

Rams win in overtime

Fred Simpson

Got any money?

Here I had some spare change kicking around in my jeans and I was thinking, hey, maybe I should go out and buy a ball club or even a junior hockey club. How about the Rams? If they're for sale. Then sit back and cackle while the profits roll in.

Then I met Jim Dunkley who, until bowing out this year, was president and then general manager for The Rams the past few seasons. It was Jim who started the whole deal along with Stu Gill and some other people away back in 1968.

In somewhat tortured and weighty prose, Jim told me what he thought of my idea. He was very subtle about it.



Jim Dunkley

He said: "Forget it."

This sent me reeling, lurching from side to side. Another dream shriven.

"We had some thought about making money back when we got the idea of starting a junior hockey franchise," he said. "The new arena had just been completed and we had heard that an outside group was thinking of bringing in a hockey franchise. We wanted it to be locally owned so we got into the act."

"We incorporated it, got a loan, deciding to run it on a membership basis instead of shares. It was \$5 a membership then. We were so enthused, perhaps naive is the word, that since it was to be run as a non-profit organization we'd hand over any surplus to minor hockey or the arena association."

Ain't no surplus

"Imagine our surprise when we found out that there ain't no such thing as a surplus in junior hockey. At least that was my experience with the Rams."

Dunkley calculated that during his seven year tenure with the Rams there was only one season that the club finished out of the red.

That was the club's final year in Junior B prior to forming the Provincial A loop and they had the Weber boys, Daryl Rice, etc.

"And the reason we made money that year was the fact we went right to the finals and drew some late-season big crowds," said Dunkley.

And what did the Rams blow that profit on?
"We turned around and used the money to purchase new equipment, uniforms, etc. End of profit."

1,000 fans a game

Dunkley figures for a hockey club to break even or make a slight profit in Richmond Hill it has to attract an average of 1,000 fans to its games. Cough, cough. It would be easier to attract 1,000 dinosaurs.

The Rams are ecstatic when 500 fans flock to a Tuesday night game whereas, up the road in Aurora, 1,000 isn't an unusual attendance.

"I don't know," continued Dunkley, "I guess we're just too close to the city. People have too many things to do."

I hadn't given much thought to the cost of operating a hockey franchise having always been in such an impoverished financial state that money is absolutely unimportant to me.

Dunkley enlightened me. When he was there it took roughly \$30,000 a year to run the Rams and, believe me, it's not getting any cheaper.

Money, money

Some of the items that whittle away at those dreams of making a profit include \$2,000 or \$2,500 a year for new skates (some players go through two pairs of new ones a season, the industrious ones); \$1,000 or so for sticks which have a habit of breaking easy in the hands of junior hockey players. "That

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By Fred Simpson
A dramatic goal by Dave Stuart with only a minute and 25 seconds remaining in the first 10 minute overtime last night brought the Richmond Hill Rams back from the brink of defeat.

Rams to knock off the Toronto Nats 5-4 in a game which saw them first blow a two goal lead and then a one goal lead to force the overtime.
The win tied their best-of-seven series at two games apiece with the fifth game slated for Westwood Arena

tomorrow night at 7:30 pm with the sixth in Richmond Hill Friday night at 8 pm.

That final goal seemed a long time coming as the Rams missed two or three "sure" goals with Rick Febbo in particular missing an open net twice.

Dunkley pass
It started innocently as Kevin Street picked up the puck at his own blueline fired a rink-length pass to Dave "Digger" Dunkley sailing in alone. Dunkley faked a shot drew Goalie Shaun Simmons to one side and slipped the puck to Stuart cutting in

front of the net alone and all he had to do was push it in.

Take goalie out

The Nats took their goalie out in the final few seconds but never got a really close shot. The Rams' almost scored as Dunkley got clear at his blueline, cut to the boards, and then floated one that just kissed off the goalpost.

It was a game that the Rams seemed destined to lose. They had nothing going for them in the first period and were fortunate to come out of it just trailing by the length of a Nat's goal by Brian Wilton. That goal came while the Rams were fighting off a series of penalties they kept walking into.

Richmond Hill continued its sluggish ways until 11:13 of the second when they suddenly started skating and hitting. It didn't last long. Just about five minutes.

Rams lead 3-1

But it was good enough for them to first tie the game and then lead it by 3-1.

