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Biker Jon Cornwell

It's the best way to make a living

By DAVE ROWNEY
 Herald Sports Editor

It must have paid off for Jon Cornwell to start riding motorcycles by his sixth birthday because at 20 years he's classified as an expert by U.S. racing standards and is gunning ahead to become one of the best racers in Canada and the United States.

Cornwell says he's well below the average age of most professional motorcycle racers. At 16 years he was the youngest expert bike racer in Canada. His early start into motorcycle competition can be attributed to the enthusiasm and encouragement of his parents. At six he was given a mini-bike built by his dad. When Jon turned eight he raced his first full-sized motorcycle, a Suzuki 100 cc built by Sonic Motorcycles, where his father worked. However, the following year the Canadian Motorcycle Association made a rule that to race you had to be 14-years-old or older so Jon's racing debut was short-lived.

It was because of the CMA's ruling that Jon's parents decided to initiate and promote schoolboy motorcross. There would be two age categories, 7-10 years and 11-14 years. Jon's mother, Betsy, is a librarian and also an avid motorcycle rider herself.

At age 15 Jon went out West for the national motorcross championships and placed an impressive eighth, considering his youth. He was then sponsored by Malco, Canada, which builds a German motorcycle. Jon's dad worked for the company as racing co-ordinator and service manager at the time.

In the same year Jon raced closer to home in Welland and was leading in the

point standings, but because he missed four races, he had to settle for second place. Since then Jon has only competed on the dirt track circuit.

BIKE TROUBLES

Jon has had his share of misfortune in trying to find able machines to race. When he was 17 Kelly's motorcycles of Brampton sold all their dirt track bikes which left Cornwell without a mount. However, by the end of the season he acquired a 500 Yamaha from Kelly's and he proceeded to race in three remaining races of the season finishing with two first place medals and one second. Jon tried ice-racing his 500 Yamaha and lost by one point in the national championships.

At the dirt track championships when Jon was 18 he finished the 250 cc class in second position. He then met Erhardt Frohlich who offered Jon a chance to ride on his 750 Harley Davidson. Using a 750 cc bike in competition for the first time was difficult but Cornwell soon displayed proficiency on the machine by winning his heat in U.S. competition while falling off the bike in the finals.

Racing in the United States is more competitive for Cornwell. He says he's gained invaluable experience while he has raced down there. During the Winter Jon was in Florida racing. A standard race in the United States has about 30-40 expert classified racers while in Canada the number is closer to about 12, Cornwell says. Top money in the U.S. is about \$20,000 while in Canada prize money is about \$1,500. First prize for the Canadian championship is about \$3,000, says Cornwell.

NUMBER GOAL

Jon's immediate goal is to attain a national number in the United States which means he will have no letter on his classification - just a number. He'd also like to be Canada's number one dirt track rider and that means beating two top riders in the country. Currently Cornwell is third-ranked in Canada for dirt track racing.

Jon, who drives his overtaxed van with his bike inside to all his races, says he'd like to race for another 10 years. The thrill of having two other riders close beside you travelling by your shoulder is a real natural high, says Cornwell. "It's the best way to make a living I can think of," says Jon who enjoys his weekend races and the friendships made while travelling. At least one half of all the national motorcycle dirt track riders can make a living out of racing in the United States, Jon says.

Cornwell, who doesn't smoke or drink says his involvement with racing "probably kept me out of trouble during my teenage years." His mother worried about his racing at first, but then realized that more bikers are killed going to the races than actually when they compete, he says.



Georgetown's Jon Cornwell.

START ROAD RACE FINISH



They came in record numbers to partake in the 3rd annual Mayor's Race (see page B3)



Glen dumps Hillsburg

Merchants not so lucky with Erin, Belwood

The Glen Merchants of the Inter County Football league fared well in games against Hillsburg but two games against Belwood and Erin saw the local team defeated in scores of 6-1 and 6-2.

Last Tuesday night the Glen Williams team defeated Hillsburg 3-0 in the first game of a double header. Terry Haines pitched a solid game, giving up only one hit, while striking out eight.

