



SPORTS



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Chrissy Redden

Redden cracks top 10 at worlds

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Chrissy Redden said she didn't surprise herself during the latest installment of the World Mountain Biking Championships.

But when you're already one of the top riders on the planet, predictability isn't such a bad thing.

The 31-year-old Campbellville native wasn't overly thrilled with her seventh-place finish in the women's cross-country race — held September 20 in Mount Ste. Anne, Quebec — but certainly pleased.

A total of 90 elite riders competed in the international showcase.

"Obviously I aspire to be better than seventh, otherwise I wouldn't be doing it."

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Taming the trail

Milton's Rob Cheskey makes his way to the top of Appleby Line (near Rattlesnake Point) in Sunday's Ontario Hill Climb Championships. The local racer won his age class.

Bob Rowley leads for duration, clinches a fourth national title

Bob Rowley was untouchable during his homecoming at Milton's Track 2000 last week.

The 21-year-old local racer — who turned pro this season — led for the duration of his senior elite men's event on the way to a fourth national championship in eight years.

"I got out to a good start and never looked back," said Rowley, whose 1998 campaign has included feature wins at the Buckeye Nationals in Akron, Ohio and at the Stars and Stripes Nationals in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Rounding out the top three spots in the national championships' premier class were Brampton's George Scase and Rowley's older brother Jason.

Kilbourne pleased

Milton's Jason Kilbourne negotiated the 16-year-old expert division to top honours, winning all three motos. It was the first national victory for the sophomore competitor.

"I was pretty pleased with my performance," Kilbourne remarked.

Milton was adequately represented by

female riders as well, including 16-year-old Breanne Mills who triumphed in her age class girls event.

Armed with a plenty of leg strength from years of running and cycling, she handled her 10-rider field in expert fashion and won by three full bike lengths.

Finishing second in the 12 and 13-year-old expert divisions respectively were Jason Bouwman and Alex Brancier.

Meanwhile, Dave Starmer took fourth in the elite men's cruiser class while youngster Kyle Pearson earned an identical placing in the seven-year-old expert event.

Same fights, different day as old rivalry begins anew

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Like drowning men with life preservers, the Milton Merchants and Oakville Blades are hanging onto their feud for all it's worth.

Anyone who thought the score had been settled during last season's heated playoff series got a rude awakening Friday night at Memorial Arena.

Milton was the clear victor on the scoreboard — by a 9-4 margin — but had to settle for a draw in both man-to-man combat and psychological warfare.

While there were no casualties this time around, the stage has definitely been set for another rash of fierce free-for-alls.

The three-hour showdown included half a dozen 10-minute misconducts, three fights and more than 100 minutes in penalties assessed to each side.

"The great thing about these games with Oakville is that they bring out our intensity," said Merchants skipper Marty Williamson, whose team is now 4-0. "Not to show any disrespect to the league, but we'd had some pretty lifeless games against weaker teams up until now."

During the few gaps between the flurry of penalties, Milton's new blueline unit turned in

some of their best work of the young season.

They allowed just 14 shots and no goals at even strength. The Blades' only groove came late in the middle frame when they tallied twice just 66 seconds apart on a two-man advantage.

Milton scored only a third of their goals with the extra man — two of which came off the stick of assistant captain Nathan Gillies, who along with Jasen Hopiavuori should be among the key players in the 1998/99 installment of the ongoing rivalry.

Hopiavuori scored his first of the season Friday, as did defenceman Ken Robins and highly touted Chris Rowan.

Matt Bannan, Dave Csimrik, Geoff Schomogyi and Jeff Seeds recorded the other singles while captain Kevin O'Flaherty put together his second four-assist campaign of the year.

Merchant notes: Milton has not trailed after any one period so far this season ... Kevin O'Flaherty is up to 13 points, which represents a better start than superstar Darren (Mini) Haydar had last year ... Mike Wheelihan's six-point night against Streetsville last week piqued the interest of a visiting University of New Hampshire recruiter ... Saturday's game in Burlington was canceled due to ice problems at Central Arena.

Cup play here

It's official — the Milton Jr. B Mavericks will host the 1999 Founder's Cup next August.

The local lacrosse team had more or less won the bid earlier this month but up until Sunday were still waiting to see if Alberta, the only other

province eligible to put on the national tournament, would submit a last-minute proposal.

None was forthcoming. "This is going to be great for the team and the community," said Mavericks' skipper Jim Leworthy.



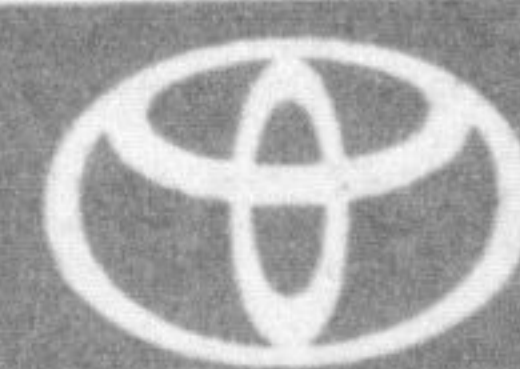
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OF THE
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