

House-league Mufflermen out of tourney on goal differential

The Midas Muffler top guns fell short of their tournament aspirations after losing the third game in round robin play at the annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Atom house league Tournament Feb. 23-26.

A one goal differential eliminated the mufflermen from a chance to play in the final. Maple advanced instead against Forest City.

In first round action Milton dropped Maple with a decisive 6-3 win. Maple had opened the scoring at 8:48 of the first period when Michael Walsh tied it up. Ryan Burne and Mark McAdam combined to set up Walsh in front.

An unassisted tally by Chris Denich on a low, hard shot gave Milton the go ahead goal with only 26 seconds remaining in the period.

In the second frame Milton took charge with three goals. Walsh collected his second marker from Burne while David Hassel notched an unassisted goal followed by a McAdam goal, also from Burne. Maple managed a power play goal in the waning seconds of the middle

period to push the score to 5-2.

The teams traded markers in the third round out the scoring 6-3. Jamie Comba scored the Milton goal and picked up the game MVP award for his strong performance. Peter Stelter provided his usual steady goaltending for the squad.

In evening play Niagara Falls faced a charged up Milton offence. The mufflermen opened the scoring late in the first period on a pretty goal by Michael Metcalfe thanks to a well executed passing play by Michael Brown and Hassel.

Denich increased the lead on a solo effort late in the first period and the top guns put the game out of reach with some great second period action.

Brown aced a super backhand into the upper corner after a Jim Stelter shot rebounded back to him. Denich grabbed his second goal on a second effort to convert his own rebound. The score stood 4-0.

Niagara Falls got on the scoreboard late in the second period with a power play goal. Milton nullified the marker early in the third period when Comba's long shot eluded a screened Falls goaltender.

With the four goal lead Milton eased up and Niagara Falls, with two minutes remaining, scored two power play goals eight seconds apart. The defence then tightened to deny Niagara Falls the hope of a tie and the game ended 5-3.

Michael Metcalfe's standout performance was recognized with game MVP award.

Riding the two-win wave of optimism Milton started strong in their third game against Stoney Creek. After hemming the Creek in their own end for most of the first period the mufflermen finally notched the first marker on a power play when Burne scored from McAdam.

Stoney Creek evened the score on a similar note when Milton surrendered a shorthanded

goal only minutes later. Outstanding goaltending and an early second period goal gave the Creek the momentum and a 3-1 lead which they took to the dressing room at the end of the second period.

A Stoney Creek goal on the first shift of the third period put Milton into deep trouble but a fine individual effort by Burne helped to keep Milton in game. Milton picked up the pace but Metcalfe was denied twice on great scoring chances.

The Creek took advantage of Milton's gambling offence and Stoney Creek's scoring gace notched his third and fourth goals to put the game away.

In a last-ditch effort to close the scoring gap Milton pulled Stelter for the extra attacker. Again the Stoney Creek goalie robbed Milton attackers on close shots, by Heffron, Metcalfe and Denich.

Denich managed to collect the game MVP in the game for his extreme effort.

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Our Lady victorious in elementary basketball final

By BRAD REAUME

Milton's Our Lady of Victory won the Halton Separate School Elementary Boys Basketball Championship Wednesday night from St. Raphael's (Burlington) 40-31.

Our Lady of Victory advanced to the final after defeating Canadian Martyrs (Burlington) 40-37 in the semifinal. St. Raphael's semifinal win came at the hands of St. Matthew's (Oakville).

A packed Assumption High School gymnasium watched as Our Lady of Victory employed a full court press early in the contest to force a nervous St. Raphael's squad into mistakes. Those mistakes allowed OLV to claim a quick 12-2 lead.

"We only called the press off because we were getting into some foul trouble," said OLV co-coach Martha Gleeson. "The boys are used to playing on a smaller court so they had trouble covering the larger surface here (Assumption)."

OLV's premier forward Rich Aggio, who had 10 first quarter points, was handed his fourth foul early in the second quarter and was replaced by Scott Bertoli. The score was 14-5 for OLV. The half ended 18-8 as both teams slowed down on the big court.

Both teams came into the contest with extremely good winning records. Our Lady of Victory had only lost

twice, both times to Oakville's Q.E. Park, while going undefeated in their league and winning tournaments in Guelph and Oakville.

