

Snowblowers from \$629.00
HONDA BLOWS HOT OR COLD
 GENERATORS from \$429.00
 THE DEALERSHIP THAT CARES!
 You're the owner when you buy from
THE RACER'S EDGE
 32 Bronte St. 878-4212

Sports

Wednesday, January 14, 1987

CANTEL
 APPROVED AGENT FOR
 CELLULAR TELEPHONE
 SALES & LEASING
NORTH END
NISSAN
 610 MARTIN ST. MILTON
 878-4137

Blades blow by Merchants 9-3

By ROB KELLY
 (Champion Reporter)

It was business as usual as Oakville Blades came to Memorial Arena for a junior B hockey game Friday night. Oakville won, Milton lost, and everybody busily accused everybody else of wrongdoing.

If the hockey game was the highlight of the evening's entertainment, then the commercials were the highlight of the NFC playoffs. Oakville trotted away with a 9-3 win. Milton looked about as inspired as undertakers doing overtime.

There was almost a bench-clearing brawl in the dying minutes of the game as Milton's Steve Scannell and Oakville's Richard Roesler tussled. Scannell, a tough and often scrappy player, took a few bumps, much to the pleasure of the stick-banging Oakville players.

Milton netminder Les Sirota, one of two players signed last week, got his initiation into the wild and wonderful world of Milton Merchants, going the distance for an unpleasant premiere. Milton's other signing was of Glen Leshe, a defenceman acquired from Georgetown Gemin.

Milton gave up forward Todd Humphrey for Leshe. Milton coach Gerry Ingles wanted a defenceman and Humphrey had withdrawn his services from the Milton club because he wanted to be traded.



Geoff Pollen

As well as giving up the flopping Humphrey, Milton reportedly forked over \$800 in cash to Georgetown for Leshe. Milton wanted the player badly, obviously. "But that's crazy," said a member of the Georgetown executive privately. "Nobody else (except Milton owner Brad Grant) can afford that kind of money. They'll run it for everybody."

Everybody has been busily running it for Milton, on the ice anyway. Merchants, despite the earnest and costly efforts of owner Grant, haven't won a game since mid-November, and show few signs of disrupting that trend.

Oakville coach Ken Moodie was not a happy man after the game, despite the win. "I was worried that they would try and entice us into fights at the end," Moodie said. "The last thing we need is three or four guys out for fighting."

Moodie was unhappy about the resolution of the Humphrey situation too. "We wanted Humphrey since day one," Moodie said, angrily shaking a finger. "They (Milton) would not even let him come skate with us."

Moodie believes that Milton makes life difficult for Oakville on purpose, because a previous trade

went sour (Blades obtained Tim Pollen and Bob Landry for what Milton believes were unfulfilled considerations).

"It's ridiculous," Moodie said. "What did we get out of that deal? Squat. The next thing you know they've turned it around."

Oakville manager Murray Walker soft-pedalled Milton-Oakville relations a bit more than Moodie, but he had a few digs to get in also.

"I've had amicable discussions with Brad (Grant). I don't think we're at loggerheads," Walker said. "I don't think we're palsy walsy but we're not at loggerheads either." Of Grant, Walker added, "I think over the years we'll iron out our differences."

Walker holds no such optimism concerning relations with Vern Gooding, now Milton manager, formerly the owner. The two have a longstanding dispute.

"Vern has never learned," Walker said. "He's still trying to play the same games as 13 years ago. He hasn't kept pace with the times."

Walker said he planned to question the legality of Milton's new goalie, Sirota. "I fully intend to make adequate inquiries about the goalie," Walker said.

"The bottom line is that the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association only allows a player to sign two cards a year and he already signed in Mimico and Wexford," Walker indicated that such an illegal move would be what he expected of Gooding. "He's a shifty son of a bitch," Walker said.

Gooding doesn't usually take up Walker's verbal gauntlets, at least not for publication. He didn't offer any asides on Walker, but he said the goalie deal was legitimate.

