

Mackenzie Gold alpine skiers finish middle of the pack

The Milton Heights Ski Club's Mackenzie Gold team finished third of five teams involved in the division semifinals held at Devil's Glen in Collingwood on February 23. Milton competed against Devil's Glen, Toronto Ski, Osler and Devil's Elbow. The top two Milton girls were Kim Davis of Oakville who was fifth overall and Kathy Shier of

Limehouse who was ninth. The top two boys were Kyle Martin of Campbellville with a seventh place finish and Tom Hughs who was 10th. On the same day the Mackenzie Silver team raced in their divisional semifinals at Caledon Ski Club. Their five way race involved Georgian Peaks, Caledon, London, and Osler with

Milton bringing up the rear. The top two girls were Sarah McDowell of Burlington who was 10th and Jessica Cripps of Rockwood who was 14th overall. Among the boys the top two Milton finishers were Richard Mayer of Burlington who crossed 17th and Jonathan Stapleton of Oakville who was 21st.

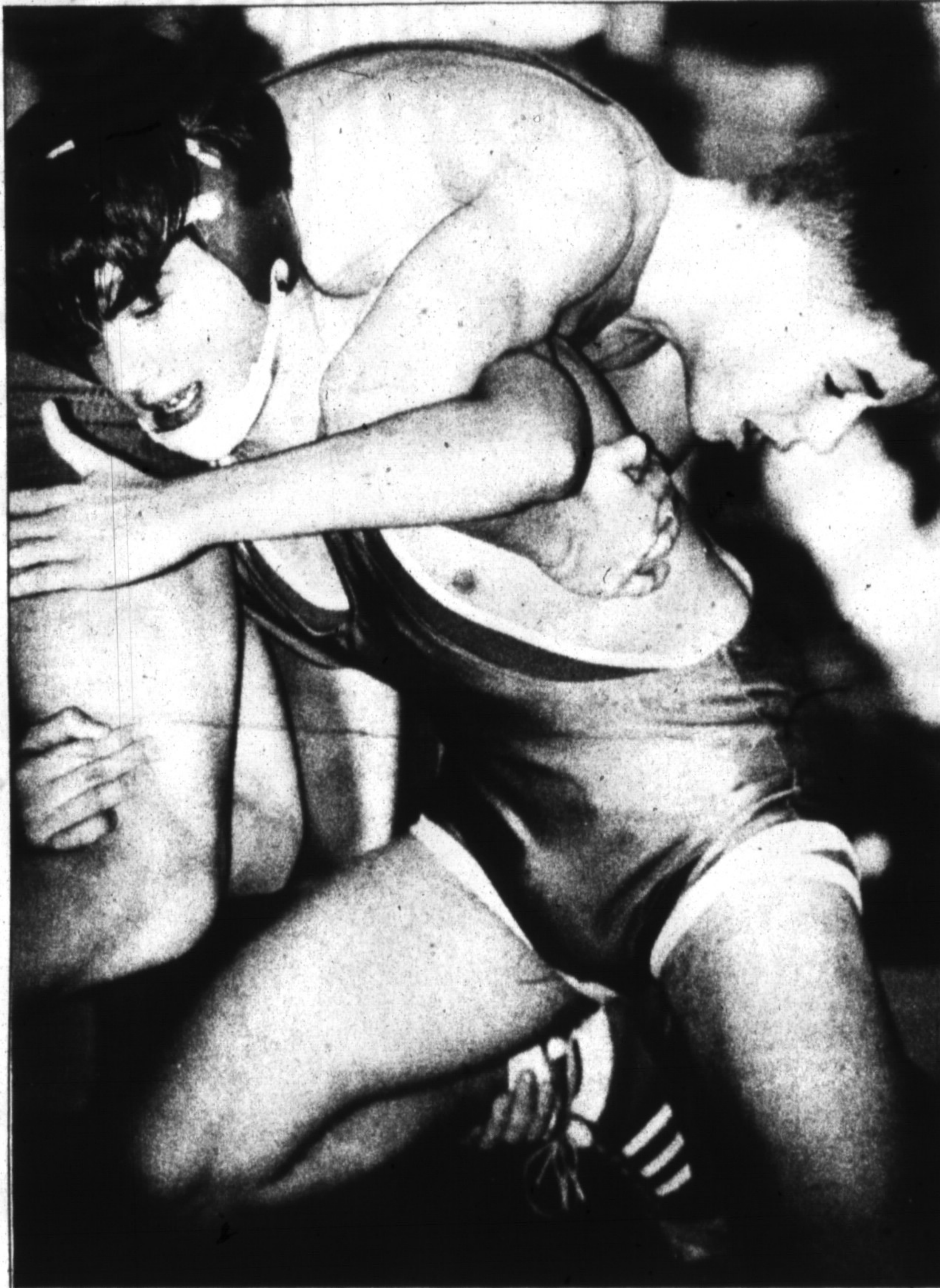
The previous weekend the gold and silver teams trained in Collingwood at Georgian Peaks. While the Mackenzie teams were racing the Hershey Alpine squad took the opportunity to train at the same facility. On Sunday the Milton Heights Club will run a season closing club race with a start time of 10 a.m. The race is open to all club members.

