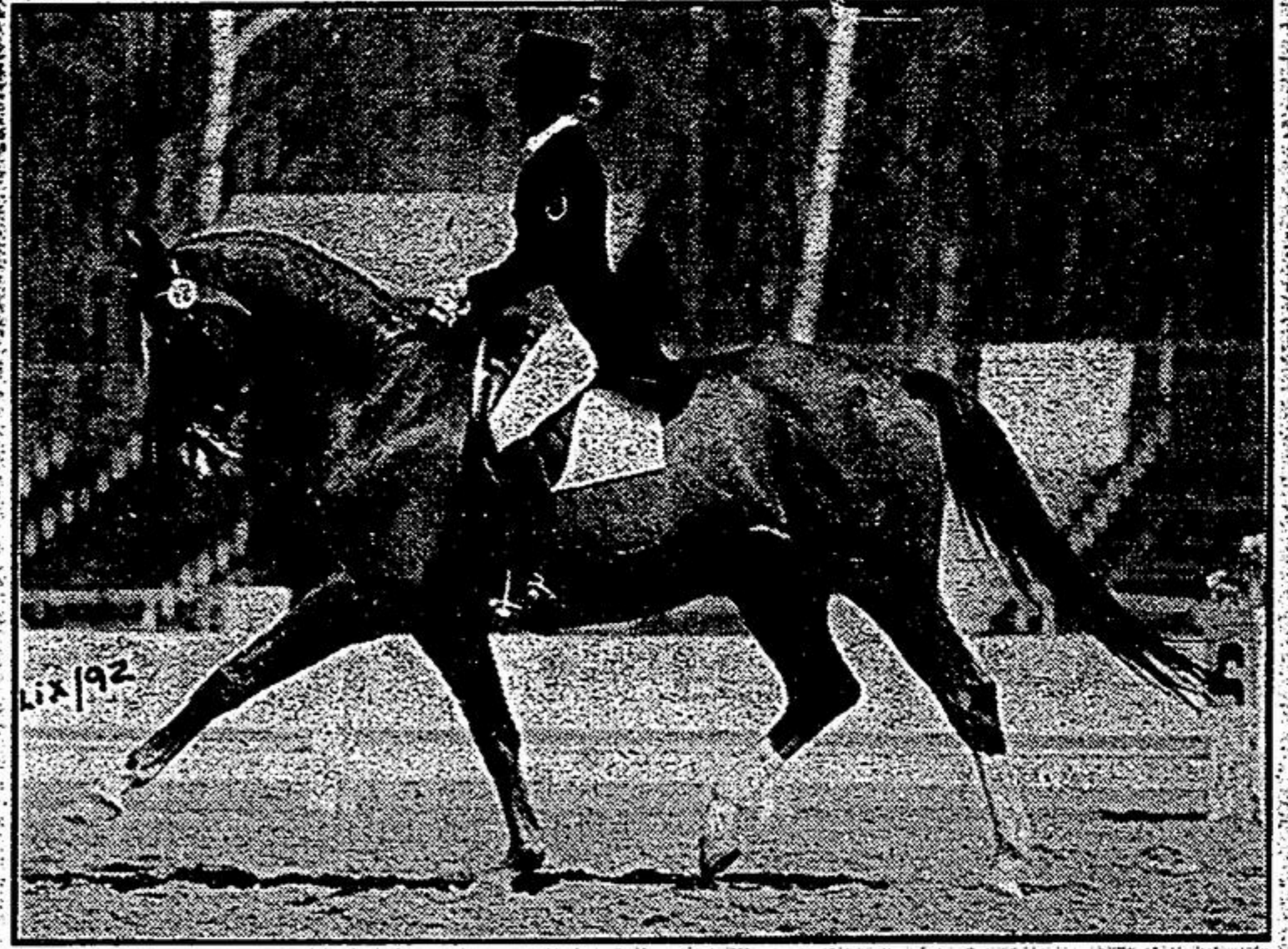


Eglinton Equestrian Club manager readies for Olympic appearance

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Having played the role of bridesmaid with the bronze medal winning Canadian Dressage

sage team at the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul, Korea, Martina Pracht is ready to go up the aisle in Barcelona this summer. Pracht, who served as gener-



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Marina Pracht, manager at the Eglinton Equestrian Club has qualified for the Canadian Olympic team. She'll be competing the dressage event in Barcelona at the beginning of August.

