

Skaters go to world championships

The winners of the Canadian figure-skating championships held in Brandon, Manitoba have secured positions on the Canadian figure-skating team for the world championships to be held in Copenhagen.

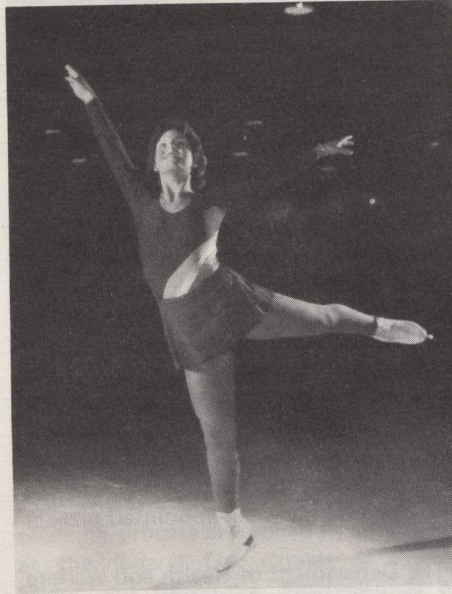
Brian Orser of Penetanguishene, Ontario, who retained his senior men's title and Brian Pockar of Calgary, Alberta, who won the silver medal will compete in the men's events.

The Canadian women's contingent will have the new champion Kay Thompson of Toronto, Ontario and the second place finisher Elizabeth Manley of Ottawa, Ontario. The rest of the team will include Ontario pairs teams, Barbara Underhill of Oshawa and Paul Martini of Woodbridge, and Lorri Baier of Mitchell and Lloyd Eisler of Seaforth; and the ice dance team of Tracy Wilson of Port Moody, British Columbia and Robert McCall of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In the senior women's event in Brandon, Kay Thomson took the title away from defending champion Tracey Wainman of Toronto with a solid freeskating performance. Manley who won both the short and long freeskating events had to come from behind in the figures to win the silver medal. Wainman placed third.

Excitement in final program

The men's singles event featured an exciting finish to a Canadian championship. Pockar and Orser entered the long pro-



Kay Thompson

Mike Cosgrove

gram tied and while Pockar turned in an almost perfect freeskating performance, it was not enough to wrestle the title away from the defending champion Orser.

Orser who skated first had a four-and-one-half minute program that featured seven triple jumps, including one of the most difficult, the triple Axel.

Responding like a champion to Orser's challenge, Pockar, who was the Canadian champion three times from 1978 to 1980, landed three triple jumps in the first 35 seconds of his program.

Both skaters scored very high for artistic impression but Orser whose program was more technically difficult received slightly higher marks in that area. In the end the title was decided by the slimmest of margins with four judges preferring Orser and three preferring Pockar.

Mineral production increases

The value of Canada's mineral production increased by more than \$1.2 billion to \$33 billion in 1981, compared with the 1980 figure, according to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The mineral fuels sector, which includes crude oil, natural gas and coal, accounted for most of the increase with its production value increasing \$1 billion to \$19 billion.

Alberta accounted for the greatest increase in mineral fuels. Despite a drop in the volume of production of both crude oil and natural gas, the provincial total for value of all fuel production was up \$900 million to \$16.7 billion.

The depressed state of international

metals markets in 1981 was reflected in Canadian statistics. The total value of the country's metals production dropped by \$299 million to \$9.4 billion last year.

Production of non-metals, such as asbestos, sulphur and potash, increased in value by \$300 million to \$2.8 billion. Across Canada, structural materials, including cement and clay products, were up \$173 million to \$1.8 billion in value for the year.

The volume of production from Quebec's asbestos mines was down from that of 1980, by 167,000 tonnes, and the value of that production fell \$24 million to \$471 million. Saskatchewan potash production also fell during 1981, by 386,000 tonnes, but the value of the potash produced in the province increased \$30 million to \$1.1 billion.

Canadians participate in first international teleconference

Delegates to the International Association of Business Communicators meeting at the Weston Hotel in Toronto last month, were the first Canadian participants at an international teleconference.

The teleconference is a new kind of communication system which simultaneously links up people from a number of centres *via* large television screens. At this conference, 1,200 delegates in 21 North American cities were able to participate through teleconferencing.

The Canadian section of the presentation was organized by Canadian Teleconference Network Incorporated, a new company which has already booked 40 more teleconferences and meetings for 1982.

Future of communications

The conference was organized in San Francisco, broadcast from Dallas and beamed to four Canadian and 17 U.S. cities.

Delegates discussed the future of corporate communications while they tried one of the latest methods themselves. Nine experts spoke on new business technologies and then delegates telephoned in their questions from the satellite cities.

One of the advantages of teleconferencing is its relatively low cost. For about \$100,000 (U.S.) including promotional expenses, delegates in hotels and television studios in both countries met *via* signals bounced up and down from three telecommunications satellites and over a number of ground installations.



Brian Orser

Ron Watts