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## McMillan 3rd at Ontario arm-wrestling finals

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Greg McMillan quickly found out the road to the top of the Ontario arm-wrestling championships held recently in Alliston wouldn't be as smooth as the first go-round.

The Cobblehill Road resident was in tough during his eight matches and felt the effects in the later stages, tiring significantly in his last match that determined the second-place finisher in the Teenager bracket.

Last year's tourney attracted 55 children, but the number quickly soared to 150 this year, meaning 14-year-old Greg would face stiffer competition in a larger talent pool.

"It was a lot tougher than last year," he understated last week. "I saw the tricks my last opponent pulled on his earlier opponents

and when I faced him I knew he was fast, but not that fast. I had no choice but to try, but I lost.

"I wasn't as prepared as last year and I didn't know the competition."

The final match lasted just seconds and dropped Greg to a bronze finish, a different fate from his ruling the children's super-heavy-weight division at last year's event.

Participants for this year's third annual championship hailed from Ottawa, Penetanguishene, Angus, Alliston, Bradford, Bolton, Leamington, to name a few.

Greg's father, Barry Hamilton, said arm-wrestling has changed the way Greg carries himself.

"It's given a boost to his self-esteem and the general way he carries himself," Barry said of Greg, a Grade 9 student at E.C.

Drury high school in Milton. "He took his Ontario championship T-shirt and award to school last year (at McKenzie-Smith) and received a lot of attention from his peers. Some even wanted to challenge him, so as a parent, that extra feeling of self-esteem is nice to see."

While some of his opponents have their own style of arm-wrestling, Greg, who carries 152 pounds on his 5-foot-8 frame, doesn't rely on one and doesn't feel it makes a difference.

Greg's pre-match strategy is simple: he looks at his opponents' forearms, hands and overall size, and then decides what level of intensity the battle will require.

"Winning is fun, but I don't throw a fit if I lose like some of the guys do. I just walk off the stage and think about my next match," McMillan explained.

Greg's brother, Rob, entered the provincial final for the first time and, weighing in at 120 pounds, was slotted alongside his big brother in the Teenage Division for competitors between 118 and 180 pounds.

Rob lost his first two matches and was quickly bounced from competition.

"Most of the guy's were Greg's size, but there was a guy who was similar to me who I was hoping to wrestle, but didn't. Maybe I could have won," said a disappointed Rob.

Two other Acton residents, Todd Schonnop and Shawn Dolloway, competed for the first time in Alliston this year, but failed to place.

Greg, meanwhile, has already started training for next year's event. He says he will focus on his stamina and suggested he may begin rollerblading. He will also train with a friend of his, Jason Ross, a Barrie resident who coaxed Greg into arm-wrestling the day before last year's provincials.



Mark Everson is all smiles after winning the second annual Automated 3D Bowhunters Challenge. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Everson named top Cub at Bowhunters Challenge

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Mark Everson is convinced not all fortune cookies are fictitious.

It was the night before the Cub Division's final round of the second annual Automated 3D Bowhunters Challenge at the recent Hunting Show at Toronto's International Centre and the Eversons were dining at the Mandarin Chinese Restaurant.

"I looked at my fortune cookie and it said 'good luck' at the end," recalls Mark, adding "I thought it might be a sign."

The next day, Mark, 11, secured a first-place finish after knocking down three of six 3D clay bird targets from an elevated platform to his closest opponent's one.

Mark's qualifying, done along-

side competitors in the adult category, saw him attain 56 of a possible 72 points, which gave him a bye to the final. In this round, Mark was shooting at life-size and life-like animal targets, each consisting of different point values.

"I was nervous in the final and didn't feel comfortable until I broke my second target," admits Mark, who finished third at the fifth annual 3D Canadian Bowhunters clinic and show at Pioneer Sports Club in Kitchener held in June.

In the final, participants had a 15 second limit to shatter each target.

"Some people were waiting until the target popped up to continue shooting, but I was in a hurry," Mark laughs. "I'm happy it's over"

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**BULGING BICEP!** Acton's Greg McMillan shows the bicep that placed him third in the Teenager Division at the Ontario arm-wrestling championships in Alliston. McMillan's brother, Rob, lost his two matches. (Doug Harrison photo)



## THE MYSTERY CONTINUES

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