

Sports & Leisure

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Win U.S. World Trotting Derby

Ritchie, Andover a Hall of a team

A Halton Hills pairing turned out to be a historic combination.

After equaling the world record mile, Trevor Ritchie of Acton drove



TREVOR RITCHIE

Andover Hall— owned by Erkki Laakkonen of Georgetown— to victory in the U.S. World Trotting Derby in Du-Quoin, Illinois Saturday.

The day didn't start well for Ritchie and Andover Hall as they finished eighth in the day's opening heat after breaking

stride.

Andover Hall obviously had a lot left for the second heat, though, setting a blistering pace with fractions of :27.3, :55.3 and 1:24.1. He held off late charges on both sides to defeat Like A Prayer by a neck in world record-matching time of 1:51.3.

"You never expect to go that fast," Ritchie said of the record. "I knew by



Andover Hall, pictured earlier this year, captured the U.S. World Trotting Derby in Illinois Saturday in a world record matching time. The horse, owned by Erkki Laakkonen of Georgetown was ridden by Acton's Trevor Ritchie.

Photo by New Image Media

the fractions that it was a pretty fast mile and then he was strong through

the lane. I saw the time come up but I didn't know it was a record until they

announced it."

With two victories needed to claim the World Trotting Derby title, Andover Hall still had some work to do. Andover Hall and Like A Prayer squared off in raceoff to determine the champion. Like A Prayer settled in behind Andover Hall then made his move halfway down the stretch. Again Andover Hall managed to hold off the challenge, winning by a head in 1:54.

Ritchie, who had not driven Andover Hall until two weeks ago, said the horse performed exceptionally.

"This is one of the few races left that tests endurance and speed," Ritchie said. "This is a true championship. It's not just going fast. When you do two heats, or three as we did, only the strong survive."

The victory put an end to Andover Hall's recent misfortunes. The horse missed starts in June due to illness, then as the favourite to win the Hambletonian in August, Andover Hall broke stride after coming into contact with another horse.

"We've had a lot of bad luck lately, but now it's changed," Laakkonen said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Ryan McCarthy of the Georgetown Raiders fires the puck into the net as Hamilton goalie Jesse Donahue sprawls in an attempt to stop him. McCarthy had three goals as the Raiders rolled to a 9-2 win over Hamilton on Thursday. The Raiders meet Collingwood in their final preseason game Saturday.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Raiders' Ryans pave way for 9-2 romp over Hamilton

There's no shortage of Ryans on the Georgetown Raiders but the Jr. A squad's Ryan brigade did plenty of damage while shorthanded.

Ryan Busby scored a pair of goals while killing penalties and Ryan McCarthy and Ryan Angelow also added shorthanded markers as the Raiders rolled to a 9-2 Provincial Jr. A Hockey League exhibition win Thursday at Alcott Arena.

Busby and McCarthy each had a hat-trick and Ryan O'Marra had a goal and two assists. In fact, the only person not named Ryan to score for the Raiders was Vince Laise, who had a goal and three assists. Alex Greig, Shane

Ramenda and T.J. Manasersky each set up a pair of goals.

Laise had three goals the night before in the Raiders' 5-2 win over the Bees in Hamilton. Busby and Kevin Tuckey had the other goals for the Raiders, who potted two more shorthanded markers.

The Raiders, who sport a 1-3 won-lost record in preseason play, wrap up the exhibition season with a home-and-home series against Collingwood. The Raiders will play in Collingwood Friday and host the Blues Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Georgetown opens the regular season at home against the Streetsville Derbys September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

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