The tying goal was a strictly "beauty" Kevin Street play as he carried up ice solo, over the blueline, split the Nat's defence and then lifted a high shot over the goalie's shoulder which caught the top corner. A typical Street effort. Deadly. Little Dunkley got an assist on that one along with Jack Guest.

Richmond Hill had the large gathering excited at 11:54 when Larry Kimble got a face-off puck back to Mitch Edwards who got a quick shot away which was by Simmons before he could move.

At this point the Rams were skating and hitting hard and then Stuart missed a goal when he couldn't control the puck. Then along came Edwards again and slid the puck in under Simmons for the Rams' third goal with assists to Al Potts and Kimble. Kimble, incidentally, was hurt later in the game when hit hard and didn't return.

In trouble again

Then the Rams seemed to stop skating and hitting and they were in trouble all over again.

The Nats walked into a five-minute high sticking penalty late in the second and four minutes into the third.

Richmond Hill came out trying to increase the score but couldn't find the range with Street missing two almost sure ones, the second hitting the post. Then Febbo was in all alone and missed.

You could see the Rams sag badly after that and it was all Nats for the balance of the period with big Ed Puzanski blazing in a patented point shot at 7:14 while the Rams were a man short.

Nats tie it 3-3

It was only a matter of time until it was tied as the

Nats skated all over the seemingly tired Richmond Hill club Peter Sands was the guy who tied it at 10:34 and the Rams, at this point, looked dead.

Then they seemed to be coming alive again as Febbo was in alone to pick up a loose puck in front of the Nats' net. His first shot was a slow one but it bounced right back to him off Simmons and he pushed it home this time. Time was 12:05.

Renewed hope but the Rams sagged again with Goalie Brian Stankiewicz coming up with some superlative saves.

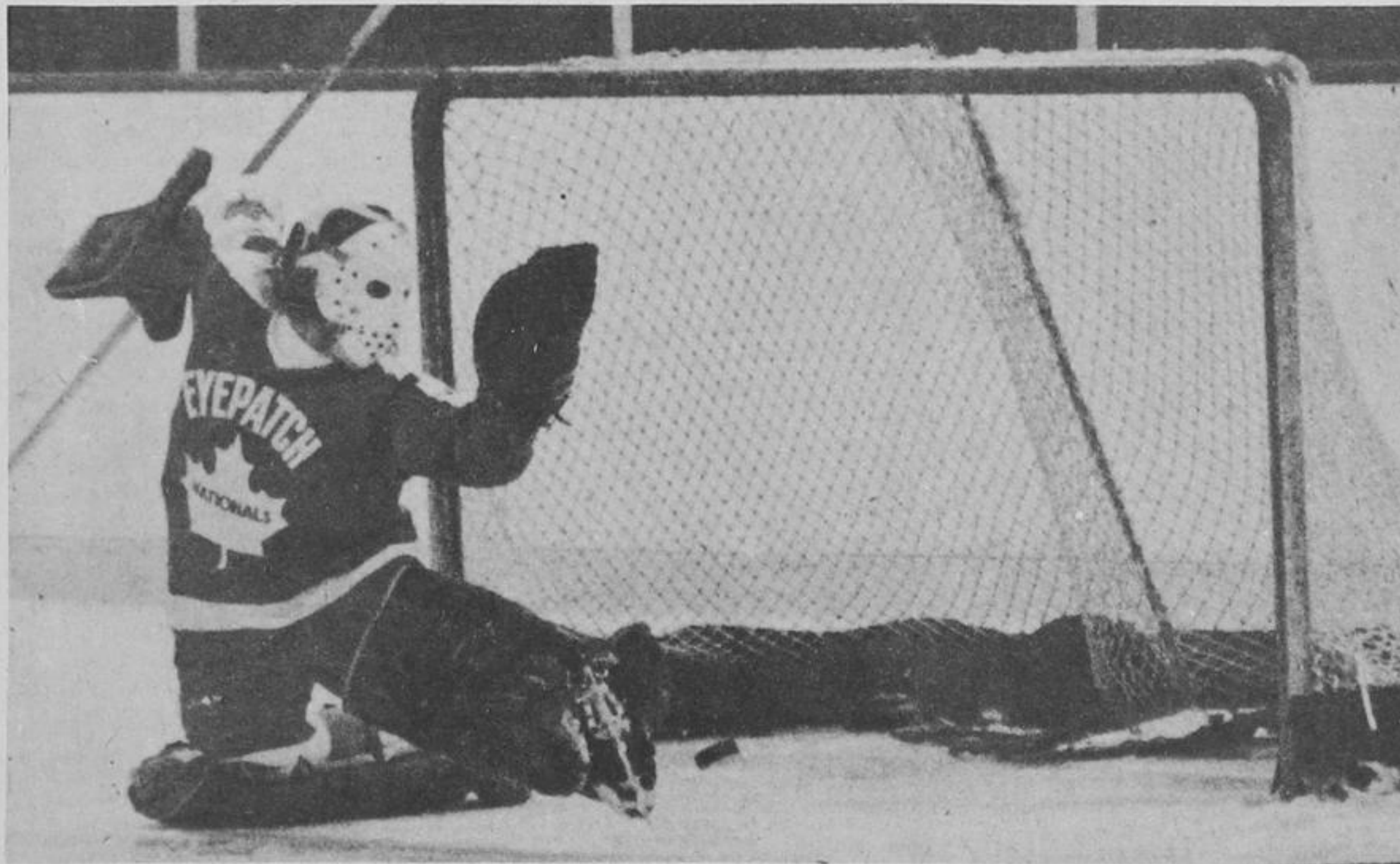
Then with a little more than five minutes left Dave Currie skated in unmolested and fired home the tying goal and everyone was ready to go home. The Rams had had it.

