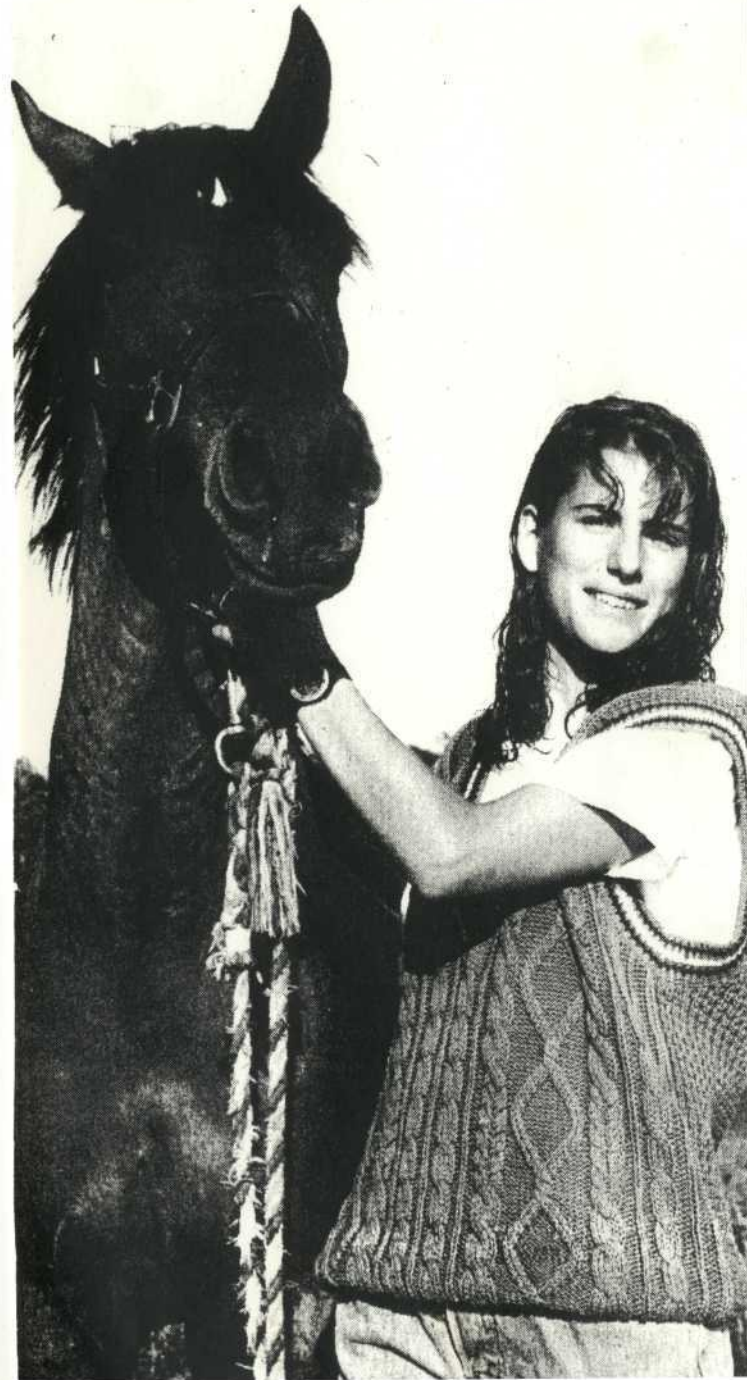


MULLINS, Rosie

Tetrathlon takes Rosie overseas

BY BRIAN O'MEARA
Sports Editor



Athletic versatility and a love of horses will help send 17-year-old Rosie Mullins to British Columbia in early August and to the British Isles for the remainder of the summer.

Mullins, who lives on the second of Huntington north of Belleville, will be taking part in an obscure competition known as Tetrathlon, a contest involving four disciplines; riding, running, swimming and shooting.

The grade 13 student at Centre Hastings Secondary School recently earned a high points award at the Central Ontario Tetrathlon competition in Newmarket, placing first in three events and fifth in shooting.

"I've been into riding and running since I was eight," Rosie said this week, shortly after another training ride at her parents farm. "I was 12 when I got into Tetrathlon. I liked it and kept going."

Mullins, daughter of David and Gillian Mullins, competes in senior girls competition (ages 15-21) and will attend the National Tetrathlon championships in B.C. July 30-Aug. 4. Within two days of completion of the nationals, Rosie will join the Canadian National team for a three-competition tour of the British Isles, which includes two stops in England and one competition in Ireland. She won't return to Canada until Aug. 27.

Tetrathlon involves a two kilometre cross country run, four minutes of swimming, a two kilometre cross country ride and air pistol competition at a turning target from 10 metres.

Tetrathlon is a forerunner to Pentathlon, an event which adds fencing to the riding, running, swimming and shooting.

Shooting is her weakest event.

"I just got started last year," she said. "It's all mental and concentration. My concentration is shot. My nerves get to me."

But Rosie expects to get help



ROSIE MULLINS

provides training for her cross country, the Highlands of Hastings Pony Club provides riding experience and the Belleville Youth Swim Team helps keep Rosie in the pool.

She has been regarded as a top distance runner in Bay of Quinte schools; in fact, this past spring she was 10th in senior girls 3,000 competition at the prestigious OFSAA track and field championships in Sudbury after finishing fourth at the East Regional and second at COSSA. She won the Bay of Quinte 3,000 m. held at Napanee District Secondary.

Rosie works at Campbell's Orchards to help raise funds for both August trips.

The 10-member Canadian National team will have to foot the bill for their own travel expenses to Great Britain although competitors will be billeted when they are in England and Ireland.

NOTES:...Rosie is also a member of the Ontario team for the Nationals in B.C...two other Central Ontario competitors Donna Brewer and Robert Myatt, both of Scarborough, are on the National team. The National team was chosen after the 1989 season and is based on performances in 1989 and consistency shown in previous years...Rosie is the youngest in her family, having two older brothers