

Sports

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Vince's newest horse impressive in Blainville

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Ainsley Vince's show jumping success goes on — or make that grows on.

The 27-year-old Miltonian recently beefed up her competitive ranks with eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood Uno, who's wasted little time proving himself to be a credible addition to the team.

In only her second World Cup Qualifier Sunday afternoon, the Team Vince newcomer — who joins veteran standout Catch 22 and handsome stallion Kafka — delivered a second-place finish in the \$60,000 Grand Prix in Blainville, Que.

Part of a five-entry jump-off, Vince and Uno turned in a second straight clean round, but needed two-and-a-half seconds more to tame the course than Belgium's Eric Flameng and Roxanne.

That narrow span kept Vince from repeating as Blainville's

Grand Prix champion, after prevailing with Catch 22 last year. While somewhat disappointed over not defending her title, the local show jumper is more than a little encouraged about the strong showing by her newest partner.

"He's been so good, he has been in the jump-off in every class he's entered in this week," noted the two-time Canadian Show Jumping champion. "I wouldn't say I'm that surprised by his performance, but it's always nice when a horse without much experience shows this kind of potential."

Purchased for Vince this past winter in Florida by the KMA Group, Uno also took sixth-place honours in Blainville's Open Jumper — in which teammate Kafka, slowly being brought back



Ainsley Vince

from a spring injury, finished second to Terra Cotta's Chris Pratt and Markant.

While not reaching the Grand Prix jump-off, Catch 22 has had his share of success this season — including a July 3 \$75,000 CN Grand Prix victory in Bromont, Que.

These efforts add to Vince's impressive track record in Quebec — one that should continue with an all-important third mount on her team.

"Having that third horse gives me the depth you need for a long season," she said. "It allows you to rest on the horses now and then and just increases your chances in the big events. And it's nice to have one of the horses (Uno) a little younger than the others to provide that nice complement."

Meanwhile, fellow Miltonian Erynn Ballard also competed in Blainville last week and finished fifth in Saturday's \$20,000 Challenge Desjardins Modified Grand Prix with Rio's Rhapsody.

Peewee Red Sox edged in semis

Milton's peewee boys baseball team had its fair share of production at last weekend's Brantford Tournament — but not quite enough when it mattered most.

Facing Hamilton in the semifinals Sunday, the Red Sox couldn't find the holes into the seventh inning and wound up losing 5-3. The game ended in truly heartbreaking fashion, with a runner at third being picked off and a subsequent strikeout crushing hopes for a last-minute comeback.

The two-run loss mirrored a second round loss to

Hamilton, which took the initial clash 6-4.

Sandwiching this narrow defeat was a 16-1 massacre of Peterborough and a 15-4 rout of Stratford.

Mike Robertson stood out in both blowouts, with four hits in each and a total of nine RBI. Tyler went 4-for-4 in the latter mismatch, with a homer, two doubles and five RBI.

The Red Sox followed up their solid tournament performance with an 11-6 decision over the Mississauga Titans Monday — for their first late-night victory in two years and their second straight win over the Titans.

Local cager makes Ontario cut

Milton's Al Alilovic — a standout with both Bishop Reding and the midget Madd Dawgs this past season — was named to Basketball Ontario's Under-15 midget squad Monday. The 6'5" hoopster is one of 12 team members who'll be in development for the 2005 Canada Summer Games.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



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