

SPORTS

A grand ride for dressage rider

Belinda Trussell won the Grand Prix, the Grand Prix Special and the Grand Prix Freestyle to record a clean sweep of all the Grand Prix classes offered at the CDI Port Jervis equestrian event, in Port Jervis, N.Y.

A member of Canada's 2002 World Equestrian Games team, the Stouffville resident rode her horse, Royan II, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding, to the Grand Prix title with a score of 66.71 per cent.

Jacqueline Brooks of Mount Albert and her horse, Finnegan, a 15-year-old Oldenburg gelding, were seventh.

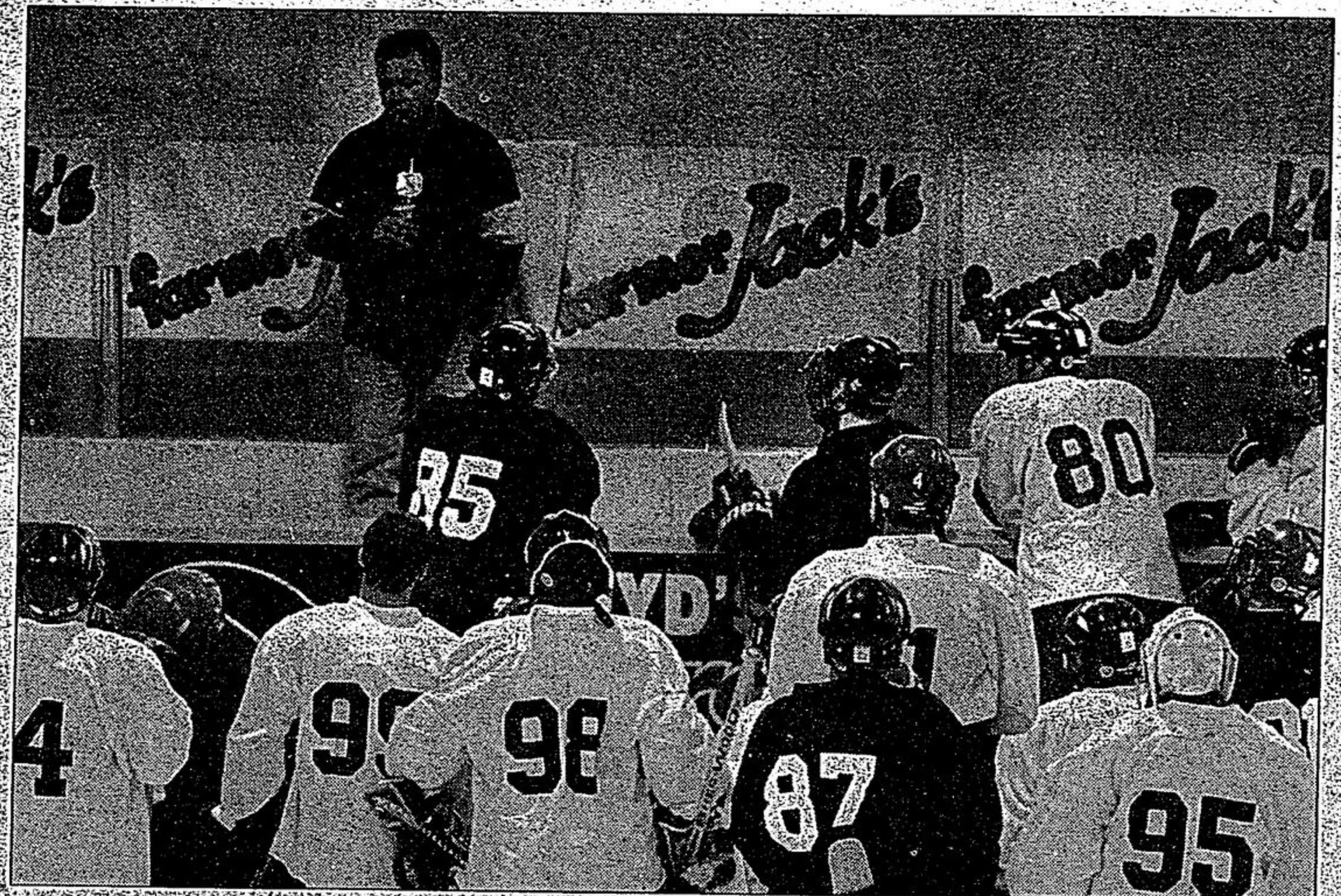
Trussell dominated the Grand Prix Freestyle with a score of 70.43 per cent with Royan II for the win.

Brooks finished in sixth place with 63.08 per cent.

Trussell wrapped up her weekend with a victory in the Grand Prix Special with a score of 67.32 per cent.

"Our detailed training this winter has paid off," she noted. "Royan felt great, fresh and ready to show. After owning him for a year, our partnership is really coming together."

Adding to Trussell's stellar performance was her double victory in the FEI six-year-old qualifier test with a score of 74.6 per cent and FEI six-year-old test with 77.6 per cent aboard Grand Marnier, a Hanoverian gelding owned by her husband, Mark.



State of the Spirit address

Stouffville Spirit general manager Ken Burrows addresses a group of hopeful players the Provincial Junior A Hockey League club invited last weekend to its annual rookie camp at the Stouffville Arena.

BILL ROBERTS PHOTO

Junior Spartans tackle tourney title

The Stouffville District Secondary School junior boys rugby team captured the title at its invitational tournament last Friday with a 31-0 win over Brother Andre Catholic High School in the championship final.

Hudson Hayden scored two tries while Sean Hume, Jesse Miller and Brian Lock each had one. Bjorn McSorley booted three converts.

In reaching the final, the host Spartans defeated St. Theresa (Richmond Hill) 15-0 and Alexander Mackenzie High School (Richmond Hill) 22-5.

The Spartans then defeated Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School (Aurora) 20-5 in its semi-final encounter.

On the senior side, the Spartans defeated Dr. G.W. Williams 8-5 in its

first match and SATEC/Porter (Scarborough) 30-5 to advance to the semi-finals where they fell 19-0 to eventual tournament champion Uxbridge Secondary School.

In league play last week, the senior Spartans won their season opener 33-0 over host Sutton District High School.

Myles Spencer scored a try and four converts for the Spartans, who, with the win, captured the first part of the YRAA AA qualifier.

Andrew Haines, Gavin Howe, Jordan Mabley and Cam McInness added single tries.

In the junior game, the Spartans won its opener 7-0 against Huron Heights Secondary School.

Hume scored a try and convert for the Spartans.

Buckley back with the Spirit

The Stouffville Spirit welcomed back a familiar face last week.

On the verge of last weekend's annual rookie camp, the Provincial Junior A Hockey League club signed Stouffville resident Grant Buckley for the 2003-04 season.

Buckley played on the Spirit defence as a 16-year-old before three years in the Ontario Hockey League (Mississauga, Brampton and Plymouth). Now 20, he's 6-foot, 1-inch and 200 pounds.

The Spirit is close to signing an even larger

defenceman with junior experience.

"Grant and this other player will make our blueline grittier and nastier," general manager Ken Burrows said. "We know we have to go through Aurora (the two-time defending North Conference champs) if we want to win."

"We want Grant to be a leader on our team. He hasn't played in a play-off game since he left us and he wants to win."

The Spirit also signed Sutton's Shane Baxter, 17, who played forward with the York-Simcoe Express AAA major midgets last season.



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