



The Skater

The Monthly Newsletter of The Tonya Harding Fan Club

Volume One, Number Three

J.A. Haran, Editor

June, 1993

TONYA'S TORRENTIAL TRIPLE-TRIPLE TREATS

By Maggie Morris

BRITISH CHAMPION, IMPRESSED WITH TONYA, TO VISIT PORTLAND

Arthur Apfel, British Figure Skating Champion in 1946 and World Bronze Medalist in 1947, recently saw one of Tonya's greatest victories—Skate America International in 1991—on television and was quite impressed! Mr. Apfel, who finished behind Hans Gerschwiler and Dick Button at the Worlds in 1947, is visiting Portland in August. "I was so thrilled by the skating of the winner, Tonya Harding," Mr. Apfel wrote. "What a magnificent triple Axel!"

The Fan Club is planning a special reception to honor the meeting of these two National Champions and World Medalists. Tonya is eagerly looking forward to the occasion—and so apparently is Mr. Apfel, who wrote this postscript: "P.S.: Triple Axel and POW! perfectly landed!" Might we see a pair of champions skating together, bridging the generations? Stay tuned.

TONYA TO SPEAK AT YOUTH CONFERENCE

Impressed with Tonya during a recent speech our friend made before the Southwest Rotary Club here in Portland, Rotary International has invited Tonya to address the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (R.Y.L.A.) to be held in July at the Menucha Retreat Center at Corbett, Oregon. R.Y.L.A. is a week-long conference of young people, 18 to 25 years of age, who hold positions of leadership or display leadership potential. "R.Y.L.A. trains and encourages selected individuals in effective and dynamic leadership strategies with an emphasis on communication skills and interpersonal relationships," according to official literature. "R.Y.L.A. brings together individuals from different cultures, educational levels and work experiences with noted community professionals to interact, learn and discuss challenges and opportunities for future leaders."

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people with "the right stuff" to visit with a young woman who has come through much adversity to reach the pinnacle of her career field!

TROUTDALE PARADE: GRAND MARSHAL HARDING

The Troutdale Parade—an old-fashioned small-town parade—will feature as its Grand Marshal our very own Tonya Harding. The parade takes place on Saturday, July 17th—beginning at 11:30 a.m. The route takes the marchers (and riders) through the

ICE CAPADES CHALET, Clackamas Town Center—It's summertime and Tonya Harding is hot, hot, hot! Tonya is working on her new short (technical) and long (freestyle) programs for the upcoming competitive year and she is practicing some very interesting triple/triple jump combinations.

As I sit at rinkside every morning, sipping my coffee-of-the-day and watching Tonya skate, I am reminded of Scott Hamilton's comment during the 1991 telecast of Skate America International: "Tonya *warms up* doing double Axels!" He is absolutely right. After a few spins it's the first jump she usually does. Recent days have been no different except now Tonya also warms up on triple jumps and afterwards works on triple/triple combinations. Does this mean that instead of Tonya being considered a "triple threat" she will become a "triple/triple threat"? What this reporter *has* seen is that Tonya's triple jumps are becoming very consistent, including that trademark triple Axel of hers. Maybe consistency will become a pleasant side-effect of working on so many "combination" jumps.

Which triple jump combinations have been performed by our little blond dynamo (you may ask)? This reporter observed Tonya practice *four* different triple/triple combinations. The first was the triple toe/triple toe combination. The second was the double Axel/triple toe combination. Continuing in the "combo" department was the third jump—the triple flip/triple toe combination followed by her new triple loop/triple loop combination. I continue to be in awe of Tonya's execution of this last combination.

For those of you who may have trouble distinguishing one triple jump from another, the loop jump is not a toe-assisted jump like the Lutz, toe or flip. It is an edge (right back outside) jump and one which I find easier to spot as Tonya's legs are actually *crossed* on the backwards springing take-off to the loop from the right foot. The amazing part is watching Tonya complete two triple loop jumps back-to-back (!). Next time you are at the rink, watch for this and

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ELAINE'S LINES: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elaine Stamm

Tonya is such an outstanding figure skater as well as a terrific person! We're lucky to be able to have a warm, friendly relationship with her and we do what we can to increase her recognition and appreciation. I thought new members might like to know what the Fan Club has done for Tonya since our inception in February of this year:

1. Purchased and hung a large banner on the side of the skating rink (Ice Capades Chalet) where she trains, reading "Home of Tonya Harding—U.S. National Champion, World Silver Medalist, Olympian."
2. Hung a large framed, color photo of Tonya in the rink's skating apparel shop.
3. Obtained speaking engagements for her with Rotary International (she charms them with her personality and it's excellent public relations).
4. Nominated her for grand marshal of the Troutdale (Oregon) Parade, the city being excited to get her.
5. Given her small monetary gifts to help with expenses.
6. Regularly sent out news releases to the media.
7. Placed framed pictures in the nicest sports bars in Portland (alongside the Trail Blazers!).
8. Kept up a photo/news album.
9. Helped her with phone calls, letters, errands, etc.
10. Arranged with Pay Less Drugs (through them and the U.S.F.S.A.) for them to underwrite her medication.
11. Arranged her appearance before a local middle school assembly, so she could present the students with the Fan Club's donation to the school's "penny drive" for new equipment.

