

Merchants at tournament

Merchant hopefuls will continue auditioning for a spot on the 2002/03 roster tomorrow night when the annual OHA Referee School Tournament gets underway.

Milton begins the prospects showcase — being held at the University of Guelph this year — against Kitchener and has games against Cambridge and Waterloo Sunday and Monday night respectively.

The Merchants' round robin games all

start at 8 p.m. Consolation and championship games will be played Tuesday evening.

Among the more promising rookies who'll suit up this weekend are Rob Sgarbossa and Ryan Wildfang — both of whom showed strongly during the club's rookie camp in Etobicoke.

Milton secured the consolation crown last year after taking championship honours in 1999 and 2000.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

✓ Hefty hardware haul

Milton School of Jiu-Jitsu students (from left) Tyla Campbell, Ben Seguin, Alex Sereda, Michael Giles and Shannon Laing display the first-place trophies they captured during recent competition at their club. Second-place finishers included Kaylee Coverdale, Dante Duncan, Daniel Kelsh, Luke MacKenzie, Katriona McNeilly, Stephanie Rathy, Jason Switzer and Mitchel Weisner while taking third were Josh Bridge, Andrew Gauvreau, Heather Gray, Gary Laing, Daniel McMullen, Mark Steinhauser, Sean Tascone and Isaac White.

Cup hopefuls deliver solid tune-up efforts

With the Pepsi North American Cup eliminations set for tomorrow night, many of the hopefuls for Canada's richest harness race took to the track for their final preparations in three \$100,000 divisions of the Burlington Stakes June 8 evening at Woodbine.

There was one very notable scratch however, as top contender Mach Three was taken out of the entry box on race day morning by trainer Bill Robinson due to sickness.

In the first \$100,000 division, Million Dollar Cam showed some million dollar form in blazing to a two-and-a-half length win over Monsoon Hall and Pacific Titan in a superb 1:50.3 mile. Randy Waples had the three-year-old son of Cams Card Shark in top flight halfway down the stretch to overtake Monsoon Hall.

Said Waples, "He sprung off the gate real fast. Woodbine suits him to a tee. He got a really lucky trip. I didn't race him as hard as I thought I was going to have to. It was more of a sprint kind of race for him and when it comes down to that, he's as good as there is."

Million Dollar Cam, trained by Bill Robinson for owner Jeffrey Snyder, paid \$9.90, \$4.50, \$3.40 across the board — combining with Monsoon Hall for a \$41.10 exactor. Pacific Titan paid \$8.90 to show and rounded out the \$818 triactor.

Waples and Robinson were back in the spotlight again in division two as heavily-favoured Red River Hanover was a well-rated winner in 1:50.4. The handsome dark son of Western Hanover was relaxed away from the starting gate sixth as Silver D

Moon sprinted to the top.

The Run The Table colt — a recent Ontario Sires Stakes Gold champion — showed his authority through fractions of :26, :54.3 and 1:23.1. Red River Hanover confidently measured the leader until drawing alongside him as they straightened out for home.

