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Local brothers on karting fast track

lex and Richard Penfold sometimes A wonder why they can't beat the competition. The competition wonders how the Georgetown brothers ever got on the same track as them.

Just wrapping up their second season, the kart racing brothers have been invited to race in the North American championships in Charlotte, North Carolina November 2-5.

"They're excellent drivers and people are always inquiring about them at the tracks," said Maria Gibson, co-owner of Parolin Racing Karts, the kart and chassis distributing company that extended the invitation. "They have a knack for it. Their performance at the club and regional levels, you don't see it very often from people just coming into the sport. It's quite impressive."

It usually takes two years of racing experience just to be allowed to race on the Ontario Kart Racing Association circuit. The Penfolds raced on it this year simply because nobody asked if they had two years of experience. Based on their per-

formance and results, there was no reason to believe they weren't track veterans.

Richard and Alex competed in 25-30 races this summer, hoping to close the experience gap on their competitors. They moved up to the senior level and held their own against drivers with 10 to 15 more years under their belt.

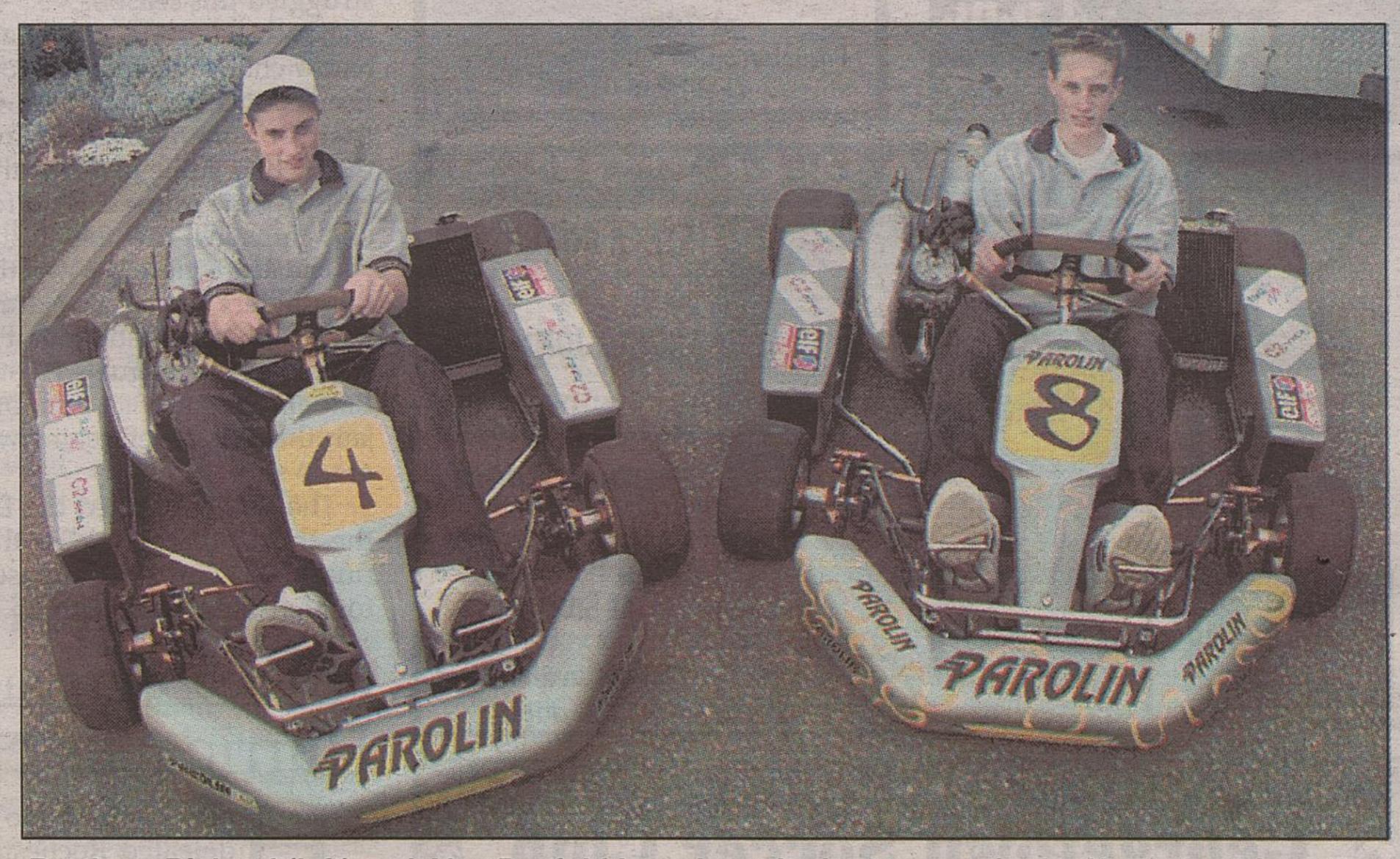
"We wanted to be out there every weekend," Richard said. "All the others started at a young age so we want to gain that experience as fast as we can.

