

Sam Mauro
64 Comedians
8 Days
1 \$25,000 Grand Prize

SAM MAURO

Mauro hopes he has the light stuff

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Always one to look at life from the lighter side, Sam Mauro is going to put his comedic talents to the test in next week's Yuk Yuk's Great Canadian Laugh Off challenge.

Mauro is one of 64 amateur contestants looking to earn the winner-take-all \$25,000 first-place prize and also get some exposure from the various television executives who have been selected to be judges for the competition.

Creative director and owner of Georgetown-based Twisted Pencil Web & Design, Mauro has been known to entertain friends with some of his humour at parties and he's had an itch to try out his material in a more formal setting since getting his first taste of standup comedy some 30 years ago.

A student at Sheridan College in Oakville, Mauro took the stage in front of about 1,000 people and "rocked the house" in a half-hour set that was supposed to last for 7-10 minutes.

"At that time, I really wanted to see where I could go with standup but I had to make a decision on whether to do that or go into the field I studied for, and I chose the latter," he said.

"I just turned 50 last Wednesday and I'm getting tired of the marketing business, chasing people for money all the time. Life is too serious and I like to take a comical approach. This is a great opportunity for me to see where I stand so I won't be wondering if I would've, could've, should've. I just want to get myself in front of the right people and even if I don't win it's a high-profile show to get noticed."

A good part of his material draws on his upbringing in a traditional Italian household in Port Credit, or as Mauro refers to it— "Porto Credito"— along with some impersonations.

The Laugh Off contest begins tomorrow (Friday) and runs until May 1, when the remaining eight finalists will perform routines that are scheduled to appear on The Comedy Network.

Mauro has also patented a unique hockey equipment bag and is partnering with local native and former NHLer Adam Bennett in the venture.

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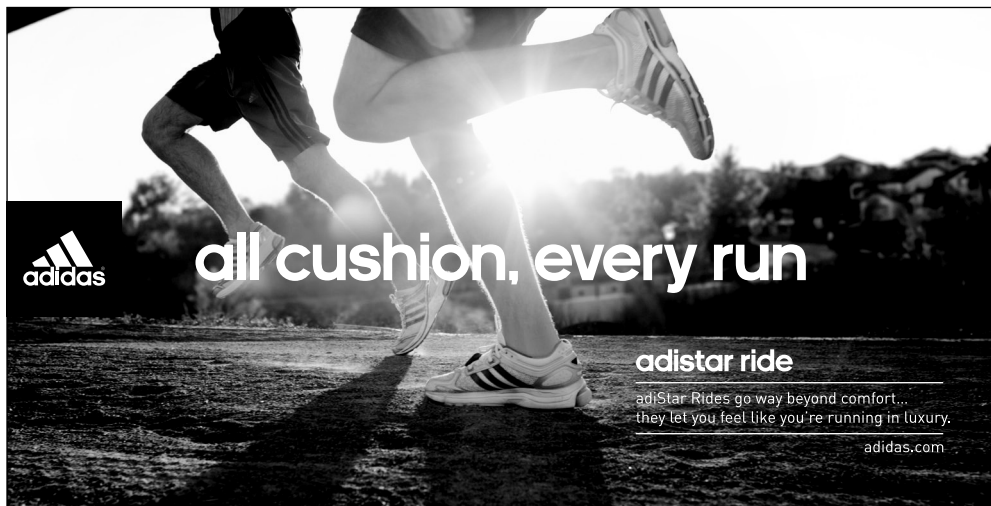
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ATHLETES of the week

Acton High School		Christ the King		G.D.H.S	
Abbie Jolly	Natalie Shortt	Chad Kuiack	Dan Marshall	Maggie Darling	Natalie Gorjup

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Natalie Shortt and Abbie Jolly. The Grade 10 students are a tandem on the Bearcats' senior badminton team and qualified in the girls' doubles draw for the Golden Horseshoe championships this week in Milton. They placed third at a tournament at Bishop Reding and were fourth last week at the Halton finals.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are badminton teammates Maggie Darling and Natalie Gorjup. The Grade 12 students swept to victory in senior girls' doubles at the Halton championships and put their undefeated record so far this season to the test at the GHAC tourney in Milton this week.

Christ the King Athletes of the Week are Dan Marshall and Chad Kuiack. The Jaguars won their first-ever Halton titles last week and were the overall team champs as Marshall partnered with Rachele Giroux to capture the HSSAA mixed doubles title. A record five CTK teams qualified for this week's GHAC tourney Grade 10 student including Kuiack and his teammate Mitchell Giroux in men's doubles.

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