

# Weekender Sports

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Scott Hitchcock of the Markham District High School (MDHS) Juniors applies the straight arm to a feisty Welsh opponent during an international matchup at MDHS last week. Judging by his face, though, Hitchcock doesn't seem to be enjoying the manoeuvre. Markham

didn't allow a four-point try, but still finished on the losing end of a 6-3 count. The results were worse for the MDHS Midgets and the Unionville High Juniors.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

## Unionville girls grab silver medal

A silver was as good as a gold for Unionville's Peter L. Mason Novice softball girls, competing at last weekend's regional play-downs in Brampton.

Top spot was obviously the goal of Joe English's girls, but Mother Nature and sloppy fielding took care of that.

"We received a great draw, including a bye in the first round," explained English. "All we had to do to qualify (for the finals) was win our first two games. Unfortunately, this team refuses to do things the easy way."

Unionville opened the tournament with enough sloppy defence to give Aurora a 6-4 victory. But with another loss eliminating it, the squad rallied to pound Oshawa 12-3, East Gwillimbury 7-1, Pickering 4-0 and qualify for a medal.

In the loss, veteran hurler Andrea English also swung the big bat, collecting three hits and driving in two runs. But seven fielding errors helped Aurora triumph.

(CONT. ON 17)

## Welsh visitors surprised by locals

Visiting Welsh rugby teams received a bit of a surprise from Markham and Unionville clubs — some close games.

In the past, British squads have pretty well ruled the roost when it came to playing Markham-area players. But Dave Harris's Markham District High School (MDHS) Juniors nearly pulled off an upset.

Mike Clare's Ontario allstar Juniors did, surprising the Pon-

tyclun, Wales team 23-15. It's the visitors' only loss on this tour.

The big game came from Markham's Andrew Gallifent, who led the local contingent on the roster which included teammate Clement DeSouza and Unionville residents John Naoum and Mike Day.

Gallifent scored a second-half try "that was the icing on the cake" for the win, according to Clare.

The MDHS Juniors dropped a 6-3 decision, but didn't give up a try to the visitors.

They did gain a 3-0 halftime edge on a penalty kick, then added a second in the second frame. Dave Gallifent kicked Markham's points.

"I was delighted with the efforts of all the players," said coach Harris, a Markham resident. "They played attractive rugby and their ball handling

skills & support for each other was a pleasure to watch."

Clare's Unionville High School Juniors suffered a worse fate — they were trampled underfoot to the tune of 42-0.

"We were extremely inexperienced," said the Markham resident. "It was the boys' eighth game of rugby ever, and the first time we've taken on anything like this (international competition). We got hammered."

The former Markham High teacher pointed out that "at MDHS, I don't think we took on anything like this so early in the program. But you have to start somewhere."

Despite the outcome, Clare was pleased with the play of Leighton Chong, Jason Reed, Mark Allen, and the performance of the forwards.

Faring somewhat better was Ian Odgers' MDHS Midgets, who still came up short 22-0 to Punctyclun.

## Williams vows to return to circuit

By FRANCIS KING  
Sports Editor

Believe it or not, Markham's Greg Williams thinks he may not miss even one race on this year's motorcycle hillclimb circuit.

Williams hopes to arrive back in Markham this weekend, after a serious collision in the U.S. National Hillclimb put him in a Muskegon, Michigan hospital for almost two weeks.

The 23-year-old 14th Avenue resident slammed into a tree at high speed at the end of his second run of the day. He broke a pelvis and shoulder blade, fractured five ribs and punctured a lung.

That sounds like a hefty load to recover from, but Williams is apparently doing so at a remarkable pace.

As of Wednesday, his troublesome lungs were back in working order, and the tubes installed had been removed. He'd also started some physiotherapy — mostly attempting to move about using a walker.

The problem there is the deflating 500-cc world champ can't put weight on his right side yet. "My leg just gives out. It's too painful," he explained in a telephone interview.

However, that hasn't stopped him from thinking about the rest of the season.

"To tell you the truth, things are going really well here," Williams pointed out. "And our next race is in five weeks. So if I'm not hurting by then I'll be going down (to Allentown, Pennsylvania).

"It's going to be a wait-and-see situation," he continued. "But I'm not going to be stupid about it."

If Williams' hopes come true, he won't have a problem finding a motorcycle to use. In fact, his STP Special fared better than he did.

"I haven't seen the bike, but apparently it's in real good shape. I don't think it hit the tree after all."

Williams did, though, after coming over the finish line at high speed and completely clearing the landing area. He recalled bailing out before the bike came to a stop.

After hitting the side of a tree and falling to the ground, Williams said he sat up immediately. "But when I first sat up the wind was knocked out of me. I couldn't breathe."

