

Diver wins provincial age group gold

By JEFF PASQUALE

A former Campbellville resident, now boarding in Thunder Bay, has qualified for the Ontario diving team which will take part in the Canadian Summer Games in August in Saskatoon.

Bobbiann MacPherson, who until September trained at the Etobicoke Olympium, finished third overall in the open division at the Canada Games Trials as well as winning the provincial championship in her age group.

Competing in the 14-15 age group at the provincials held recently in Thunder Bay, MacPherson took first place in the seven-metre tower and three-metre springboard and second from the one-metre springboard.

Thanks to the combined results, the 15-year-old was named the outstanding diver in her age group.

The competition was a little tougher to qualify for the Summer Games, held once every four years.

The games are open to all divers under the age of 21, who aren't currently on the national team. In other words, it's a fairly wide-open competition.

The top three divers qualified for the Ontario team. The score was comprised of two of the best three scores from the three events, the 10m tower and three and one metre springboard.

Kelly Vrooman took a pair of firsts, thereby qualifying easily. Laurie Nelson ended up with two second-place

finishes, which meant MacPherson's second on the 10m tower and third on the three-metre springboard was just good enough to squeak her onto the team.

"Bobbiann had to beat out a couple of girls who were on the provincial team last year," said her mother, Marianne Cormack.

According to Cormack, MacPherson has made great strides since she headed north and hooked up with new coach Mitch Geller.

"She's made great strides with Mitch," said Cormack. "Right now she's a tower specialist but he thinks she'll eventually be very good on the springboard as well."

As far as short-term goals go, MacPherson is hoping to do well at the

Canadian Summer Games, said Cormack. Also coming up are the senior summer national championships in Calgary in July and the age group nationals in July.

"If Bobbiann does well at the age group nationals, she could qualify for the age group world team. It's a long shot but she could do it. She would then be one of the top three divers in Canada in the 14-15 age group," said Cormack.

If she does make the team, the age group World Championships are being held in Spain in August.

In the longer term, the Olympics are on the horizon, either in Barcelona in 1992, or in 1996.

Unlike sports such as gymnastics, divers don't reach their peak until



BOBBIANN MACPHERSON they're in their 20s. The weight gain and loss of flexibility which comes with age doesn't affect them.

13—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, May 31, 1989

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Things were really flying for Ross Wood and Andy Browning during a car rally in Minden, Ont., over the weekend. The rally was part of the Ontario Car Rally Championship and the local duo finished first in their class.

Wood rallies for win in Minden

Milton's Ross Wood helped his team to a first-place finish over the weekend in Minden, Ont., in the Ontario Rally Championship car race.

Wood, along with driver Andy Browning of Acton, emerged first in the production class, second among the General Tire teams and fifth overall. There were 35 other cars entered in the rally, the second event in the series.

The production class featured a tight battle throughout the race. When the final results were posted, the local duo had edged an Ottawa pair by a mere 30 seconds.

Things weren't exactly smooth sailing for Wood, though. Early in the event they bent a steering column when the car struck a rock. They managed to limp to rest

stop where emergency repairs allowed them to complete the rally.

One of the biggest obstacles for the team was coping with the onslaught of black flies which swarmed them every time they stopped.

For this rally, the team jumbled their usual positions. Browning remained in his usual position of driver but Wood took over as team manager and service chief while Ted Lee, usually a service mechanic, sat in the right hand seat as co-driver.

The team is now tied for first place in the production class in the Ontario Championship. The next event is scheduled for August.

League looking for rugby players

By GRAHAM McCREADY

A challenge has been issued to women in the Halton area to join a new team planned for the Ontario Women's Rugby League.

The team will tentatively be based at the Oakville Crusaders facilities in east Oakville.

The Ontario league is comprised of four teams. Three teams are in Toronto and the fourth is in Kingston. Six league and three exhibition games as well as two provincial seven-a-side tournaments and a grand final are planned for the new squad. Team members are eligible to be selected to the Ontario provincial team which will play in the Canadian championships in August.

Plans are for the new women's team to participate in coaching sessions and play several 15-a-side exhibition games. Next year the team

will join the regular Ontario league.

Rugby is actually the forerunner of football.

The current Toronto Argonaut football team started as a rugby team. The game is played by 15 players on a field similar in size to a football field.

