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Morad motors his way to victory

Daniel Morad took the checkered flag in the second round of the Formula BMW USA racing series last Sunday at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington.

The 16-year-old Markham native began the feature 15-lap event from the 12th position before manoeuvring his way to the front of the pack by the eighth lap on the 2.25-mile, 13-turn circuit.

"I am actually surprised myself and am really excited," said a delighted Morad. "I didn't really expect to be in fourth place right after the start. At the start I stayed right behind my teammate Doug Boyer and we made it through this mess. The full course caution came out and everyone just bunched up. I was patient, got into the lead and pulled away. Near the end John Zartarian started closing in, but I stayed on the track and took the finish line first."

Morad occupies first place in the overall point standings.

The third and fourth rounds of the 14-event 2006 Formula BMW USA Championship will be held this weekend at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, Conn.

Good start for Mennos

The Stouffville Mennos opened its Oshawa City and District Fastball League season this past week on a positive note after chalking up two victories.

Making their Memorial Park debut Thursday against the Markham Majors, the Mennos scored twice in the fourth inning and added five runs in the fifth en route to a 7-2 win.

Scott Eyre buoyed the Mennos' offence with a three-run fifth-inning homer. Rich Burkholder contributed three hits while Paul Boynton and Brett Boyd each had two hits and one RBI.

Scott Evans worked the first five innings and struck out six batters to earn the win. Boynton,

SPORTS DIGEST

who had sat out last season, allowed just one hit over the final two innings to earn the save.

In the first inning, Majors starting pitcher Cam Western was hit in the ankle by Mennos' lead-off hitter Rich Burkholder and was replaced by Darren Crawford, who gave up seven runs to take the loss.

The win came on the heels of a 10-1 thrashing Wednesday over the host Aurora Shoeless Joes.

Starting pitcher Byron Baranicki worked the first four innings to earn the win.

He helped his own cause at the plate by belting a solo homer in the second inning to open the scoring and contributed a run-scoring double.

Boyd belted a grand slam homer in the third inning and collected a single and drew two walks. Curtis Reesor contributed three hits.

Now 2-0, the Mennos will play a road game May 31 against the Toronto Indians and return to Memorial Park June 1 to face Lake Scugog.

Pioneers field first win

Chris Chavez crossed home plate on a two-out error in the bottom of the ninth inning to propel the Markham Pioneers to a 3-2 win over Ajax in Eastern Ontario Baseball Association senior action Wednesday at Milliken Park.

Chavez scored the run when an Ajax infielder failed to catch a towering fly ball hit by catcher Mark Petrou.

Alex Bruce collected three hits and drove in two runs. Jeff Fox had three hits and scored two runs.

Mark Cheeseman worked the final five innings in relief of starter Orville Ivey to earn the win.

Now 1-1, the Pioneers will be in Kingston today for a double-

header starting at 2 p.m.

For more on the Pioneers, log on to www.markhampioneers.com

Storm stings Newmarket

Josh Burkholder tossed a no hitter and struck out 17 batters to lead the Stouffville Storm mites to an 8-6 win over the Newmarket Stingers in York Durham softball action Wednesday at Memorial Park.

Burkholder helped his own cause by belting a home run and triple while Patrick Henri contributed a triple and Matthew Avoledo, Kevin Matthews and Hunter Davidson each added singles.

The victory by the Storm atoned for an 11-5 opening-day loss to the Stingers earlier last week.

In that game, Burkholder and Kerrick Brown combined to strike out 10 batters.

Burkholder also swatted a home run and triple. Avoledo had a triple while Henri, Brown and Paul Henderson each singled.

The Storm's next home game is June 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Gibbons seventh in Barrie CASCAR opener

Peter Gibbons drove his Canadian Tire Chevrolet Monte Carlo to a seventh-place finish in last Monday's inaugural CASCAR Super Series event of the season at Barrie Speedway.

The Stouffville resident began the feature race from the 11th position in the 250-lap event.

Scott Steckly of Milverton won the race.

Through the first event, Gibbons occupies 10th place in the overall point standings.

