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Sports & Leisure

Friday, October 8, 2004

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Finishes fifth in final race Penfold top rookie in Michelin Series

Alex Penfold captured the 2004 Honda Michelin Challenge Series Rookie Championship with a solid fifth-place finish this past weekend at Mosport, in an action-packed race that saw him get "removed" from second place with three laps to go.

Penfold, of Georgetown, also finished in sixth place overall in the overall championship.

Penfold set the fastest time in the morning warm-up and was feeling good despite his sixth-place grid position. The start was clean and Penfold maintained his position on lap one but lap two saw him drop to seventh place. He moved back to sixth the following lap and then settled in with the lead group.

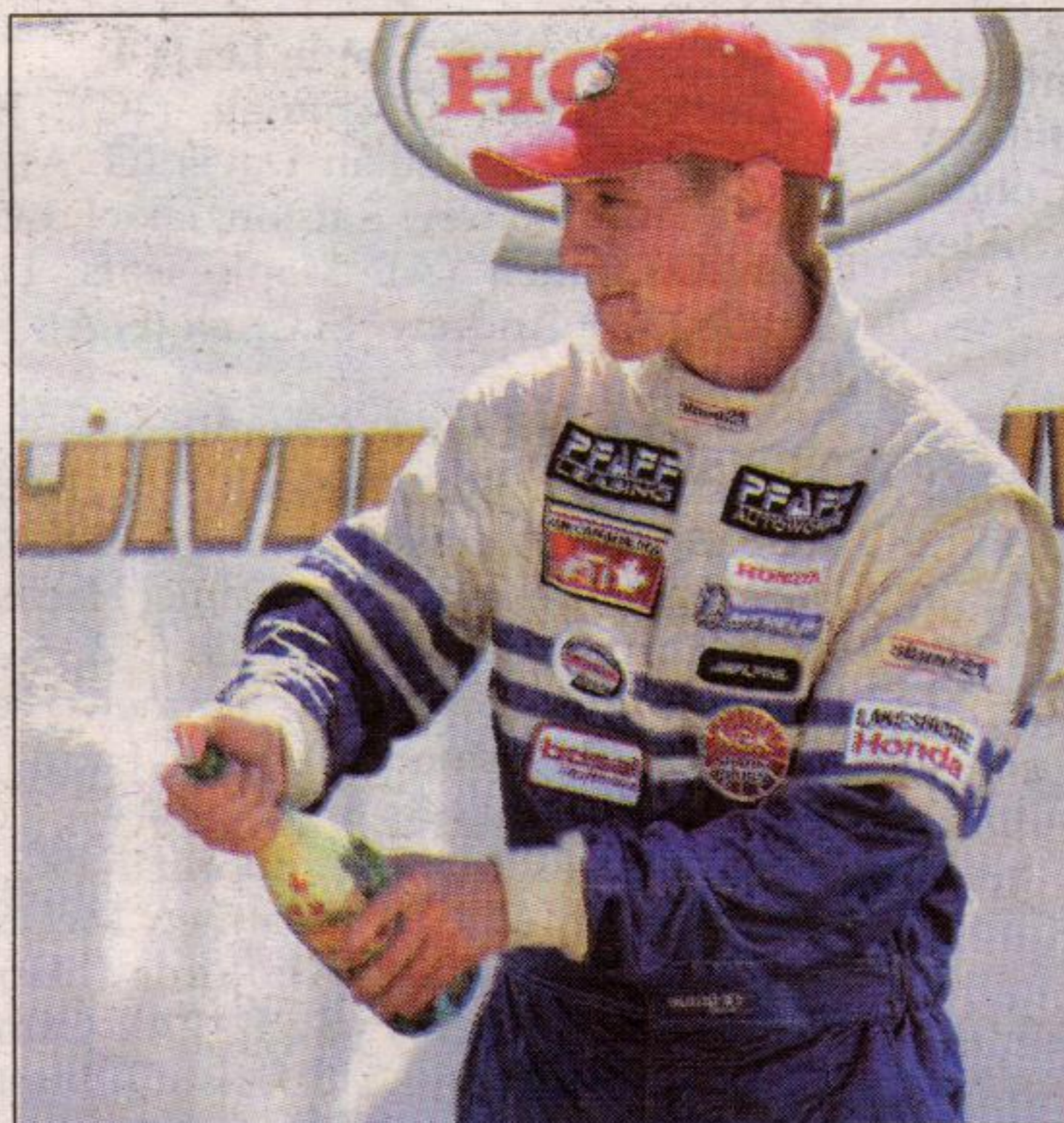
The top six ran nose-to-tail for most of the race, with a few position and driver changes. Penfold maintained his contact with the leaders and set the fastest lap of the race, in the process. Then with three laps to go, everyone came through turn one side by side and Penfold came out in second place.

"I thought, 'Great, second place is good'. Then I looked in my mirror, felt a few bumps from behind and coming out of the next corner I was back to fifth place," he said.

"But hey, I won the rookie championship for Pfaff Leasing and Lakeshore Honda, and that was far more important."

Saturday's practice was wet and cool and Penfold set the third-fastest time on the very tricky Mosport track in Bowmanville.

"It was really slick out there" he said. After a major rainstorm at lunch, the teams headed to the track for qualifying and Penfold



Alex Penfold celebrates his win as the Michelin Series top rookie driver of 2004.
Photo by Paul Strak

chose to run the dry Michelin Pilot Sport tires, as they proved to be better in the rain at Trois Rivieres a month ago.

"I have only run the rain once at Mosport and we used the rain spec tires that time, so I thought I would take it easy and make sure I made the race," he said. Penfold set the sixth-fastest time in qualifying.

"It was a great season. I had a lot of fun and I learned a lot about racing and about myself. Thanks to everyone who helped, especially all my sponsors— Pfaff Leasing, Pfaff Autoworks, Lakeshore Honda, CSN and Active Mountain Raceway."



Nowhere to run

Georgetown Toyota's Carol Kovacevic (9) can't elude Kim Burroughs as the McQueen Maintenance player grabs her flag to stop her run. McQueen Maintenance held off Toyota 30-26 to win the Georgetown Ladies Flag Football championship.

Photo by Yves Desjardins

There's lots of hockey to go with turkey this weekend

Local hockey rinks will be as busy as mom's kitchen this weekend as Georgetown Minor Hockey Association plays host to a 55-team tournament— The Best of the Best Hockey Challenge.

The association, in conjunction with local awards company Most Valuable Puck, will host the

Thanksgiving tournament for atom, novice and peewee teams.

The tournament will take place at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex and Memorial Arena but the hope is that it will eventually expand into Acton and Milton.

Play begins today (Friday) with championship games being held on the holiday Monday (Oct. 11).

Bulldogs' banquet goes tonight

The Halton Hills Jr B Bulldogs Lacrosse Club will be hosting their annual Awards Dinner and Dance tonight (Friday) at the Rotary Glen Banquet Hall (Queen St. and Mississauga Rd.) in Brampton.

There are a limited number of

tickets remaining. Tickets are \$30 and includes dinner which commences at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in attending or have a silent auction item to donate, please contact Mike Hancock at 905-875-6353 or by e-mail at mhancock2@cogeco.ca.



Alex Penfold (left) of Georgetown leads Quebec's Rober Boyer, Normand Boyer and Nick Wittmer early in the final race of the 2004 Honda Michelin Challenge Series at Mosport Park in Bowmanville. Penfold went on to finish fifth in the 16-lap race, clinching the 2004 rookie driver's championship.
Photo by Paul Strak

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