

## [ On the Cover ]



AARON HARRIS / THE CANADIAN PRESS

**GOTCHA:** Blue Jays' catcher Gregg Zaun tags out Los Angeles Angels' Casey Kotchman at the plate in the second inning of last night's American League game in Toronto.

## [ Short Stops ]

## Indy gets 2012 Super Bowl

[ ATLANTA ] Indianapolis was awarded the 2012 Super Bowl, the fourth time a cold-weather city will host the National Football League's championship game.

The new retractable-roof Lucas Oil Stadium was runner-up to Dallas last year. This time, Indianapolis beat out two cities for the game, which will be played Feb. 5, 2012, for the title of the 2011 season. The next two Super Bowls are in Tampa and South Florida.

## Celebrating achievements of local athletes

Local Heroes is a new weekly feature that will highlight the achievements and successes of local amateur athletes, young, old and in between.

We're counting on you to tell us about them.

Get a hole in one? Post your fastest time ever in a swim meet? Sink 10 foul shots in a row in your basketball game? Tell us about your big moment, or the big moment of your son, daughter, friend or teammate.

Local Heroes runs Saturdays. Please submit a short description of the achievement along with a jpeg photograph. The higher the resolution of the photograph the better.

Include name, age, sport and the date and location of whatever achievement is being noted. Send submissions via e-mail to: LocalHeroes@thespec.com.

## Farewell tour stop for Annika

[ AURORA ] The Annika Sorenstam farewell tour will include a stop in Canada. The 37-year-old Swede, who announced last week that she plans to retire at the end of the season, said she'll play at the Aug. 14-17 CN Canadian Women's Open at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club.

"I'm looking forward to playing this year," said Sorenstam at a charity event yesterday at the Magna Golf Club near Toronto.

# National award for Roy Gunell

*Water polo official proud of school programs*

Roy Gunell will be honoured nationally Saturday for working the big shows — three Olympics and five world championships.

But the water polo official counts his high school development programs in Hamilton as most satisfying.

He was named this week as the Sports Officials Canada/Fox 40 male honouree.

"Starting a program at Winona High School and helping build one at Orchard Park and identify developing players and being part of the community was the most fulfilling part for me."

Gunell will be feted at the SOC annual awards dinner in Calgary with female honouree Nancy Ethier, of Quebec City, a 16-year basketball official.

Gunell, 64, has devoted 51 years to his sport, 15 as a player who won five national water polo titles with Hamilton Aquatic Club.

The next 36 covered all levels of officiating and lately administration, but the retired teacher wonders if "this is more accolades

than I deserve."

He did allow, though, that "water polo is one of the most difficult sports to officiate" because much of the game occurs under water.

"You need to have played the game to know when someone is being held or pushed."

And, he concedes, it's that difficult, officials are wrong 10 per cent of the time. So after years of abuse, he says the recognition is appreciated.

Gunell's resumé includes more than 150 International games, including three Pan Am Games, six World University FISU Games (1977-2005), as well as the 1976, 1984 and 1992 Olympics.

He is also cited for contributing significantly to the technical development of officials in his sport, both nationally and internationally.

Gunell also served at the world and national levels on officiating boards and helped the development of officials.

The Hamilton Spectator

## OFF TO THE RACES



GUSTAU NACARINO / REUTERS

**TWO IN A ROW.** Crédit Agricole's Thor Hushovd, left, of Norway took the 167.8-kilometre second stage ahead of the Tour of Catalonia in Banyoles, Spain yesterday. Bernhard Eisel, centre, of Austria finished second. Today's third stage is a 191.9-kilometre ride to La Seu d'Urgell.

## Two-time silver medallists ice dancers call it a day

Patrice Lauzon and Marie-France Dubreuil felt a little bit lighter yesterday.

After a celebrated 13-year career, the Canadian ice dancers retired from competitive figure skating, moving on from a path they felt had

become more work than it was worth.

"It's like we're lifting a weight off our shoulders to finally have that decision made and move on to our future plans," Lauzon said.

The pair began their on-ice part-

nership in 1995 before going on to win two silver medals at the world figure skating championships in 2006 and '07 and five Canadian national championships.

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