

No competition around for Unionville wrestlers

By FRANK KING
Sports Editor

High school wrestling in York Region is not exactly flourishing, and nobody knows it better than Ray Kong and Nabeel Siddiqui.

The pair coach Unionville High School's eight-member team, and find their main challenge isn't to beat the competition, but simply to find some.

"There are only five schools in York with wrestling programs," said Kong. "A lot of the schools (including his) don't even have a wrestling mat. So we're going outside the region to compete."

So far team members Babak Ebrahimzadeh, Ranjan Sinha, Jeff Reed, Horace Martin, Mark Fraser, Grant Smith, George Mathers and Mark Smith have been in two tournaments.

Both have been in far-off Mississauga. The first was a competition for almost 400 first-time wrestlers at Erindale Collegiate.

Martin led the way with a gold medal in the 174-lb. class. Reed took a silver in the 134-lb. division, while Grant Smith was fourth in the 156-lb. category.



HORACE MARTIN
Best medal chance

The second tourney was tougher, with 150 experienced wrestlers battling it out at Port Credit Secondary School.

This one showed how far Unionville's representatives still have to go. Of the five that attended, none finished with a medal and only Fraser & Smith went as far as the fourth round.

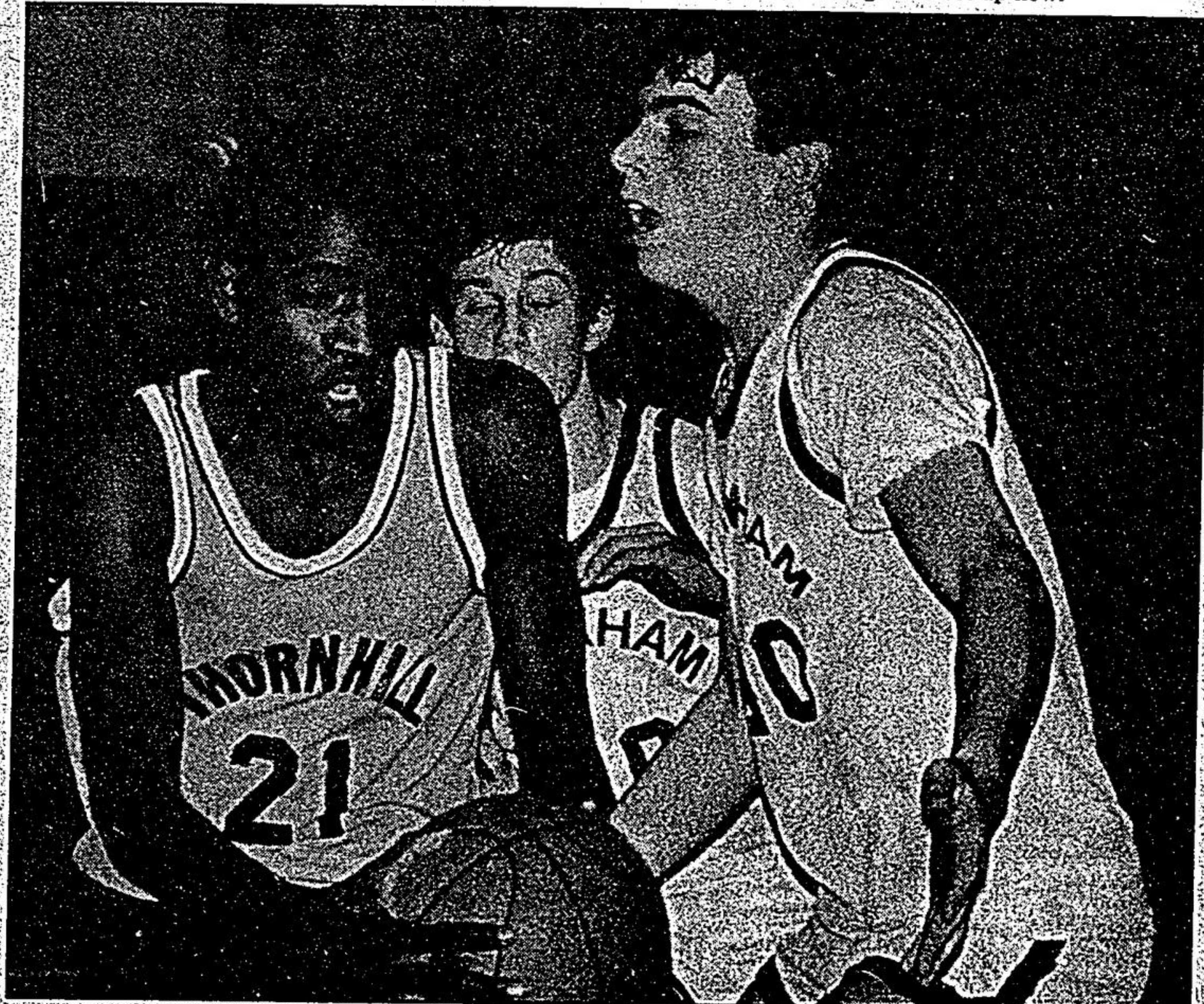
"We're not getting the amount of competition we like, and it shows at tournaments like Port Credit," Kong explained. "The kids there have been wrestling since October and have a season schedule set up."

With such a small wrestling scene locally, it appears all five York schools will qualify for the upcoming York-Durham (DYSSAA) championships.

"But so far there hasn't been a competition in these parts, and only Woodbridge's attempt to set up one before DYSSAA could rectify that."

"It gets discouraging," Kong admitted. "There's a lot of preparation for each bout, so if there are few tournaments, you don't get the experience or the killer instinct."

Martin is the school's top medal chance, with Fraser, Smith and Mathers close behind. But according to the coach, "the team will never reach its potential the way York Region is set up now."



Blocking the way

A Thornhill player finds his progress stopped by Markham District High School's Greg Laycock, in a Junior boys' basketball game Monday afternoon. Thornhill did make enough progress, though, to se-

cure a 50-45 triumph. Markham's record now stands at six wins and nine losses.

— Frank King

Unionville bonspiel

Sixteen local tandems are among the 64 teams from all over Southern Ontario competing in this weekend's 35th annual Unionville Curling Club Men's Open Bonspiel.

Action starts today with a full day of qualifying. It continues next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with the 16 finalists entering the championship next Saturday.

The Unionville rink of Ross Anderson, Paul Turner, Stan Hodge and Jim Dibblec won the '86 crown, and they're back to defend the title. Brian Haffey is the bonspiel chairman and says spectators are welcome.

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