

# Real Desire delivers stellar outing at Breeders Crown

The latest chapter in the ongoing Bettors Delight/Real Desire battle for standardbred supremacy failed to live up to its hype at Woodbine Racetrack Friday.

Not that there weren't moments of excitement during their 10th career meeting — the Breeders Crown's \$781,050 Three-Year-Old Colt Pace — but those were reserved for the initial stages of competition.

At the end, 6-1 favourite Bettors Delight and Mike Lachance faded to fourth while archrival Real Desire, driven by John Campbell and trained by Miltonian Blair Burgess, held off challenges by Lotsa Clout and Bagel Beach Boy to triumph by a half-length in 1:50.

Bettors Delight — owned by Hornby's John Grant — was one-and-a-quarter lengths back of the winner. Friday's victory served as pay-back for Real Desire, who was upstaged by his fellow pace at last year's Breeders Crown, the first of eight encounters between the two heavyweights that went in favour of Bettors Delight.

"It feels pretty good," said Burgess, whose prized colt is owned by father Robert Burgess and wife Karin Olsson-Burgess. "They heard me screaming in the paddock, I'm sure. It was a surprise one (Campbell's drive). I still wasn't confident after a slow second start. There was a good group of horses behind him and he had to battle hard to the end.

"It's very sweet because the competition has been so

tough with Bettors Delight all year. It's that much more special just to beat a good horse like that."

It was the seventh win in 16 starts this year for Real Desire, who pushed his seasonal bankroll to over \$1.5 million. He also entered the Breeders Crown final as the fastest pacer in the field, having posted a sizzling 1:49 mark at July's Meadowlands Pace.

Real Desire's win was the third of the night for hall of famer Campbell — who also steered Western Shooter and Syrinx Hanover to victory in the Two-Year-old Colt Pace and Three-Year-Old Filly Trot respectively.

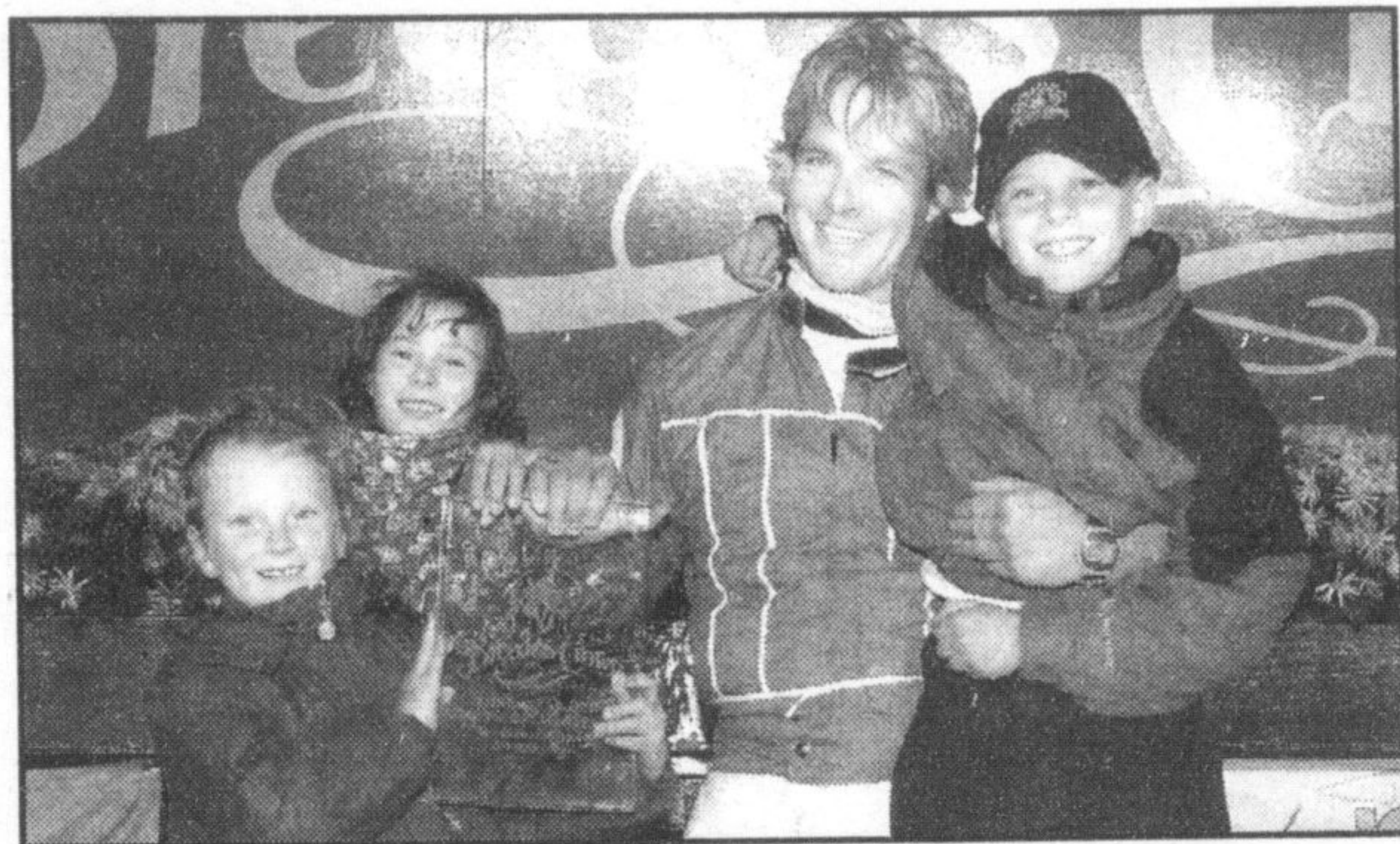
Paul MacDonell matched that win total while Milton driver Randy Waples enjoyed a triumphant ride with Liberty Balance in the Three-Year-Old Colt Trot.

