

Golden girl glitters

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mother, Christine, and 5,000 spectators and millions of TV viewers were watching. But after a slow first 50, she hit the wall and turned it on coming home, edging Angela Harris of Australia by .02 seconds.

Her biggest thrill was after Friday's race. Her mother rushed down from the crowd to congratulate her.

"Well, Jane, you finally did it," said,

McGinnis had high hopes of winning three gold medals here, but finished fourth in both the 400-m free and 400-m IM. She and Kerr joined Sophie Dufour and Patricia Noall for a third-place showing in the 4 x 200-m free, but because there were only four entrants, no bronze was awarded.

Hicken was disconsolate after his freestyle final. After finishing second to the eventual winner, Gregory Fasala of Australia, in the semis, he figured on at least a medal — hopefully gold.

"I have no excuses; I just didn't have it tonight," he said, staring blankly ahead.

Hicken hoped to do well for two reasons: his personal best time of 50.92 would have won a medal, something the Canadian men's team desperately needed, and his parents had flown in from Mississauga for the meet.

"What bothers me the most though is that I let my teammates down."

Hicken swam third leg in the men's 4 x 100 relay and, get this, actually hit his hand on an official's head as he dove into the pool. It knocked him sideways and cost him at least two body-lengths. That was the difference between silver and gold.

"I guess it's been that kind of a meet for me," he said.

Winning individual gold is bringing Kerr the glamor and glory (a CBC TV interview, plenty of media attention), but her win in the women's relay meant more to Canada.

"We'd just lost three straight relays to the Aussies and we needed a win," said Bergen. "The girls gave us a big lift."

The coaches decided to move Kerr from anchor to second in the relay. They wanted more speed up front to claim a quick lead. It was, in swimming parlance, a "stroke" of genius.

"A good move," said Kerr who was notified of the change the night before. She joined Andrea Nugent, Patricia Noall and Pamela Rai on the victory podium.

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Glamor, glory and two gold medals. Mississauga's Jane Kerr has it all going for her here at the XIIIth Commonwealth Games. Mississauga's 1985 female amateur athlete of the year has staked out a solid gold claim on that title for '86 with her performance here.

After claiming gold in the women's 100-m freestyle swimming final last Friday, Kerr came right back in helping Canada to first place in the 4 x 100-m free final on Sunday. Last night at the Commonwealth pool she struck silver in the 200-metre freestyle. Kerr also took home a silver in the women's 200-metre freestyle, finishing almost three seconds behind Australia's Susie Baumer.

She and Donna McGinnis then teamed up to win a silver medal in the women's

4 x 100-metre medley relay. Their time of 4:14.09 minutes was almost a second behind the winners from England. Kerr was nervous Friday, confident Sunday and almost cocky yesterday. "I feel better every time I get in the pool," she claimed.

So do the Canadian swim officials. Still a little shocked by losses from Victor Davis (200-m breast), the team needed a big show from the girls. They got it from Kerr and breaststroker Alison Higson, a double gold medalist.

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said her coach, Paul Bergen, a Mississauga resident who coaches Kerr at the Etobicoke Swim Club.

The same can't be said for Mississauga's other two swimmers, McGinnis and Blair Hicken. Both were expected to garner medals in their specialties.

But Hicken, 21, the Canadian record holder in the 100-metre freestyle, finished tied for last in his final on Sunday while McGinnis was fourth in the 400-m free and 400-m Individual Medley.

Hicken bounced back to help Canada to a silver medal in the men's 4 x 100-m relay final Monday night.

Kerr had the honor of claiming Canada's first swim gold when she won the 100 metres last Friday. She admitted to a case of bad nerves standing on the starting block before the race. Her

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JANE KERR
gold galore



Kerr is no plain Jane

Golden girl swims to Games glory

By RICK DRENNAN
Sports Editor

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