

Orser 'didn't get marks'

Brian Orser is virtually out of the running for the Skate Canada mens' figure skating title after a fifth-place finish in the figures competition yesterday in Kitchener.

The Penetanguishene native's sister, Mary Kate, said yesterday that it "would be almost impossible for him to win, but he could squeeze in second."

Brian Boitano of the U.S. won the figures event. The competition continues today tonight with the short program and tomorrow with the long program.

Both will be televised on the CTV network.

FIFTH IN FIGURES MAY DENY HIM TITLE

Last year at Skate Canada the 20-year-old Orser finished second overall to Norbert Schramm of West Germany. Schramm decided to forego this year's competition.

Skate Canada is Orser's second international test this season. The defending Canadian mens' senior figure skating champ successfully defended his title in St. Ivel's

England, earlier this year.

Mary Kate, who talked with Brian shortly after the figures results were in, said he told her that he "thought he did better than in England" in the figures, but he "just didn't get great marks."

In England, Orser was ranked second in figures.

"He didn't seem as disappointed as I

thought he'd be, though," said Mary Kate. "He was looking forward to the rest of the competition and said, 'I'll just go out and do the best I can do.' He was pretty gung-ho about it."

Orser was given the green light for the Skate Canada competition by Canadian figure skating officials after rival Brian Pockar, the officials' first choice as

Canadian representative, announced he was turning pro at the beginning of the season.

Last year, Orser defeated Pockar for the Canadian title for the second year in a row, but Pockar turned it around at the World Championships in Copenhagen, earning a bronze medal to Orser's fifth-place finish.

Orser should have little trouble winning

the Canadian title again this year for the third straight time, and Canadian officials have cleared the way for his training for the Worlds early next year in Finland.

There was some concern in the past few weeks about a stress fracture in Orser's lower leg, but a Toronto sports doctor recently examined the skater and gave him a clean bill of health.

Sports report

Garry Forbes
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The party's over

As far as making any playoff advances, it hasn't been a successful season for either the Senior football teams from either Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School or Midland Secondary School. But everybody had their highlights, memories, and a lot of fun. ESPSS won the first two games of the schedule before losing the next

four, winding things up Wednesday at Orillia District Collegiate Vocational Institute where they were thrown for the playoff loss. They finished in fifth place in the six-team league, ahead of only MSS. The Marauders finished off their season in the same fashion they started it: winless. They ran up against the always-tough Park Street Collegiate squad

Tuesday in Orillia and suffered a 42-11 loss. It wasn't as bad as it sounded, though, reported coach Randy Ritchie: his injury-depleted crew, rife with rookies, were leading at one point in the second quarter and ran up 233 yards of total offense to Park's 277. QB John Friesen was 11 for 15 for 152 yards, a Grade 9 player, Carl Rudat, caught a 20-yard touch-

down pass, and another first-year student, Kevin Beausoleil, was good for two QB sacks from his corner linebacker position. In other words, said Ritchie, "they had a good time." The ESPSS Juniors also wound up their season this week with a 50-21 loss to the awesome Barrie Central Redskins.

A sign former Terrier

The Midland Athletics will have a new face in the lineup tonight when they travel to meet Port Elgin to meet the Sunocos for the first time this OHA Major Intermediate A Hockey League campaign.

A's manager Shawn Stewart announced Wednesday that the club has signed Doug Taylor, a 23-year-old forward formerly with the now-defunct Orillia Terriers.

Taylor will be in the lineup again Tuesday when the A's travel to Durham for

a re-match with the new entry Huskies (the A's beat them handily in their first meeting), and will help relieve the pressure caused by the absence of injured veterans Wayne King, Wayne Dixon and Tony Stone.

