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

"It shocks me," he said during a practice last week in Searborough. "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.

Last year he won the Canadian novice figure skating championship but in order to become eligible for the iunior men's competition Kevin had to pass his sixth and seventh skating tests. He only has to pass his goal test

Legion

town

league

Peeure

Springfield - clipped

Cleveland 3-2 off Brian

Canary's three goals and

Chris Lobsinger's three

land's second goal from Nick

Davies after Shannon set up

Rod Whiterley in the first

Richmond and Rochester

ended a scoring spree at eight

goals each through the three

Barry McNabb fired the

most goals of any player--

six-for Richmond. Mates

Malcolm Warhurst and Kevin

Kroll contributed one each to

Richmond's total, Warhurst

also assisted twice while Mc-

Nabb. Kroll and Richard

Tom Briggs replied twice

and assisted on two other

goals for Rochester while Tom McDonaugh fired in

another couple and helped on

Fred Kappert also scored

for Rochester and picked up a

couple of assists while Robert

Rogers, Dana Taras and Scott McDonaugh also con-

nected for tallies. Dean Me-

Kerracher earned one of

Another tie, this time at the

Rob Little gave Tidewater

In the second frame Tony Sheppard came through with

Baltimore's first goal from

Chris Hisaki. Then Hisaki

found the mark from Shep-

Both teams scored once in

· final period. Munro fired

for Tidewater from Rusty

ntt and Sheppard got one

od goal proved to be the

e winner as St. Kitts

In the first two periods

Brad McPherson struck

thrice for St. Catharines on an

assist from Chris Stansbury

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Atom rry Herrington's third

aded Oshawa 4-3.

oard and Paul McGinn.

a 2-0 lead in the first period with help from Rob Munro

3-3 level, came from the Tide-

water Baltimore game.

Rochester's assists.

and David Allen.

McGinn.

Rogers helped once.

one more goal.

period for a goal.

Tom Shannon fired Cleve-

assists.

periods.

tallies

and he will have completed way." all the figure skating tests. First year

year in the junior men's diviin the nationals will be in their second and third year of time. 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

and two from Ted Nessit

Billy Morrison fired two un-

assisted goals in the second

period for Oshawa after

Brian Stuckley opened the

scoring from Gord Me-

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

Hamilton scorer.

third period.

for a two-all tie.

No name appears for the

Novice

the score 4-2 over Guelph.

Meeken in the first frame.

Stronger free style

Kevin admits he's stronger Although it is Kevin's first in the free style competitions than the figures, mainly sion, most of the other skaters because he has only been working on them for a short

> His coach, John Caughell agrees that Kevin is weaker in the figures but adds quickly that Kevin has progressed rapidly with his 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

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

trigger for Cougars' first goal after he took a McNabb pass. For Aeros the scorers were Nick Humeniuk helped on period and Steve Hepburn in

period unassisted goal broke a 5-5 tie in Toros' favor against the Nordics.

the second.

Joe Trecapelli and Dave Mitchell came through with two goal performances for Toros while mate Paul Marchment got a single. Glenn McMeeken and Dave Medland earned assists.

On Nordics' side Nevil Porter scored twice while Allister George and Bill Personault scored once and assisted on another goal. Murray Dalton was the first Nordicmarksman. John Toebes and Ted James were on the scene for assists on scoring plays.

Midgets

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 program, but Kevin says he

Kevin hasn't been al- inside.

and an assist each as Detroit swamped Vancouver 7-4.

Colin McFarlane in the first three Motor City scoring plays and added a goal for himself. Bernie Harding also Mike Swetman's third put together a goal and an assist performance while Danny Morrison fired home one goal. Ron Guest produced two assists also for Detroit.

> Jim Allonby 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

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 Robert Edge and Dave scored the winner in the third

skating had been with tending school for about a While preparing for the month but when he was, he Canadian Nationals Kevin

the only available ice time

"I guess it all depends on

how devoted you are," Kevin

says in reflection on the situa-

Money is something Kevin

presently has no control over

and must depend on his

parents for. Except for a \$250

grant, Kevin's parents have

paid for all his expenses, in-

cluding ice time, pros' fees,

clothes, skating bag, travell-

ing expenses, hotel bills,

equipment and anything else

Grateful to parents

"It all adds up," Kevin

said. "I'm grateful for what

my parents have done for me

because Frealize I couldn't be

during the day.

needed.

free style.

had little time for himself. underwent an intensive train-A typical school day saw ing program with his skating Kevin wake up at 7 a.m. for club, the Kitchener-Waterloo breakfast before catching the Skating Club in Guelph, bus to school. After school he getting ice time whenever would arrive home for a fast and wherever they could. supper before leaving to take One night they skated from skating lessons. At about 10 1 a.m. to 3 a.m. in Guelph and p.m. he would arrive home two days later were forced to after his lessons and do about drive to Scarborough to find 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

In figure skating much of the success depends on the grace and poise exhibited by the skater during his doesn't always feel that way

Nervous and scared "I get nervous about two hours before I go skating. I get scared and ask myself why am 1 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," be 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 -coach. "The kids travel best I can," he said. "It was a big thrill to be in the Canada Winter games representing

Two of the problems facing figure skating hopefuls in

500 club

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doing what I am without their Kevin pointed out that his boots for his skates cost \$150 and his blades \$80. For competition he requires two pairs, one for figures and one for "I also need at least one Kent Moffat new pair a year because my feet are still growing and my boots break down," he said. There doesn't appear to be much help on the horizon for Kevin or his parents either. Kevin said he wasn't eligible North York Hangers. for a grant from Wintario

because his expenses are his and not a group's or organiza-"It's a shame," said his 5 MILL ST. E. . ACTON . 853-3740 together as a team but it's recognized as an individual's

Randy McIntyre unleashed from Jack McFarlane. Johnson struck with two goals three goals including the Canada are finding ice time winner as Brampton doubled Pete Timmerman accounted for the remaining Brampton marker while 25% OFF Philip Wedge and Chris Rogers earned assists on the first and last Melntyre All New For Royal City Sharney Way replied in the second period on a Steve Toyota pass. Paul Porty added the auei second Guelph goal in the Skates Cougars and Aeros settled Aeros took a 2-1 lead into the third frame, but Murry McNabb's unassisted goal evened the score for Cougars. 128 Guelph St., Hwy. No. 7, Georgetown 877-1818 Eddy Allen pulled the

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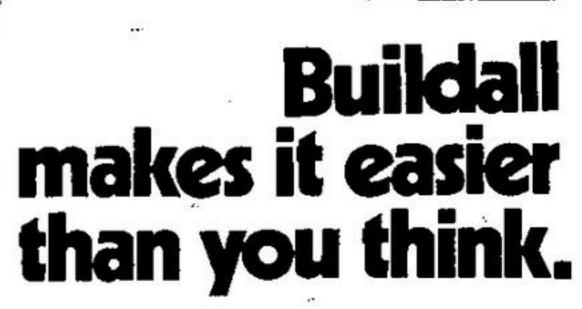


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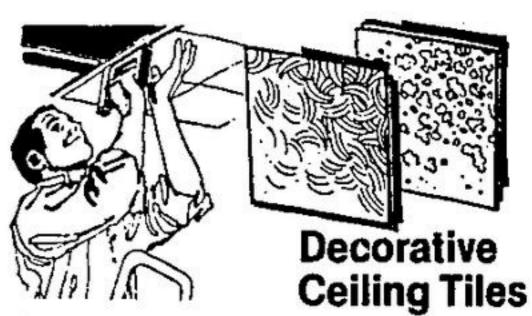






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