

# Sports

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## Strong start for junior volleyball Mustangs

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

With four of six starters in Grade 9, Dave Walker's Mustangs have a promising future ahead of them. Of course their present is awfully bright as well.

Though not quite in peak form for much of Wednesday's clash with Aldershot, Milton District's volleyball juniors still had enough to topple the unbeaten Lions 2-1 (25-17, 21-25, 15-8) and improve to 6-1 in Halton's Tier 2 ranks.



"It was only in the third set that we really started to find our consistency," said Walker, who noted that this year's squad is reminiscent of the 2008/09 team he guided to regional supremacy.

Middles Alex Morden and Katarina Kanbergs — one of the four ninth grade starters — helped control the net in the tiebreaker and send the Mustangs into their holiday break on a high note.

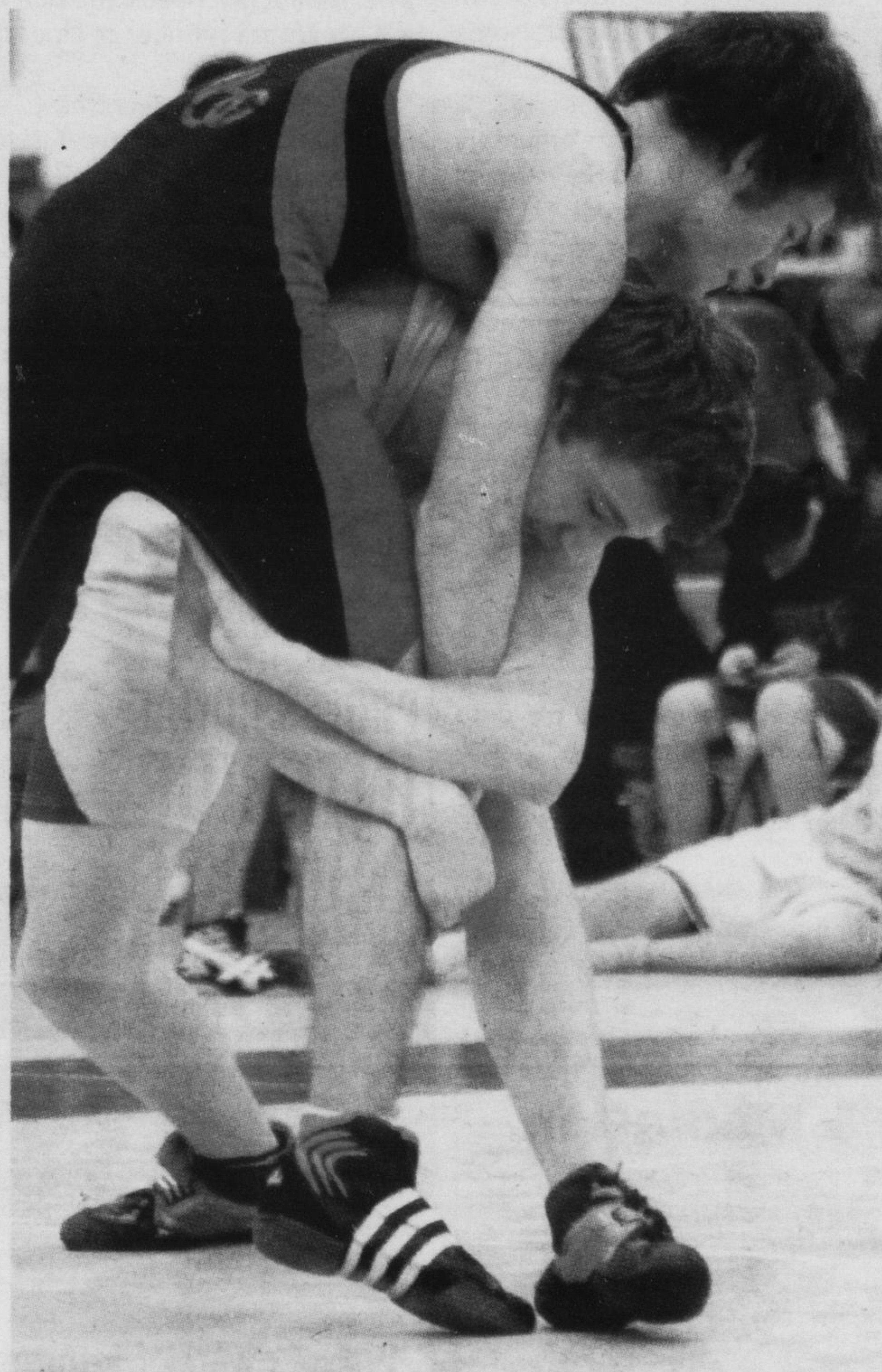
Sara Rohr also stepped things up at power.

Wednesday aside, Walker said the young Mustangs have shown great intensity in most games this season and have enjoyed a great stabilizing presence from Grade 10 setter Shania Rohr.

That's been evident in tournament play as well, with MD showing strongly at Burlington's Garth Webb and in Ancaster.

"This team really comes to play and takes advantage of miscues... making teams pay for them," said Walker, whose team's only league play defeat came in a three-set verdict against undefeated Burlington Central, who also beat the Mustangs in a championship tiebreaker at the Garth Webb tournament.

