

# Goertz leads Mavericks to win over Guelph

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Kyle Goertz had great success preventing goals this past season for Milton's AA midget hockey club.

Now he's displaying a knack for scoring them — and benefiting these days are the Jr. B Mavericks.

They certainly did in Guelph Thursday.

Goertz struck six times — including twice in an anxiety-filled final frame — to lift the returning lacrosse squad to a 12-11 triumph, its first of the still young regular season. He not only donned the role of star but hero as well, making the game-winning deposit with just half-a-minute remaining.

Milton overcame a pair of multi-goal deficits to prevail and got a spirited play-making effort from assistant captain Kaegan Sherriff — who collected four assists to go with his second-period marker.

Fellow assistant Justin Corke ended the night with

four points, including the equalizer with under two minutes to play. Bobby MacDonald tallied twice while singles were contributed by Matt Decaire, Chad Henry and Jon Sweetland.

The Mavericks were a little more effective at staying out of the penalty box compared to the previous week's two-game home stand, and as a result kept pace with the Regals through the early going.

They also struck for four powerplay goals and limited their hosts to just one.

Milton wound up on the opposite end of a 12-11 verdict in Markham Friday night — due in part to a short bench, with a handful of players attending hockey camps.

Nevertheless, the visitors mounted a 7-4 lead in the first two periods before faltering down the stretch and getting vanquished in overtime.

Trevor Ford offered a gritty two-way performance

and scored two goals and an assist, as did MacDonald.

Henry led offensively with a hat-trick and an assist. Also lighting the lamp were Decaire, Goertz, Lee Frittenburg and Zach Somer.

The 1-3 Mavericks — who've lost two games by just a single deposit — return to John Tonelli Sports Centre Thursday to take on the Owen Sound Flying Dutchmen. Game time is 8:30 p.m.

Milton will then close out the week in Akwesasne Saturday night.

Please fax all of your sports reports to **Steve LeBlanc** at (905) 878-4943, or drop them off at 191 Main St.

# Plenty of major surprises at Classic Series stop at Mohawk

By **BRUCE MURRAY**

*Special to The Champion*

Fresh on the heels of War Emblem's longshot triumph in the Kentucky Derby Saturday afternoon, the Classic Series stop in the evening at Mohawk Racetrack offered up its own menu of major surprises.

Fulfilled Dreams kicked the program off by shocking division standouts Magician and Lyell Creek in the \$130,900 Trotting Classic.

After 4-5 favourite Magician took the compact field of six through fractions of :28.1, :57.4 and 1:27, action heated up in the stretch when Lyell Creek took aim at his nemesis.

Suddenly on the scene was Fulfilled Dreams, and Doug Brown has the four-year-old son of Dancer's Victory in full flight for the battle to the finish. The decision was a mere nose, but it was Fulfilled Dreams nailing it over Lyell Creek in 1:54.4 at odds of 24-1.

Pegasus Spur was third.

"He's a one-trick pony. He's got one blast (burst of speed) and it's over. If you use it early, you walk (home), if you use it late, you pray," said John Hayes, who's training Fulfilled Dreams for New Jersey-based Luc Derrico while the horse is in Ontario. "I was hoping for a fifth, praying for third and not expecting first."

Fulfilled Dreams returned \$50.50 and topped a \$204.10 exactor.

"He's got such a big burst of speed and with the trip he got, he was going to give them a shot," said Brown. "I didn't know if he could win, but I knew, especially following Lyell Creek, we were in a good spot. Magician (who finished fourth) must have been off his game because he got fairly cheap fractions."

It was the first win in 10 starts this year for Fulfilled Dreams, who's owned by MJG Racing Stables and Hill View Enterprises of New Jersey. The \$65,450 winner's share pushed his career earnings to \$408,683.

Next up was the first of two Classic Oaks events for trotting mares. No Pan No Gain - at 16-1 - collared local queen Donven Promise just steps from the wire in a career best 1:55 mile.

Miltonian Steve Condren guided the Mr. Vic daughter to victory in just the second start of her four-year-old campaign.

Campbellville's Ben Wallace has taken over training duties on No Pan No Gain for owner Peter Pan Stables, who entered the \$69,300 race with \$371,315 in earnings.

## Outstanding lineup

The \$100,100 Classic Distaff featured arguably the greatest group of female pacers ever assembled at one time. While most of the attention focused on 2001 US Horse of the Year Bunny Lake and this year's division dominator Artistic Vision, each of the 12 participants sported glittering resumes.

Given the trend, it was only fitting for another upset to unfold and only too happy to accommodate was ageless wonder Sanabelle Island. First of all, the eight-year-old future Hall of Famer slipped through the cracks at odds of 47-1, and then with trainer Steve Warrington in the sulky, proceeded to show her younger rivals the cold shoulder.

With Bunny Lake breathing down her neck and waiting to strike, Sanabelle Island peeled off panels of :27, :55.2 and 1:23.1. Despite her best efforts, however, Bunny Lake could get no closer than half-a-length as Sanabelle Island paced home to her 57th lifetime victory in a lifetime best 1:50.4.

