



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY AUGUST 21, 2001

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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Jennifer Porenta (above right) proudly displays her 50-metre freestyle silver medal alongside gold medalist Laura Pomeroy of Oakville Friday night, following their one-two finish at the Canada Games. Below, Porenta races to her second-place finish.

Porenta medals at Summer Games

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Jennifer Porenta made waves of the medal-winning variety last week at the Canada Summer Games.

While not quite able to match her personal-best efforts at the national showcase in London, Milton's 16-year-old swimming ace secured a medal each time she took to the pool.

Her finest individual performance was reserved for the 50-metre freestyle Friday night — when she delivered a fierce finish and broke a race-long deadlock with Manitoba's Erin Cardash to take silver in the women's under-20 division.

"Basically Erin took an extra stroke at the end and I just touched the wall to beat her," she recalled. "It was extremely close the whole way."

Porenta's 26.70s showing — overshadowed only by champion Laura Pomeroy of Oakville — was three one-hundredths of a second off her individual benchmark, offered just eight days earlier at the senior nationals in Etobicoke.

Wednesday, she was almost a full second off her personal record in the 100m freestyle — but still managed to grab bronze in a time of 58.60s.

Pomeroy prevailed in the longer distance freestyle as well.

"That (100m freestyle) was a little disappointing, but it's been a long season and I guess I can't complain about a bronze medal," she said.

