

A little revenge was in store for Rambaran

It took him a track record-equaling mile to do it but Rambaran finally got revenge on nemesis Robitaille in Saturday evening's \$37,000 Free For All pace at Mohawk Raceway.

The sizzling 1:50.3 performance was one of five victories on the card for red hot driver Tony Kerwood.

In the featured event, Rambaran showed his authority early, a change in tactics from the three previous weeks, when he stalked Robitaille from off the pace but failed to get by in the end.

This time however, Kerwood pointed the stocky speedster to the front through fractions of :27, :55.2, 1:24 and then waited for Robitaille's challenge, which materialized around the last turn.

Despite his best efforts, Robitaille couldn't get to within a length of the leader before Rambaran took off again through the stretch for a two-length triumph. D.M. Dlinger came on to edge Robitaille for second.

Rambaran's track record was a fitting exclamation point for Kerwood, who also scored on the card with Jates Got Rhythm, Extreme



with BRUCE MURRAY

Machine, Armbr Nava and David's Day.

"He's been racing so well, I'm really glad for him," said Kerwood. "This track is so fast, they're going to go a lot quicker yet. It's so good for the horses too."

Trained by Dr. Peter Johnston for his wife Judy, son Paul and partner Craig Watkins of Peterborough, Rambaran won his third race in eight starts this year. The five-year-old son of Western Hanover now sports a handsome career bankroll of \$546,474.

The Free For All also marked the five-year-old debut of 1997 Triple Crown champion Western Dreamer. Though he finished seventh in his first start since last September, the 'Dreamer' was

only five-and-a-quarter lengths back of Rambaran — clocking in at 1:51.3.

The second leg of the Youthful Pacing Series complemented the action-packed line-up with three divisions.

Dexter's Lifeline went on a wire-to-wire romp in the first division. Sent to the front by driver Mike Saftic, the son of Dexter Nukes posted fractions of :29, :58.4, 1:28.1 and then sprinted off on his six rivals to win by three-and-a-half lengths in a lifetime best of 1:55.1. Meadowlands ship-in Power Of Art — driven by Steve Condren — rallied late to take home the place money and Harbel Kilkenny (with William McClure) closed quickly to secure the show position.

Co-owned and trained by William Sharp for partner Joseph Rogers of Acton, Dexter's Lifeline remains undefeated in five starts on the year. The win boosted the North America Cup eligible youngster's bankroll to just over \$48,000.

Extreme Machine — with Kerwood in the sulky — posted a minor upset in the second divi-

sion. Winfall White Sox left well to gain early rail control and put up the opening quarter in :28.3 before relinquishing the lead to favourite Cambeston.

Cambeston took the field through the next two stations of :56.4 and 1:26.3 before giving up the lead to the pocket riding Extreme Machine.

The son of Jate Lobell drew off to win by two lengths in a career best 1:54.4. Winfall White Sox held on gamely to finish second and Cambeston managed to hang onto the show position.

A newcomer to the series, New Spencer ensured himself a berth in the April 17 final by blasting home for Doug Brown in 1:54.4. It was the Kingsbridge colt's first start since capturing the \$60,250 final of the Junior Trendsetter Series at The Meadowlands back in January.

"I think he's as good as any in the series," said Brown, who put New Spencer through a 1:57.3 qualifying mile five days earlier. "He's a lazy, lazy little guy but scoring him out (before the race) I got him a little more aggressive going to the gate. He was well within himself."

Track and field show coming up

Athletiques International will host the seventh annual Al Nicholls Memorial Track and Field Meet on Saturday, Apr. 24 at Oakville-Trafalgar High School.