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### Locked in

Craig Kielburger's Matt Macrae (in yellow) looks for a leg takedown against Gregory Clark of Burlington Central during the Spartans' pre-holiday tournament last week. Craig Kielburger won the boys title with a three-point victory over Brampton's Heart Lake. That was thanks to gold-medal performances by veteran twins Cole and Jake Michaelis and Zahid Neemuchwala. The Spartans won 11 medals overall to eclipse Heart Lake.  
Michael Ivanin / Special to the Champion

## Dunley captures Skate Canada Challenge bronze

Cracks top-three in first year at senior despite lingering back injury

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Making the jump to the senior division this season, Madelyn Dunley knew a number of new experiences were ahead of her.

There was also one she hadn't counted on. And certainly didn't welcome. Despite her decade-plus involvement in figure skating, the 17-year-old Miltonian has been fortunate to avoid any major injuries.

Until now.

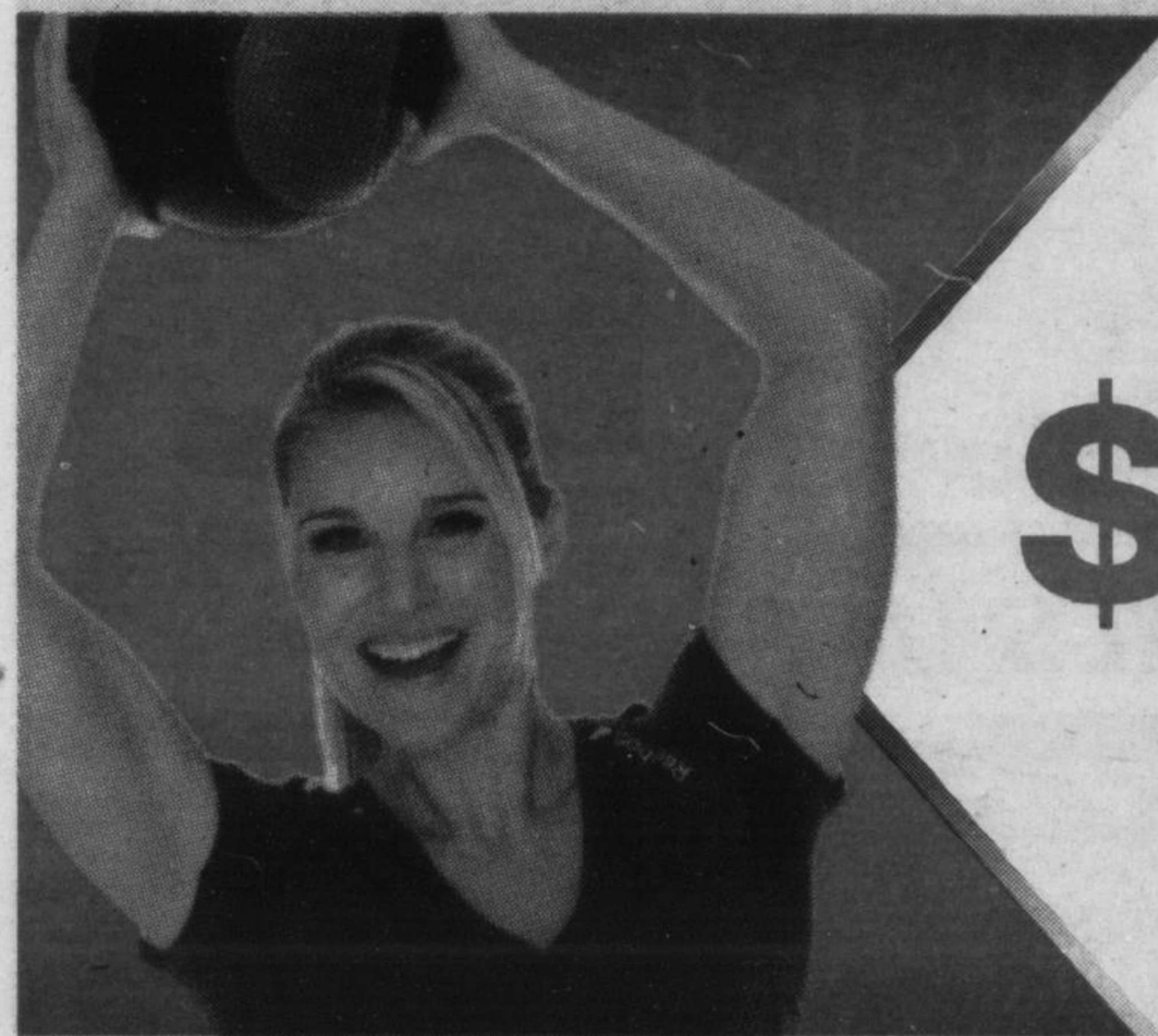
"I've been in and out of doctors' offices. It's been a frustrating year," said the Milton Skating Club veteran, referring to the lower back spasms that began in May and — with the exact cause still undetermined — have been resurfacing with increased frequency in recent months. "I know I should be training, but I never know when it (back pain) is going to pop."

The first-year senior's back was screaming as she limped off the ice in Pierrefonds, Quebec December 6.

But the overall bronze medal secured soon after would no doubt provide some emotional comfort — as **40**



Madelyn Dunley holds her Skate Canada Challenge bronze medal.  
Steve LeBlanc / Canadian Champion



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