"She does most of her best racing on the front end, so I was going to let her race how she likes," said Warrington of his pre-race strategy. "Sanabelle has always fought off every horse to the best of her ability all her life. If she gets beat it's not because she doesn't try 100 per cent. She's seen all the good ones come and go and she's the same right now as she was when she was three years old. She's got the same speed, the same stamina and the same guts."

Warrington indicated that he and owners Lloyd and Nancy Arnold and Ed Allred were planning on retiring Sanabelle Island immediately after the race had she not finished in the top three. Well, the winner of \$1.65 million appears to have won a reprieve from retirement - but only temporarily.

"She's in foal to Artsplace," said Warrington. "We're going to finish this Classic Series (in June). It's amazing she's going to end her career exactly the same way she was five years ago."

How Sanabelle Island was allowed to go off at the highest odds of her magnificent career is a mystery in hindsight, but Warrington said her last race at Dover Downs in the first leg of the Classic Series was an aberration.

"She was boxed in the whole race and it didn't show in the program," he said of the eighth-place finish. "She never got loose until the stretch, and by then she was out of it."

## Unbelievable triactor

For the record, Sanabelle Island returned \$96.70 to win and combined with Bunny Lake for a \$432.40 exactor. Cinder Best, at 111-1 odds, rounded out a whopping \$25,597.40 triactor.

The tote board returned to some semblance of normalcy in the second division of the Classic Oaks. Defending series champion Casual Breeze roared away from the field en route to a four-length decision over Emma Hanover and Bewitching Karen in 1:55.4.

Co-owner, trainer and driver Tom Durand had the five-year-old Balanced Image mare in top form for her second start back to the races after a four-month hiatus.

Durand shares ownership on the 22-time winner with his father Ron and brother Jonathan.

The evening finale was the \$130,900 Pacing Classic for 10 of the sport's best older mares. Gallo Blue Chip was sent off as the 2-1 choice from post-position nine.

However, the gallant gelding was pressured through torturous fractions of :26.4, :54.3 and 1:22.4 and faded as Life Sign rallied from ninth to first with a splendid display of speed through the final eighth of a mile.

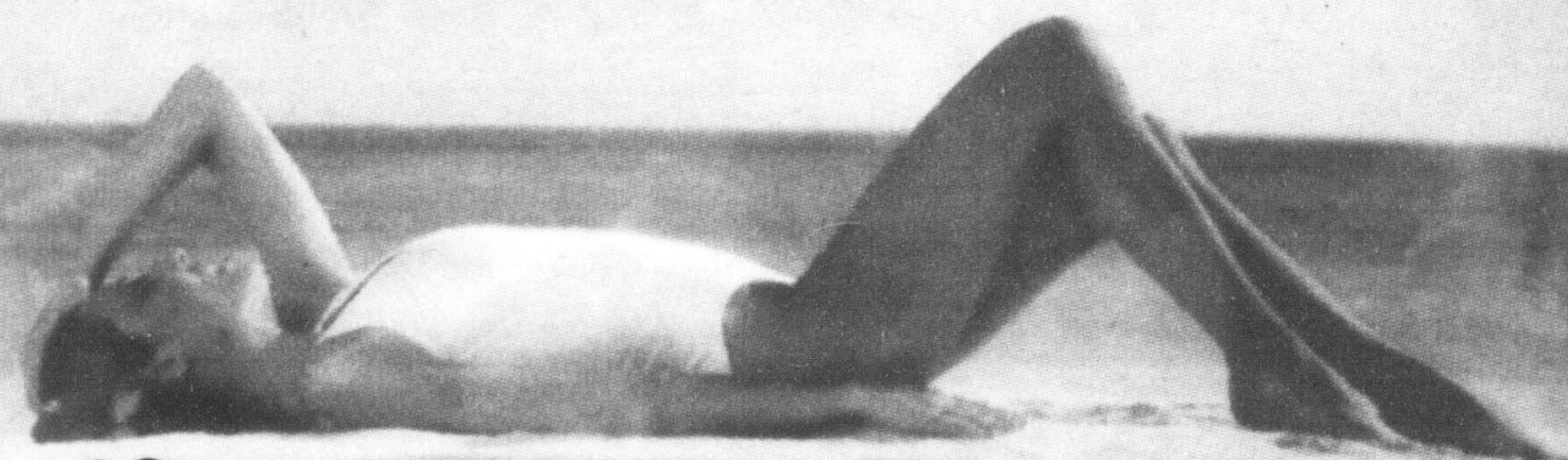
Rick Zeron guided the Joe Holloway-trained five-year-old Life Sign gelding to a 9-1 upset in 1:50.3. Paradise Lover Boy, who stung Gallo Blue Chip early, was second with Camotion closing strong for third.

The Classic Series continues with its third leg on June 1 at the Meadowlands.

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