

She's back!

by
ARNOLD BURGHER
Angela Schmidt Foster is on the comeback trail.

The Internationally rated cross country skier took the 1985 season off after eight years as a member of the national team.

Schmidt-Foster plied her trade on the international circuit for five gruelling years before she decided that enough was enough, and it was time to give the mind and body a well deserved rest.

Now that she's rested, Angela is aiming for the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. She'll join the national team in Labrador City later this month for training to earn her way back on the team. There is 15 centimeters of snow on the ground there now, so trial races are slated for early December. The first World Cup race of the season is scheduled

for Labrador City on Dec. 7, with the second World Cup event also on this side of the water, in Giant's Ridge Minnesota. Then it's off to Europe for the balance of the World Cup schedule.

In an interview in the kitchen of the comfortable home she makes with husband Don Foster, in the idyllic setting of the Mountainview Ski Hills, Angela Schmidt-Foster gave no indication of whether she would make the team. It was very obvious that there was no question. All it takes is talent, confidence, and hard work. She's got the first two locked up, and she's no stranger to hard work, - she'll be there for sure.

In between carving turkey and tending to her year old niece, Schmidt-Foster explained that she'll return home for Christmas, then to

France for the third leg of the World Cup, which will also take her to East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Angela will compete in the Senior Canadian Championships at Lac St. Jean, Quebec, January 23-28 before going to Germany to compete at Obertsdorf which is the site of the 1987 World Championship. Then it's on to Leningrad, Finland, Sweden, and Norway and the end of the World Cup for 1985-86 around March 20. Her options will then be open. There will be a choice of attending training camps in Austria or coming home to Labrador or Ottawa. Angela feels she likely will be ready to return home by that time, although the decision will likely be made later.

Angela Schmidt-Foster, who will turn 26 in January, starred at

track and field in high school. One of her coaches suggested to her that she consider taking up cross country skiing. After heeding his advice, she paid a visit to Don Foster that helped lead her to the Junior Championship three years running, 1977 through 1979. In 1980 she was second overall in the Canadian Championships as a senior. She was named the top North American Woman at the World Cup in 1982.

Angela is in a relative difficult position, but it isn't really unique to Canadian amateur athletes. Financing is always a problem on the amateur level in Canada. There just isn't enough funds available from the sports bodies and the government, therefore private donations are usually sought to help offset the costs of training and

participating in the various events.

It is conservatively estimated that the cost per skier on the national team would exceed \$20,000 for the season. Schmidt-Foster is not selling pencils on the streetcorner yet, but it is obvious she will need donations and assistance to help her seek her goal.

Angela took part in a fund raising ski seminar Saturday at the North York Community Center sponsored by the Canadian Master's Cross Country Ski Association. Demonstrations by Kjell Kratz, who is a well-known coach of the famous Swedish World Loppett team were featured. Donations can be made through the Canadian Masters Cross Country Ski Association (Ontario Division), 205 Grendier Road, Toronto, M6R 1R9, or by contacting Don or Angela at the Mountainview Ski Hills in Midland.

Angela is back, and the personable young and very talented lady will bring joy and admiration to all our hearts once again as she has done so many times before.



She's off and skiing

Midland's Angela Schmidt prepares for comeback that she feels will lead her to the Canadian National Ski Team and top World Championship honors for the 1985-86 season. Angela took last year off from international competition for a rest and also to compete locally.

Burgher Bits

by Arnold Burgher

And they said it couldn't happen. But Stan, Ralph, Bert, Dave, and Pete made it happen. Because they're believers. After playing a league game with only 11 boys, Penetang realized that they wouldn't be able to continue playing at the Midget level without more players.

However, there weren't anymore available in Penetang, so Stan LeClair, coach of the Penetang Midgets, and Bert Dubeau, team manager, talked with the President of Penetang Minor Hockey, Dave Brooks to find a solution. The first idea was to use Bantams, but that idea was scrapped.

Then, "let's go Juvenile", was the rallying cry. That thought bit the dust. But then Penetang got into a

discussion with Midland's Midget and Bantam Director Pete Deacon. Soon M.M.H.A. President, Ralph Ironside was brought into the discussions and basically, the rest is history. The offspring of these gentlemen is called the S. Charlebois Midland Midget B team. They play and practice out of Penetang with Penetang uniforms and participate in the Georgian Bay Minor Hockey League plaett original schedule allotted to Penetang. All this is with the blessing of the G.B.M.H.L. and the O.M.H.A. Midland had seven boys of Midget age who weren't picked for the A team and they wanted to play hockey. There was no houseleague for them to go into, neither was there in Penetang. That's when the

'Penetang-Midland Connection' came along and gave 18 boys a chance to play hockey for another year.

Me thinks it is unfortunate in a way, but this appears to be the first time Penetang and Midland have co-operated on a hockey team, at least in recent memory. Midland President, Ralph Ironside stated that "keeping the boys on the ice was the top priority." Coach Stan LeClair, echoed Ironside's comment and added, "win or lose, we're going to have a lot of fun at it."

LeClair offered that the idea of co-operative effort was always in the back of many people's minds throughout the years. Discussions always took place in the various arenas from time to time, but never with the right people. This time the proper channels were taken and in three short weeks a dream became a reality.

LeClair is very pleased with the enthusiasm the players are showing. "The dressing room's just great," reported LeClair, and went on to say that the cohesion and camaraderie were very evident on the team. "Deep down, this rag tag bunch may feel they have something to prove," LeClair suggested.

LeClair referred to the situation as a "stepping stone." When asked if the two towns could field a Juvenile team in the future, his one word comment was simply, "terrific". Ironside was a little more conservative by mentioning that it was something to think about.

Stan LeClair, Ralph Ironside, Dave Brooks, Bert Dubeau, Peter Deacon. Stand up guys and take a bow. You deserve a lot of credit. You kept 18 boys on the ice. Good luck. Hey, you guys wouldn't want to tackle the boundary discussions, would you?

Belcourts score six in 13-3 victory

Midland Stoneleigh Centennials motored to Gravenhurst Sunday afternoon for their eighth contest of the season, winning in fine fashion 12-3.

Kevin Belcourt was outstanding, scoring four times and adding one assist for a five point night.

Daryl Belcourt chipped in with a pair of goals and added four assists. Al Whidden recorded four points including a pair of markers. Shawn Davy scored once but could have had a few more, and also added a pair of assists. Dan Clement made his one goal count as he tallied when they

were two men short. Archie Meridis and Darby Toutent notched the other Midland counters.

The line of David Bressette, Archie Meridis, and Pat Marchand were a dominant force in the game as they controlled the play when they were on the ice.

The Centennial power play seemed to work well as they were successful on five of the seven opportunities.

With a quarter of the schedule being completed, Midland's record stands at six wins and two losses, which puts them ahead of last year's pace.

Nov. 15 Annual tea and Christmas bazaar sponsored by Women's Association of Knox Presbyterian Church, Hugel Avenue, Midland, auditorium, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Specialty will be bread, rolls, and home

made shortbreads, gift boxed.

Bazaar and tea of Midland Senior Citizens Club in Senior Citizens building, First Street and Hugel Avenue, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bake table, craft table, white elephant table.

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