17—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, March 4, 1992

SPORTS

The Canadian Champion

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John DeFrancesco of White Oaks High School in Oakville had the upper hand on Troy Smith of Hamilton's Bishop Ryan. DeFrancesco won this match in the 134 kilogram division.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

In wrestling

Spartans win own tournament

By PAUL ZOMER
Special to The Champion

Milton's E.C. Drury High School hosted 22 other high schools Thursday in an invitational wrestling tournament easily won by the Spartans.

The full-day tournament featured 15 different weight classes, with medals handed out to the top three finishers in each class. E.C. Drury finished the day with 11 medals which coach Larry Jaroslowski described as the Spartans' "most convincing win ever."

Five members of the Spartans wrestling team collected gold medals. Chris Price was first in the 97 pound weight class, as was Collin Widdis in the 149 class. Mike Belford finished on top in the 159 weight category. Because of large numbers in the 134 pound

class, two divisions were formed. Drury proved victorious in each, with Mike Arsenault and Chris Spence winning gold. The gold was Spence's third of the year, and he leads the Spartan team with 24 wins against only three defeats this season.

E.C.'s four silver medalists in their respective weight classes were Kirk Rowbottom, Lee Black and Jason Near. Matt Davenport, Abdullah Hasan and Craig Janzen collected bronze medals.

Coach Jaroslowski credited some of his team's success to the fact the tournament was at Drury because, "pretty well everybody is going to show up." He also added that "being at home had the team pumped up."

The tournament, organized by Jaroslowski, was the biggest weekday high school tournament in the province.

Merchants advance to final

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

The Milton Merchants are one determined bunch.

Milton's Central Ontario Junior B entry turned around a Thursday night 5-2 loss in Georgetown, taking the fifth game of their best-of-seven series 7-3 to wrap it up four games to one. Milton advances to the western division final against either Brampton or Oakville.

The series will start on Friday at Memorial Arena at 8 p.m. regardless of opponent. At press time the series was knotted at three games each.

After the win there was little joy in the coach's office as a subdued Rick Bince assessed his team and began to disengage himself from the series, his thoughts already on the next series.

"I hold it all in," said Bince. "I'm happy but it's all inside."

Merchant management did express gratitude for the support of local fans. "It's been a long time since I've seen that kind of support for a Milton team," said owner Brad Grant.

This atmosphere has surrounded the Milton club all season as they have put in a real workmanlike effort, first to secure a playoff spot, then to edge into the top two for a first round bye, and most recently with the win over Georgetown. Even the strongest army marches one step at a time.

The Merchants had built a 3-0 lead in the series before going to Georgetown on Thursday. After a wild comeback win on Tuesday it was assumed by most observers that the Raiders would roll over, but that was not the case.

