

Sports Week

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Dance pair takes Canadians

Kris Barber and Kelly Johnson had many hours of hard work rewarded as their talents carried them to the Junior Dance championship at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships held

in Thunder Bay over the weekend.

Barber and Johnson, who finished fourth at the same championship in Victoria, British Columbia last year, led all the way in this one

winning all three of the separate events.

For their exploits in Thunder Bay Barber and Johnson were chosen as members of the junior world championship contingent.

The World Championships will be in Augsburg, West Germany, March 28-April 1.

From his home in Glen Williams, Barber told the Herald that he and his partner, who is from

Toronto, skated the best their best ever to win it all. **AT VERY BEST**

"Things went very well for us in Thunder Bay," the 17 year old said. "We were at our very best."

After winning sectionals in Thornhill, Barber said that he and Johnson did not go all out there. He said that they were saving themselves for future competitions. In Thornhill they won in very convincing fashion as no other dance pair was even close.

In Montreal for the divisionals Barber and Johnson were again by far the class of the field.

At Thunder Bay the dance pair used the same repertoire that had carried them to the sectional and divisional championships.

"We made a few minor adjustments," Barber said, "but basically it was exactly the same program we skated at the sectionals and divisionals."

The one big difference at the Canadians was that the dance pair executed it much better.

The Maritimes' Gina Aucoim and Peter Ponikau finished second to Barber and Johnson at the Canadians. They are trained by Roy Bradshaw, who serves the same function for Barber and Johnson.

"We knew the field very well and we expected that our toughest competition would come from Gina and Peter," Barber said.

Third place went to Darlene Wendt and Wayne Hussey who had finished second to Barber and Johnson at the divisionals in Montreal.

SECOND YEAR
Although Barber and

Johnson are only in their second year of skating with one another they were the favorites heading into the competition. Aside from having an extra year's experience the three dance pairs that finished ahead of them last year at Victoria were not in the junior class this time around.

It was the dance pair's last chance to claim the junior title. Regardless of how they finished at Thunder Bay, next year they had to move up to the senior level. A dance pair is allowed to compete in the junior class for three years or until they win the division. This is Barber's third year as a junior.

Last year Barber and Johnson finished second to a Soviet dance pair at the World Championships.

Although they swept to victory in all three of the competitions so far, Barber said he was never absolutely certain that they would be selected to the world junior team.

"We were not surprised that we were picked," Barber said. "But you never know."

The approximate two months between the Canadians and Worlds represents the longest break the dance pair has had so far this year.

However, the break may be just what is needed for the skaters, who reach emotional peaks with each competition, to prepare properly for a major championship.

On Monday Barber said he was just drained as a result of the Canadians.

He said he was going to relax for a week before resuming training.



— Herald photo by Drew Clarke

Kris Barber and Kelly Johnson, seen above during competition in Thunder Bay, held last week, the two will have a fairly long rest before travelling to the World Championships in West Germany.

Kevin Parker places second

By SUE LEHN

Kevin Parker placed second in the Canadian figure skating championships, held in Thunder Bay last week.

Parker was leading the junior mens division after the figures and short program, but a spectacular performance by Brian Orser in the free skating pushed Orser ahead of Parker to win the championship.

"I didn't really skate my best. I just tried too hard. I

knew I could do it, but when I went out on the ice, I tried too hard and couldn't do it the way I wanted to," he said.

Parker feels that Orser had a slight advantage in coming from behind. "When you're in the lead you have to constantly worry about staying there, you just can't let up," according to Parker.

UPSET AT FIRST

"I was upset at first because I didn't win," said

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