

SPORTS

RACING A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

They stumbled upon go-karts during a camping trip. A dozen years later, two Gormley brothers are turning heads as they speed down the road toward racing glory.

And although the asphalt is lined with potholes containing the careers of many before them, Francis and Jonathan Macri may possess the ingredients to make them a legitimate racing family, modeled after the likes of the Unsers and Andrettis.

The brothers are dominating the Canadian Formula Ford 1600 series as Team Aim Autosport drivers, with 18-year-old Jonathan a star in the making, winning the first two stops of the open-wheel series after claiming rookie-of-the-year honours last season.

Following a two-year hiatus while attending university, Francis crashed in the opener at Mosport before placing second behind his younger brother in Montreal. The brother's one-two finish is a phenomena in the world of racing.

"I'm still shaking off some of the cobwebs. I'm doing my best to learn as quick as possible," points out Francis, sitting alongside Jonathan and mother Loraine, the team's manager, during an interview at the family's spacious home.

The focus will intensify tomorrow morning when the pair venture on to Toronto's city streets as part of the Toronto Molson Indy festivities.

"I'm a little bit overshadowed because of how well my brother is doing. That's something that's hard to handle at times," admits Francis. "I'm the older brother, but it just makes me

want to win even more.

"I may not have been as quick this year, but I will post a win on the board soon."

While the brothers are becoming a popular tandem on race tracks in Ontario and Quebec, the competitive fires have always burned.

With parents Loraine and Ferdinando footing the \$300,000 bill for race expenses this season, Jonathan says the two respect each other out on the track.

"No matter what happens off the track, we both want to win when we put the helmets on," he said. "But we both would back off if the other has the lane and is about to pass."

'FIGHTING FOR GLORY'

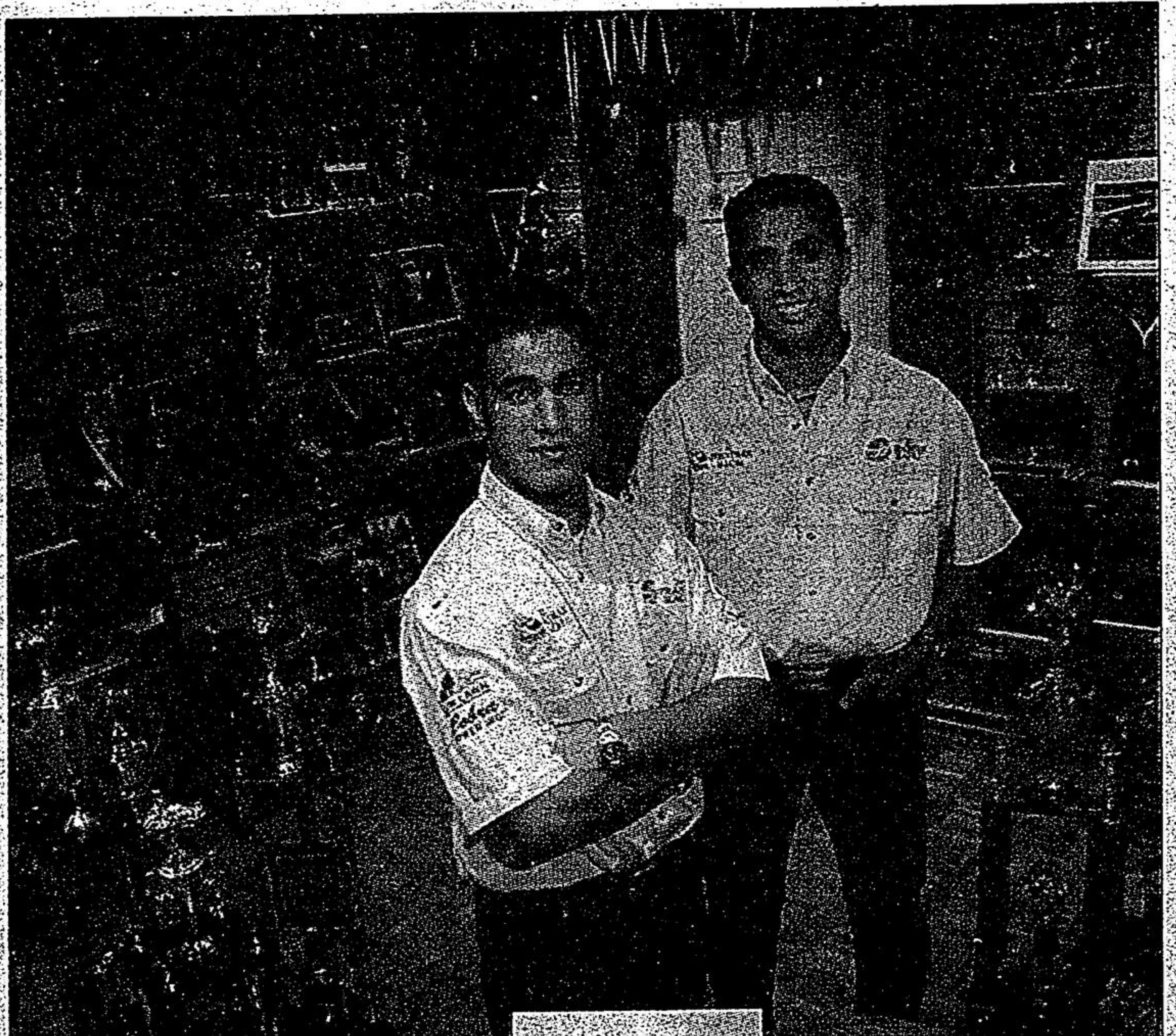
"We are both fighting for the same piece of glory and Francis wants it as bad as I do, but we will always help each other out. There just can't be any contact between the two cars."

