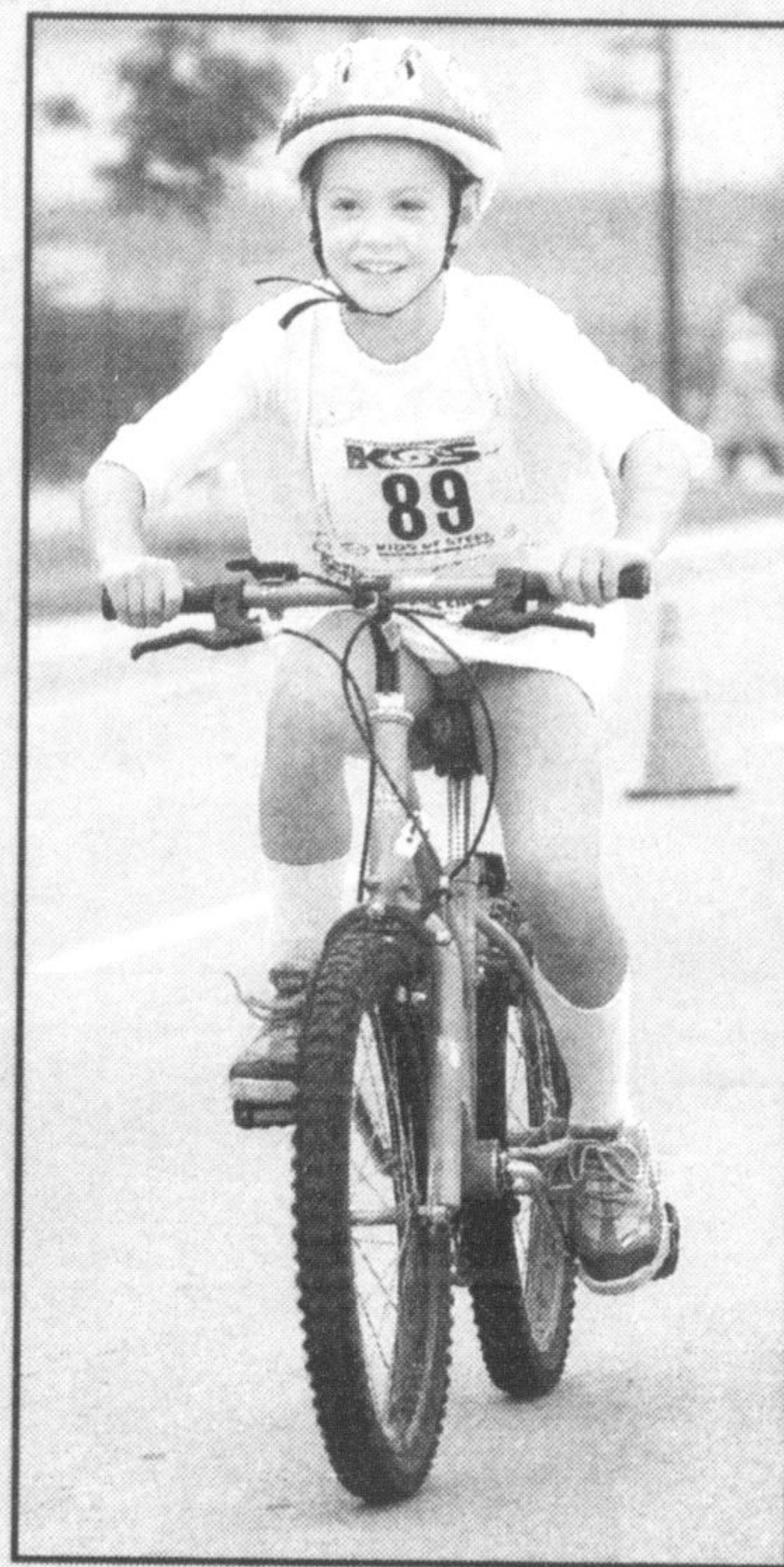
