

Sports & Leisure

Friday, September 10, 2004

HEATED A-PLUS LOW RATES
SELF-STORAGE
905-866-7464
VARIOUS SIZES AVAILABLE
2 ROSETTA ST.
MOUNTAINVIEW N. & RIVER RD.

BMX rider survives tough year Pearson's dream is to make Olympics

Kyle Pearson has his eye on the Olympics in eight years. For now, he's happy with chocolate milk.

Although it was a difficult year for the 13-year-old BMX rider, he watched the Olympics wondering if one day it might be him trying to bring home gold for his country. BMX racing will become an Olympic sport in Beijing in 2008 and Pearson has set a goal of competing in the Games in 2012.

Pearson's ride toward that goal took a bit of a setback this year when his home track—Track 2000 in Milton—was leveled, moved and then rebuilt. The next closest track was two hours away in Port Elgin so instead of riding four times a week, his practice sessions were cut to four times a month. Still, he finished second in his division in Ontario—ending a five-year run as division champ—and was fifth in Eastern Canada and seventh in Canada.

"You just have to deal with what you have and ride trails and sprints," Pearson said.

He was also one of 12 riders to take part in the first BMX high performance training program in Bromont, Quebec. That proved to be a great learning experience as they had their rides videotaped and broken down by Ken and Samantha Cools, who rank among the world's best in the sport.

"I learned how to get better gates (starts) and about nutrition," Pearson said. "The best thing was they told us it's good to have chocolate milk after a race because of the carbs and protein."

Pearson has shown enough promise in the sport to get a three-year sponsorship deals with Jagger Racing, Haro Bikes and adidas Eyewear. And he hopes to build on that promise for the future. Canada will host the world BMX championships in Victoria in 2007.

And while the Olympics may be a long way away, Pearson has already had more success than he ever imagined.

"I just thought this would be fun. I never thought it would go so far."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Despite not having a home track to practice on this summer, Kyle Pearson still managed to finish second on the Ontario BMX racing circuit. The 13-year-old hopes to take his riding to new heights, especially with BMX racing becoming an Olympic sport for the 2008 Games.

Above photo by Herb Garbutt
Left photo by Nicky Pearson

Raiders ready for new season after ending exhibition with perfect mark

The Georgetown Raiders left another exhibition opponent feeling blue and this time it was the blueliners that did it.

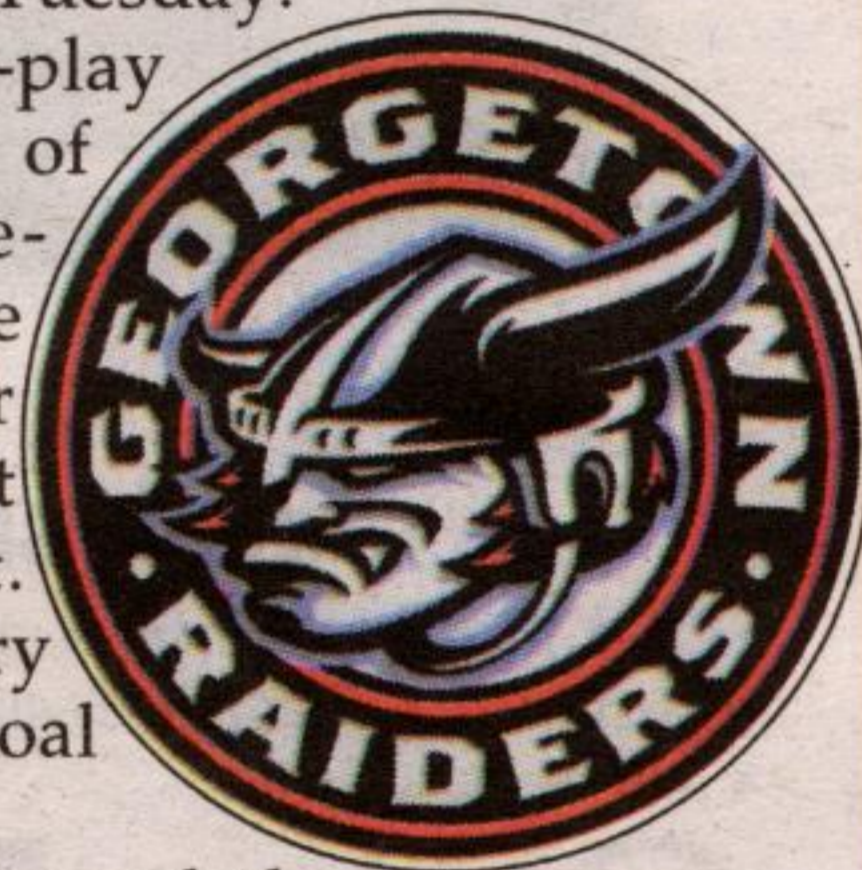
The Raiders' D scored four goals to wrap up a perfect 7-0 exhibition season with a 6-2 over the Newmarket Hurricanes Tuesday.

Nick Harloff's power-play goal, his second marker of the night, put Georgetown up 4-2 early in the third. Two minutes later Tyson Gimblett made it 5-2 and Ryan Hirtle St. Denis capped the victory with the third straight goal from a defenceman.

After Newmarket opened the scoring, Mike Gurtler and Harloff scored a minute apart to give the Raiders a 2-1 advantage. Kyle Friday extended the lead to 3-1 in the second but the Hurricanes again closed to within one.

Mike Nelson had two assists for the Raiders.

Fans will have a chance to meet this year's edition of the Raiders prior to Saturday's home opener against Milton. Starting at 4:30 p.m., there will be a barbecue in the parking lot at the Alcott Arena. There will be a bouncing castle for kids.



Major bantam boys team holding basketball tryouts on consecutive Mondays

The Georgetown major bantam boys basketball team will be holding tryouts on Monday, September 20 and Monday, Sept. 27 at St. Catherine of Alexandria School from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The tryouts are open to any players born in 1991 or more recently.

The team won the Ontario Basketball Association Division 5 championship last year, its first season of play. "Our goal is to make a significant rise in the provincial rankings in our second year," said coach James Racinsky.

The team practises at least once a week and plays in Ontario Basketball Association sanctioned tournaments and exhibition games.

For more information call Racinsky at 905-877-3965.

Ontario's new free vaccines will protect kids

The government of Ontario is helping kids stay safe from chicken pox and meningococcal meningitis, and helping families by adding these free vaccinations to the routine immunization schedule. Here's how it works:

- Vaccines for chicken pox and meningococcal meningitis are now available for one-year-old children in Ontario born on or after September 1, 2003.
- Starting in January 2005, 5-year-olds who haven't had chicken pox can also get the vaccine, as well as high-risk people of any age.
- Also starting in January 2005, 12-year-olds, 15- to 19-year-olds and high-risk people of any age will be eligible for free meningococcal meningitis vaccinations.

For more information, talk to your doctor or local public health unit. Call 1-877-234-4343. TTY 1-800-387-5559. Or visit HealthyOntario.com.

Protecting your health.