"There's nothing in the OHA (Ontario Hockey Association) rule book against it," Gooding said. "We confirmed it with OHA president Brent Ladds. We couldn't find anything in the OHA rules."

Gooding said Leshe is "a big, experienced kid who handles the puck well." He added that Milton is looking for several free agent signings. Free agents are eligible up until Jan. 25, while the cutoff date for previously carded players was Jan. 10.

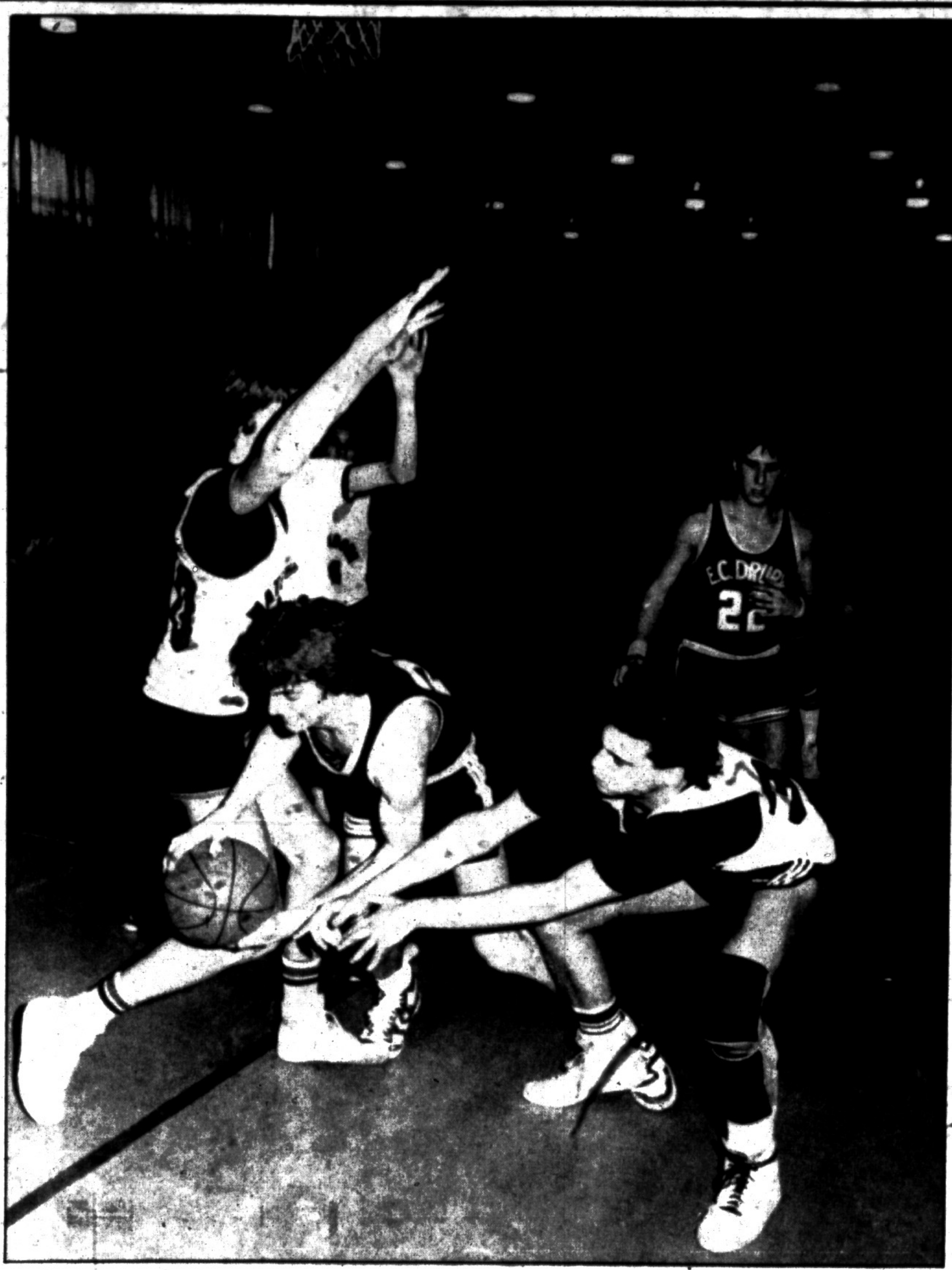
Andy Pritchard notched a hat trick for the winners. Rob McDougall, Darren Hunter, Roesler, the heavyweight scrapper, Tony DeLuca, Chris McEachern and Andy MacPherson scored the other Blade goals.

