

Turner rises to occasion

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Milton's premier triple jumper raised the bar a whole lot higher Friday at the All-Ontario OFSAA Track and Field Championship.

Shawna Turner of Milton District High leapt an incredible 11.23 metres to finish fifth among junior girls at the provincial showcase in Sudbury.

Ironically enough the jump — which shattered her previous record by one third of a metre — would have been good enough for silver in the senior class.

In her own age group it was four-tenths of a metre shy of a medal placing.

"The girls tend to slow down by then so junior is always the tougher division," explained local track coach Jay Anderson, who made the trip north with local athletes.

The 16-year-old's return to OFSAA met with only modest results early on. Her first two attempts fell short of the 11 metre mark and threatened to keep her out of the finals.

But as it turned out, she was only saving the best for last.

Said Shawna, "I kept hopping around between jumps which I think kept me in peak form. Coach Anderson impressed upon me that it was do-or-die time and I just went for it."

"In the finals my best jump was a 11.20m. I almost hit one in the 11.50s but faulted by a hair."

Brooke at her best

Day two of OFSAA (Saturday) saw E.C. Drury's Brooke Johnson turned in the run of her life to post the second fifth-place finish for Milton.

Battling cold, windy conditions she

• see **GUTSY** on page 22

Rachel wins medal of each kind

Rachel Robinson couldn't decide which medal she liked best so she brought home one of each from the Waterloo Long Course Swim Meet recently.

Specializing in the breaststroke, the 10-year-old Milton Marlin took gold in the 50 metre, silver in the 100m and bronze in the 200m.

Age-class male counterpart Kevin Winter finished third in the 200m backstroke.

In the 11 and 12-year-old girls division, Michelle and Jennifer Claessens scored silver and bronze respectively in the 50m breaststroke while teammate

Kristen McIlroy swam the 200m backstroke to third-place honours.

David Wassenich, 14, earned bronze for his performance in the 50m butterfly and 15-year-old Kassie Sliemers grabbed two of those same medals in the 100 and 200m breaststroke.

Other Marlins reaching the finals and posting top 6 finishes were Jennifer Porenta, Stephanie Sliemers, Lisa Trencs and Hilary Wassenich. George Dimitrov, Jamie Robinson and Yvonne Sliemers also placed well and produced personal best times.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Alex Brancier took second and third place finishes recently at the Great Lakes Nationals.

Three looking good

• from **DAY** on page 20
"Another guy's tire hit me on the sideburn and when I fell my knee got bent back the wrong way," said Jason, shortly after the painful wipeout. So will this early brush with injury deter the pre-teen rider from getting back on the track? "Not likely," Jason stressed. The next competition for the trio — who practice twice a week, often under the guidance of local legend Bob Rowley — will be June 27 and 28 in Akron, Ohio.

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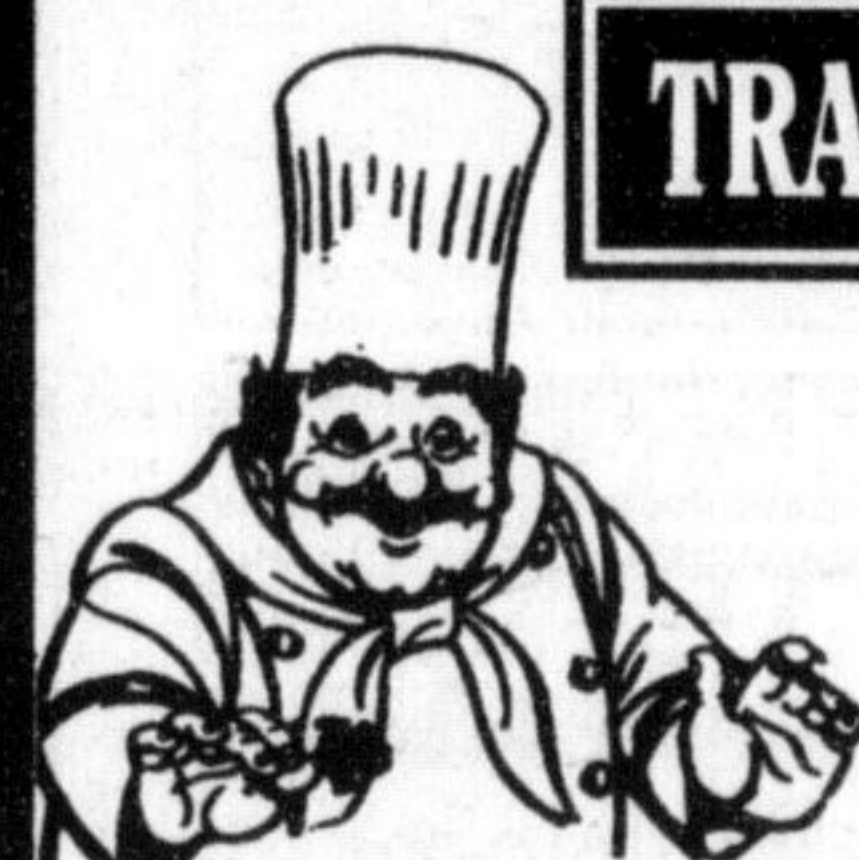
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