

# Johnson and Barber set world title as goal

By TONY PANACCI  
Herald sports editor

For 11 months of the year Kris Barber wakes up at six in the morning so he can be at Centre Ice Arena in northern suburban Toronto by seven to skate for two hours with his partner Kelly Johnson. The two then go their separate ways until a quarter to 11 when they skate for another hour and a half. During the summer months Kelly and Kris get together for one more skating session in the evening.

"There are some mornings when the last thing I want to do is get on that ice," Kris said. "But Kelly and I know it's what we have to do if we want to realize our goals."

The goal of the two is to become the best dance pair in Canada and then to challenge dance pairs from the rest of the world.

Late last month Kelly, 16, and Kris, 17, came closer to that goal by finishing second to the Soviet Union's Tatiana Darasova and Sergei Panomarenko in the dance pair competition at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Megeve, France.

"Kelly and I were very pleased with our performance in Megeve," said Kris, while sitting in the lounge of Centre Ice on a night off. "We skated very well. The Soviet pair skated excellently and they deserved to win."

Kelly and Kris were the only dance pair sent from Canada to Megeve, although it could have sent three pairs.

To compete at the Junior Worlds both skaters must be under 18 years of age. Although Kelly and Kris finished fourth at the Canadian Junior Championships in Victoria, British Columbia they were the only pair in the top five in which both partners were under 18. In Canada skaters may compete in the junior dance pairs for three years or until they win the championship. There is no age restriction.

Although Kelly and Kris were the highest placing junior pair at the Canadians, by world age restrictions, they were not immediately named to the national team which competed in Megeve.

"We were not named to the national team right after the Canadians because they felt we needed more work on our compulsories," Kris said. "We came back here and worked on that segment and two weeks before the worlds we were added to the team."

The dance pair that won at the Canadians have been skating together for six years. This year was Kelly and Kris' first year together.

Although Kris is only 17 he is entering his thirteenth year of figure skating. He is the son of Paul and Marilyn Barber of

Glen Williams. Mrs. Barber is a figure skating instructor with the Georgetown Figure Skating Club.

Kris began figure skating and playing hockey when he was five years old. He played with Georgetown rep teams in hockey until he reached Pee Wee age.

"I had to give up hockey at that age because it was not good for my figure skating," he says. "In hockey you don't have to worry about your skating form." Kris remembers being one of the best skaters on the team, but he was not a Camille Henry around the net. "I couldn't buy a goal."

Kris' first dance partner was Susan York of Oakville. They skated together for a couple of years and finished second one year in the novice division.

"We went our separate ways because Susan was more interested in concentrating on singles than on dancing."

After that Kris teamed up with Patricia Fleicher of Scarborough and they stayed together for five years. Through those years Patricia was also competing in singles as well as dance pairs. Patricia and Kris were working under the tutelage of Roy Bradshaw at Centre Ice. Bradshaw was also coaching David Norton Martin and his partner Kelly Johnson.

Susan and Kris decided to go their separate ways because Susan wanted to do both dance and singles and Kris wanted to concentrate on dance.

Meanwhile figure skating became too expensive a proposition for David Martin to handle so he left the sport.

Since Kelly and Kris both were without partners, since both trained under Bradshaw it was natural that the two get together.

If Kris' schedule seems demanding this year, consider what he did last year. Then he lived with his parents in Glen Williams and attended classes at Georgetown district high school. Some weekdays he was making the 100-mile round trip to Centre Ice twice.

"The driving was killing me," Kris says. "This year has been a lot easier on me in that respect."

Kris stays in Toronto Monday through Friday with the Doug Brown family, a "figure skating family." On weekends he comes home to Glen Williams and as he says "just relaxes."

Kris says his figure skating does not just demand his devotion and dedication, but also the devotion and dedication of his entire family. Kris has a 15-year-old sister Kelly.

"My parents have made tremendous sacrifices for me," Kris said. "I don't even know if I'd be able to do the same thing for my kids."

Before Kris was old enough to drive his parents did all that driving to Toronto. However, time is only part of the sacrifice. As previously mentioned figure skating at the top level is an expensive proposition. Kris figures this year has cost his family somewhere between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Most of the money goes towards coaching and ice time.

"The Canadian Figure Skating Association helps with some of the financing," Kris said. "But I think Wintario or other organizations could do a lot more to help figure skating skaters."

"We want to see Kris realize his goals," Mrs. Barber said. "And his goals are our goals." The Barbbers have been to every one of their son's competitions except the one in Megeve. "It was just too expensive to go," Mrs. Barber said.

