

SPORTS: Stouffville rider gains berth on Canadian world equestrian games team

Pearce saddles up to represent Canada

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
CORRESPONDENT

John Pearce will be jumping with the team that sets out to enhance Canada's equestrian credentials in Rome next week.

The 38-year-old Stouffville show jumper was named to the Canadian Equestrian Federation Show Jumping Team Monday. Pearce and his mount, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood named Jamco's Vagabond, are to make up one of four horse/rider combinations that will accompany the team to the quadrennial World Equestrian Games, which get under way Sept. 30 in the Italian capital.

For Pearce, who runs a horse farm on Hwy. 48 just north of Stouffville, it marked his first ever selection to a top level Canadian equestrian team.

"I'm very excited about it," said Pearce. "The Games are on the same level of importance as the Olympics."

Pearce has been close to making the Canadian Olympic show jumping team on two occasions. He would have been an alternate on the team that contested the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, but had to withdraw due to an injury to his horse.

Pearce was second behind Quebec's Mario Deslauriers in this season's four-event show jumping team Selection Trials for the World Games team.

He clinched a spot on the team after helping the underdog Canadian squad to a fourth-place finish at the recent Masters Championships in Spruce Meadows, Alberta.

"I was very pleased. It was only the second time since 1994 that Canada has made it to the second round at the Masters," said Pearce.

Pearce, who placed third in the individual standings in the Canada Cup show jumping event at the Masters, was chosen above Deslauriers for the Games team. Deslauriers had to settle for team alternate status.

Pearce said the Rome Games are crucial for the entire Canadian equestrian team, which has traditionally had to overcome a disadvantage that sees European teams able to choose from a much greater selection of high level horses.

"The Europeans are so strong, they have so much more stock," said Pearce. "We have to go in fighting. We need a strong finish to qualify for the 2000 Olympics."

OLYMPIC BERTH AT STAKE

The Canadian equestrian team must place eighth overall in Rome to earn a spot at the upcoming Olympic Games in Australia.

Jamco's Vagabond was to be flown to Canadian show jumping legend Ian Millar's farm in Germany Thursday for pre-Games preparation.

Pearce will join the horse in Germany next week after taking part in this weekend's Tournament of Champions at Cedar Valley's York Equestrian Centre.

Pearce is also in the running to earn a spot on the Canadian team that will go to Goteberg, Sweden, to contest the World Cup Show Jumping Finals next April.

Pearce will try to hold on to the third and final qualifying spot at the concluding qualifying event at this fall's Royal Agricultural Winter fair in Toronto.

Pearce is currently fourth in the standings in the 15-event 1998 Jump Canada Series, which also wraps up at this year's Royal.

"It's been a very busy season," said Pearce, who said the trip to Rome as a member of the Canadian team makes it all worth it. "I'm really looking forward to it."



JOHN PEARCE
Excited to make debut with Canadian team

Soccer club to hold meeting

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club is inviting volunteers and supporters to attend its annual general meeting tonight.

The meeting gets under way at 7:30 p.m. on the top floor of 20 Freel Lane.

Positions to be filled include: vice-president mini-soccer, head referee, vice-president rep soccer, vice-president boys recreational and vice-president girls recreational.

Helpers are also required to organize picture days, cup final days, and to line up sponsors and convenors.

Clubs kick up a storm

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club branched out beyond its house league programs last weekend by

SPORTS DIGEST

entering three all-star teams at the Albert Campbell tournament in Scarborough.

The under-8 boys defeated Wexford 3-2 and suffered losses to Glencoe 2-1 and East York 4-1.

Luke Bartell scored a goal in each contest. Jonathan Stansfield and Matthew Raguseo rounded out the scoring with single tallies.

Braydon Pettifer handled goal-tending duties.

The under-6 mixed team won one game and lost two.

The under-8 girls won one game, lost one and tied one.

Curlers wanted

Stouffville residents are being invited to give curling a try.

The Uxbridge Curling Club is holding a special one-week open house Oct. 4 to 10.

Qualified instruction will be given to those wishing to take up the game.

The club is located on Franklin St. in Uxbridge.

For further information, contact 640-1088, (905) 852-5140, or 852-0105.

CORRECTION

The Markham Waxers Website is www.inforamp.net/~waxers

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT WHAT THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD SAID

Board negotiations hotline message states the only reason for meeting with the teachers is to get an interim agreement.

This is NOT CORRECT!!

No offer of an interim agreement was made by the Board.

Teachers made a commitment to parents in early July to ensure no disruption for children.

On September 4th,
on September 12th,
on September 17th and
on September 22nd the teachers offered, to the Board, creative solutions that would enable children to be in class.

On each occasion the
BOARD REFUSED
TO PUT CHILDREN BACK IN SCHOOLS.

Who is placing Catholic education in jeopardy?

The Board refuses to even consider an interim agreement.



Call the Director.
Call your Trustee.

Call the Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-934-0606.

They can put an end to this!!

York Catholic Teachers