



18 Spirit graduates auditioning for pro team in Germany

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What really scares you?

Phobia Factor

A series

Fear spiders, snakes? You're not alone

BY LINDA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

They were the unlucky ones in the animal kingdom.

No floppy tails, button noses or appealing demeanours here.

But, is that any reason to scream, chase them down with a can of insecticide or drop telephone books on them? Especially in Canada, where snakes, spiders, bats and other crawling, slithering creatures are absolutely harmless and are a tiny portion of our size?

You betcha.

Insects are wiggly, slimy and basically creepy.

It's the legginess that seems to bother people — and the hairiness. But it's the length of the legs that is most important. When legs show there's an undeniable aspect of bugginess," said David Sugarman, a researcher at the Ontario Science Centre, who admits he has liked insects since he was a child.

Ladybugs are like pins or jewels, something out of a storybook. They're cute. You don't see their little legs.

Psychologist Dr. Carol Heusser, who specializes in phobias, said many people who develop severe fears relating to animals and insects have either suffered a traumatic event associated with the object of fear — been bitten by a dog or taunted with a snake — or

See TV, page 9.



STAFF PHOTO STEVE SOMERVILLE

Oh, so close

Andrew Horrocks, 14, of Toronto reacts after just missing a putt during a Canadian Junior Golf Association tournament at Rolling Hills Golf Club in Gormley Tuesday.

YORK at the Games

TRUSSELL, SPOLJARIC HAVE STOUFFVILLE CONNECTIONS

Olympians ready to go in Athens

BY JOHN CUDMORE
Staff Writer

Olympic dreams?

Not every athlete grows up dreaming of being an Olympic athlete. Sometimes stuff just happens.

Like your chosen sport is suddenly included on the Olympic roster. And presto! The next thing you know, there you are participating before millions of onlookers world-wide, part of a 17-day orgy of sporting activities, some of which ancient Greeks may have heard, but many they could never have envisioned.

NEW SPORTS

Take, for instance, sports such as baseball (1988) and beach volleyball (1996) which have brief histories at the Olympic levels. Same with synchronized swimming. It would be a stretch to think athletes in these sports grew up aiming to compete at Olympic Games simply because the Games did not include their sports.

Nevertheless, we are home to participants in each of these relative newcomers to the Olympic landscape.

"But once I knew baseball was (in the Olympics) it was a goal of mine to do it," said Peter Orr, who will represent Canada on the diamond at the XXVIII Olympiad which opens tomorrow in Athens, Greece.

Teammate Paul Spoljaric played six

See EX-BLUE JAV, page 8.

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