

CBC paid the price for underestimating 'the passion of curling fans,' Nedohin says

World curling champion Dave Nedohin says the CBC "underestimated the passion of curling fans" with its fractured coverage last year of the sport's championship events. "If you take over the sport as the main broadcaster you have to serve the needs of the fans," said Nedohin, who plays third but throws skip stones on

THE MEDIA

Randy Ferbey's world champion team from Edmonton. "The fans are always right and the fans felt slighted," he said. Nedohin was commenting a day after the CCA confirmed it is walking away from a

four-year television deal it signed with CBC after the broadcaster coverage of major events last winter drew howls of protest from curling fans. Many were outraged they had to dig into their pockets and pay extra to watch games on the CBC's Country Canada network during the Scott and the Brier. *Jim Matheson, CanWest News Service*



KAZ EHARA FOR NATIONAL POST

In order to pursue his dream, Tim Hauraney shed 75 pounds from his 255-pound body to become a professional race car driver.

Last week he was delivering pizza; today he's driving a race car

Driven to drive

BY MICHAEL TRAIKOS
in Toronto

A year ago, the small-town boy's bulging stomach was too large to fit into snug, single-seat race cars. Last week, the closest the Peterborough native could get to top-speed racing was at his job delivering pizzas. And two days ago, the wannabe driver was told that his bank account showed insufficient funds and he could not afford tickets to the Toronto Indy.

If it were anyone other than 23-year-old Tim Hauraney, the Make-A-Wish dreams of racing professionally would seem just that — a wish and a dream.

But Hauraney has refused to quit, even when others told him he was too heavy, too poor, and too inexperienced to drive.

"I'm never going to stop," he said. "I've worked so hard for it to come where I am that I don't see myself ever giving up."

This weekend, after scraping together a last-minute sponsorship deal, the 23-year-old from Peterborough, Ont., will race in the Toyota Atlantic Championship at the Toronto Indy.

But just because Hauraney has received the key to his race car dreams does not mean he has been given the green light on his career.

The race is a one-off, meaning that when the checkered flag is waved this Sunday, Hauraney may never again climb into a race car, no matter how much more weight he sheds or how well he finishes.

"I'm kind of taking it one day at a time ... have fun with what I'm doing because who knows when I'll ever be in the car again," he said in his first interview. "When I was a kid — 16, 17 — my brother and I would go to the Indy, but I never thought I'd be doing what I'm doing. If you were to go back when I was 17

TODAY'S INDY SCHEDULE

Gates open to public 7:30 a.m.
Champ Car series Practice session, 10:15 a.m., 2 p.m.
Atlantic series Practice session, 11:45 a.m., qualifying, 3:15 p.m.
CASCAR series Practice session, 4:45 p.m.
Honda series Practice session, 8:45 a.m.; qualifying, 5:30 p.m.
Trans-Am series Practice sessions, 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m.; qualifying, 4 p.m.
Pace car's on-track activities 9:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.
VIP pit walk-through 9:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

Times subject to change. Check www.molsonindy.com/toronto/schedule.php for up-to-date information.

Source: Molson Indy Toronto

and say, 'You are going to be interviewed by the *National Post* with your Toyota Atlantic race coming up in Toronto, I'd be like 'get out of here. Get lost.'"

Chances are if you were to tell that to Hauraney a month ago, he might have had the same response. He used the money that he scrounged from pizza delivery tips to buy a go-kart recently, because up until then the only practice he could afford was on the driving games of his PlayStation 2.

He has since found that the 250-horsepower Toyota Atlantic cars pack a bigger punch than their video game counterparts.

"To be honest with you, it was hard learning this car," he said. "It's very technical. You get the crap beat out of you in these cars."

Off the track has been just as hard.

Unlike most professional drivers, Hauraney did not grow up around the track or dreaming about driving. Fate intervened when he was handed a brochure for the Bridgestone Racing School at an auto show when he was 17 years old and noticed that the academy also offered free mechanics training.

"I thought, 'What a great opportunity. I can work on cars,'" he said. "Bridgestone really taught me about race car prepara-

tion, the engines, tuning them and things like that. It really helped me a lot, in terms of setting up a race car."

It also inadvertently gave Hauraney his first ride. As a reward for his hard work all summer, Hauraney was allowed to drive in the mechanics race. He finished fourth and afterwards told his father that he wanted to commit himself to racing.

"At first my dad didn't want me to get into it," he said. "He used to race and knew what the business was like. It's pretty cut-throat. It was a tough road."

His father was able to help a bit but, with no money in the bank and no wealthy relatives to lean on for start-up cash, Hauraney hit the streets looking for backers.

"I worked really hard at trying to get a sponsor," he said. "I read books on how to attain a sports sponsorship, I researched every company I went to. I actually prepared my own proposals and mailed it to them."

He eventually landed a ride with Britain West Motorsport in the Ontario Formula Ford 1600 Championship, but there were questions about his physical condition when Hauraney tried to wedge his 255-pound body into the cockpit and team members

joked that they didn't have enough Vaseline to slide him in.

"When I got out they said, 'We want you to drive for us, but you're going to have to lose some weight.' I just kind of came to the fact that if I want to do this, and even have a chance to do this, I've got to lose some weight. So I lost 75 pounds before the start of the season."

