

Sports & Leisure

Friday, October 3, 2003

Just like Mom: Kiersten Duncanson follows in mom's successful drag racing footsteps

If Tiina Duncanson wants to get a look at the competition, she usually looks over her shoulder as she crosses the finish line. Now all she has to do is look across the dinner table.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Kiersten Duncanson is tearing up the track, both literally and figuratively, in the world of snowmobile grass drag racing.

Though Kiersten, a Grade 10 student at Acton High School, races in the 500cc open modified division—two steps below Tiina—she is already eclipsing some of the records her mom set on her ascent to the top. Earlier this season, Kiersten zipped across the 500-foot track in 5.20 seconds. That took nearly two-tenths of a second off the 500cc record her mom established at the Canadian championships in 2001.

"I'm proud of her as a mother," Tiina said of her records falling. "But as a competitor it's hard."

Unbeaten this season, a big part of Kiersten's success has to do with inheriting her mom's impeccable reactions.

"She's very strong off the line," says her dad Peter, who also fills the role as crew chief for both racers. "Every time I think she's red lighted (left too early) because she goes and then the rest go."

Tiina's success has helped smooth some of the bumps in the road for Kiersten. The team name—That Girl Racing—comes from many of the comments, mostly derogatory, overheard at the track as Tiina was getting started. But thanks to her mom, most of Kiersten's competitors in the male-dominated world have long since gotten over competing against and losing to a woman.

"I have a really good relationship with the other racers. They've watched



Kiersten Duncanson grew up watching her mom set records in snowmobile drag racing. Now the 16-year-old is eclipsing some of those records as she begins to forge a successful career of her own.

—Photos by (above) Herb Garbutt, (left) courtesy of That Girl Racing

me grow up around the track so I'm kind of like a daughter. But the guys I've never met before sometimes take it in a bad way."

Also, joining the established family team also meant sponsors such as Halton Flour Milling, Euro Design Auto Body and Ashgrove Welding were already in place.

Kiersten began racing at the age of 12. Now, even at 16, she still needs to get permission from race organizers to participate. Until she turns 18, she has to be able to demonstrate the ability to handle a machine that can reach 92 miles an hour in one second. There haven't been a lot of problems in that regard, and Kiersten credits her parents for that.

"She taught me how to drive," Kiersten says of her mom. "She taught me how to pick lines on the track. I've lived around racing and always listened to what mom said. And I'm lucky to have an engineer like my dad who knows how to make sleds run."

Though Kiersten is eagerly awaiting the day she moves up to the bigger sleds and the additional speed that comes with them, she knows working her way through the ranks will pay off in the long run.

Of course, Kiersten's move up the ladder will eventually put mother and daughter together in the top class.

"It's my dream to race mom," she says. "Not to beat her but I have so

much respect for her, just to race her would be my dream."

When Tiina and Kiersten have squared off, Tiina has won. But they have yet to race on equal calibre sleds.

Even if Tiina has not dominated the circuit as she has in years past, she still racks up her share of wins. And while she is proud of her daughter's abilities, Tiina is not about to hand Kiersten her racing crown. She'll have to earn that on the track.

"A lot of people have been saying there's been nobody in this sport in a long, long time with her natural ability. They keep asking me when I'm going to retire. I'm not ready yet."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Sticking to the game plan

Nicole Culp of the Georgetown Rebels takes the ball from an Oakville-Trafalgar opponent in Wednesday's Halton senior girls field hockey game. Oakville-Trafalgar scored twice in the opening half on its way to a 2-0 victory.

Photo by Herb Garbutt



Under-16 Eagles reach tournament final

The Georgetown Girls Under-16 Eagles won four straight games to reach the final of the Scarborough Select Tournament.

It took the Oakville Blaze, a team that had lost only once all season in league and tournament play, to down the Eagles 5-1 in the championship game. Sarah Bruno had the Eagles' lone goal.

The Eagles opened the tournament with a 3-0 victory over Scarborough in their opening game. Sadie McClure, Julia Sissett and Kelley Colarossi scored for

Georgetown.

Laura Thompson had the lone goal as the Eagles edged Oshawa 1-0.

The Eagles continued their winning ways by defeating Clarkson Sheridan 3-1. McClure scored twice and Jaime Broadbent had the other goal.

Danielle Larose posted her third shutout of the tournament and Colarossi delivered the winning goal as the Eagles edged the Oakville Impact 1-0 in the semifinal.

ZOOM ZOOM

COMPETITIVE BY NATURE. SUPERIOR BY DESIGN
INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW 2004 MAZDA6



357 Queen St.
Acton, ON

519-853-0200

info@achillesmazda.ca

* Plus Freight/PDE and Taxes. Call for details

The 2004 MAZDA6S come with an impressive list of standard equipment

- 2.3L 160HP 4 Cylinder or
- Available 3.0L 220HP V6 Engine
- Power Windows
- Power Heated Mirrors
- Cruise Control
- Power Locks/Keyless Entry
- Front Double Wishbone Suspension
- Rear E-Type Multi Link Suspension
- Electronic Traction Control
- 16" Wheels
- AM/FM CD Stereo w/6 speakers
- Front Double Wishbone Suspension
- Rear E-Type Multi Link Suspension
- Engine Immobilizer
- 60/40 Rear Seats w/one touch action
- Tilt/Telescopic Steering
- Outside Ambient Temperature Indication
- ...plus much more



Starting at only \$24,295*

So Many S Curves.
So Little Time

Financing From

2.9%
PURCHASE FINANCING
for 36 months*



Featuring
The All New
2004 Mazda6

You are invited to your award winning dealer to test drive any of our award winning lineup ...