

BRONZE: Zorra pair skate to third place at nationals

By LAURA GREEN
for The Ingersoll Times

The dream of standing on the podium to receive a medal at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships has come true for two local skaters this past week in Hamilton.

Brian Innes of the Embro area and partner Kristy MacCabe of Thamesford won bronze in novice ice dance at the 1998 Bank of Montreal Canadian Figure Skating Championships this past week in Hamilton.

After the compulsories last Wednesday, the duo were tied for third with a couple from Quebec. But they clinched the medal the next day, skating to the James Bond Mission Impossible theme for the free skate event.

MacCabe (Thamesford FSC) and Innes (Zorra FSC) placed second at both the Central Canada Divisionals and the Western Ontario Sectionals. Both are 17-year-old Grade 12 students at IDCI. They have skated together for eight years and practice from 12 to 20 hours a week. They are coached by Don Cumming from London and for the last few weeks have been helped



Local figure skaters Kristy MacCabe and Brian Innes won the bronze medal at the 1998 Bank of Montreal Canadian Figure Skating Championships.

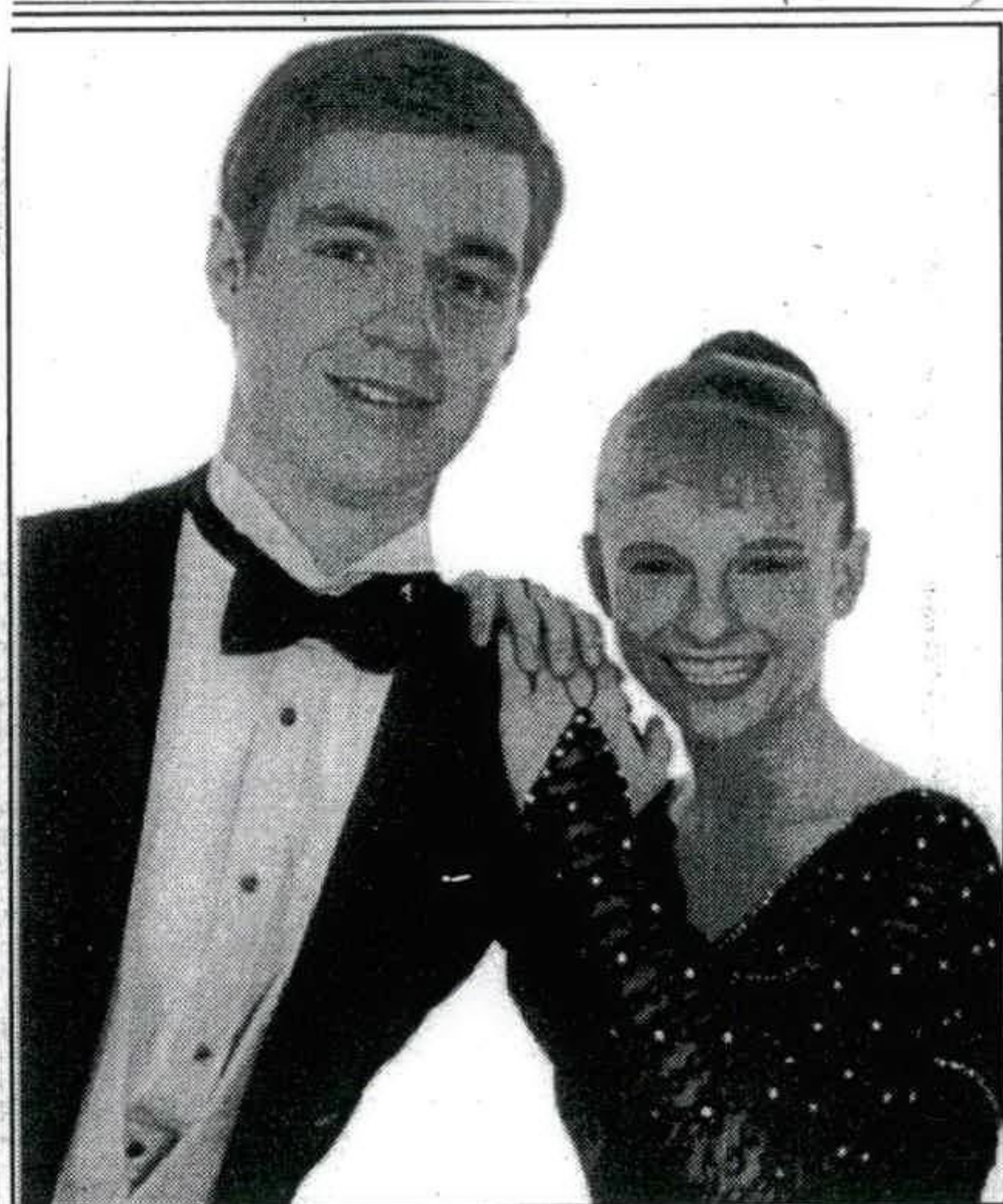
by coach Marijane Strong from Toronto.