"He's not playing like he wants to be a race car driver," said Condor Motorsports owner Carlos Bobeda. "He's serious about it. This kid, he gets out of the race car and he jumps on the bike and does 50 miles just to keep in shape."

In his rookie year, a lighter and faster Hauraney finished third in overall points against a field of 40 drivers and was named the series' top rookie.

But in a sport where drivers often have to pay for their rides by bringing sponsorship money to a team, Hauraney's on-track success did not make it easier for him to find financial support.

"There's some guys who are in cars only because they either have the connections to get the sponsorship or because they have daddy's money," said Bobeda. "And most of them are not talented enough to even be in the car. You just put them in the car because you have to."

This year, Hauraney has raced in just two Toyota Atlantic C2 series events — Toronto will be his third — and he does not have enough sponsorship money to take the car for test runs around the track.

Still, Hauraney is not about to let a lack of practice, racing experience or financial support from getting in the way of his dreams to one day race in Champ Car.

"My dad didn't spend his retirement money on me so that I could sit around and not do anything," he said. "He works really hard for me, so I have to keep this going."

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10 CONTENDERS

1. THE LOCAL LEGEND: PAUL TRACY

Age 36 Hometown Scarborough, Ont.
Team Forsythe Championship Racing
Series Points 128
'05 in Review The Thrill from Westhill may have mellowed with age, but he hasn't lost his killer instinct. Tracy has two victories and two top-three finishes in five starts.
Did You Know? Tracy ranks first among active drivers with 30 career wins and 24 poles.



2. THE RIVAL: SÉBASTIEN BOURDAIS

Age 26 Hometown Le Mans, France
Team Newman/Haas Racing
Series Points 127
'05 in Review Champ Car's overall defending champion won the series opener in Long Beach, but hasn't won since.
Did You Know? Last year Bourdais became just the fourth driver in Toronto Indy history to claim the pole in qualifying, before taking the checkered flag on race day.



3. THE GO-KART KID: A.J. ALLMENDINGER

Age 23 Hometown Los Gatos, Calif.
Team RuSPORT
Series Points 102
'05 Review Eighth in Long Beach and 10th in Monterrey before finding his form and finishing second in Milwaukee and Cleveland.
Did You Know? Allmendinger is a two-time International Karting Federation champion — when he raced for Paul Tracy Karting.



4. THE BRIT: JUSTIN WILSON

Age 26 Hometown Sheffield, England
Team RuSPORT
Series Points 95
'05 Review Wilson reeled off three consecutive fourth-place finishes to kick off the season. And he was sitting pretty on the pole for race No. 4 in Portland, until a mechanical failure saw him crawl home in 17th.
Did You Know? The Brit's racing pedigree includes 16 Formula 1 trips in 2003 with Minardi and Jaguar.



5. THE IRONMAN: JIMMY VASSER

Age 39 Hometown Canoga Park, Calif.
Team PKV Racing
Series Points 82
'05 Review Second in Toronto a year ago, the Vasser returned to the pole in '05. His best result was a fifth — coming off the pole — in Milwaukee.
Did You Know? When Vasser revs up his engine on Sunday it will mark his 203rd consecutive Champ Car start, a series record.



6. THE PRODIGAL SON: CRISTIANO DA MATTA

Age 32 Hometown Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Team PKV Racing
Series Points 80
'05 Review What's da matta? When he left Champ Car for Formula 1 in 2002, he was the series' reigning champion. Since his return, he has only one top-five finish.
Did You Know? Da Matta's father, Toninho, won 14 touring car titles in Brazil.



7. THE JOURNEYMAN: ORIOL SERVIA

Age 30 Hometown Pals, Catalonia, Spain
Team Newman/Haas Racing
Series Points 79
'05 Review Started the season with Dale Coyne Racing but jumped to Newman/Haas when Bruno Junquera was injured at the Indianapolis 500. Has two thirds in last three races.
Did You Know? Servia's father, Salvatore, is a two-time Spanish rally car champion. Salvatore's co-pilot? Servia's Mom, Montse.



8. THE COLONEL: MARIO DOMINGUEZ

Age 29 Hometown Mexico City, Mexico
Team Forsythe Championship Racing
Series Points 75
'05 Review Fifth at Long Beach, 13th in Monterrey, fourth in Portland, 17th his last time out. Due for another top-five finish.
Did You Know? Dominguez spent a year at an Indiana military school as a teenager and marched past George Bush.



9. THE ROOKIE: ANDREW RANGER

Age 18 Hometown Roxton Pond, Que.
Team Mi-Jack/Conquest Racing
Series Points 69
'05 Review Showed his youth in his debut, finishing 17th. Showed his skill the next race, going from 14th slot to second.
Did You Know? Ranger won the Alexandre Tagliani Trophy as the most improved driver on the Quebec Kart circuit (2000).



10. THE WILD CARD: ALEX TAGLIANI

Age 32 Hometown Montreal, Que.
Team Team Australia
Series Points 69
'05 Review A new team and mixed results — second (Monterrey), fourth (Cleveland), 10th (Milwaukee), 15th (Long Beach) and 18th (Portland).
Did You Know? The Quebecer with the Italian roots was introduced to racing by his grandfather, who sat the then 10-year old in a go-kart during a summer visit to the Old Country.



Joe O'Connor, National Post