



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1998

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Christi McQuaker and mount Fly By Night clear one of the jumps in Sunday's \$50,000 Grand Prix event at the third annual Halton Valley Summer Classic at Hendervale Stables.

At Hendervale

Christmas on mark in Classic

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Christmas has come around a little earlier than expected for Mike Grinyer.

Not the holiday mind you, but the eight-year-old thoroughbred he rode Sunday during the \$50,000 Grand Prix event of the third annual Halton Valley Summer Classic at Hendervale Equestrian Complex.

Despite his youth and inexperience, Christmas pulled off a near-flawless performance in the main draw preliminary round.

He and 45-year-old Grinyer of Campbellville — a horse jumping mainstay for more than three decades — rode to a respectable eighth-place finish among a class that included Olympians Mac Cone and Hugh Graham.

The pair were among a precious few able to cleanly negotiate the triple combination near the end of the 14-jump course.

They finished in a deadlock with five other entries including Milton duo Ainsley Vince and Catch 22 of Trinity Farm.

"Christmas was probably the youngest entry in the Grand Prix," explained Grinyer, who along with Vince banked \$750 in grand prix earnings. He and Christmas had just two faults in their preliminary round showing.

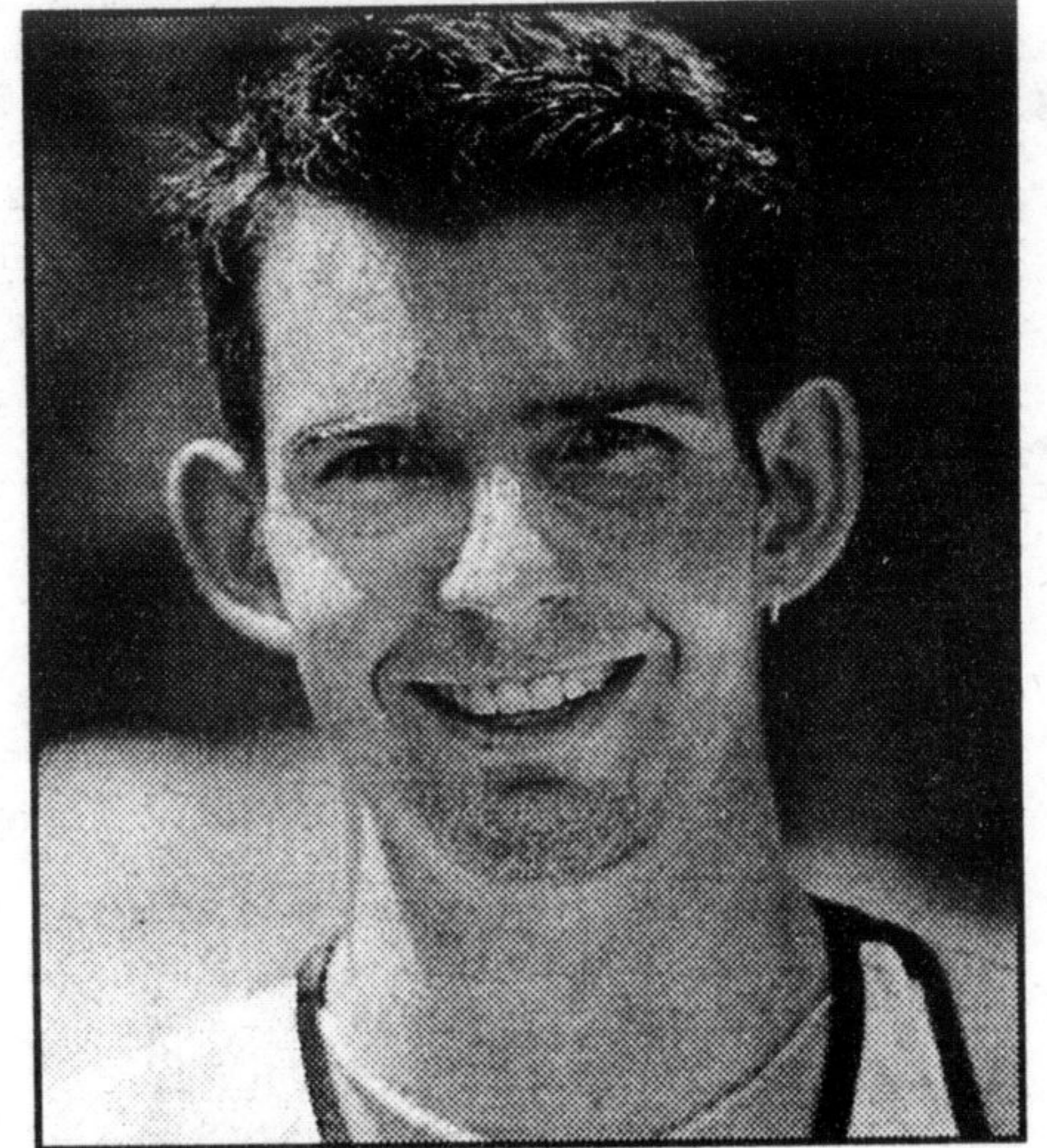
"I'm really excited about the way he's developed so quickly. He's only been competing for two seasons and already he's a very powerful jumper.

"He's very careful and doesn't like to touch the bars at all."

Christmas began the season with a grand prix victory at the Fox Run in Troy, Ontario

From there he was crowned open jumper champion at the Fort Erie Friendship Festival and Reserve Jumper Champion in Winnipeg at the Pan-

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Jon Moncrieff

Moncrieff's gamble is disastrous

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Jon Moncrieff may not have been heard uttering the catch phrase 'feet, don't fail me now', but he was most likely thinking it.

Heading into last Sunday's World Duathlon Championship in Germany, the 23-year-old Miltonian was still hindered by pain in his left foot caused by a training session spill two and a half weeks earlier.

Said the up and coming duathlete, "I laid off heavy training the week before the race and thought I'd be okay."

But what began as a slightly misaligned bone turned into a serious fracture — which gave way a mere four kilometres into the grueling course.

"I felt something snap and knew the race was over for me," explained a frustrated Moncrieff, who began duathlon competition just two years ago and already has two world championship appearances under his belt.

The ill-timed injury put the finishing touches on a disappointing season for Milton's top young duathletes. Where Moncrieff's lame foot prevented him from completing the international showcase, a lack of sponsorship kept 17-year-old

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