

Gibbons settles for second in CASCAR race

Stouffville driver overcomes early mishap

Peter Gibbons raced home with a second-place finish after driving his Canadian Tire/Monroe Brakes Chevy in last Sunday's Power Water 200 CASCAR race at the Peterborough Speedway.

Qualifying sixth for the 200-lap event on the one-third mile track, the 41-year-old Stouffville-area resident made contact with another car early in the race.

Fortunately for Gibbons, the contact did not do enough damage to force him to pit.

And with light rain falling on and off during the day, Gibbons elected not to

take a chance on pitting so he wouldn't lose valuable track position.

That decision paid off as Gibbons took over the lead on lap 130.

SURRENDERED LEAD

But on lap 143, he surrendered it to eventual winner Don Thomson Jr.

"It looked like it was going to rain, so we decided to gamble and stay out. It paid off for us tonight," Gibbons said. "Donny (Thomson Jr.) was really strong and with the handling being knocked out of the Canadian Tire/Monroe Brake Chevy we didn't have enough for him."

Gibbons remains in second place in the series championship standings with 1,703 points. He is 22 behind Thompson Jr.

Among other local entrants, the Team 3 Red and their Snap-on Tools General Electric Nighthawk Dodge driven by Stu Robinson Jr. began the race in the 19th position but finished 12th.

Robinson Jr. had worked his way into eighth by the halfway point before a lapped car hit his vehicle on lap 123.

The car suffered extensive front end damage and the crew made two stops on the caution to remove fibreglass damaged on the front of the car caused in the accident. Starting at the back of the pack, Robinson made his way back up the 12th position upon conclusion of the race.

The next CASCAR event takes place this weekend at the Delaware Speedway near London.

SPORTS DIGEST

Ontario PGA title won in playoff

Rhonda Fleury captured the Ontario PGA Ladies Championship at the Credit Valley Golf Club in Mississauga Tuesday.

But it didn't come easy as the 36-year-old Stouffville resident required three playoff holes to defeat Linda Sheppard of Brighton.

During the one-day event, Fleury carded a one-over par 73. For Fleury, the victory came on the heels of a 36th-place finish at the BMO Financial Group Canadian Women's Tour Championship at Glen Arbour Golf Club in Halifax.

Fleury carded a three-round total of 251 (84-85-82). Vicky Appleton of Peterborough won the event on the third playoff hole and carded a three-round total of 217 (75-71-71).

In the 2004 BMO Financial Group Canadian Women's Tour Order of Merit standings, Fleury is tied for 33rd with 152.50 points.

Mennos to start playoffs Tuesday at Clarendon

The Stouffville Mennos will begin playoff action in the Oshawa City and District Softball League Tuesday.

In finishing fifth during the regular season, the Mennos will face fourth-place Clarendon, who has home field advantage, in a best-of-three series.

After Tuesday's scheduled opener, the series returns to Memorial Park Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. A deciding game if necessary, would return to Clarendon Sept. 14 or 15.

Wildcats seek new players for 2005 ball season

Although the girls' fastball season is coming to a close, the Markham Wildcats novices will be conducting auditions for the 2005 season Sept. 11 and 12.

Those eligible must be born in 1991 and 1992. For times and diamond locations, call Irv Bruck at 905-884-6149 or Joanne Ingratta at 905-479-7594.

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