

International debut brings out best in veteran skater

Dunley's personal-best efforts good enough for sixth at ISU Junior Grand Prix event

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Heading into her international debut in Belarus, Madelyn Dunley still hadn't quite nailed her triple, triple in competition. The thought of that may have been a source of anxiety had the 16-year-old Milton Skating Club veteran not held such faith in her training — or, equally encouraging, been able to look back on the high-stakes breakthrough she'd enjoyed earlier this year. "That did cross my mind," recalled Madelyn, referring to the Canadian Tire National Figure Skating Championships in January, when she landed the triple Lutz for the first time en route to claiming national junior bronze. "But I think it was more that I'd skated clean for three weeks (prior to Belarus). I had some butterflies, but at the same time I really knew I was prepared." That certainly seems to have been the case, judging by her performance late last month at the fifth stop on the International Skating Union's Junior Grand Prix circuit. With ample preparation and the incentive of being her club's first-ever international representative, Madelyn pulled off the triple triple and lifted her overall season-high score by 15



Madelyn Dunley competes at the Junior Grand Prix event in Belarus.

Photo by Dmitry Ikinin / Special to the Champion

points — with a 141.78 showing that topped a couple of strong efforts at summer meets — to placed sixth out of 29 competitors in the women's singles class.

She finished just a little more than three points shy of bronze and edged out fellow Canadian Alaine Chartrand (of Prescott), who took third in last year's national senior ladies ranks.

"I feel really good about this. Being the first (skater) with the club to qualify for an international meet, I really wanted to do my best." Madelyn stressed to the Champion yesterday afternoon at Milton Sports Centre, sitting under a good luck banner for her from fellow skaters and coaches.

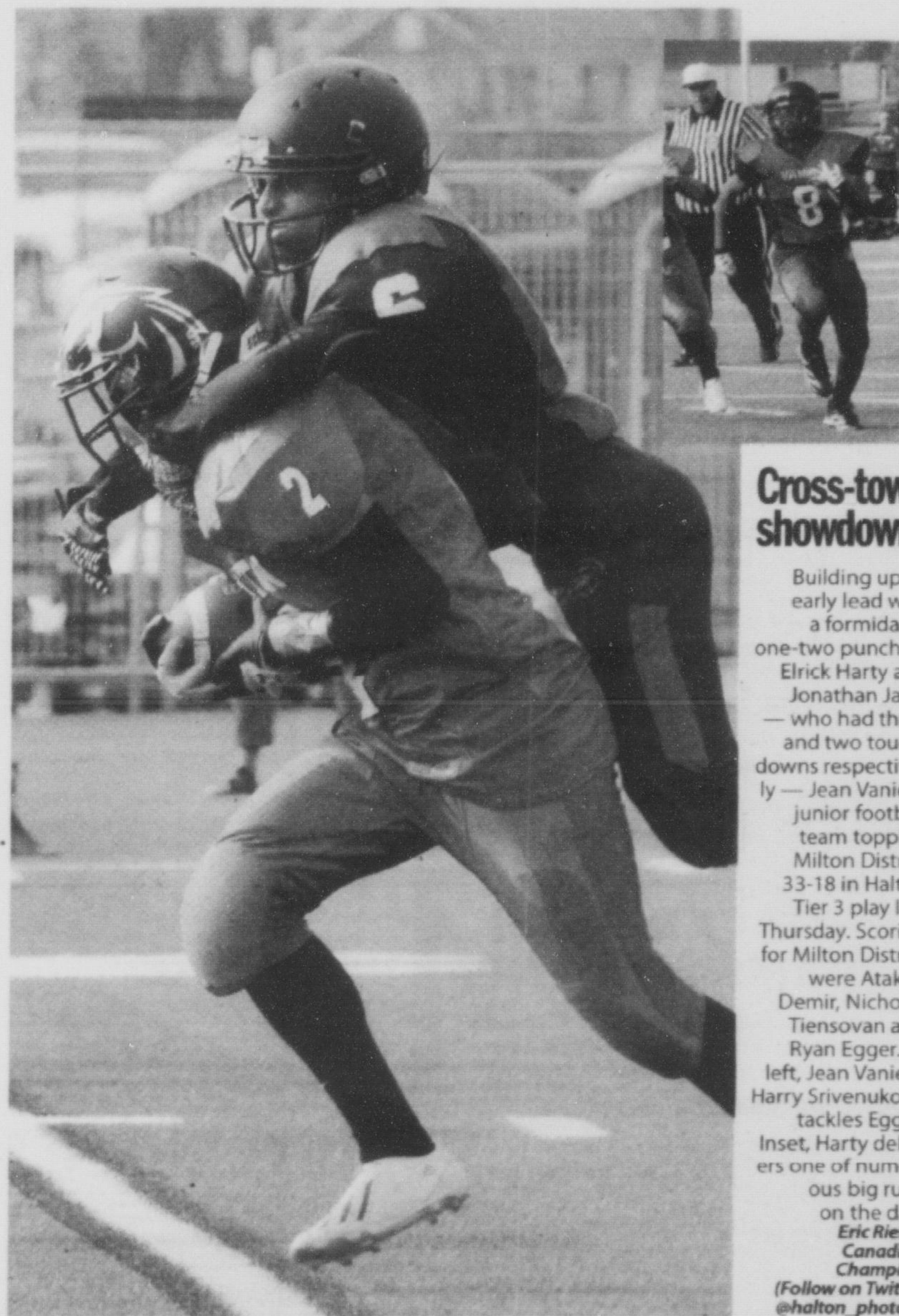
"The triple triple is just the second element in my short program, so landing that definitely boosted my confidence."

Added coach Nancy Lemaire, "Madelyn seemed very confident going in. She knew what she had to do. Once she landed the triple triple, I knew she was going to have a good skate."

A five-time national championship competitor, Madelyn has always been an impressive jumper and never been short on drive or ambition when it comes to skating. But with

hopes and the distinct possibility of reaching the international stage becoming real last year, the Campbellville teen rearranged her school schedule to allow for more time on the ice.

Training up to six hours most days, Mad-



Cross-town showdown

Building up an early lead with a formidable one-two punch by Elrick Harty and Jonathan Jarjis — who had three and two touchdowns respectively — Jean Vanier's junior football team toppled Milton District 33-18 in Halton Tier 3 play last Thursday. Scoring for Milton District were Atakan Demir, Nicholas Tiensovan and Ryan Egger. At left, Jean Vanier's Harry Srivenukopa tackles Egger. Inset, Harty delivers one of numerous big runs on the day. Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)



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