St. Raphael's can claim similar success with a 33-4 record, including 10-0 in their own league. Coach Brian Miller has presided over the team three years during which time they have gone 92-13 and made the Halton playdowns every year.

"I'd like to play everyone," Miller said of his 10-man team, "but if I did we'd get killed. It is tough to balance competitiveness and participation. Parents get all over you no matter what you do."

With Aggio benched with four fouls the pressure mounted on Mike Gleeson the control man on Our Lady of Victory. He responded with some super play around the net controlling the defensive boards and scoring enough points to maintain the lead. Ten of Gleeson's 12 points were scored in the second half.

"We usually play Gleeson and Aggio in the guard spot early in the game when we press and then move them up to center and forward as the game progresses," said OLV co-coach John Luciani.

St. Raphael's did not roll over. A flurry of points and possession snapped them back to 18-11, a second push

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Beat O-T 8-7

Senior curlers claim Halton title

The Milton District senior boys curling team won the Halton Championship 8-7 from a tough Oakville Trafalgar squad this week.

It is the seventh Halton championship that MDHS has won this year, including three cross country wins, junior football and junior girls volleyball and basketball.

Trafalgar took two in the first end and stole one in the second to estab-

lish a 3-0 lead in the curling final. Milton stomped back with three in the third and then four in the fourth to grab a 7-3 advantage.

In the fifth end Trafalgar came back with three to narrow the Milton margin to a single rock. The sixth end was wild with Milton engineering an arrangement in which with the final shot they could score five, if they could remove the Oakville shot rock,

and then stick to count. It was not to be, as Jody Rowley missed the difficult touch shot and Oakville counted one for the tie.

The teams entered the final eighth end still in a 7-7 tie with Milton in control with the hammer (last rock). With a miss of Milton's shot rock on his last attempt the Oakville team was defeated and Milton's final shot advantage was not needed. Milton claimed only an 8-7 win.

The Milton squad, led by skip Jody Rowley, needed the services of their alternate Jon Budworth to pitch lead. Sean Thompson, the vice, and John Peddie make up the balance of the team.

The seniors advance to the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) Championships on March 20. Oakville Trafalgar will face the first place finisher in Hamilton and Milton will take on the runner up in the first round of GHAC.

Milton coach Mike Sheppard said that the Hamilton teams haven't been that strong in the last few years. "I wouldn't be too surprised to play Oakville again for the GHAC crown," he said.

The Milton juniors were also playing Trafalgar for the Halton Championship but they lost the services of their skip Kevin Gregory and had trouble getting settled, eventually losing the game 9-2.

