

SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Rowley brothers hope to show strongly on weekend in BMX

National BMX races will be held at Drumquin Park

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to *The Champion*

MILTON WILL HOST the Maple Leaf National BMX races this weekend at Drumquin Park. In its corner will be a pair of local riders — who are not only favourites to show strongly, but have been making their presence felt all across North America this season.

Bob and Jason Rowley have been racing for over half a decade now, and during the past couple of years have enjoyed big successes on both sides of the border. Nineteen-year-old Bob is currently ranked among the top six participants in the National BMX Tour's 18 and 19 year-old expert class.

Since the season began in early October, he has put together impressive efforts at a half a dozen events. Highlighting his campaign have been first-place triumphs at the Midwest National in Springfield, Illinois in late October and at the East Coast Classic in late April in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey.

"Basically each event is a national race with the Grand Nationals held each September in Louisville, Kentucky. You need to compete in at least five national races to qualify for the Grands," said Bob, who suffered a flat tire in last year's season finale and failed to make it into the main draw.

Following this weekend's

homecoming, Bob will be off for some international competition in England — for the World Championships.

He'll be getting a free-ride to England courtesy of a first-place finish during this summer's Expert Amateur Series — which included three separate races, two in Columbus, Ohio and the other in Springfield, Ill. With the top overall rider earning a plane ticket to the Worlds, Bob went out and collected the most points with a win in Columbus and a second-place finish in Springfield.

"I'll actually be racing against professional level riders over there in the 19-and-over age group. There's probably going to be up to 500 participants. I'm hoping to make it into the main draw," explained Bob. "My main strength in racing is my jumps, I don't really like to pedal much," he added.

Conversely, 21-year-old Jason says he is usually explosive out of the gate and is effective on the speed jumps. The older Rowley has made the jump from the expert class to the single A pro circuit.

While admitting he hasn't had too many strong showings this summer, he did finish second at the Canadian National Championships in Saskatoon two weeks ago and collected a purse of \$900. "Matt Burger from Spokes and Slopes helped me out with about \$500 for the Saskatoon trip," said Jason.

He also scored third and sixth



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Jason Rowley (left) and brother Bob, veterans of the BMX circuit, will be competing in their hometown on the weekend.

place efforts in Detroit, and narrowly missed the main draw in Pittsburgh. "At the pro level, you go where the money is," he said.

At the expert level last season, Jason finished 21st overall while Bob earned a number 10 plate. Jason said he is simply looking to make the top eight at the Grand Nationals while Bob is hoping a top finish will help him secure a top 10 finish in the points race.

The brothers — who are sponsored by Spokes and Slopes, the Bike Source in Burlington, Hardcore Sunglasses and SNM DK — may soon have a chance to compete against each other.

Bob said he expects to jump up to the pro class next season while Jason said he will likely need another full year to advance past his current level. "You need to make at least \$2,000 a season at the single A pro class to move up to double A, which is where the real money is," explained Jason.

"I won't quite make it this year so I'll be returning next season to single A. Hopefully with Bob on the same circuit he can help me out at times and I can make enough to move up. It'll definitely be more fun with my brother in the same class racing with me," Jason said.

Minor mosquitos bomb Brampton

The Milton minor mosquitos are taking a bite out of opposing pitchers these days, and came up with two more convincing victories in recent baseball action.

With key defense to go along with their sizzling bats, Milton bombed the Brampton Royals 13-4. The local crew went ahead ahead with a run in each of the first two innings. From there they put the game out of reach with 11 runs in the final five frames.

Scoring two RBIs apiece were David Tielemans, Tim Collins, Liam Tennant and Chad Leakey — who knocked in the second inning run and later stole home in the fourth. King also stole home and collected a single RBI.

Key defensive efforts came from outfielders Ryan Ketelaars and Troy Squanca.

They followed up with a 13-7 triumph over Waterdown — with singles, doubles, triple and bunts all coming off Milton bats.

Tennant led with a triple while doubles came from King and David Aggio. Delivering singles were Tielemans and Nick Mazzorato. Squanca, Leakey, Ketelaars, T.A. Arsenault and Matt Mastrangelo contributed in the field with solid defense.

At Flamboro

Todd Forsyth forges to first

Milton racer's Todd Forsyth and Andy Wheller had strong showings Saturday night at Flamboro Speedway, each with top three finishes in their respective divisions.

In the Challenger division, Todd Forsyth took only four laps to get the Milton-based Racer's Edge Chevy to the front of the pack from his sixth place starting spot. Once ahead of the field, he powered away and picked up another victory.

Wheller took advantage of a second row starting spot in the street stock class and waged a torrid battle with Guelph's Kevin Eckerich for the lead in the early going. Burlington's Bill Jackson continued to show his dominance of the street stocks however, passing both Eckerich and Wheller with five laps to go.

Jackson continued on for the win while Eckerich and Wheller continued to fight, with Eckerich eventually earning second spot and Wheller coming in third.



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