

Canadian skaters improve standings at world championships

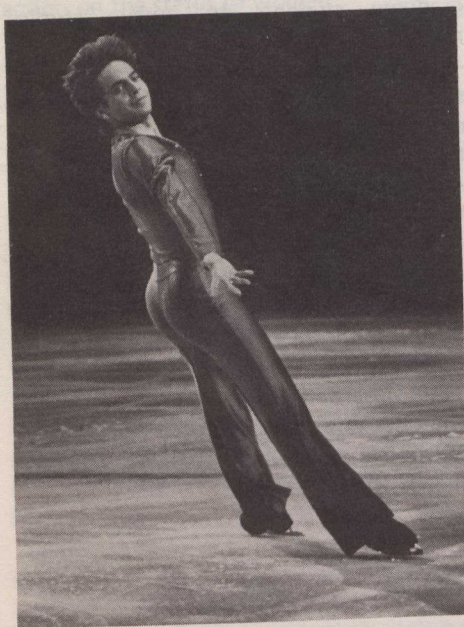
The Canadian team had its most successful showing in the world figure skating championships in 15 years at the recent competitions held in Copenhagen.

The team won one medal and improved its standings over previous years' in every category — men's, women's, ice dancing and pairs.

"We're extremely pleased with every one of the athletes," said Barbara Graham, technical director of the Canadian Figure Skating Association. "They met not only their personal goals but the objectives of the skating development committee."

Bronze medal

Brian Pockar of Calgary won the bronze medal in the men's singles event — Canada's first medal in the world's championships since 1974. Pockar, a former three-time Canadian champion had never finished higher than eighth at the world competitions. The 1981 Canadian champion Brian Orser of Penetanguishene, Ontario placed fourth.



Brian Pockar

David Leonardi

In the women's event Kay Thomson of Toronto, Ontario skating in her first world championship placed eighth, while Elizabeth Manley of Ottawa, Ontario was thirteenth.

Barbara Underhill of Oshawa, Ontario and Paul Martini of Woodbridge, Ontario were fourth in the pairs event and in the dance, Tracy Wilson of Port Moody, British Columbia and Robert McCall of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, made their

world debut as partners and finished tenth.

This collective effort has given Canada an opening to do appreciably better next year in Helsinki. Under international skating rules, each country can send one skater or pair for each event. Any country with a representative in the top ten may send an extra skater in that event the following year. A country with a representative in the top five can send a third skater.

This means that Canada, which was allowed seven entries this year, will have ten next year — three men, two women, three pairs and two dancers.

Working for six years

The Canadian Figure Skating Association, which receives 17 per cent of its budget from the federal government, has been working for more than five years to build the kind of success that the skaters enjoyed at Copenhagen.

Bothered by the inconsistent performances of Canada's skaters, the association reassessed its work about six years ago. The result was improved training, earlier identification of promising skaters and, some years later, gratifying results at the world championships.

Teenager wins top award in science competition

A Canadian youth has won a top award in the McGraw-Edison Foundation competition held in Texas.

David Schneider, 17, of Nepean, outside Ottawa, won the award for his work on a bacterial insecticide to combat spruce budworm. Schneider, who is currently in his final year at high school, has received a number of awards for his research.

Of the 6 000 entries to this North American science competition, Schneider was the only Canadian selected as one of the ten finalists. The other finalists came from centres throughout the United States. Schneider and a student from Indiana were chosen to share top honours.

The prizes for each of the students included \$5 000 in grants for study or research and a trip to the twenty-sixth annual Edison birthday celebration in Essen, West Germany.

Nature of research

Schneider's research involves using genetic mutation and a virus to improve

the effectiveness of the bacterium bacillus *Thuringiensis* in infecting and destroying the spruce budworm which has caused much damage to Canada's forests. The viruses affect the bacteria so they stay in the environment longer and keep on infecting the budworm.

The improved bacteria has not been tested on the budworm and it will probably be at least another five years before the process can be developed for use. Schneider hopes it will provide an alternative to the controversial chemical spray which has been linked to Reyes Syndrome.

The Canadian student began his experiments in Grade ten, and for the past two summers has worked on the project in the Ottawa labs of the Toronto-based company Ens Bio Logical Incorporated.

Baseball museum slated for Montreal

Carey Diab's passion for baseball runs deep, reports the *Canadian Press*.

The 70-year-old Montrealer has spent 16 000 hours collecting about 15 000 photographs, 300 personalized bats, 350 balls and countless other pieces of baseball memorabilia.

Diab's collection could fill a museum, and that's exactly what he has envisaged for about the past 20 years.

Backed by an estimated personal investment of close to \$100 000, Diab's dream moved a step closer to reality recently when he unveiled the future site of the Carey Diab Baseball Museum of Canada in Montreal.

Money to charity

All proceeds from the museum will be donated to charity, including three hospitals in the city as well as the Montreal Heart Institute.

Some of the revenue required to support the project has come from contributions of \$1 000 each by ten private individuals or corporations, who are listed as founding members of the museum. Montreal Expo catcher Gary Carter is the honorary president of the museum.

Diab, who still has the ticket stub he attended in 1923, estimated that 500 000 people will pass through the museum in its first year of operation. Besides having the chance to view bats used by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, they can watch films of baseball from another era or look at rare photographs from the days of Montreal Royals, an affiliate of the former Brooklyn Dodgers.