

Some very good sports in 2000

Olympic medal, Open award highlight the new millennium

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Sports Editor

Choose your sport.

Whether it's hockey, baseball, aquatics or basketball for example, it appeared as if someone or a team representing Markham rose to the occasion in the first year of the new millennium.

The year 2000 was a memorable one for a number of individuals and teams, who made their presence felt in international, national and provincial circles.

The following are some of the events that were worthy sports headlines in 2000.

OLYMPICS

Mathieu Turgeon became the first Canadian male athlete to win a medal in the inaugural trampoline competition at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia after bouncing his way to a bronze medal.

A member of the Skyriders Trampoline Club in Richmond Hill since its inception in February, 1990, the 21-year-old Unionville resident overcame some big odds as he was not ranked in the top 10 entering the 12-competitor event.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

The Brother Andre Catholic High School Cardinals senior boys hockey team captured its first ever Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association title with a 6-4 win over the Leaside Collegiate Institute Lancers in the championship final in Sudbury.

The Cardinals also established an unofficial Greater Toronto Area high school unbeaten streak of 37 games, surpassing a mark of 31 set in 1990 by York Memorial High School.

Derek Yamashita, 16, earned his second Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association gold medal after vaulting his way to the junior boys pole vault title in Windsor.

The Markville Secondary School Grade 11 student vaulted 3.80 metres to win the title.

CURLING

Markham resident Jim Sharples skipped his Royal Canadian Curling Club team to the national masters' title in British Columbia with a 5-3 win over a rink from Saskatchewan in the final.

Markham resident Sheri Cordina was the lead of a rink skipped by Sherry Middaugh that earned a berth in the 2001 Canadian Olympic trials.

GOLF

Angus Glen Golf Club was awarded the rights to host the 2002 and 2007 Bell Canadian Open golf championships.

Unionville resident J.C. Deacon, 17, added another title to his resume by winning the Ontario junior title. In past years, Deacon had



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Flanked by his father Andre (left) and mother Muguette (right), Unionville resident Mathieu Turgeon (centre) proudly displayed the bronze medal he won in the inaugural men's trampoline event at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

captured the provincial bantam and juvenile titles.

AQUATICS

Courtney Hill, 13, was a splash hit at the provincial diving championships in London after winning her age group title with a first on the three-metre board and second on the one-metre board.

The Markham Synchro Club swam its way to its 10th Provincial Aggregate Award in the last 11 years.

Paul Beregi, 68, set a provincial age group record in the 200-metre butterfly event at the Quebec Provincial Masters Swim Championships in Quebec City after finishing the race in a time of 4:15.66.

SKATING

Four synchronized teams representing the Markham Skating Club staked their claim to four gold medals at the second annual Skate Ontario Synchronized Skating Championships in Woodstock.

The pre-juvenile Magic Majestics, juvenile Majestics, novice Mystic Ice and junior Midnight Majestics capped off their most successful season by finishing first in their respective flights and in the championship round. The Majestics and Midnight Majestics finished the season undefeated, capturing first-place gold in each competition they entered. The Midnight Majestics also won their second straight provincial crown.

HOCKEY

Raffi Torres, 18, took a giant step towards achieving his dream of playing in the National Hockey League by being the fifth pick overall by the New York Islanders in the NHL entry

draft in Calgary.

Also taken in the draft was Chris Bahen, a defenceman from Clarkson University who was selected in the sixth round and 189th overall by the Colorado Avalanche.

In addition to being drafted, Torres made his presence felt in the major junior circuit as he was one of two Markham residents chosen to play for the Canadian national team at the 2000-2001 World Junior Championships in Russia. Michael Zigomanis, 19, a centreman with the Kingston Frontenacs and second-round pick of the Buffalo Sabres in the 1999 NHL draft, also made the Canadian roster.

The Stouffville Markham Girls' Hockey Association skated off with an unprecedented three Ontario Women's Hockey Association gold medals at the provincial finals in Brampton.

The teams that earned gold were the atom BB Stars, the pee wee A Stars and the midget B Stars.

BOWLING

The Markham Bowl bantam boys and girls' teams ruled the lanes at the 2000 Youth Bowling Council National finals in Cambridge by winning their respective divisions.

The accomplishment marked the first time that Markham Bowl teams representing Ontario had accomplished such a feat on the five-pin circuit.

Members of the boys team, coached by Steve Reid, included: Matthew Jones, Michael Wright, Joel Reyes, Benjy Bigio and Christopher Meyers. Members of the girls' team, coached by Laura Speed, included: Kelly Coons, Lauren Frizzell, Ashley Speed, Holly Foster and Lauren Matunin.

MARTIAL ARTS

Catherine Luk, 15, earned two gold medals and a bronze while representing Canada at the third Pan-American Wushu championships in Manaus, Brazil.

In tae-kwon do, Shara Pestaluky, 16, won her division in the Junior National Tae kwon-do Championships in Moncton, N.B. by out-pointing her rival from Alberta 4-1 in the heavyweight class.

TRACK AND FIELD

Jerry Kooymans established a Canadian age class record in the 3,000m race at the Great Lakes League Meet in LaSalle, Ont. after completing the course in a time of 8:52.32.

The 45-year-old Markham resident was entered in the 45-49 age group division and eclipsed the prior mark of 8:53.83 set in 1995.

One week later, Kooymans set another Canadian age group record in the mile run at the Festival of Magic Miles all-comers event in Scarborough. Entered in the 45 to 49 age group class, Kooymans was first to cross the finish line in a time of 4:34.8.

BASEBALL

The Markham Mariners minor mosquitos captured their age group title at the Ontario Baseball Association AAA championships after defeating the Whitby Chiefs 2-1 in the finals.

The victory marked the first time a minor mosquito entry from Markham claimed a provincial title.

In senior men's action, the Markham Pioneers captured their first ever OBA B title with a 6-5 win over Wilkesport (Windsor) in the title game at Kendal.

The Markham Cougars under-14 girls' fastpitch team captured the gold medal at the Eastern Canadian championships with an 11-4 win over Oakville in the title tilt in North River, N.S.

Two members of the Markham Wildcats, Serena Varvas and Jennifer Scrymgeour joined the Oakville Angels and helped them win the gold medal at the Eastern Canadian Tier One bantam girls' fastpitch championship in Fredericton, N.B.

COLLEGIATE SPORTS

Tammy Sutton-Brown became the first Markham resident to compete in the prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association women's final four championship.

She played a key role in helping the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights team defeat the University of Georgia Bulldogs 59-51 in the West Regional final in Portland, Oregon.

Mike Gellard, 21, became the first Markham resident to skate in the NCAA Division One men's Frozen Four hockey championships.

Gellard was part of the St. Lawrence University Saints team that won its quarter-final contest 3-2 over the Boston University Terriers in a 6 1/2-hour marathon.

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