

CRAWFORD, Todd (con't)

Then its off to the national training centre in Calgary for evaluation.

"To see who's been doing their homework," he says.

The competitive season resumes next fall and the Canadian Team will name its Olympic roster in January, 1994.

Then, hopefully, it's off to Norway.

After that, the real world beckons.

Crawford will leave bobsledding behind, where, he believes, it will remain a cult sport largely ignored in a country of puck-chasers and ball-throwers.

But he'll have done his part, even as a recruiter.

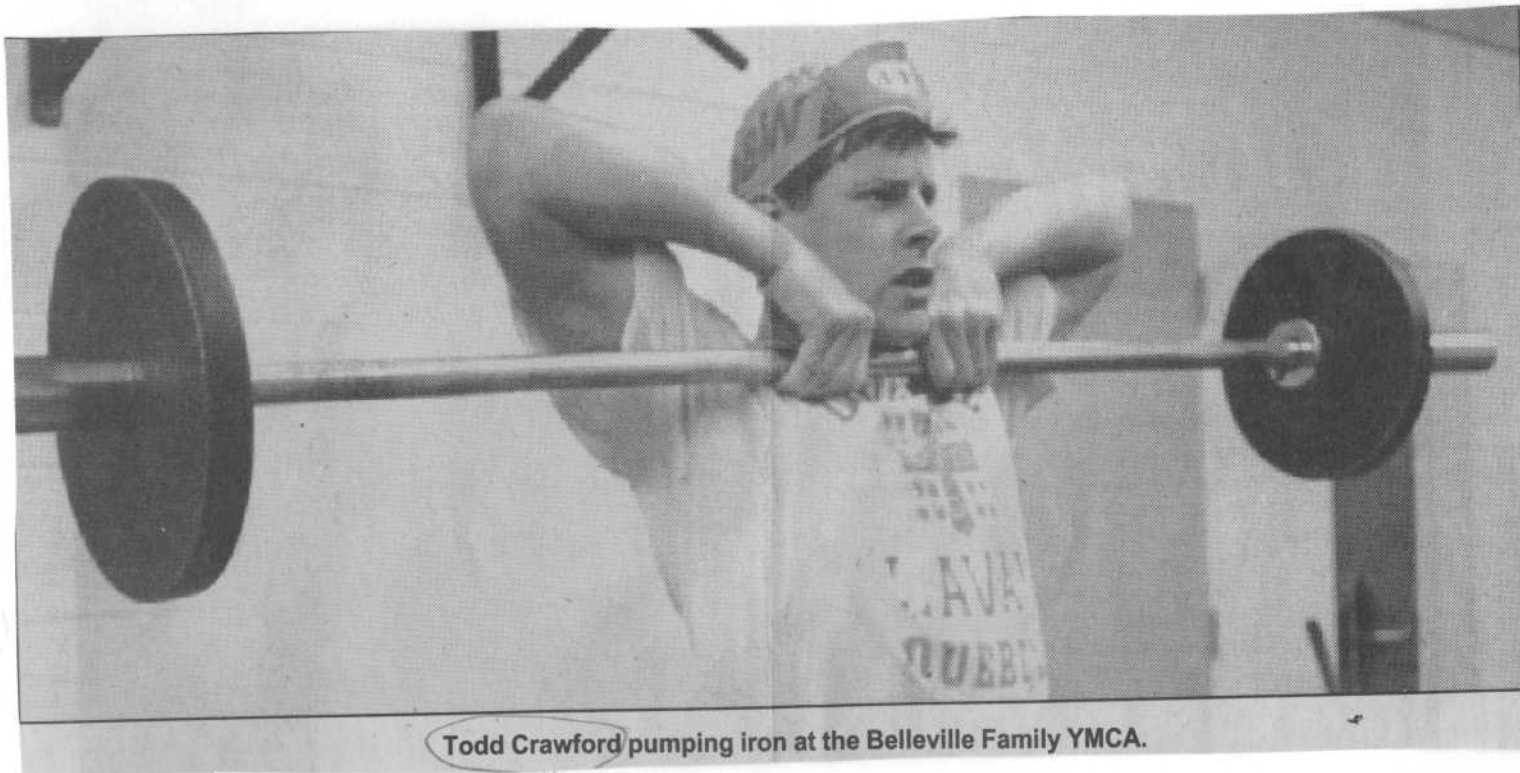
Another Belleville athlete, Laura Empey, was introduced to the sport three years ago by Crawford and has gone on to place third overall in the recent World Cup two-man women's championships. She's also a national team rower.

Still, Crawford doesn't anticipate a lot of Canadian athletes flocking to bobsledding in the future.

"There's not going to be a lot of guys coming out of the woodwork," he says. "The sport doesn't offer much financially."

Call it life in the obscure lane.

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Todd Crawford pumping iron at the Belleville Family YMCA.