Tara McCall (Thamesford FSC) and partner Jonathan Tschirhart (Woodstock FSC) finished 13th in novice ice dance. This was the first year at the Canadians for the duo, who placed third at both the Central Canada Divisionals

and Western Ontario Sectionals.

The last time a Zorra resident stood on the podium at the Canadians was back in 1992, when Paul Matheson of the Embro area won the novice ice dance championship with partner Sophie Dore from the Montreal area.

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Supplied photo

Kristy MacCabe and Brian Innes are competing at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships for the third time this week. Last year, they were 11th in Novice Ice Dance. So far this season the pair of 17 year olds were second at both the Central Canada Divisionals and the Western Ontario Sectionals.

Excellent start for MacCabe-Innes

HAMILTON - The team of Kristy MacCabe of Thamesford and Brian Innes of Embro are tied for second in Novice Ice Dance after yesterday's compulsories at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships here.

Tara Schaack and Tyler Myles of Barrie lead with 1.0 placement points, while the local entry and Catherine Perreault and Charles Andre Perreault of Laval, Que. are locked in second at 3.0

Tara McCall of Kintore and the Thamesford skating club and Jonathan Tschirhart of Woodstock stand 12th at 12.5.

For more details on first-day results see today's sports scoreboard.

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MacCabe and Innes have 'sense of relief' and bronze medals

By Mark Schadenberg
STAFF WRITER

HAMILTON - Two entries hailed for winning medals at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships hail from Oxford County.

In Novice Ice Dance, Kristy MacCabe and Brian Innes won silver on Thursday. In the free dance portion to close out the competition, MacCabe of Thamesford and Innes of Embro had to skate first in the last flight featuring the six leading couples.

"After we skated all we could do was sit and watch, watch and hope," said MacCabe, 17. "Finishing third was just an amazing feeling."

"When we found out we were third it was a real feeling of relief. We realized at that second that we had reached our goal for the year so it was also astonishment," said Innes, 17.

