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TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2001

Porenta powers way to Canada Games berth

Consecutive silver-medal efforts earn local swimmer spot on Team Ontario

Jennifer Porenta is Canada Games bound.

Milton's 15-year-old swimming star booked passage to the national championships with consecutive personal-best efforts at the recent trials in London.

Establishing new individual benchmarks in both the 50 and 100-metre freestyle led to silver-medal finishes — which in turn earned the local pool shark one of a dozen spots on the female competitors' side of Team Ontario.

"I'm so excited. I can't wait for the (Canada) Games," said a jubilant Porenta.

She needed a multi-medal performance to grab one of the final provincial team entries and clinched that berth during the 100m finals — delivering a new individual standard of 57.74 seconds, that was just three-tenths of a second shy of gold.

Two nights earlier among the 50m racers, Porenta took the runner-up spot by clocking in at a personal best 26.63 seconds — this time finishing a mere fourth-

tenths of a second behind the winner.

In both events, she was eclipsed by Oakville's Laura Pomeroy — who's three years her senior.

"I really can't be disappointed. Laura beat me, but she's a great swimmer," said Milton's Canada Games qualifier.

Porenta — who feels she still has room to improve on her starts — will now wait to see where she'll fit in to Team Ontario's plans for the national championships, which will run in mid-August.

Meanwhile, Milton sent four other swimmers to the national trials.

Topping that group with a 10th place effort in the 200m breaststroke and 19th place showing in the 100m breaststroke was 18-year-old Kate Chapman.

Kristen McIlroy also had a couple of top-20 performances — in the 100 and 200m backstroke.

Rounding out the local representatives were George Dimitrov and Rachel Robinson.



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Jennifer Porenta is all smiles after qualifying for the Canada Games. She did so with back-to-back silver medal efforts in freestyle competition.

Golden girl delivers another stellar showing in the pool

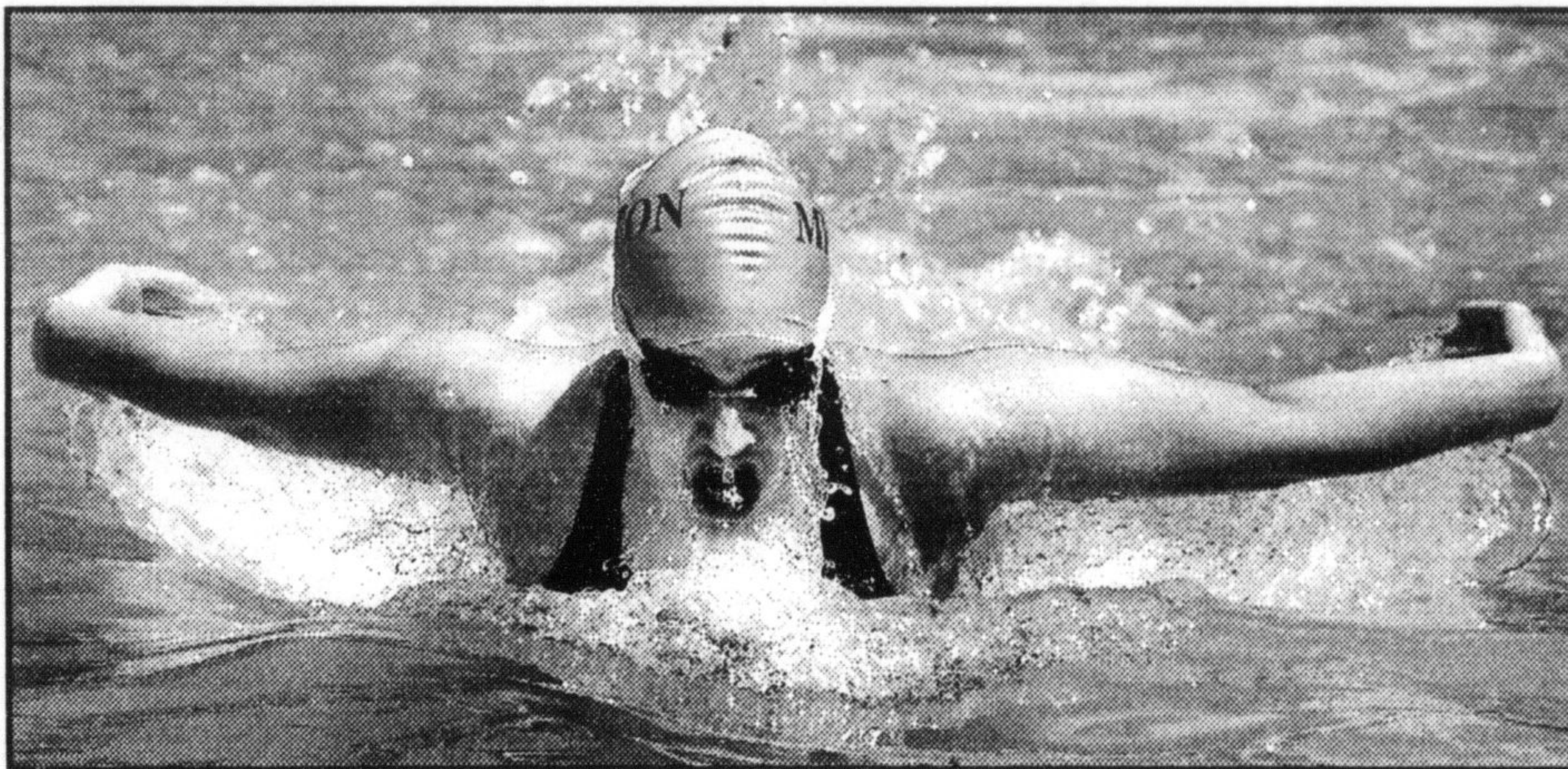


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Aaryn Fraser displays the form that helped her collect another five gold medals recently in Guelph. It marked the second time inside a month that she amassed a handful of golds.

Aaryn Fraser might want to consider a career in prospecting — because she certainly has a knack for striking gold.

For the second time in as many competitions, the 12-year-old Milton Marlin amassed a handful of gold medals at the recent East Side Mario's Swim Meet in Guelph.

The highly versatile preteen upstaged her opposition in two strokes and various distances, establishing a couple of meet records along the way en route to securing the high-point trophy in her age class.

Fraser's best efforts were reserved for the 100-metre butterfly and 200m individual medley — for which she set new tournament benchmarks.

She also prevailed in the 200m butterfly, 200m freestyle and grueling 800m freestyle.

Her standout performance came just three weeks after a golden sweep at the Ontario Division III Team Championships in Etobicoke.

Meanwhile, Milton sent five other representatives to Guelph — all of whom delivered medal-winning swims.

In the boys 10 and under division, David Dimitrov grabbed gold in the 400m freestyle, silver in both the 50m backstroke and 200m individual medley plus a bronze in the 200m freestyle. He rounded things out with a fourth in the 100m freestyle.

Among females in the same age group, Victoria Poole secured silver in the 200m breaststroke and was just shy of a medal in three other events — finishing fourth in the 200m individual medley, 400m freestyle and 50m freestyle.

Eleven and 12-year-old teammates Jacqueline Clarke and Jasmine Davis posted one silver-medal effort each — in the 200m backstroke and 400m freestyle respectively.

Karl Zebarth took second-place honours in the 11 and 12-year-old boys' 400m freestyle.



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