"But I got the opportunity to do the test ride. It was an honor, I really loved it. They usually offer it to someone from the host country." But this time, Martina will

be riding for Canada on her horse Emirage, a chestnut gelding Swedish warmblood. She is hopeful that the Canadian team can pick up where it left off in 1988, when it captured the first Canadian Dressage Olympic medal ever.

"I'm pretty sure our team is strong, but there's going to be stiff competition."

The sport has been traditionally dominated by the Europeans, she added.

Martina is a third generation Olympic Dressage rider. In addition to her mother, her grandfather, Dr. Josef Necker-mann was a member of six Olympic medal winning Dressage teams.

Martina was born in Germany where she eventually chose Dressage over competitive gymnastics after her parents bought her a horse when she was 12 years old.

She came to Canada with her parents in 1981, and was on the team which won three golds, two silvers and two bronzes in four years at the Continental Young Riders Championships.

She took the individual silver and her team won the gold at the Pan Am Games in Indianapolis in 1987.

When she's not riding at the Eglinton club, Pracht is busy as vice president of Kids Kingdom a Newmarket business which provides unique parent and child programs designed to enhance the motor and social skills of children.

She feels that Dressage has been a misunderstood event in the past in Canada, but thinks that is beginning to change.

"Dressage is a classic sport. It's a discipline like ballet on horseback. There is a specific routine you have to go through. It's like ice skating, was many years ago before the public here knew what to look for. But dressage has grown tremendously in Canada, and there is now quite a selection of dressage horses here. There were hardly any when I came here in 1981."

Pracht plans to warm up for the Olympics by competing in a show in her native Germany the first week of July. The Olympic dressage event is scheduled for Aug. 2 to 5.

"I'm very excited about it," she said of her upcoming Barcelona experience. "It's my first Olympics."

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al manager with Cedar Valley's Eglinton Equestrian Club for two years, qualified for the four-person 1992 Canadian team in last month's Olympic trials in Quebec.

Pracht held the position of reserve rider with the 1988 Canadian team a team which included Martina's mother, Eva Pracht.

The personal highlight of the Seoul games for Martina was being given the chance to run the test ride for the Grand Prix event.

"I went there to watch my mother ride," Martina recalls.

environmental assessment

GO Train Service Expansion Stouffville Line Stouffville to Goodwood

Notice of Study GO Transit, the interregional public transit service owned and operated by the Province of Ontario, is carrying out an environmental assessment study to examine the rail and associated infrastructure needed now to relocate its Stouffville train layover facility to the Goodwood area, and for a new Goodwood GO Station in a future extension of the limited-service Stouffville line north to Goodwood.

The existing service operates between Toronto and Stouffville during morning and evening peak periods only.

The study will address alternative station and train layover locations; rail, property, and utility requirements; social and natural environmental impacts; proposed mitigation measures; phasing options; and costs. The rail infrastructure changes to be considered include additional track, bridge widenings, and culvert extensions.

This is a GO Transit Class B undertaking and will follow the process set out in GO's Environmental Assessment Class Document. An environmental study report will be prepared, made available for public review, and filed with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment before construction may begin; the public will be notified at the time of filing. If GO Transit, ministries or agencies of the Crown, or other interest groups or individuals determines that the environment in the immediate area of the proposed project is particularly sensitive, the

undertaking may be redesignated to require a more extensive review and approval.

The public is invited to comment on this undertaking before any design decisions are made. GO Transit will hold a public information centre this fall to discuss its plans and any recommended alternatives. A notice will be published to inform the public of this information centre, and again of the completed environmental assessment report when it is filed with the Ministry of the Environment. Anyone wishing to be notified individually of the information centre or the filing must specifically request so, preferably in writing. Please address comments or declarations of interest to either GO or its consultant for this project.

Ray Whitefield, Project Officer, GO Transit, 1120 Finch Avenue West, Toronto (Downsview), Ontario M3J 3J8; (416) 665-9211 ext. 405

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