Geoff Pollen, a consistently hard worker, scored two goals for Merchants. Perry Hood, who is also hustling, notched the other Milton marker on a powerplay.

Milton will not regain the services of defenceman Robin Rossit. He is enrolled in university and will not play this year. Forward Kevin Ryan has been skating with the team following shoulder surgery but it is unknown when he will play. Tim Lamers continues to nurse a charley horse. Defenceman Greg Gauthier will be back in action Saturday following a fighting suspension. Providing his hearing turns out favorably, Gauthier must attend a league inquiry Saturday because he has three suspensions this year.

George Bach is suspended for four games for spearing. Scannell took a game misconduct for his fight.

Milton played in Vaughan Tuesday (results not available at press time). Friday Georgetown comes to Milton, game time is 8 p.m.



Mike Bascom goes for the ball against Waterdown in semi-final consolation action Saturday at E.C. Drury. The hosts played some of their best basketball of the season so far and battled Acton to the wire, losing by two points in a game that was decided in the last seconds of play. Photo by ROB KELLY

Drury close in conso final

The difference between winning and losing the consolation championship for E.C. Drury in Saturday's basketball tournament was simple.

One basket. That's how much Acton beat Drury's junior team by in a hotly contested conso final at the E.C. Drury Classic Tournament.

Highland Hawks of Dundas bumped Drury Spartans onto the conso side with a 67-27 decision. Highland went on to the championship final, losing to Ancaster 62-43.

The Acton Redmen-Spartan game was close for the most part, although Acton established a 29-21 lead by the end of the first half. Redmen forged into the lead by converting seven straight rebounds.

But Milton came back strongly in the second half, taking the lead with just under four minutes remaining to play.

"We rebounded defensively better than we ever have before,"

said Spartan coach Grant Pritchard, pleased with his team's effort following the tough game. "The kids are starting to believe in themselves. I think the kids just did terrific."

Milton had previously lost to Acton in overtime at Acton's tournament. The Milton conso could have gone either way, and Acton coach Dave Boycott knew it.

"We're comparable teams," he said. "We're taller, but they're quicker."

Boycott's people were more successful in the first half than the second. "We run a pretty good motion offence," Boycott said. "If the guys are disciplined enough to run it. But in the second half they pretty well took that away from us. We couldn't get the ball to the big men. It was just street ball after that. They (Milton) came back hard. They never gave up."

Boycott complimented Milton guard Jay S'son for a strong game. S'son is a hustling guard who controlled the third quarter and came up with six key points. He turned his ankle in the fourth quarter and was sidelined.

"He's a very quick guard," Boycott said. "I felt sorry for him going down but he was certainly giving us headaches." Eric Peternell banged in 12 points to lead Drury scorers. Glen Innes and Mike Bascom had 10 points each for Spartans. Don Pickering and S'son each scored six. Chris Birrell led Acton scorers with 17 points while Gord Tailleter scored nine for Redmen.

Drury downed Waterdown 52-37 and to get a final berth Acton beat T.A. Blakelock 23-16 after dropping their first game 30-23 to the tournament winners, Ancaster.

Ancaster put Milton District High Mustangs out of the tournament with a 37-30 win. Mustangs got in foul trouble against Ancaster, with two players fouling out.

After losing the E.C. Drury tournament held last weekend because of several fouls, the juniors lost again last Thursday in a close match that they lost by 10 points.

"The game was a solid team effort, but the players were too aggressive and got too many fouls," said coach Dave Mitchell. "We were down by two points at the half and put the pressure of in the second. Maybe a bit too much pressure."