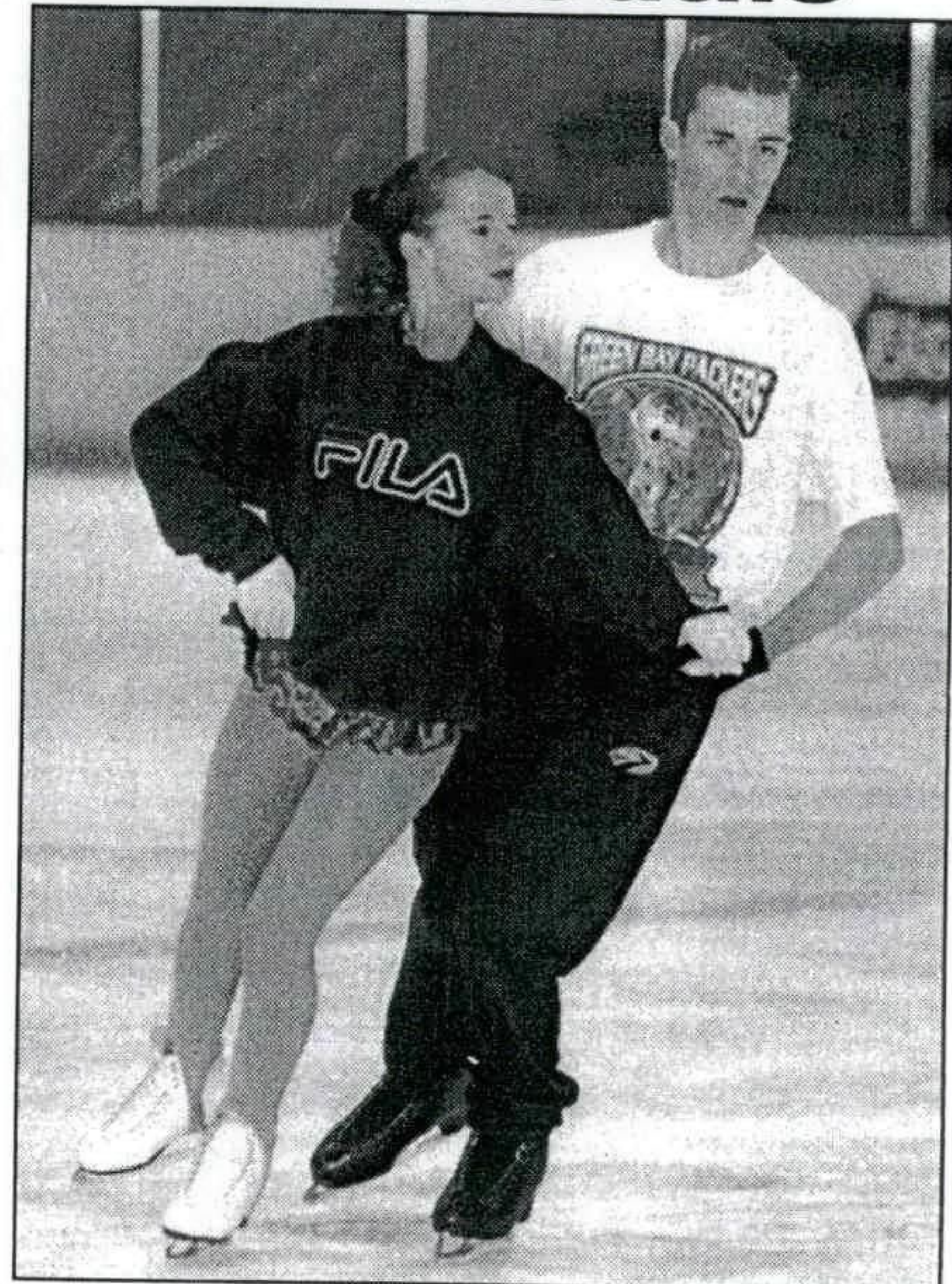
One day earlier, opening with a fifth place score in the first compulsory (Rocker Foxtrot), MacCabe and Innes were not contenders for a medal until they placed second in the next compulsory - the Blues.

"After that we knew we had a chance to reach the podium," said Innes. "The Blues has always been one of our stronger dances."

"Placing third at nationals is great because we felt we were behind the eight-ball all year. With nationals in our home province and so close to home, we had a lot of friends and family here for support," continued Innes.

Coached by London pro Don Cumming, MacCabe-Innes were second at both the Western Ontario Sectionals in Woodstock and the Central Canada Divisionals. The Ilderton club pair of Sheri and Danny Moir were winners at both, but placed only eighth in Hamilton.

MacCabe explained that



File photo

Kristy MacCabe and Brian Innes won bronze at nationals in Novice Ice Dance on Thursday.

they spent most of Friday attending seminars that covered everything from dealing with the media to a sports psychologist "talking about how to maximize performances."

A top three finish should give the local pair another chance to compete on the international stage. Last summer they competed in Minnesota at a novice-junior meet featuring rising stars from both Canada and the U.S.

One Oxford skater that has already been invited to an international competition is 11-year-old Christopher Mabee of Springford and the Tillsonburg club. With his second place result in Novice Men on Friday, Mabee will be off to Slovenia in early April for the Triglav Trophy meet.

Mabee was just sixth after the short program on Wednes-

day but leap-frogged the field by winning the long program.

Mabee trains in Montreal at the Two Glaces Club and is coached by Paul Wirtz.

Mabee's local coach is former Olympian Sheri Ball, who ironically skated with Kris Wirtz (Paul's brother) at the '92 Games. Kris Wirtz and Kristy Sargeant are 1998 champions in Senior Pairs.

After Mabee placed fourth at divisionals, Ball commented how important his training regimen is. "He needs to be at a training centre, going to school half-days and skating with other competitive boys. With that kind of talent, the best way to help him is to send him to the best coaches."

Final results for all Oxford skaters and leading senior competitors, appears in the sports scoreboard.