

SPORTS

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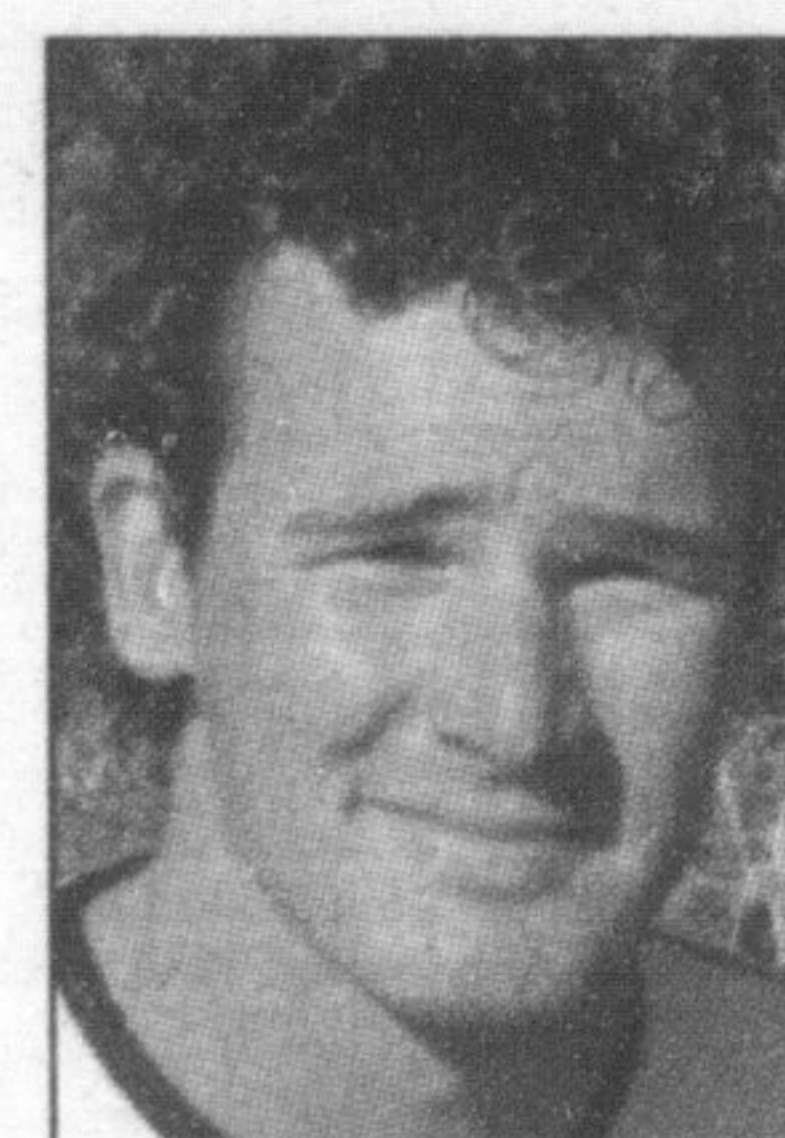
MICHAEL IVANIN / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

ON THE MOVE: Cyclists make a turn from Appleby Line onto No. 14 Sideroad during Sunday's CHIN Provincial Road Race Championships at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area. Roughly 250 racers took part in the high-endurance event — which featured one of the most gut-wrenching ascents in Ontario and races up to 108 km. Just three Miltonians took part, with seasoned all-weather racer Rob Cheskey enjoying the best finish among them with an eighth-place showing in the 67.5 km Men's Master C division.

Macdonald water-skis to national gold, again

Paul Macdonald once again rules Canadian barefoot water-skiing.

The 31-year-old Milton native — who now lives and instructs in Winter Haven, Florida — captured his fourth national men's title last weekend in Langley, B.C.



Upstaging his competition on a rather small west coast lake, the seasoned barefoot water-skier won all three events en route to overall gold.

His efforts were highlighted with a Canadian jump record in the men's 25-to-34-year-old group — breaking his previous best leap by nearly a full metre with a 23.60 m showing. Gordie Croteau — a perennial contender for the all-around championship — was a distant second with a 17.8 m performance.

While well off his personal benchmark in his bread-and-butter tricks event — in which he gave Canada its first-ever world medal last year with a bronze in Washington — Macdonald's 6,560-point effort was more than enough for a decisive win.

"The lake is shorter than normal and I couldn't get all of my tricks run in," said the reigning champ, who beat his closest tricks challenger by over 3,000 points. "But I didn't fall and put up some pretty good scores."

Macdonald also took top honours in the slalom event, with Croteau second in both the event and in the overall standings.

Early success for locals at Country Classic

Milton-area riders and their trusty mounts had plenty of oomph through the first week of Halton Place's annual Canadian Country Classic.

Most notably, 28-year-old Courtney Vince — the middle sibling of a successful three-sister family — enjoyed back-to-back flawless rounds on consecutive days aboard Nalla.

The first of these was enough to secure the duo top honours in last Friday's \$2,500 Open Welcome Stakes — winning a three-way

jump-off in 49.77.

Two clear rounds the following day saw Vince and Nalla take third in a five-ride jump-off of the \$20,000 Grand Prix, which France's Yann Candele and Carolla Z won in 47.99.

Campbellville's Michael Grinyer, 53, was also in the championship hunt for both events — with faultless performances from Garth.

They were just a second behind Vince and Nalla in the Open Welcome Stakes for the runner-up spot and were fourth in the Grand Prix.

Both riders were expected to compete in week two's \$2,500 Open Welcome Stakes yesterday afternoon, as were Vince sisters Sydney and Ainsley — the latter enjoying major success this summer aboard both newly-acquired Cantero Z and longtime partner Catch 22.

The two-week Canadian Country Classic wraps up Sunday at 2:30 p.m. with the \$75,000 FEI World Cup Qualifier, in which Grinyer and Ainsley Vince took second and third last year.

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