

Ex-skate champ tries new wheels

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chance at being one of the four. The other two team members will also compete as alternates and in open events.

"Her skating background will serve her well," he said. "The same strategies she used in skating can be used in cycling, only a bike race unfolds about 30 percent faster."

O'Neill will leave Friday for Apopka, Fla., near Orlando, where she will begin a month-long training session prior to the month-long Tour of Texas competition. The training camp will officially open Feb. 16, but true to her form, O'Neill wants to get a head start.

"I need to be in the best shape I can manage to be to make up for my lack of experience," she said.

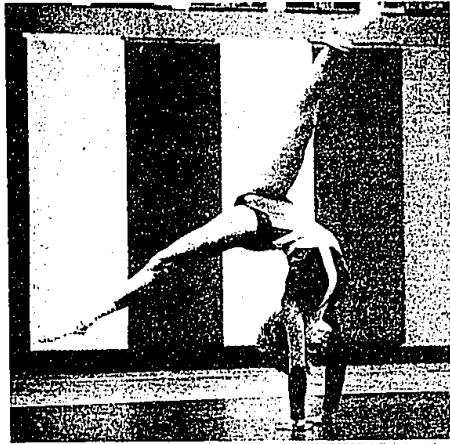
A PART of O'Neill is frightened by the challenge of competing against the

world's best. Another part assures her that she can handle it.

"Another thing that kind of inspired me: I read in a cycling magazine where Inga Thompson, from 7-11, rode for just four months before being selected on the Olympic team. She was a runner. I mean, I've been riding a bike for six years, not competitively, but I've done it."

"I figure I'll only be young once, and I'll never get another chance like this again. I've got to try. I'm not going to go down there thinking about finishing one or two. I'd like to just do the best I can. If I finish first or 100th, the experience of being there will be worth it."

Look at it this way. How many 21-year-olds get to take a two-month, all-expenses-paid trip south in the middle of winter? But then, how many 21-year-olds would have the courage to attempt what Lori O'Neill is attempting?



FLANDY BORGST/staff photographer

Tana Burningham earned an impressive 35.10 all-around score for Harrison Monday night. It is the best all-around score posted in Observerland.

Hawks reach 130 mark; Falcons get 3rd victory

With every meet, the Farmington Harrison gymnastics team improves. For the second straight time, the Hawks set a season-high team score, beating Northville 130.95-115.65 Monday night.

Tana Burningham also raised her season's best, earning a 35.10 all-around score — the highest all-around total amassed in the area this season. Burningham won all four events, scoring 8.80 on vault, 8.35 on uneven parallel bars, 8.95 on balance beam and 9.00 on floor exercise.

Tracy Solomon placed second on vault (8.65), third on bars (7.70), third on beam (8.0) and second on floor (8.65).

Jody Solomon placed fourth on vault (8.10), fifth on bars (7.60) and fourth on beam (7.75).

Jamie Lyons earned a third on vault with an 8.35, and Julie Funk finished fourth on floor (7.85).

The Hawks are 9-1 on the season and ranked No. 2 in Observerland.

Michelle Weismeth placed second on vault (7.15 tied with teammate Chris Brown) and floor (7.4).

Debbie Ford placed second on bars (7.3), and Laura DeAngelis earned second on beam (6.85). Pam Goodhue picked up thirds on both bars (6.35) and floor (6.35).

Jennifer Cunningham placed fourth on bars (6.7) and Brown fourth on floor (6.5).

The Falcons are 3-5 on the season. JOHN GLENN barely got by Wayne Memorial Monday night, 119.55-118.95.

Debbie Tomasko won both bars (7.95) and beam (8.35) for the Rockets. She was second on vault (8.55) and second on floor (8.35).

Her effort offset a superb performance by Wayne's Teri Bolla. Bolla won vault (9.0) and floor (8.7) and placed second on bars (7.75, tied with Glenn's Angie Temelko) and beam (7.95).

Temelko also placed fourth on floor (7.9). Marie Wells earned a third on vault for Glenn with an 8.2. Julie Fitch was fourth with an 8.1. Marcy Diepveen placed fourth on beam (6.75).

The Rockets are 7-3 on the season.

FARMINGTON rode freshman Jackie Daly's four firsts to a 110.55-67.15 against Walled Lake Central Tuesday.

Daly scored 8.9 on vault, 7.6 on bars, 7.35 on beam and 7.8 on floor.

Highland Park tips Ocelots

A valiant second-half comeback against one of the Eastern Conference co-leaders was wasted as Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team fell to Highland Park Community College 91-86 Tuesday at HPCC.

The Ocelots, 2-8 in the conference and 14-11 overall, led 45-45 at the half but fell behind by 18 points with nine minutes left when coach Rocky Watkins called timeout. Watkins inserted Dwight Pooler and Ron Leach into the lineup and switched to a man-to-man, full-court press defense.

The move paid off as HPCC began turning the ball over. Pooler had five steals over the next seven minutes as SC fought back to take a one-point lead with 1:18 remaining.

But Ron Dingman hit a short jumper to put HPCC back in front and an Ocelot miss gave the ball back to HPCC. SC pressured on the inbounds pass, but Antoine Williamson got the ball and went the length of the court for a layup to put HPCC ahead by three.

SC's final chances to get back into the game were lost when Pooler and Harold Martin both missed the first shot in one-and-one free throw attempts in the final minute.

Larry Goss scored 15 of his game-high 21 points in the second half for HPCC (22-5 overall, 9-1 in the conference). Williamson had 18, Greg Hall 17, Cauzell Williams 14 and Dingman 11.

Martin and Don Edwards scored 14 each for SC, with Edwards grabbing 12 rebounds. Desmond Steele had 13 points and four assists. Herick Kearney contributed 12 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Pooler finished with 11 points, five steals and four assists and Ernie Ziegler logged six points, nine rebounds and five blocks.

SC TURNED its one-point lead at intermission up a few notches Saturday.

And the result was a 79-73 triumph for the Ocelots over visiting Flint Mott.

Zollie Stevens fired 10 first-half points to help lift the Ocelots to a 47-46 advantage at the half. Then a trio of schoolcraft players went to the gun and brought in the victory.

Steele led all Ocelot scorers with 23 points. He also had three assists and two steals.

Mott (5-4 Eastern Conference) out-rebounded Schoolcraft, 30-41. The Ocelots also only shot 36 percent. Tony Prince had a game-high 36 points for Mott.

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