

National kids skate for show

By Brad Emons
staff writer

A procession of young figure skating stars will stage their own parade Sunday in the National Competitors Exhibition, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St.

The event, sanctioned by the U.S. Figure Skating Association (USFSA) and sponsored by the Academy of Figure Skating, features area skaters who have qualified for the USFSA National Championships later this month in Salt Lake City.

"We want people to know that these skaters have made quite accomplishments," said Joe Balough, a volunteer with the nonprofit Michigan National Competitors Fund Committee. "Eleven percent of the skaters in the nationals are from this area and we feel that's worth letting people know about."

Proceeds from the exhibition will be donated to the USFSA Memorial Fund, which helps support national competitors.

HIGHLIGHTING the event are Renee Roca and Donald Adair, the 1984 Midwest Sectional Senior Dance champions. They are ranked No. 4 in the United States.

Also featured are the 1984 Junior World Pairs silver medalists, Susan and Jason Dugan of Troy.

Representing Garden City are Michele McMahon, a Midwest Junior Ladies bronze medalist, and Jeri Campbell, Midwest Novice Ladies champ.

Jerrold Swallow of Northville will be skating in two events.

He'll team up with Rochester's Shelly Propson in Junior Pairs, where

people in sports

two won the Midwest Sectional title. Jodie Balough of Livonia and Swallow, meanwhile, will perform together in Junior Dance, where they captured the Midwest Sectional crown.

Gwen Cirbes, a Midwest Sectional Novice Ladies silver medalist, and Deveny Deck, a Junior Pairs bronze medalist, both return to skate in their home town — Plymouth.

THE OTHER performer is Todd Brown of Lathrup Village. He is the Midwest Sectional Novice Men's champion.

"People know all about the national collegiate champion in football," said Balough, "but skaters spend a lot more hours than any football player. They spend six to eight hours a day, six days a week. They deserve some kind of recognition and this gives them a chance to perform in front of an audience the week before nationals."

The area skaters will perform portions of their competitive programs in preparation for the nationals, which is one step away from international competition.

Tickets, priced at \$3 per person, will be available at the door. A \$20 donation covers admission and a sit-down dinner, immediately following the exhibition. For more information, call 522-1236.

Youth, 8, upstages bowlers



Talking between frames is seven-year-old Robbie Lhamon of Farmington and nine-year-old Brian Tubbs. The junior tournament attracted 146 bowlers to Wonderland Lanes.

Eight-year-old Rickey Sloan stole the show last week in the second Junior Bowling Tournament at Wonderland Lanes.

The event, co-sponsored by Livonia VFW Post 3941, Pro-Am Bowling and Trophy, and the Observer Newspapers, drew 146 contestants from seven areas (Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Redford Township, Plymouth-Canton and Farmington).

Sloan, the winner in the Boys 8-10 age division, rolled an actual count of 583 (three-game total), 10th best overall, but using a 258 handicap, he led all bowlers with a final count of 781.

"That kid was really something," said Ernie Jones of VFW 3941 and chairman of the event. "Overall, I thought it was very successful. The turnout was not too bad. We'll have it again Dec. 27-28 (1984) at Wonderland."

Jim Laver, who won the Boys 15-17 title, rolled a 651 actual series to lead all bowlers. He finished with a 744. Cheryl Hudak, the Girls 15-17 champ, rolled the second highest series with a 629 in 728.

OTHER AGE-GROUP champions included Jennifer Bashara, Girls 8-10; Steve Gress, Boys 11-12; Doreen Malone, Girls 11-12; Michael D. Spitz and Art George, Boys 13-14 (tie); and Kelli Lisewski, Girls 13-14.

Carl Smith, who finished third in Boys 15-17, rolled the third highest actual series in the event, a 595.

Wonderland, owned by Bill and George Bashara, provided automatic scores for the tournament.

"Harold Stobb and Joe Charnawskas (of the VFW) helped a great deal with the tournament," said Jones. "And of course, Ken Kosick (of Pro-Am) helped us with the trophies."

Trophies were awarded to the top three finishers in each age division.

JUNIOR BOWLING TOURNAMENT AT WONDERLAND LANES

Sponsored by VFW 3941, Pro-Am Bowling & Trophy, and Observer Newspapers

FINAL RESULTS (3-game totals)

Boys 8-10 years — 1. Rickey Sloan, 503 (actual score); 761 (final score with handicap); 2. Michael Gress, 233-720; 3. Victor Randak, 347-677.

Girls 8-10 — 1. Jennifer Bashara, 304-700; 2. Adrienne Petryk, 151-661; 3. Shannon Gadsby, 283-604.

Boys 11-12 — 1. Steve Gress, 460-694; 2. Wally Sokolak, 529-601; 3. Derek Ladd, 526-619.

Girls 11-12 — 1. (tie) Michael D. Spitz, 423-703 and Art George, 538-702; 2. James Mesnick, 512-692; 3. Jeff Wozniak, 507-675.

Boys 13-14 — 1. Kelli Lisewski, 517-722; 2. Teri Randak, 384-636; 3. Tammy Diegas, 429-650-630.

