

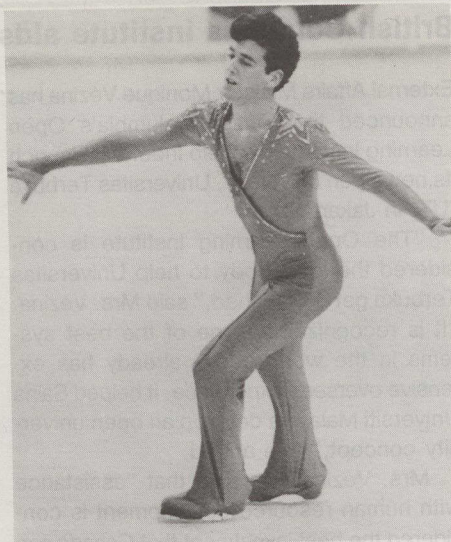
World champion skaters

Canada's national men's figure-skating champion, Brian Orser of Penetanguishene, Ontario won the silver medal at the world championships in Tokyo this month. Brian Orser was also the silver medalist at the 1984 championships held in Ottawa.

In the pairs event Katherina Matousek of New Westminster, British Columbia, and Lloyd Eisler of Seaforth, Ontario, won the bronze medal. It was the third consecutive year that Canada has captured a medal in the pairs competition: Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini, who trained in Toronto, won the world championship last year after winning a bronze the year before.

Two other Canadian couples — Lyndon Johnston of Hamiota, Manitoba with Melinda Kunhegyi of Burlington, Ontario, and Cynthia Coull of Greenfield Park, Quebec with Mark Rowsom of Comber, Ontario — finished fifth and seventh, respectively.

In the dance event, the fourth place finish by Tracy Wilson, 23, of New Westminster, British Columbia, and Rob McCall, 26, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was the best by a Canadian dance team since the silver-medal performance of Paulette Doan and Ken Ormsby at the 1964 world championships in Dortmund, West Germany. Wilson and McCall, who have been the Canadian champions since 1982, finished sixth



Canapress

Brian Orser won the silver medal in the men's event at the world figure-skating championships two years running.

at the world championships last year.

The other Canadian couple, brother and sister team of Karyn and Rod Garossino, from Calgary, Alberta, made their world-championship debut and placed tenth.

The Canadian women's champion, Elizabeth Manley from Gloucester, Ontario, finished ninth over-all at the world championships. She was unable to execute some of the triple jumps she had planned to include in her free skating program owing to an injury to her left foot and shin splints in her right leg.

Canadian computerized cabs in New York

Gandalf Technologies Inc of Manotick, Ontario, recently made a \$1-million deal to supply and install the first fully-computerized taxi dispatch system in New York City. The agreement with Bell Radio Taxi Inc. is Gandalf's largest installation of this type of equipment in the US to date.

In the initial installation, Gandalf will equip 300 taxis with mobile display terminals that are attached to the dashboard and allow the driver to communicate with the taxi company's dispatch centre.

They will also supply the dispatch centre with hardware and software for dispatching and fleet management. The company says this equipment will be able to handle up to 800 taxis.

Gandalf says the computerized system can save customers waiting time because it is more efficient than voice-based radio dispatching, which depends on the skill of the individual dispatcher. When the cab company receives a call for a taxi, the telephone operator enters the name of the customer, the address and any other pertinent informa-

tion into the computer.

The system automatically determines the proper zone for the fare and alerts the first available taxi in that zone through a small information display unit in the taxi. The driver can use the terminal to let the operator know whether or not he will be able to take the call. Once the fare is completed, the driver can notify the dispatching system of his zone and availability for future calls.

Gandalf has developed its computerized dispatching system over the past eight years in co-operation with the taxi industry. It has already supplied more than 1 500 dispatching terminals to cab companies in Canada and the US.

According to Gandalf president, Des Cunningham, "computerized dispatching is clearly the wave of the future for taxi firms because it will clearly increase revenues for both drivers and fleet owners, raise their profitability and improve management control". He says that "he is sure that this order is just the beginning of computerized dispatching in New York".

Swimmers at international meet

The Canadian swim team won five gold medals, three silver and six bronze in the three-day Arena Festival swim meet held in Bonn, West Germany in February.

Alex Baumann of Sudbury, Ontario, a double-gold medallist at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, set a world-best time at the international swim meet in the 400-metre individual medley when he swam 4:14.48. As the race was held in a 25-metre pool and not an official 50-metre pool, the result is not considered a world record. Baumann also won a gold medal in the 200-metre individual medley, swimming the distance in 1:58.81.

Other medalists included: Mark Tewksbury, 16, of Calgary, Alberta with a gold medal for the 50-metre backstroke; Vlastimil Cerny of Winnipeg with a silver and a bronze; Jennifer Campbell of Sudbury, Reema Abdo of Belleville, Ontario, Alison Dozzo of Toronto, Ontario, and Pascale Choque of Varennes, Quebec won bronze medals; and a Canadian medley relay team won a silver.

Robotics firm in Ottawa

Machine Vision International Inc. of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a firm specializing in systems that allow robots to "see", has announced that it is setting up its Canadian head office in Ottawa, Ontario.

Director of international development Jim Gilligan said they chose Ottawa because of the presence of government, universities and a strong electronics industry. The company plans to start assembling systems in the Ottawa area early in 1986.

Machine Vision develops, assembles and markets computer-based image processing systems that guide robots and allow them to "see" the jobs they are working on. Automobile manufacturers, for example, use the systems to give robots immediate and accurate information about the location of a car body and the part, such as a windshield, to be placed on the body.

The company also makes vision systems for the food processing industry, to allow for packaging inspection or the removal of stems from vegetables before they are canned. Some vision systems are made for inspection of surface-mounted devices such as printed circuit boards.

Prudential-Bache Securities has rated Machine Vision one of the top three vision firms in the US. The company was founded in 1981 and had revenue of \$4 million (US) last year.