

Abbatom sweeps Youthful Championship

After breezing through two elimination legs, Abbatom was the heavy favourite entering the \$30,600 final of the Youthful Pacing Series at Mohawk on April 15th. And the talented three year-old Abercrombie colt, sent off at 1-5 odds, didn't let down his legion of supporters, cruising to a comfortable victory in 1:56.2.

Co-owner Trevor Ritchie of Acton was in the sulky as Abbatom grabbed control of the race from Blue Buckeroo after the opening quarter in :27.2. From there it was all Abbatom as he stretched out the winning margin to four lengths at the finish over runner-up Tongsailong. Raydio edged out Must B Fury for the show position.

"He's really picked it up over the past two months and has a

Hoof Beat

Bruce Murray

great attitude", said Abbatom's trainer Nat Varty of the Bill Robinson stable. "Last year he showed a lot of speed but was underdeveloped. Bill shut him down after he won a race late in the year and I think that's why he's so good now. Before he wasn't too sure of himself. Now he wants to beat other horses."

It was the seventh win in 14 starts this season for Abbatom, who's also co-owned by Len and Anthony Montini of Rexdale. He's now banked \$80,225 in 1995.

It took the photo-finish camera to determine a winner between Native Born and Kilburn in the \$35,000 Free For All pace. The pair of five year-olds raced as a team down the stretch with Native Born finally posting the 1:53.2 decision for his fifth win of the year in nine starts. Tony Kerwood handled the reins for owner HBF Corporation of Michigan.

Misty Rose, with driver John Kopas, made a late charge to overtake favoured Tricky Tooshie at the wire and capture the \$29,000 Mares Open Pace in 1:55.4 on April 16th. It was the second win in ten starts this year for Misty Rose, who's approaching \$260,000 in career earnings for owners Kopas Stables, Gary Grieve and John Egloff of Ilderton, Ontario.



GDHS Rebels wrestlers Mitch Dodd (left) and Jason Estevan recently returned from the Canadian championships with some impressive hardware. Mitch won the Haltons and finished second at GHAC, third at OFSAA then went on to finish fourth of 32 at the Canadians as a first year junior in the 97 lbs. class. Jason also won the Haltons and GHAC, then finished second at OFSAA, and went on to capture a second place finish in the top eight at the Canadians in the 84 lbs. class, as a first year cadet.

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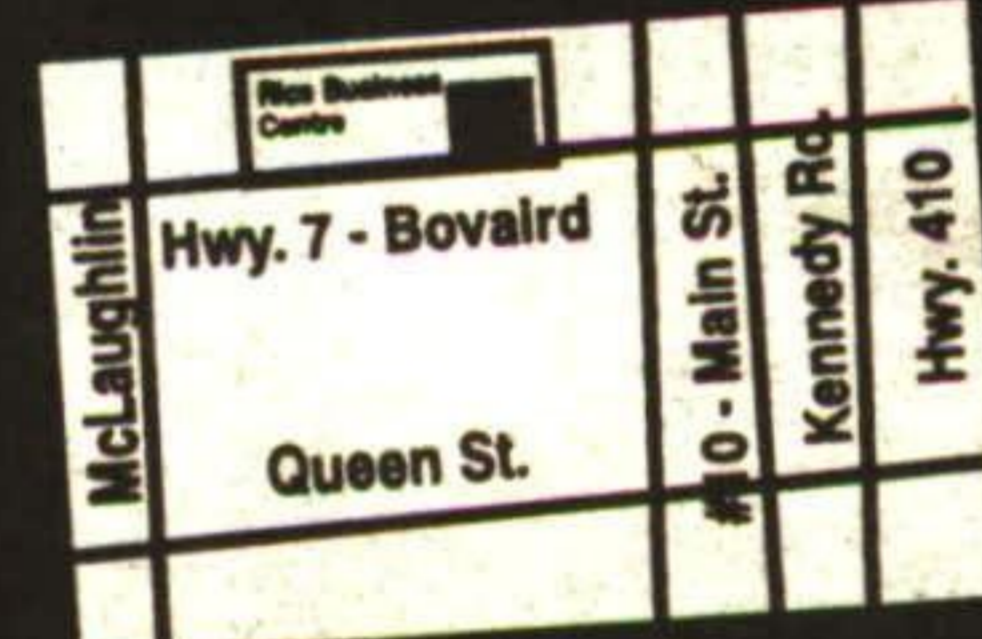
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