

Sports/recreation

Stewart close to retirement after earning Olympic berth

By ROCKY GRIMMER
Times staff writer

Ellen Stewart will end her eight-years competitive gymnastics career this summer on an Olympic note.

The 16-year-old Port Credit Secondary School student qualified for the Canadian Olympic gymnastic team by finishing third overall in the Olympic gymnastics trials last weekend at Seneca College with a score of 72.00.

After she finished her optional exercises on Sunday, Stewart decided it was time to retire.

"I'll retire after the gymnastic meets in France (August 6th and 10th)," said Stewart, who will compete in these meets along with Elsie Schlegal, the girl who beat her out for second place by .05 at the trials. "I was a bit sad after the trials, but there is nothing left to aim for. I haven't decided what I'll do instead."

For Stewart, the Olympic boycott stops her from reaching the pinnacle of her gymnastic career. But she managed to derive some pleasure in making the team.

"It gave me satisfaction in that I finished what I started," said Stewart in reference to her extensive 27-hour a week training program of the last two years. "It would have been better if it finished at the Olympics (though)."

"I was pleased that I made the team," she said. "It's little recognition (without the Olympics) but it's better than nothing."

Stewart admits that becoming an Olympic team member wasn't the highlight of her career. "I got more satisfaction in the '79 World championships at Fort Worth, Texas," she said. "I felt better to be in (the championships) because there was the competition with 30 countries at the meet." Stewart placed 30th at the championships.

Stewart has moved up steadily in

gymnastic ranks and 1980 has been her best year. She was a member of Canada's gold-winning team at the Pan Am Games. And this May she finished second in the Canadian championships behind Karen Kelsall of British Columbia.

Stewart missed out on first place by 2.95 points in the nationals. At the trials, Sherry Hawco of Cambridge, who was first overall, edged Stewart by only .45 of a point.

Ten gymnasts competed for six spots on the Olympic team. On Saturday, the gymnasts did their compulsory exercises and on Sunday they performed their optional exercises. The two were combined to give a mark out of 20 for each exercise.

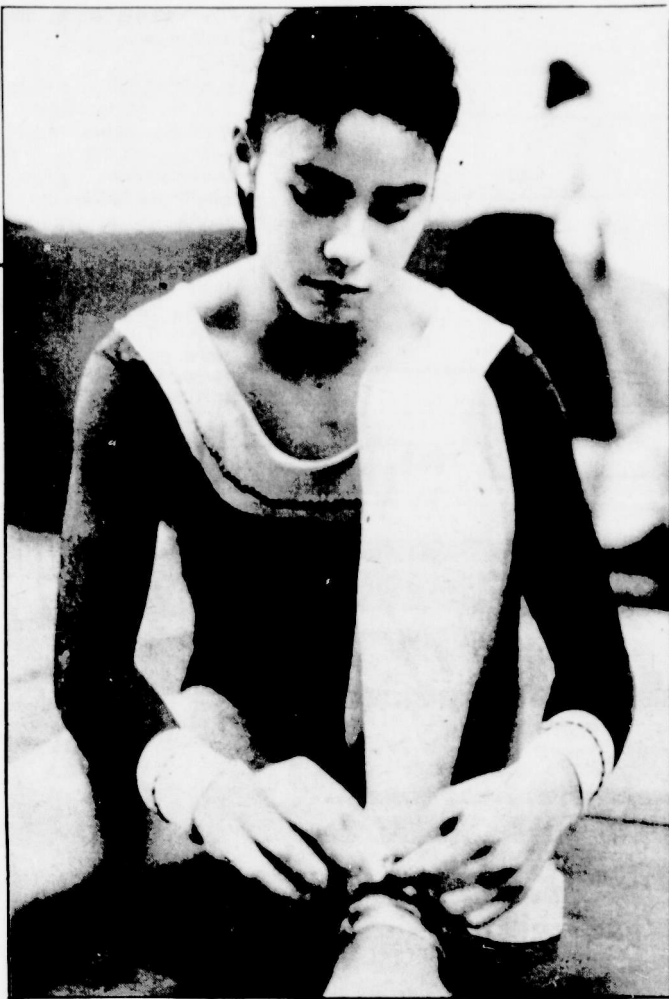
Stewart tied Hawco for second place in the uneven bars with a score

of 17.85. She placed third on both the balance beam and floor exercises with an 18.40 and 18.05 respectively. Stewart placed sixth in the vault with a score of 17.70.

"I was aiming to get into the top four," said Stewart. "I tried my best. I was pleased I didn't make any major mistakes."

Stewart considers the next Olympics to be out of the question. But the 1981 World championships at Mexico City in November might just be the kind of competition to get Stewart's gymnastic blood boiling again.

"It's a long way off," said Stewart. "I might miss gymnastics and decide to train for the championships, but I can't tell."



Ellen Stewart

Barlow achieves her goal at tennis championships

Wendy Barlow set a career goal in 1972. She finally achieved that goal last Sunday in the national senior tennis championships in Ottawa.

Barlow, of the Ontario Racquet Club, had little difficulty in defeating London's Karen Dewis 6-3, 6-0 to win the Canadian singles championship. The win gave Barlow her sixth national title.