Came the overtime and the tide turned in favor of Richmond Hill as they started outskating the visitors and had several chances to wrap up the game.

Richmond Hill was also in trouble via the injury route with both Mike Rowley and Larry Kimble missing the final period and overtime after having been racked up in the hard-hitting game.

Also taking his lumps on two or three occasions was Goalie Stankiewicz. He was rapped good by Puzinski at one point but hung in there to be one of the stars... another star was, of course, Dunkley who never stopped skating.

The Nats outshot the Rams 38-29 in regulation time.



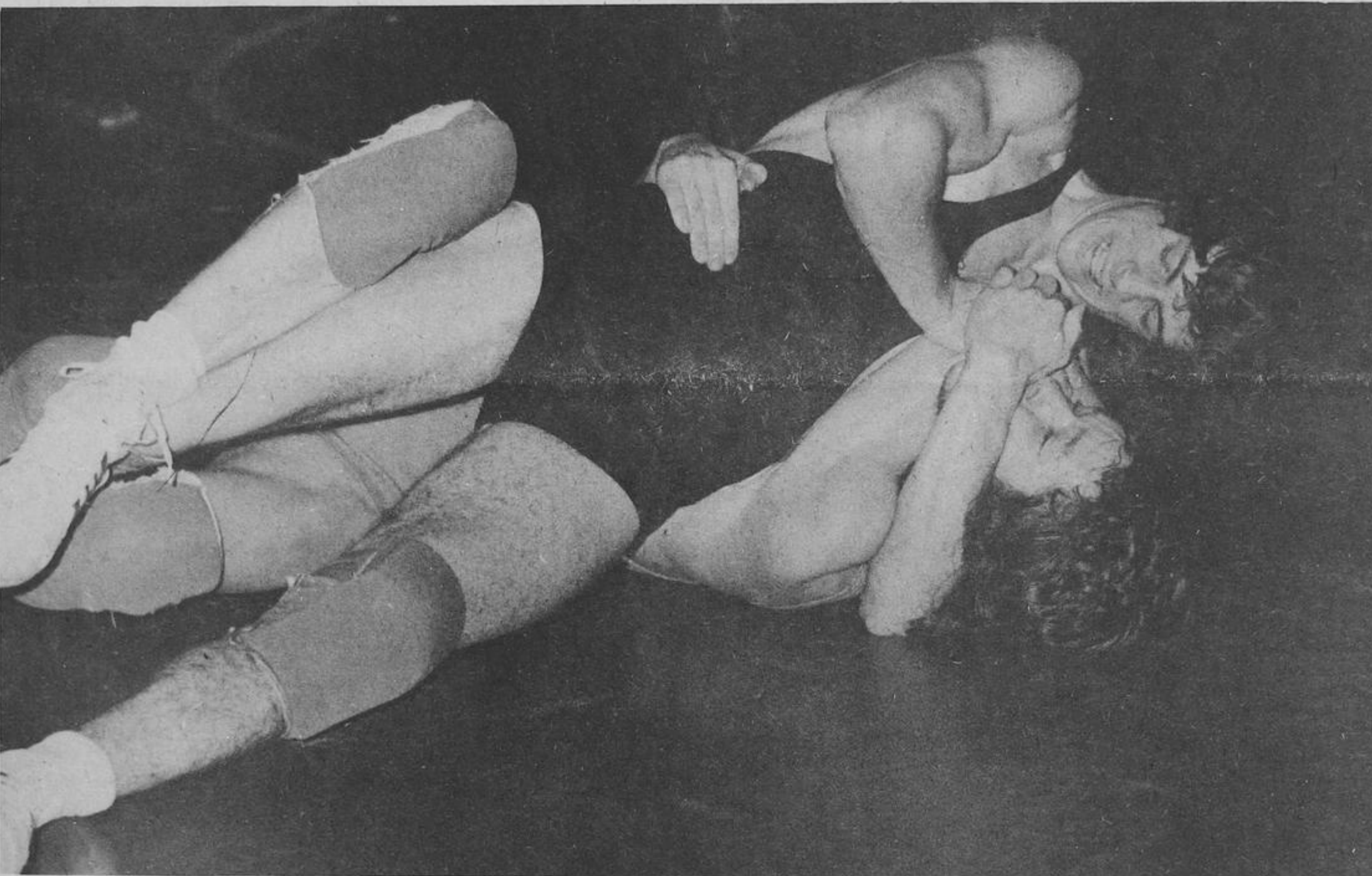
(Photo by Wynne)