Paramedics were on the scene immediately, and 45 minutes later he was off the formidable Mount Garfield run near Muskegon.

As previously reported in the Markham Economist & Sun, it was the paper banner at the end of

the course that was the reason behind Williams' accident.

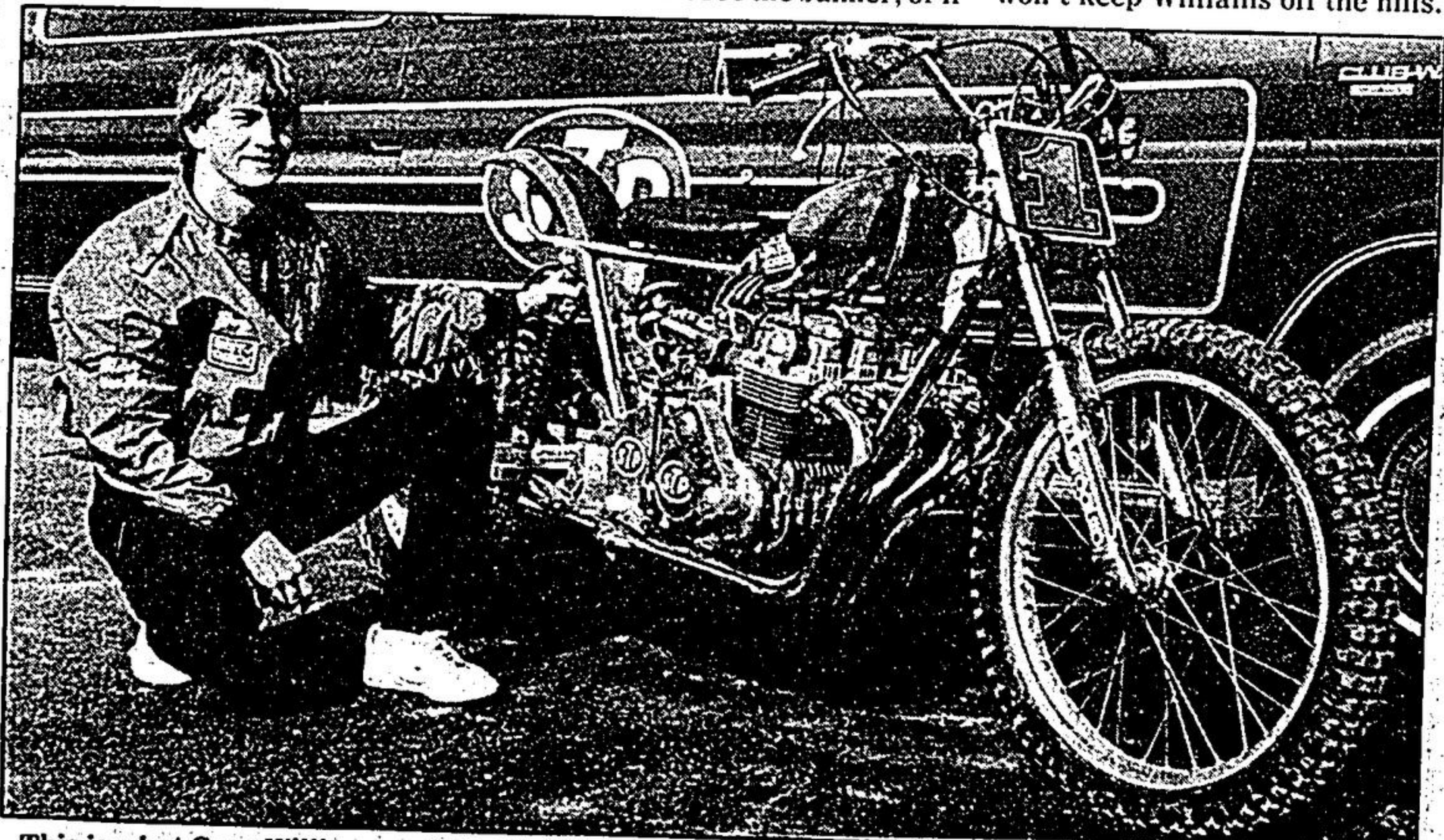
It was not the proper crepe material, but instead white toilet paper. And instead of being draped four feet above the race

surface, it was lying on the ground.

In that position it resembled the chalk lines marked off by officials to show progress up the hill. "So either I didn't see the banner, or if

I did (I thought) it was just another chalk line," Williams explained.

But, judging by his comments, collisions like the Muskegon one won't keep Williams off the hills.



This is what Greg Williams and his 500-cc STP Special normally look like when they aren't crashing into trees. Despite the injuries received in a crash

two weeks ago, the 23-year-old Markham resident hopes to be fit enough to compete in the next hillclimb race, five weeks away.

— Francis King