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Bishop Reding's Michelle Doell races to victory in the junior girls 1,500m at last week's Halton/GHAC championships at Notre Dame.

Photo by RON KUZUYK

Long-distance racers lead way for Reding's track and field team

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Bishop Reding's long-distance runners set a healthy pace at last week's Halton/GHAC Championships.

And in the process, they turned back all challengers en route to gold-medal performances.

Junior girls competitor Michelle Doell and midget boys racer Ian Butcher were dual Halton/GHAC champs — leading 14 South Regional qualifiers for the local school.

Doell took top honours in both the 800 and 1,500-metre events with times of 2:31.7 and 5:12.6 respectively while Butcher won the 400 and 800m with :53.7 and 2:13.7 efforts.

Butcher also helped the midget boys' 4x100m relay team advance with a fourth-place finish. Doell did likewise for the open girls' foursome — who along with kid sister Carly struck silver in the 4x400m relay.

Carly also qualified in two individual midget girls races. Following in her seasoned sister's footsteps, she tamed the 800m in 2:38.6 for second spot and took bronze in the 1,500m with a 5:33.6 performance.

BR's Megan and Megan duo were the busiest athletes last week. In addition to qualifying with the open girls relay team, each moved on in three other events.

Among junior girls, Megan Ames was second best in the long jump with a 4.34m leap and was fourth and fifth in the 200 and 400m with times of 28.63 and 67.22 seconds.

Midget girls competitor Megan Burke secured bronze-medal finishes in both the 200 and 400m — clocking in at 29.5 and 68.7 seconds — and was fourth in the 100m dash, recording a 13.9s effort. She also helped the midget girls 4x100m relay team finish third with a collective showing of 58.6s.

John McDougall and Mike McGill were within two seconds of each other in the grueling 3,000m — and both took third. McDougall did so among senior boys with a time of 10:25.4, while McGill was just a second-and-a-half back in the midget boys race.

Luke Brunner was third in senior boys discus — hurling the sphere 29.47m.

Kelso Mountain and Kathryn Weston each finished fourth in the senior girls 400 and 800m respectively, clocking in at 74.3s and 2:55.7.

Midget girls sprinter Ava Stofast was fifth in the 100m, needing 14.2s to complete the distance.

Top four finishers from Thursday's South Regionals at Hamilton's McMaster University advance to the OFSAA Championships, slated for next May 31 to June 2 in Etobicoke.

Goodtimes joins an elite group

By **BRUCE MURRAY**
Special to The Champion

Trotting star Goodtimes became just the second Canadian-bred standardbred horse in history to surpass \$2 million in career earnings when he finished fourth for driver Dave Wall in the \$46,000 Free For All event at Mohawk Racetrack May 14.

Now 10 years of age, Goodtimes — with \$2,002,721 on his card — joins longtime rival Glories Comet (\$2,048,445) in the elite Canadian club.

A \$19,000 yearling purchase by trainer John Bax's Parkhill Stud Farm and partner Liberty North (John and Barbara Cooper) of Peterborough, Goodtimes has been driven to all but two of his 40 career wins by Wall. He competed in the Ontario Sires Stakes program at two and three in 1993 and 1994, and has been a consistent world class performer ever since.

"He is probably my favourite horse because I've driven him his whole career, ever since he was two,"

said Wall, a native of Kincardine. "He's still racing against the best there is and he keeps competitive. Day in and day out, he's been a great horse. I've never driven a horse who gives you his all every time like he has."

The bay gelded son of Balanced Image and Goodtime Kathy has represented Canada internationally on a number of occasions, including a successful 1999 trip to Europe which was highlighted by a close third-place finish in Sweden's Elitlopp Trot.

He returned home that summer to reel off a world record 1:53.3 mile in the Frank Ryan Memorial in Ottawa before capturing Canada's signature trotting event, the Maple Leaf Trot, at Woodbine, in track record fashion. "It's been a dream come true," said co-owner John Cooper. "This is something I've been involved with for 20 years and you never know when you're going to get a good one. You always dream of this and I've been very fortunate."

Christmas finishes season in style

Lisa Christmas saved her best for last.

The nine-year-old gymnast closed out the season in medal-winning fashion recently — punctuating her efforts with an overall golden finish in the Tiny B division at the Stars of Tomorrow Invitational Meet in East York.

Leading 10 Milton Springers Gymnastics Club members, she turned back all challengers on the floor, struck silver on bars and vault and was third best on beam during the pre-competitive showcase.

Age class teammate Chelsea Bennett was golden on bars — which helped her take fifth spot in the all-around scoring.

Gamering the overall runner-up spot in the 10-year-old Tiny B loop was Anne Wormald — whose best efforts were reserved for bars and vault, both of which she won.

Amanda Steddy was a double bronze-medalist in

the Pre-Competitive 8C division — taking third on bars as well as in the all-around placing. Matching that medal count was teammate Stefanie Proulx, who secured bronze on beam and vault on the way to grabbing overall fourth-place honours.

Eight-year-old Eleanor Pineau-Levman went up against some stiff competition in the Pre-Competitive 8B loop but held her own with an eighth-place showing on vault and 10th on bars.

Maddy Bannock showed strongly with fourth and sixth-place efforts on bars and beam respectively in the Pre-Competitive 7B class, while among Pre-Competitive 7C gymnasts Rebecca Woolford delivered a silver-medal performance on beam and overall finished in sixth spot. Teammate Jessica Makin reached the podium with a silver on vault, while fellow Pre-Comp. 7C Springer April Suslje came away with fifth on vault and sixth on both beam and floor.



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