

Manley,
Elizabeth

Queen Elizabeth heading south

Canadian Olympian to teach skating in Florida

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By Ady Vos p.13
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STIRLING — Elizabeth Manley, Canada's dynamic Olympic figure skating silver medallist, is ready to become a full-time coach.

Unfortunately for young Canadian skaters, Manley will be passing her knowledge on to skaters south of the border.

Manley, who overcame depression and a weight problem to win a silver medal at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary with a brilliant free skating performance, says she's moving to Sarasota, Florida to teach at a new skating centre which is being directed by Terry Leach.

"Right now is the time to make the transition to coaching," Manley said Thursday following a one-day skating clinic at the Stirling Arena.

Living in Las Vegas the past three years, Manley has been performing with Champions On Ice plus skating in the occasional show, such as the Elvis Stojko Tour, but now she wants to put her years of experience to use as an instructor.

"It's taken me a long time to get my green card," she said. "It's so much more convenient than getting a working visa every year. If I came back to Canada to work now I'd lose my card so now is the right time."

While Manley is welcome with open arms in the United States to begin a full-time coaching career she says that isn't necessarily the case in her native Canada.

"I've got a little edge about the certified levels coaches need here," she said. "My mom spent thousands upon thousands of dollars and I spent hours and hours on the ice doing tests in figures, free skating and dance and now it means nothing? I'd have to go right back to square one and spend four or five years getting levels in order for me to coach in Canada."

Manley, who was born in Belleville, says she's made her feelings known to those in the figure skating community.

"I've been giving my opinion about it because we're losing out on people like me with over 30 years of experience. I've been skating for 33 years ... I don't think there's a whole lot that really

needs to be taught to me," she said.

Manley says she fully supports taking courses in first aid among some others that are involved in the coaching program but when it comes to skating her credentials should speak for themselves.

And she feels her voice is being heard.

"I've spoken with someone from the CFSA (Canadian Figure Skating Association) and they're talking about a fast-track system for people with so many years of experience," she said.

Manley was at the Canadian Figure Skating championships held at Winnipeg last week and she couldn't help but think back to when she was a young skater — learning figures as well as skating.

"When I was at the Canadians last week I saw so many skaters fall because they were losing edges. They just don't know how to hold onto their edge. I'm trying to convince the young skaters that the blades are their friends. A lot of skaters don't really know the whole edge thing and that's too bad," she said.

Manley says it was a "terrible thing" when the emphasis was taken off "figures" and concentrat-

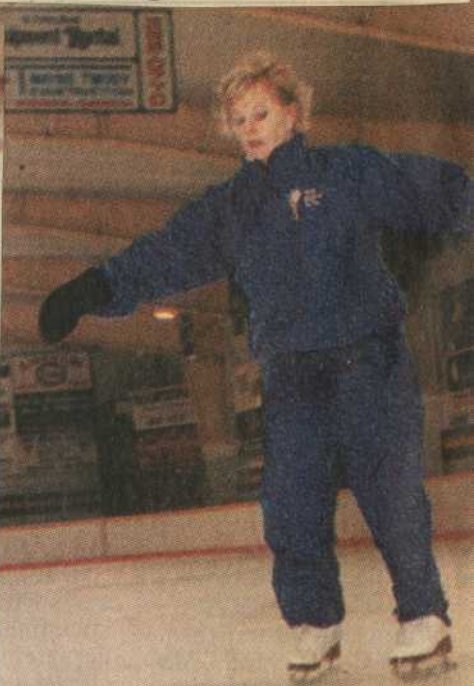
ed solely on skating.

"It's really a shame, because figures teach the basics of skating," she said. "It was too boring for spectators and too time consuming so figures was dropped."

Manley is a



Elizabeth Manley



Former Canadian Olympic figure skater Elizabeth Manley demonstrates

INTELLIGENCER PHOTOS BY DARKO ZELJKOVIC
some silver medal moves during seminar in Stirling Thursday.

huge promoter of teaching figures.

"You're talking to a girl who lost the Olympics because of them and I'm the biggest supporter of figures," she said. "I think back to people like Brian Orser, Kurt Browning, Scott Hamilton, myself ... people who all did figures. We

were skaters ... we could go out there and actually skate on top of the jumping and spinning. You don't see too much of that anymore, and the footwork, and that's unfortunate."

Manley said she hopes to eventually run her own skating academy where students will spend the entire day at the rink learning on the ice and off.

Manley, who won a silver medal at the World Championships as well as at the Olympics, was inducted into the Canadian Skating Hall of Fame last week and is currently in the middle of a two-week program teaching at various rinks in eastern Ontario.

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