The next race is slated for June 10 at Montreal's Autodrome-St-Eustache.

For more information on the CASCAR Super Series, log on to: www.cascar.ca

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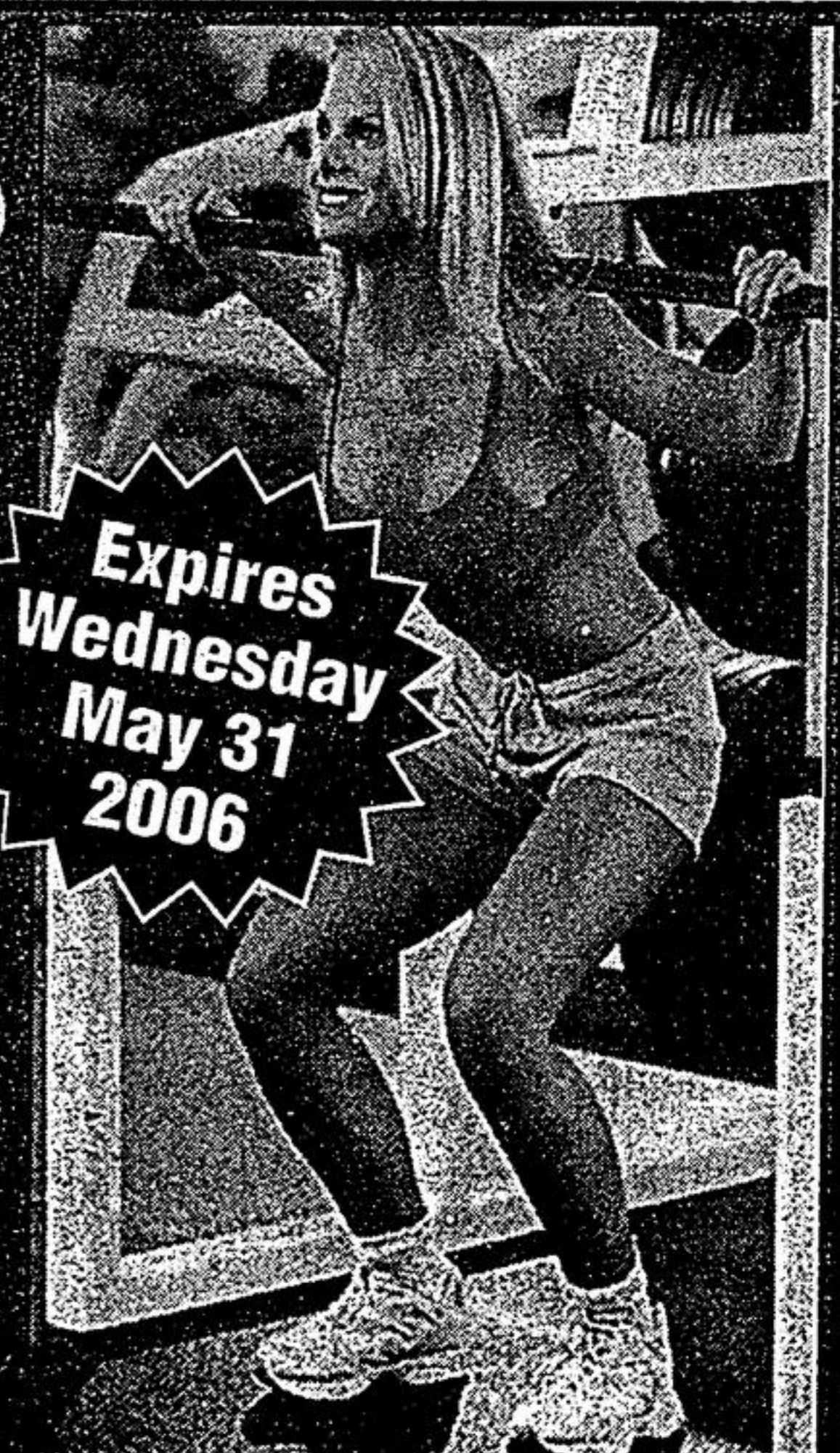
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