"Of course we would like to see Kris and Kelly win the

World senior dance pair competition one day," she said.

"My parents do not put any pressure on me to continue skating," Kris said. "It's all up to me. . . if I wanted to quit tomorrow I could."

This summer Kelly and Kris will add to their workload by making trips to Waterloo to work with coach Kerry Leitch.

Leitch will be concentrating on working with the pair's speed and power.

The dance pair competition is broken down into three segments: the compulsory dances (there are three of them) which are worth 30 per cent, the original set pattern, which is worth 20 per cent, and the free-style dance which is

three minutes long and worth 50 per cent of the total mark.

"The compulsory segment is only worth 30 per cent but it may as well be worth the whole thing," Kris said. "Where you finish after the compulsory is where you usually finish at the end of the competition." At Megeve Kelly and Kris finished second after the compulsories and at Victoria they were fourth after them. They ended up in those positions at the end of both competitions.

"Our strong point is the free dance," Kris said. "We have to work on our compulsories." Kris and Kelly will both be

juniors next year. Kris makes 11 by 17 days. Kris also skated junior for one year with Patricia so next year has to be his last.

"We would like to win the junior worlds before we move up to senior," Kris said. Would he like to see the Soviet pair that finished first this year back next year? "I'm not sure whether they will be back at next year's juniors or not," Kris said. "Kelly and I would like to win next year, but this year it was really only between us and the Soviets. We would like to win, but we'd also like to be up against some good competition."

Of course before Kelly and Kris can go to next year's junior worlds they must do well in the Canadians. All three teams that finished ahead of them at this year's Canadians will be back next year. Kris also figures a couple of pairs that were junior by world standards will be better next year.

However, Kelly and Kris also figure to do better next year. It is unusual for a pair to do so well after skating together for just one year.

Kris said because he and Kelly had an advantage because they had the same coach before they teamed up. Bradshaw and his wife were a top dance pair and finished fourth in the world in 1971.

Kelly and Kris see other so much that it is imperative that they get along. "We don't see too much of each other off the ice," Kris said. "We get along so well because we both have the same goals."

Kris said both he and Kelly would like to turn professional one day. He also said they will

stay together as long as they keep improving. "If we keep improving we should stay together until 1984."

In 1976 the dance pair was added to the figure skating program of the Winter Olympics. Kris said he would like to be on the 1980 Canadian Olympic team. By 1984, if they do keep improving, they should be primed to make a serious run at the Olympic title or a World Championship. Canada has not had a World Champion since Donald Jackson.

This year Kris is in grade 12 at Earl Haig in Scarborough. He says that in the next two years he would like to complete grade 13. "I thought of quitting after grade 12, but now I want to get my grade 13."

After he gets his grade 13 Kris says he will not go directly to university. "I will wait until I can finance my university education by teaching figure skating."

Kris was an honor student through all his school days in Georgetown, but this year with the changing of schools his marks have dropped. "I'm passing, but I just don't like the school." He plans on changing schools again next year.

Figure skating is different than most other sports in that it is almost all practice. Kelly and Kris were in only five competitions this year.

"When you get to our level you are expected to do well in the competitions," Kris said. "There are not any excuses for doing poorly."

So far in their young careers Kelly Johnson and Kris Barber have not had to give any excuses.

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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

Wednesday, April 12, 1978 - Page 15



Kelly Johnson and Kris Barber delighted a big crowd at the Georgetown Figure Skating Club's recital in February. Although Kelly and Kris have been skating as partners for just one year,

late last month they finished second at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships.



Glen Williams' Kris Barber

# Colors prominent at this year's Acton Skating Carnival

By SUE LEHN

The Acton Figure Skating Club's season came to an end on Saturday with their presentation of the annual Skating Carnival. This year's theme was "We Wish You A Rainbow" and the titles of the



Pam Osborne, 6, gritted her teeth and tugged as she got her skates on, ready for her part in the Pink Panther routine in the Acton Figure Skating Club Carnival Saturday afternoon and evening.

musical numbers contained almost every color imaginable. Included were such old favorites as "The Old Grey Mare" and "Blue Danube Waltz", as well as more modern numbers like "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Tie A Yellow Ribbon."

The junior section of the ice review covered the colors pink, yellow, grey, green, black, and red, while the senior skaters concentrated on blue, brown, purple, white, silver and gold. Solos were

performed by Linda Osso, Michael Creighton, David McGilloy, Cindy McGilloy and Diane Boginski. Duets were handled by Steven Dutton and Brenda Porty, David and Cindy McGilloy and Charlie and Susan Kinal. There were no guest skaters this year.