Richmond Hill Rams' Rick Febbo's drifting shot in the third period is about to tie the game at 4-4 with Toronto Nats Saturday night. The Nats, however,

went on to win 5-4 in overtime and take a two games to one lead in their best-of-seven Provincial Junior A hockey league playoffs.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1975

sports



(Photo by Hogg)

Bayview wrestler Geoffrey Peck applies an "ugh, ugh" hold on Bob Whittall of Markham in Friday's big York County Intercollegiate Wrestling championships at Bayview Secondary School. Geoff, incidentally, is the guy on top. He won his 141 pound class.

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Basketball, wrestling action at Bayview

Thornlea Secondary School Senior Basketball Coach Jay Hooper could almost taste victory Friday night.

But the taste turned sour as the unbeaten Bayview Seniors roared from behind a seven-point deficit to win by 62-59.

"It was a good game and Thornlea gave us all we could ask for," commented Bayview Coach Cliff Nuttall.

"Trent McCabe was our big man," said Nuttall, "with 22 points."

There was but three minutes remaining in the game with Bayview trailing by seven points when McCabe went into with three big baskets and Jim Turner dropped a free shot to tie it.

"Our strategy was simple," summarized Nuttall. "Score more baskets. We kept throwing the ball to our three big guys, Paul Jarvie, McCabe and Marty Armstrong."

Jarvie dropped in 17 points while Armstrong had an off shooter's day with only two but "he was really grabbing the rebounds," said Nuttall.

Scoring in double figures for Thornlea were Dave Drew, Rod McDonald and John Gall.

McCabe too good
Commented Coach Hooper: "On this occasion we just couldn't contain Bayview's McCabe and that's what killed us. But we're looking forward to the championship tournament. Maybe we'll get them then."
Thornlea fared better against Bayview in the

Midget and Junior fixtures winning both games.
The Thornlea Midgets decided Bayview 36-28 in a fast paced game with both clubs spacing defence.

Thornlea effectively employed a fast breaking offence in the final quarter and this was too much for Bayview.

Top scorer for the winners was Jeff Sanford with 14 points.

Strong second half

Thornlea Juniors also came up with a strong second half after leading by just 31-27 at halftime to win by 67-55.

Scoring in double figures for Thornlea were Graham McDonald, Mark MacMillan and Rob Morrow.