A very nice gentleman from Amherst, New York—a brand-new Fan Club member, David Dunaj—has come up with a wonderful idea! Besides his membership and a substantial donation (thanks, David), he is pledging \$10 a month to the Fan Club (see article elsewhere in this edition of *The Skater*) and he challenges other members to do the same, *especially those in education* which is his field. Terrific idea, David! The challenge is on!

By the way, 20 states and 3 foreign countries are represented in the Fan Club's membership.

CLIP THOSE ARTICLES, PLEASE

Articles and letters to editors—regarding Tonya—have appeared in skating publications recently, according to our sources. So, if any of you have access to *Skating*, *American Skating World*, *Tracings*, or *Blades on Ice* (or any other publications mentioning Tonya) please send us a copy of anything about Tonya. We're keeping a scrap book and would appreciate such contributions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't Forget Tonya's Early Victories

To the Editor:

Your headline announcement (*The Skater*, Volume One, Number Two; May, 1993) of Tonya's return to Skate America International was most welcome news. I also agree that 1991 was one of her greatest triumphs. Nevertheless, I think mention should be made of Tonya's other Skate America achievements.

The 1986 Skate America in Portland, Maine, really helped Tonya gain national recognition. At first this didn't seem likely. Tonya came out of the compulsory figures in 8th place. She might have been higher but for an unexpected distraction from the referee at the start of her loop. Many a competitor might have been daunted, but not Tonya. Tiffany Chin hung on for the gold. But it was Tonya who won both the short and long programs for the silver medal.

At the Exhibition of Champions, Tonya received by far the most flowers, which she lifted high in a giant bouquet salute to the audience.

Tonya was passed over for Skate America during the next two years. In the meantime she went on to win gold at the 1987 La Coupe d'Excellence in Montreal and the 1988 Moscow News Event.

Indianapolis in 1989 saw Tonya's return to Skate America and a head-to-head duel with Jill Trenary. Not intimidated by Trenary's status as a then two-time national champion, Tonya gained the lead in the short program. In the long program her triple Axel attempt was singled. But Tonya's program was of such quality as to earn a standing ovation and the gold medal.

Tonya has set a standard of excellence for Skate America International. I look forward to seeing her new programs in Dallas. She'll be superb!

David M. Dunaj
Amherst, New York

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**When a true genius appears in the world,
you may know him by this sign: that the
dunces are all in confederacy against him.**

JONATHAN SWIFT

SHOW YOUR COLORS!

There are two large Tonya Harding Fan Club T-shirts available: at \$26.95 apiece, they have the skate/rose logo and "Tonya Harding Fan Club" embroidered on them. If you'd like a T-shirt or a sweatshirt, call Elaine at (503) 663-5554. Sweatshirts will cost you \$33.95 (children's sizes cost \$2 less). Bear in mind, we have to have a certain quantity on order to get those prices.



HELP! READ ME!

If you or anyone you know has not received their Fan Club "stuff" (other than picture buttons), please let us know! **Every** member, no matter what category, should have received a membership card, a Tonya! bumper sticker and a copy of **The Skater** (and all subsequent copies). The picture buttons are still in production, due to red tape surrounding the obtaining and use of photos--but they'll be forthcoming soon!

HE'LL BE BACK

Dennis Regelin, a regular contributor to these pages, is on sabbatical and his column will return next edition. Meanwhile, he's made a significant contribution to the Fan Club in that his letters to editors of various skating magazines have brought in new members from all around the country.

BACK NUMBERS AVAILABLE

If you want any back issues of **The Skater** (this is number three), please send 50 cents (make out check to "The Tonya Harding Fan Club") for each copy to: J. A. Haran, Editor; **The Skater**; 6416 Northeast 35th Avenue; Portland, Oregon 97211-7230.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETINGS: SUMMER VACATION!

General membership meetings of The Tonya Harding Fan Club will resume on the fourth Sunday of September (26th). **The Skater** will continue to be published and the Board of Directors will continue to meet. Watch for the August edition of **The Skater** for the time and place of September's general meeting. Our Club will continue to work for Tonya during the summer months!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Just be sure they are double-spaced, signed and contain a valid telephone number and address. Send letters to: J. A. Haran, Editor; **The Skater**; 6416 N.E. 35th Ave.; Portland, OR 97211-7230. Feel free to call the editor at: (503) 281-9473. Leave a message! (Please!)

DEADLINE!

