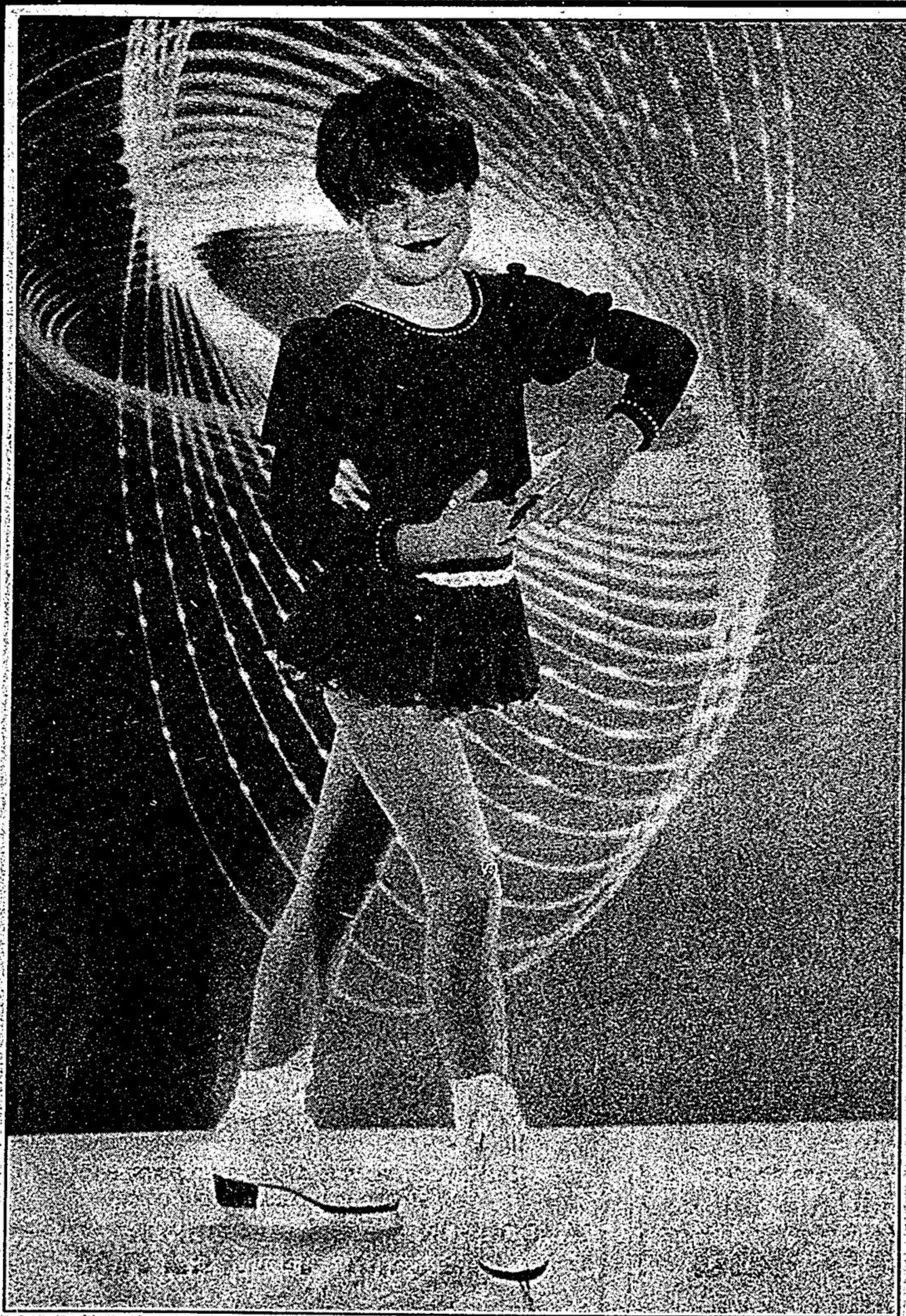


Weekender

Sports

294-2200
640-2100



Liane Seal of the Unionville Skating Club won the Zehr's trophy at the recent competitions in Uxbridge. She won two gold medals in the pre-juvenile class placing first in her flight and first in the finals.

Local figure skaters hit gold in Uxbridge

Week after week the Unionville and Markham Skating Clubs post good results at Ontario competitions. It figures last weekend was no exception.

Figure skaters from the area stormed the Uxbridge competition taking seven medals, including a gold, in the finals.