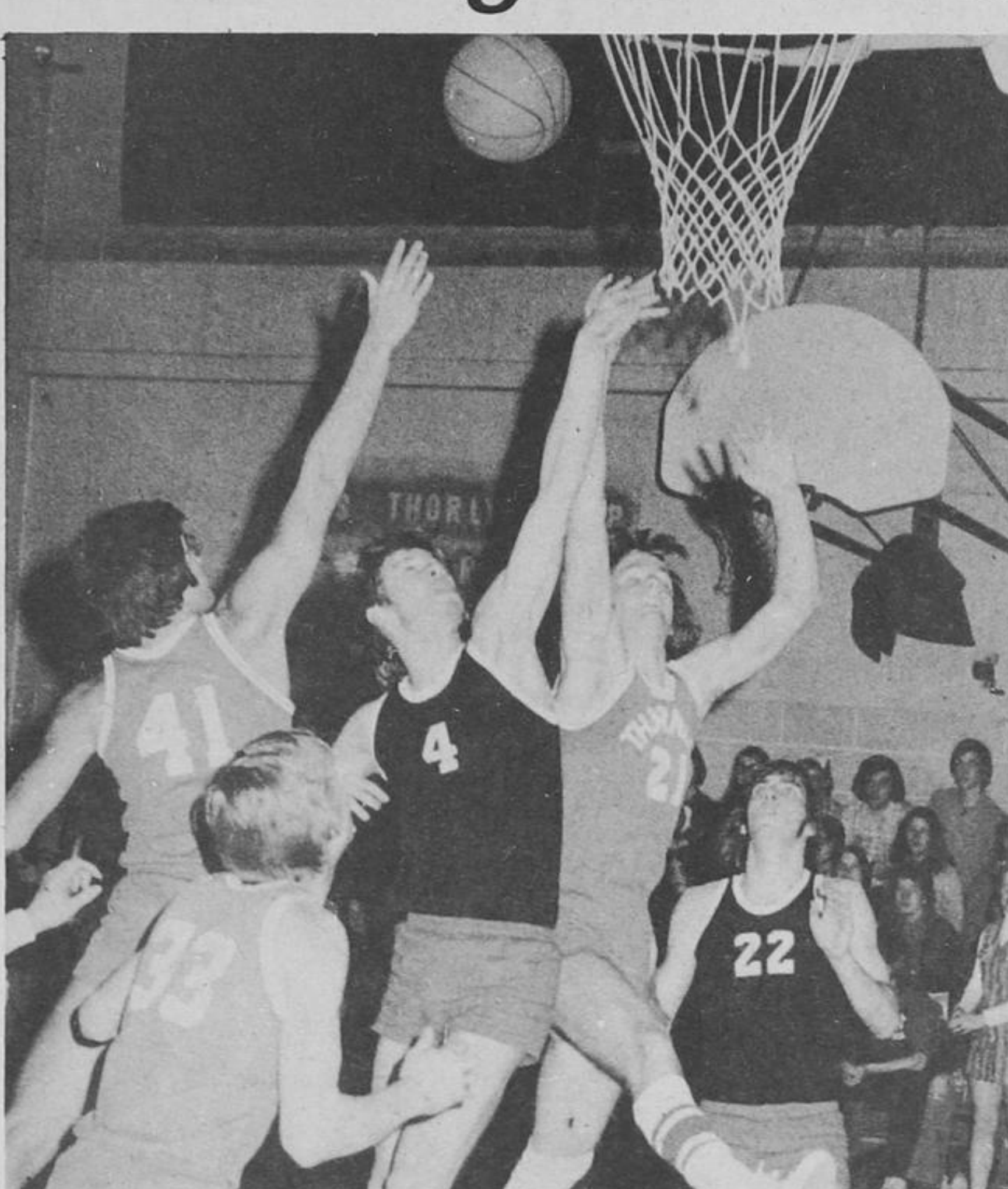
States Coach Dennis Herbert:

"If our Thornlea boys can continue to put it all together than we will have displayed what one of our primary objectives has been here."

"To provide the best possible competition that we can for not only the league play but in the championship finals that are just two weeks away."

News from next door

STOUFFVILLE: A community centre including an ice arena, day care centre, curling rink, library, swimming pool and recreation hall on the Stouffville District Secondary School site is recommended by Kelton Architects in a study co-sponsored by town council and the board of education.



(Photo by Hogg)

It's that big, round thing there fellows. Members of Bayview Secondary School and Thornlea Seniors go up, up and up for the rebound at Friday's game at Bayview. The tough Bayview got up higher more often to win by 62-59. Thornlea players are (left to right) G. Clark (33), J. Seligman (41), Paul Allison (21). For Bayview it's Neher (4) and Armstrong (22).