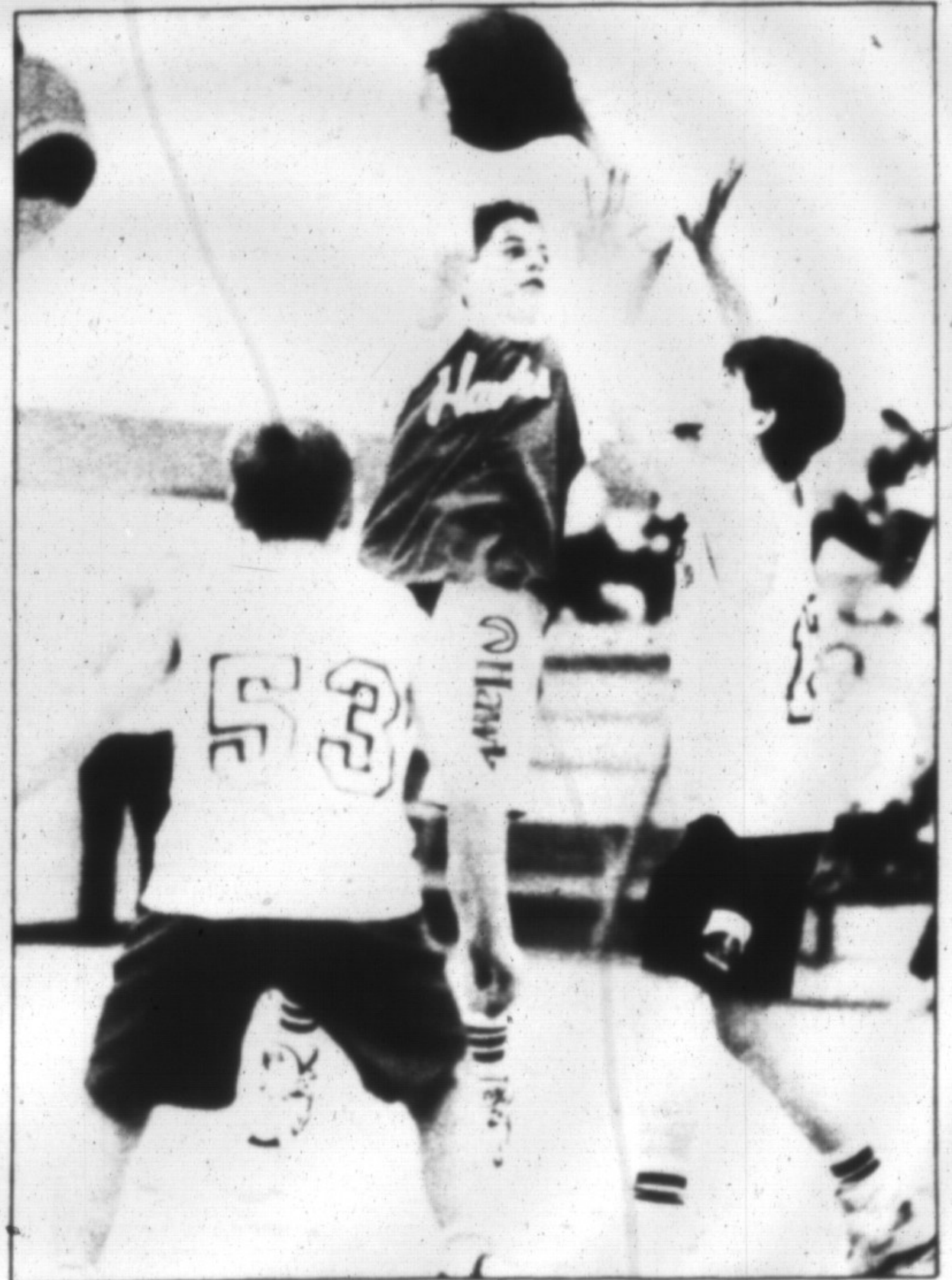


Photo by RON KUZZYK

Scott Bertoli (53) of Our Lady of Victory did an excellent job at guard as did teammate Mark Jackson (13) as their team defeated St. Raphael's (Burlington) 40-31 in the Halton Separate School Elementary Boys Basketball championship. They forced St. Raphael's players to shoot from outside which allowed their teammates to control the defensive boards.

MDHS skiers fifth at OFSSA at Thunder Bay

Milton District High School ski team finished fifth, barely missing the bronze medal, at the Ontario Federation Secondary Schools Athletics (OFSSA) championships last weekend in Thunder Bay.

The meet, held at Big Thunder the National Ski Training Centre, drew participants from 32 schools across Ontario. "We were among the better teams there," said MDHS ski coach Don Hipple.

In the boys giant slalom Jason Penman finished 11th in a field of 162 racers. Joe Hertz finished 29th and he managed an 18th place in the boys slalom.

Natalie Clark was 12th in the girls slalom and 18th in the giant slalom. Michelle Drnovscek had the best finish of all Milton skiers coming in ninth in the girls giant slalom. There was a field of 151 skiers for the girls events. In both boys and girls events there was no division of junior and senior skiers.

"I was generally pleased," said coach Hipple. "We proved that a team from this part of the province can compete with schools that have better access to the slopes."

Hipple said that a large percentage of the team will be back next year but transfers and family moves could cut into that. "When I started out I didn't know what to expect," he said.

Hipple had been involved in skiing before at Milton District, taking a girls team to OFSSA in North Bay two years ago. "It was hard to judge how we'd stack up against everyone else in the province," he said. "I knew our girls team was top notch based on our domination in the local championships in Halton and GHAC."

