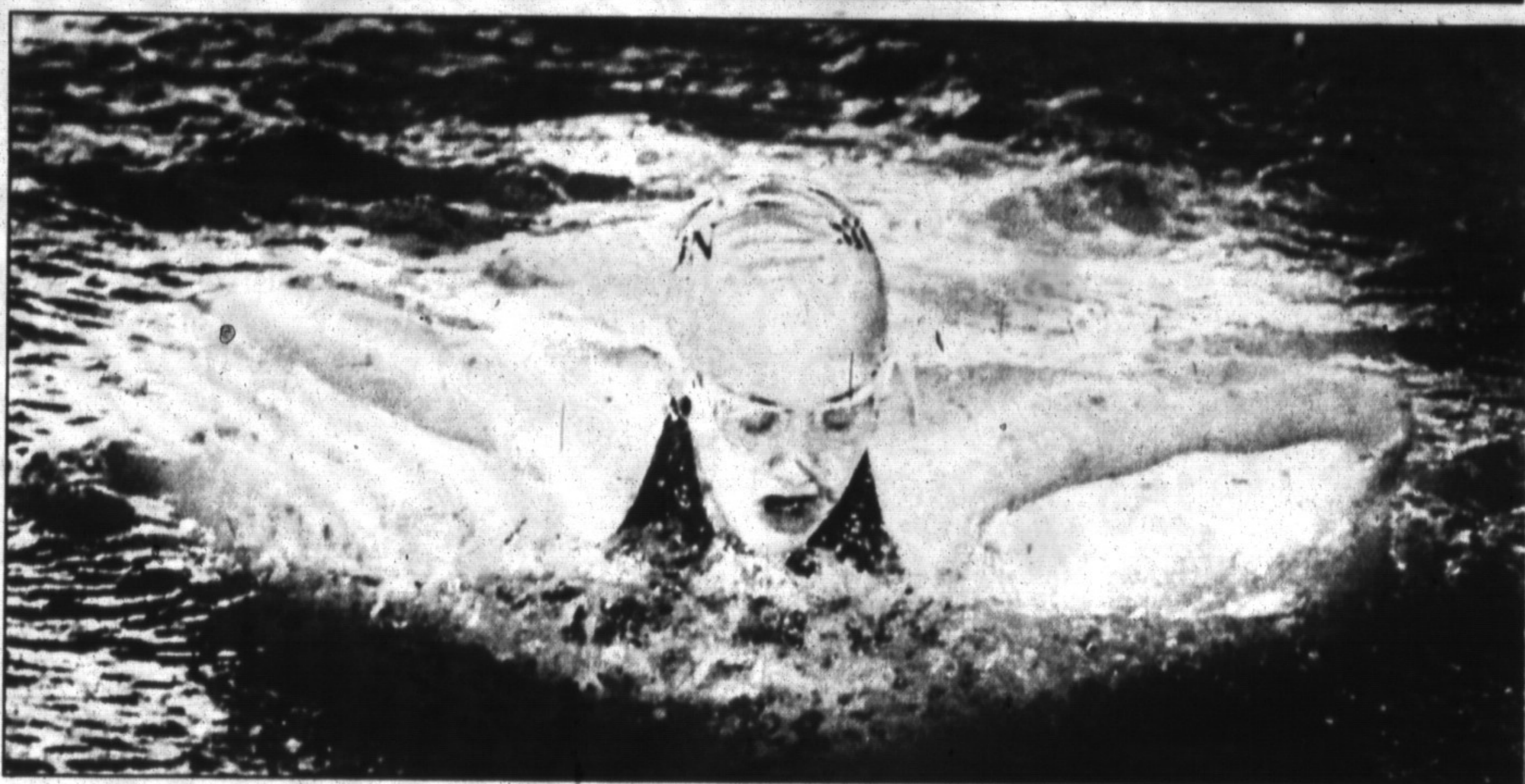