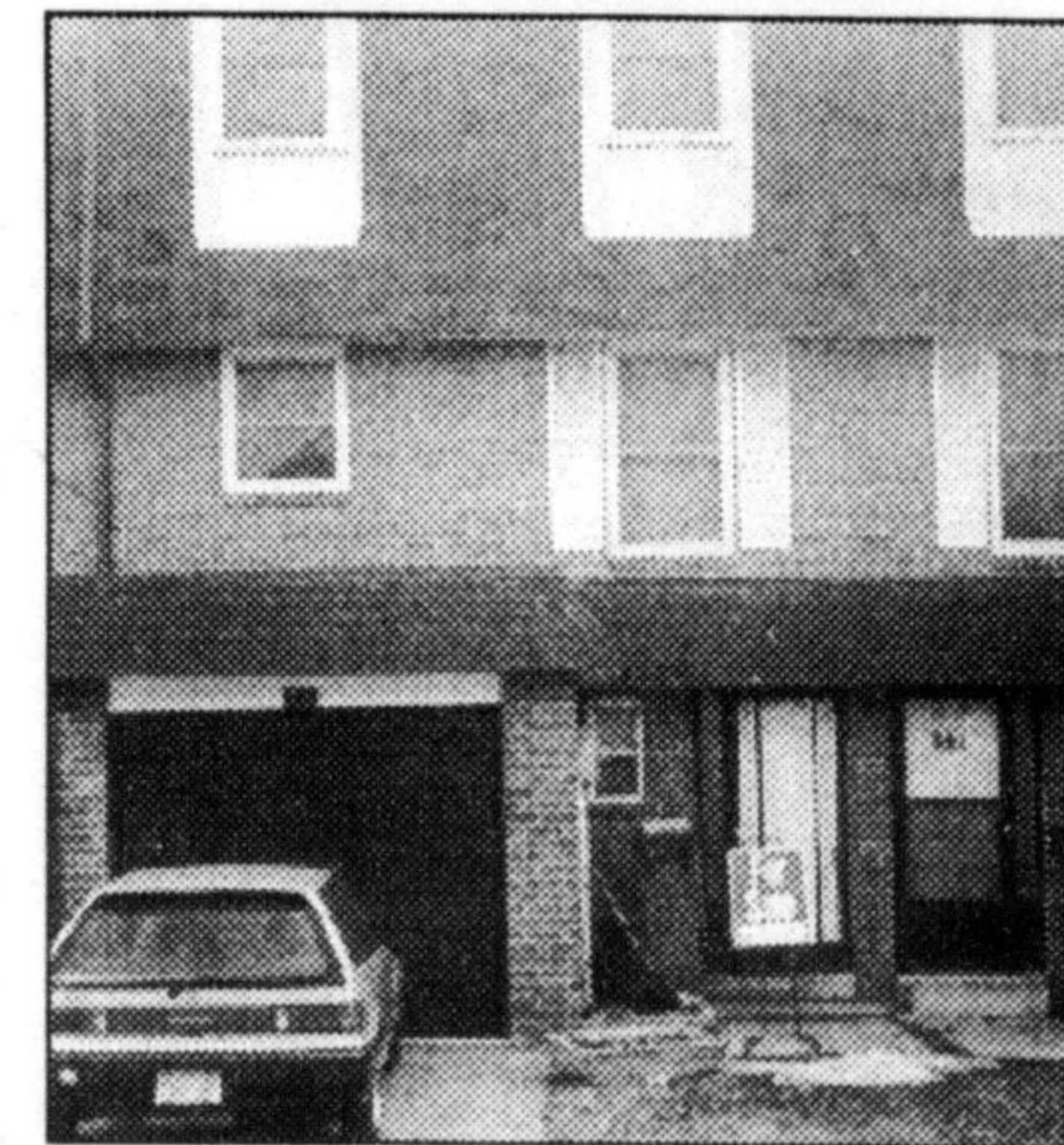
The showcase — open to all athletes between the ages of seven and 14 — has been a rousing success since its inception, and promises to be so again with entry forms already rushing in.

Events will include the long jump, high jump, triple jump and shot put as well as various distance races for both teams and individuals.

To register or for more information, call Bruce Burton at 827-8725.

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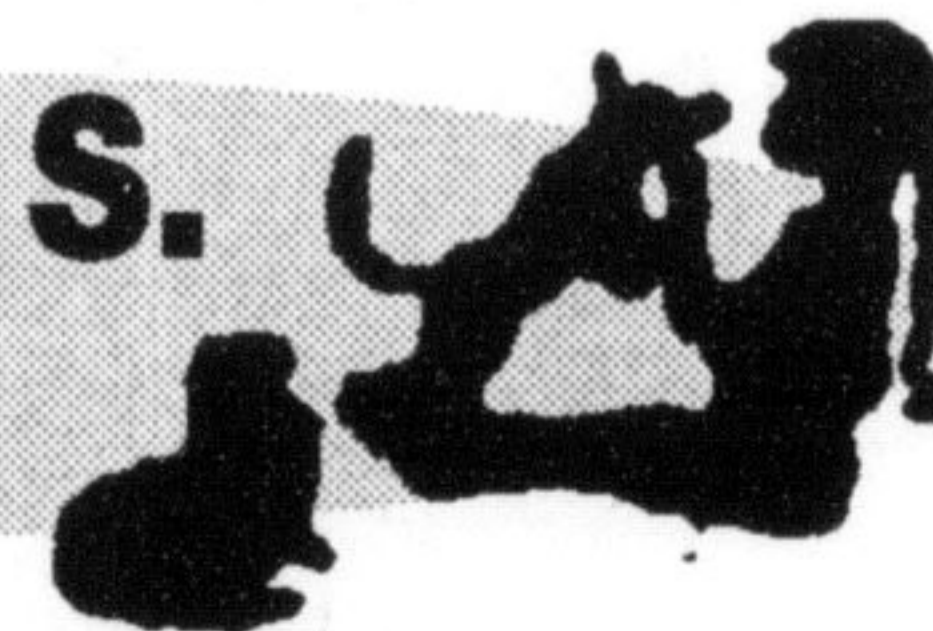
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