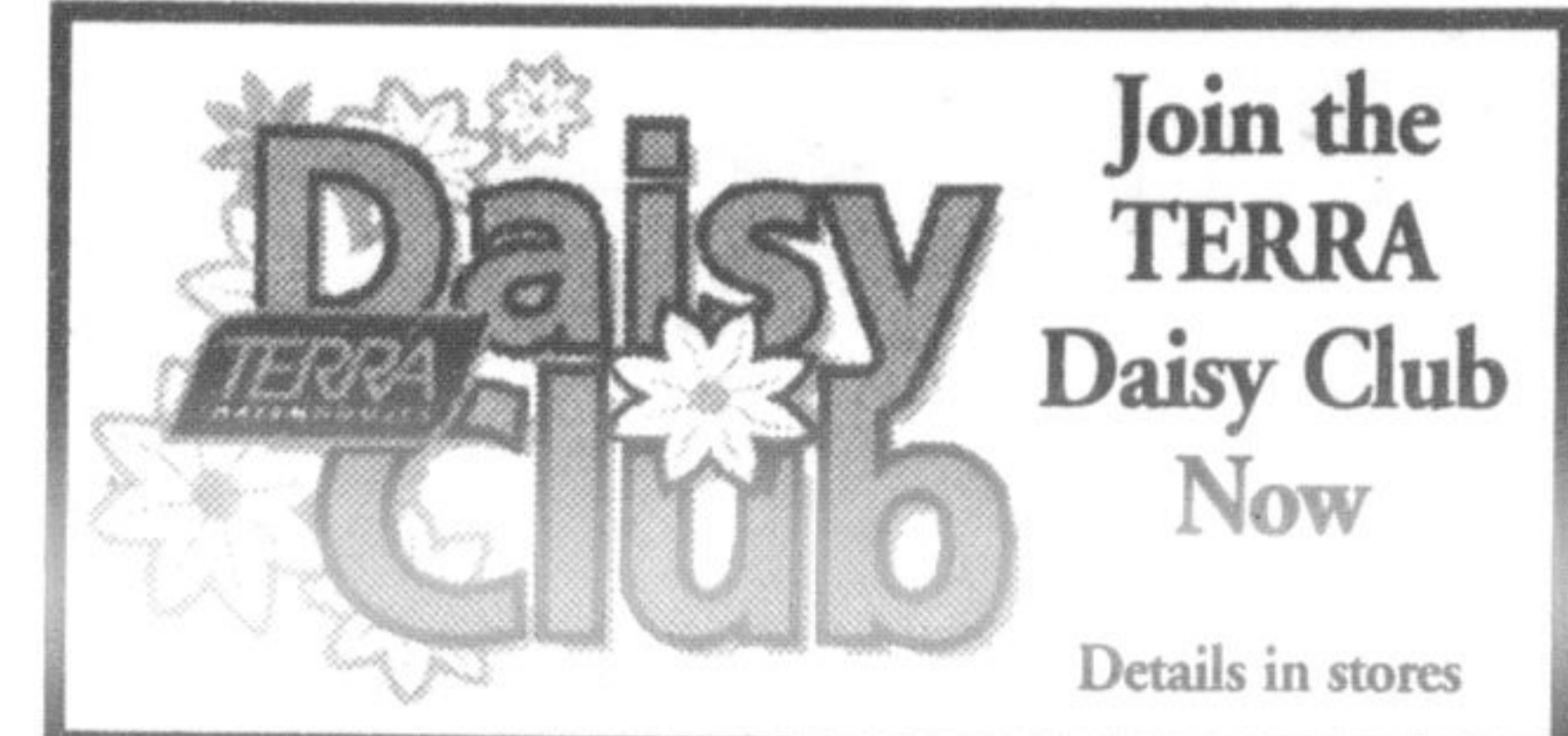




SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION



FRIDAY MAY 2, 2003

Marlins dominate division two provincials

Milton captures title in first year at tier two ranks

Talk about an impressive encore.

After reaching the top of the provincial pecking order in division three last spring, the Milton Marlins made the jump to tier two competition this year.

