

# Sports

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## Hadfield says Commonwealth gold within reach

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Although Tim Hadfield says being selected to the upcoming Commonwealth Games doesn't feel like he's won a lottery, he would like to come home having won a golden prize.

The Acton cyclist returns this Friday from two weeks of track specialization training in Allentown, Pennsylvania and will ride in a local race on Sunday before flying out to Victoria on Monday. The Games are set for Aug. 18 to 28.

In Victoria, Hadfield will team with two Ontario teammates he trains with in Pennsylvania and a western rider for the 10-mile team pursuit race. This should ready him for a 40-kilometre points race (points given to riders on placing through various sprint races in the event) later in the week. Hadfield will finish the Games on Aug. 25,

his birthday, in a 10-mile scratch race final.

"There's a possibility we (Ontario) could medal in the team pursuit," says Hadfield, quickly noting Australia, the defending World champs, are head-and-shoulders over the competition. "We have to focus on our training and hope it meshes together."

After winning gold as part of the Ontario team at the recent Canadian National Track Cycling championships in Calgary, Hadfield says mentally everything is coming together, citing an unpleasant seven-week layoff after breaking the iliac crest in his left hip and six ribs as "having a rest at the right spot, but not for the Nationals, though."

"I'm more fresh than I would have been (if not injured)," he says. "The hip could be twice as strong ... the rest definitely increased my enthusiasm."

Hadfield and his two Ontario mates will have two days before the team pursuit to get accustomed to the riding style of their western teammate. By comparison, the Aussie foursome has been together for two years. Hadfield says the short preparation time is just how the Canadian Cycling Association works.

However, Hadfield says, the difficulty for his team to gel will be alleviated somewhat in that his own riding style is almost identical to that of teammate Mike Barry.

"Mike's been with me since I raced in California (in March) and our abilities are almost equal. We can practically switch bikes and it's rare to have bikes in the same position," Hadfield reveals.

"But being in sync is important. We know each other so well we almost think the same. It'll be interesting to see how it works out.

"I really want to do well. Some

athletes are just happy to be there, but I really want us to medal in the team pursuit. And I really want to help Brian Walton."

Walton, who finished sixth at the World finals last year, helped his fellow countryman in Calgary. Hadfield says he plans to give Walton a lead-out on the sprints in the points race in Victoria and sprint too early, allowing Walton, who will sprint on his wheel, to overtake him in hopes of placing.

"I want to return the favour," says Hadfield when asked if it bothers him to help a teammate win at such a big event rather than winning it himself. "In this kind of situation, you have to be really committed to helping him. Who knows, along the way I might get points and place myself."

Following his Commonwealth Games competition, the 22-year-old will travel to France from Sept. 6 to 16 and participate in the Tour

de l'Avenir event. Hadfield emphasizes a strong finish there is a necessity, since he hopes to join a French cycling team for five months next year.

