



The Skater

The Monthly Newsletter of the Tonya Harding Fan Club

Volume One, Number One

J.A. Haran, Editor

April, 1993

TONYA TO SKATE WITH TOUR OF CHAMPIONS

TRIUMPH IN NEW ENGLAND

Tonya returned home from Massachusetts on Sunday, after skating in the Plymouth Stars on Ice show on Saturday, April 17th. The show, held at Armstrong Memorial Rink, was sponsored by the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce (Hey, Portland Chamber of Commerce, are you reading this?) and Citizens Bank. Tonya skated four times in each of the two shows, afternoon and evening (two programs plus opening and closing) and received standing ovations! The shows were directed by Jo Jo Starbuck and featured, in addition to Tonya, Calla Urbanski and Rocky Marval, Todd Eldredge, Annenko and Stetenski, Peter and Kitty Carruthers, and several other top performers. Tonya remarked on how friendly everyone was! Obviously, New Englanders are beginning to see the light.

TONYA WOWS 'EM AT EXHIBITION

The huge crowd that crammed into every available space around the Ice Capades Chalet skating rink at Clackamas Town Center roared its approval when Tonya took center ice for a two-program exhibition--the highlight of the "Spring Festival" figure skating competition. Wearing her "absolutely most favorite" red costume, Tonya treated everyone to triple and double jumps skating to "I'll Always Love You" and--after only a moment's rest--wowed the audience with excellent moves to the tune of "Oh, Yeah." Showing the beauty, artistry and athleticism that set her apart from all other skaters, Tonya elicited cheers with every jump--and responded with smiles and waves as the not-even-any-standing-room audience rewarded her efforts with ovations after both programs. Tonya's exhibition drew all the local television media, and put a warm glow on the four-day competition sponsored by the Portland Ice Skating Club. The competition--a stepping-stone for skaters trying to qualify for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships next

Please turn to page 3

Start saving those dimes and nickels, folks, because Tonya's going to skate with the Tour of World Figure Skating Champions on June 15th at Memorial Coliseum in Portland. The show is at 8:00 p.m. on a Tuesday night. Tickets are all one price: \$42.50! For further ticket information, call (503) 248-4496. Let's all show our support for Tonya by attending and screaming our lungs out for her! Afterwards, Tonya will skate with the Tour in Seattle. Remember: Tonya's a real crowd-pleaser. She won't disappoint! Be there!

TROUTDALE'S GRAND MARSHAL

The Troutdale Parade, coming up July 17th, will feature Tonya Harding as its Grand Marshal. The parade, which is geared toward children, has the "Year of the Pioneer" as its theme. The parade route follows the historic Columbia River Highway and ends at Troutdale Community Park. Starting time is 11:30 a.m. "It'll be a lot of fun," said Tonya, who will stick around afterwards to meet people and sign autographs. Be there!

THANKS, FROM SOMEONE WHO CARES

By Tonya Harding

The emotional part of having people behind me one-hundred percent is the best thing I can have: it makes me feel good about myself. Without that support, I wouldn't be able to maintain the winning attitude that I have. You can't be a winner if you don't have fans, and all this support makes me want to go out and perform at my best for all of you. Thanks!

TONYA'S DREAM COME TRUE: A PAGE OF SKATING HISTORY

By Dennis Regelin

I will never forget that freezing afternoon in Minneapolis when Tonya Harding won the U.S. Figure Skating Championship. She entered the finals as underdog, having

Please turn to page 3

**ELAINE'S LINES: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***By Elaine Stamm*

Greetings, fellow members of The Tonya Harding Fan Club. It is so exciting to see how this organization has grown since just February 28th! It all started from J. E. Vader's column in The Oregonian's sports section, when she wrote about the competition at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Arizona where Tonya was unfairly placed fourth. That, plus the photo--in living color--of Tonya falling, moved me into action. I wrote to Vader, saying I'd like to see grass-roots support throughout Oregon for Tonya, and would like to start a fan club. She mentioned it in her column, I heard from a couple of people, we set up a meeting, publicized it, and voila! here we are. So many wonderful people have blossomed like a spring garden, each bringing their particular talent, know-how, insight, ideas and support. So far we have accomplished much that has benefitted Tonya. We want to keep growing, so let your friends know, send them membership forms, and we'll help Tonya even more. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, feel free to call me at (503) 663-5554. Be on Tonya's Team!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting of The Tonya Harding Fan Club will take place on Sunday, April 25th, at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor community room at the Benjamin Franklin Plaza building, located at One Southwest Columbia Street in downtown Portland. Free parking is available in the basement of the building. Come, and bring a friend. Give us your input, ask questions, meet Tonya. Be there!

