

Macri hopes to motor his way to the podium in Trois-Rivieres

After a three-week break since his last race at Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland, Ohio, it's time for Jonathan Macri to get back to work.

This weekend, the 20-year-old Gormley resident and his P-1 Racing team will be in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec to compete in the ninth round of the CART Toyota Atlantic Championship.

The race will mark the 27th time since 1974 the Atlantic series has competed on the 1.521-mile street circuit.

If the past eight races have been any indication of what to expect at Trois-Rivieres, competition should reach a high pitch at the second of three Canadian stops.



JONATHAN MACRI: Gormley driver currently in sixth place in CART Toyota Atlantic series standings.

For Macri, who pilots the NTN Bearings/Miller Genuine Draft/Battlefield Equipment Rentals-sponsored machine, he currently sits in sixth position in the standings, and is only 29 points behind points leader Michael Valiante.

Posting three podium finishes so far this season, Macri will be gunning for a win this Sunday. Finishing third in his first ever Canadian Formula Ford 1600 Championship race at Trois-Rivieres in 1999,

Macri feels his familiarity with the course could work in his favour.

"I'm especially looking forward to running at Trois-Rivieres. I know the track well both from my two years in the Formula 1600 Championship and last year in my Atlantic rookie season.

"Trois-Rivieres is an extremely technical track. It's a small, tight street circuit, and you have to continuously negotiate one corner after another. It keeps you busy. You're always working the car, gearing up, turning, or braking. There is no part of the track that allows you ease off a bit. The track forces the driver to stay focused throughout the race or might risk making a costly mistake. So there's a real premium on qualifying well."

The race can be seen live on Speed Channel at 1 p.m.

Team 3 Red happy with race effort in Vancouver

What a difference a year makes.

When the Stouffville-based Team 3 Red racing team went to Vancouver last season to compete in the CASCAR Super Series race, they encountered a mishap en route when their trailer was damaged in an attempt to avoid a bear that was on the road.

With no adversities to deal with prior to this year's event, which was a support race in last weekend's Vancouver Molson Indy, the two-car Team 3 Red entry had a fairly successful outing.

Billy Rowse Jr. began Saturday's 35-lap feature on the 1.80-mile street track from the 13th position and drove his Snap on Tools/Canadian Forces Monte Carlo to a sixth-place finish.

Driving the second entry, Chris Fowler began in the 23rd position before motoring his Canadian Forces/Snap on Tools Monte Carlo to a 14th-place effort. For Fowler, his performance was the last of the season as he went to Moose Jaw, Sask. to begin his pilot training with the Canadian Forces.

Team 3 Red owner Ed Hakonson was impressed with the results of both cars this past weekend.

"Billy and Chris truly showed what this team is capable of this weekend. The last time we were at Vancouver we were gathering ourselves up after our highway accident and so now it feels really good to have an awesome day like this. We have had a good run out west and we are looking forward to getting home and getting ready for the next event."

The Team 3 Red's next event will take place Aug. 11 at Autodrome Montmagny in Montmagny, Quebec.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

GETTING OUT OF THE TRAP

Gormley's Boris Wong, 10, blasts his way out of a sandtrap on the first hole at the Markham Green Golf Club during action in Monday's Canadian Junior Linkster's Series. Wong carded a nine-hole score of 65 and finished in a three-way tie for 15th place in the Boys 9-10 division. For further results posted by local golfers, see Sportsboard on page 20.

Sizzler ball team qualifies for provincial finals with silver medal in Whitby

The Stouffville Sizzlers novice girls softball team brought home the silver medal from last weekend's provincial qualifiers in Whitby and guaranteed them a spot at the provincial championships in Kingston during the weekend of Aug. 9-11.

Backed by the two-hit shutout pitching performance of Jessie Harris, the Sizzlers opened the 19-team tournament on a positive note with a 7-0 win over Halton Hills.

Helping to preserve the win were some great defensive plays from infielders Kate Devine and Nyssa Kuwuhara.

Facing the Newmarket Seniors in their second outing, the Sizzlers received some timely hitting en route to a 5-4 extra inning win.

Winnie Law scored the game-winning run off Harris' bunt. Amy Hector sent the contest into extra innings when she drove in the game-tying run.

Stouffville then had an easier time of things against Leaside as they cruised to a 10-0 win and earned a berth in the medal round.

Harris led the team with six strikeouts in the five-inning game.

Pitted against Brampton, the Sizzlers came out on the short end of a 6-4 verdict.

Kim Hughes was solid on first base catching anything that came her way. Runs were scored by Hughes, Kim Eickmeier, Harris and Jessica Stewart.

The Sizzlers then went on to meet Clarkson and romped to a 10-1 win.

Keying the win were some excellent defensive plays from Shelby Markle and outfielders Emma Bomberly and Daniella Holmes.

The win vaulted the Sizzlers into the gold medal game where they fell 12-6 to Brampton to settle for the silver.

Statchuk will put his golf game to the test

Vandorf resident will be in Saskatoon to play in the 64th annual Canadian junior championships.

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Paul Statchuk calls it a highlight of his life.

The 17-year-old Vandorf resident will represent Ontario at the 64th annual Canadian Junior Golf Championships, Aug. 6 to 9 in Saskatoon, Sask.

Statchuk credits his father with directing his course as far back as age four.

"My father gave me my start, but I've been beating him since age 12," he laughs.

The entire family, including a younger brother Chris, plays out of St. Andrew's East. He tries to get in six games a week at the Whitchurch-Stouffville course.

Born in Toronto, Statchuk and his family moved to Whitchurch-Stouffville 10 years ago.

Entering his OAC year this September at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in Aurora, Statchuk helped his team win last year's York Region Athletic Association golf title and a place in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships.

Statchuk began participating in golf tournaments at age 12 and promptly won the Oshawa Junior Invitational in the 13 and under division.

This year, he qualified for the Canadians by placing 18th out of 500 in the Ontario championships at Windsor. Only the top 40 are selected. In the Canadians, 146 will take part.

A left-handed golfer who idolizes Phil Mickelson, another lefty, Statchuk posts scores in the low 70s with a zero handicap.

His part-time coach is Michael Vinnick of Markham.

Regardless of how well he does at the Canadians, Statchuk considers it a privilege just to be there. He's hoping for a return engagement in 2003.

At this point, Statchuk has no intentions of making golf a full-time career. Instead, he hopes to obtain a scholarship and study business at a college in the United States.

An all-round athlete, Statchuk's involved in most high school sports. Last winter, he played hockey with the midget Aurora Tigers. But golf is definitely his game.

This month, he will battle the best on the links.



PAUL STATCHUK Began competing in golf tournaments when he was 12 years of age.

Mennos win two of four at Meaford tournament

The Stouffville Mennos won two games and lost two when they took to the ball diamond in Meaford last weekend at the Tom Sims Memorial Fastball Tournament.

After losing their opening game to Niagara Falls 9-1, the Mennos rebounded to defeat the Smithville Storm 5-3.

Keying the Mennos' offence was Ed Burkholder, who belted a three-run homer in the fourth inning to give the Mennos a 5-0 lead before the Storm mounted a comeback that fell short.

Terry Reesor worked the first five innings to earn the win.

Playing their third game on Saturday against the Kitchener Smoke, the Mennos were backed by a solid pitching effort from Byron Baranieski to emerge with a 5-0 win and advance to Sunday's elimination round.

In a rematch with Smithville, the Mennos' bats were silenced as they suffered a 4-1 loss and were eliminated.

In Oshawa and City District Softball League action, the Mennos were scheduled to face TSO Game Wear on Monday only to have their game postponed due to rain.