"It's been a while coming," said Waples, ecstatic in celebrating his first Breeders Crown

win. "He (Liberty Balance) seems to race his best in front. He relaxes up there. I just wanted to give him a fair chance. If he got beat, he got beat."

Grant had a couple of other entries Friday. Driven by Miltonian Steve Condren, O U Man represented his finest finish with a third-place performance in the Two-Year-Old Colt Trot.

The Breeders Crown night handle of \$5,243,109 — up from \$4.6 million last year at Campbellville's Mohawk Racetrack — was an all-time Woodbine standardbred record.



Local trainer Blair Burgess celebrates with his children after Real Desire won the Breeders Crown Friday.

# Hellens helps Rexdale to fourth at nationals

The Rexdale Elites have re-established themselves as one of the top women's soccer squads in Canada.

And Miltonian Samantha Hellens is once again a key reason for that success. The veteran competitor offered an impressive showing in mid-field throughout the recent national tournament in Woodbridge.

Her efforts put the two-time provincial champs in medal contention with two wins and a pair of ties in round-robin play. Unfortunately, Rexdale fell short in the battle for bronze — losing to Alberta 1-0.

"It was close and we had our chances. Personally though, I think they wanted it a bit more than we did," said Hellens.

Milton's national representative was rock-solid during preliminary competition and dented the twine in a 4-0 white-wash of Saskatchewan. Her Elites beat Newfoundland by an identical score and fought to 1-1 stalemates with both Quebec and British Columbia.

The Elites' fourth-place finish was one spot down from last year's national campaign. It also followed another golden performance on the provincial front — where the defending champs stayed atop the pack with a near perfect season and 2-0 triumph of St. Catharines in the finals.

Hellens was part of both title-winning squads and has been with the team for six years now.