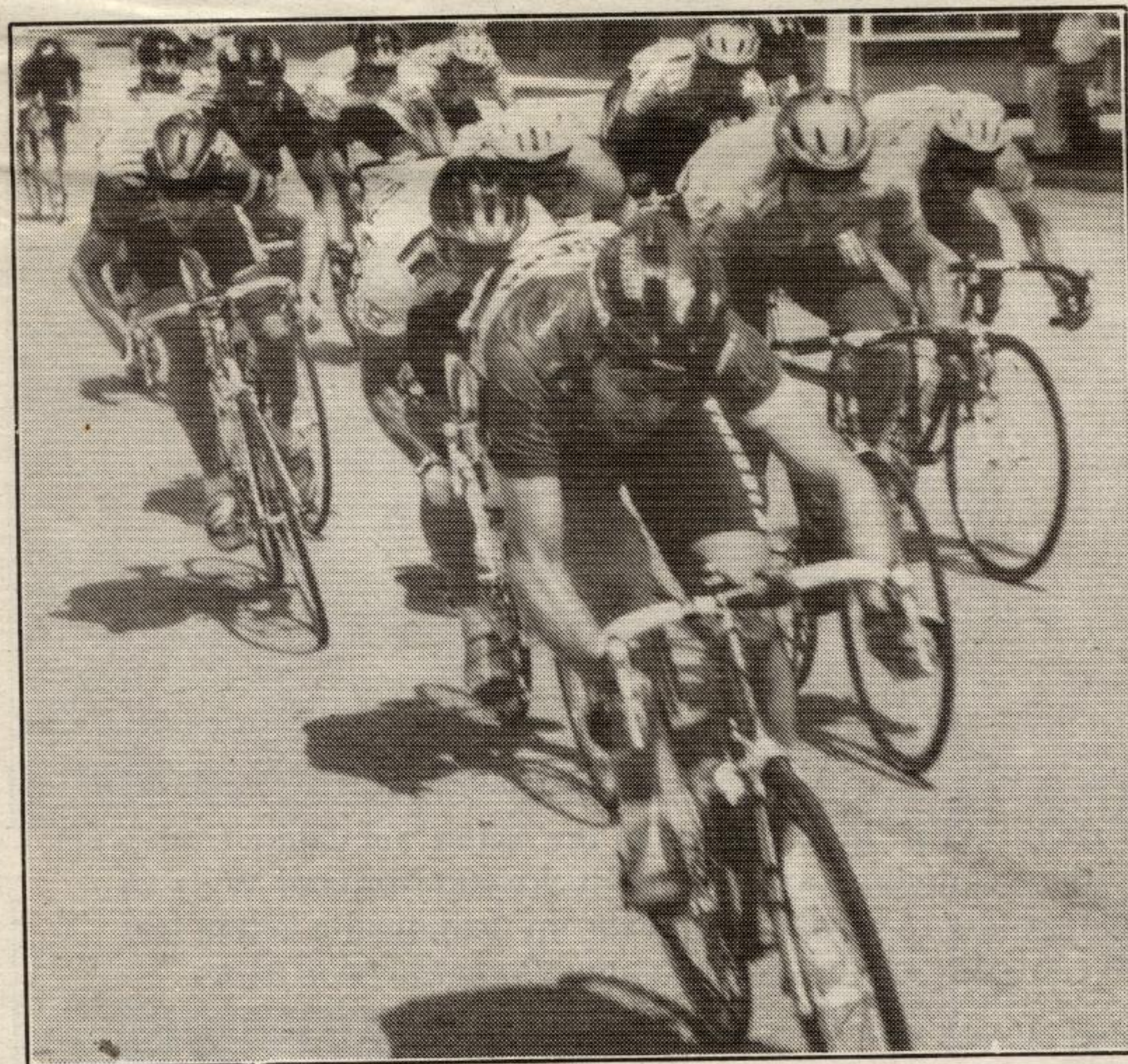
"(Tour de l'Avenir) is kind of like a job interview for next year. I have to do well if I want to be on a team there next year," he says.

**NOTES:** Hadfield placed second in the CHIN Picnic criterium race in Toronto on the July long weekend, finishing the 90 km event in under two hours.

It was the 1993 Ontario Cycling Association Male Athlete of the Year's first race since his injury and he was pleased with the result.

"You have to use your head more when your fitness level is not there (top form)," says Hadfield. The CHIN race attracted 120 riders.

"I was really unsure of my ability, but it was definitely a confidence boost for Calgary."



**TOP FORM:** Tim Hadfield heads the field in the recent CHIN Picnic criterium race in Toronto. He's flying to Victoria, B.C., on Monday for the Commonwealth Games. (Submitted photo)

## Former NHLer to head hockey school

Yes, folks, August is here and that means only one thing: a mad dash to fill out registration forms for the second annual Milton Alliance Church summer hockey school.

With the impending Major League Baseball strike, hockey is that much closer, so why not get in shape early with former National Hockey League greats Jean Pronovost, John Anderson, Don Edwards and many more.

The one-day event which costs \$45-per player — proceeds go to the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped and Big Sisters' Association of Halton — is Aug. 27 at Milton's Thompson Arena. It features four hours of on-ice instruction for 9 to 13-year-olds.

There's also an off-ice instructional component as well as a Chexx hockey tournament, lunch,

prizes, photographs and a pair of tickets to an evening banquet (sit-down roast beef dinner).

The school also offers an exciting day of training and fellowship for the young people and involves church people volunteering in events that benefit the community.

Whether this day is to tune-up for the 1994-95 season or an opportunity to improve your skills, the program's focus is to provide a one-day hockey experience that will develop and encourage each participant mentally, physically and spiritually.

Regardless of a player's skill level, each individual attending the school is special and unique and deserves only the best, which is the intent of the church.

Hence the name instructors who also include former Florida Pan-

ther turned New York Ranger Jody Hull, former Toronto Marlie Brian Crichton, former NHL referee Bruce Hood and Brent Ladds, president of the Ontario Hockey Association Orillia Terriers.

Pronovost, a former 50-goal scorer and member of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Washington Capitals and Team Canada, is the guest speaker at the banquet, which runs from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Aside from Pronovost sharing exciting stories of his days in the big league, the banquet will consist of ups-and-downs of lessons learned, viewing of a video taken earlier in the day, autographs, food and lots of fun.

Space is limited for the school, so if you are interested in a registration form or further information, call the Milton Alliance Church at 878-5664 or 878-0378.



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