

Donald Jackson

Skating champ visits Uxbridge

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

At first, Donald Jackson could have passed for just another spectator at Uxbridge Arena. But it wasn't long before word of his presence began to spread like wildfire through Sunday's large figure skating crowd.

The former world men's champion recently added coaching to his varied repertoire and was acting in that capacity at Uxbridge Figure Skating Club's seventh annual Invitational Competition.

The 45-year-old Scarborough resident is departing his winning skating technique to some young members of the Toronto Cricket, Richmond Hill and Scarborough skating clubs.

Mr. Jackson, famous as the first skater ever to successfully execute a Triple Lutz in international competition, captured the 1962 world title at Prague, Czechoslovakia. He scored a record seven perfect marks en route to that dramatic triumph.

The skater held a firm grasp on the Canadian and North American senior championships from 1959 to '62, while also managing to bring home a bronze medal from the 1960 Squaw Valley Winter Olympics.

Today, the still fit and trim Jackson says his one regret was a decision not to retain his amateur status and go for gold at 1964 Olympic Games.

"I should have stayed in again and tried to become Olympic

champion," he said in an interview Sunday. "Now I'll never know if I could have done it."

Instead, the Oshawa native joined the Ice Follies and "lived out of a suitcase for seven years."

His main advice to top amateurs is, if you have the chance to skate in the Olympics — go for it!

Lack of financial support was his main hurdle back then, but he feels this isn't the case today. Adequate government funding, Mr. Jackson says, is now available to Canada's top-flight figure skaters throughout their competitive careers.

He attended the Uxbridge Invitational as an observer and termed such an event "a learning experience" for everyone involved.

"Consistency is the name of the game," he says of present-day competitive figure skating. And the coach feels that's what young skaters should be striving for.

The former skating champion was impressed with the organizational side of Uxbridge's weekend event and says it's likely some of his students will be entered in the club's eighth annual competition in 1987.



Former world figure skating champion Donald Jackson created quite a stir when he dropped in at Sunday's Invitational Competition at Uxbridge Arena. Here, he signs autographs for host Uxbridge Figure Skating Club members (from left): Sandra Cassie, Luke Austin and Jennifer Cook.

— Chris Shanahan

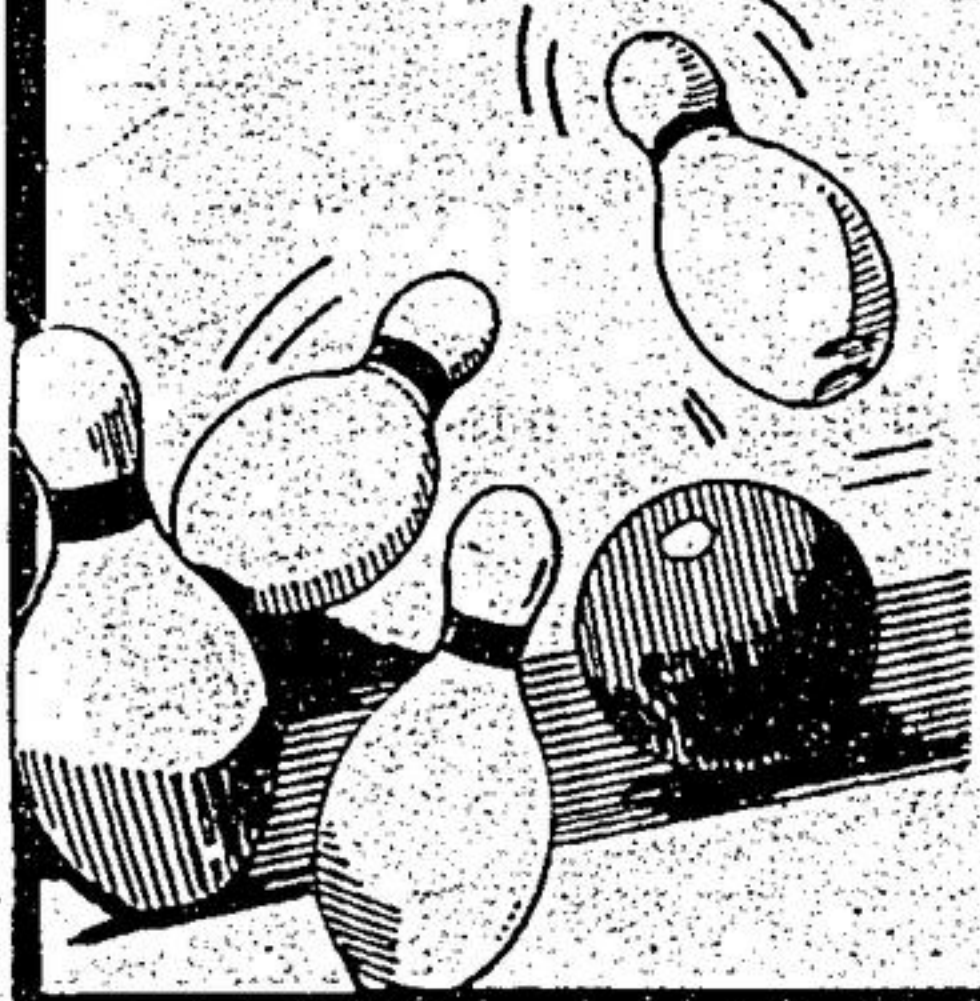
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Minor Atoms come close