Besides the usual mishaps of fallen skaters, Sharon Campbell cut herself during one number in the evening performance and required three stitches. She stayed in the Carnival and participated in all her

remaining numbers despite the injury.

Small gifts were handed out just before intermission to senior club members who had helped coach the juniors throughout the season. Those from the community who helped instruct skaters received gifts from the AFSC also. At the end of the carnival, gifts of thanks were given to coaches Sally Leatherland (who also directed the carnival), Pat Telboekhurst, and Francine Powloicz.

In ending this year's carnival, AFSC President Isabel Christensen paid thanks for the support given the ice review by the St. John's Ambulance, the town merchants, the arena staff, AFSC executive, and all those that helped coach, as well as the pros.

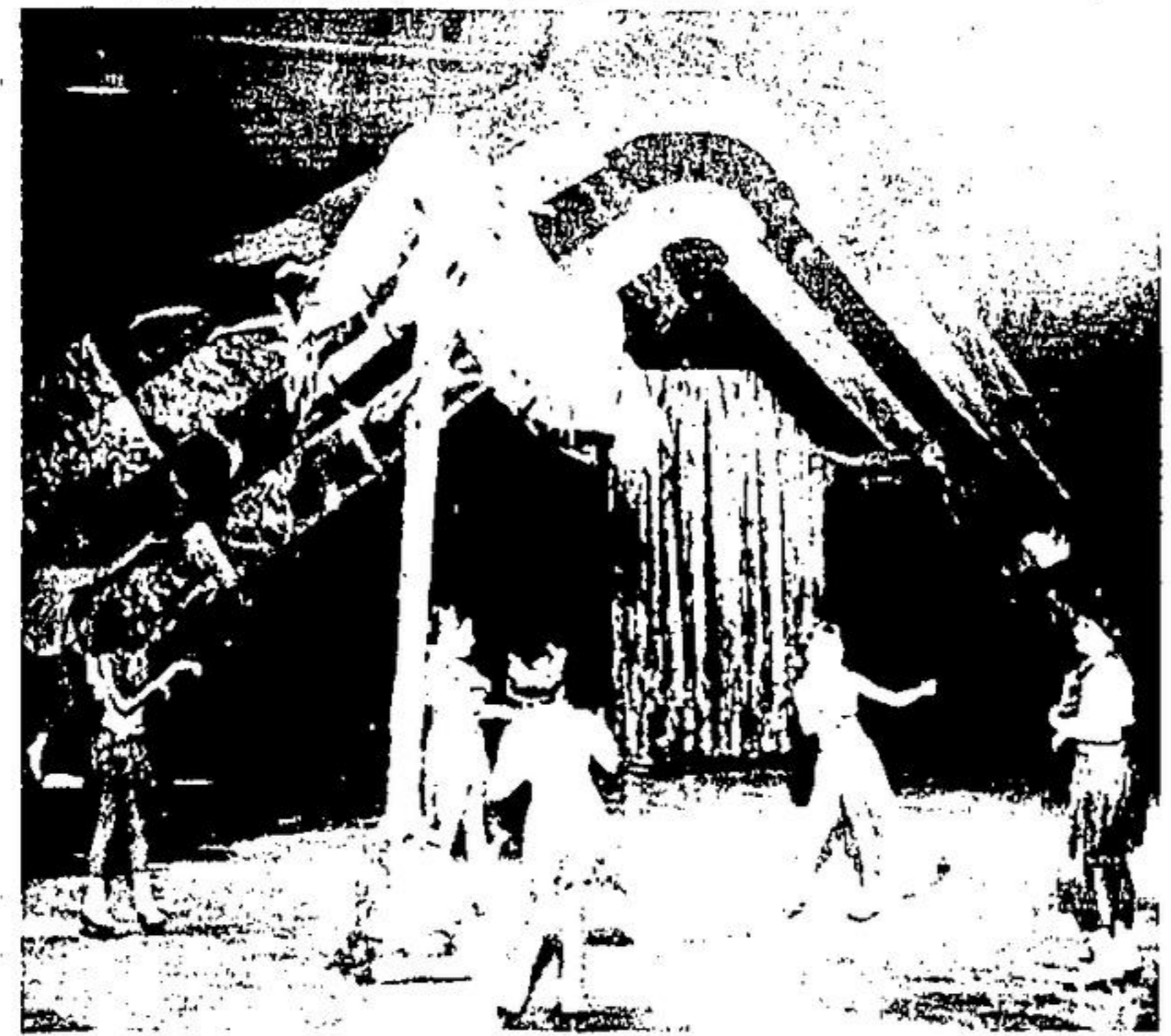
"This year's Skating Carnival, 'We Wish You A Rainbow', reflects the labors of all our skaters to the degree that each child is a star."