Working the zone press, the juniors had too many turnovers to get a good offence going. "We have to improve our defence if we are going to win more games. A single player didn't shine as much as the team played well together."

The juniors play against their hometown opponent, E.C. Drury today (Wednesday) on their home court.

Costly turnovers
 With no returning players and an injured starter, the Milton District High School Senior basketball team has been losing games because of turnovers, said coach Bob Neshevich.

"We are not a strong team because the players are inexperienced," he said. "This is the first time many of them have played organized ball."

Losing against Acton 58-29, Neshevich said as a whole the team played well, but their lack of experience showed up in the game. "We got thumped," he said. "They are intelligent guys, but they don't have the natural instinct you need to play hard and win with."

"This is the first time we lost to Acton, so we were pretty upset."

Starting guard, and one of the team leaders, Scott Baird, was injured recently and has had to sit out many games. "Scott can only give about 60 per cent because of the injury, and him sitting out is hurting the team," said Neshevich. "He is a starting guard and a solid player who got a lot of rebounds for us."

Another consistent player is Mike Pos who stands over six feet tall and plays consistently. "Baird is our bread and butter player and Pos helps to keep the team together," said Neshevich. "We try to keep the other team's score down and play as a team."

All of last year's seniors either graduated or didn't return to school, but at least two of them will be returning in the second semester. "Both Mark Brewer and Franz Nowack might be returning, so then we could have a solid base to build from."

The team has some bright said Neshevich so the players will be working on rebounds in practice.

Midgets drop one to OTHS

It wasn't a particularly good basketball game, particularly for Milton District High School, as the midgets fell to Oakville-Trafalgar 47-38 in Oakville Thursday.

"We had an atrocious first quarter," said MDHS coach Bryan Camani. Milton fell behind 17-7 in the opening quarter.

Mustangs were further hobbled when starting forward Scott McDowell fouled out. McDowell is the best shooter on the team. "But the kids hung in," Camani said.

It was a game Camani felt Milton could have won. "Oakville-Trafalgar is about even with us," said Camani. "There are about four or five teams that are very close. There's White Oaks, Oakville-Trafalgar, Loyola, Bishop Reding and us."

As with any game, Milton must glean the most from the lesson. "It was a tough loss," Camani said. "But hopefully we learned something from it. We have to move and hustle. And we need a little more discipline, self-discipline. We had two players fouling out. McDowell, Chris Dumbrowski. We took too many stupid fouls."

A bright spot was the performance from Milton's bench players. "The kids off the bench were really good," Camani said. "Kyle Hasselfeldt, Jamie Hamilton, Ken Wilkinson, they all played real well. I was very pleased with that. We didn't lose anything (when they came in)."

Except for the first quarter, was the worst short span of basketball Milton has played thus far in the season, Camani said. The Mustang defence played well. The offence is "starting to click," too, he added, although the shooting percentage needs improvement.

Milton has been playing a lot man-to-man. They started with it in the opening quarter but switched to zone. Oakville had two tall outside shooters. "They were tough to box out," Camani noted.

Milton plays crosstown rivals E.C. Drury at MDHS today (Wednesday).

Foul trouble

The desire to win may have got the best of the Milton District High School Junior basketball team as they continued to acquire fouls and lost their game against Oakville-Trafalgar.

After losing the E.C. Drury tournament held last weekend because of several fouls, the juniors lost again last Thursday in a close match that they lost by 10 points.

"The game was a solid team effort, but the players were too aggressive and got too many fouls," said coach Dave Mitchell. "We were down by two points at the half and put the pressure of in the second. Maybe a bit too much pressure."

Working the zone press, the juniors had too many turnovers to get a good offence going. "We have to improve our defence if we are going to win more games. A single player didn't shine as much as the team played well together."

The juniors play against their hometown opponent, E.C. Drury today (Wednesday) on their home court.