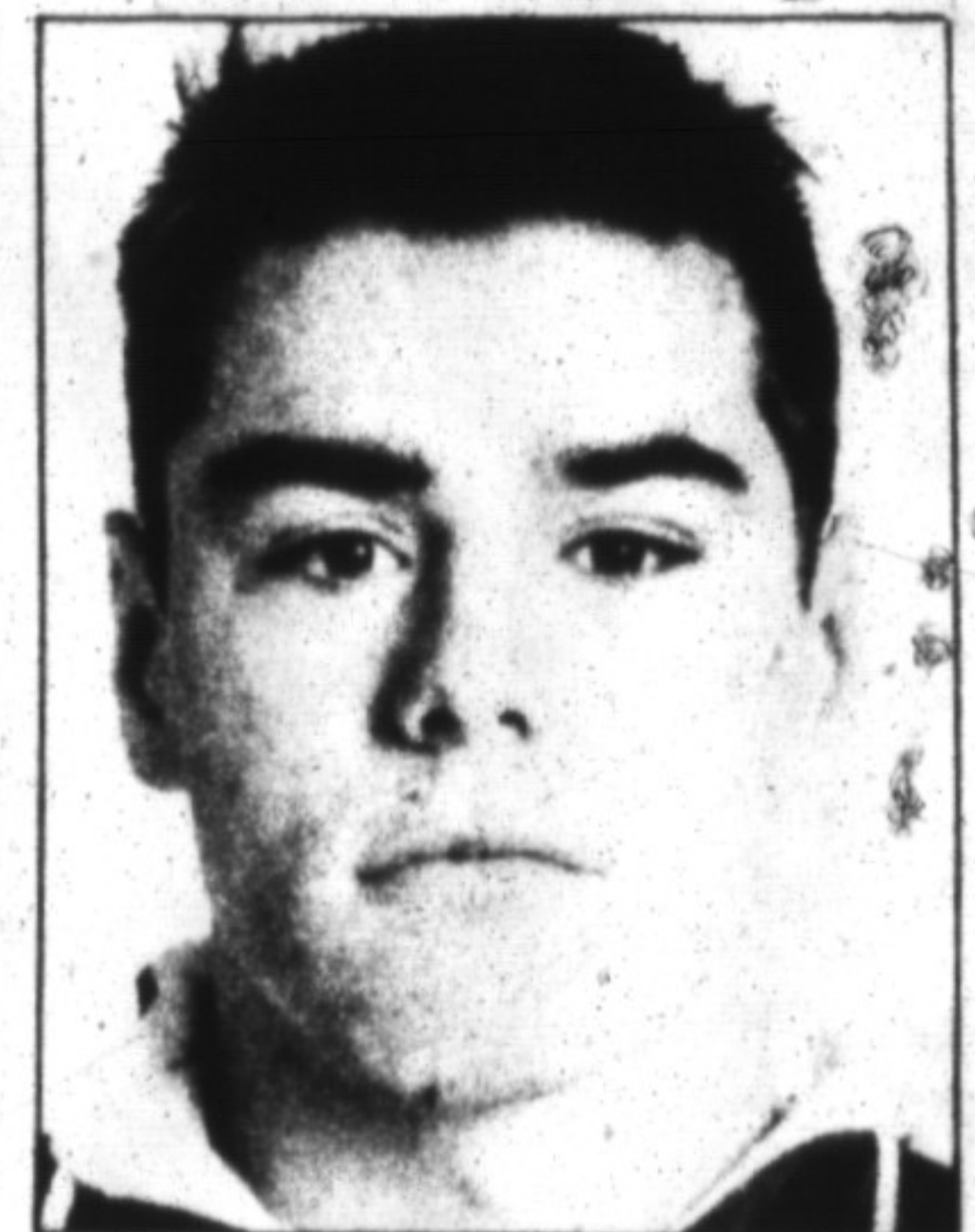
It was the Merchants who were flat. After the miracle of two nights before they couldn't muster any spirit.

A goal by the Raiders' Rob Doucette at 18:31 of the first broke the 0-0 deadlock. Doucette chipped a loose puck, slowly up and over Jason Chipman in the Milton net. Milton led the period 14-9 in shots on goal despite defending three Raider power plays. Milton had no power play chances.

The Raiders opened it up in the second frame. Goals by Trevor Brandt at 7:34, Kevin Rutledge at 15:21 and John Ventresca at 17:05 virtually assured a fifth contest the next night in Milton.

Brandt's goal, on the power play, came off an innocent looking flick shot that caught the top corner while Rutledge got one past Chipman from a severe angle down the right wing. Chipman was hurt but remained in the game only to be beaten again on a breakaway in short order. Two Milton power plays came to naught.

Georgetown ran their lead to 5-0 as Jeff Ellis scored when he knocked a



Shawn Healey

loose puck past Milton back-up goalie Scott DeStefano who had replaced the injured Chipman in the second period.

Jeff Daw finally got Milton on the scoreboard but it took a two man advantage to do it. Pat Henneberry converted a second Merchant goal just as the second penalty expired when he knocked in a rebound from the side of the Raider net.

"They lulled us to sleep," said Bince after the game, "but my team played poorly." He did give the Raiders credit for not rolling over. "They all have egos. Nobody wants to go down four straight."

On Friday back at Memorial Arena, the Merchants showed their firepower, as they emerged a completely different team from the flat 5-2 losers of the night before.

A flying, spirited Shawn Healey wrestled home the opening marker at 4:43 of the first as he was left alone in the slot. A Milton penalty slowed them down briefly but at 9:39 Clancy Seymour connected from Jason Ritchie.

The Milton burst had just begun. Healey worked a great move on the Raider defence and then slipped a pass to Mike Murray that was its equal, as Murray went in alone to put Milton up 3-0 at 10:31. Mike Cox had two chances to beat Raider goaltender Carmelo Giurleo a minute later, after the goalie was unable to clear the puck and was caught out of position.

Mike Wilson scored for Georgetown at 16:56 on the power play as he redirected a pass from Scott Humber past Chipman. Milton got the goal back at 19:19 on a power play. **SEE MERCHANTS on page 28.**