Unionville Minor Atom Jets' coach Earl Baker must be scratching his head in bewilderment over the quirky scoring habits exhibited by his troops.

The squad pumped home an impressive 19 goals in just three games at last weekend's Unionville Timex Atom tourney. The problem was, only two of them were against St. Thomas in game one.

As a result, Baker's boys dropped a 3-2 overtime decision by a shootout, and had to be content with taking consolation honors instead of grabbing the main championship.

Still, once they were over that bumpy stretch of ice time the Jets fired up their engines and left their other opponents coughing smoke.

They scorched a hapless Newmarket club 12-0, then were ungracious hosts to their American

counterparts from Wheatfield, New York by posting a 5-2 triumph in the consolation final.

In total, 16 major and minor Atom clubs (including two from New York) took part in the annual event, staged at Crosby Arena under the guidance of Colin Campbell.

In game one, Kevin Bowles (from Darrell Currah) and Brian Crowley (from Andrew Hicks and Chris Gorsline) pushed the contest into overtime after St. Thomas had grabbed a 2-0 first-period lead.

Crowley's four goals and three assists made him the Jets' top point-getter in the Newmarket annihilation. Currah (also with three assists) and Mike Strype netted a pair each.

Sean Mulligan, Shawn Dougherty, Mike Pereira and Jamie Deacon fired singles. Adam Campbell contributed

three assists, and Steve Gilmore earned the shutout.

Bowles and Gorsline supplied two goals apiece in the final. Dougherty's single completed the offence. Assists went to Gorsline, Crowley and Currah (two each), Mulligan, Campbell and Jason Johnson.

Baker's Conlin Motors major Atom counterparts acquitted themselves equally well, reaching the championship before bowing out 3-2 to Wheatfield.

(Therefore proving themselves to be better hosts, though it seems certain that *wasn't* their intention.)

Unionville started out in a goal-scoring mood, coming up with two three-goal periods and one of four in a 9-2 destruction of Ottawa.

Jeff Gayman netted a pair and singles came from Chris Gervais and Brad Griffin as the locals took control 4-0 after the first frame.

Gervais and Hammond (with two) supplied the second-period fireworks, and both completed hat tricks in the final frame.

Assists came from Herrington (with four), Griffin, Mike Mitandis, Dan Cronin and T.J. Pilar.

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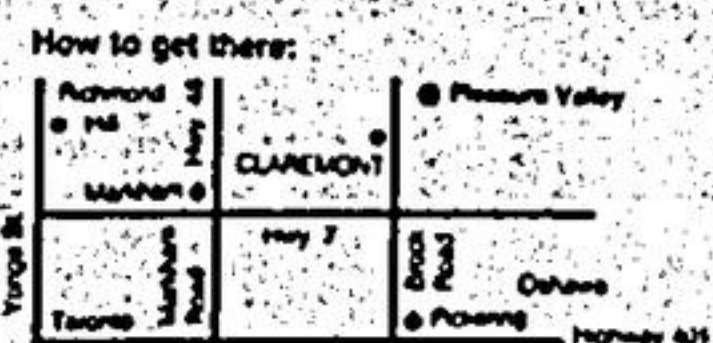
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