

# The Tribune

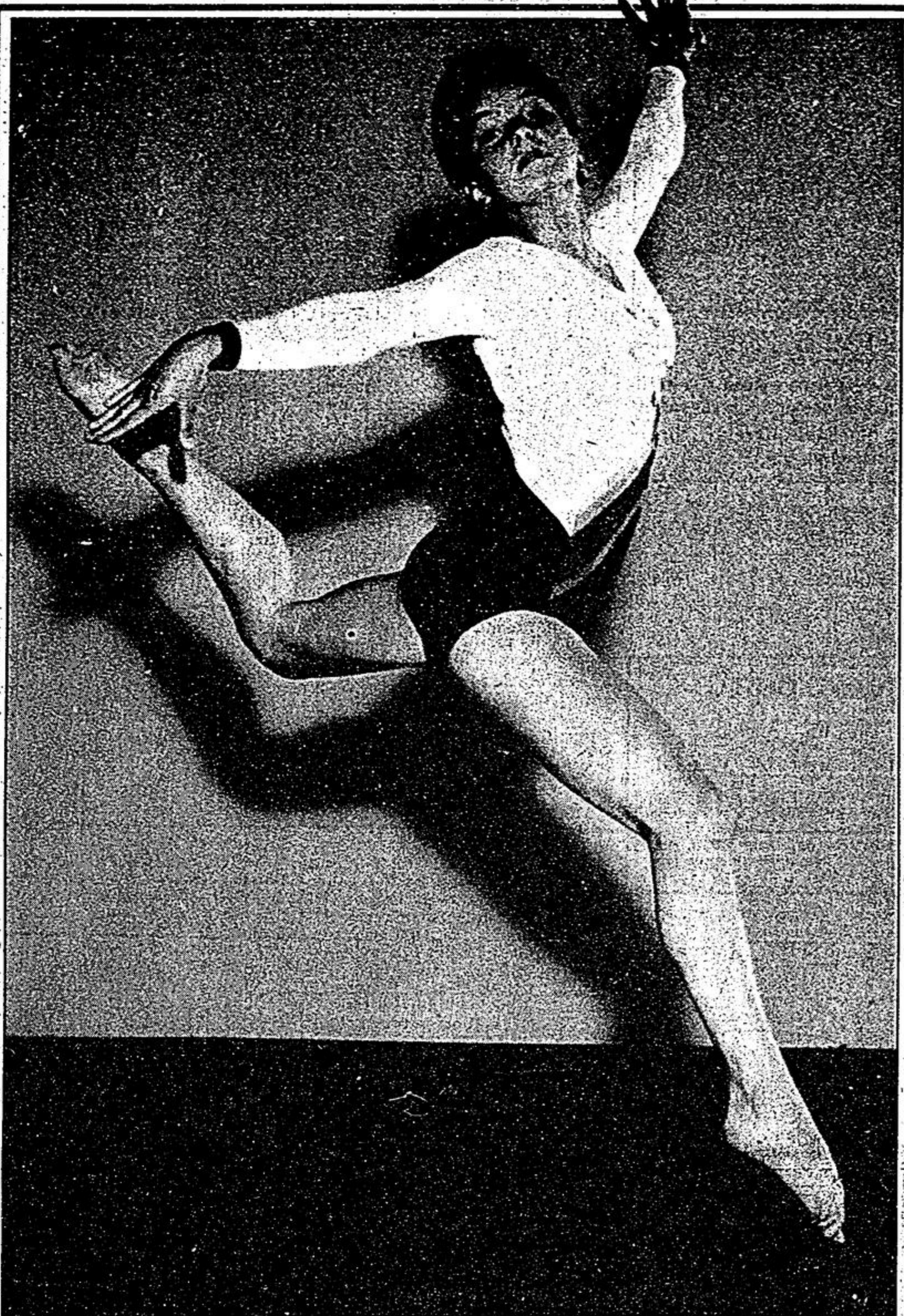
Sports & Classified



Second Section

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, January 22, 1986



## "Tough routines are scary" says Stouffville gymnast

Listening to Stouffville gymnast Tracy Emery describe her double back flip into an empty swimming pool sounds like an episode of *The Fall Guy*. But the compact 15-year-old isn't acting. She's training for upcoming area meets — competitions that could put her in the Provincials (May 10 in Ottawa) if her performance shines.