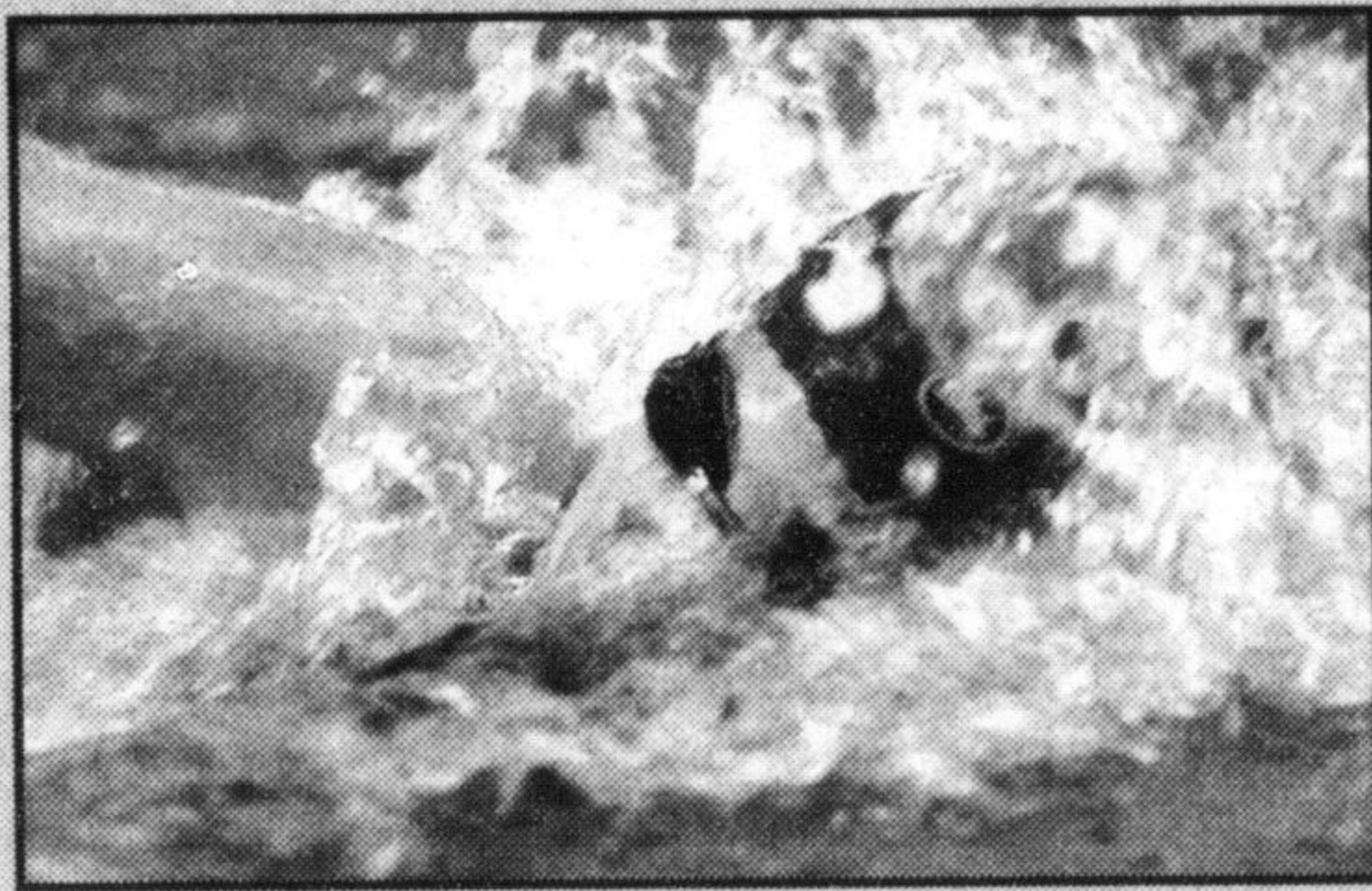
Anchored relay wins

Porenta enjoyed a golden sweep in team competition and actually gave her quickest time in the 50m freestyle — anchoring the 4x50m freestyle relay race and negotiating the last leg in a sizzling 25.96s to help Team

Ontario set a new meet record.

She was nearly as impressive anchoring the 4x100m freestyle relay, delivering a 57.56s effort that equalled another record-breaking finish and gold for her provincial foursome.

Porenta will now enjoy a few weeks off before gearing up for the junior national touring team's 10-day cross-border swing through Edmonton and New York in November.



Merchants look to beef up their offensive ranks

Could have seasoned gunners in line-up as early as today

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Merchants' 2001/02 scoring well shouldn't run dry as often as it has in recent years.

That is, if a couple of pre-season deals are green-lighted this week.

Skipper Glenn Walsh wouldn't divulge just who his junior squad has targeted for acquisition — since both trades were still in the works as of press time yesterday — but said the players are stand-outs in the Ontario Provincial Jr. A League.

He even went so far as to state that the additions would be on par with that of Andy Rozak, Milton's 2000/01 regular season and playoff scoring leader who was scooped up around this time last year from the Streetsville Derbys.

"With the guys we've got coming back and those we're hoping to acquire, we should be deeper offensively," suggested Walsh, whose charges ran hot and cold scoring wise through much of last season.

Milton's head coach also said that he's extremely pleased with what he's got in training camp right now — that with the exception of an all-purpose defensive anchor like graduating captain John Nadalin, there aren't too many weaknesses on the defending conference champion Merchants.

Remarked Walsh, "There's less unknowns at this point (compared to last year). We're more confident with the guys we picked up over the summer."

Among those are former Mississauga Chargers goalkeeper Trevor Battaglia — who'll be number one between the local pipes this season. Looking to back him up are three 16-year-olds, including Erin Jr. C veteran Brad Taylor, whom Walsh has been highly impressed with thus far.

"I've been pleasantly surprised by all three," he said. "It's going to be difficult choosing a back-up."

As for eligible returnees, the only question marks are centre Rick Ferroni and rearguard Adam Sturgeon.

Ferroni is in negotiations with a team in British Columbia while Sturgeon remains hopeful that the OHL Sudbury Wolves will trade him soon — and essentially allow his Major-Junior hockey career to finally begin.

Already departed from the local club is Flavio Faggioni, who's gone home to compete in Italy's professional ranks. Everyone else — players, coaches and support staff alike — will be back.

As for local hopefuls still battling for the few remaining roster spots, general manager Nick Slawson said forward Christian Nonis and blueliner Jan Robertson — both of whom showed strongly in this past summer's Ontario Under-17 camp — have been impressive.

The Merchants begin their six-game exhibition schedule Friday at home against the Vaughan Vipers. Game time is 8:30 p.m. Their regular season home opener is slated for September 14 against Burlington.

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