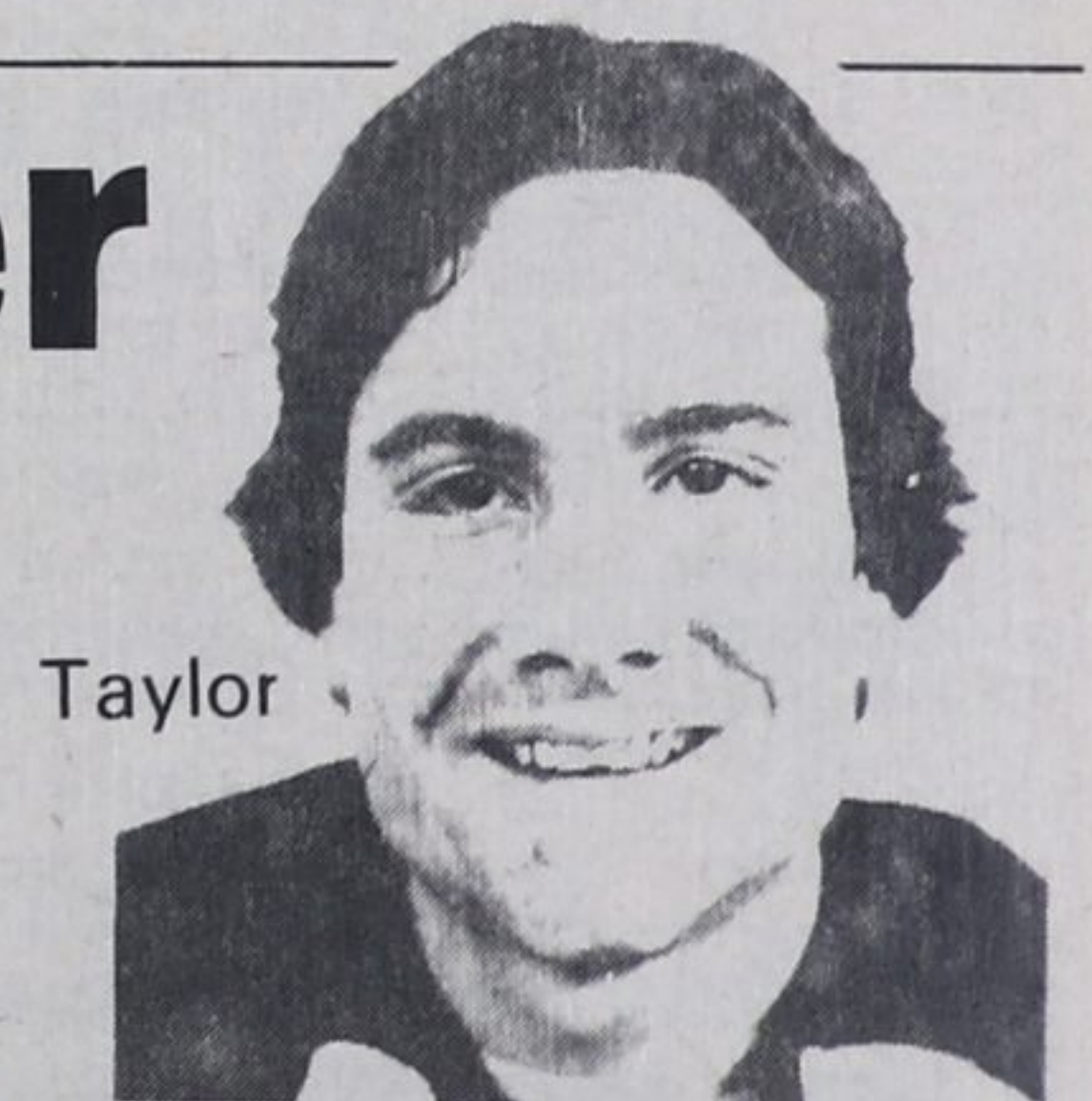
The A's are currently in third spot in the six-team loop, eight points back of the defending champion Georgetown Raiders (who suffered their first season loss at the hands of the A's last Friday), six back of the Collingwood Shipbuilders, and two points

ahead of the Huskies and the Barrie Flyers (who clobbered the A's on Sunday).

Taylor played 36 games with the Terriers last season in which he scored 16 goals -- five of them on the power play -- and 19 assists. He was fourth on the team's scoring list.

The right-shooter played his minor hockey and Junior hockey in Owen Sound before joining the Terriers for two seasons.

The A's next home appearance is slated for next Friday against the Sunocos.



Taylor

MSS gals won't back down

The competition among the top Senior girls' high school basketball teams in the province is heating up as the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships loom and last weekend the Midland Secondary School gals proved once again that they're going to be a major threat when the field approaches the wire.

The MSS ladies brought home a bronze medal from last weekend's Seneca Scout Invitational tournament after leaving two opponents smouldering in their wake and the other -- the top-ranked team in Ontario -- with an awful scare.

MSS opened the tournament with a 61-33 clobbering of West Toronto Collegiate (Carolyn Meech led with 17 points) and wound things up with a bronze-medal 58-38 spattering of Agincourt with Tracey Vent leading the offensive attack.

Far more interesting than those two mismatches, though, was the team's semi-final collision with St. Patrick's Secondary School from Sarnia.

Sarnia, ranked tops in the province after defeating long-time OFSAA champs Sudbury Secondary School twice this season, had to wrest themselves from a tie with MSS with three minutes to go to win it 41-37.

Kelly Edwards scored 14 points to lead the Midland charge. Major obstacles on the Sarnia club came in the form of six-foot-four, 17-year-old Susan Forsyth, a member of the National Junior team.

MSS coach Brigg Harvey said the last-minute wrangle with Sarnia "really made us look good."

In the championship, Forsyth and crew managed to slip past Sudbury once again, this time by a 40-39 margin.

MSS' performances this year have secured them in the top five. Sudbury is still probably granted the second ranking, but it's a toss-up

for third between MSS, Hamilton's Bishop Ryan (former OFSAA champion) and Welland's Notre Dame.

"Every weekend's like OFSAA," said Harvey, who will lead his charges into another awesome test this weekend at McMaster University in Hamilton. All the big guns will be there again.

The Simcoe County zone championships will be settled by Nov. 27, the Georgian Bay Secondary Schools Athletic Association title will be settled Dec. 3.

MSS is expected to defend its title easily and the OFSAA crown will be up for grabs Dec. 9.