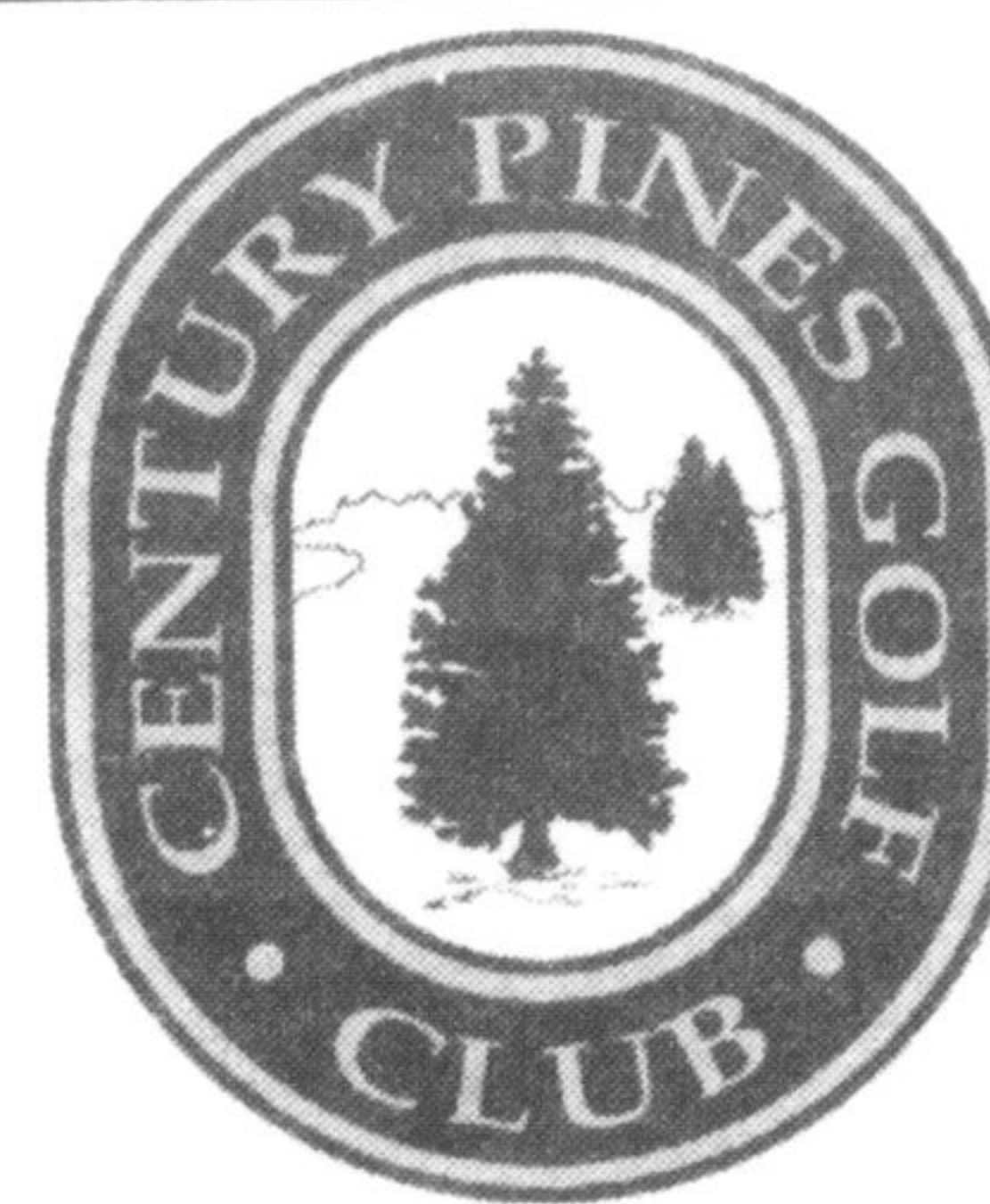
The pair sprinted away from their pursuers, but by the wire it was all Red River Hanover — a four-and-a-half length victory. Dragondotcom earned the show ticket.

"It would have been nice to have had some cover, but being first over was okay," said Waples, who a week earlier in Montreal guided the colt to a sharp win in the \$500,000 final of the Prix de Montreal. "He's a great horse. He's getting better each week. He should be in great shape for next week's action. I really think this horse will be the best when the year is over."

Red River Hanover combined with Silver D Moon for an \$8.10 exactor and with Dragondotcom for a \$37.40 triactor.

The third division was a wire-to-wire affair for Up Front Western and reinsman Mario Baillargeon. Another son of Western Hanover, the Mark Ford trainee lined up the field behind him with times of :26.1, :55.2 and 1:24.1. That middle-half breather left him with plenty in reserve as he coasted home to a handy win in 1:51.1. Daylon Frontier won a three-horse photo finish over Camystic and a closing Three Olives for second.

Up Front Western paid \$8.40 to win, with longshot Daylon Frontier completing the \$263.50 exactor and Camystic rounding out a whopping \$1,125.90 triactor.



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