"In 1972 my goal was to win a Canadian title at every age group," said Barlow. "I'm excited that I've finally done it."

The 20-year-old has won the under 12, 14, 16 national titles and the under 18 title twice since 1972. This year she wasn't expected to do as well.

Barlow was seeded third because of a six month lay-off. She had been sidelined with mononucleosis from October 1979 to March of this year. But Barlow didn't let her inactivity get in the way. She didn't drop a set throughout the championship. In the semi-finals, Barlow knocked off the number one seed Marjorie Blackwood of Ottawa 6-3, 7-5.

"I think I surprised a few people

by winning (the title)," said Barlow. "Making a comeback to win was really exciting for me."

Barlow feels that part of the reason for her confident play in the championships comes from her move to Mississauga from her native Victoria, British Columbia.

Barlow played all her tennis in Victoria until last September when she moved to Mississauga and started playing at the ORC.

"I get a lot more training and competition at the ORC (than in Victoria)," said Barlow. "There are more good junior boys at ORC to practice with. It really helps my training."

One of the reasons she made the move, says Barlow, was to get a coach to help her as she moves up in the tennis ranks. Pierre LaMarche, of the ORC, is the first coach she's had in the last five years.

The other reason was to join her fiancé, Brad Pattenden, a Mississauga resident.

"It made a big difference having Pierre at the Nationals," said Barlow. "He helped me with my

game and kept me motivated throughout."

"I'm now aiming to improve my world rankings," she said.

Barlow's step in that direction will start this week when she plays in the Players International tournament at the York University Tennis Centre. From there she'll be playing for the Canadian under-21 team in the Chiquita Cup, August 16 in New York.

In other championship action, Barlow and Dewis lost 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 to Blackwood and Helen Pelletier of Quebec City in the doubles finals.

Glenn Michibata of Cobblestone Courts fell 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 to second-seeded Greg Halder of Toronto in the men's singles quarter-finals. Cobblestone's Bill Cowan also fell in the quarter-finals, losing 6-2, 7-5 to 10th-seeded Francois Sinaeghal of Quebec.

In the women's quarter-finals, Judith Pridham of Cobblestone was ousted by Barlow 6-2, 6-1; and in second round play, Cobblestone's Fatima Ravat lost 6-3, 6-1 to Pelletier.

Paddling rivalry continues at meet

By ROCKY GRIMMER
Times staff writer

Last Saturday's Western Ontario Division canoe trials marked another battle in the long-standing rivalry between Kevin Stott and Oakville's Larry Cain.

Stott, a Mississauga Canoe Club member, has raced against Cain for the last six years. For almost five of those years, Stott has beaten Cain in the men's canoe singles (C-1). But for the last year and a half, Cain has turned things around.

At Saturday's trials held at Centre Island, Cain paddled past Stott to win the men's 500 metre juvenile C-1 comfortably.

"He (Cain) has really improved over the last year," says Stott, who

teamed with Cain to win the silver medal in the men's C-2 at a recent international meet in Poland. "It has surprised me a little, but he's been really working extra hard and he deserves his success."

It wasn't a fruitless day for 18-year-old Stott and his Mississauga team-mates. Stott was involved in four firsts as Mississauga dominated the regatta to take 18 and the overall title with 223 points, 48 points ahead of arch-rival North Bay.

The first, second and third place finishers at the trials qualify for the Canadian Canoe Association (CCA) flatwater championships at Dartmouth, N.S., Aug. 14 to 16.

Mississauga looks like a good bet to win the CCA championships and

make amends for a disappointing third-place finish at last year's championship.

"Things are really picking up for us," says MCC head coach Ian Ramsay. "Our last two regattas were bad (North Bay won both of them). But this time we were good in everything. Even our girls had a good day."

Stott and Paul Wickens won both the men's junior 500 and 1,000 metres C-2. Stott, along with Bill Yeo, Pat Hurley and Eric Smith paddled to first place in the juvenile 500 metres C-4.

Stott was also on the 15-man crew that won the men's junior war canoe.

Mark Holmes put in his usual

strong performance, winning the men's juvenile kayak singles K-1 and the juvenile K-2 with Bill Trayling, Darragh Meagher and Chris Kautzky placed second in the K-2.

Holmes won the men's midget K-1 and teamed with Kautzky to win the midget K-2. Holmes, Meagher, Trayling and John McDonald won the men's juvenile K-4.

Eric Smith maintained his winning form, taking the men's midget C-1. Gunnar Eggerston was second.

The Smith-Eggerston duo paddled to first place in the men's midget C-2. Yeo and Smith won the men's juvenile C-2 and Smith, along with Eggerston, Jonathan Abbott, and Rob Stott won the men's midget C-4.

Ramsay, Dave Burda, Jim Wallace and Jeff McColl took first in the men's junior K-4. McColl also won the men's junior K1.

Dave Sillars took top spot in the men's bantam C-1, with Steve Smith in second place. Jim Sleeth finished second in the men's junior C-1 while Wallace was second in the men's junior K-1.

The ladies' and the men's midget war canoe teams both finished second. Rob Sleeth's Crew placed second in the senior men's war canoe Kautzky, Edmund Remazki, Steve McDonald and Steve Franchetto placed second in the men's juvenile K-4 and second again the men's midget C-4.