



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1998

Amy helps power Canada to a silver



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Rhythmic gymnast Amy DiPalma displays the medals she won recently at the Jr. Pan-American Games.

Amy DiPalma rose to the occasion. In her biggest challenge to date, the 14-year-old rhythmic gymnast turned in top calibre performances throughout the recent Jr. Pan-American Championships in Houston, Texas.

Over the course of the four-day showcase, which featured 33 gymnasts representing 10 countries, she shone in both team and individual competition — and collected a total of three medals for her efforts.

In the team event, decided by totaling the top 10 scores from each country, Amy contributed three superb routines towards Canada's second-place finish.

Gold went to the United States while Brazil took the bronze.

"It was very exciting to compete in such a prestigious competition and I'm glad that I was able to make a contribution towards the team medal," said Amy, a national bronze medalist this past spring. "It was an honour to represent Canada."

Based on her team event showing, the Milton gymnast advanced to both the all-around competition and event finals.

Consistency was her strong suit in the all-around competition, where she gave exceptional performances in all four disciplines — ball, hoop, ribbon and rope.

She amassed 34.183 points and fourth-place overall. Still, her best efforts were yet to come.

"I knew I had to run even cleaner routines in the event finals in order to succeed," she explained.

Determined to finish the international showcase in style, Amy and coach Nadia Milhaylova made some minor routine adjustments just before the final round of competition.

The last-minute retooling paid off in spades as the local gymnast captured silver in hoop — eclipsed only by Etobicoke clubmate Roxalana Prus — and bronze in ribbon.

She also scored fourth-place honours in rope.

Recalled Amy, "It was a very emotional moment for me, standing on the podium looking up at the raised Canadian flag during the presentation ceremony.

"I'll never forget it."

Junior hockey

Merchants begin task of rebuilding top notch team

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Jr. A Merchants have started building for another championship season and have brought two budding stars on board to help with the construction.

Bonafide sniper Chris Rowan and multi-talented defenceman Carter Trevisani are the newest recruits in the fight to keep Milton on top.

Both opted out of this spring's Ontario Hockey Association (OHL) draft, where despite being under-age prospects they were rated in the first round.

Rowan — a 6'3", 200 lbs. left winger with vast scoring talents — had been romanced by the Merchants since the midway mark of last season.

Visits to Memorial Arena during the late stages of the playoffs seem to be what sold the Toronto native on the club, one of several who were in the running for his services.

"I came to a few of the games, including two against Rayside-Balfour. The atmosphere was just amazing," said Rowan, who netted 50 goals and 35 points with the Don Mills bantams last season.

"I like the idea of coming to a place where the team and community are real tight."

Merchants skipper Marty Williamson describes the MTHL graduate as "a big, physical forward with extremely soft hands around the net."

In Trevisani, the club gets a minor midget age rear-guard who already has a full year of junior experience under his belt.



"Carter (Trevisani) has a ton of ability."

MARTY WILLIAMSON

Last year he earned a regular shift plus some special teams play with the Kitchener Jr. B Dutchmen.

A native of Carlisle, home to former Merchants star and current NHL prospect Jeff Daw, Trevisani comes in with the same attributes as marquee defenceman Matt Bannan — namely, superb skating skills and the ability to contribute at both ends of the ice.

"Carter (Trevisani) has a ton of ability," said Williamson.

Trevisani, looking towards earning a university scholarship down the road, said he's very excited about joining the Merchant ranks.

Said the 6-foot, 175-pounder, "From what I hear they've got great coaching and their commitment to winning is pretty evident.

"I'm looking forward to a long, successful season."

The Merchants' quest for another championship season officially begins August 19 when training camp opens at Memorial Arena.

This game's political

A sandlot showdown between north Halton's municipal politicians is slated for tomorrow (Wednesday) evening at Hornby Ball Park.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and his town council mates have accepted the challenge of Halton Hills' Marilyn Serjeantson and company for a 6:30 p.m. slo-pitch game.

Flying the other community's flag at town hall for one week is the punishment

for losing the softball battle.

In perhaps the toughest role of their political careers, Halton Chair Joyce Savoline and predecessor Peter Pomeroy will act as the game's umpires.

A 50-50 raffle will be held during the contest while donations will also be accepted in support of seniors' programs in both communities.

Toyota's sharpest deals mean great savings!

'98 SIENNA CE

- Dual Air Conditioning • Automatic Transmission • Dual Airbags • Antilock Braking System • Power Windows & Locks • AM/FM Cassette Stereo • 7 Passenger Seating • 194 H.P. DOHC V6 Engine • Dual Sliding Doors • Cruise Control

\$348 lease for **per month for 48 months freight & P.D.E. included**

Only \$3500 down Nicely equipped for \$28,138

KNOW YOUR LEASE OPTION

DOWN PAYMENT	MONTHLY PAYMENT
\$0	\$431
\$2500	\$372
\$5000	\$312

GEORGETOWN TOYOTA SALES
 15 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., - GEORGETOWN 877-2296 Tor. 874-4276
 WEBSITE at www.haltonhills.com/toyota or E-MAIL at toyota@aztec-net.com

*Based on a 48 mos. walkaway lease. First payment and security deposit due on delivery. Based on 96,000 kms. Additional charge of \$0.010 if applicable on the SIENNA CE