

# Lowery back 'home' with Ice Capades

By Marty Budnor  
staff writer

Kristan Lowery is returning to the state she calls home. And it comes at a convenient time as the talented figure skater will be able to celebrate her birthday in front of a few friends.

Lowery, who attended Andover High School for a year and lists Bloomfield Hills as her official residence, is in Saginaw this week as a touring member of the Ice Capades. Along with dance partner Chip Hossbach from Euclid, Ohio, Lowery will appear at the Saginaw Civic Center today through Sunday.

It promises to be a special engagement for the 5-foot-6 blonde who will turn 25 on Monday.

"Actually, for the past couple of weeks we've been touring the Midwest and this whole trip is like a home-

coming for me," said Lowery, who was with the show in Dayton, Ohio last week. "My brothers live in Ohio, and in Saginaw I'll have a few friends coming in and that will be nice. I'll be in some familiar surroundings."

"It's nice when you can look out and recognize some people," she said.

LOWERY IS skating with renewed zest and pride these days after her sensational performance at the recent World Professional Ice Skating Championships in Jaca, Spain. Lowery and Hossbach captured the coveted gold medal to accompany the silver medal which they won in 1988.

Although winning the pro title was a long time in the works, the accomplishment was a natural as both Lowery and Hossbach have very strong ice-skating backgrounds.

Both sets of parents at one time or another taught ice

skating professionally. Lowery's mother Rita may be best known around this area as the coach for Peter Oppgaard and Jill Watson who trained out of the Birmingham Ice Arena and captured a bronze medal at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

"I've been skating since I was 3 years old. My parents met at Holiday on Ice, and I grew up with the sport," said Lowery. "I went to Ice Capades when I was little, and ice skating is something I've always wanted to do."

Now Lowery has a starring role as a member of the Western edition of the Ice Capades, an organization which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. The Western tour (there also is an Eastern tour) takes Lowery to 33 cities, including a final stop in Hawaii.

"The tour starts in September and goes through May," said Lowery. "It's a solid run and you have to be prepared for life on the road. It's glamorous and fun, but it's also difficult to travel."

"We've already been to Calgary, Vancouver and Winnipeg in Canada, and it was cold," she said.

THE DIMINUTIVE skater, who also enjoys ballet and has ambitions to be an actress, is featured in the opening Ice Capades routine titled "A Reckless Voyage." Lowery and Hossbach skate in swashbuckling style to begin their routine, then mellow out in the second half of the show while skating to a few romantic waltzes.

"The opening has kind of an eccentric look about it," she said. "And later in the show we skate with a romantic tribute to Paris. Our two numbers are very extreme."

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. today through Sunday, with matinee performances scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. March 3 and 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. March 4. Tickets are priced at \$11 and \$9.50.

## outdoors calendar

- IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**
- Through March 4 - Outdoor area will be held at the Michigan State Fair Grounds Coliseum, Dairy and Agriculture buildings. Call 525-1356.
  - March 1 - A five-week Loran Navigation Class begins at 6:45 p.m. at Niles School in Troy. Call 879-7582 for more information.
  - March 1 - Deadline for individuals, community groups or local units of government to submit project proposals for grants from the Inland Fisheries Cooperative Grants program. Call (517) 373-1280 for more information.
  - March 2 - The Big Lake Association and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Township Hall. A research project studying ways to increase the average size of blue gill in inland lakes will be the topic of discussion.
  - March 9 - Deadline for artists to submit entries to the DNH's trout/salmon and waterfowl stamp design contest.
  - March 7 - Four Seasons Fishing Club will hold its monthly meet-

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ing at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. Guest speaker will be DNR fisheries biologist Michael Thomas and conservation officer John Jurich. Visitors are welcome and membership is open to the public. Call 477-3816 for more information.

• Through March 15 - An ice fishing contest will be held on Muskegon Bay. Call (909) 647-9131 for more information.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

- Maple Magic, an opportunity for participants to learn to make maple syrup, will be offered at 1 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks. Cost is \$1 per person.
- Earth Day Primer - Water, a discussion about the uses and misuses of water, will be offered at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at Independence Oaks.
- Most Oakland County Parks programs require advanced registration. Call the Independence Oaks Nature Center at 625-6473 for more information.

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# Eagle rally dooms Wayne State

A 14-point run, inspired by Jeff Suspeck's consecutive three-pointers, led to a 72-63 St. Mary's basketball triumph Tuesday at Wayne State University.

The win allowed the Eagles to end their regular season with a 23-12 mark. They open the NAIA District 23 tournament against Northwood Institute at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Dombrowski Fieldhouse in Orchard Lake.

St. Mary's had a 10-point lead midway through the first half and was up 40-33 at the intermission. Terry Koerner's three-pointer upped that advantage to 43-33 in the early moments of the second half.

But WSU rallied. A 13-3 run, capped by two Art Johnson free throws, tied it at 46 with 14:09 left. The Tartars broke a 50-all tie by rolling off seven straight points. Earl Stark's baseline jumper capped the run, giving WSU a 57-50 lead with 7:43 left.

But St. Mary's had the answer - 14 points in succession, starting with baskets by James Lakes and Joachim Jerichow. Suspeck's first

three-pointer tied it at 57 and, after a WSU foul gave the ball back to the Eagles, Suspeck hit another try to give St. Mary's the lead for good.

Garth Howard finished with 18 points to pace the Eagles. Lakes had 12, Koerner netted 11, Jerichow and Suspeck scored 10 apiece and Kevin Niecefield totaled nine. Otis Evans, Mike Acton and Kevin Heck each got 13 points for WSU, which slipped to 10-17.

LAST SATURDAY, Jerichow helped St. Mary's conclude its District 23 season on a winning note by blocking six shots in the first five minutes of the second half as the Eagles whipped Grand Rapids Baptist 78-65 at Dombrowski Fieldhouse in Orchard Lake.

For the game, Jerichow had nine blocked shots to go with 17 points and six rebounds. Koerner and Lakes each scored 15 points and Howard

had 10. Lakes also grabbed 13 rebounds and Koerner dished out six assists.

Todd Bayle poured in 17 first-half points for Baptist (12-20 overall, 5-7 final district record) to keep the game close. The Comets trailed 37-34 at the intermission. But Jerichow's interior defense ignited St. Mary's in the second half; Baptist hit just 29 percent of its shots in the last 20 minutes.

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