

Dodson and CP Canadians advance to national Royal Bank Cup semis

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Andrew Dodson and his fellow tyke Winterhawks gather on the ice at Memorial Arena

prior to an IceHawks playoff game — ready to be recognized as Tri County champions. Scanning the towering players to his left and right — and then looking up to a hearty round of applause from the fans — two

things become clear to Dodson. One, that a future in junior hockey seems awfully appealing. Two, that he most assuredly wants to taste championship success again. A little over a decade later, the now 18-year-

old Miltonian can certainly consider his boyhood dreams realized. Now in the final few days of his second season of Jr. A, Dodson currently finds himself in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba with his two-

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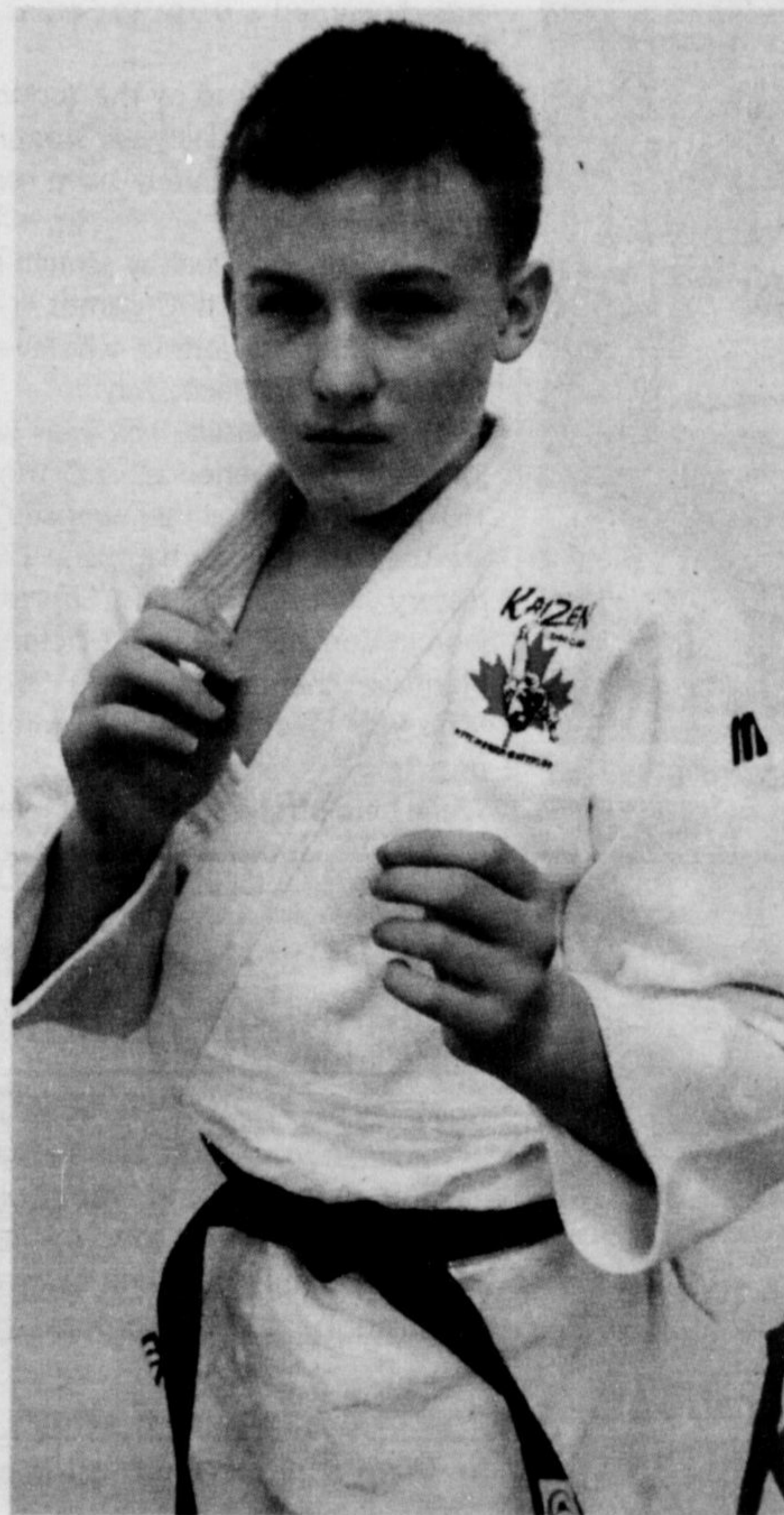
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National judo stage awaits

Young standout has the potential to be world-class competitor: says instructor

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Springing to his left, Jake Mincovitch gets his pad on a bottom corner blast off an odd-man rush. The loose puck is scooped up by the shooter and taken behind the net, with a wraparound jam coming a split-second later. Not fast enough, as it turns out, as a quick burst across his crease sees Mincovitch play the spoiler once again and pounce on the rebound to squash the attack. A Triple-A goalie for the past five years, he has more than just his on-ice training to thank for these swift lateral movements. Much more. "Judo has more footwork (than other forms of martial arts)," explains the 14-year-old, who moved to town last year but has remained a devoted student at Kitchener's Kaizen Judo Club. "There's a lot of short movements... quick bursts. As a goalie, it's definitely helped with my reflexes and agility." But judo is hardly just a means to an end for Mincovitch's netminding development. Far from it.



