

Pacific Titan wins big

By SANDRA SNYDER
Special to The Champion

Pacific Titan leapt into the heart of the Ontario Sires Stakes two-year-old pacing colt race with an impressive victory in Thursday's \$100,000 Gold Final at Mohawk Racetrack.

The Camluck colt and driver Paul MacDonell fired to the front from post six and laid down fractions of :26, :54 and 1:22.2 en route to the 1:51.3 triumph.

The mile equaled the Ontario Sires Stakes record for freshman colts on a seven-eighths mile track and propelled Pacific Titan into eighth spot in the division standings.

Daylon Frontier finished three-and-a-half lengths back in second while favourite Ifihadyourluck was hot on his heels for third.

Before Thursday's elimination round, Pacific Titan had not ventured into OSS competition and only managed a fifth-place finish in last week's elimination. Now a solid performance in the last Gold event on October 27 and November 3 at Western Fair Raceway will ensure the Scott McEneny trainee of a spot in the season-ending \$250,000 Super Final at Mohawk.

Hornby's John Grant owns the talented pacer, who has tallied three wins, one second and one third in 10 starts for total earnings of \$225,858. Much of that comes from a third-place finish in the \$1.2 million Metro Pace September 1.

Grant shelled out \$65,000 for the half-brother of \$233 winner Pacific Rocket at last fall's Harrisburg Yearling Sale.

The field in Thursday's contest was narrowed considerably when elimination winner Camystic, reigning Gold Final champion Dreamfair Vogel and Bob McIntosh entry The Commissioner were all scratched before post time.

Several of the colts are expected to make their next start in the Breeder's Crown eliminations at Woodbine Racetrack Sunday. The \$600,000 Breeder's Crown goes postward on October 19.

The youngsters not eligible to the North American championships will enjoy a three-week break before the final Gold Series event at Western Fair Raceway on October 27.

The top 10 point earners from the five regular season events will then advance to the November 10 Super Final at Mohawk.

Speedy Wildcats shine

The W.I. Dick Wildcats clawed their way to some top honours during the North Halton Senior Cross Country Championships at Burlington's Sherwood Park Wednesday.

The Milton school captured junior boys and intermediate girls titles. Both were narrow wins over Gettogen's Centennial. The latter crown came on the strength of three top-four finishes — including that of division winner Elyssa Wittman. Taking third and fourth respectively were Liz Clarke and Valerie Burke.

Brad Hoy won the junior boys race while age class teammates Jacob Goode and Jonathan Riding placed third and fifth.

The Wildcats had the top individual runners in both the junior girls and senior boys loop but had to settle for third overall. Katie Shuvera and Matt Price won their respective races while close behind for second among the girls was Laura Prusha.

Meanwhile, Sam Sherratt's Tyler Harvey came out on top in the intermediate boys' division while finishing fifth was Wildcat Shawn Aguiar.

Taking second-place honours among the senior girls was Victoria Cosulich.

North Halton's Junior Cross Country Championships were held earlier in the day — and J.M. Denyes took runner-up status in both atom and bantam boys competition.

David Dimitrov came third among atom

boys while placing fourth in the bantam loop was Jason Entamaa.

Sarah Lyons and Sarah Stockall also delivered top five finishes for J.M. Denyes — placing fourth and fifth among bantam girls and atom girls respectively.

Percy W. Merry had three of the top five finishers in the midget boys race to handily win the division. Leading the way with a second-place effort was Dan Saliba while taking fourth and fifth spots were Brandon Rae-Hunt and Nathan Thiessen.

Martin Street's Mathew Dupont placed third among tyke boys while Kaylee Kearns of Brookville was fourth in the tyke girls class. Brookville's Terri Lowe and William Kitching each finished fifth — among bantam girls and atom boys.

Sam Sherratt's Steve Critoph matched that finish in the bantam boys division.

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Local downhill cyclist defends his title

Armstrong caps bittersweet year with series win

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Milton's Trevor Armstrong was able to make that claim after successfully defending his provincial downhill racing title recently.

The Ontario Junior Sport Male veteran grabbed a couple of first-place efforts during the five-race series and capped the year off with a fifth-place performance last month.

While the season-ending finish was somewhat lacklustre, it was enough for the 17-year-old to edge out his closest rival by just a single point for top spot in the overall series standings.

The third and fourth-place finishers were

within five points of Armstrong — making the championship repeat that much more dramatic.

"I was happy to win, but honestly I didn't think I had that great a year," said the local racer, who suffered a bike trouble during the final race of the year as well as at a couple of Canada Cup events this summer in British Columbia.

Armstrong's 2001 campaign was somewhat bitter — since this was the first year without riding mate and friend Rory Dick, who was tragically killed in a car-train wreck last fall.

"It (series win) was partially a tribute to him," said the provincial champion.

In honour of his late friend, Armstrong helped organize and participated in Rory's Camp — a mountain bike program held back in July that was aimed at promoting the sport in the area.

Armstrong, also part of a winning team at this summer's 24-hours of Adrenalin competition at Kelso, is set to move up to the senior provincial ranks next summer.



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