"I haven't done a double back flip on the floor yet. But I've done them into a pit. It's like a swimming pool with chunks of foam in it," explains Emery, who has been training with the Markham Gymnastics Club for the past five years.

Her recent introduction to

high protein foods with a liberal helping of carbohydrates appears to have paid off. The youngster placed fourth overall in the first qualifying meet for the Provincials at L'Amoureux Collegiate in Scarborough, Jan. 11.

But pasta-power alone isn't enough to vault her into the Ottawa finals. Emery practices 18 hours a week, and intensifies that schedule just prior to a competition. She also coaches primary kids Monday evenings.

At the Metro-East junior B qualifier in Scarborough, she scored an impressive first place finish on the uneven bars, second in the floor exercise, and third on the vault.

To secure the provincial ticket, she must place in the top six at least one more time. Two more meets are slated for Feb. 8 at Seneca College and April 5 in Oshawa.

And like every gymnast — with the possible exception of '76 Olympian and Romanian superstar Nadia Comaneci — Emery has one routine she finds the toughest. "The beam is the toughest...I get frustrated sometimes because there are lots of things to worry about."

That's not unusual, says her coach Lisa Popovich. "The beam is only four inches wide and 120 centimetres off the ground. It makes all the girls nervous."

## Club might shrink warn soccer chiefs

By KELLY CONNELLY  
Sports Editor

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club may be forced to cut some of its teams if more volunteers don't come forward.

Contrary to a newspaper report last week which suggested the club would fold if new executive members weren't found, Stouffville Panther coach and former club president Alfons Rubbens called the story erroneous.

"There's a hell of a difference by saying certain aspects of soccer will disappear (rather than) the club will disappear," charged Rubbens, who is also vice-president of player development for York Region.

### CUT TEAMS

"The club will never fold! But if more people don't help with the administration, the club will get smaller. We might only be able to run two or three competitive teams efficiently next summer."

Over 200 youngsters played houseleague or competitive soccer for one of 18 squads in town last year.

Since the club was formed in March 1976, most of Stouffville's coaches have been forced to moonlight as executive members and team skippers. Because both jobs are time consuming and neither gets the replete attention it deserves, they want out of the paperwork.

"You've got to coach a team, go to all the region and association meetings, and look after all the cards. Nothing gets done properly because you're spread too thin," said Tom Morton, the club's recently resigned president.

Morton spent his first and last year as president this past season, and admitted he only accepted the responsibility because "nobody else wanted to do it".



To aggravate the situation, only a handful of parents attended the club meeting last fall. Although the sidelines were usually packed with relatives eager to yell encouragement to players and criticisms to referees during a game, few are coming forward to take an active role in the executive.

### NO SUPPORT

"The majority of parents don't really care about administration, and the ones that do care are afraid they can't handle the position," fi-

gured Rubbens. "We as coaches don't enjoy running the actual (business side), but we're forced to go to all the meetings and we shouldn't have to."

At present, vacancies that must be filled include president, "A" team executive, "B" team executive, and secretary.

Competitive coaching posts are also up for grabs following the departure of two skippers — Harry Davis (minor mosquitos) and Roy Houston (major mosquitos). Rubbens said the club could do with a few more referees too.

The next executive meeting is Feb. 17 at Latcham Hall. The head count at this open discussion will inevitably serve as a crucial barometer of the town's enthusiasm in the sport.

"Soccer is alive and well," Rubbens challenged, acknowledging Canada's first-ever participation in the World Cup this summer. "But parental input will decide how much soccer there will be in Stouffville."

NOTE: Player registration for the upcoming season will coincide with softball's sign-up date at the new Recreation Complex: Jan. 25 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stouffville's premier soccer team — the Royals — have officially applied to the Region of York to play in the National Soccer League this summer.

## Tiny skiers learn moves at Dagmar Ski Resort

By KELLY CONNELLY  
Sports Editor

Stuffed animals are even bigger than some of the kids at Dagmar Ski Resort — especially the tots in the Club Skiwi program.

The tow rope looks like a crane operator's cable to a youngster of three. The bunny hill definitely looks like Mount Everest. But the wide-eyed stare and the biggest little smile is enough to convince any parent to put their tiny Podoborski in ski school.

"If they can walk, they can ski," says a frank Evangeline Merkle, director of Dagmar's Ski School and creator of Parent and Skiwis.