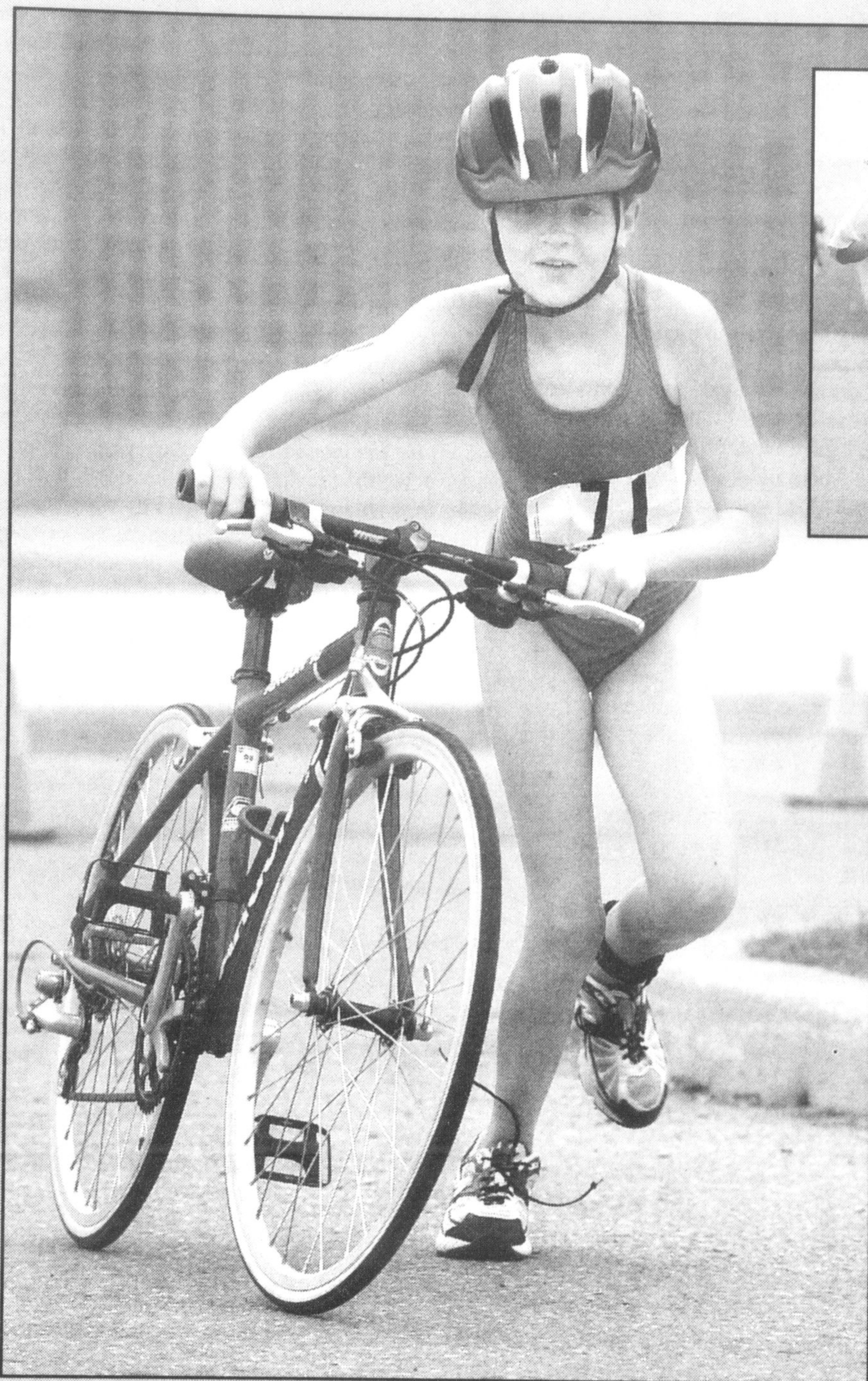




# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY AUGUST 8, 2003



Photos by  
GRAHAM PAINE

## Locally-trained colt captures Hambletonian

*Amigo Hall tops at Meadowlands*

Locally-trained and owned Amigo Hall delivered a huge upset win in the \$1-million Hambletonian Trot at New Jersey's Meadowlands Racetrack Saturday afternoon, becoming the second Ontario-sired colt to capture the historic event this decade.

A 27-to-1 shot, the Balanced Image son received a brilliant steer from Michel Lachance to score a 1:54 victory over Sugar Trader and Mac's Crown K.

Leaving from post six, Lachance fired Amigo Hall to the front.

Reaching the opening quarter in the rather sedate :28.2, the pair yielded to heavy favourite Power To Charm, who pushed the pace to a :55.4 half.

Easing off on the pace through the 1:25 three-quarter mark, Power To Charm came under heavy pressure on the outside from Sugar Trader while Amigo Hall sat comfortably in the pocket behind him.

As Power To Charm faded through the stretch, Lachance was able to carve out an opening and Amigo Hall powered his way to victory.

"I wasn't going to leave with him, but the horse was good scoring down. He was right on the gate and sharp, so I let him trot out there and the rest is history," said Lachance.

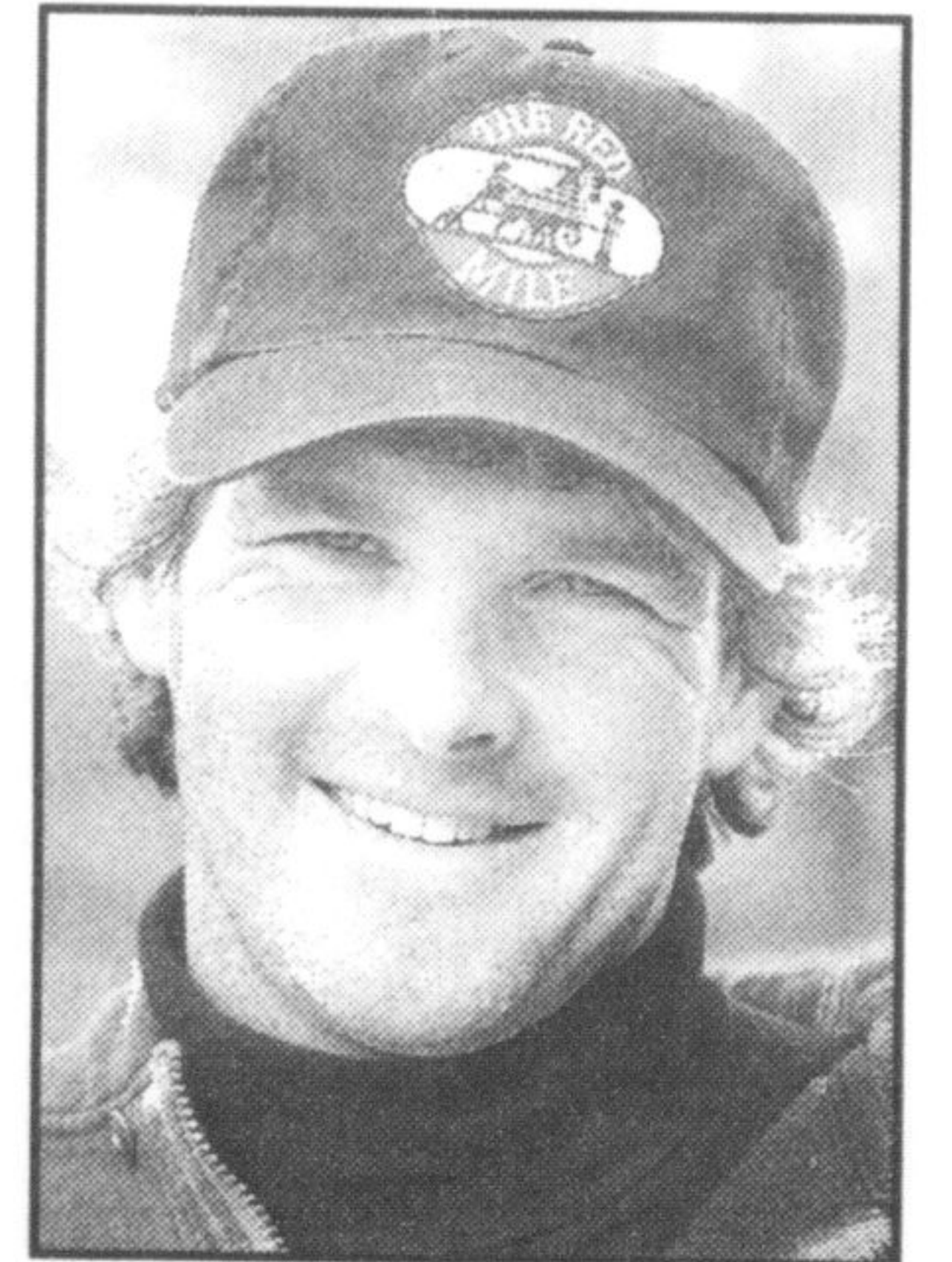
Milton's Blair Burgess trains Amigo Hall for his wife Karin Olsson Burgess, father Bob Burgess of Campbellville and breeders Walnut Hall Limited of Lexington, KY.

Prior to finishing third in his Hambletonian elimination at the Meadowlands July 26, Amigo Hall was a third-place finisher in a July 6 Gold Final at Windsor Raceway, causing co-owner Bob Burgess to lament the fact that some of the colt's peers had not tried their hand in the rich event.

"I have no idea why other people who have Ontario-sired horses don't nominate them to races like the Hambletonian," he remarked. "If they did more of that we'd get more recognition for the Ontario-sired animal."

Yankee Paco, also a son of Balanced Image, was the first Ontario-sired trotter to win the Hambletonian, scoring a 1:53.2 victory in 2000.

Amigo Hall boosted his lifetime earnings from \$125,349 to \$625,349 with the win.



Blair Burgess

## Locals tame Kids of Steel challenge

Saturday's inaugural Kids of Steel Milton Triathlon drew 176 competitors including nine-year-old Bronwyn Kilbourn of Campbellville, who runs out of the transition area after completing the swim portion of the triathlon challenge. Inset above, 10-year-olds Michelle St. Pierre (left) and Alanna Harrigan race each other toward the finish line, while (above) eight-year-old Heather Sadler of Milton shows good form during the bike portion of the race.

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