Redden sets new goals after competing in Sydney



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Campbellville's Chrissy Redden has set new goals for herself since competing at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. In addition to her own career, she's hoping to raise the sport's profile throughout Canada.

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Chrissy Redden has spent the past two months reflecting back on a prosperous year of mountain biking.

Now Campbellville's Olympic racer is looking ahead to new challenges, both with regards to her own riding career and the sport at large.

The 33-year-old — who placed eighth at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia — is currently taking initial steps toward raising the profile of mountain biking in Canada.

And having recently reached the innermost sanctum of competition, Redden knows she must strike while the iron's hot — capitalizing on her newfound notoriety while it's still fresh in peoples' minds.

Hoping to encourage others

But that alone, she stressed, isn't always enough to inspire young athletes.

"They may listen, but you've got to say the right things and present your opinions in the right way," said Redden, whose heading up training sessions with a number of riders from both Milton and surrounding areas.

The rural racer hopes she can do both and encourage a new crop of budding mountain bikers, both locally and across the country.

She said, "There seems to be a lot more riders between 15 and 19 years old than they're were a few years ago, so we're trying to develop the sport at the grass roots level."

In collaboration with other members of Team Canada, Redden aims to increase mountain biking enrollment and help get more racing trails built.

At the elite level, she's presently helping out with Toronto's bid for the 2008 Olympics. And down the road, she'll likely assist with organizing the 2003 World Road Championships in Hamilton.

2004 Olympics still an option

From an individual standpoint, Redden is still keeping thoughts of competing at the 2004 Summer Games alive.

But even if that doesn't come to pass, she'll be able to look back fondly on her racing career — even though a flat tire cost her a legitimate shot at an Olympic medal.

"I went into 2000 with three goals. The first was to effectively train the best I could, second was to race my best — mentally, physically and technically — at the Olympics and third was to medal," explained Redden.

"Even though there's still some frustration (over the flat tire) I have to be happy at accomplishing two of the three goals."

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Minor atoms fall just short in tourney finals

Three was the magic number during recent minor atom tournament play in Chatham.

Unfortunately, not quite all of its charm went in favour of the Polybelting Winterhawks.

Milton's A squad amassed straight three wins on-the way to the championship game — scoring three times in each victory. But after delivering themselves to the gold medal round, the local lads surrendered three goals and fell just shy of that mark at the opposite end of the ice in a 3-2 heartbreaker to the host team.

Lighting the lamp were Krista Dermott and Jacob Goode, whose efforts were assisted by Matt Frat, Jordan Haggart and Jonathan Riding.

Nick Digiallonardo was rock solid between the pipes.

En route to the finals, the 'Hawks blanked Tilbury 3-0 and posted 3-1 decisions over Chatham and South Point. Eight different players dented the twine in round robin play — offering evidence of the team's scoring depth.

Daniel Lewandowski tallied twice while singles were chipped in by Dermott, Goode, Haggart, Riding, Ryan Cheeseman, Kris DelNin and Jonathan Cragg.

Digiallonardo and Parker Mott split the netminding duties and earned a collective and impressive goals-against average of 1.25.

Hard-fought tie

Milton's AA major atoms snapped a lengthy losing skid by battling to a 3-3 stalemate with Ancaster Monday.

The Winterhawks' hard-fought draw was highlighted with a sensational showing by goaltender Devin Medland and a two-goal effort from Michael Hannah who lit the lamp in periods one and two, with help from Michael Brown, Ryan Lecky, Brad Mewhinney and Jon Monk.

Ancaster proceeded to net three straight

Rep Hockey

goals before Hannah and Mewhinney set up Jarrett Grant for the tying tally in the third period.

Second shutout loss

Goals have been tough to come by all season long for Milton's AA midgets but in the past week they've been nowhere to be found.

The Primary Electric Winterhawks suffered back-to-back shutout losses over this stretch, the latest coming on home ice against Dundas Monday.

A shaky start allowed the visitors to bury the biscuit three times before the game was six minutes old. From there goaltender Kyle Goertz — called up from the AA major bantam squad — stopped the bleeding, but his teammates were turned back on roughly two dozen scoring chances and fell 3-0.

The midgets have scored just seven goals in their last four league games — six of them in a win over Georgetown.

Tough times continue

Milton's tykes have run into a brick wall of competition as of late and have had serious difficulty climbing over it.

That trend continued last weekend with back-to-back losses that were respectable, but nevertheless discouraging.

The Sandstone Winterhawks first fell to Bolton 5-1 Saturday at home. Daniel Plater was in net while potting the lone marker — a third-period effort — was Oran Ferguson.

Sean McGovern assisted on the play.

On the road Sunday, Plater was steady again in a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Guelph.

Matthew Dupont scored in the closing moments of the first, with help from Derek Dercatch.

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