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Wednesday, November 28, 2001

McGeer captures North American title

Having already conquered Canada, Tom McGeer has added North American champion to an already impressive list of accomplishments.

McGeer captured his first North American rally championship on Saturday by winning Rally of the Tall Pines in Bancroft, Ont. McGeer had already secured his fifth Subaru Canadian Rally Championship by winning the International Rally of Charlevoix in La Malbaie, Quebec two weeks ago. McGeer's performance also helped Subaru capture the North American Manufacturer's Championship.

McGeer and co-driver Mark Williams were once again dominant on the Canadian circuit this year, winning six of eight events for the second year in a row.

"Last year was great with the new car (a Subaru Impreza WRX)," McGeer said. "This year we just wanted proof that we could do it again."

While McGeer has counted on his driving abilities to win titles, he and Williams were forced to test their mechanical abilities at Charlevoix.

McGeer had a comfortable lead in the race when his drive shaft broke on the second last stage. With Globalstar Satellite Communications as a sponsor, McGeer's car is equipped with a satellite phone. That allowed him to call crew chief Stewart Hoo to get instructions on how to fix the problem. McGeer and Williams transferred bolts from the rear driveshaft to the front and reattached the errant piece.

The repairs took about 20 minutes and McGeer just made it to the start of the final stage with only 10 sec-



Tom McGeer slides through a corner at the Rally of the Tall Pines in Bancroft on his way to victory. The win secured McGeer's first North American rally title. Two weeks earlier McGeer defended his Canadian title with a win in Quebec. It was his fifth Canadian championship. Photo courtesy of TNT Racing

onds to spare before he would have incurred a penalty.

Earlier, on the first day of the three-day rally, McGeer encountered a problem with his turbo. He called in the problem and the crew was ready when he arrived, replacing it in just 17 minutes.

"It was very impressive to see the guys work so fast on that turbo," he said. "It's not an easy fix on a race motor, especially when it comes in red hot."

Despite the mechanical difficulties, McGeer won by a comfortable four minute and 12 second margin over Subaru teammate Jon Nichols.

"It took all of the resources of the team to win that one," McGeer said.

Saturday's victory in Bancroft clinched McGeer's first North American title. Teams must compete in at least two Canadian and two American rallies in order to qualify for the North American championship. McGeer competed in both the Maine Forest Rally in July and the Lake Superior Rally in October. Though mechanical difficulties forced him out of both races, his Canadian points were enough to carry him to the championship.

The International Rally of Charlevoix will be broadcast on TSN Friday at 2:30 p.m. and The Rally of the Tall Pines will be aired on Sunday, December 16 at 1 p.m.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Carole Allison of the Halton Hills Novice Twisters battles an Orangeville opponent for the puck while teammate Corrie-Anne Ferguson follows up the play in Saturday's game at the Halton Hills Twisters Tournament. Kaitlyn Dunsmore scored twice to lead the Twisters to a 4-0 win. Photo by Trish England

At own tournament

Four Twisters squads reach finals

Katie Blasco posted her second shutout of the tournament and Lauren Gilpin scored the game's only goal as the Halton Hills Twisters edged Niagara Falls 1-0 in the atom championship of the Twisters' second annual tournament.

The Atom Twisters were one of four Halton Hills teams to reach the final. The Pee wee Twisters were edged 1-0 by Orangeville while the Bantam Twisters also found themselves beaten by a single goal, 1-0 by Brampton. R&D Solutions lost in overtime of the Bantam House League final.

Atom Twisters

Krista Dermott and Courtney Fry each had a goal as the Atom Twisters opened the tournament with a 2-2 tie with Niagara Falls.

Fry's third-period goal gave the Twisters a 1-0 win over Sarnia. Blasco earned the shutout.

The Twisters scored five times in the opening period on their way to a 6-1 win over Brampton. Krista Reist had two goals while Fry, Victoria Dewar, Jessalyn Walkey and Dermott also scored. Lauren Gilpin had two assists.

Pee wee Twisters

Orangeville proved to be stingy opponents shutting out the Halton Hills Pee wee Twisters for the second time to win the pee wee championship with a 1-0 victory.

Burlington scored twice in the last five minutes to down the Pee wee Twisters 4-2. Leah Fendley and Kelley Colarossi scored for Halton Hills.

Fendley had a hat-trick and Kaitlyn Richardson had two goals and three assists in the Twisters' 10-0 romp over Hagersville. Jaime Broadbent and Kylie MacGillivray each scored twice and Laura Thompson had a goal and two assists. Robyn Henderson and Kelley Colarossi each had two assists. Erica Bridgewater recorded the shutout.

Halton Hills couldn't summon the same offence as they were shut out 2-0 by Orangeville.

Broadbent's first-period goal stood up as the winner as the Twisters blanked North York 1-0 in their final round-robin game. Trisha Dalli earned the shutout for the Twisters.

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