

Sports



Territorial dispute

Milton Magic's Antonia Borojevik (right) battles Mississauga White's Thanoja Gnanatheevam for possession during Under-18 Premier Division play last Tuesday at Milton Community Park. Milton's Heather Bertram scored an equalizer midway through the second half as the teams finished in a 1-1 deadlock. The Magic now sit at 3-4-1 on the season. *Graham Paine / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

Preisner pleased with world debut

Misses steeplechase final at youth worlds, but finishes six spots higher than ranking

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Ben Preisner has developed quite a knack for exceeding expectations on the high-stakes racing front. And not even a jump to the world stage could interrupt that. Heading into yesterday afternoon's 2,000m steeplechase heats at the IAAF World Youth Championships in Donetsk, Ukraine, Milton's 17-year-old star track/cross-country runner was unable to advance to the finals — and fell just short of setting a new personal best.



Ben Preisner competes at GHAC this past spring. *Graham Paine / Canadian Champion*

But any disappointment from that was tempered with the satisfactory knowledge that he threw a bit of a monkey wrench into the rankings, finishing six spots higher than his 22nd-place seeding with a 5:57.60 performance.

That was a mere three tenths of a second shy of his PB, and just .87s off of a berth to the finals.

"It would have been great to get a personal best, but I feel with the circumstances it went pretty good," Preisner told the *Champion* via email.

Former Olympian excited about velodrome

Turcotte Baird says facility will be "huge boost" for cyclists

The days when Isabelle Turcotte Baird could make competitive use out of a world-class facility like the Milton velodrome may be long over, but that doesn't mean she's not eager for its arrival.

Among the special guests for Wednesday's two-year countdown to the Pan Am/Parapan

Am Games at Town Hall, the former Olympic triathlete called the 250-metre oval cycling track a "huge boost" for a new generation of cyclists.

Could that include her young children — seven-year-old Madeline and five-year-old William? Well, they did just recently complete their first Kids of Steel triathlon in nearby Caledon, and have been into cycling for years.

"I'm retired (from competitive racing) now,

but I still like to stay fit and the kids love to ride, so we'll definitely make use of it," said the Quebec native, who moved to rural Milton two years for its proximity to many conservation areas — not realizing that a world-class cycling facility would soon be built. Representing Canada at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney — and now a physiotherapist at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Guelph — Turcotte Baird spoke in her native French during the countdown celebration.



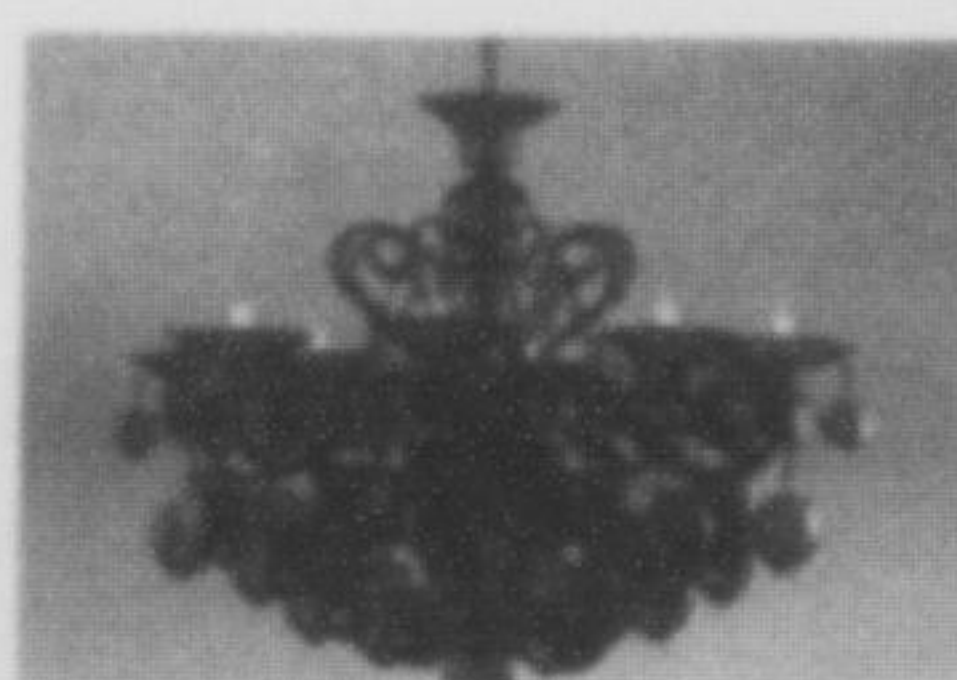
Isabelle Turcotte Baird was happy to attend the two-year countdown to the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Wednesday night. *Graham Paine / Canadian Champion*

