

Sports

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Whitlock decimates own marathon record

Breaks last year's finish by more than four minutes

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Ed Whitlock's record-breaking beat goes on.

Capitalizing on ideal weather conditions and a quicker than expected start in Sunday's Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Milton's 73-year-old racing phenom shattered his own world age class marathon mark by more than four minutes — clocking in at 2:54.49.

Not only did the soft-spoken yet high-driven runner leave last year's performance in the proverbial dust, but he finished in much better shape as well.

And while never one to boast about his umpteen racing feats, he couldn't quite hide his added enthusiasm this time around.

"I'm somewhat ecstatic," remarked Whitlock, who three years ago set out to become the planet's first 70-and-up runner to complete a marathon in under three

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ED WHITLOCK

hours — and has now done it twice. "The weather was certainly co-operative and things just went my way today."

A world record holder in several other distances and age groups, the local senior established a rather ambitious pace early on in his quest to tame Toronto's 42.2 km course in 2:56.

He beat that original goal by more than a minute, despite a potentially disastrous bout of cramping over the last two kilometres. "There were some nasty

twinges at the end, but otherwise I really didn't have any trouble."

Figuring last year was his final opportunity to break the three-hour barrier, Whitlock said he felt less pressure this past weekend — even though he received more media coverage leading up to the race.

While still having another year in the 70-74 division, he believes he's taken the world record as far as he can at this age class. "Realistically, this was my last year. I'll probably have to wait another two years (before trying for another world record)."

So does Whitlock even envision a time when he's not chasing world records?

"I don't think so," he said, in a tone bearing absolutely no smugness — something that would certainly be justified, given his incredible track record. "Of course you never know what the future holds. This could all be over tomorrow if some injury were to befall me. But I'm currently intent on competing for as long as I can."

Senior Spartans win tourney

E.C. Drury's senior girls basketball team kicked off their season in championship fashion Friday, taking top honours at the Georgetown Rebels' Invitational Tip-Off.

The Spartans didn't just turn back all challengers, but did so rather convincingly — winning by an average of 18 points a game.

They punctuated the title drive with a 41-25 decision over Orangeville's Westside, with standout scorer Katherine Greaves collecting 16 points and Victoria Thurston chipping in eight. Sarah Fredricks, Laura Wellstead and steadily-improving Brittany Richardson rounded out the attack with four points apiece.

The gold-medal win was forged with the entire bench — including the ninth graders, who couldn't

comprise a junior squad this fall — seeing floor time.

En route to the finals, Drury disposed of Georgetown's Christ the King 46-19 and Westside 49-26 in round-robin play. From there Greaves amassed 18 points — falling just three shy of her tournament high 21 against Christ the King — to pace the Spartans to a 42-31 semifinal victory over D'Youville of Brampton.

A fast-break, full-court press approach helped Drury reach the championship. Wellstead contributed a dozen points to the semifinal win, while Fredricks came through with eight.

The Spartans begin league play Monday at Christ the King and then host cross-town rival Milton District October 6. Both games start at 3:30 p.m.