Costly turnovers

With no returning players and an injured starter, the Milton District High School Senior basketball team has been losing games because of turnovers, said coach Bob Neshevich.

"We are not a strong team because the players are inexperienced," he said. "This is the first time many of them have played organized ball."

Losing against Acton 58-29, Neshevich said as a whole the team played well, but their lack of experience showed up in the game. "We got thumped," he said. "They are intelligent guys, but they don't have the natural instinct you need to play hard and win with."

"This is the first time we lost to Acton, so we were pretty upset."

Starting guard, and one of the team leaders, Scott Baird, was injured recently and has had to sit out many games. "Scott can only give about 60 per cent because of the injury, and him sitting out is hurting the team," said Neshevich. "He is a starting guard and a solid player who got a lot of rebounds for us."

Another consistent player is Mike Pos who stands over six feet tall and plays consistently. "Baird is our bread and butter player and Pos helps to keep the team together," said Neshevich. "We try to keep the other team's score down and play as a team."

All of last year's seniors either graduated or didn't return to school, but at least two of them will be returning in the second semester. "Both Mark Brewer and Franz Nowack might be returning, so then we could have a solid base to build from."

The team has some bright said Neshevich so the players will be working on rebounds in practice.



Katrina Sipkes goes up and over in vault competition at Burlington on the weekend. Springers served notice that they will be a power again this year with strong performances. Photo by JON BORGSTROM

All nine win honours

Springer Notes

with MICHAEL CLARK



It was the first week back in the gym following the holidays, and some meet scheduling officials must have had a bad day when he slated the first regional gymnastics qualifying meet for last weekend.

The turkey and Christmas goodies weighed heavily Saturday as nine Milton Springers made the trek to Burlington in the first decent snowstorm of the year. Nevertheless, the Milton gymnasts went to tough it out against girls from 15 other clubs which form Central Region.

"Oh, sure, we went to the gym and worked out," said one Springer who had best remain anonymous prior to the holiday break. "But, I mean, it's Christmas and the meet is next year."

If Springers thought it was tough to get ready for the meet after all those holiday distractions, they've now set themselves a tougher task. In the first of the three regional

qualifiers for provincial finals, all nine Milton competitors brought home a medal or a ribbon. Overall, Springers earned two firsts, a second and two thirds.

Veteran Joanne Keyworth took first place overall in the Junior C category while Brigette McCann was first overall in Argo B competition. Leigh Ann Cerka was second overall in Argo B. Carmela Bradley was third in Tyro C and Amy Newell was third overall in Argo B competition.

Not everything went just as the girls may have hoped, however.

Katrina Sipkes, in Junior C competition, didn't want to talk about her beam results. But she took second place in vault and on the uneven bars with a stylish performance.

Kelsti Prior wants to talk about her floor routine even less since she was injured during it and was probably robbed of a medal for overall performance as a result. But she had already earned third place on the bars in her Tyro C category, and the injury later proved not serious.

Amy Newell will have bad dreams about her first vault, but she did the second one well enough to earn a second-place medal for it. She won another second for her bars routine to cinch her third placing overall.

Boycott's team routine was pretty enough for first place. It was backed by a third on bars and fourth on vault and beam for her third-spot overall finish.

Keyworth, spurred on by her teammates, turned in an extremely strong performance on both vault and beam to take first in those two events. She was third, behind Sipkes, on bars and second with her floor routine.

McCann was first with her uneven bars routine as well as placing first overall in Argo B. Lisa Boylan was fifth with her floor routine.

Jennifer Anderson's vault was good enough for first place, and earned her fifth overall at Tyro C. She had a good meet. Leigh Ann Cerka got it all together on bars with a well-executed routine. She went on to take a second on beam and third on floor.

Springers set a standard for both themselves and others to meet at the second qualifying meet. That meet takes place at Milton's E.C. Drury School Feb. 21.

The other Central Region clubs will be out to beat Milton on the Springers' home turf. Milton has a lot of work to do to insure they are just a little bit better than the visitors, something that won't be easy. The competition promises to be strong and should be a treat to watch.