



The Skater

The Tonya Harding Fan Club Monthly

Volume One, Number Seven

Maggie Morris, Editor

October, 1993

TONYA WOWS CROWD IN DALLAS!

By Maggie Morris

The place was Dallas, Texas. The event was Skate America International - Tonya's first major competition of the new skating season. On Friday, October 22nd, Tonya captured first place for her most outstanding performance of her new technical/short program to the music from "Much Ado About Nothing". It was with that performance that she also captured the hearts of the good people of Dallas. She had the best technical/short program ever, even topping the current World title holder, Oksana Baiul.

On Saturday, October 23rd, it looked as if Tonya would again take first place with her performance when three minutes into her freestyle/long program to the music from

"Jurassic Park", tragedy struck in the form of equipment failure. Tonya decided to stop.

In a recent radio interview on KFX

(1520 AM), John Phillips, an athlete himself for many years, equated Tonya's equipment problem to a race car driver having a blowout or to a basketball player losing a shoe (happened to him) actually having a shoe come apart on the court. John asked Tonya "What went through your mind, what options did you have at that time?" Here



is what Tonya herself had to say. "Basically, the only option I had, I had with a minute left in the program but I had three jumps and I had a spin and at that time I'm thinking, can I make it, can I make it through the

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ELAINE'S LINES: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elaine Stamm

You can feel it ... the energy, the electricity, the power. It is building, growing and getting more exciting with every day. It's the momentum of revving up for the Olympics and Tonya is in the driver's seat. She has a medal after her first big competition of the season, and she's on her way to bigger and better things. The media is humming with interviews of Tonya Harding and still the phone rings with requests for more of the same. Memberships and donations have increased and offers of help come every day. Tonya's quest for the gold continues... the prize has been so long in coming to her. But coming it is, and she is ready to meet the challenges, the competitions, the ovations... all part of the drama that began when she was three. Lillehammer get ready because here comes Tonya!

FANS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tonya's birthday quickly approaches. She will be age 23 on November 12th. If you'd like, send her a card wishing her good and great things. We'll present her a Gift Certificate for the magical amount of \$230.00 for new clothing. If you wish to help with this gift, send your donation in any denomination of "23" payable to the Fan Club.

NEVER SKATE AGAIN?

When Tonya was 15, she was paralyzed from the waist down. It happened when the car in which she was riding was hit from behind. In the hospital, the doctors told her that she would never walk again...never skate again. Tonya saw her whole life flash before her. If that were true, if she couldn't do the thing she loved most in the world, she wouldn't want to live. But then, her indomitable spirit fought back, and after ten hours, when she began to feel a tingling in her feet and legs, she knew the doctors were wrong. Tonya told herself she would skate again...and better than before. A week later, she was back on the ice.

The accident took its physical toll on Tonya. She was left with a crushed disc but she skates on, better and better, a true champion!

TONYA TO SKATE AT GRAND OPENING

Tonya will skate in an exhibition as part of the Grand Opening of the new Food Court at Clackamas Town Center at 8pm on Saturday November 13th.

**TONYA WOWS** (Cont. from page 1)

program because at that time, I had done all my triples and my coach says that I probably would have been in first place. And even if I would have missed one of the jumps, I still would have had a good chance, but to take the chance, I could have broken an ankle, I could have fallen and hurt myself in any way, and at the time, I chose to stop. I thought, what can I do? And I went and showed the judges and the referee, and she said, well you have two choices, you can skate at the very end and you can start all over. You can do the whole program again, four minutes of the program with everything in it or you can take two minutes and try and fix it. And at that time I'm thinking, well I can't do the whole thing over, I mean I have two more skaters, and then I have to do it again. I only had a minute left to the program and I had done everything perfect up until then and so I thought, well I'm just going to take the two minutes and try and fix it. So I went down there, got a screwdriver. I was trying to fix it and see if I could get it tightened up. There were three screws that were totally stripped out that were tight before and I had tightened it the day before right before the short program. They were fine for the short program and I figured it was still fine because I didn't have a problem in the morning. I was tightening it up and

talking to Diane (coach) at the same time and everybody else, and I didn't have the time to get myself relaxed mentally. I was so worried that they (judges) would be mad because I was taking so much time. Yet they gave me two minutes and I only took one minute and I should have just stood there with Diane and talked about it and rested for a minute and then try and go out, but at that time you don't really think about what's going on."

