

# Milton trotter beats long odds

By Bruce Murray  
Special to HHTW

One could best describe Milton-owned trotter Spring Fiver as a survivor. Less than two years ago, the four-year-old horse wasn't given much of a chance of living, let alone making it to the races.

On two different occasions, he was rushed to the University of Guelph where veterinarians didn't give him much hope of surviving. The first setback came when Spring Fiver contracted pneumonia and once he overcame that, a cyst inside his nose bled and threatened his life after a substantial amount of blood was lost.

These days after beating the odds, Spring Fiver's will to live and success on the racetrack has given owners

## Hoof Beat

Robert McCart, Andre St. John and Grant Turner plenty of reasons to smile with pride.

Spring Fiver's most recent race was Saturday night at Mohawk Raceway when he trotted to a solid third place finish. With 1993 being his inaugural season at the races, his record reads six wins, a second and three third place finishes for earnings of \$27,927.

"That two minutes (the race) is the most exciting you'll find in any sports event," exclaimed co-owner St. John. "He's given us more thrills this summer than we could have ever imagined for a small investment."

Spring Fiver was selected

as a yearling for the group by Bob Cipryk, who has more than 10 years experience in the racehorse business.

After sitting on the sidelines as a two and three-year-old due to his misfortunes, the son of Brisco Hanover was recuperating on a quarter horse farm in Acton last year, when the owners approached trainer Ben Wallace about taking a look at him. Wallace, also a Milton resident, agreed to train the gelding for a month and Spring Fiver soon began to realize his potential.

With superstar reinsman Steve Condren handling the driving assignments, Spring Fiver's season has been a pleasant surprise for all his connections. Among the highlights was a three race winning streak during the summer which included a lifetime best mile of 1:59 2/5.

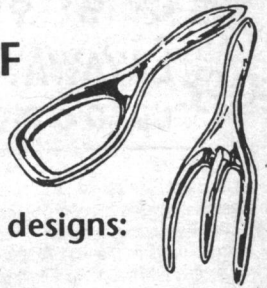
Wallace, who's enjoying a career best year conditioning horses offers this on his spirited pupil, "We've been careful with him all along, but he has a great attitude and loves to race."

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| 5. Teemu Selanne  | 91-92 Upper Deck |
| 6. Chris Gratton  | 92-93 Upper Deck |
| 7. Patrick Roy    | 86-87 O-Pee-Chee |
| 8. Wayne Gretzky  | All Cards        |
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| 10. Manon Rheaume | 92-93 Classic    |

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