

## Cleary sets sights on 1988 Olympics

By MIKE TURNER  
Herald Sports Editor

Dermot Cleary's quest to earn a berth on Canada's 1988 Olympic cycling team will take him to California this weekend, where he faces a month and a half of training with Canadian national team cyclists.

Cleary, 25, was originally born in Ireland, but has lived in Georgetown since he was six.

His interest in competitive cycling began in 1982. On a challenge from his father, who was once a racer himself, Cleary set out from Vancouver to try and reach Toronto in less than three weeks.

He made the trip with three hours to spare, and after that continued to cycle for enjoyment and to stay in shape.

It wasn't until 1984, when he watched the Los Angeles Olympics, that he made the commitment to try and crack the Canadian team for the 1988 Olympics.

In order to race competitively in Ontario, riders must be licensed, and in the senior ranks, must work their way up from Senior 4 designation, which is the novice level, to Senior 1, which is the highest level of competition for Ontario cyclists.

For most cyclists, it can take up to five years to reach Senior 1 calibre, based on points accumulated in a racing season. Cleary took just a year and a half.

There are presently 38 riders with Senior 1 status, and they are automatically included on the national team's long list.

In Europe, cyclists are virtually treated as royalty. However, it is entirely different in Canada, according to Cleary.

"For the most part, people here are ignorant of cycling. It's a lifestyle. You have to stick to a diet, and follow rigid training programs. It's one of the few sports where the more you spend doing it, the better you'll be."

Currently, Cleary's training program has become slightly less vigorous because of the winter weather. He spends about seven hours on the bike each week, usually on rollers in his basement. Every fourth day he is in the gym for a weight training program, and he cross-country skis every other day for about two hours.

Because cycling is an endurance sport, his diet is high in carbohydrates, and he must stay away from fatty foods.

As a member of the Brampton Cycling Club, Cleary has the benefit of coach Desmond Dickie's resources. Dickie is also coach of the Canadian national team.



Dermot Cleary of Georgetown has a dream to race in the 1988 World Olympics with the Canadian cycling team. This weekend he leaves for California to get training with the national team which will help him in his quest. (Herald photo)

Finances can be a problem for Cleary as he works towards his goal, but he recently received \$500 from the Georgetown Optimist Club to help him along the way, and he has also received funds from private sources. Some of the costs for him to compete in the upcoming racing season will be picked up by the Brampton club.

The stress can still be great at times though, both emotionally and physically. Cleary attributes much of his success to close personal friend Carole Robinson, who has cheered him on at the racing events, and stood by him throughout his quest. "She's been the most instrumental person in getting me go-

ing," he says. "When I'm down, she picks me up."

The riders who are going to be training in California are divided into three categories. The A riders are those who have attended the world championships the previous year, while the B riders have international experience, and the C riders have distinguished themselves in national championships.

As a C rider, Cleary hopes to move up and improve his chances at cracking the first team. Last year, he was on the national team for a period of seven days, before being sent back to the "minors".

Cleary feels it is important to attend the camp in California to better his chances of riding in the PanAm Games this summer.

What coach Dickie wants to see in Cleary is improvement as the season progresses. His first three races of the cycling season, at Winnipeg, Montreal, and Delhi, will be important for the cyclist. "He (Dickie) wants to see consistency and progression," Cleary says. "If I can do what he expects, I'm on the team."

For an Olympic berth, Cleary has his sights set on a position with the track team, which has eight members, as opposed to the road team, which has only six. He feels his chances will be better on the track in team pursuit, where more positions are available.

When he first took out his racing licence, Cleary had decided he wanted to represent Canada at the 1988 Olympics, and he intends to see that goal through.

"If I didn't have the confidence in myself, there wouldn't be much point in trying. The negative thoughts come naturally, but the important thing is to shake them-off and think as positively as I can."

"As long as I see progress in myself, I'll continue. So far, it's been good. I'm confident I'll meet my goals."



The cost for Dermot Cleary to race in cycling competitions can run high, but there are people willing to help the racer out. Here, Jack Shaw, Youth Chairman of the Georgetown Optimist Club is seen presenting Cleary with a cheque for \$500 at a recent Optimist meeting. (Herald photo)



Greg Wagstaff has been named as the new club professional and manager at the Acton Meadows Golf Course.

Wagstaff was a carded member of the Professional Golfers' Association for about 20 years, and played on the Canadian Tour between 1975 and 1977.

For the last seven years, he has helped in the operation of a driving range in Mississauga with his father.

Through the years, he has worked at several clubs both as an assistant pro, and a teaching pro. He has also been involved in the food and beverage business for the past several years, which he feels will be a big benefit to him in running the Acton course.

"I have a fairly extensive background in both golf and food and beverage," he says. "Both areas will apply directly to this situation, so I should have a good handle on the whole operation."

The Acton Meadows course is nine holes and has a par of 35. No one is going to mistake it for a national-calibre course, but that's just fine with Wagstaff.

"It's not a Glen Abbey, but it's not intended to be," he says. "It's a very playable nine-hole course, and a place where the average guy can go out and play a little golf and enjoy himself."

Wagstaff acknowledges it will take several months to get settled in to the position of running the operation.

But once he reaches that point he says he would like to see the integration of some new programs, if the demand is there.

"The owners have indicated they would like me to set up some type of teaching programs at some point. We could possibly have a junior development program, and another program for the ladies."

For the men, Wagstaff says he may look at the feasibility of conducting clinics that would be more situation-oriented. They could take the form of open discussions. But for the most part, he says, the men don't have the time or the patience to devote to taking lessons. "The women and juniors are more apt to be concerned with wanting to swing their golf club properly, and improve their game."

Wagstaff is taking over from Lorne Norton, who has retired from his duties as manager.

The public will be given the opportunity to become better acquainted with Wagstaff and the other members of the club's staff when Acton Meadows hosts an open house Sunday, March 3 from 1-3 p.m.

Wagstaff says he will be happy to answer any questions people may have about the course and its facilities there.

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