Tonya forged ahead as always and came in third overall for the bronze medal. The people of Dallas made it apparent what they thought of Tonya by honoring her with a standing ovation after her performance at the exhibition following the competition. Tonya said "...the crowd was great...they were really behind me."

The Tonya Harding Fan Club was well represented when members greeted Tonya on her return from Dallas at Portland International Airport. All the local television stations were on hand for the arrival. Tonya did Portland proud! Congratulations, Tonya!

John Phillips of KFXX said it best. "You showed the whole world that Tonya Harding was still on the scene and someone to be reckoned with and is going to be in the Olympics, there is no doubt in my mind about that!."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

We had the pleasure of seeing Tonya skate in an ice show in Mentor, Ohio. One of us traveled from Erie, PA, the other from south of Detroit, MI. Tonya was available to sign autographs prior to the show. It was nice to see her in a relaxed non-competitive environment. She was very friendly and very willing to have photographs taken of her.

Tonya skated beautifully in the show. Afterwards, they had a "Skate with the Stars" hour in which Tonya and Jenö Meno/Todd Sand (the other featured skaters) were available to skate with. What struck us the most was the way Tonya was with the children. She was having so much fun with them and was truly enjoying herself! One does not often get to see such a renowned skater in such an environment. She will make an awesome coach, not only because of her ability as a skater, but as someone who loves to teach children.

The best to Tonya as she begins her competitive season!!!

Robert J. Kraljevich, Temperence, MI
Constance Swab, Erie, PA

Special Request Letter to the Editor:

In the last issue of "The Skater", there were two articles that mentioned sports shows in which Tonya has appeared. The one was a radio show on KFXX and the other was a cable sports show, I think called Paragon.

Since I live on the east coast, I don't have any chance to see or hear these interviews. Could you please publish my request to any other members that could help me get an audio tape of the radio interview and a videotape of the TV one. It would mean so much to me.... Thank you very much, and keep up the great work!

David Kinsey
Alexandria, VA

Response: You are in luck, David. You should be able to kill two birds with one stone on this one. Mr. John Phillips was the moderator of the Paragon live TV interview of Tonya on September 27th called "PDX Sportsline" and he also interviewed her on KFXX (1520 AM) Sports radio on August 20th. Send your inquiries to Mr. John Phillips, KFXX Sports Radio, 4614 Southwest Kelly Avenue, Portland, OR 97201. Hope this helps.

— Maggie Morris



FAN COMMENTS

I'm a 30% disabled Vietnam vet. You may find this hard to believe, but when I came home, I didn't care about anything until I saw Tonya skate. I read everything I could find about her. Her hardships and physical handicaps have given me the courage to go on, just like her. Through her, I've gained self-respect and a reason to care again. I hope many people will come to see that Tonya is more than a great skater. I've learned more about myself through her than I could believe. It's so easy to say, I can't. Well, no more! If Tonya had sat back and said, I can't, we wouldn't know what a person can do if they just keep trying. I've learned to stop feeling sorry for myself, and I'm learning that no matter what, I can at least try."

Richard Shreve
Waterford, PA

TONYA'S COMPETITIONS

November 1-6, 1993
NW PACIFIC REGIONALS
Portland, Oregon

December 5-11, 1993
PACIFIC COAST SECTIONALS
Redwood City, California
OR

December 9-12, 1993
NHK Trophy
Chiba, Japan

January 4-9, 1994
U.S. NATIONALS
Detroit, Michigan

February 12-27, 1994
OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
Lillehammer, Norway

March 22-27, 1994
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Chiba, Japan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor of *The Skater* are welcomed. Please be aware the deadline for such material is the 20th day of the month, for inclusion in that month's edition. Be sure letters are double-spaced and contain a valid telephone number and address. Like my predecessor, the editor edits! Send letters to: Maggie Morris, Editor; *The Skater*; 9841 SW 6th Ave; Portland OR 97219-6545.

