

Porenta CIS' rookie of year

Jennifer Porenta punctuated her university rookie season with a silver lining last weekend in Toronto.

The U of T freshman and Olympic hopeful delivered three silver-medal performances, two in individual freestyle competition, at the Canadian University Championships.

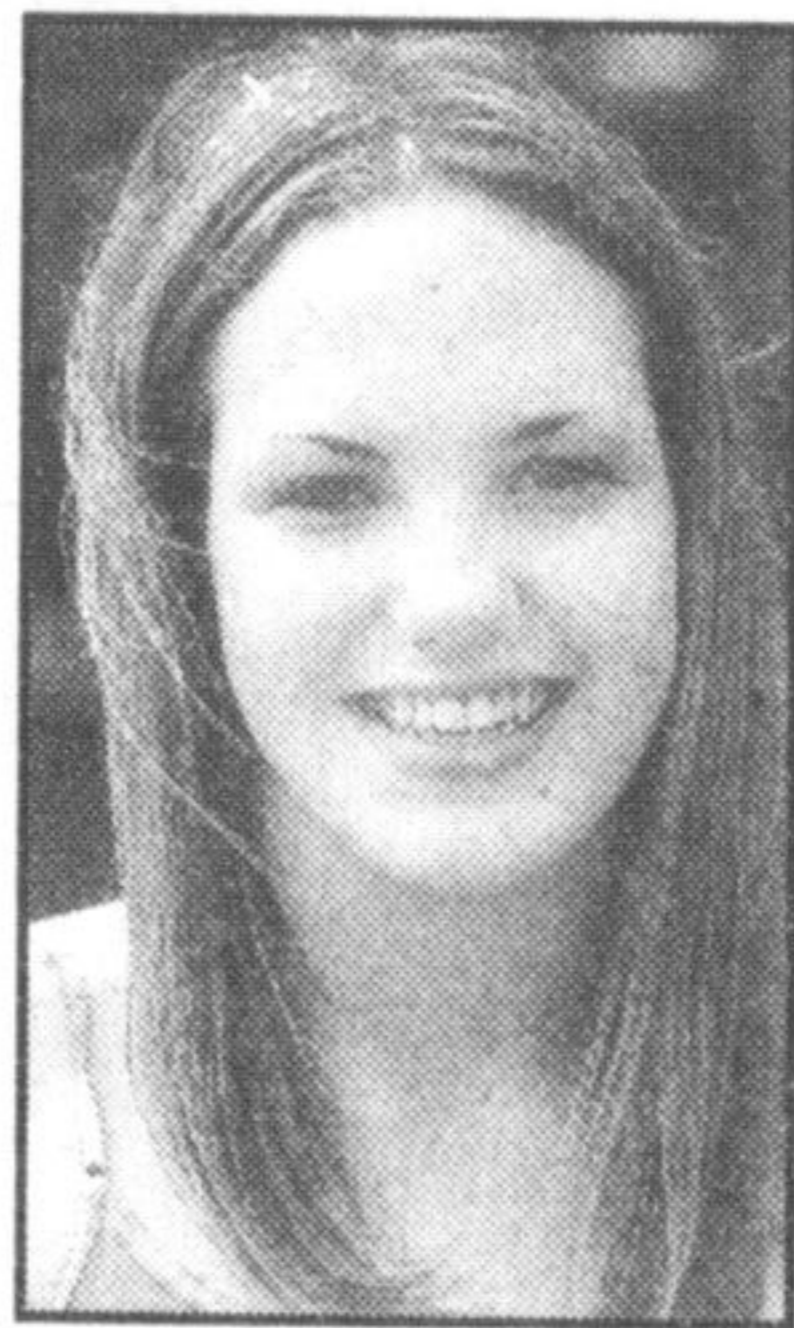
Her best efforts were reserved for last Friday's 200-metre freestyle, in which she established a new personal record of 1:59.18 for second-place honours.

The 18-year-old Miltonian led for more than three-quarters of the finals before being outdistanced by Laval's Sophie Simard, who also edged her out of gold during Sunday's 100m freestyle.

Simard broke an 11-year national record with a time of 55.96s while Porenta was close behind at 56.02s — also a new individual benchmark.

Those efforts, plus a lead-off contribution to U of T ladies' silver-medal effort in the 4x100m freestyle relay, earned the local pool shark the CIS's Rookie of the Year award.

Porenta — whose national silver-medal showings sandwiched disastrous performances in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle Saturday — remains a legitimate contender for this summer's Olympics, particularly in the 100m and 200m freestyle.



Jennifer Porenta

Pauls Peanut wins after protest in first leg of Silver Reign Series

Pauls Peanut, Armbro Bracken and Bella Fame got the Silver Reign Series for Ontario-sired three-year-old fillies underway at Woodbine Racetrack Monday night.

A wild first division kicked off the \$17,000 opening leg.

Getting into the flow after the half-mile marker, Pauls Peanut — co-owned, trained and driven by Doug Brown — was second by a nose in a photo-finish at the wire, but was bumped up to first following a driver's objection.

Sitting three-wide late in the stretch, Brown and Pauls Peanut looked to have the victory locked up. Miltonian Luc Ouellette and Armbro Bell found room late along the rail and exploded to the wire with a ton of pace.

But Armbro Bell was deemed to have interfered with Tamango Hall, and was consequently dropped from the top three — giving Pauls Peanut the win.



Hoof Beat

with JEFF RENTON

It was the second victory in three starts for the Brown trainee, who finished a length ahead of Paradise Of Grins.

There was no disputing that Milton's Chris Christoforou and Armbro Bracken were the best in the second division, as they handily took the mile in a new lifetime mark of 1:56.1.

Novocain Fame, driven by owner/trainer Marty Adler, carved out :27.2 and :56.3 panels through to the half-mile before Armbro Bracken was tipped out from second and got it done for Christoforou.

Under wraps through the lane after a

1:26.2 third-quarter mark, Armbro Bracken was three lengths up on Twin B Supreme and four lengths in front of Electra Dreamer when all was said and done. The victory was Armbro Bracken's first in five starts this year.

The final division of the night showcased another big mile, as Bella Fame and driver Mike Saftic of Milton wired the field in 1:56.

Leaving from post four, Saftic and the daughter of Apaches Fame and Jackie Seelster set fractions of :28, :57.1 and 1:26.2 before cruising home with a :29.3 final panel. Trained by Nicky Comenga for Campbellville's Bruno Comenga, Bella Fame looked strong in the backstretch, easily repelling an advance by 7-5 favourite Twin B Romance.

The \$17,000 second leg of the Silver Reign Series is slated for Monday, while the \$48,000 final will be contested March 22.

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SUMMER HOCKEY BEGINS

Springer duo show strongly at final qualifier

Although they'd already earned passage to next month's provincial championships, two local gymnasts elected to compete at last weekend's third and final qualifying meet in Muskoka.

The Milton Springers' youngest competitive member — nine-year-old Josan Pineau-Levman — improved on last month's fourth-place showing

with overall bronze this time around.

The Argo 1 gymnast reached the podium on the strength of third-place efforts in both bars and vault. She also took sixth on the floor and seventh on beam.

Among Tryo 1 participants, 10-year-old Brittany Schrader grabbed the judge's award for the highest

leap on the beam. Her highest placings were reserved for floor and vault, in which she finished fourth and fifth respectively.

The local duo — along with teammates Maddy Bannock, April Chappell and Litsa Sotiriou — will now begin training for the provincial championships.

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