Boys 15-17 — 1. Jim Laver, 651-744; 2. Henry Noble, 593-737; 3. Carl Smith, 505-724.

Girls 15-17 — 1. Cheryl Hudak, 629-728; 2. Laura Osterle, 468-648; 3. Connie Beane, 500-635.



Jeff Hopson, 9, of Canton Township, shows his form during Friday afternoon action at the junior bowling tournament.

Briggs heroic in cage loss

By C.J. Risk
staff writer

The ingredients are there. Now it's just a matter of finding the right combinations.

Or so says Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach Rocky Watkins after his Ocelots lost to Highland Park, 92-85, Friday in the finals of the Ray Stiles Invitational Tournament at Highland Park.

Schoolcraft, which trailed by two at the half (33-32), had a four-point lead with 3:57 to go but poor shot selection down the stretch proved costly.

"It was the same old thing," Watkins said. "We were in the driver's seat and coughed it up."

SCHOOLCRAFT HAD A different starting lineup, with transfers James Orr and Eric Stokes becoming eligible Dec. 19. Neither, however, were able to fit in comfortably, according to Watkins.

"They seemed tight, like they were trying to do it all themselves instead of bleeding in," Watkins said. "They didn't fit in as smoothly as I anticipated."

Orr hit just one of 10 floor shots and Stokes was 2-for-7 and committed five turnovers in the first half to offset a superb Schoolcraft defensive effort that forced Highland Park into fouls of turnovers.

Carlos Briggs kept Schoolcraft in the ballgame. Watkins moved the high-scoring Briggs from swingman to point guard, partially because of the new additions and also because "Carlos said he could do it."

BRIGGS RESPONDED with what Watkins called "his best game ever at Schoolcraft" — 32 points (12 of 18 field goal attempts, eight of nine free throws), 11 assists, two steals and just one turnover.

"He was very selective (in shooting)," Watkins said. "He thought pass first."

Vince Merriweather, in his new role as sixth man, came through with 12 points and seven rebounds and Eric Sink had nine points and 10 rebounds. Orr finished with 12 points and Stokes had 10.

Lenz Cotton was the game's high scorer with 34 points for Highland Park. Vernon Carr, the tour-

ney's MVP, added 21. Highland Park is now 17-1 for the season.

IN THE OCELOTS' first tournament game last Thursday, they exploded from a 44-42 halftime lead to a 23-point final margin in a 91-78 triumph over Muskegon CC.

Again, it was Briggs who ignited Schoolcraft. His totals included 33 points (13 of 24 from the floor, seven of seven free throws), 12 assists, seven steals and six rebounds — all from a new position in his first game at point guard.

"We've worked him there at practice but it was the first time he's played there," Watkins said. "He could do it, and with those two games he's proved it to me."

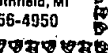
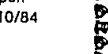
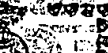
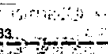
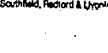
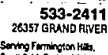
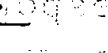
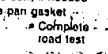
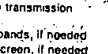
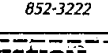
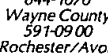
SINK ADDED 13 points and 11 rebounds. Orr scored 12, and Pat Martin and Vince Merriweather netted 10 points apiece. Martin collected 10 rebounds and Merriweather nabbed seven.

Schoolcraft opens its Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference season with the same team it lost to a week ago — at Highland Park Saturday at 3 p.m.

"We think we should have beat them," Watkins said. "We're confident we can beat them. And if we beat them, we'll be in the driver's seat in the league."

A position the Ocelots were in much of last Friday's game, to no avail.

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the week ahead

PREP BASKETBALL
Friday, Jan. 6
Liv. Bentley at Plymouth, 7:35 p.m.
Claremontville at Lathrup East, 7:35 p.m.
Farm. Harrison at Liv. Churchill, 7:35 p.m.
Liv. Franklin at N. Farmington, 7:35 p.m.
Ply. Salem at Liv. Stevenson, 7:35 p.m.
Farmington at W.L. Central, 7:35 p.m.
Bish. Borgess at Harper Woods, 7:35 p.m.
Bish. Grosse Pointe at Catholic Cent., 7:35 p.m.
Waterford Our Lady at St. Agatha, 7:35 p.m.
Temple Ch. at Taylor Daples Pk., 8 p.m.
Ply. Christian vs. Huron Valley Lutheran at Pioneer Middle School, 8 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 7
Schoolcraft (women) at Highland Pk., 5:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft (men) at Highland Pk., 8 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Jan. 5
Liv. Churchill vs. Southfield-Lathrup at Southfield's Beach Woods, 8 p.m.
Liv. Franklin vs. B. Hills at Windsor at Detroit Shattuck Club, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 6
Liv. Churchill vs. Liv. Stevenson at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 7
Liv. Franklin vs. Southfield at Southfield's Beach Woods, 8 p.m.
Catholic Central vs. Lake Shore at Redford Arena, 8 p.m.

GREAT LAKES JUNIOR A HOCKEY
Saturday, Jan. 7
Redford Royale at Fraser Place, 6:20 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 7
Plymouth Salem Invitational, 7 p.m.
Schoolcraft College Inv., 7 p.m.

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