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MIKE'S

35323 FORD RD, near Wayne Rd. WESTLAND 722-8892

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Skating Has New Image

which

club meets.

Garden

Farmington and Redford, is

giving demonstrations for

hospitals and convalescent homes. The club also partici-

aren't allowed to take money

not an amateur. The only

from Plymouth,

By JAN WILLIAMS

With today's emphasis on physical activities, many sports once low in popularity are enjoying a tremendous boom. Two are tennis and

Not all sports, however, have climbed the ranks so quickly, nor scored so highly with the general public. One such sport is roller skating.

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Jack Hurley of Westland, president of the Michigan Roller Skating Union, feels this is due partly to a misconception on the part of the public.

"When most people hear of roller skating and com-petition, they think of the knock-down, drag-out roller derby. This just isn't true."

Hurley says roller skating is similar to ice skating. A competitive skater goes through figures, dance, freestyle, spins and jumps much the same as his ice counterpart.

Roller skating is divided into three classes: (1) artistic, (2) speed and (3) hockey. The artistic class includes dances done to music, interpretive freestyle, jumps, spins and lifts.

Speed includes relay-type skating around a track; similar to speed skating on ice.

Hockey is also the same as on ice. This category, however, is just getting started in Michigan. According to Hurley, there is only one Michigan hockey team at present.

Hurley says the state asso-ciation, which consists of 10 clubs and is affiliated with U.S. Amateur Roller the Skating Association, is in the process of training teams. "We hope to have four

bockey teams within the next two years. We plan to compete against other teams throughout the country."



At present, Hurley's club, champions in the last two includes members years. Livonia, Westland, Livonia,

City,

Area roller rinks include Riverside Arena, 36635 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, and Northland Roller Rink, 22311 W. Eight Mile, Detroit.



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