

# Tim McGuire watches the world roll by

By Jim Hughes  
staff writer

The 1982 Michigan State Roller Skating Championships were in full swing at the Rochester Skating Center last week through the weekend. Everywhere you looked, there was something to catch the eye.

Banners positioned across the wall sported the colors of the participating clubs.

There was the sound of the wheels whirling around the glistening floor. Young competitors made their way

to and from the rink on four wheels. Some watched in awe as the older skaters performed.

Others dumped quarters into Astroloids or other video games.

**PROUD PARENTS** clicked off snapshots of their sibs, and penciled in numbers as scores were posted.

The young female competitors had mom on hand to comb their hair and make sure the uniform was just right.

And through it all, Tim McGuire just sat and watched this world go by. McGuire, a June graduate of Rochester

Adams High School, is the defending world and national freestyle roller skating champion. As the state tournament went on in Rochester, he was there to absorb the festivities. He need not participate, for that will come later when he defends his titles.

McGuire's position is akin to that of a world champion boxer. When you're on top, the contenders have to engage in battles en route to a title bout with the champ.

Well, McGuire is the roller skating champ. He can sit back and enjoy while others around him prepare for the jour-

ney they hope will lead to similar championships.

McGUIRE WILL defend his national crown July 30-Aug. 7 in Fort Worth, Texas, and his world title in September in Germany. If he is successful, two-thirds of his roller skating goal will be realized.

"I won the world title last year. I'd like to win it this year and then go for one more," the modest youngster said. "After that, I'll hang it up and pursue my professional goal. I'd like to go to Wayne State University or the University of Michigan and get into the medicine program."

"Instead of trying to concentrate on college and roller skating simultaneously, McGuire has opted to push back his studies until his skating career is completed.

"I want to be successful in both areas, and I don't think I'd be able to do

both and do them well," he said. "It was hard enough during high school."

McGuire, who maintained a 3.29 grade point average (out of a possible 4.00), trained at Rollhaven in Flint, under the guidance of acclaimed instructor Bev Schlen. The journey to Rollhaven, which was made every day, took 45 minutes, and McGuire trained nearly 2½ hours a day.

"It sure cut into my homework time," McGuire grinned, "but I still did all right in school. I just stayed up late and sometimes I studied on the way up there (Flint)."

**ALTHOUGH ROLLER** skating doesn't carry the same "macho" connotation as a sport such as football, it doesn't bother McGuire. In fact, he is proud to talk about how the conditioning has helped him develop his body.

"When you train for this, it really builds up the stamina; it's a good cardio-vascular activity," he said. "When

people first heard I was doing this, they thought it was stupid. They thought it was like ballet. It's not like that at all, it's very much athletic.

"People will say it's not very masculine, but you can't let it bother you. My close friends are supportive, but you always have those who will make fun of it. Just think how those poor guys who really do ballet feel."

McGuire, who's father Mick was a skater in the 1950s and sister Lisa, 16, is an active skater, said he believes the sport of roller skating has had positive effects on him.

"I've been able to express myself, it's taught me self-discipline, and how to make the best use of my time," he said. "I think it's helped me to be a better student and a better person. I've made a lot of friends, more than just those I've met in school."

"And it's kept me off the streets," he said with a chuckle.

## Bicyclists to tour Fort Wayne

A local group of bicyclists will leave at 8 a.m. Saturday from 9 Mile and Evingreen in Southfield for the fourth International Freedom Festival Bike-Along.

The Southfield starting point is just one of 10 different starting points throughout the Detroit area leading to the downtown bicycle tour. Once downtown, bicyclists can choose either a

downtown ride or a tour to Fort Wayne. More than 1,500 bicyclists of all ages are expected to take part in the event. The tour of historic Fort Wayne will take about one hour each way. The routes which circle downtown only will be one-hour trips.

Cyclists can register for the Bike-Along from 9-

12 a.m. at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan parking garage at Congress and Beaubien. Guides will begin tours at regular intervals depending upon demand.

Parking is free. Registration fees are \$4 for adults (\$3 if you pre-register) and \$2 for children under 12.

Each participant will get a souvenir patch and a map outlining the various routes. Bicyclists can take the tours on their own or in a group accompanied by a guide.

The ride from Southfield to downtown is 14 miles. The return trip will be made in the afternoon. Anyone wishing to join the group leaving from Southfield should contact Joe Moses at 545-4073. For registration information, phone the AYH offices at 545-0511.

## Farmington Strikers claim 2nd league title

The Strikers of the Farmington Soccer Club claimed its second consecutive Division I championship in the Western Suburban Soccer League.

The Strikers are just one of 30 teams competing in the league made up of boys aged 12 and under. The teams come predominantly from Plymouth, Northville and Farmington.

Coach Wally McKinn attributed the team's success to a very tenacious defense combined with a ball control and skill oriented style of attack and team cohesiveness.

During the past season, the club, under the direction of president Dan Waker, undertook an ambitious field, coach and referee development program in an attempt to accommodate the rapidly growing interest in soccer.

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