

Spokes 'N' Slopes dominates downhill event



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Spokes 'N' Slopes Brad Holmes races to a second-place finish in downhill competition at Kelso Saturday.

Spokes 'N' Slopes delivered a clean sweep in downhill cycling competition during the Ontario Cup at Kelso Conservation Area Saturday.

The 17-18 year old expert men's class was dominated by the local racing club — who grabbed the top three spots on a two-kilometre, mud-soaked course.

The 11-rider field was won by Andrew Danyluk, who negotiated the tricky descent in a sizzling one minute, 34.07 seconds.

He clocked in 1.7 seconds faster than club-mate and runner-up Brad Holmes, while fellow Spokes 'N' Slopes racer Marcus Dagenais took third place with a time of 1:37.37.

The trio helped highlight a successful weekend performance by the local club.

In other downhill competition, Trevor Armstrong finished third in the 17-18 sport

men's class and placing one spot back in the senior pro-elite men's loop was Ryan Watters, who stopped the clock in 1:32.23 — which was also the fourth best overall downhill run of the day.

Sunday, Kelso switched gears to the cross-country side of racing — and local riders continued to show strongly.

Spokes 'N' Slopes' Matthew Vandervecht had the eighth best time on the 21 km course — finishing in one hour, 0:15 seconds to take third spot in the 13-14 year-old boys division.

Matching that place in the 30-and-up veteran men's class with a time of 1:05.35 was Stuart Connolly while the Moon brothers — Brett and Ryan — finished 12th and 17th respectively in the 15-16 cadet boys loop with 1:05.54 and 1:07.09 efforts.

Winning the women's 40-49 masters

class in 1:24.59 was Kathy James while striking silver in the men's 50-plus grand master field was Robert C. Galbraith — who clocked in at 2:01.50 over a 31.5 km course. Covering that same distance and finishing eighth in the 17-18 junior sportsmen loop with a 1:56 performance was James Forbes.

Mike Collins tamed the 37.5 km course in 1:49.04 for fourth-place honours among 30-plus expert men riders.

Meanwhile, Jeff Richards negotiated the 10.5 km peewee course in a cool 40:36 and was eighth in his 10-12 boys division.

Finishing 10th among cadet (15-16) expert males in 1:15.27 was Dieter Loske.

Other locals competing were David Boswell, Michael Baby, Ben Connolly, Derek Cripps, Attila Kalo, Martin Malaison, Francis Morrow and Glen Stoffle.

Shayne shows strongly in Bluefield

Shayne Ridley's 2000 plate prowess continues.

The 22-year-old shortstop — picked up by the Baltimore Orioles in the 19th round of this spring's Major League Baseball entry draft — has made major headway with the organization's rookie level club in Bluefield, Virginia.

As of Wednesday, Shayne sported a .304 batting average — which was second best on the team. In 69 at-bats, he had 21 hits, including four doubles.

He'd also scored eight times and drove in nine runs. His on-base percentage stood at a respectable .395 — fifth best on Bluefield.

This numbers are a marked contrast to the shaky start he had with the team early last month, when he was hitting a dismal .111 and committing an error every second game.

Now the 2000 Mid-American Conference (MAC) Player of the Year is averaging only one error per week.

Heading into action Wednesday, Bluefield sat in third place in the Appalachian League' East Division with an even record of

17-17.

Meanwhile, twin brother Jeremy has been largely inactive with the Toronto Blue Jays' short-season Class A Queens Kings in New York.

The second baseman turned temporary designated hitter — acquired by Toronto during the 34th round the draft — has played just one game for the Kings and went hitless in his only two at-bats.

However, a rather expedient promotion from the Jays' rookie level team in Medicine Hat, Alberta to the higher level team last month indicates the organization is rather high on its newest switch-hitter.

In Medicine Hat, Jeremy had a pair of hits — including a double — in seven plate appearances.

He also drove in one run during his brief tenure out west.

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