

Gunners blow a three-goal lead to Rapid attack

Milton Honda Gunners of the Premier Division squandered a three-goal first-half lead and lost 6-5 to Mississauga Rapid Sunday at Soccer World Two.

Two Milton goals were disallowed in the contest. The first was called back when a diving goalie missed the ball and Kevin Griffin flipped the loose ball in the net. The referee brought it back saying Griffin had played the goaltender. Team president Reg Griffin argued the point saying this was clearly not the case.

Milton kept to a 3-0 lead on a pair of goals by Eric Geldard in the eighth and 10th minutes, and a single by Andy Dolan in the 12th minute. Paul Vinney, Bert Corsini, Jerry Hurley and Paul Nolan were credited with assists and Kevin Griffin collected two.

The Rapid narrowed the score to 3-1 in the 14th minute before Corsini restored the three-goal margin from Dolan and Griffin in the 20th minute.

Before the half ended however, the Rapid

blasted a pair past Milton back-up netminder Kevin Davis to narrow the score to 4-3.

Davis was in net in place of Andy King who was unavailable due to prior commitments. "Davis' lack of experience really hurt," said president Griffin. "But that wasn't the whole story as the defence played very sloppy and overconfidently."

Mississauga scored in the fifth, eighth and nineteenth minutes of the second half to win going away despite a last ditch mark by Gel-

dard, his third, from Griffin and John Davis in the 20th minute.

Premier Division Standings

7 games	W	L	GF	GA	Pt
Mississauga Colts	5	2	24	23	10
Mississauga Rapid	5	2	29	25	10
Mississauga Lakers	4	3	44	23	8
Cyclepath	4	3	27	25	8
Milton Gunners	3	4	26	24	6
Ontario Bus	0	6	14	45	0

