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25—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, March 9, 1994

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1994

Bantam girls on top of basketball tournament

The Milton Monarch Basketball bantam rep girls were unstoppable as they rolled to the title in the Cambridge Girls Invitational Tournament last weekend.

The Milton midgets earned a silver as one of three local Monarch teams competing.

The bantam girls won their section by defeating Cambridge, St. Thomas and Kingsville.

Milton downed Cambridge 35-25 behind the play of Kathryn Wendling, Brooke Johnson and Kristen Haringa.

They coasted to an easy 43-31 win over St. Thomas in the semifinal, with Jennie Mascarin controlling the boards and Jaclyn Hunt and Lisa Brown pacing the offence.

In the final against Kingsville the Monarch girls opened a big 10 point lead and held on for a 43-33 win.

Anne Gleeson led an aggressive defence and assisted on most of the team's fast break scores.

The tournament allowed the team to post their seventh consecutive win and second tournament title.

The Monarch midget girls earned a silver medal in the mixed AA-A tournament.

After defeating Brantford CYO 43-39 and Windsor AKO 51-40, the Monarchs lost to Cambridge 57-37 in the final.

Kelly Ivens, Nicole Walker and Sabrina Mascarin led the scoring for Milton. The Milton use of a pressure defence, keyed by Teresa Charron and Maryellen Gleeson, led to their first two wins.

The defence created turnovers which were converted into easy transition baskets.

The title contest was another story. Cambridge, a AA team of players from Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, simply outmuscled the Milton squad. Cambridge used their size and strength to wear Milton down.

The Monarch juvenile A team was in a AA-AAA grouping.

After losses to Brantford and Owen Sound the Monarchs played for seventh place, though details of their game were not available at press time.