The close to capacity crowds at both performances enjoyed the show put on by local skaters, and overall seemed to echo observer Deb Neely's words in saying, "The performance is really good. We're enjoying the show very much. The little kids are the cutest." In fact the Pink Panther act, put on by pre-school skaters was especially well liked, along with performances by Diane Boginski and David and Cindy McGilloy.

Pre-school skater Tracie Cripps said afterward that she was not scared by the large crowd, just excited at being in the carnival. Melaine Wood, another Pink Panther, said she enjoyed skating in front of the audience, and hopes to do so again next year. Senior skater Charlie Kinal commented that he wasn't nervous or excited, as he's skated in front of large crowds before, and "there's nothing special about it."

The AFSC and especially Sally Leatherland and the other coaches who helped coordinate the carnival, deserve a lot of credit for making the ice review the obvious success it was. The skaters themselves also deserve distinction for the great finale to the year which they staged.

It was evident from the performance that a lot of time and effort on the part of both coaches and skaters went into this year's Skating Carnival.



One of the most colorful acts at the Acton Skating Carnival was "Blue Hawaii" Photo by Sue Lehn

## Weiskopf in Open

OAKVILLE...US. Open champion Hubert Green and Doral Open winner Tom Weiskopf are among the first challengers Lee Trevino will face this June as he defends his Canadian Open Golf Championship and the Peter Jackson Trophy.

Green, who recently captured the Heritage Classic, and Weiskopf, who returned to form by edging Jack Nicklaus at Doral, will be at Glen Abbey Golf Club June 22-25 for the 60th edition of the National Open.

"The Royal Canadian Golf Association is extremely pleased that both Hubert Green and Tom Weiskopf have entered our National Open once again," tournament chairman R. H. (Dick) Grimm said.

## Carolyn King wins Verheagen

The Georgetown Figure Skating Club culminated its season by giving out the individual awards on Sunday.

Carolyn King and Allison Campbell had to go into a tie breaker to decide who took the Gale Verheagen Trophy. That trophy goes annually to the skater who obtains the highest average number of points above a pass (from the judges) on any one of the following tests: preliminary dance, preliminary figure or junior bronze dance. The two skaters, as well as Julie Allen, who finished in third place, chose to do the preliminary figure and ended up with identical marks.

Carolyn then performed the Swing Dance and Allison the Dutch Waltz to break the tie. Carolyn won the trophy by .333 points.

Honorable mentions in this category went to Tammy Morrow and Robin Burroughs who tied for fourth place by both receiving passing marks.

The Senior Trophy, which is donated by Tony Corbett, was won by Janet Shephard.

Judy Swallow took second place in this category and Shanna Armstrong third. The following had better than passing marks and tied for fourth: Susan Cameron, Charlene Grummett, Eddie Howard, Teri Lamb, Lynn Muir, Leslie Pritchard, Cydney Sherry, Sherry Smeaton, Kim Thompson and Laura Yerxa.

Kim Thompson won the Professional's Trophy donated by C.F.S.C.'s professional staff.

Juanne Serie was second in this class. There was a three-way tie for third between Leah Smeaton, Debbie Duff and Cathy Smeaton. After the tie breaker, Leah took third and Debbie fourth.

Kelly Page won in the pre-schoolers class and took the trophy donated by the Georgetown Figure Skating Club. Mi-

cheille Spicer was second and Kim Stamp was third.

Bobby Sun won the Gil Rushon Memorial Trophy as the Most Improved Junior Male skater. The trophy was donated by Art and Dorothy Dillon.

Blair Smith finished second and Hon Rock third. The Executive Trophy, a-

gain donated by the G.F.S.C. for the Most Improved Junior Female, went to Christina Murray. Vanessa Jewett was second and Tammie Brady and Kell Warner tied for third.

The President's Cup, donated by Tom Pettengill, was won by Tom Shannon, with Carolyn King coming in second and Stephanie Kentner third.



Janet Shephard received the Senior Trophy, donated by Tony Corbett, at the Georgetown Figure Skating Club's annual trophy presentations. Judy Swallow finished second and Shanna Armstrong third. Photographs of winners from other categories will appear in next week's Herald.