



Burning up the track

Milton District High School student Michael Foley (centre) races to second place in the U19 men's points race during the recent Ontario Cup #1 event at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre. An OFSAA champion in mountain biking who's now becoming a standout on the velodrome track. Foley also won the elimination race and took third in the scratch race. *Justin Greaves / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

Miltonians vie for Standardbred Canada Driver of the Year title

Two of Milton's top harness racing reinsmen will go head-to-head one last time before closing the books on 2015.

Sylvain Filion and Randy Waples were officially named finalists for Standardbred Canada's Driver of the Year title when the O'Brien Award nominees were announced in late December.

Both are looking to add to their championship trophy collections, each having captured the award on multiple occasions.

A back-to-back winner in 2012 and 2013,

50-year-old Filion enjoyed his best season since 2012. He drove 343 winners and led all Canadian drivers in the earnings column with more than \$6.9 million.

On November 16 he hit another career milestone, recording his 8,000th victory at Wood-

bine. He's the 29th driver in history to reach



Sylvain Filion



Randy Waples

this plateau.

An O'Brien winner in 1998, 2001 and 2010, 46-year-old Waples put together a stellar campaign that included 170 wins.

That tally was highlighted by a late summer Super Saturday sweep at Mohawk, where he won

the Metro Pace, Canadian Pacing Derby and

She's a Great Lady.

His \$4.88 million bankroll is good enough for third in the national standings.

Both Driver of the Year finalists drove horses up for O'Brien Awards.

Waples drove Control the Moment — up for the Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt — while Filion was a reinsman for Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly Wrangler Magic.

The O'Brien Award winners will be announced at a black tie gala in Mississauga Saturday, Feb. 13.

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