



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 1999



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Paul Hasselfeldt proudly displays the series points title he captured this past season at the Waterloo Regional Kart Club.

Hasselfeldt tops the go-karting circuit

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

Mission accomplished. Paul Hasselfeldt headed into this past season determined to take the senior heavy division points championship at the Waterloo Regional Kart Club.

Goal number two was to win at least half of the series races. The Milton go-kart veteran delivered on both counts — propelling

himself to the top of the local circuit. Hasselfeldt not only finished first in his class but also among all senior drivers, which made his sixth year on the track by far the sweetest.

"This is my first title and it feels just great," remarked the 19-year-old, who took the checkered flag eight times and placed no worse than fifth in any individual event.

He would have needed only a top three placing during last month's season finale to maintain top spot. However, Hasselfeldt had yet to win half of the 16 races — and wasn't about to go out with any loose ends.

"It was a really nice way to finish up," he recalled of the season-ending victory, which came the weekend before Thanksgiving. "Winning half the season takes a lot of consistency. It's something I'm quite proud of."

Now an automotive marketing student at Georgian College, Hasselfeldt said his recent triumphs have a lot to do with pit-crew chief and father John — a veteran of the stock car circuit.

Having a strong support network around — which also includes sponsorship from Bailey Heating & Cooling, John's Car Service, Miltowne Tire and Precision

Engines — really helps a driver's confidence level, he said.

Of course, five years experience doesn't hurt either.

Said Hasselfeldt, "I went into the year very focused on what I wanted.

"I knew what I had to do and really believed I could do it."

That self assurance was also evident at the provincial level, where he finished fourth on the season, scoring his best ever placing.

The Miltonian also took ninth in the senior heavy class and 14th in the senior medium division at the Canadian Grand Nationals — which were also his top efforts.

Merchants

Up and down on a roller coaster

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

The Merchants have been up and down so much in recent weeks that they may want to start handing out motion sickness pills to their more loyal followers.

Since a far too easy unbeaten run in September, Milton has taken fans on a roller coaster ride of inconsistency — with no aspect of their game immune to this present plague.

On any given night, the club is liable to deliver a superb or severely standard performance — and doesn't appear capable of stringing together two of the more favourable sort.

The question that begs asking now is why?

Coach Marty Williamson might just have the answer.

"We've got a lot of new guys that just aren't use to winning every night," explained the local bench boss, who has many players who've experienced individual prosperity, but not much team success. "With this team it's easy to be .500 but tough to win every game. There's a high price that comes with that kind of success and these guys have to learn that."

His theory is becoming more plausible with each passing weekend, including the one that just went by.

At Memorial Arena Friday, Milton displayed a real sense of purpose and equal amount of passion in beating up on the Hamilton Kilty Bees 8-3.

Then they short-circuited, mentally as well as physically, and were humbled by the host Georgetown Raiders 6-2 Saturday.

The split brings their season record to 13-3-0-3. With regulation and overtime losses combined, the team has already dropped more games than they did through all of last year.

In Georgetown, they fell behind early on

• see MERCHANTS on page 23

"Number One Selling Vehicle in it's Class"



Not exactly as shown

M.S.R.P. \$14,825.

\$0 DOWN \$0 ON DELIVERY
'99 TERCEL CE 4 DOOR

Lease for \$251 + tax
*per month for 48 months. Lease includes freight & P.D.E.

- AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
- 60/40 Fold Down Rear Seat
- Intermittent Wipers
- AM/FM Cassette Stereo
- Body Side Moulding

3.8%
No limit financing,
Up to 48 months

GEORGETOWN TOYOTA SALES

15 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., 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. 96,000 FREE kms. Additional charge of \$0.07 if applicable on Toyota Tercel CE. License fee due on delivery.