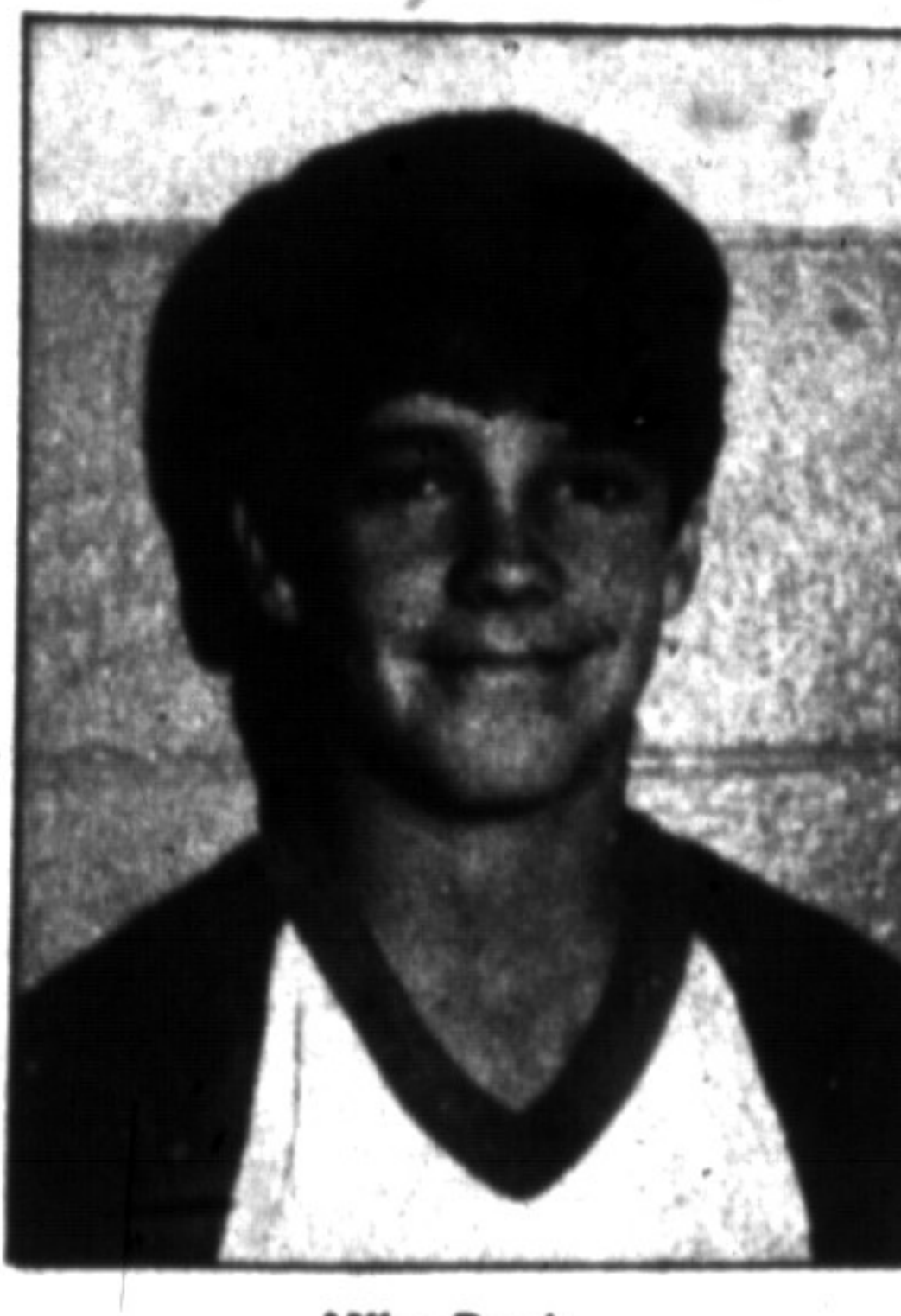
Mike Rusk notched a pair of goals for Milton in game one and Ryan Schaffer and Jason Cole did the same in game two.

