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**SYNCHRO SWIMMERS!** The Halton Hills Association of Synchronized Swimmers participated in its first competitive meet recently in Brantford. The team practices out of both Acton and Georgetown pools. From left: Bridget Thompson (Acton), Laura Kelly, Kara Edwards, Mary Lynn Hogan, Erin Wolter (Acton), Josée Halashyn, Jennifer Comstock and Alicia Kelly. (Submitted photo)

## Redmen anchored by versatile soccer duo

BY DOUG HARRISON  
 The Acton Tanner

They are like the stage crew of a high school production — behind the scenes and hopelessly relishing the chance to sparkle in the limelight. The backbone of a large cast.

They are Matt George and Darrell Bridge — the Redmen Senior boys' soccer wing-half players. Rarely is their name in print. Rarely do they receive a breakaway pass. But rarely do they go unnoticed.

"They've impressed me so far," lauds coach Colin Bain of the duo, who helped the Redmen fend off the opposition in a scoreless tie last Tuesday in Oakville against the Q.E. Park Eagles.

"They don't play the glory positions, don't get the opportunity to score or stop certain ones late in the game, but half-wing is a hard work position and they've both worked hard all year."

While Bain, who's in his fourth year coaching at Acton High, says both players have a strong work ethic, they're able to channel their abilities to a number of areas.

Bridge is a versatile player who can play the half-wing, fullback, forward and even step back to defence if a player goes down.

George, on the other hand, could be considered the team cheerleader.

"They both do a good job to encourage the other players to do their best, but Matt will be the one to say 'let's talk it up guys,'" Bain explains, adding he coached the tandem two years ago in Junior. "He (George) considers it essential to keep the team's morale up. We need this type of player."

"When we get into tight situations, we need players who can sooth things."

The 23-year Halton coach was happy to see his players creating more scoring chances than was evident at the outset of the season. What transpired was an open game with plenty of balls clanging off the crossbar, Redmen Trevor Malloy's goal attempt to name one.

Bain said his defence, which put forth another solid effort, was able to pass the ball clearly to the forwards.

"It was an exciting, hard-fought game. I was pleased with how they played," he says. He was hoping the 0-2-3 Redmen could find the win column yesterday (Tuesday) against E.C. Drury here. "I told the guys they owe a win to me. If not, I'm going to be white-haired by the end of the season."

## Acton cyclist home after bolting financially-strapped French team

BY DOUG HARRISON  
 The Acton Tanner

"It might be better for me."

That was the reaction of Acton cyclist Tim Hadfield in early February after he learned he wouldn't be racing with VC, one of France's top-ranked racing clubs, during a four-month stay in Riomo.

Instead, he was placed with Riomois, a lesser-known national team in France. Little did he know it was the beginning of three months of financial turmoil.

Hadfield, 23, returned to Acton last week, citing financial difficulties for his shortened stay that spanned just three months.

"Riomois couldn't support any riders. We were told the team had \$150,000 Cdn in sponsorship when in fact it was \$30,000 in the hole," said Hadfield on Monday. "The team never got off the ground. It was difficult because it was a negative atmosphere."

It got to the point where outsiders were donating money as a favour to Riomois thinking they would be reimbursed later. Hadfield stated that even some of the riders

dipped into their own pockets in an effort to keep the team afloat.

"It got to be so negative that after a while, I didn't even feel like riding a bike," he said.

To compound matters, Hadfield, who as a cyclist relies heavily on breathing, came down with bronchitis on April 13. While he's not coughing now, he says his breathing has been restricted for the last month.

The highlight for the 1993 Ontario Cycling Association male athlete of the year was his placing during the the Circuit of the Sarthe stage race (five races over four days). He was a top-15 finisher in one of the stages (races).

"It doesn't seem like a lot, but the race included pro riders who had raced in the Tour de France," said Hadfield, who competed in the 90-kilometre Springbank Park road race in London on the weekend. "It was one result that I was happy with."

Hadfield was expecting to compete in numerous 160-km to 200km races, but ended up racing only 12 times in three months.

Only four times in all of March.

By comparison, Hadfield's Canadian national teammates, who trained in California while he was away, raced four times a week. "When I got to Riomo, we were supposed to race on a weekly basis, not a monthly one," said a somewhat irked Hadfield.

If he was to ever return to France to ride, Hadfield pointed out that he would first be a little wary and then make sure he joined an established team.

He will now join Mike Barry, who he teamed with on Canada's four-man team pursuit entry at the Commonwealth Games last August, and four other champion riders to compete on the North American road and track circuit.

Their first test will be the K-Mart Classic in Virginia from May 23 to 28. It is considered the second biggest race in the States. From there, the Canadian team, sponsored by Saturn Canada, will do the Canada Cup series of racing mostly in June and then head to Allentown, Pa., in July for training and competition.



**KIDS OF SUMMER!** It was spring training for these youngsters on Saturday at Acton High, where the Halton Hills Rec and Parks Department put on a hitting, throwing, catching, running and game strategy clinic. From left, are Benjamin Baillie, Holly Marshall and Chris Brill. The four-and-a-half hour one-day clinic also focussed on good sportsmanship. (Eve Martin photo)

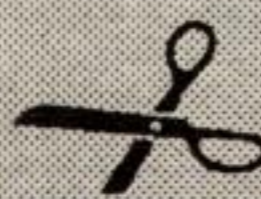


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