

PEEL DIAG

Tracey wows them

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By TOM MALONEY

When Dorothy Hamill went through her free skating program spectators and judges saw pep and enthusiasm. When Janet Lynn toured the ice with her double axles, people saw an exuberant expression and dazzling smile.

When 10-year-old Tracey Wainman of Mississauga thrilled the crowd in Victoria, B.C. last weekend by winning the Novice free skating portion of the Canadian Figure Skating Championships, CTV was so impressed it asked her to repeat her program for the cameras.

A short time later the Canadian Figure Skating Association (CFSA) announced that Tracy would be sent to France in March to compete in the world Junior figure skating championships. The CFSA is investing in the 4'4" skater in the hope that another Lynn or Hamill will emerge as a future world champion.

The move prompted headlines and telephone interviews, for it is not often that a fourth place finisher in the Novice category, particularly one who is 10 years old, is chosen over other Novices and Juniors for the Junior championships.

As can be learned from the same inter-

views, Tracey is shy on a one-to-one basis. But once in front of a crowd, any trace of shyness disappears and she dazzles with cuteness.

"She's like me, I guess," says her father, Dwight Wainman, who lectures part-time in university and owns his own business. "I'm shy on a one-to-one basis but I'm completely at ease when I'm lecturing in front of a lot of people."

Tracey is notably clever. When a brash newsman asked at a press conference whether her mother (Gaye) was a typical pushy figure skating mother, she responded that it was she who makes her parents get up in the morning for a ride to the Toronto Cricket Club, where she trains.

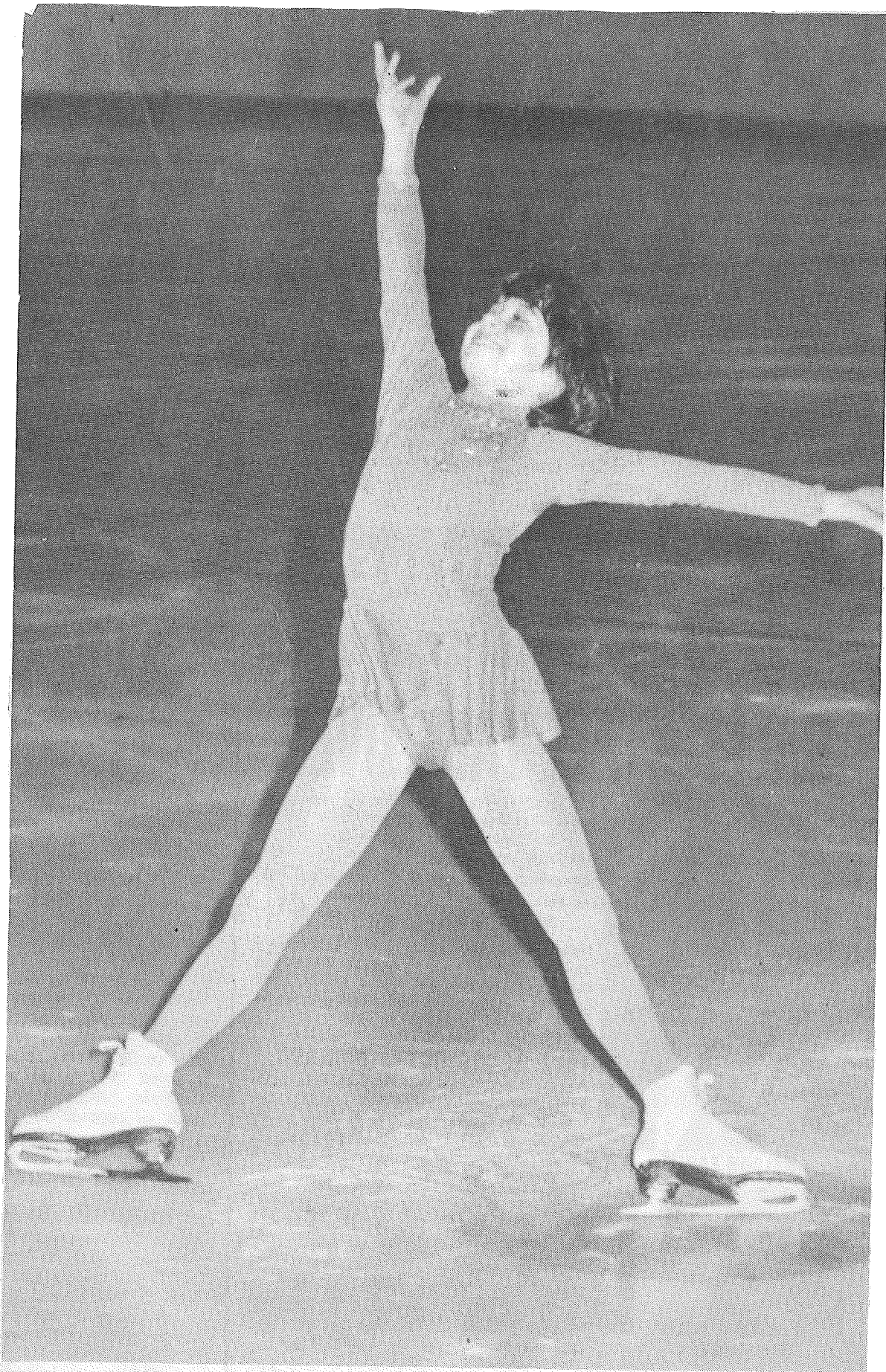
Her intelligence also helps her on the ice, according to her pro, Wally Distelmeyer.

"When you are as young as Tracey, it is difficult to remember what to do in your program," says Distelmeyer, who also coaches Mississauga's Nancy Buys. "But Tracey can think of what to do before she has to do it. She has been told that she has to include certain elements of personality in her program and she has always been able to do it unlike most other figure skaters."

Tracey has a natural athletic power to

her strides and, as Distelmeyer says, "doesn't look weak and frail on the ice."

Because of her age her figures aren't strong yet and, after only five years of skating, her jumping is still a little shaky. But she has enthusiastic support from her parents and the CFSA is willing to gamble that a little maturity will some day lead to an international senior champion.



She did it

Tracey Wainman of Mississauga so impressed the judges at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in Victoria, B.C. last week that she was named to the Canadian Junior team for the world championships.