Needless to say, experts didn't pick the local swim team to do much more than just offer a solid showing at last weekend's Ontario Division II Championships in Thunder Bay.

However, the purple and green refused to merely hold their own — but instead clinched the overall team title with a collective performance worthy of any over-the-top form of flattery.

Enjoying a healthy fan base of parents and other supporters in Thunder Bay, Milton's 30 representatives upstaged 15 opposing clubs — many with much larger contingents — and out-distanced chief rival Trent Swim Club 530-485 for the championship.

The Marlins' all-around victory earns them the right to move up to the province's top rung for 2004.

Coach thrilled

"The kids were amazing," said elated head coach Emil Dimitrov, who in recent years has taken the club from essentially a grassroots organization to a perennial powerhouse.

"They worked so hard for this. Everyone on the team contributed."

Among the championship squad's top pool sharks were 11-year-old David Dimitrov and 17-year-old Olympic hopeful Jennifer Porenta.

The duo combined for almost a fifth of the team's overall points — each posting 52 to lead the charge. They had near-perfect weekends, with five golds and one silver apiece.

But much like last year, depth was Milton's greatest ally in an eventually-suc-



cessful title hunt.

The Marlins amassed 88 medals, 48 of the golden variety.

Michelle Claessens boosted the number of nationally-qualified local swimmers to seven by recording a personal best time in the 50m freestyle, while other highlights included two relay victories for the 13 to 14-year-old girls.

Steadily-improving Kim Galvin, a member of that dual relay-winning team, also brought home two freestyle golds and added two bronzes for a hefty hardware haul.

Jessica Switzer matched that medal

count with two silvers and two bronzes, while always competitive Kristin McIlroy had a handful of reasons to smile — with an individual gold to complement her four silver-medal efforts.

She was also part of the 15-and-up girls squad that turned back all challengers in both the freestyle and medley relays.

Other female standouts included 200m backstroke silver medalist Jacqueline Clarke and up-and-comer Aaryn Fraser, who took gold, silver and bronze in the 200m IM, 400m IM and 100m butterfly respectively.

Among the boys, Brent Burke earned

200m freestyle silver and 50m breaststroke bronze, while the 11 and 12-year-old relay team brought home a gold and bronze.

Making up the rest of the Marlins' provincial championship squad this season were Gillian Arseneau, James Bramley, Valerie Burke, Jen Claessens, Alex Davis, Jasmine Davis, George Dimitrov, Laura Doherty, Brittany Hastings, Bronwyn Kilbourn, Tam Kilbourn, Victoria Poole, Laura Prusha, Chris Read, Alex Ries, Evan Ries, Madeline Robertson, Rachel Robinson, Larissa Ruiz, Maria Ruiz and Will Wright.

Marlin swimmers proudly display the Ontario Division II championship banner they won last weekend in Thunder Bay.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Mother's Day Buffet

"BEST BUFFET IN TOWN" Sunday May 11, 2003

12:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

Al Grande Italian Buffet

Breakfast Items, Gourmet Salads, Antipasti, Pastas, Veal, Chicken, Lamb, Seafood & much, much more

Price \$24.95 Children under 12 years, 1/2 price

Call to reserve: (905) 878-7934

The Grand Chalet

324 Steeles Ave. Milton

Titleist

Cobra

FootJoy



Clarke's Golf

www.clarkesgolf.com

Mother's Day Specials

WILSON 11 pc GRAPHITE SET

WILSON CART BAG HEADCOVERS & MORE

Reg. \$619.95 **Now \$499⁹⁵**

ProSelect 7 pc GRAPHITE SET

ProSelect CART BAG HEADCOVERS & MORE

Reg. \$295.95 **Now \$249⁹⁵**

LADIES XL 2000 GOLF BALLS **\$16⁹⁵** Dozen

NANCY LOPEZ DRIVER Reg \$129.95 **\$99⁹⁵**

Great selection of Ladies Apparel. Addidas, Antigua, Aures, Sun Ice and more from \$19.95

Callaway Golf SPALDING

18 Thompson Rd., Unit 7&8, Milton

905-878-1818

Taylor Made