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MOONLIGHT MADNESS

Thunder Country Regional Test Days

Figure skaters to be tested

by Rob Cotton
The News

Young figure skaters will be judged for figures, free skate and dance at Thunder Country Regional Test Days in Terrace Bay this weekend.

"The reason we went to regional tests is because there are not as many qualified judges as there used to be," said Monica Baldwin, spokesperson for Terrace Bay Figure Skating Club.

There is one judge of that standard in the region, Betty Bouchard of Terrace Bay, but

three judges are needed for the tests, she explained.

"In order to get a high test judge like Betty Bouchard you have to go out of the Thunder Country Region."

The Terrace Bay Figure Skating Club, which is hosting the weekend tests, is flying in two more judges from Toronto.

These are Triple Gold Judges," Baldwin said, "That is as high as you can in judging."

The judges volunteer their time and expertise and the figure skat-

ing clubs pay for the airfare, motel, meals and other transportation.

Figure skaters start at the Preliminary level, work through the Junior Bronze, Senior Bronze, Junior Silver, Senior Silver up to the Gold.

Each level has three to four dances with varying degrees of difficulty, explained Baldwin.

"There is also the free skate where the skaters do their jumps and spins," she said.

The figure in figure skating deals with defining certain figures on the ice with the blade of the skate.

Figures start at the preliminary figure and go right up to the eighth, figure making nine figures altogether

"In figures the tracing has to be almost right on," Baldwin said.

"They are allowed to do it three times and it each figure should be traced, one right on top of the other, so it looks like one line on the ice as opposed to three lines close together."

There are seven girls, coached by Gigi Dequanne, in the test stream of the Terrace Bay Figure Skating Club: Catrina MacKay, 13, Tannis Running, 12, Kari Campbell, 12, Shauna Singleton, 12, Lindsay Miller, 12, Alyson Mannisto, 12, and Mellisa Kenny, 13.

Baldwin said the tests are just like school.

"It's like writing a test, you succeed or need improvement."

Sarah Fry from Marathon, who has tried out for her Canadians, will finish up her Gold dances on Saturday morning.

The Canadians are the last step before the Olympics, Baldwin said.

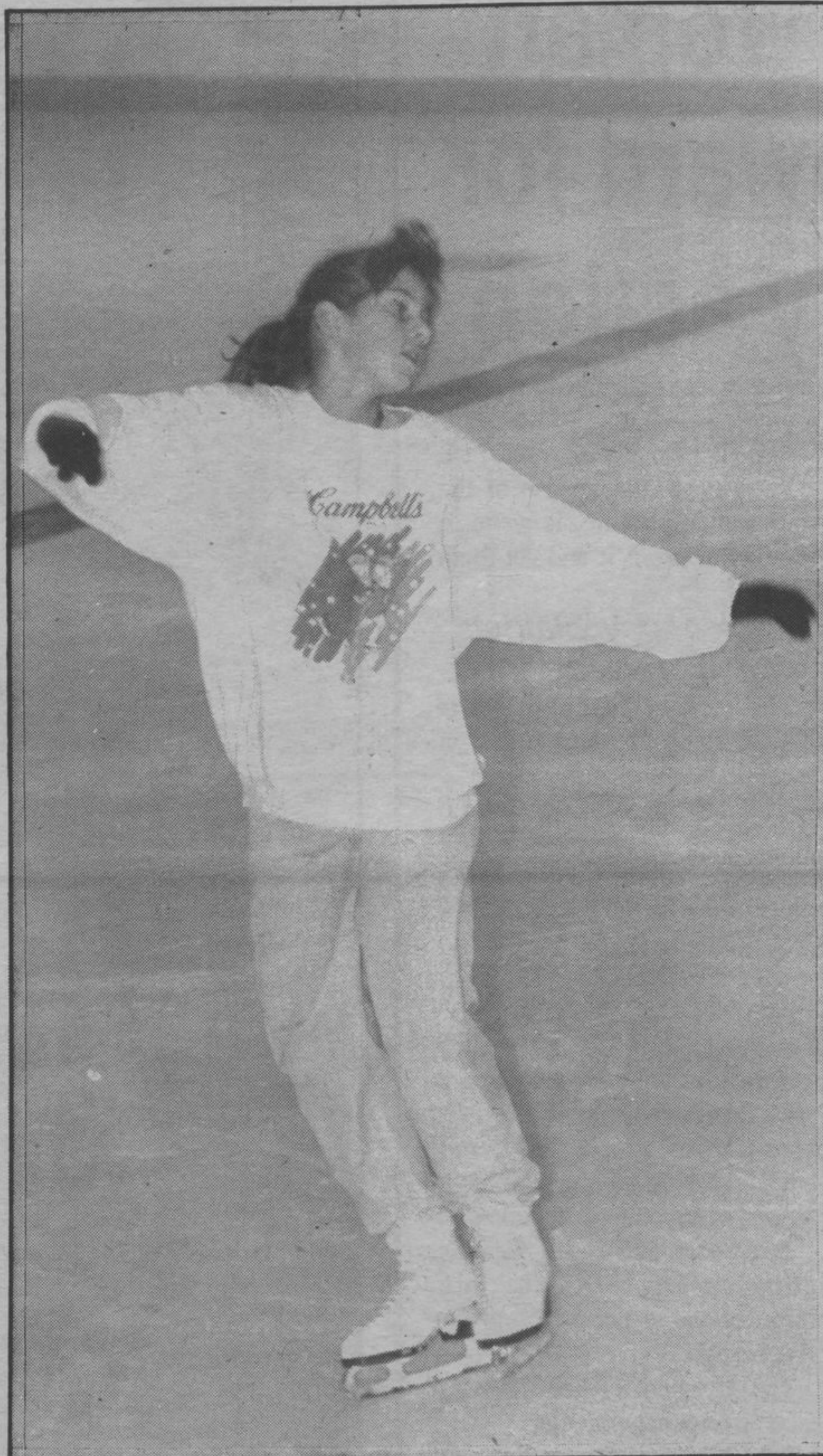
Skaters will be representing the communities of Sioux Lookout, Red Rock, Marathon, Geraldton, Manitouwadge and Terrace Bay.

All the of the clubs encourage the public to come out to the Terrace Bay arena and watch the sating.

Preliminary first and second figures will start at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, the Preliminary to Gold Dance from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Preliminary to Silver Free Skate begins on Saturday at 4.30 p.m.

The third to seventh figures begin early Sunday morning at 8 a.m.



Karl Campbell, a member of the Terrace Bay Figure Skating Club test stream practices for the Thunder Country Regional Test Days to be held at the Terrace Bay Arena this weekend. Skaters from Marathon, Red Rock, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton and Manitouwadge will also be present. Photo by Rob Cotton

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