AT LAST! A SIGN!

After years of hearing "How come there's no sign at the skating rink pointing out it's the home ice of Tonya Harding?" everyone can now behold just such a view. In the best possible location above the Ice Capades Chalet skating rink at Clackamas Town Center, a 34-inch by twelve-foot sign proclaims: "Home of Tonya Harding, U.S. National Champion, World Silver Medalist, Olympian."

Thanks to rink manager Bob Sachen for his cooperation, Sid Stine of The Sign and Banner Factory for speeding things along, Bryan Pietz of Aloha for designing the framing rods, and especially thanks to Tonya for presiding over the banner-hanging--just in time for a big skating competition at the rink! Go check it out, folks.

TRIPLE AXELS 'R' US

Rinkside reporter Maggie Morris witnessed Tonya completing four consecutive triple axels (!) during morning practice on Thursday, April 15th! Also beholding this wonderful phenomenon were some young gymnasts from California who were visiting Corvallis and travelled to Clackamas Town Center just to watch Tonya skate. Tonya obliged by meeting with them before and after her practice session, talking at length with them and signing autographs. The visitors came away mighty impressed!

ON THE AIR!

In recent weeks, Tonya has scored big points on both radio and television. She spent an hour talking with Super Fan on KFX Sports Radio, fielding questions from the host and callers. Super Fan was highly impressed! Subsequently, Tonya spent several minutes talking with KFX's "Dream" Weaver, who wants skating lessons from her! Stay tuned! (That's 1520 on your A.M. dial.)

Lars Larson devoted a lengthy segment of air time to Tonya on KPTV's "Northwest Reports." One of the best television journalists in the Northwest, Larson dispelled many misconceptions about Tonya and showed her to be the talented, courageous and forthright person she is. As expected, Tonya stood her ground and told it like it is! Way to go, Tonya! Viewers got a "skate's-eye" view thanks to "SkateCam," as well as other excellent views of Tonya's beautiful skating.

NICE, EH?

If one picture is worth a thousand words, you can rest your vocabulary by checking out the photo hanging on the left-hand wall of the Glamour Shots store in Clackamas Town Center: it's an excellent image of one Tonya Harding. Remember, no loitering!



PRACTICE TIMES

Tonya welcomes her fans to watch her practice at 6:30 p.m. most Friday evenings. If you can't make it at that time, come at 9:15 a.m. Monday through Friday. That's at the Ice Capades Chalet, Clackamas Town Center, 12000 Southeast 82nd Avenue, Portland. (Sometimes prior commitments preclude Tonya's skating at those times.)



DEADLINE!

The Skater welcomes material from anyone. Just be aware the deadline is the 20th day of the month (pick a month, any month). Thank you.



KUDOS

Thanks to Brenda Kelly and Joe Taraba for helping get this edition of The Skater off the ground!



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: The Skater; J. A. Haran, Editor; 6416 N.E. 35th Ave.; Portland, OR 97211-7230. Feel free to call the editor at: (503) 281-9473. Leave a message if I'm not there, and I'll call back as soon as possible. Thanks!

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH
(BUT WHICH MONTH?)**

"Beauty is the purgation of superfluties."
—Michelangelo

Dream, from page 1

placed second in the short program to Kristi Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi had already skated a fine program, but there was room on the technical mark since she had fallen on her triple salchow. Tonya had been hitting her triple axel all week in practice, and the crowd was nervous with anticipation as she skated to center ice. Tonya opened her program with music from "Batman," hitting a perfect triple lutz. She then began building up speed for her triple axel, the most difficult triple possible. As she entered the three turn, the prelude to the jump, the crowd was quiet with anticipation. Then the incredible happened: she flew into the air, landing perfectly on a backward edge, and the crowd went wild. She had done it! She became the first, and still the only, American woman to perform the incredibly difficult triple axel. She thrust her fist into the air and went on to perform five more triples--including a triple toe, triple toe combination. As she went into her last triple, the salchow--which was the highest one I have ever seen by any skater--it was evident she was achieving the performance of her life. After the last double axel, the crowd jumped to its feet, roaring approval. They again rose when the final judge gave her a perfect 6.0, the first and only perfect technical merit mark ever awarded to a female skater in American history. She had accomplished the impossible, beating the expected winner--Yamaguchi--and qualifying for her first World Championship. She had made skating history, and no matter what happened in the future, Tonya Harding would be remembered as the exceptional 1991 National Champion.



Exhibition, from page 1

year--was fascinating, but Tonya's Saturday, April 3rd display of world-class talent was the topper. Tonya spent the better part of an hour after her exhibition meeting and talking with people, signing autographs and posing with young (and old) admirers for photos.