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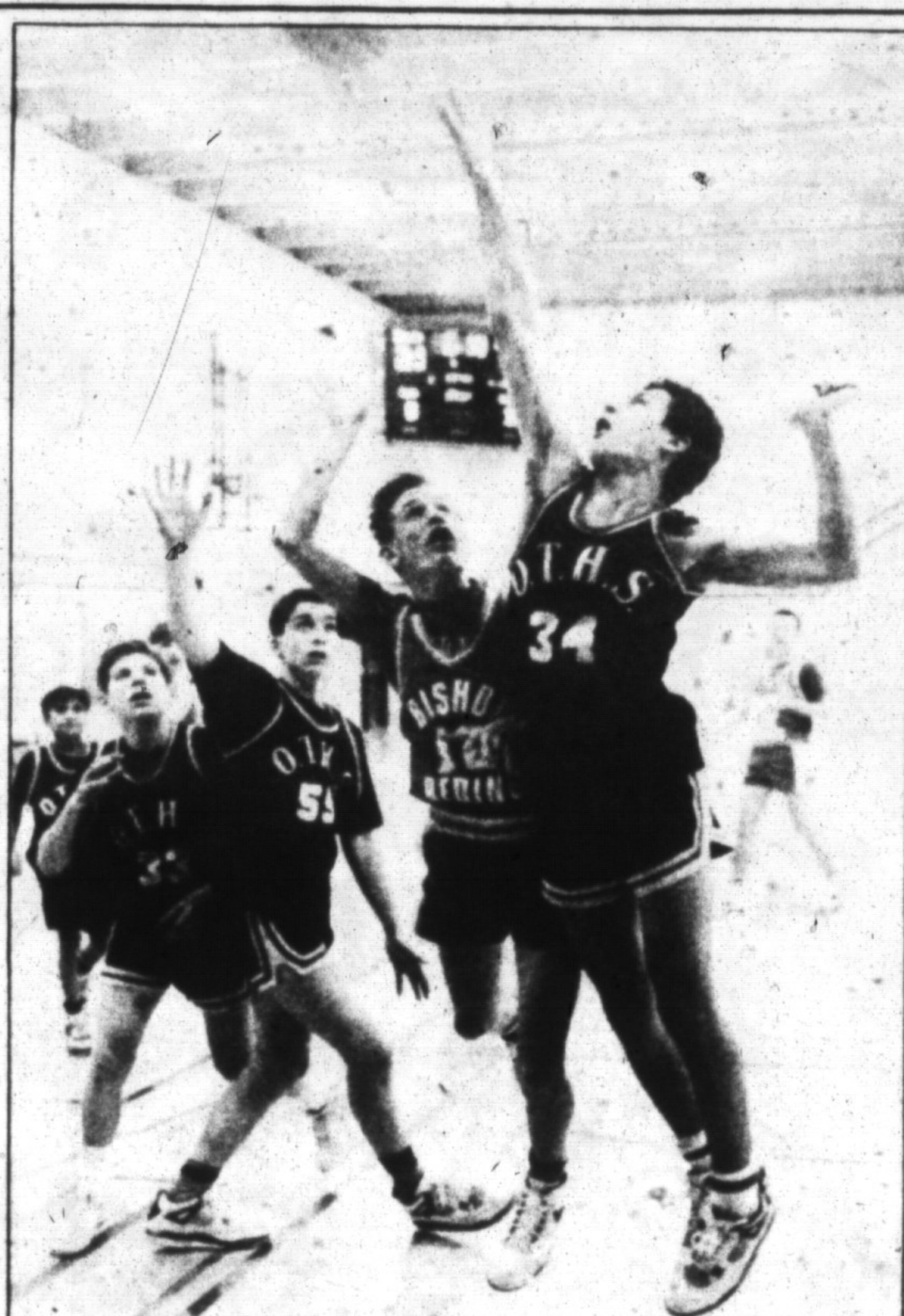
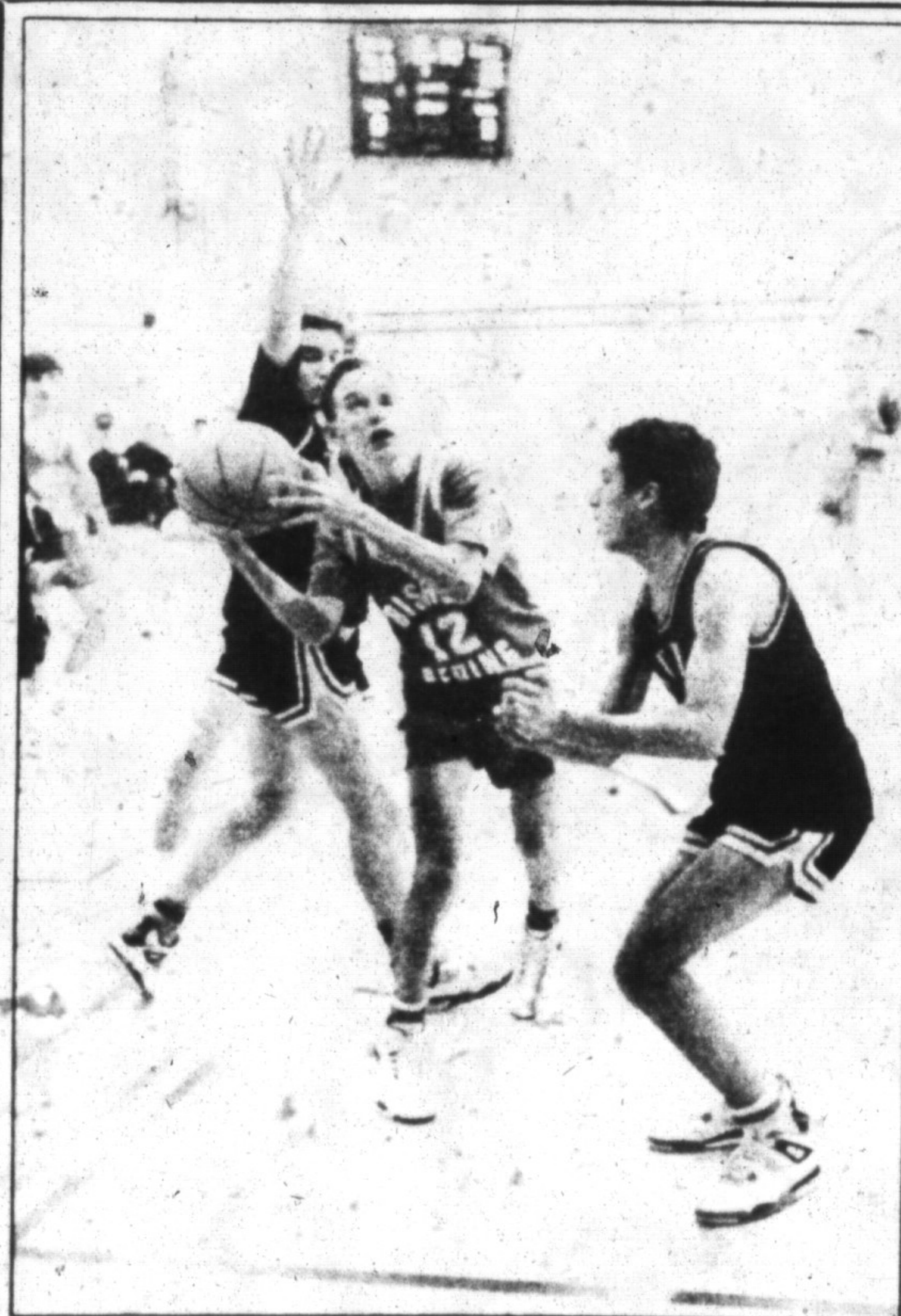


Photo by JOHN WARREN

One, two, three . . . jump

Todd Fuller (12) of Bishop Reding's midget boys basketball team moves into the key and puts it up in basketball action Wednesday against Oakville Trafalgar High School. The crowd of defenders in-

clude: Jason Boyd (33), Allan Vescan (55), and Bob Protram (34). The Reding midgets defeated O-T 69-53.