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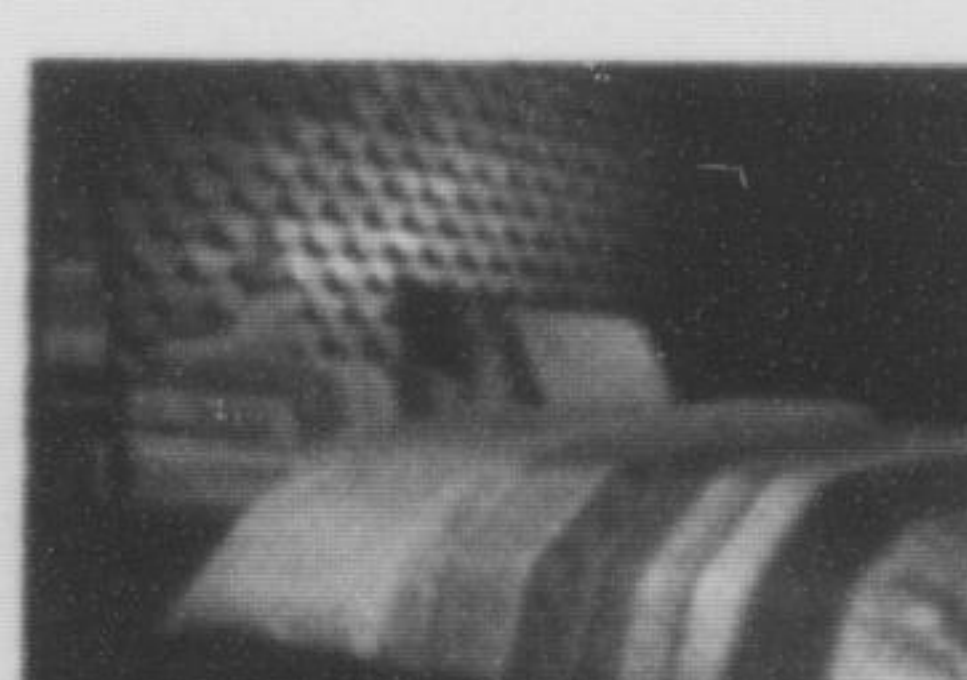
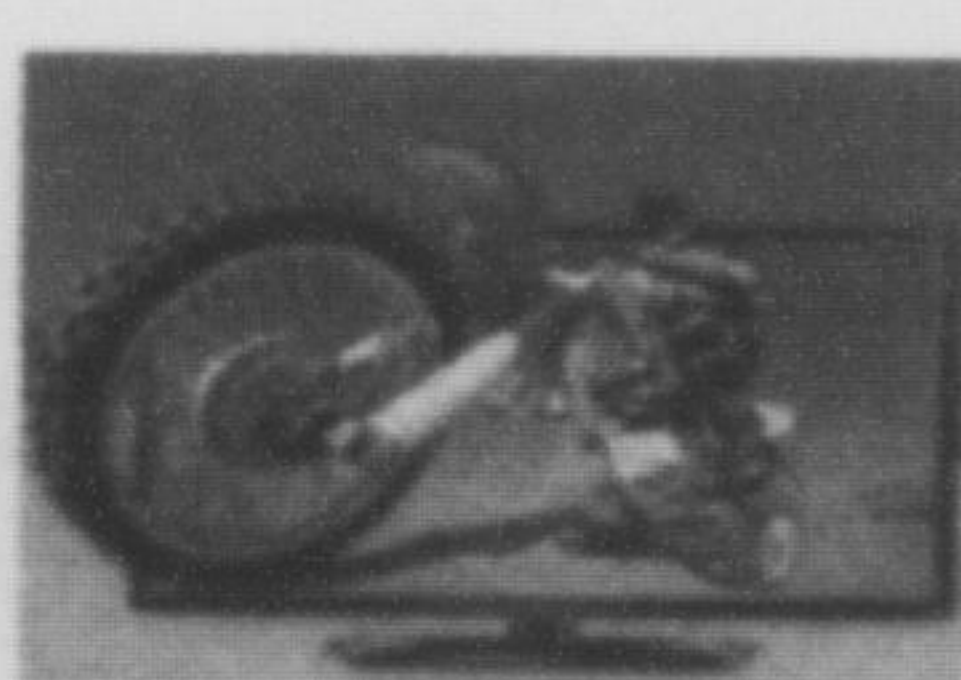
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