

# Area's best skaters vie for national title

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

As a tuneup for the 1985 U.S. Figure Skating Association (USFSA) championships later this month in Kansas City, Mo., the second annual Michigan National Competitors Exhibition will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Ice Box II Arenas in Trenton.

The event features a host of national qualifiers from the Observer and Eclectic coverage area, including Troy's Susan and Jason Dungen, current members of the U.S. International Figure Skating Team in Senior Pairs.

Also featured is Jodie Balogh of

Livonia and Jerod Swallow of Northville, members of the U.S. Junior World Dance team. The Eastern Great Lakes Regional champs finished a respectable fourth in last month's World Figure Skating Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Balogh, 15, and Swallow, 18, were competing in only their second international meet, which found the defending champions from the U.S.S.R., Elena Krykanova and Evgeni Platov, repeating in first place.

SWALLOW, a senior at Northville High School, also teamed up with Rochester's Shelly Propson to gain fourth

in pairs at the Junior Worlds, finishing behind three Russian teams.

Also featured are Renee Roca of St. Clair Shores and Donald Adair of Ypsilanti, Senior Dance alternates on the 1984 U.S. Olympic team.

The number of national qualifiers from Michigan has increased. At the recently held Midwestern Sectionals, covering 22 states, Michigan skaters captured 30 percent of the total medal positions. Approximately 12 percent of the total national competitors are from Michigan.

Twenty-two different competitive

programs, including freestyle, pairs and dance events, will be presented at the Jan. 19 exhibition. The competitors compete in seven different divisions — Senior Pairs, Senior Dance, Junior Ladies, Junior Pairs, Junior Dance, Novice Men and Novice Ladies.

ALL PROCEEDS from the exhibition, sanctioned by the USFSA and sponsored by the Academy Figure Skating Club, will go toward a Memorial Fund, established in 1961 in memory of U.S. World Team members, killed in a plane crash before the 1980 Winter Olympic Games.

Tickets are \$3 per person. Tickets

**AREA COMPETITORS**  
1985 U.S. FIGURE SKATING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Jan. 26-Feb. 23  
Kansas City, Mo.

Senior Pairs: Susan and Jason Dungen, Troy, 1985 Eastern Great Lakes champions and 1984 U.S. International Figure Skating Team members.  
Junior Ladies: Jeri Campbell, Garden City, 1985 Midwestern Sectional Champion; Micki McElroy, Garden City, 1985 Midwestern Sectional bronze medalist.  
Junior Pairs: Devony Deck, Plymouth, and Luke Hotmarz, Nov. 1985 Midwestern Sectional champion; Shandi and Brandon Smith, Chester, 1985 Midwestern Sectional bronze medalists; Paul Weisgerd, Fraser, and Todd Brown, Gouthrie, fourth place in 1985 Midwestern Sectionals; Shelly Propson, Rochester, and Jerod Swallow, Northville, 1985 Eastern Great Lakes champions and 1985 U.S. Junior World Team members.  
Junior Dance: Jodie Balogh, Livonia, and Jerod Swallow, Northville, 1985 Eastern Great Lakes champions and U.S. Junior World Team members and 1984 U.S. International Pairs Skating Team members.  
Novice Ladies: Owen Crook, Plymouth, 1985 Midwestern Sectional champion.

are on sale at the Ice Box II Arenas, located at 21002 Telegraph Road in Trenton. For more information, call 876-6489.

## sports roundup

### ROCKY ROE TO SPEAK

American League umpire Rocky Roe will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Farmington Mens Club, at noon Thursday, Jan. 17 at the Farmington Community Center.

A sandwich luncheon will be served following Roe's talk. All interested men are welcomed to attend. Reservations should be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling the Farmington Community Center, 477-8104.

The cost is \$4.

The community center is at 24705 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

### SOCCER SIGN-UP

The Farmington Soccer Club will hold two walk-in registration sessions for boys and girls ages 8-16 interested in competing in the spring soccer season. The sessions will take place 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 19. Both sessions will be in the Farmington High School cafeteria.

A \$10 registration fee will be assessed.

### PLATFORM TENNIS

Platform tennis, which is offered at the Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex, is a sport which combines the talents of tennis and racquetball and can be played outdoors throughout the winter months.

The platform court is smaller than a tennis court. Players can rebound shots off the back and side screens. Paddles are used instead of racquets, and the ball moves more slowly than in the game of racquetball.

Waterford Oaks offers four lighted courts year round. Evening court times are available by reservation. Men's, women's and mixed leagues for beginners and intermediates are being formed.

The complex is on Scott Lake Road between Dixie Highway and Pontiac Lake Road, in Waterford Township. For more information, call 858-4948.

### BOAT SHOW

The second annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport and RV Show will begin Wednesday, Jan. 16, and run through Sunday, Jan. 20.

On display will be power boats, sail boats, sporting gear, travel, hunting, fishing and adventure opportunities, motor homes and campers. On stage will be a lumberjack show with log rolling, speed climbing, power sawing and other events.

Show hours will be 4-10:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday.

General admission for all displays, special shows, lectures and presentations is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Children ages 6-12 will be admitted at no charge.

### SNO-BALL SOFTBALL TOURNAY

The annual March of Dimes Sno-Ball Softball Tournament is scheduled for Jan. 26-27 at Livonia Bicentennial Diamonds.

The tournament is sponsored by WLLZ-FM and McFrook's and the entry fee is \$100 per team. Men's, women's and co-ed teams compete and the entry fee goes to the March of Dimes to help fight birth defects via medical research, educational programs and community service projects.

For more information, call 423-3217.

### GOLF DOME OPEN

The Oakland Golf Dome at Red Oaks County Park is open all winter so that golfers can improve their swing for spring.

The dome is on John R. in Madison Heights and has 39 tees for driving practice. It is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

It is \$6 for 30 minutes and there are special rates for women, senior citizens and students. Private and group lessons are available.

For more information, call the Oakland Golf Dome at 548-1857.

### AWARDS DINNER

Sports fans from around the area have the opportunity to meet and greet some of their heroes at the 15th annual March of Dimes Sports Awards Dinner, Jan. 15 at the Main Event in Pontiac.

Among those honored at the \$35-per-plate banquet are Gary Danielson, Tico Brown, Isiah Thomas, Mill Wilcox and young Steve Yzerman.

Flint Central quarterback Jim Abbott will be recognized as the "Amateur Athlete of the Year."

All proceeds will help the March of Dimes fight birth defects via medical research, educational programs and community service projects.

For ticket information, call 423-3217.

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JAN. 9-15