Eight players make up the forward pack and have the job of winning possession of the ball. The other seven play in the back line and usually score most of the points.

A try, equivalent to a touchdown, is worth four points, a conversion of a try is worth two points and a kick through the goal post scores three. The game takes place in two 40-minute halves, with no substitutions allowed except for injuries.

The game has room for women of all physical sizes, ranging from six foot, 160-pound forwards to 5-foot, 85-pound wingers.

The top team in the new league is the Wanderers of Ajax. The team has won all pre-season exhibition games, beating the Scarborough Saracens 32-0 and 28-0, and Kingston 30-0.

This top level side has many players from last year's provincial team with several promising new players.

The top Wanderers try scorer is Katherine Watts who made 12 points in runaway tries in the recent game against Saracens. Watts went to Australia last year for a touch football tournament and is typical of the high athletic standard of many female rugby players.

Any woman seeking fun, fitness, travel and an excellent social life for an initial cost of only \$50 should call the director of Ontario Women's Rugby, Dee Cooke at 1-800-461-7629, or interim team organizer Graham McCready at 828-5576 in the evenings or 556-4060 during the day.

Harness stakes championship

The Ontario Jockey Club, in association with the Canadian Standardbred industry, has announced the creation of a new harness racing stakes, the Canadian Breeders Championship.

The Canadian Breeders Championship is the first stake ever to be written exclusively for foals of Canadian registered stallions, thereby making it a national-added money event. It will be inaugurated in the fall of 1990 at Campbellville's Mohawk Raceway.

"The Canadian Breeders Championship is a landmark and long overdue stake," said Doug Elliott, vice-president and general manager of standardbred operations for the Ontario Jockey Club.

"It is the first national stallion event ever to be staged in Canada. We are excited about its concept and have every reason to believe that the Canadian Breeders Championship will be perceived by both the industry and the racing fans as being one of the major events on the Canadian harness racing calendar."

For the 1990 championship, races will be held for two-year-old pacing fillies; two-year-old trotting fillies; two-year-old pacing colts and two-year-old trotting colts. The first year will also have a three-year-old open pace and three-year-old open trot.

The full complement of eight races will take place in 1991 when the open events for three-year-olds will be replaced by individual championships for pacing fillies, trotting fillies, pacing colts and trotting colts.

All finals are scheduled to be raced on the same day to create one national championship night of racing.

To be eligible for the 1990 series, foals born in 1988 must be sired by a registered Canadian stallion. The cost to register a stallion is equal to the cost of the advertised stud fee with a minimum charge of \$500.

Nomination fees for foals born in 1988 close Feb. 15 with a \$100 payment. There will be three \$100 subsequent sustaining payments due on March 15, April 15 and May 15.

Hoof Beat

with KATHY WADE

Springers hold local meet

Milton Springers fared well in two meets over the weekend.

On Friday night, a local competition for the pre-tines, was held. It involves the youngest of the Springer gymnasts, all in their first year of the program.

On vault, Shawna Turner took first with Melanie Bell second and Tanya Harrison third. Jacqui Aalbers took first on bars with Turner second and Teri Lee Davidson third. On the beam Lori Cyr took first followed by Turner and Davidson tied for second. Aalbers was first on the floor with Cyr and Turner in second and third respectively.

Aalbers accumulated enough points to take first place overall with Turner in second, Cyr was third, followed by Bell, Harrison and Davidson.

A pair of pre-argo gymnasts travelled to Bracebridge on Saturday for an event which serves as a provincial meet in lieu of the real thing.

The top 40 gymnasts from across the province took part in the meet, including Amanda Young and Joanna MacSween from Milton, both of

whom finished in the top 15.

Young finished with a score of 34.50 thanks to a fourth place on the beam and a seventh on the floor. MacSween had 34.15 points with seventh-place finishes on the bars and beam.

This is the end of the competitive season for the Springers but there is still one event left. All recreational and competitive gymnasts are preparing dance routines and new moves to show off at the annual Gymstrada, June 16 at Bishop Reding High School.

Guest performances will come from a South Carolina team as well as the Springers' rhythmic gymnastics team.

Mountain bike

The Norco Mountain Bike Event makes its annual appearance at Kelso Conservation Area Sunday.

Anyone interested in attending the race should head over to the park between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. to register for the event.

The uphill sprint, will get underway at 10:30 a.m.