

**Demolition Derby**

**✓ Lorenz determined to win, and he succeeds**

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
The Champion

Just call him the Demolition Man.

Eric Lorenz has been the biggest name locally in recent years when it comes to smash'em, crash'em action at the Milton Fall Fair Demolition Derby.

The 35-year-old veteran proved this yet again in the second of two main events last weekend. He was knocked out early in the finals Saturday night, but — determined to taste victory one last time before the millennium — battled back to win the feature show-down Sunday.

The victory was his ninth in a dozen years. He has three feature titles and six more in heat competition.

"I'm a modern day gladiator," quipped Lorenz. "I'm still up off the ground over this. The Milton Fall Fair (Demolition) Derby is my passion. I put in at least 100 hours on my car in preparation for this and have a lot of backing by many great businesses."

The Milton demolition driver — whose annual

autumn adventures are supported financially by Campbellville's C.A. Towing where he works, as well as a number of other sponsors including D & S Signs, Bev Slessor, Home Cinema, Joe's Auto Sales, Lube It, Scannell Exhaust, Shift & Drive Transmission and Supreme Auto Collision — needed only a few minutes to incapacitate his opponents' vehicles in the finals Sunday.

Driving a 1982 Buick LeSabre, Lorenz finished off the field by slamming into friend and fellow Miltonian Gilbert Beaulieu — cracking the runner-up's fire wall and subsequently disabling the distributor cap.

Recalled Lorenz, "It just took one good, hard shot and it was over. The whole thing lasted maybe about three or four minutes."

Sunday's champion said the demolition derby is his number one priority through the month of September. "A lot of us married guys are considered single leading up to the derby. The wives know not to count on us for dinner or the like," he explained.

Lorenz received a trophy for his efforts along with

\$500. However, he said the money is secondary, compared to year-long bragging rights.

"I probably put at least that much money into the car each year, on top of what the sponsors give me. It's not about the cash, it's about winning."

Milton's Jay MacPhail was the grand champion Saturday, winning the event for a second straight year. Unfortunately he wasn't available for comment at press time.

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**Ironman 'incredible', says Snow**

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the group registered for the last Ironman Canada of the century.

Among those making the commitment were five ironman rookies, who all expressed varying degrees of hesitation about taking on such a challenge.

Showing the most trepidation was Gwen Jarrett. "I was just a little nervous, for like a few months," she quipped. "It wasn't until well into the race that I thought I could really do this."

Janice Snow also made her ironman debut out west, and described the experience as "incredible."

"It's one of the best things that ever happened to me," she said, of her 12:51:54 finish that was best among the female Miltonians.

Weather conditions were favourable for the racers while fan support was in the thousands.

"It's so huge out there," explained fellow first-timer Jack Hewitt, who was among four local competitors to place in the top half of all finishers.

"Anybody not working that day comes to the race. There are 5,000 volunteers alone."

He said the race was definitely difficult and admits that at one point he questioned just why he had agreed to it in the first place. But that feeling didn't last long.

"It wore off quickly. The event actually goes by a lot quicker than you'd think. With all the scenery and fans cheering, there's not much time to get bored."

The Milton athletes estimate they trained about 600 hours for the race — and that being able to swim at the nearby Kelso Conservation Area was a big part of their success.

Said Janice Snow, "Open water swimming is much different and we're very lucky to have a training ground like Kelso."

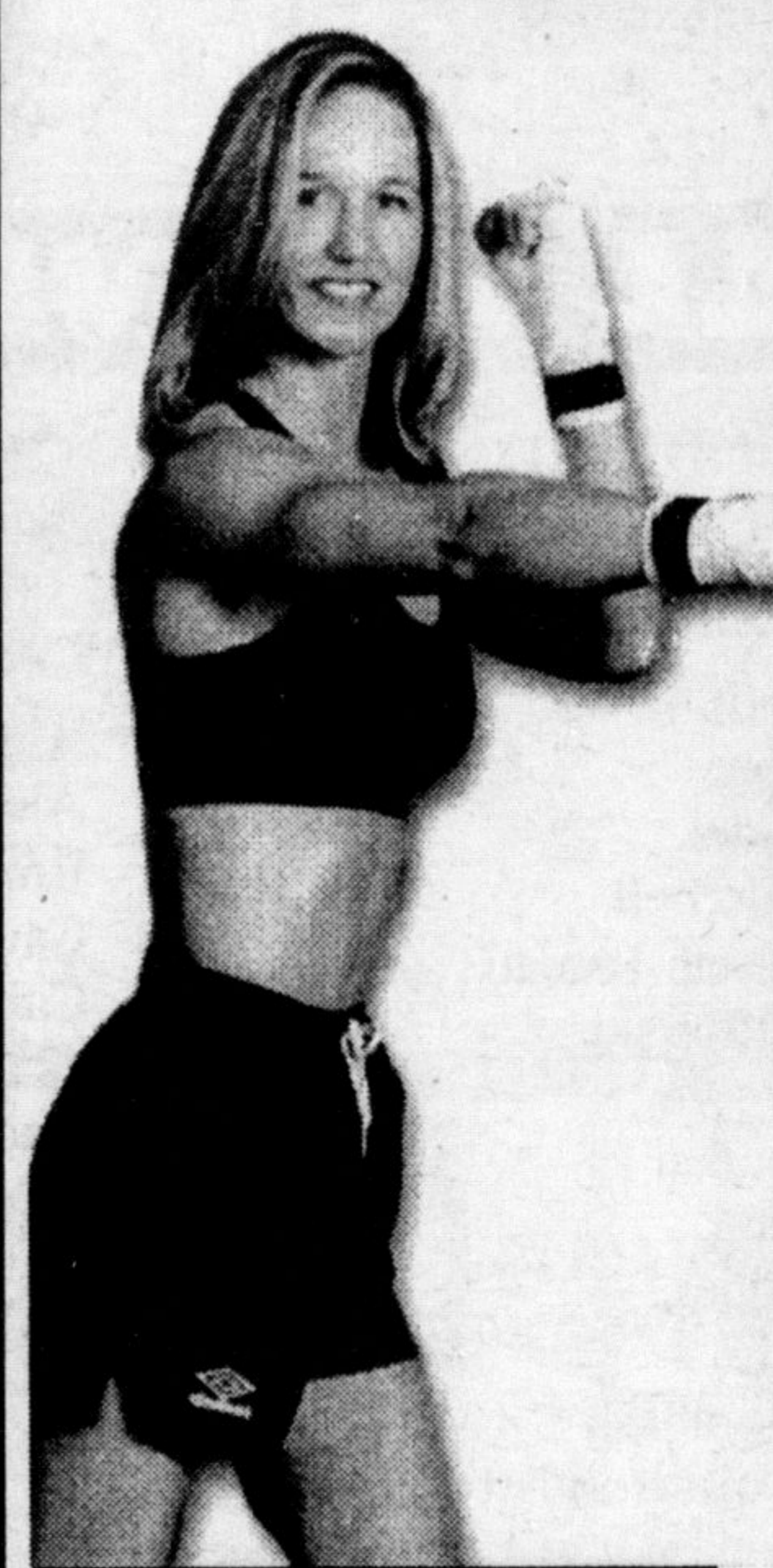
All 10 locals finished the race inside 15 hours and none were anywhere near the back of the pack.

"Everyone did really well. It was just a great experience," said Calvin Snow.

Other Ironman Canada competitors from town were Martin Carney, Norm Flemington, Connie Hearty, Phil Jarrett, Jim Nelson and Courtney Warner.

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