

Kevin Parker

Progress amazes young skater

by Rod Jerred
Next week (Feb. 1-5) Kevin Parker will be one of the youngest competitors in the junior men's division of the Canadian National Figure Skating Championships in Calgary—and the 15-year-old skater still can't get over the fact.
"It shocks me," he said during a practice last week in Scarborough. "Everything seems to have gone so fast. One day I was nowhere and now I'm here."
Kevin earned a spot in the national competitions after he won the Central Division championship in Guelph Jan. 12-15.
Last year he won the Canadian novice figure skating championship but in order to become eligible for the junior men's competition Kevin had to pass his sixth and seventh skating tests. He only has to pass his goal test

and he will have completed all the figure skating tests.
First year
Although it is Kevin's first year in the junior men's division, most of the other skaters in the nationals will be in their second and third year of competition.
"I don't know how well I'll do in the competition, but I'll try my hardest," Parker said. It all depends on how well I skate, but there are a lot of good skaters there and it'll be tough."
The nationals are expected to be televised on CTV's Wide World of Sports on Saturday.
Kevin claims he hasn't been influenced by another skater's style and doesn't try to copy movements which Toller Cranston or Ron Shaver use in their programs.
"I have my own style because it's no good to copy someone else's," Kevin said. "I like to make up my own things. It's more fun that

way."
Stronger free style
Kevin admits he's stronger in the free style competitions than the figures, mainly because he has only been working on them for a short time.
His coach, John Caughell agrees that Kevin is weaker in the figures but adds quickly that Kevin has progressed rapidly with his figures considering the amount of time he has spent on them.
"I think you'll find most skaters find free skating easier than figures," Kevin added. "I think free skating is also more enjoyable to watch. Figures can be boring to watch."
Kevin first began figure skating after he had watched a competition on television when he was eight years old. Like most Canadian boys, Kevin's first introduction to


skating had been with hockey, "but one day I scored on my own net and decided that was it for hockey," Kevin laughed.
In 1971 he passed his first preliminary test but it wasn't until a couple of years later that he realized he could do something with it.
He was teased
When he was first learning to figure skate, Kevin was teased frequently by other classmates. "Then one day our class went public skating and the teacher asked me to put on a show for them" he said. "Some of the boys were shocked when I did and they never teased me again."
In order to compete on a national level, Kevin's school studies sometimes have to take a back seat to his figure skating training but he says his teachers in Acton have been good in understanding this.
Kevin hasn't been at-

tending school for about a month but when he was, he had little time for himself.
A typical school day saw Kevin wake up at 7 a.m. for breakfast before catching the bus to school. After school he would arrive home for a fast supper before leaving to take skating lessons. At about 10 p.m. he would arrive home after his lessons and do about an hour's homework before going to bed.
"Sometimes I wish I hadn't gotten into skating, but then other times I'm glad I did," he said. "I can't have fun like the rest of the kids but it keeps me off the streets and gives me something to do."
"And I do enjoy it," he adds.
In figure skating much of the success depends on the grace and poise exhibited by the skater during his program, but Kevin says he doesn't always feel that way inside.

Nervous and scared
"I get nervous about two hours before I go skating. I get scared and ask myself why am I putting myself through this again and again," he said.
"But when I get on the ice and hear the people cheering 'Yea Kevin, I calm down. It sort of makes you feel wanted out there."
Kevin's nervousness usually disappears once he starts skating.
"Unless I make a mistake, then I get really nervous," he said. "I talk to myself while skating, saying 'keep cool everything will be all right'."
Kevin's main ambition is to skate in the Olympics in either 1980 or 1984.
"I've always dreamed of going to the Olympics to represent my country and do the best I can," he said. "It was a big thrill to be in the Canada Winter games representing Ontario."
Two of the problems facing figure skating hopefuls in Canada are finding ice time

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Legion
town league tallies


Peewee
Springfield - clipped Cleveland 3-2 off Brian Canary's three goals and Chris Lobstinger's three assists.
Tom Shannon fired Cleveland's second goal from Nick Davies after Shannon set up Rod Whiterley in the first period for a goal.
Richmond and Rochester ended a scoring spree at eight goals each through the three periods.
Barry McNabb fired the most goals of any player—six—for Richmond. Matts Malcolm Warhurst and Kevin Kroll contributed one each to Richmond's total. Warhurst also assisted twice while McNabb, Kroll and Richard Rogers helped once.
Tom Briggs replied twice and assisted on two other goals for Rochester while Tom McDonough fired in another couple and helped on one more goal.
Fred Kappert also scored for Rochester and picked up a couple of assists while Robert Rogers, Dana Taras and Scott McDonough also connected for tallies. Dean McKerracher earned one of Rochester's assists.
Another tie, this time at the 3-3 level, came from the Tidewater Baltimore game.
Rob Little gave Tidewater a 2-0 lead in the first period with help from Rob Munro and David Allen.
In the second frame Tony Sheppard came through with Baltimore's first goal from Chris Hisaki. Then Hisaki found the mark from Sheppard and Paul McGinn.
Both teams scored once in final period. Munro fired for Tidewater from Rusty Gnt and Sheppard got one McGinn.

and two from Ted Nessit.
Billy Morrison fired two unassisted goals in the second period for Oshawa after Brian Stuckley opened the scoring from Gord McMeeken in the first frame.
London edged Hamilton 2-1. Randy Coverdale hit for the first London goal from Kent Hurst in the first frame. Gary Clarke fired home the second one.
No name appears for the Hamilton scorer.
Novice
Bandy McIntyre unleashed three goals including the winner as Brampton doubled the score 4-2 over Guelph.
Pete Timmerman accounted for the remaining Brampton marker while Philip Wedge and Chris Rogers earned assists on the first and last McIntyre marker.
For Royal City Sharney Way replied in the second period on a Steve Toyota pass. Paul Porty added the second Guelph goal in the third period.
Hantam
Cougars and Aeros settled for a two-all tie.
Aeros took a 2-1 lead into the third frame, but Murry McNabb's unassisted goal evened the score for Cougars. Eddy Allen pulled the

trigger for Cougars' first goal after he took a McNabb pass.
For Aeros the scorers were Colin McFarlane in the first period and Steve Hepburn in the second.
Mike Sweetman's third period unassisted goal broke a 5-5 tie in Toros' favor against the Nordics.
Joe Trecapelli and Dave Mitchell came through with two goal performances for Toros while mate Paul Marchmont got a single. Glenn McMeeken and Dave Medland earned assists.
On Nordics' side Neil Porter scored twice while Alister George and Bill Personault scored once and assisted on another goal. Murray Dalton was the first Nordic marksman. John Toebes and Ted James were on the scene for assists on scoring plays.
Midgets
Robert Edge and Dave Johnson struck with two goals

and an assist each as Detroit swamped Vancouver 7-4.
Nick Humeniuk helped on three Motor City scoring plays and added a goal for himself. Bernie Harding also put together a goal and an assist performance while Danny Morrison fired home one goal. Ron Guest produced two assists also for Detroit.
Jim Altonby accounted for Vancouver's only goal in the first period. Gord Scott and Gary Pickles scored once each in the second and Tom Ryan rounded out the last of Vancouver's scoring in the third.
Montreal rallied for a 2-1 game over Toronto.
Allen Snels gave the Queen City a 1-0 lead in the first period. Montreal's Cliff Britton evened the score in the second, and Les Dalton scored the winner in the third from Jack McFarlane.

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