

Family's fall fair demolition derby tradition continues

17-year-old Milton driver victorious in debut

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Twenty-four hours removed from his demolition derby debut at the Milton Fall Fair, Kyle Paul was still feeling its effects.

But in his case, that wasn't all bad.

After all, the buzz of victory has a way of running every bit as deep as the aches and pains necessary to achieve it.

"Yeah, I'm pretty sore today, but it

was worth it," said the 17-year-old Miltonian Monday afternoon, on the heels of his full-size street stock class win, which coincidentally came just a few days before getting his G2. "I've definitely got some whiplash, but it's really fun while you're in there."

Though this past weekend



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HEFTY HAUL: Kyle Paul (in car #212) makes a hit on Bill Stoner in Sunday's full-size street stock class.

marked his first time in the middle of the smash 'em, crash 'em action, Paul is hardly a newcomer to the derby scene.

Some of his fondest childhood memories are of helping father James get his own car ready for the annual fall showcase, while even mom Cathy has put herself behind the wheel a couple of times — and prevailed on both occasions.

The younger Paul was a dual winner Sunday, picking up a tidy \$400 for his win plus an additional \$75 for the best decorated car.

"The smile on my dad's face (after Sunday's win) was the best part of the day. We've been turning wrenches together for a long time," said Paul, who had help from his entire family in preparing his Chevy Lumina (provided by sponsor Bush Auto Wreckers of Streetsville) and painted Handy Manny on the driver's side in honour of two-year-old nephew Blake's favourite cartoon show. "I'm a little upset though that it's (car) still going. I wanted to blow

it up in there and just hoped to get two good hits in before it blew. I really didn't expect it to last."

Recently accepted into the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program as an aspiring mechanic, the local teen's approach to the derby was — to put it succinctly — simple yet effective.

Explained Paul, "Basically I just stayed in the corner and any time a car came near I just went at him full throttle."

Milton-area drivers enjoyed a fair amount of the overall derby success this past weekend.

George Nisbett prevailed in both Sunday's mini-smash class and the third heat of the demo-cross division Friday, while Chris Sytsma was the last man standing in the mid-size street stock Sunday.

Meanwhile, the husband and wife team of Sonny and Meredith Mayhew also came away with some hardware, winning the minivans division Saturday and best decorated car trophy Friday respectively.

Overtime goal nets AA minor bantams tournament title

The AA minor bantams have set the bar awfully high for this year, in terms of both drama and success.

Kicking off their 2010/11 campaign at last weekend's Peterborough Nationals Tournament, the Winterhawks delivered a near-perfect run to reign supreme.

They did so in nail-biting fashion, with defenceman Kyle Hajekerou scoring from the slot half-a-minute into overtime to eclipse the formidable Mississauga North Stars 2-1.

Derek Ford shared the spotlight with a topnotch performance between the pipes. The finalists

exchanged goals a mere 23 seconds apart in the middle stanza, with Colin Moffat denting the twine for Milton.

Nearly as exciting was the Winterhawks' 3-1 semifinal victory over the Toronto IceDogs, with Liam Buckley netting the winner with under two minutes remaining and Ryan McDonald burying an empty netter to seal the deal.

Chris Rodricks tied things up early in the third.

This avenged the team's only loss of the weekend — a 3-2 setback to the IceDogs in round three — while Milton kicked off the tournament with a 2-1 triumph over the West Mall Lightning and followed that up with a 7-0 pasting of the hosts.

Ryan McDonald enjoyed the biggest slice of the scoring pie with four goals and five assists, while Moffat (3g, 5a) and Buckley (1g, 6a) were the other offensive standouts on the weekend.

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