

Ice gold?

Look for a familiar face in Olympic competition this year

BY GARY GOSSELIN

Area residents may see a familiar face on the TV next month during the winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

Northville native and ice dancer Jerod Swallow and his wife Elizabeth qualified at the National Ice Dance Championships in Detroit earlier this month, and will help represent the United States in the 1994 Olympics.

Gay Swallow, Jerod's mother, said that it took 19 years to get to this point, and added that it wasn't always easy, but when her 27 year-old son performed and qualified in Detroit, it was all worth it.

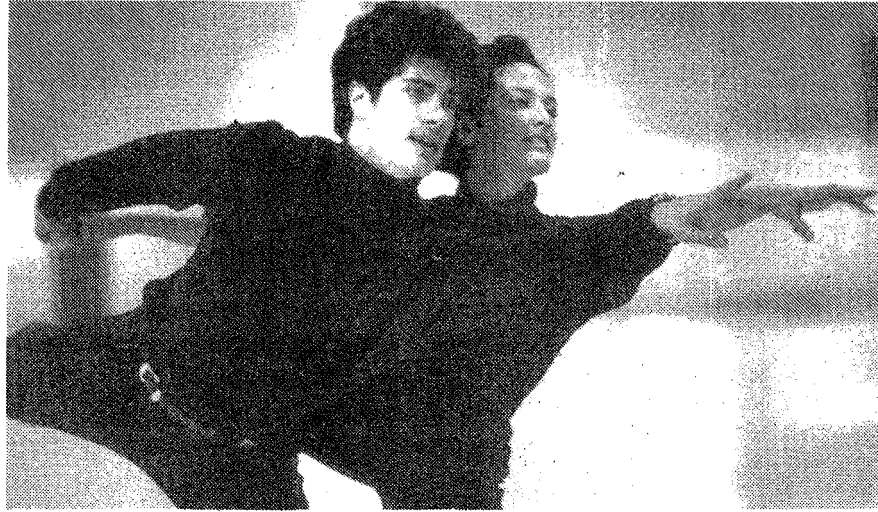
"Jerod and Liz's championship (in Detroit) was doubly sweet because of the hometown audience," Swallow said. "They could hardly hear the music over the crowd noise."

She said that Jerod began skating at the age of 9, and often skated at the Plymouth Cultural Center and two other area skating rinks.

Swallow said that Jerod first wanted to play hockey, but was of slight build so lessons were in order.

Jerod's priorities soon changed, and he entered his first competition at age 10. He placed 14th out of 14 skaters.

He didn't give up or get discouraged at that point, said Swallow who was soon driving 98 miles a day for practice



Northville native Jerod Swallow and his wife-partner, Elizabeth Punsalan-Swallow will be competing in the ice dancing competition during the winter Olympics in Norway.

at two sites, and wearing out several cars in the process.

Jerod soon had two partners; one at the Brownstown County ice arena and another at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills.

Swallow said that Jerod almost gave up skating at age 12 after he broke his knee at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

But, she said, his older brothers, Adam and Seth knew his passion for skating and talked him into sticking with it.

Jerod was on his way to national prominence, winning the Ice Dance National Junior Championships, and taking second in the para-skating championships.

Jerod first saw his wife, a Sheffield Lake, Ohio native, nine years ago when she came to Detroit for a competition.

His mother said she remarked at how beautifully she danced on the ice, but Jerod, with two dance partners already, wouldn't even consider pairing up with a third.

They met again four years ago after they both went to Colorado Springs, Co., for Olympic training.

Swallow said the two were paired together, and immediately knew there was a connection.

Their first competition netted a fifth-place finish, but by 1991, they had rocketed to first-place in national competi-

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Twin crashes investigated; cause could be snow piles

BY GARY GOSSELIN

State and Wayne County officials are conducting an investigation into whether snow plowing during the recent cold snap may have contributed to two separate car accidents that resulted in the death of a Washtenaw County woman.

The victim of the other accident, a 67-year-old woman from Dearborn Heights was treated for injuries.

Both accidents occurred near the I-275/M-14 interchange, and involved the two cars leaping over snow piled on the shoulder of the road and falling to the railroad tracks below.

The first accident occurred on I-275 near the I-96/M-14 exit Jan. 12 when the Dearborn Heights woman swerved to avoid a disabled vehicle.

Her car went onto the mounded snow and over the concrete barrier and came to rest on the railroad tracks below.

The woman was transported to St. Mary's Hospital for treatment of facial lacerations and leg and chest pain.

The second accident occurred less than a week later on M-14 west of Sheldon.

The Washtenaw County resident apparently lost control of her vehicle, which went over the piled snow and concrete embankment and landed on its roof on the railroad tracks 65 feet below.

The woman died at the scene.

Michigan State Police has jurisdiction over accidents that occur on the freeways, but couldn't provide accident information.

One state police officer said that the M-14 accident was being investigated by the Wayne County Road Commission.

Road Commission officials in turn said that the State Police should be investigating, but suggested that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) might also have jurisdiction.

MDOT officials told The Crier that the freeways in question are the jurisdiction of the State Police and that if anyone had information, they would.

Sources familiar with both accidents said that the reason for the cars jumping the barriers was likely the hard-packed snow and ice on the shoulder of the roads.

Yack to give 'state of Canton' Feb. 2

On Feb. 2, Canton Township's 1993 will be summarized by its Township Supervisor, Tom Yack, at the State of the Township Address at Fellows Creek Country Club.

"This is going to be a "Where are we now — where are we going" kind of speech," Yack said.

The address, which will be accompanied by a breakfast buffet, will center around what Canton is involved in now, as well as what happened in the year past.

3 city water mains burst in cold weather

BY GARY GOSSELIN

Even though the temperature has climbed above zero, the bitter weather has left the City of Plymouth with a legacy of broken water pipes.

Over the weekend, three water pipes froze and burst, leaving more than a dozen people without water.

A 12-inch water pipe at Forest and Wing left a watery mess, said Mark Hammar, assistant director of the DPW for the city.

He also said there was a water main break on Arthur St., and another on Maple, east of Sheldon.

Hammar said that the DPW was working on these problems right through the weekend, and had the problems under control by Tuesday afternoon.

Hammar said that two employees worked 14 hours of overtime during the weekend to correct the problems, and said that they tried to thaw one pipe for more than six hours.

He said the problem stems from the protracted sub-zero temperatures.

"What happens is that the frost and ice in the ground seeks colder areas," Hammar said. "Even though the weather outside is warmer, the frost (underground) is still penetrating."

He said that at one location, frost had penetrated three feet in an area where frost usually only penetrates one-and-a-half feet.

Hammar said that those that have had pipes freeze, or have shallow water lines would be well advised to leave a tap dripping to keep water flow through the pipe.



Afternoon accident

A Plymouth resident was struck by a vehicle yesterday afternoon while crossing Main Street at Penniman. The victim was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital, treated and released. The driver of the car was ticketed for failing to yield to a pedestrian in cross-walk.