The Skater welcomes material from anyone. Just be aware the deadline is the 20th day of the month, for inclusion in that month's edition. Submissions should be double-spaced and contain a valid telephone number. Remember, editors edit!

TONYA ON THE AIR, KVAN STYLE

Tonya's going before the microphone again--this time at KVAN radio (1550 on your AM dial) in Vancouver, Washington. Air time is 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 24th. Tonya will be interviewed by host Jeff Kafoury and will answer questions from listeners. So listen in--and call if you've a mind to! Call-in numbers are, in Oregon, (503) 735-1550 and in Washington, (206) 256-9044.

CHALLENGE FROM NEW YORK

David Dunaj, from Amherst, New York (whose letter to the editor appears in this edition), has thrown down the gauntlet in the form of a challenge to all readers of these pages: he's pledged a donation of \$10 a month to the Fan Club. "I don't think I'm going too far with this," he wrote. "Indeed, I consider it a small matter compared to the enjoyment Tonya's given us." Come on folks, take up the challenge! Do we want somebody from New York showing us up? (Just kidding, David. I'm from New York, too.--Editor's Note.)

THE SHOW GOES ON: NEW SUMMER HOURS!

The summer schedule is in effect at the Ice Capades Chalet at Clackamas Town Center, so Tonya's weekday practice session is now at 10:00 a.m. rather than 9:15 a.m. Tonya's Friday evening session is still at 6:30 p.m. Come on out to 12000 Southeast 82nd Avenue in Portland and watch the world's best figure skater! Remember, prior commitments occasionally preclude Tonya's adhering to the regular schedule.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Kristin Sollers and Joe Taraba for their invaluable assistance in getting this edition **The Skater** off the ground.



Treats, continued from page 1

other Tonya triple delights including her trademark triple Axel. I've seen Tonya complete the triple Axel four times in two days' time and my jaw still drops down—about as far as her jump is high (Well, not quite *that* far down, as Tonya's triple Axel is *quite* high!)—every time I see it. It is nothing short of awesome. The height she gets on her triple Axel is unbelievable! Television cameras sure don't pick up the magnitude of that jump. In my humble opinion, Tonya is the *real* "trail blazer" on ice here in Portland.

By the way, if you think you see a new bundle of energy on the ice these days, you are probably seeing Tonya sporting her new hairdo. At first, I didn't immediately recognize her myself (she hadn't begun her practice) until she came up to the editor and myself at rinkside and said, "Hi!" Tonya is letting her bangs grow. Her hair continues to be drawn back into a pony-tail, but without bangs on her forehead. So don't get discouraged if you don't immediately recognize Tonya from afar, because there's a "new" Tonya

in town! (She told us the new style will give her a longer line. Could the new style cut down on wind resistance and give her extra rotations on her spins [as if she needs it]? Hmm.)

Parade, continued from page 1

"old town" portion of this Oregon community on the Historic Columbia River Highway and ends at the Troutdale Community Park. Tonya, who's as at home in a small town as in a big city, is flattered to have been chosen for this honor and the officials in Troutdale were glad to get her, too!

Besides Tonya, the parade will feature color guards, bands, a Civil War re-enactment group, antique and classic vehicles, floats, dignitaries, tae-kwon-do students and a 20-member dog (!) drill team. There's entertainment and food after the parade—at the park, with Tonya introducing the first act. Come on out, folks, to see Tonya and the good people of Troutdale who have honored her. Let's support our friends and have a good time!

For more information about the parade, call Christina—or Valerie Lantz—at (503) 665-5175. See you there.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

YES! I'd like to help support TONYA HARDING, our local figure skating champion, by joining her International Fan Club. Enclosed is my check for:

Senior/Fixed
Income
Membership
\$5.00

Individual
Adult
Membership
\$10.00

Family
Membership
\$15.00

Junior
Membership
(ages 7 to 18)
\$5.00

Tots for
Tonya
(under 7 yrs.)
\$1.00

Business
Membership
\$25.00

I'd like to donate, in addition to, or in lieu of, membership, \$ _____

Or, this "in-kind" donation of goods or services: _____

Membership runs for one year from date of entry. Members receive a TONYA! bumper sticker, a photo button, The Skater and a membership card.

**Please make check out to:
The Tonya Harding Fan Club.
Mail to:
Elaine L. Stamm, President
The Tonya Harding Fan Club
4632 S.E. Oxbow Pkwy.
Gresham, OR 97080-8967**

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

I can further support TONYA by:

Public and personal support:

- Making phone calls
- Sending TONYA encouraging cards
- Bringing more people to meetings
- Writing letters to editors
- Calling sports talk programs
- Donations of money

Obtaining goods and services:

- Free photocopying
- Film for Club snapshots
- Cosmetics
- Hair care
- Nail care
- Clothing

Thanks!

For more information, call Elaine at (503) 663-5554.