# Haydar off to strong start

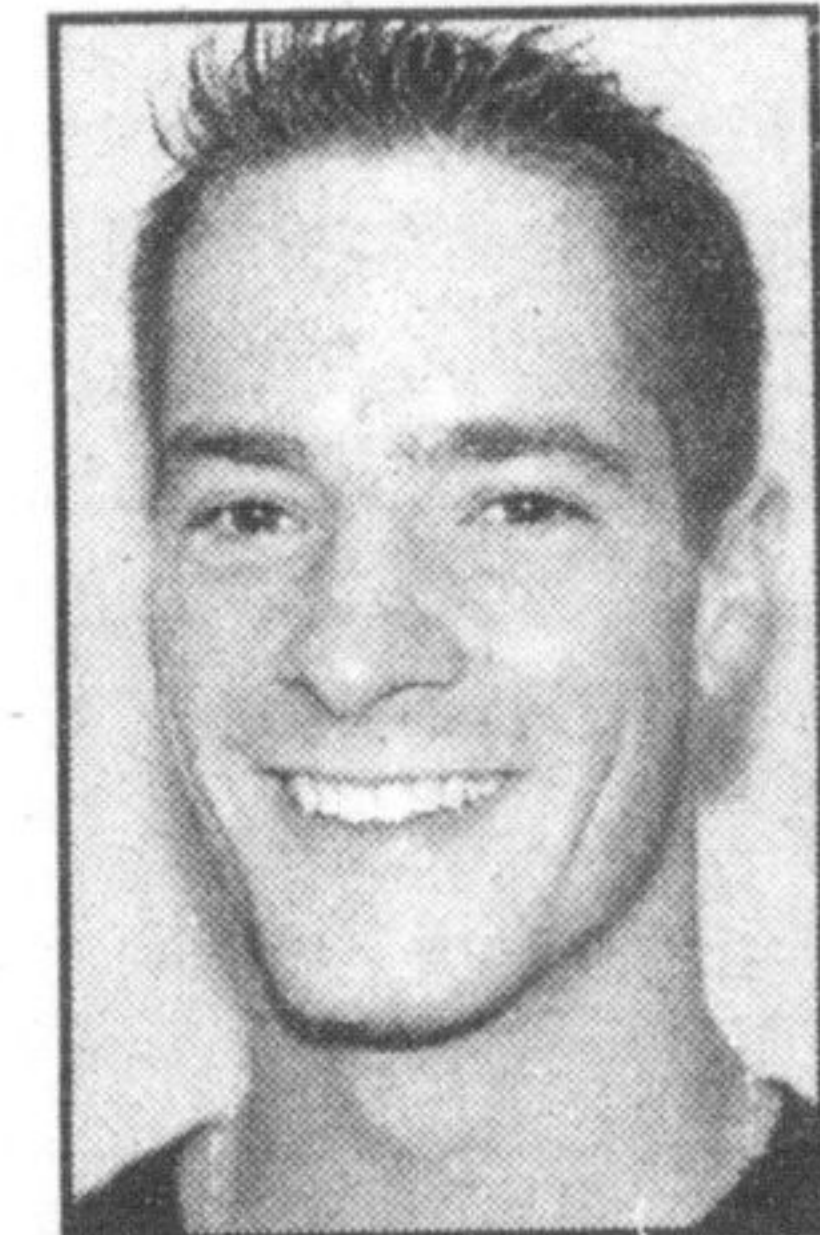
Darren (Mini) Haydar is on pace to reach new heights in the NCAA.

The New Hampshire University sniper hit the half-century points mark in his rookie season — and, if recent results are any indication, appears ready to surpass that as a senior.

Now captain of the perennial powerhouse Wildcats, Haydar is averaging just over two points a game so far this season and has lit the lamp each time out.

His most prosperous performance to date came at Merrimack Thursday night, when he scored once and added three assists to help his side win 6-3.

At home Saturday, Milton's most prolific goal scorer made a third-period deposit



Darren Haydar

in a 6-4 loss to Rensselaer. With three goals and seven points, the diminutive sharp-shooter is on the way to delivering a fine finish to his university career.

Haydar was a ninth round pick for the NHL's Nashville Predators in 1999 and enjoyed a strong

showing at the club's rookie camp in July — leading all freshman scoring with a hat-trick in the week-ending scrimmage.

# Big weekend for 'A' atoms

Milton's A major atoms were rock-solid at both ends of the ice en route to a two-game sweep this past weekend.

The Karmax Winterhawks began by toppling Arthur 5-2 Saturday afternoon at Memorial Arena.

Parker Mott stood tall between the pipes while leading up front with a pair of goals was Ryan Cheeseman. Singles were chipped in by Jeff Black, Riley Duke and Daniel Lewandowski.

Eric Gottwald assisted on both of Cheeseman's markers.

In Carlisle Sunday, Milton absolutely dominated their Flamborough opponents — restricting them to a measly three shots and blanking them 4-0.

Goaltender Nick Digiallonardo battled boredom more than the competition.

Brad Mazzocato tallied twice in this one while also burying the biscuit were Jordan Haggart and Jonathan Riding.

Exceptional defense by Jonathan Cragg, Brandon Rae-Hunt and Marshall Vince held opposing snipers at bay throughout the contest.

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