Thus far, Dean Hancock leads the Glen Merchants in hitting for the 1981 season. In the Hillsburg game he had a single and a triple. Terry

Haines added a single and a double with Terry Waldrum, Danny Fields, Andy Broadben, Jack Bergman all collecting singles.

Glen 5 Hillsburg 0

Against Hillsburg in the second game of their double header, Jeff Haines pitched seven innings of good ball, giving up seven scattered hits and eight strike outs.

In the first inning with one out, Les Wilson drew a walk, then Dan Field singled. The fourth batter struck out, but Mike Reynolds hit a long double that scored two runs.

Jeff Haines came to bat and hit a home run over centre field fence to score two more runs. At the end of the first inning the Glen Merchants had scored four runs.

Rob Hatcher scored Glen's fifth run in the second inning on some good but alert base running.

Last Friday the Merchants faced Belwood and played good ball against them for seven innings but the last two innings were disastrous for

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Sports in brief

Leadership program

A leadership development program is being offered through the Recreation Department of Halton Hills to run from July 6 to August 21. The seven week program costs \$20 and included in the cost is T-shirts, special trips and sleep-overs.

The development is for those students 14 years and over. Leadership training will be taught with both practical and theoretical teaching in mind.

Such areas as program training, problem solving and practical experience (each participant will be placed in a leadership role during their placement period) will be featured.

Those wishing to register for the program must do so before this Friday (June 19) through either of the Acton or Georgetown offices. A registration form must be completed and candidates will be interviewed after applicants have been received. For more information call 877-5185, Ex. 87.

Lions oust Streetsville

Brent Hutt pitched a four hit ball game to lead Georgetown Lions to a 6-3 win over Streetsville last Wednesday.

This contest was not only a regular league game but also was the first of a best of two series to see who will represent the Halton County Baseball Association in the C.N.E. PeeWee Tournament.

Sean Milton contributed two hits for Georgetown while the infield of Pat McCarthy, Ricky Fisher, Kevin Lindberg and Steve McCarthy played very well for Georgetown.

Kelly Flack was Streetsville's best with a home run and a double.

New running magazine

Master marathon runner of Georgetown, Bob Daniell is helping to distribute a new Canadian running magazine called "Marathon".

The magazine which is being published in Montreal features stories on running personalities, tips on running and information regarding races etc. "They've sent me a couple of thousand copies to send off and they're free to anyone seriously interested in running," Daniell says.

He was dropping some of the magazines off at the Mayor's Race last Sunday. If you want a copy, call Bob at his home: 877-5338.

Limehouse fastball

Oilers upset Huttonville Hawks

By HANK BOUWMAN
 Herald Special

The basement dwellers Petrohail Oilers vacated their bottom rung standings as they pulled a stunning upset over the first place Huttonville Hawks by a 6-2 margin.

The Oilers lost their week night game to the Indusmin Rockets 12-5, while the Hawks edged Ballinafad 24-0. The Hawks remained tied with Limehouse Lalng's Construction as the third place Rockets squeaked by with a 9-7 last inning come from behind victory. Lalng's Construction had picked up two points earlier in the week by defeating Abitibi Price 16-5.

Abitibi Price remains in fourth spot as they downed the Ballinafad Blue Jays 13-2.

Oiler coach - Gary Flake had predicted that his team would upset the first place Hawks and his team didn't let him down (this time), as they hammered out a 6-2 victory over the Hawks who previously had lost only one game out of seven.

The Oilers went down to defeat 12-5 at the hands of the Rockets who picked up two more victories and now find themselves only two points out of first place.

Jerry Marshall and Dave Williamson each slammed a triple while Ron Prior and Steve Hulme added doubles as Jerry Marshall went the distance on the mound for the Rockets.

The Hawks slammed the Blue Jays 24-0 behind Peter Garden's three singles and three doubles. Rob Reid played well in centre field as well as adding a double and single. Pitcher Peter Blacklock stroked a homerun in the lopsided victory.