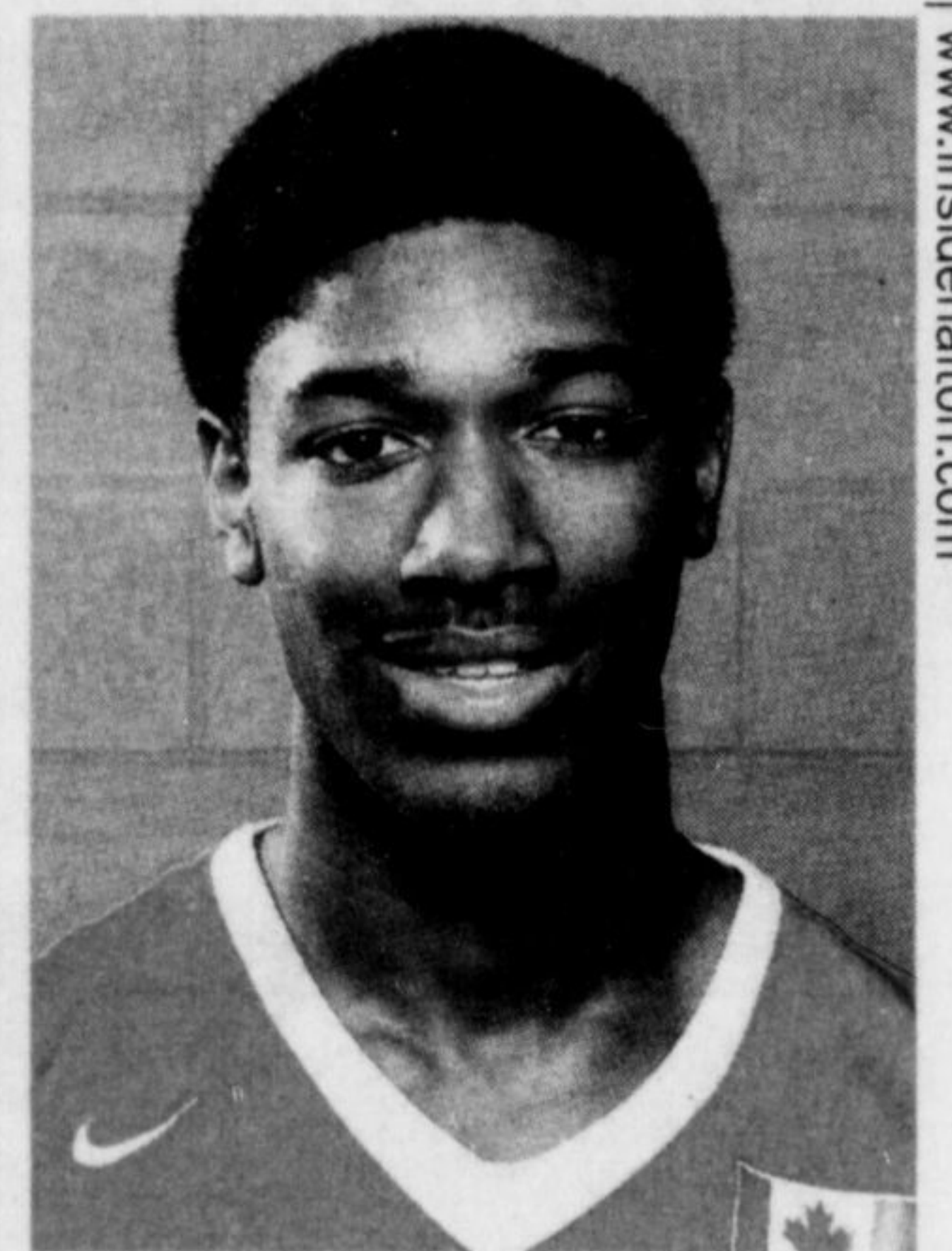
Jake Mincovitch is eager to test himself at this weekend's Canadian Judo Championships in Quebec. *Supplied photo*

From raw talent to highly touted Division 1 recruit

Despite late start to competitive basketball, Alexander develops into a top-level prospect and is now bound for University of Tennessee

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

At 6-foot-7 and with great mobility to match, a 15-year-old Kyle Alexander certainly had the physical tools to thrive on the court. Yet was it too late for this raw talent to develop into a bonafide basketball player? After all, he was already well into high school and had almost no real competitive experience. Part of the Milton District Mustangs, he'd often find himself riding the bench, and rarely made much of an impact when called into play. "Honestly, I had no skills," admitted Alexander, who comes from a strong basketball family — with father Joe and sister Kayla having both played in university. "I didn't



Kyle Alexander

know what to do with the ball. At one point I kind of gave up." That seems awfully difficult to believe, given the now 18-year-old Miltonian's current status. Coming off a standout season with the powerhouse Orangeville Athletic Institute team, a now 6-foot-10 Alexander will officially sign with the University of Tennessee this weekend — having announced his commitment via Twitter last Thursday.



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