Mitch Robinson drew first blood for Milton in the opening game. Joey Pedulla assisted. Rusk got the first of his pair in the middle period on a power play, assisted by David Marshall and Schaffer. Darryl Finley made it 2-1 Milton, assisted by Sonny Cardillo and Schaffer.

Rick Warren, Rusk and Cole scored for Medics in the final frame. Georgetown matched Milton's goal production in the last period. Cardillo and Schaffer assisted on Warren's goal, Marshall did the same on Rusk's and Jason Chuchmach helped out on Cole's goal. Kevin Gale was the Milton netminder.

Milton scored two goals in the opening frame of what proved to be the series-ending game. They added two more in the second and three in the third.

Marshall and Cardillo scored for Medics in the first period, Cardillo on



Mike Rusk

a power play. Jeff McKenzie assisted on Marshall's goal. Warren and Cole got Milton's second-period goals. Cole scored shorthanded, assisted by Matt Downs. Schaffer assisted on Warren's goal. Georgetown scored their only goal of the game in the second on a power play.

Schaffer scored twice in the last act and Cole added his second goal. Warren and Rusk each earned an assist on Schaffer's first and second goals, respectively.

Milton was scheduled to play game one against Burlington Monday night and game two in the best-of-five series tonight (Wednesday). Results were not available at press time. Game three is scheduled for Memorial Arena on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Milton stayed in shape for the playoffs by taking part in the Whitby tournament in the last week of January. Medics defeated Wheatfield (USA) 5-1 in their initial game but lost game two 3-1 to Whitby, which eliminated Milton from further competition.

Wheatfield took an early lead against Milton but Medics rallied to tie it and then took the game in hand. Rusk and Schaffer scored for Milton in the second and Cole, Pedulla and Finley rounded out the scoring in the final frame.

McKenzie, Finley, Robinson and Cole collected second-stanza assists while Cole, Cardillo and Robinson assisted on the third-period goals.

Milton tied the game against Whitby as Marshall scored a goal, but Whitby cashed three times in the second period to skate away with the win.

In their last game of the regular season, Milton earned an 8-0 shutout over Dundas. Schaffer scored four times, all unassisted goals. Pedulla scored twice and Cole and McKenzie rounded out the scoring.

Minor midgets want it all now

McCuig Insurance minor midgets made short work of Brampton in first-round Tri-County hockey eliminations, and with everyone healthy again Milton's most short-staffed AA rep team looks like a legitimate threat over the long haul.

Milton bounced Brampton 8-1 at Memorial Arena Wednesday to sweep the best-of-three series. This weekend Milton will take on either Oakville or Georgetown as coach Harry Wiczaryk and manager Terry Ellwood drive toward their ultimate goal in what they say will be their last season; a provincial championship.

While most of the McCuig team sat idle this week several players got some valuable playing experience, working with the Jr. B Steamers. The midgets' efforts were soundly praised by Steamer executives as Steamers came up with two close games (3-2 losses) against powerhouse Oakville and Mimico.

Wayne Rivers, Rob Wilson, Scott

Hilson, Scott Ellwood and Phil Collier saw Jr. B action. Geoff Pollen had almost a full season of it before returning to the midgets and Grant Thomson played a good deal for the Jr. B club.

The final game of the short Brampton series saw excellent goaltending from both teams in the first period with Milton earning only one goal. In the second, Milton connected for four goals and they added three more in the final frame.

Hilson blammed in a hat trick and added two assists while Collier had a four-point night with a goal and three assists. Wilson collected a goal and an assist, as did Pollen. Max Henriksen earned a goal and Rivers led in assists with four. Ellwood had two and singles went to Thomson, Doug Drennan and Darryl Hebert. Milton's only goalie, Steve Wiczaryk, worked effectively to keep the goals against down.



Rob Wilson