Lalng's Construction split their games as they defeated Abitibi Price 16-5. Pitcher Earl Malby was credited with six rbi's while John Case chalked up three. Leading Abitibi Price with two rbi's each was Paul Dewasnap and Roger Brown.

On Sunday Lalng's Construction took a 7-6 lead into the bottom of the eighth inning, before Indusmin

made their comeback. Dave Williamson did most of the damage as he had a single, double, and triple to his credit. Earl (Duke) Malby was tagged with the loss despite a good pitching effort.

In the week's only other game Limehouse Abitibi Price defeated the Ballinafad Blue Jays 13-2. Steve Campbell went four for five

and played a good defensive game. Gord Thompson went two for two with bases loaded triple. Brother Ken, not to be outdone went four for five with four singles while Brian Moore pitched a good game recording eight strikeouts. Keith Hayward and Morley Shortill were the only two players to cross the plate for the Blue Jays. While Morley Shortill and Dave Green each recorded one rbi.

Rival dance team quits

Kris Barber seeks solace for month

Kris Barber of Glen Williams is convalescing for a month after a tireless season of skating, but with the top dance pair in Canada no longer together, he may be more than ready to start training for next year's Canadian figure-skating championships.

Barber, along with dance partner Kelly Johnson of Willowdale have progressed consistently since they have been skating together. Last March they finished 12th in the world and one placing ahead of their main Canadian opponents, Marie McNeil and Bob McCall, of Halifax.

Although McNeil and McCall finished first at the Canadian figure-skating championships in Halifax before a partisan crowd, they have not progressed as quickly as the Barber-Johnson duo. McNeil and McCall placed in the 13th spot for two years in a row at the World Figure-Skating championships.

The 1981-82 season may now belong to Barber and Johnson. According to Barber in an interview last week, Marie McNeil has dropped out of skating as she wants to spend more time with her schooling. This means that Kris and Kelly could have a clear course set for them next year without serious major competition from experienced dance pairs in Canada. Says Barber, "It was very satisfying to be the number one Canadian pair at the Worlds." Next year should be easier for the pair because the European judges will be more familiar with their skating abilities.

Barber, who has been Halton Hill's three-time runner-up to the Athlete of the Year award probably deserves the trophy more this year than any other. Since last Fall he and partner Kelly have been working constantly to perfect their routines while working towards a heavy school course load which will lead to a coaching degree for both of them.

Kris and Kelly are enrolled at Seneca College in Toronto and they skate at the Toronto Cricket Club. Each

morning from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. the skaters can be seen on the ice practicing together before classes. In the afternoon Kris and Kelly are back on the ice from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. They must also practice skating by themselves to perfect jumps and twists and at least three nights per week are spent in their solo efforts.

Kris now has eight of 28 credits completed towards his teaching degree in skating. He says his degree may take three or four years but that fits in well with his plans as a competitor.

Since 1979 when Kelly Johnson and Kris Barber won the Junior Canadian dance championships the pair have been dynamite in competition together. Kris left the Georgetown Figure Skating Club after the 1979-77 season and teamed up with Patty Fletcher. Kelly at this time had a partner, David Martin. Kris and Kelly met after both were looking for new partners.

Being around your partner year-round has its disadvantages, especially when you go to school together and share the same friends, Barber says. "All skaters squabble together and it's hard to keep outside distractions from affecting you, such as school and friends," he says.

Kris says that his high level of achievement can be traced back to the coaching he and Kelly have received from Roy Bradshaw. "He'll put back (the effort) in your skating if you're willing to make the effort," Barber says. Overall, Bradshaw has his hands in about 20 dance teams, he says.

Looking towards next year Kris and Kelly should do well at their international competitions. They are presently working on getting music for a blues tune and setting the tune to a dance routine. The summer schedule consists of three hours per day split into three sessions with more emphasis placed on individual performance rather than dancing together. The routines will then start to come together in August.



Figure skaters Kris Barber and Kelly Johnson.