

Ballantrae student big shooter

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The Toronto Raptors could use Patrick Clause.

The Musselman's Lake boy, who attends Ballantrae Public School, got the ball in the basket enough times to win all three levels of the annual Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Championships.

"I don't even have a basketball net and I never practise," Patrick said. "I just got lucky."

Grade 6 teacher Alison Williams led practices at Ballantrae.

Competition began at the local level

at St. Mark Catholic School in Stouffville with 34 students from St. Brigid, St. Mark, Ballantrae, Orchard Park and Glad Park schools participating.

Boys and girls in age categories from 10 to 14 competed.

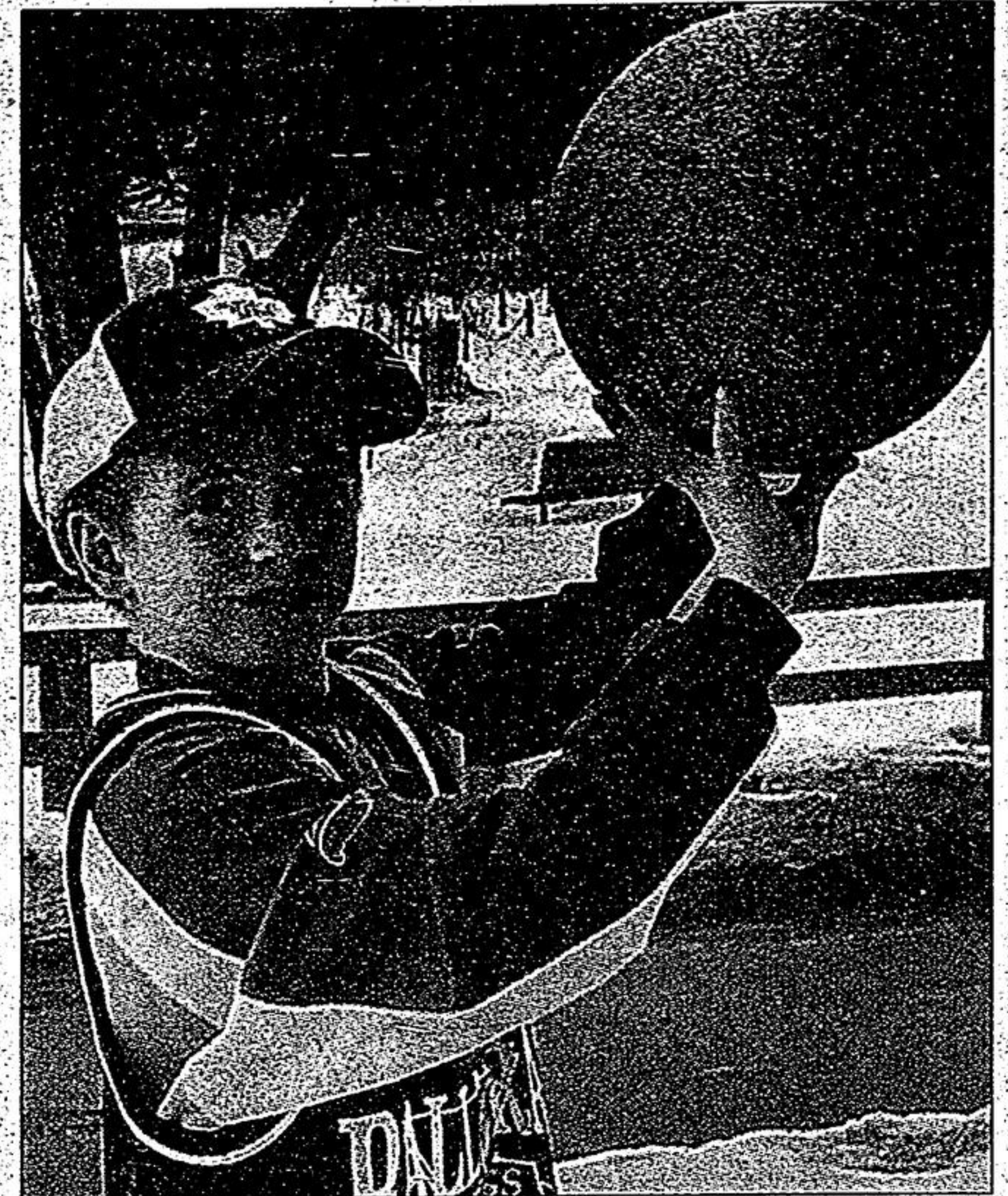
St. Mark Catholic School hosted the competition, under the direction of principal Chester Makischuk and teacher Maureen Crawford.

Teachers are very involved in helping run the program, often in conjunction with the schools' basketball programs, Knights of Columbus member Al Hachey said. Patrick went on to the district level championships at Markham's

Brother Andre Catholic High School, where he got 16 of 25 baskets attempted. At the regional competition in Oshawa, he made 19 of 25 shots.

This is the 11th year for the Knights of Columbus free throw championships in this area. The competition takes place all over North America.

The knights are a support group for St. Mark Church, Mr. Hachey noted. They raise funds for causes by holding events such as pancake breakfasts and selling ice cream and strawberries at the Strawberry Festival. The group is holding a raffle to support the Arthritis Society of Canada.



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

Patrick Clause shows the form that won three championships in Knights of Columbus free throw competitions.

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