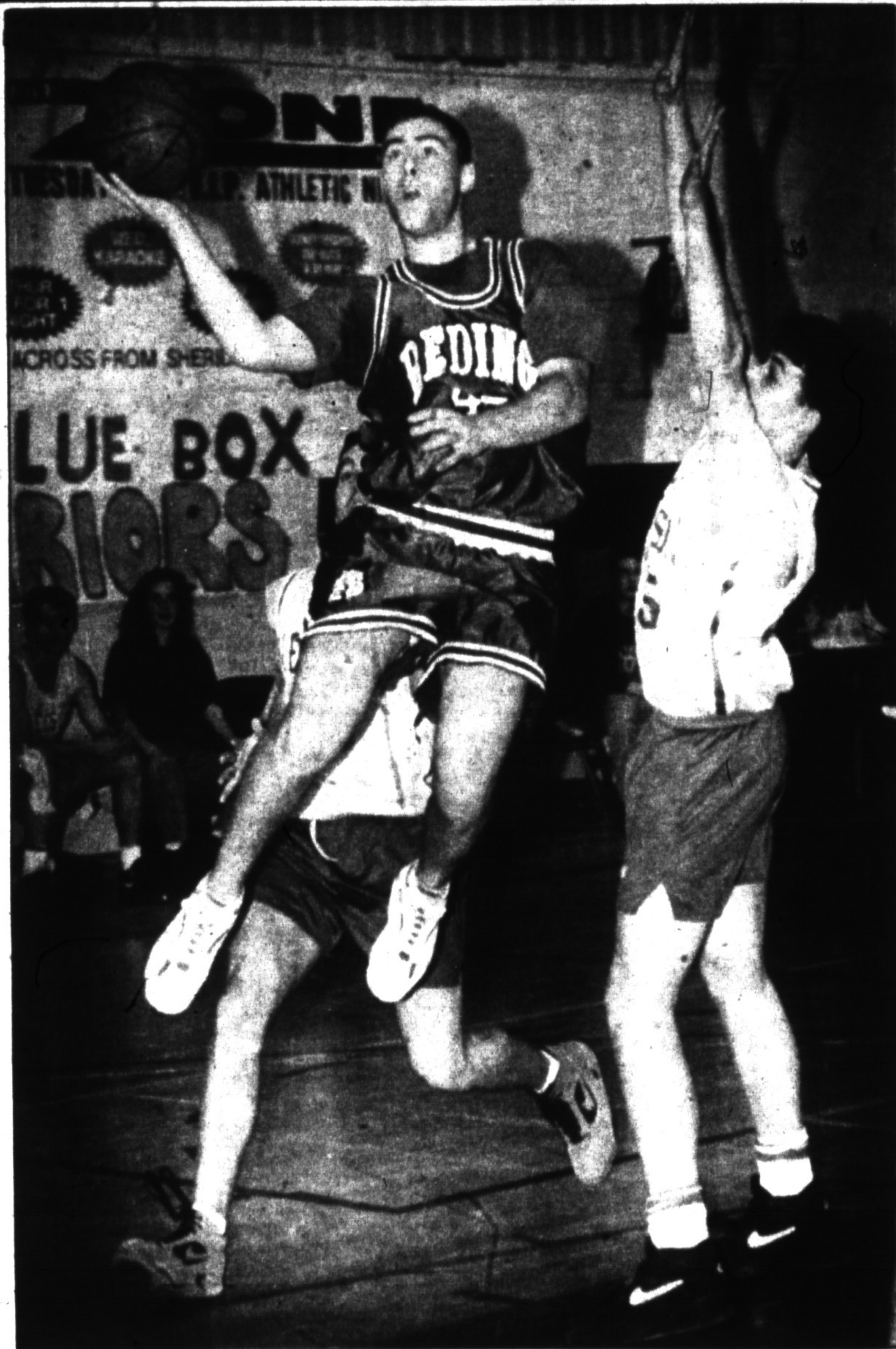


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Flying high

But brought down to earth later on, Bishop Reding Royal Carlo Zoffranieri one-handed it going for a lay-up in last Thursday's Halton senior high school basketball championship against Nelson at Sheridan College. The high-flying Royals were upset by Nelson. See Murray Townsend's column below.

Widdis makes wrestling history at Drury

The Ontario Federation of Schools' Athletic Associations (OFSAA) wrestling championships have been the site of many of Colin Widdis' biggest nightmares. This year, his final year, they became the fulfillment of his biggest dream.

Winless at OFSAA before last year, Widdis finally cracked the top 12 in 1993 but still fell short of his expectations. Last Wednesday he put it all behind him though, as he became E.C. Drury High School's first-ever OFSAA champion.

Widdis' victory came in dramatic fashion. Facing James Halverson of Hillcrest Secondary School in northern Ontario, Widdis led into the final minute before Halverson took the lead.

Halverson jumped to a three point lead, putting Widdis on his back with 45 seconds to go, but Widdis re-rolled Halverson and scored a pin with 30 seconds left in the match.

Going into the tournament Widdis was seeded number one based on his 37-1 record, and ranked number three by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association. But his gold medal was no cakewalk. Except for a 13-1 victory in the semifinal, every match was a battle.

His toughest was his quarterfinal against Bob Leudke of Oshawa. In that match Widdis broke his nose and narrowly held on for a 6-4 decision. In the end he went 5-0, defeating the second, third and fourth place finishers.

Widdis ends the season with a 42-1 record, the best in Drury history, and 190 career victories, which is third on the all-time win list.

Overshadowed by Widdis' accomplishment were several other strong Drury performances. Rookie Grant Heffron and sophomore Chris Denich made successful OFSAA debuts, placing in the top 16 against mainly older, more experienced wrestlers.

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What remains will stay as disappointment fades

Famed baseball manager Leo Durocher once said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

He was wrong. The Bishop Reding High School senior boys basketball team proved that when their season came crashing to an end in a stunning 62-50 upset loss to Burlington's Nelson Lords in the Halton championships last Thursday, in front of a full house at Sheridan College.

They may have lost the game, but they won much, much more. All season long they won the respect and admiration of basketball players, coaches and fans all over the province, and even out of the country. They finished with a 37-5 record, lost none within the league until the finals, and were ranked in the top three province-wide for most of the season.

Those who saw them on a regular basis marvelled at their disciplined play, awesome

MURRAY TOWNSEND ON THE LOOSE

shooting power, suffocating defence, strong bench, and their ability to control almost every game they played. They were able to capture the imagination of many of us, with a legitimate shot at the provincial championship in the marquee sport of secondary schools.

No doubt the players, under Chris Dooley's tutelage, will realize what they won personally after they get over the disappointment. It's something they can carry with them for a long time.

You don't lose all that with the score of just one game.

Bishop Reding started off the championship

game strongly, jumping out to an 8-2 lead, and pressing Nelson hard on defence.

But Nelson supplied some full court pressure of their own, battling back to 8-7 and then netting one with two minutes left in the first quarter to go up 9-8. They never relinquished the lead after that.

The Lords were tough on defence and especially strong on the boards, coming down with the rebounds far too often. And there were lots of rebounds because the Royals' shooting was off. Way off.

Still, Bishop Reding battled back after falling behind 20-11 in the second quarter, thanks mostly to Jesse Ogden, who was recently named to the *Toronto Sun's* second team all star squad.

He sank a three-pointer, then grabbed a rebound under his own net, getting the ball to Peter Stelter, who sank two free throws after being fouled on his way to the basket. Then

Ogden stole the ball again and moved it to Blair Pallopson, who tried the three. He missed, but Matt Parent hammered home the rebound to bring the score back to 22-21.

Nelson scored two as time ticked down and went to the dressing room at halftime with a 24-21 lead.

Ogden started the second half with two points, Nelson got one back, and then Todd Fuller made a nice drive to the basket for a couple more. Another for Nelson and then a three-pointer by Carlo Zoffranieri — nothing but net and a little dance. That brought the Royals back again to within one point.

But the Lords could do no wrong. Even with the Royals blanketing them on defence and Stelter providing some aggressiveness under the boards, Nelson moved ahead 35-28.

Then they started to work the ball around, taking precious time off the clock, waiting

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