TONYA'S ADDRESS

Do you want to write to Tonya but don't know the correct address? Well, here it is:

Tonya Harding
Ice Capades Chalet
Clackamas Town Center
12000 SE 82nd Ave Suite 1085
Portland OR 97266-7731



TONYA'S NEXT COMPETITION

The 1994 Northwest Pacific Championships will take place at the Ice Capades Chalet at Clackamas Town Center from November 3rd through November 6th. Tonya will be skating before a hometown crowd on her home ice. She will compete on Thursday, November 4th between 4:35p.m. and 5:30p.m. in the Senior Ladies Technical Program and on Friday, November 5th between 6:45p.m. and 7:55p.m. in the Senior Ladies Free Skating Program. Tonya will also skate in a special exhibition on Saturday, November 6th between 2:30p.m. and 3:00p.m. After each of these events, Tonya will be signing autographs for those persons who purchase a program for the competition. Cost is \$5.00.

Let's all get out there to the championships and support our favorite skater, Tonya! Go for it, Tonya!!!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"One virtue stands out above all others: the constant striving upwards, wrestling with oneself, the unquenchable desire for greater purity, wisdom, goodness, and love."

—Goethe

DELAWARE LOVES TONYA

Tonya was the featured female skater at the "Olympic Preview on Ice" which took place on Friday and Saturday, October 8th and 9th at the University of Delaware Blue Ice Arena. The show is the only fundraiser in the United States specifically for an Olympic team which is only held every four years in the fall before the Olympic games. Vera Marano, who covered this event for American Skating World called in with some comments. "Tonya made this the best Olympic Preview... She skated beautifully... She just flowed... Delaware loves her... I think her jumps were higher than Scott Hamilton's... a picture perfect performance!" Thanks for the coverage, Vera!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thanks to Kathleen Cobbs of Austin, Texas who organized a Tonya Harding Fan Club get-together at Skate America!

R E M I N D E R

The next general meeting of The Tonya Harding Fan Club will take place on Sunday, November 28th, at 3:00p.m. in the third-floor community room at the Benjamin Franklin Plaza building, located at One Southwest Columbia Street in downtown Portland. See you there!



TONYA HARDING FAN CLUB HONOR ROLL

CATEGORIES OF GIVING

The Skater would like to acknowledge those contributors to Tonya's cause by category of giving; namely, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Olympians and Torch Bearers. Each category will be described when listed.

BRONZE CONTRIBUTORS (\$25-\$99)

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Portland, OR
Sam Nichols, Portland, OR (in-kind)
Rebecca Jane Weber, Portland, OR
Steve & Joan Wilcox, Cathlamet, WA

OLYMPIANS (\$500-\$999)

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TORCH BEARERS (\$1,000 OR MORE)

Calder McCall, McCall Oil & Chemical
Corporation, Portland, OR



HOW TO JOIN

- ☐ **YES**, I'd like to help support Tonya Harding, our local figure skating champion, by joining her international fan club.

MEMBERSHIPS

- ☐ Senior/Fixed Income\$5.00
- ☐ Individual Adult.....\$10.00
- ☐ Family.....\$15.00
- ☐ Junior (ages 7-18).....\$5.00
- ☐ Tots for Tonya (under 7)\$1.00
- ☐ Business.....\$25.00

DONATIONS

- ☐ 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.

For back issues of The Skater, Please add \$.50 per copy. (First issue was April, 1993)

Enclosed is my check for: \$_____

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thanks!

PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO:
The Tonya Harding Fan Club

MAIL TO:

Elaine L. Stamm, President
The Tonya Harding Fan Club
4632 SE Oxbow Parkway
Gresham, OR 97080-8967

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I CAN FURTHER SUPPORT TONYA BY:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Fund raising | ☐ Making phone calls | ☐ Writing letters to editors |
| ☐ Calling sports talk programs | ☐ Sending Tonya encouraging cards | ☐ Bringing more people to meetings |
| ☐ Donations of money | ☐ Getting endorsements | ☐ Putting an ad in your local paper |
| ☐ Photocopying | ☐ Film for Club snapshots | ☐ Cosmetics |
| ☐ Hair Care | ☐ Nail Care | ☐ Clothing |

I heard about the Fan Club from _____

FOR MORE INFO, CALL ELAINE AT (503) 663-5554