



THE ICE DREAMERS, Georgetown Figure Skating Club Novice team which will be competing in this weekend's Precision Skating Teams competition at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. Front row, left to right, Kristy Johnson, Yvonne Moore, Amy Sykes, Krysten McBride, Susan Gilpen, Cathryn Valers,

Amy Longworth and Angela Lee. Back row, left to right, coach Gale Verhaegan, Lesley Watson, Peter Johnson, Amber Lyons, Jessica Hepburn, Danyelle Orton, Carrie Crocker, Louise Hatton, Linda Lacroix, Christine Dawson and Rachael Baker. (Photo by King Photography)

Ontario championships

Precision skaters compete

By KAREN SYKES
Herald Special

The Georgetown Figure Skating Club and the Central Ontario Section of the Canadian Figure Skating Association will co-host a Provincial Invitational Precision Competition, Friday and Saturday at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Precision Skating has been likened to synchronized swimming and although the warmth of a pool and the chill of the arena differ, the

skill in presenting a fluid well-choreographed routine, combining originality and technical skills is present in both these sports.

Precision Skating is skating in unison to music. Teams are judged on composition (originality, difficulty, variety of elements) and presentation.

Routines are designed to include all skaters regardless of their individual talents. Although it is hard work, most would agree it's a

lot of fun.

Precision Skating is based on basic figure skating moves, and it allows the recreational skaters who may not compete (individually) the opportunity to compete.

Georgetown Figure Skating Club is proud to have three teams this year.

Juveniles are 12 and under, Novice 15 and under and Juniors are under 21 years of age.

The Juvenile team is coached by Peggy Ward. Peggy has skated with the Ice Follies Walt Disney Show and appeared last September on the Hollywood Ice Revue CBS-TV special produced by Dick Clark.

Peggy also coaches Precision Skating for the Oakville Club and has been very successful with her teams. Georgetown Juveniles placed first in their flight and fourth overall in Mount Forest Competition this year.

The Novice and Junior teams are coached by Gale Verhaegan.

Gale is well known to the Georgetown Club as a former skater and coach. She has returned this year, coaching two teams after a 10-year retirement from figure skating.

Although skating has changed greatly in the past few years, Gale's knowledge and love for the sport hasn't. Both teams, coached by Gale, placed third in their flights winning bronze medals in the Mount Forest Competition this year.

The competition being held in Georgetown this weekend is actually two competitions. The Ontario Juvenile Championship is being held for the first time ever this year. There will be 12 teams competing for the title of Ontario Champs.

These teams have competed and placed in their individual sections.

There will be teams coming from as far away as North Bay, Ottawa and Windsor and as near as Brampton and Toronto.

These teams will compete Friday evening from 7:30 - 9 p.m. Six of the 12 teams will compete Saturday in the finals following the welcoming ceremonies at 1:15 p.m. which are expected to attract local and regional dignitaries.

The Juvenile Novice Invitational will also be held Saturday with 21 teams from all over Ontario competing for a place in the Gold or Silver finals.

The Georgetown teams will be competing in the Invitational on Saturday.

The Novice team will compete at 10:20 a.m., and the Juvenile team will compete at 12:45 p.m. Come out and cheer on the home-town team. Join in the fun of this exciting sport. Show us the discipline and dedication of today's youth.

Figure skaters earn respect

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

It is expected that close to 30 teams, involving approximately 500 skaters will invade the environs of Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena Friday and Saturday for the Provincial Invitational Precision Team skating competition, co-hosted by the Georgetown Figure Skating Club and the Central Ontario Section of the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

As noted by Karen Sykes, in her Herald Special column, Precision Team skating is indeed a formidable challenge for the young skaters, requiring them to display both technical skating skills and originality in a team-oriented figure skating forum. No mean feat when all the elements are considered.

Skaters are judged on composition (originality and degree of difficulty of the routines in a variety of elements) and presentation.

As Karen Sykes points out, Precision Team skating is based on basic figure skating moves and requires all team members to be synchronized in both movement and fluidity.

All too often, figure skaters are dismissed by the so-called athletic intelligentsia as bits of fluff in dainty outfits parading their routines in front of their own peers who wouldn't know an athlete if they skated over one.

I beg to differ.

I have watched in awe the magnificence of Tollar Cranston on ice, the athleticism of Debbie Thomas of the United States and Midori Ito of Japan. The almost mystical performances of East Germany's Katherina Witt and the go-for-broke performances of Canada's reigning world champion, Kurt Browning.

Jill Trenary of the United States, finally scaled the heights to capture the World female figure skating crown at the World Figure Skating Championships held recently in Halifax, and her intestinal fortitude, not to mention physical and personal problems

she suffered over the past few years, speak volumes in terms of her athleticism and competitive fire.

Canada's Brian Orser, also went through travails in his quest for global supremacy, but eventually conquered all and reigned atop the world.

Simply put, figure skaters are athletes in every sense of the word and should be accepted as such.

