

Orser captures fourth figure skating title

by RANDY BUTINEAU

Penetanguishene native, Brian Orser captured his fourth Canadian Men's Senior Figure Skating title at the Canadian National Championships in Regina, last weekend.

Orser received marks of 5.7 and 5.8 for technical merit and 5.7 and 5.9 for artistic impression, despite falling on his triple Lutz and triple-flip jumps. "I took the triple-flip for granted," Orser said Tuesday. "It's something that can't be explained," he added.

Orser won the Novice title in 1977, the Junior championship in 1979 and has been crowned Canada's best Senior Men's Figure Skater four years in a row.

Last year, Orser finished third in the World Championships, a ranking he currently holds in the world today.

Orser is the first to admit that his performance at the Nationals wasn't his best. "In previous

years, I always gave my best performances at the Nationals. This year, I'm trying to save my best performance for the Olympics and the World Championships," Orser commented.

The Canadian Men's Champion is devoting his next 3½ weeks for training and going over his program.

"I'll train here until the end of the month and then spend a week in West Germany and train with the rest of the Olympic team, before we go to Sarajevo," he said.

"Finishing first at the Olympics is definitely not out of the question, however, if I skated my best and finished second or third, I would be pleased."

Orser said that his goal is to skate his best, as opposed to beating his rivals in the competition.

"I would like to thank the community for their support and I will do my best at the Olympics," Orser said.



Olympic hopeful's goal is sidelined Angela Schmidt clobbered by COA decision this week



by RANDY BUTINEAU

Our area was shocked late Monday by the news that the Canadian Olympic Association has released three of the world's most promising cross-country skiers, one of whom is Angela Schmidt.

The COA ruling is based on past per-

formances in World Cup competitions and performance in the Olympics. The ruling states that the athlete is given reasonable probability to finish in the top 16 places in Olympic and International competitions.

Judith Hunter-Kilbourne, executive director of the Canadian Ski Council said she has the feeling that the COA decision hasn't been

finalized.

"I definitely feel that she (Angela) should be given a chance to go to the Olympics," Kilbourne said yesterday.

"She has trained so hard the last few years that she should be on the Canadian team," Kilbourne added.

Canadian Cross-country Ski Association Program Director Ian Rawes said, the COA's decision is final, however, he remains optimistic that the COA may reconsider its decision.

"I made a presentation to the Selection Review Committee on Saturday, in an attempt to persuade the COA that their decision should be reconsidered," Rawes said.

"Angela has progressed so much over the last few years, that it is crucial for her to be at this year's

Winter Olympics," Rawes added.

"The 1988 Winter Olympics are being held in Calgary, so we must have a good representation at this year's Olympics. Angela just turned 24, while the other members of the team are nearing the age of 30.

"Angela might be around for the 1988 Olympics, while the other members may not," Rawes commented.

"Angela has been made aware of the decision and she has expressed her disappointment, however, she continues to train and is currently in Sweden for five weeks," Rawes said.

The CCSA Program Director also said the process is a long and complicated one, however, he will continue his effort, in order to aid the sport.



Canadian champion!

Brian Orser did it again, winning his fourth consecutive Canadian Senior Men's Figure Skating title in Regina, last weekend. Orser had a couple of problems in his program, however, he regrouped and showed why he is one of the world's top figure skaters. Well done Brian.

ESPSS b-ballers are consolation champs

Midland Marauders Senior Boys' Basketball Tournament was held Saturday at MSS.

One local team did manage to take home some silverware. ESPSS Senior Boys' Basketball Team won the consolation championship, defeating Thornlea 62-53 to capture the consolation crown.

On the championship side of the coin, Barrie North were the champs, up-ending Huntsville 58-27 to win the title.

Both MSS and ESPSS lost their opening round games in the tournament. MSS lost to Huntsville 40-38 and ESPSS were defeated by Stayner 44-21. The rivals meet each other in the consolation round.

A large crowd assembled to watch the cross-town schools clash to see who would advance to the consolation championship.

ESPSS proved to be too strong on this day as they outscored MSS 45-

34. With the victory, ESPSS moved to the consolation championship game against Thornlea, where they took home the trophy.

Pat Dion led all ESPSS shooters on the day netting 38 points. Dion was also named the MVP in the consolation final.

Other Penetang high scorers were Dave Bayfield with 26 points, Dennis Brunelle notched 20 points and Paul Balabuck had 16 points.

Bruce Vessair ranks as top snocross racer

Bruce Vessair, 25, of Honey Harbour, Ont., is the leading independent snowmobile racer on the international circuit this year.

Coming off a very successful 1982-83 season, Vessair is eyeing the winner's circle of even more competitions this year thanks to the hot new Ski-Doo Twin Track sled.

In addition to the sprint oval track competition, Vessair is taking to the snocross and pro stock circuits onboard the Formula MX Pro Stocker racing snowmobile from Ski-Doo.

This season Bruce will be the solo racer on the Vessair Racing Team. His previous teammate, brother Gary, joined star snowmobile competitor

Brad Hulings on the Ski-Doo Snowmobile Racing Team to replace Jacques Villeneuve. Villeneuve has signed to drive Indy-type cars.

Bruce finished in fourth place overall, right behind his brother, with a consistent record of high place finishes and reliable performance.

This is the sixth snowmobile racing season for Bruce. He started his competitive career at local hometown races and graduated to more prestigious events at regional, national and international levels.

In the off season, Bruce is shop manager at a marina owned by brother Gary in their hometown of Honey Harbour Ont. Bruce is married.