York Region will also be represented this weekend by Woodbridge's Andrew Bordin, among the leaders on the Formula Atlantic Series circuit, and Billy Asaro, a promising 18-year-old contender in the Formula 2000 division.

And while Bordin is supported by the Player's racing division, the Macris have aligned themselves with AIM and crew chief Keith Willis, a team that Bordin partially owns.

When the Macris came across a go-kart track in Sutton 12 years ago, a couple of hours on the track convinced Ferdinando to purchase a vehicle for the family that very weekend.

To date, the family has invested near-



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

ly \$500,000 in the boys' careers, but the need to continue winning is vital if their hopes of advancing toward a future in CART or Formula One racing is to be fulfilled.

"There will always be up-and-coming drivers and it's a little harder to make it without finding sponsorships and financial commitments. It's always the same thing with all the young drivers," points out Jonathan, who will attend Cardinal Carter Catholic High School next fall for his OAC year.

"Most of the drivers out there are talented, but they need a lucky break to bounce them to the next level. I'm just trying to get my name out and people are getting to know me. I'll need the sponsors to get behind me next year because I can't stay back another year in Formula Fords."

But regardless of future expectations, Francis and Jonathan's attention is focused squarely on the Molson Indy, where family, friends and potential sponsors will be fixated on the city track.

And Jonathan insists Toronto is not a make-or-break race, but says winning breeds confidence.

"We know we are going to be fast and quick," he said. "If we do well, every win helps a little."



Jonathan and Francis Macri already have a room full of trophies and plaques from their CART racing career in their Gormley home. They are competing in the Molson Indy at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Below, Francis races 21 and Jonathan drives 31. At left, Andrew Bordin of Woodbridge is also racing.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN.....

Ninety percent of our all-important driving decisions are based on our ability to see with our eyes. So, here are recommendations for safe driving, just in time for your summer vacation.

- Make sure you are seeing your best. Upgrade your eyewear prescription, if needed, to **Maximize Your Vision.**
- Your **Depth Perception** is your judgement of relative distance. When you are moving fast, as inside a motor vehicle, it is crucial to make correct judgement quickly, regarding relative distances.
- Night time drivers must not only be able to see in reduced lighting, but also be able to see in spite of the presence of oncoming headlight Glare and to quickly

- recover from this glare.
- **Adequate Peripheral Vision** is needed while driving to see the 'big picture' of the other lanes of traffic, the intersection, the sidewalk, and/or the cyclist lane and not just the road ahead of you.
- A driver with **Proper Eye Co-ordination** is less likely to become fatigued and 'sleep' at the wheels than one with a 'lazy' eye.
- People with **Color Vision Deficiencies** (usually males) take twice as long to recognize and act on traffic signal lights. Fog or night driving presents a problem to people who have extremely low sensitivity to red light. Plan to drive in the daytime if you are colour deficient.

BON VOYAGE!

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