

Sports & Leisure

Friday, Sept. 3, 2004

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Penfold picks up first victory in Honda/Michelin

After not even making it to the starting line in his last race, Alex Penfold made up for it by being first across the finish line. Penfold took the lead in the race's first corner at the Honda/Michelin series race in Ste. Eustache, Quebec, and never looked back en route to his first victory.

"It definitely felt good to redeem myself after the week before," Penfold said. "But a lot of people worked really hard to make it happen. It was definitely a team effort."

Practising for the previous race, Penfold crashed into a wall and the car couldn't be fixed in time for the race. He had a new car in Ste. Eustache but it still took some time getting used to as his team tried to get it set up properly for the race. That was accomplished and Penfold qualified second.

When the green flag dropped, the 19-year-old charged off the line, went wide on the first turn and got past Stephen Laporte, who spun after trying to cut the corner too tight. Penfold then learned about driving with a lead.

"At the beginning they were right on me," he said. "I was focusing on my mirrors for the first 10 laps. I just said 'I've got to stop doing that.' I just concentrated on staying clean and when I did that I started to open more of a gap."

He went on to win by more than five seconds.

Though he's seventh in the series standings with two races remaining, Penfold is more than satisfied with his season.

"My main goal was just to prove myself and I've done that."

It was Penfold's third trip to the podium in seven starts and could well have been his second victory. He won in just his third start but was dropped to third after the race because of a controversial aggressive driving penalty.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Alex Penfold of Georgetown zips through a turn ahead of the competition (above) and later celebrates his first victory in the Honda/Michelin Challenge Series with a little champagne spray (left). Penfold won the race in Ste. Eustache, Quebec by more than five seconds.

Photos by Paul Strak

Warriors to hold b-ball clinics

The Wellington Warriors basketball team will be hosting four basketball clinics at the Erin District High School/Centre 2000 gym.

The clinics will be held on Tuesday, September 7, Thursday, Sept. 9, Tuesday, Sept. 14 and Thursday, Sept. 16 from 7-9 p.m. The clinics are open to all female high school age basketball players, junior and senior, and are free of charge. The clinics will be run as a typical OBA team practice with instruction by Warrior coaches as well as experienced guest coaches, with the added highlight of game play.

For more information, contact Warriors coach Scott Fricker at 519-833-7272.

Eagles at SkyDome

Prior to the recent Champions World Tour soccer matches, the Georgetown Under-8 Eagles got a chance to try out SkyDome's grass surface. They also appeared on CityTV's *Breakfast Television*. Team members are (front, from left) Bethany Rees, Emily Swica, Cassie Parker, Chanelle Lavictoire, Tanya Lariviere, Karlee White (middle, from left) Taylor Burigana, Samantha Spencer, Kara Laidlaw, Emma Miller, Sydney Ranson, Stephanie Tryon, (back, from left) coach Steve Ranson, Breakfast Television host Jennifer Valentyne, assistant coach Pierre Lavictoire and manager Laura Rees.

Photo submitted



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