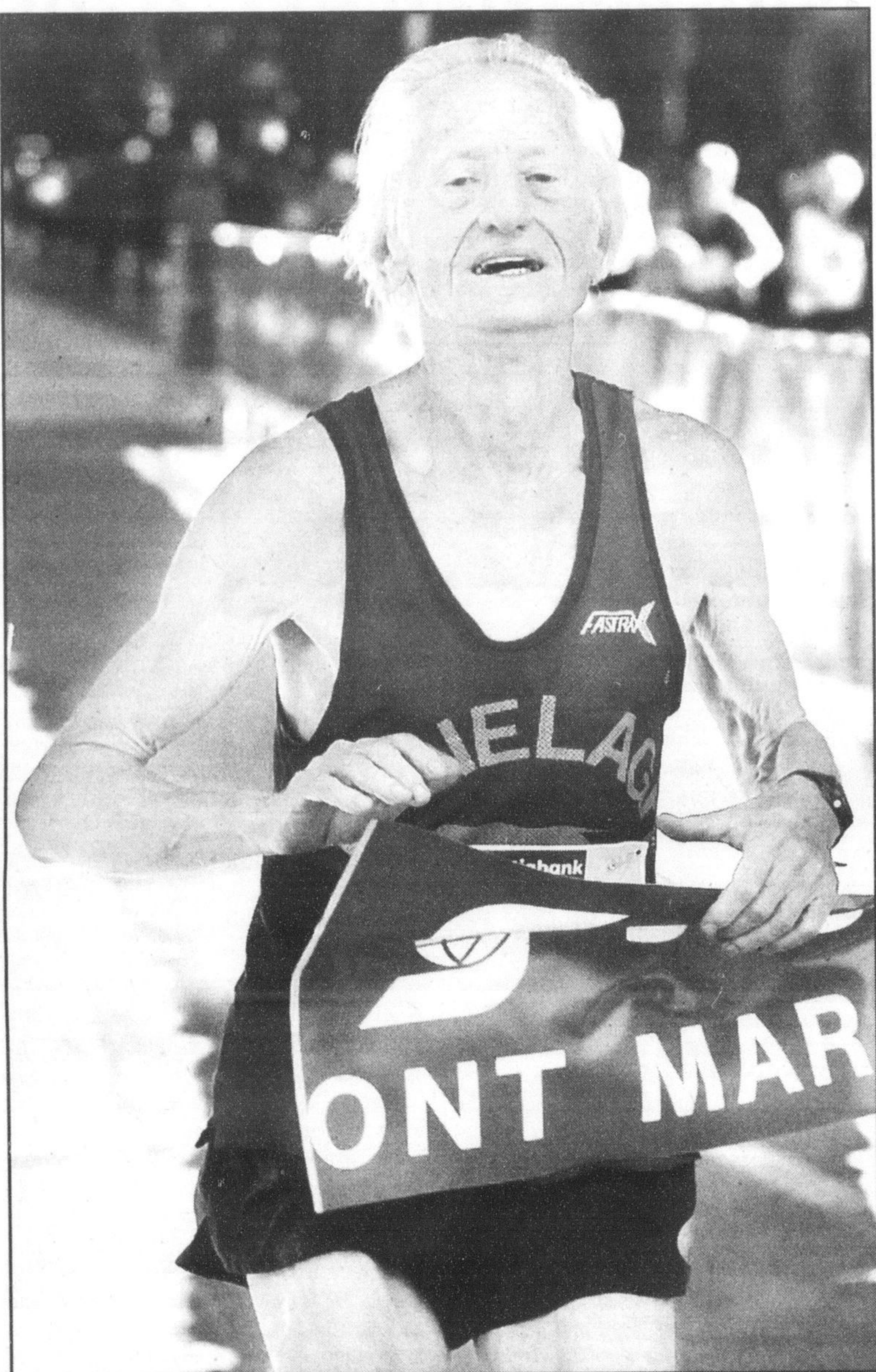


Photo by KEN FAUGHT/TORONTO STAR

Ed Whitlock breaks the tape in Sunday's world-record setting marathon run in Toronto.



MILTON MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION REP PLAYER TRYOUTS

ROOKIE PLAYERS BORN IN 1996 AND 1997

Rotary Park- Wednesday September 29, 2004, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Saturday October 2, 2004, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday October 3, 2004, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

BANTAM PLAYERS BORN IN 1991 AND 1990

Maplehurst- Thursday September 30, 2004, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Friday October 1, 2004, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Brian Best- Saturday October 2, 2004, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

MIDGIT PLAYERS BORN IN 1989, 1988 AND 1987

Maplehurst- Thursday September 30, 2004, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Friday October 1, 2004, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Brian Best- Saturday October 2, 2004, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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