

Lincoln Leapers finish fifth at world championship

by BLAIR BURGESS

The Lincoln Leapers have done it again!

Last month, two teen-aged Leaper teams placed in the top five at the World Invitational Double-Dutch Championships, held at Columbus, Ohio. The foursome of Angela Frans, Amy Oldham, Veronica Kleinsmith and Erin Rogozinski placed fourth in the doubles competition and fifth in the singles; and the team of Rochelle and Christine Cadeau, Tonya Verbeek and Jenna Gleza placed fifth in doubles. The Cadeau sisters herald from Smithville, Veronica is from Welland, and Beamsville is home to the other five.

The girls, who were competing in the high school category, went up against 40 teams representing individual U.S. states. In all, 130 teams took part in the world championships. The Lincoln Leapers were the only Canadian entry, explained Christine.

Other than taking home a fifth-place trophy, the highlight of the three-day competition for the tiny 13-year-old was making her debut on television — as a singer.

Christine explained that she, Rochelle and Tonya were asked to sing our national anthem for the television audience after their U.S. hosts "who thought we lived in igloos" told them that they didn't have a version of *O Canada*. The

Americans, she said, thought Canada's national anthem was *God Save the Queen*.

On the day of the competition, many of the girls ate nothing other than baby food "because it gives energy and doesn't give you cramps," explained Amy, adding that her favourite flavour is blueberry.

But most importantly they psyched each other up through vigorous warm-ups. "We really dance and do flips," said Jenna.

The real practice, however, was done in the weeks leading up to the competition. "Before the worlds, we were practising at least six or seven hours a week," explained Angela, adding that

when not gearing up for a competition, the team usually practises three hours per week at Beamsville District Secondary School.

Since competing in the world championships, the Lincoln Leapers have been performing at community events throughout southern Ontario and gearing up

for a 15-day performance at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

All the practice and performances will help Christine achieve her newest dream. "My ultimate goal is going back next year to the worlds in New York City and winning," she smiled.

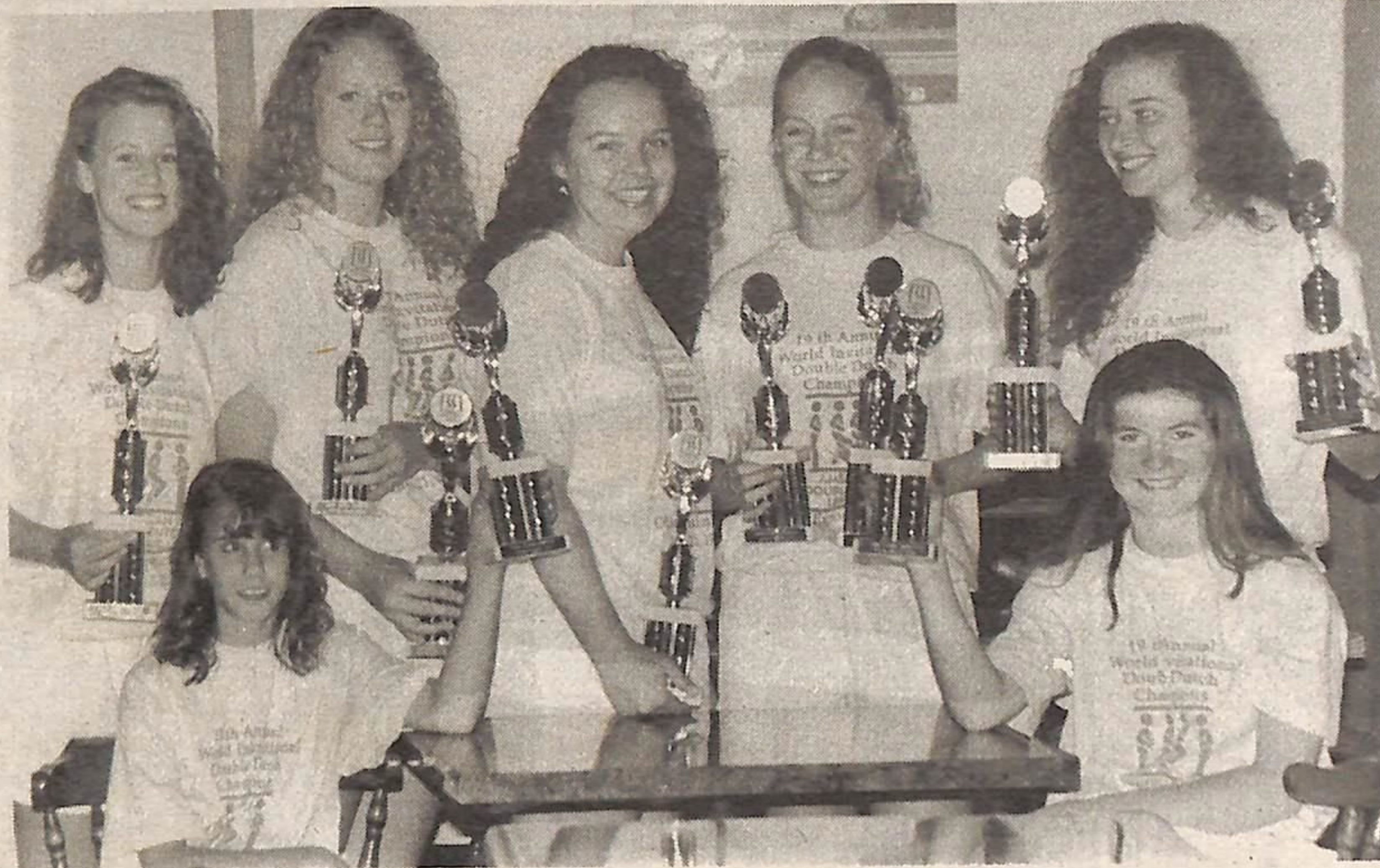
The girls, who recently skipped their way to 1992 Ontario and Canadian double-dutch and single-rope titles, aren't at all bothered about the long hours they have put into their sport because the rewards are great: friendship, travel ... and lifeskills.

"I've learned to work with a team and also dedication because you have to work to win," explained Rochelle, whose most embarrassing moment as a Leaper came "when I went through a stage on a pogo-stick."

All the girls hope their sport will continue to grow throughout Canada. Their ultimate goal is to see skipping become part of the Olympic games.

As these eight young athletes skip their way through high school and on to college or university, more than 30 younger members of the Lincoln Leapers will be inspired by their legacy of hard work and dedication.

For more information about the Lincoln Leapers, call Tom Bailey at 892-6734. In the meantime, start skipping for joy.



Lincoln Leapers Rochelle Cadeau, 15, Christine Cadeau, 13, Angela Frans, 17, Jenna Gleza, 17, Veronica Kleinsmith, 17, Tonya Verbeek, 14, and Amy Oldham, 16, are members of two skipping teams that placed in the top five in the recent World Invitation Double-Dutch Championship, held at Columbus, Ohio. Teammate Erin Rogozinski, 17, is not pictured.



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BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS IS A ROAD

Regional Road 81 through Jordan Hollow is completely torn up as crews from the Region work to upgrade it. The project is expected to be completed by fall.