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That's sixth best IN THE WORLD

By TOM MALONEY

The Canadian Figure Skating Association went into the world junior championships in Megeve, France, with two purposes in mind.

The first purpose was to bring the Cup of Nations championship trophy home by winning the men's and pairs titles. That was accomplished.

The second purpose was to expose two young girls to world competition. That was accomplished, too, but nobody expected Mississauga's Tracey Wainman to finish in sixth place.

Tracey, who runs around the dressing room screaming and jumping to gear herself physically for a skating performance, entered the competition as the youngest skater ever. She made the cut-off date by two weeks.

As a young skater, she was expected to finish near the bottom in the field of 27 girls that ranged in age up to 18. She had only finished fourth in the novice division during

the Canadian championships three weeks earlier.

Although not a nervous girl, after hearing of the number of girls entered and realizing their edge in experience, she asked her mother, Gaye, "What if I finish 27th in figures?"

The possibility loomed as a probability before the first leg of the competition, but Tracey sent the first ripples of surprise through the skating world by finishing 14th.

"I skated the best I could in figures," said Tracey after returning Monday night. "I worked on them after the Canadians and they improved a lot."

After being chosen to go to France by a special committee of the CFSA during the Canadian championships, Tracey had to begin work on a short program for the first time. With only three weeks to practise the routine, she seemed to be at a disadvantage.

But Tracey's performance to the Flight of

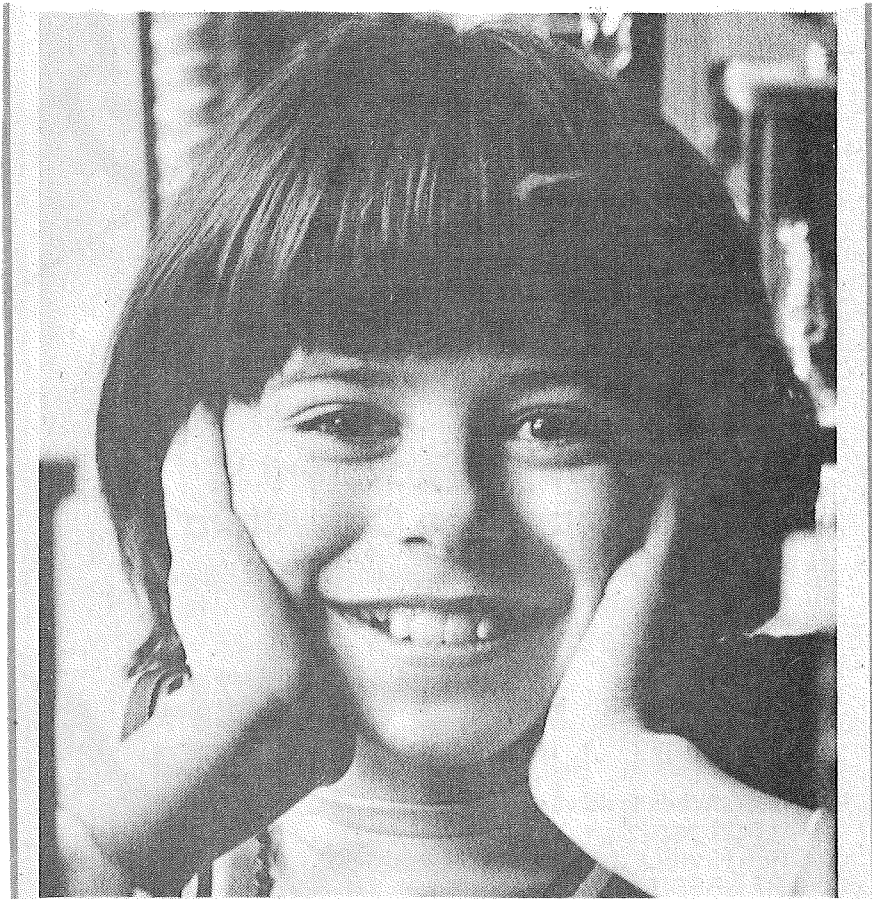
the Bumblebee won her a fifth place and moved her into ninth overall, heading into the long program event on the last day of the competition.

"Tracey had a long program and we had to develop a short one," said her coach, Wally Distelmeyer. "I got hold of some music and she worked on it for a week. Then she gave a demonstration at the Cricket Club and I was astounded at how good it was."

The large Megere crowd showed their appreciation. "The crowd was really good," said Tracey. "They were loud and it really got me going."

Wainman lost a couple of points on the long program when she fell attempting a difficult double axle. However, she was up so quickly after the fall she was almost ahead of her music for the next jump.

"I was really doing the jump good in warm-up," said Tracey. "I tried so hard to make it good but I think I tried too hard."



Tracey Wainman