Merkle has two children of her own and feels putting young ones and their parents in the same ski lesson is long overdue.

The school accepts youngsters between the ages of three and five. However, some come even younger. Unlike kinderski programs offered at other resorts, Dagmar has built a unique creative playground on the snow.

Figurines, pylons, hoops, balls, cones, and even a stationary rope tow with a rubber mat underneath enables the kids to climb the gentle slope easier. Of course, there's always an instructor close by to give them that extra little push.

Merkle stresses Club Skiwi isn't a "daycare centre on skis" or baby-sitting refuge. "This isn't a drop in. This program is designed to positively introduce young children to the sport of skiing."

"We group them according to ability levels and not necessarily

age... We teach them the basic skiing skills, and they progress as far as possible."

Parents can enroll their youngsters in one of two school packages — Parent and Skiwis or Kinderski. Both include eight weekend sessions of one and two-hour duration. However, the first program involves parent and child instruction whereas the latter excludes the older sibling.

The Parent & Skiwis alternative costs a little more, but then it gives parents that extra vital information on assisting children on various

lifts, and ski techniques.

"I used to resent going to an activity with my child and the instructor would tell me to disappear. They didn't want the parent around," recalls the 30-year-old mother.

"I say skiing is a family sport...but many parents don't know this kind of program is available."

Club Skiwi accepts students on a pre-registration basis. Registration is usually in November. Kinderski costs \$75 (\$131 with rentals), and Parent & Skiwis runs \$110. For more information, call Dagmar at 649-2002.



## Clippers don't miss 'Danish Salami' but leaving Denmark was emotional

Open-faced sandwiches, Danish girls, lasting friendships, and New Year's Eve celebrations topped the list of most memorable experiences in Denmark for Stouffville's bantam hockey team.

The Edwards-Murphy Bantam Clippers arrived home from their 2 1/2-week Scandinavian hockey trip on Jan. 11 with lots of stories to tell. But before we get to the cultural tales, there's some hockey news worth mentioning.

Coach Grant Nesbitt and his boys recorded a lofty 8-2 record, and won the Aalborg tournament. The Clippers' only two losses were delivered by host Frederikshavn — a club with players as old as 19.

The Stouffville squad also spent a couple days in Copenhagen and defeated Runstead and Henleu by scores of 5-4 and 8-3 respectively.

Clippers Scott Evans, Billy Payne, Dan Larmer, Kent Smythe, and Nesbitt recall a few unforgettable moments with the Great Danes:

"The food was a lot different. We were always eating the same thing after every game...open-faced sandwiches with one piece of bread and this stuff that looked like Danish salami. They really get into New Year's Eve with the firecrackers and the bars."

### SCOTT EVANS, GOALIE

"In Denmark, they sell a lot of things you can't buy here like firecrackers. There's no drinking age over there either. The people taught me some of their customs, and it was great just to be able to live in a different country. Even though we stayed only four days...it felt worse leaving Copenhagen and our new friends (than leaving Frederikshavn)."

### BILLY PAYNE, DEFENCEMAN

"We stayed out till six in the morning (New Year's Eve). At 3 a.m. we were walking down the street and there were parents making snowmen with their kids. After some of the hockey games, we went over to each other's house and got together. We went to Sweden by boat and it had a casino onboard. Anybody could walk in and play...the coach didn't mind...Everybody was crying when we left (Denmark)."

### DAN LARMER, CENTRE

"The whole trip was memorable for me. The people I stayed with, I miss them a lot...especially my Danish mother. The roads are pretty narrow down there, and the cars aren't as fancy. There are no sports

cars, just little volvos...Every guy on the (Clipper) team had a Danish girl. I plan to go back in a few years."

### KENT SMYTHE, CENTRE

"A few rules are different in hockey. You get a two-minute penalty if you freeze the puck. They use a three and four man system to referee the games. Any offsides that are close, they don't call. (The Danes) are really not anywhere close to us as far as knowledge of the game...but some of those guys were a lot bigger than our guys. They took one stride, and we had to take three. The boys were ready to come home (after 2 1/2 weeks), but leaving was emotional. We got to know the (Frederikshavn) boys, and now we don't know when we'll see them again...Some of my boys told their moms and dads they were gonna trade them in for their Danish parents."

### GRANT NESBITT, COACH

## NEXT WEEK:

Stickwork!

Are local hockey players

too liberal with the lumber?