The Precision Team skating competition to be staged at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena Friday and Saturday has also attracted a number of top ranked judges from all sectors of the Ontario section of the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

Judges will be on hand from the Central Ontario Section, the Western Ontario Section, the East Ontario Section and the Northern Ontario Section.

The judges include, from the Central Ontario Section: Donald Abbot, Sylvia Carson, Kim Fowler, Debbie MacDonald, Bernice Norris, Jack Shannon, Pat Bannon, Allen Crooks, Erryle George, Laura McLellan and Ann Whittington.

From the Western Ontario Section, Fran Ewing.

From the Eastern Ontario Section, Lynn Hudson and Fran Kift.

From the Northern Ontario Section, Melody Sher, Elizabeth Rutchinski and Joanne Shaw.

A number of these judges will be judging in the Canadian Precision Skating Team championship scheduled for April 5-7 in Kitchener.

The actual competition starts Friday, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, with the Juvenile Championship Flight "A" teams.

Official welcoming ceremonies are scheduled for 1:15 p.m. Saturday afternoon at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, where it is expected that local and regional dignitaries will take part in the festivities.

Final presentations take place at 6:45 p.m. Saturday evening at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Skating schedule

ONTARIO JUVENILE PRECISION CHAMPIONSHIP
JUVENILE/NOVICE PRECISION INVITATIONAL
FRIDAY, MARCH 30

5:00 - 7:15 p.m.	Official Practices
7:15 p.m.	FLOOD
7:30 p.m.	Juvenile Championship Flight A
8:10 p.m.	FLOOD
8:25 p.m.	Juvenile Championship Flight B

The draw for the Championship final will be done immediately following Flight B.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Practices
9:15 a.m.	FLOOD
9:30 a.m.	Novice Flight A
10:05 a.m.	FLOOD
10:20 a.m.	Novice Flight B
10:55 a.m.	FLOOD
11:10 a.m.	Juvenile Flight A
11:45 a.m.	FLOOD
12:00 noon	Juvenile Flight B
12:30 p.m.	FLOOD
12:45 p.m.	Juvenile Flight C
1:15 p.m.	WELCOMING CEREMONIES
1:35 p.m.	FLOOD
1:50 p.m.	Ontario Juvenile Championship Final
2:35 p.m.	FLOOD
2:50 p.m.	Novice Silver Final
3:30 p.m.	FLOOD
3:45 p.m.	Juvenile Silver Final
4:50 p.m.	FLOOD
5:05 p.m.	Juvenile Gold Final
5:45 p.m.	FLOOD
6:00 p.m.	Novice Gold Final
6:45 p.m.	PRESENTATIONS

Bodanis Bruins can't be caged

Georgetown Major Peewee "AA" Bodanis Bruins qualified for the Tri-County final by defeating Chinguacousy by a score of 3-1 March 20 at Alcott Arena.

The victory ran their Tri-County round-robin record to a perfect 6-0. Bodanis Bruins opposition for the Tri-County title is expected to be either Stoney Creek or Burlington.

Brent Wilkijson, Gavin Glaser and Doug Sheppard scored for the Major Peewees in the rather scambly contest.

Sheppard and Blaine McCauley each earned an assist for Georgetown. John Waller played a very strong game in the Bodanis Bruins net.

Witt and Boitano are all heart

TORONTO-Katarina Witt and Brian Boitano, the reigning Olympic Gold medalists for figure skating from East Germany and the United States, will star in a dramatic and new ice show called Katarina Witt and Brian Boitano Skating for the benefit of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

To be held on Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m. at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens, this show marks the first time Witt and Boitano will skate together as a couple in Toronto. Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, March 21 and are available through Ticketmaster at (416) 872-1111.

The contemporary ice revue, featuring a global cast of 14 Olympic and World champion skaters, is being directed by Toronto resident and Olympic, television and film choreographer, Sandra Bezic.

"Katarina Witt and Brian Boitano Skating will be different from what is usually associated with ice skating spectacles," says Bezic. She adds, "In place of glitz will be style. Instead of vast choruses there will be a hand-picked contingent of some of the world's finest skaters performing to pop, Broadway and classical music. The show will be on skating and it will encompass a variety of styles, from athletic and jazz to

funk and ballet." The show will feature four original production numbers as well as numerous pairs and solo performances.

The company includes: Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev, Rosalynn Sumners, Alexander Fadeev, Paul Martini and Barbara Underhill, Tracy Wilson and Robert McCall, Caryn Kadavy, Vladimir Kotin, Gary Beacom and Yvonne Gomez. The skaters hail from the Soviet Union, Canada, Spain and the United States.

"We're very excited about sponsoring a show of this calibre," says Douglas Sheppard, Volunteer President of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Adds Sheppard, "The proceeds from the event will go a long way to fund important research and education in an effort to fight Canada's No. 1 killer, heart disease and stroke." The Foundation funds 67 per cent of all cardiovascular research in the province.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario is a registered not-for-profit organization. Its mandate is to provide funds for research and education to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke. The provincial foundation's fundraising and education programs are delivered by volunteers in 81 chapters.