

# Sports

## Paddler caps off family tradition with Olympic bronze



Mark Oldershaw

Mark Oldershaw has done something no one else in his famous paddling family has ever done. He's won an Olympic medal.

The grandson of Bert Oldershaw, a three-time Olympian who founded the Mississauga Canoe Club in 1958, employed a late-race surge Wednesday in Windsor, England to earn a bronze medal in the C-1 1,000 metre race at the 2012 London Olympics.

Shortly before that race, close

friend Adam van Koeverden of Oakville won a silver medal in the K-1 1,000 metres, his fourth career Olympic medal.

Oldershaw, a Burlington resident whose grandfather paddled a canoe in the Olympics the last time they were held in London, in 1948, became the first member of his illustrious family to step upon a podium at the Games. Bert, who competed in three Olympics and died in 2006, had three sons who raced for Canada at the Games. One of them,

Scott Oldershaw, is Mark's father and coach. He also coaches van Koeverden.

Scott, along with Mark's uncles Dean (1972 and 1976) and Reed Oldershaw (1976), all represented Canada at the Olympic Games.

Bert, Dean and Reed Oldershaw are all members of the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame.

Wednesday, van Koeverden moved out to an early lead, opening up a one-second gap over second-running Eirik Veras Larsen after 250 metres. Larsen

gradually closed the divide and in a furious sprint to the finish, overtook the Canadian to claim gold. Germany's Max Hoff won bronze.

"Everybody is out there trying to win the race and I feel like my race plan went well," van Koeverden said after winning silver. "I can find the silver lining in silver."

The performance helped redeem a subpar performance in the 1,000 m in Beijing, where van Koeverden faded badly to

an eighth-place finish and later issued a public apology to the Canadian public.

At the Beijing Games, Oldershaw failed to advance to the final and the failure haunted him.

"I wasn't fully prepared in Beijing," he said before the Olympics. "Now, going into London, I feel completely ready to challenge for a medal."

Germany's Sebastian Brendel won gold while Spain's David Cal Figueroa outduelled Oldershaw for silver.

Paddling Oldershaw, Mark