Sports SHORTS

Beaver

tourney set

The Milton Beaver Hockey Tournament storms into Milton on Boxing Day with local and other double-A rep teams in major novice, minor atom, minor peewee and minor bantam taking part. Games are scheduled for Tuesday (Dec. 26), Wednesday and Thursday at both Memorial and Tonelli arenas. Finals go Friday at Memorial Arena.

Summer Soccer Awards

The Peel-Halton Soccer League held its annual awards dinner recently. Honourees include: Player's choice MVP, Trevor Griffin; MVP, John Davis; Top goal scorer, John Davis; Best defender, Andy Kine; Most improved player, Trevor Griffin; Clubman, Ian Christopher.

Penalty Sweepstakes Announced

The Esso Penalty Free Sweepstakes, which rewards teams which play penalty-free games, has announced that January 1990 is this season's eligibility period. The program was developed by the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario and is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and Esso. Teams playing penalty-free games are eligible for prizes.

Wrestling hiatus

The Dynamo Wrestling Club will reconvene on Wednesday Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at E.C. Drury High School. New members aged 10-18 are still welcome. Interested people may sign up at the practice on Jan. 10. The fee is \$12.

Merchants dominate everything but scoreboard

By BRAD REAUME

Milton Merchants couldn't buy a break losing 7-2 to first-place Oakville Blades Tuesday night at Memorial Arena.

The Merchants inventory of scoring opportunities was greatly reduced but they received little by way of compensation.

"Their goalie (Jamie Cuff) made stops at the right times," said Milton coach Rick Bince. "It really takes the starch out of the kids when they'd then turn around and score."

The Merchants controlled the play for the first half of the game directing shot after shot at the Oakville net.

Indicative of play

At 12:40 of the second period Paul Tam scored for Oakville to give them a 3-1 lead. The puck was passed in to the right side of the Milton net and when players sticks clashed with the puck it surprised everyone when it shot up over Jay Evershad's shoulder on the short side. It was indicative of the night for Milton.

Oakville padded the lead when a shot from the left point caromed off the boards directly on the stick of Chris Krbavac parked to the right of the

net. He put it home at 14:34 of the second.

"One thing I've learned in Junior B is that it's pretty tough changing tactics between periods. Most kids can't absorb major changes in the game plan," Bince said.

"It's only one game. If we didn't play well I'd worry but the players know they made errors, they don't need me jumping on them. It's just another learning process for a fourth-place hockey team."

Milton opened the game in complete control but a shot knocked down at the Oakville blue line resulted in a rare two-on-one for Oakville. The Merchant defenceman played the puck carrier well but his low shot beat Evershad between the legs at 8:07 of the first.

A few minutes later Milton blew a three-on-one opportunity with one too many passes in the attempt to set up the perfect goal.

Oakville made it 2-0 when Tam popped his first goal on a deflection of a shot by Brad Hilton at the right point.

Again Milton missed a chance to score when Jeff Daw had three cracks at the puck in the slot but failed to get it past Cuff who owns the best goals against-average in the league.

At 2:41 of the second, Milton made it 2-1 when K.C. Foster, leading a three-on-two rush down the left wing was checked, and the puck bounced to the open right slot area. Cuff dove out to poke it away from Ken Guilford but it hit the Milton player in the leg and arced back over the Oakville goalie and into the open net.

Despite Oakville's 4-1 lead entering the third period, Milton was given numerous chances to get back into the game.

Make it 4-2

At 5:03 newcomer Rob Figliano lifted the puck past a down-and-out Cuff to finish a scramble. Milton would get no closer as the Blades reeled off three unanswered goals by Tony Galante, Peter Romeo and Kevin Kelly.

Galante's goal was a result of the quadruple-plug Milton defence. Normally strong they were unable to move to the puck or knock it away from the buzzing Blades.

Romeo's goal came from a faceoff; the second such goal of the night. The Blades final marker came on a drop pass and a blast from just inside the blue line. Evershad didn't even move.

"It's crazy, we kept the big gunners off the

score sheet," said assistant coach Don Ugolini.

"We're confident with the Rick Bince style of play and we'll stick with it. It's a different hockey game if our early scoring chances went the other way."

"We lost all the little things," said Bince. "They didn't outplay us, they outsmarted us. The bottom line is when you go from the bottom of the standings (Peterboro last Friday) to the top (Oakville) it's a whole different game."

Milton's coaching staff agreed that the Merchants were simply beaten at their own game. A few bounces either way and it was a much different contest. "You don't change for the sake of change," said Ugolini, "you work on your game and then turn it up a notch."

Central Ontario Junior B

West Division	GP	W	L	T	Pt
Oakville	26	17	3	6	40
Streetsville	27	15	6	6	36
Burlington	25	16	6	3	35
Milton	24	11	10	3	25
Peterborough	24	7	13	4	18
Brampton	26	5	15	6	16
Georgetown	24	3	21	0	6