It wasn't the closest York County Intercollegiate Wrestling championship of all time.

But you can blame that on Bayview Secondary School. They made it strictly no contest Friday afternoon of last week at Bayview as they simply ran away and hid on the opposition.

The Bayview wrestling team compiled a total of 121 points to Markham's 58, Stouffville's 26, Aurora's 16, King City's 14, Langstaff's 10, and Richmond Hill's 3.

"We have the edge on the local schools," said Bayview Coach Larry Johnson, "because we tend to stress wrestling more than they do."

He did admit that this "is probably the most successful year we've had to date. We've managed to look fairly impressive even in the city meets against rugged competition."

Johnson noted that in the recent Oakwood Invitations his team managed a third place finish behind powerful Central Tech and Oakwood.

Eye on Georgian Bay
There's no doubt that Johnson has his eye on taking the Georgian Bay championship.

"I think we stand an excellent chance of winning it all," he said.

Johnson was particularly impressed with the performance Friday of Gary Dunford in the 115-pound class which saw him "upset" favored opponent, Greig, of Markham.
"In their previous

meeting," said Johnson, "they tied 2-2. But this time out Gary beat him 5-2 even though he was competing in a higher weight class."

Dunford talented

Dunford is one of several bright wrestling lights on the team having finished runner-up in the 106 pound class for all of Ontario last year.

Speaking of upsets, Coach Johnson felt the pangs of such Friday when one of his top men had it happen to him.

Steve Gibson, one of Bayview's star wrestlers, went down to defeat in the 136 pound class at the hands of Markham's Allen.

But it was still Bayview's day in all.

They won no less than 10 of the 14 weight classes that were staged.

Results

The results in the various categories were as follows:
90 pounds, Tony Cavaliere, Bayview; 98 pounds, Mike Little, Bayview; 106, Dick Charge, Bayview; 115, Gary Dunford, Bayview; 123 pounds, Steve Penyige, Bayview; 130, Paul Drmay, Bayview; 136, Allan, Markham; 141, Geoff Peck, Bayview; 148, Geoff Peck, Bayview; 157, Taferner, Aurora; 168, Hirsch, Stouffville; 178, Bianchi, Stouffville; 194, Brian Emms, Bayview; Unlimited or heavyweight, Ziggy Burkhard.

Bayview was represented by four or five wrestlers last year in the All Ontario which is indicative of the team's strength.

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"I don't know whether he actually did or not," continued Coach Brimblecombe, "but it sure hurt at the time."

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Make or break

"It's always disappointing to lose like this," concluded Brimblecombe, "but at least it was early in the series so we can come back. I'll know Tuesday whether the loss will have made or broke us."

The Rams, after being bombed 10-5 on Thursday at Westwood, now trail the series two games to one. They play Thursday back at Westwood.

Coach Brimblecombe was critical of the ice there which he termed as "lousy as well as the dressing rooms. A poor place to have to try to win in."

Victoria Grey in rough game

Richmond Hill Victoria & Grey Minor Bantam Bs visited Schomberg February 8 and for the first time this season managed to defeat Schomberg on goals by Clendinning from Vennard and Gerber from Morley. In the roughest game of the season, the Victoria and Grey boys managed to hold their own by hard skating and tenacious checking.

Once again the last minute of play provided much excitement as Richmond Hill had withstood great pressure when Schomberg pulled their goaltender for an extra attacker.

But Steve Young in goal and the defence rose to the occasion and held the fort until the final buzzer.

A total of 62 minutes in penalties was called in this game—34 to Schomberg and 28 to Richmond Hill.

The next evening Richmond Hill journeyed to Sharon but were not able to put it together as they were still leg-weary from the previous evening.

In a relatively calm game as compared to the previous contest Sharon built up a 3-0 lead before the Hillers hit the score-board on goals by Clendinning from Zurich and Gerber unassisted.

Sharon added two more in the third to bring the final score to 5-2.

The Victoria & Grey team were at home February 15 and came out flying to knock off Nobleton 7-1.

Goals went to Vennard, Morley, Clendinning (2), Gerber, Zurich and Stubbs. Assisting were Strain, Vennard, Campbell, Lynden, Morley, Buchan (2), Clendinning, Graham, Zurich (2), Green and Noble.