

# Roller rink to host regionals

By MARTY BUDNER

Rose Martin can remember when roller skating championships took a few hours to complete.

"When I started roller skating competitively in 1936 the championships took only one afternoon," said Martin, who is organizing the Great Lakes Regional Skating Championships which begin tomorrow at Skateworld of Troy Roller Skating center.

"Now, the regional field is so large, and there are so many people competing it will take us a week to complete it. But, it's very exciting, and the quality of roller skating will be tremendous."

The Great Lakes region — which includes Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois — has the largest roller skating representation in the country. More than 900 skaters from across the Midwest will compete in the seven-day championships.

Skaters will shoot for medals in two divisions — artistic and speed — that are divided into some 80 age groups for both boys and girls.

Artistic skating, which includes figures and dance competition, will begin tomorrow and conclude July 9. The Troy skating facility for the final two days of competition — July 9-10.

The top three placers in each division will qualify for the 3rd annual United States Amateur Roller Skating Championships which will be held July 26-Aug. 6 in Lincoln, Neb. The national finals are tentatively set to be televised by CBS on its Sports Spectacular program.

"There will be at least 600 competitors in the artistic part of the competition, and up to another 350 in the speed skating competition," said Martin. "There are many defending champions, and a number of world-class skaters who will be here."

THE MICHIGAN, area, and Troy in particular, will be well represented.

At the state championships last month, the host Skateworld club won the high-point trophy for the second consecutive season. Skateworld qualified a record-number 16 skaters for this week's regional finals.

"I think we have a very good shot at the regional title," said Martin, a former speed skater. "But, Ohio is very strong. It seems like whenever Ohio and Michigan get together it's a battle, and this competition won't be any different."

Troy's Skateworld club is led by nine-year-old Holly Tirill, who won the state juvenile figures competition. She was also a bronze medal winner at last year's national championships.

"I think she (Tirill) has an excellent chance of winning a medal (at the regionals)," said Martin. "She's also a beautiful freestyle skater."

Others who will be representing Troy

at the regionals will be Tracy Robertson (elementary figures); Cherie Plourde (elementary figures); Darren Gergle (primary figures and singles); Lana Smith (freestyle); and Michael Baird (free skating).

Plourde, Gergle and Baird are all newly-crowned state champions. Troy's regional-qualifying doubles teams include Tom Fior and Colleen Beasley (novice dance); Ray Barger and Carol Miller (adult classic); Misty Frost and Eddie Pauli (sophomore dance); Matt Compton and Jill Stash (juvenile dance); and Meela Das and Gergle (elementary pairs).

The Rochester Figure Skating club competed at the state meet, but failed to qualify anyone for the regional finals.

Admission is \$2.50 per day. Skateworld of Troy is located at 2825 E. Maple Road.

For further information call 689-4104.

## National skate stars to compete

According to meet co-directors, a "national championship field" of contestants will be on display at the Great Lakes Regional Skating Championships.

The championships, which will be hosted by Skateworld of Troy (2825 E. Maple Road), will start tomorrow and continue until July 10. The competition will include both artistic and speed skating.

Officials are expecting more than 900 participants.

"Traditionally the Great Lakes Regional is the biggest and strongest in the nation," said Bert Anselmi of Cincinnati, who is a meet co-director. "But, the competition this year is at the highest level we've had yet."

"Our field is replete with national champions, world-class roller skaters, Pan-Am Games veterans and younger

stars with Olympic style skills," he said.

One of the featured teams is Tina Kneisley and Paul Price, two-time International Senior Pairs champions.

Kneisley, 17, from Marion, Ohio, and Price, 19, from Howell, Mich., are aiming for the world title which they narrowly lost in West Germany last year to Karen Mejia and Rap Chappatta.

Kneisley and Price represent the Rotterdams rink in Brighton, Mich. Rick Elsworth, a 22-year-old pre-med student from Grand Blanc, is one of the favorites in the International Senior men's competition. Pontiac resident Kim Campbell, 18, who has won practically every title in the lower age groups, has entered both the International women's singles figures and freestyle competition.

Ohio's Jane Purrachio is another

champion who will be back to defend title.

The speed segment of the regionals promises a renewal of a rivalry that was spotlighted in the Pan-American Games at San Juan, Puerto Rico, last summer. Multiple medal winner Sue Dooley of Farmington Hills, will match strides with another Pan-Am star, Linda Dorso of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Besides Anselmi, Mike Dorso of Cincinnati and Art Durand of Akron, Ohio, are serving as meet co-directors. Rose Martin of Skateworld of Troy has been working in conjunction with the co-directors.

The United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating sponsors roller skating amateur championships.

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