Liane Seal of Markham won the Zehrs Trophy and two gold medals in the pre-juvenile class. She was first in both the morning flight and the final.

Julie Clevely took 2nd in the morning flight and placed 3rd in the novice ladies final for the Markham club. Unionville's Heather Vaughan skated to 2nd in the novice ladies "B" division final.

The only male medalist, Markham's Matthew Smith, took bronze in the men's novice final. In pre-novice "B" competition, Debbie Graham won the silver medal for the Unionville

club. Carrie Cox, also of Unionville, took the bronze in the senior ladies final.

A silver medal went to Janice Fisher of Unionville in the junior "C" ladies division.

Heather Musgrave, Jennifer Ritter and Michelle Smith, all of the Markham club, took bronze medals in the pre-juvenile morning flights. It takes a 1st or 2nd in the flights to advance to the finals.

Craig off to Ottawa

After a 4th place finish in the junior dance competition at the Eastern Section Divisionals in Barrie, Suzanne Craig, of the Unionville skating club, and her figure skating partner are preparing for the Feb. 2-7 national championships in Ottawa.

Dara Bailey and Bill Downs, both of the Unionville club, finished 7th in Barrie. It was their first appearance at the junior level.

Travelways hold second with 6-2 win

After two periods of seasaw action, the Markham Jr. B Travelways slammed three insurance goals by Kingston to take Tuesday's game 6-2.

"It was close in checking, just a wait for mistakes," said coach Gord Davies after the game. "But we had the upper hand in intensity."

In second place with only three games left in the regular season, the win against Kingston bodes well for the Travelways. If the club holds its position it will probably face Kingston again or Oshawa in the first playoff round.

Confident after the decisive victory, coach Davies says: "We'll eventually face (first-place) Pickering but we want to avoid playing Pickering in the first round."

The first place team can choose to play the third or fourth place club. And Markham has a dismal record against Pickering. The game before Kingston, Pickering blasted the Travelways 7-2.

"Our team was totally unprepared. It was 5-0 at the end of the 1st," said Davies. The first 4 goals were scored on 9 shots in the first 6 minutes.

Kingston scores
Kingston was first on the board

Tuesday, beating goalie Jamie Welsh on a low slapshot in the first five minutes of play. The rest of the period was scoreless.

Markham tied it up in the second on a goal by Bob Myers. Then, 1:20 later, Kingston recaptured the lead on a shot from a congested slot. Neil Smith evened it up for the Travelways less than a minute and a half later.

Markham stopped trading markers late in the period on a short-hand goal from Grant Dickson. "Capitalizing on the power play that's how you win Jr. B games," said Davies.

In the dying seconds of the 2nd period, Welsh came up with a big pad save on a wrist shot that allowed Markham to retire from the second with its 3-2 lead intact.

It was all Travelways in the 3rd with Doug Cherepacha, Dean Moi and Frank Corrick, (with six seconds left), sealing Markham's victory.

Assisting were Chris Lovisek, (2), Steve Trearty, (2), John Logue, Smith, Steve Croke and Eric Clapman.

The Travelways play Oshawa on Tuesday.

Coach still looking for teamwork

Even though the Markham Waxers haven't lost a game in 1987, coach Les Smith still sees room for improvement.

Always contending that "winning will come when the team starts to work together," Smith isn't about to abandon the "team concept" that is at the heart of his coaching strategy.

As a matter of fact, he prefers not to talk about individual players.

"We're not an individual team, everybody works together," he says.

And it's hard to get a great deal of sensationalism from the coach.

About the Waxer's 9-2 demoralization of the 1st-place North-division Sudbury Saints, the Jr. A coach says: "I was not overly happy about the game but not unsatisfied. There's still room for improvement."

However, after the season's slow start, Smith does concede the squad is better.

The goaltending is stronger, (goalie Pat Mazzoli faced 33 shots against Sudbury), the defence has stabilized and the team, on the whole, is learning his system, says Smith.

He added that he has more bodies to work with now.

"The team is playing a little harder because if they don't play well, they don't play," he says.

And Smith intends to keep his Jr. A club playing as a team. Practices include drills without the puck to get players aware of what they should be doing and aware of what their teammates are up to around them.

The Waxers have an important weekend coming up. They have two games against third place Richmond Hill. With both teams in the South division the weekend could count for 8 points.

Because of their poor start, the Waxers are still in last place in the South division with a record of 11-16-6.