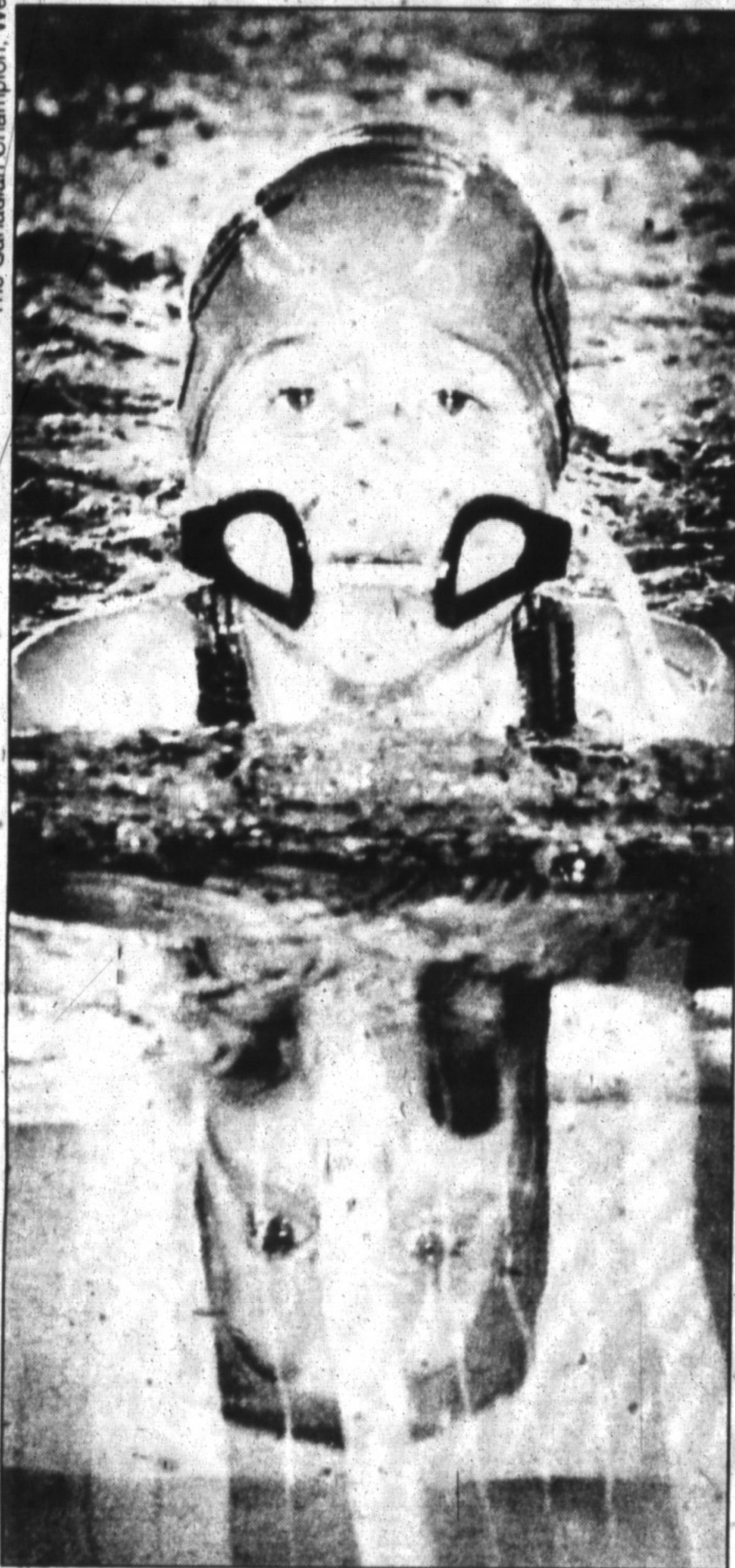




SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17, 1996



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Her face mirrors fatigue

Nine-year-old Cheryl Smith of the Orangeville Otters Swim Club showed solid determination (left) to finish her breaststroke race despite some equipment problems at the Milton Marlins Spring Invitational meet last weekend. Above, 11-year-old Lisa Trenchs of Milton comes up for air in a girls medley event. She was second in the race. Look for more results in an upcoming issue.

Tyke Selects improve greatly

With sound determination and strong teamwork, the Milton 7-year-old tyke selects pulled off a rags to riches story in local hockey action this season, going from early season basement dwellers to end-of-the-year championship contenders.

The Winterhawks began the season as Milton's first-ever tyke entry in Tri-County league play. They didn't get off to a great start, with lopsided 10-1 and 12-1 defeats in their first two exhibition games.

From there though, the upswing began. After playing 20 league games, five tournaments (Brampton consolation finalists, Orangeville "A" finalists, Hamborough champions and Chinguacousy Silver finalists) and 14 exhibition games, the 'Hawks went on to win their round-robin playoff division.

In an eight-team division, it was fifth-place Orangeville up against sixth-place Milton for the Tri-County championship.

Home ice proved to be the deciding factor, as Orangeville pulled off a huge comeback for the crown.

Game one in Milton went to the 'Hawks in a close-fought 1-0 thriller. Matthew Price gave his team the winning goal, with an assist by Geoff Strank.

Orangeville responded with a 4-2 victory in game two at home, fighting off elimination with three third-period goals. Counting both Milton markers was John Black while Jacob DeMarsh, Scott McTrach and Bobby MacDonald drew assists.

Winterhawk netminder Greg Robertson, solid through the first two tilts, worked another key game between the pipes in game three. He kept his team in the hunt, but his teammates were kept

• see SELECTS on page 20

Ivy league hockey fast and tough, says Princeton freshman Scott Bertoli

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

For most of us, the Ivy League means huge brick buildings, intense lectures, leather patches on sports jackets and a general tradition of academic excellence. For Milton's Scott Bertoli, it also means early morning practices, long bus rides to away games and plenty of bodychecks along the way.

That's because the 19-year-old Milton native continues to excel both in and out of the classroom — only now he does it at Princeton University in New Jersey. The latter of these efforts is with the school's varsity hockey team.

A former star forward with the Milton Junior A Merchants, Bertoli recently completed his rookie season with the Princeton Tigers, a Division I squad in the NCAA's Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC).

Twists and turns

And while earning a place at both the school and its hockey team caused plenty of excitement for Bertoli this season, there were twists and turns to go along with it as well.

For starters, he had to go through proving himself to a new coaching staff, on a new team, at a new level of hockey.

"University hockey here is much faster and quicker. The tempo of the game is so much higher. It took me a while to really get used to the speed," Bertoli explained.

While a right winger/centre for the Merchants, he was relegated to left wing for most of the season and said he wasn't seeing very much ice time at the beginning — as a member of the third or fourth line.

Eventually, however, Bertoli's skill and determination earned him a spot on the second line, where he saw much more playing time, including powerplay opportunities. His offensive game started to kick in through the second half of the season and he finished with three goals, nine assists and 52 penalty minutes.

"I would have liked to have done some more scoring this year," said Bertoli, who sported number 12 on his jersey this past season.

While not ecstatic with his overall point total, he does recall a particularly strong performance against second-place Cornell back in December, an away game which saw him score his first NCAA goal. He also picked up an assist for his first multi-point game at the university level and helped his Tigers to a 5-5 draw



Former Milton Merchant Scott Bertoli says his Princeton University team had a tough year but should benefit from the seasoning in his sophomore campaign.

— one of their better showings of the season.

The team also came away with the championship title at the Ottawa Capital Tournament in November, downing Mary Mach of Massachusetts in the final tilt.

Finished 10th

Unfortunately for Bertoli, the Tigers didn't fare quite so well through most of the season. With stiffer competition in later tournament play, Princeton fell short against Boston University and the University of Wisconsin at the Wisconsin Badger Classic, while in league action they finished a disappointing 10th with a 6-13-3 record. They slid in the back door for a play-off spot, but were eliminated in a one-game opening round match by Brown University.

• see BERTOLI on page 20