They also made the move to shifters, the highest level of karts which can top speeds of 200 km/h.

"The first time out in a shifter, it scared the crap out of me," said Alex, who until then had raced in the Honda 9 class, karts that go about 110 km/h.

But neither of them have had much trouble adjusting. Both have consistently finished in the top-five since making the move. Richard won his second race in a shifter despite starting from the middle of the pack.

"That's one thing people



Brothers Richard (left) and Alex Penfold have been invited to race in the North American Kart Championships in Charlotte, N.C. next month despite their limited experience.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

have commented on was how easily they make the transition between karts," said their dad and race team manager Myke Penfold.

Alex, 15, demonstrated that at the Grand Nationals. Racing in the junior Yahama class and never having driven that type of kart before the race weekend, he earned the pole and finished second in the race.

The brothers also teamed up to take first in a club endurance race in which two drivers each race 45 laps with a pit stop for a tire change thrown into the mix.

Both hope to get a chance to race one or two Formula 1200 (the first class of open wheel racing) events next year.

"We look at (karting) as that first step," said 16-year-old Richard. "We want to actually learn as much as we can about with everything." racing."

For now, they're preparing

for the North American championships. They look at the invitation from Allan Gibson of Parolin Racing Karts as an outstanding opportunity.

"It's the place to show what you can do," Alex said. "We went around to a lot of other companies and unless you're the best of the best, they're not race cars so this is a chance to interested. Allan's helped out

> —By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Learning from the master

Master Kyoichi Inoue of Japan, a ninth-degree black belt in the martial art of aikido, gives somes tips to a student during Sunday's demonstration at Georgetown District High School. More than 300 fans and participants took in the 90-minute demonstration, which was highlighted by Inoue who was on a 10-day visit. Top instructors from around the world came to study under Inoue.

Photo by Yvonne Gaynor



Spears, McClung finish in top-20

eorgetown golfers Brad Spears and Brent McClung _both finished in the top-20 at the Eastern Illinois Ironhorse Intercollegiate tournament.

Their performance helped the University of Detroit Mercy finish tied for third out of seven teams. UW-Green Bay ran away with the tournament, finishing with a total of 574. Butler was second at 592 while the Titans were tied with Evansville at 595.

Spears shot rounds of 76 and a one-under par 71 to finish tied for 13th in the 93-player field. With one event left in the fall schedule, Spears leads the Titans with a 74.8 stroke average over 13 rounds. McClung tied for 20th with rounds of 76 and 73.

The Titans were 10th after the opening round but battled back in the second round to move into the top-three. The event was shortened to 36 holes due to weather conditions.

"The guys really hung together in some tough conditions in the second round and that let us climb in the standings," said Titans coach Mark Engel. "I thought our two rookies (McClung and Jesse Maytham) in particular showed a lot of poise."

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