Ex-Vancouverite fastest woman in Israeli biathlon

RAMAT GAN — Former Vancouver resident Leah Goldstein, 20, was first home among the dozen women participants in the inaugural Kfar Maccabiah Biathlon, Israel's first race in the two-pronged sport of cycling and running.

Goldstein, 20, timed a quick 1:37:24, giving her 49th place overall among the 135 finishers. She completed the demanding 40-kilometer course more than 16 minutes ahead of Sulam Tsur's Liora Fishbein, second woman finisher.

Although this was her first athletic competition, Goldstein has trained extensively in both running and cycling, part of her training for kickboxing. She became World Kickboxing Association women's lightweight champion in 1987, two years after taking the women's Canadian WKA bantamweight title.

Soon after immigrating to Israel last September, Goldstein, daughter of Sam and Ahuva Goldstein of Van-

GOLDSTEIN
... women's kickboxing champ

couver, joined the Israel Defence Force.

More than 150 male and female Israeli athletes took part in the biathlon. The course comprised two five-kilometre runs in Ramat Gan's nearby Park Leumi, separated by a 30-kilometre cycle race from the park along Geha road to Palmahim and back.