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## Hadfield happy with Commonwealth Games effort

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Tim Hadfield was somewhat of a party-pooper on Thursday.

Instead of being showered with gifts, receiving hugs from family and revelling in the West Coast nightlife, the Acton cyclist celebrated his 23rd birthday waiting for a friend to receive a bronze medal, accepted a few birthday greetings and then hooked up with Mr. Sandman.

Partly because he was tired from finishing 17th in a 10-mile scratch race in Victoria, B.C., to usher in his first Commonwealth Games. But it was mostly due to his commitment to Canada's entry in the four-man, 4,000-metre team pursuit qualifier the next day.

"I like racing on my birthday. That's what I'd rather be doing," said Hadfield from his Mill Street home yesterday (Tuesday) follow-

ing a 130-kilometre ride. He returned from the Games late Monday night. "Birthdays aren't a big deal for me. It just makes me feel older ... I can't train for a year and blow it, because I went out the night before. I enjoy what I'm doing."

And he was thrilled after his team (including Mike Barry, Paul Henderson and Brian Walton) finished fourth in four minutes, 27.54 seconds to advance to the semi-finals against powerful Australia.

"I was really happy with the ride, because it was our first time riding (competitively) as a team. But it also broke my heart a little, since the qualifying time for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona was 4:29. If we were together before we could have been there," Hadfield explained.

"All we wanted was a 4:30 and all of us felt we could go faster (in

the semi-final).

And sure enough they did, hitting the line in 4:26.07, the fastest time Hadfield has experienced in a team pursuit.

"That was a really good ride. My form was perfect and I'm starting to peak now," said Hadfield, who qualified for the Games after a strong performance at the Canadian National Track Cycling championships in Calgary last month.

Hadfield attributed a 21st standing in the 40km points race on Saturday to helping fellow countryman Brian Walton place fifth. Walton was instrumental in both Hadfield's success in Calgary and his recovery from a serious injury to his left hip

earlier in the summer.

"I was working for him," Hadfield declared. "If a group broke, I made sure he was either in a good position for sprints or boxed in some threats. I owe Brian and Mike (Barry) a lot. Anytime I can pay them back I'm going to do it."

The 1993 Ontario Cycling Association Male Athlete of the Year said the Games atmosphere and support from the Canadian fans was unbelievable.

"Being with athletes who were there for the same reason, meeting people from all over and hearing the fans was an incredible experience," said an awestruck Hadfield. "I had 3,000 people chanting 'go

Tim' who I had never seen before. It was incredible.

"And then all the people watching on TV made me realize how big an event it is. I was scared."

Now he's excited, gearing up for Friday when he leaves for a 15-day stay in France, where he will participate in the Tour de l'Avenir race, along with other road races.

"I'm just going to race as hard as I can and be aggressive," said Hadfield, who hasn't had recurring effects from breaking the iliac crest in his left hip or six ribs during a race in Japan in late May.

"Racing there is like moving from AA hockey here to the NHL. But it's what I want."

## McKeown competes at Senior Games

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Shirley McKeown was Acton's lone representative at last week's fifth Ontario Senior Games held in Sudbury, but returned in the same boat with her 26 Halton District teammates — without a medal.

But failing to sport a medal around her neck from the 5-pin bowling event didn't bother the 66-year-old who was just happy to travel north and appear in her first Senior Games.

"I didn't bowl very well. I think I was nervous," says McKeown, who didn't roll her 150 average. "I think it was also from a lack of practice. The people I bowled with knew what to expect."

McKeown, who stayed on the Laurentian University campus, hadn't bowled a set of games since qualifying for the Senior Games in April. She advanced to the Nickel City after attaining the highest pins-over-average total of any Acton bowler over 12 games.

"You have to go in (the Games) with the idea that it's only a game, whether you win or lose because you're there as a participant. Everybody likes to win, but not everybody is a winner. I wasn't disappointed," McKeown says.

"I enjoy watching the Olympic

Games, so it's nice to be part of a Games-type event. It makes you proud to be a Canadian."

McKeown has always enjoyed bowling and began the sport 20 years ago as a Tuesday Night bowler at Acton Bowl. For the last two years, she's been an active

participant in the Monday afternoon Golden Agers League.

McKeown brought home an Actifest travelling bag and hat, plus three nickles that she will give to her three grandchildren.

The 1996 Actifest Games will be held in Richmond Hill.



**BOWLING FOR NICKELS:** Shirley McKeown shows off the paraphernalia she received as Acton's lone participant in last week's Ontario Senior Games. (Doug Harrison photo)

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