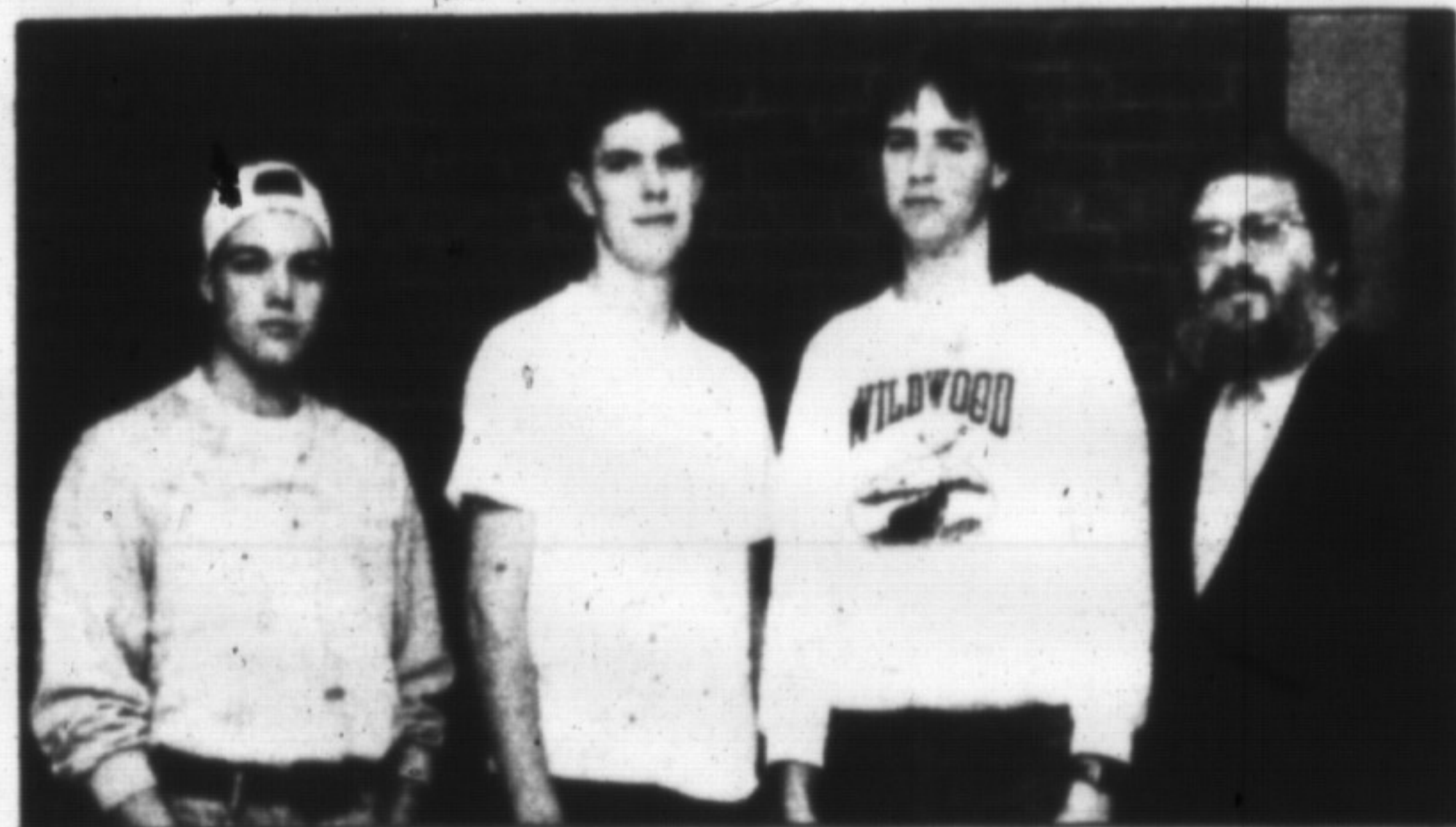


Photo by JON BLACKER

MDHS senior boys curling team claimed the Halton title with a tough 8-7 win over Oakville Trafalgar. Coach Mike Sheppard (right) says there's a good possibility the two teams will meet again for the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) Championship scheduled for March 20. Team members Jody Rowley (left), Jon Budworth and Sean Thompson will be joined by John Peddie who is absent from the picture for that event in Oakville.