

Nipawin man off to Austria

BY BRIAN MCLANE

Jerry Anderson says he prefers to skate on an open air rink.

During most weekends the 27-year-old spends "about an hour or so" on his days off from work at Save-U IGA, practising speed skating at the Pinedale Skating Rink.

On March 17, Jerry will join his Canadian teammates in Toronto when the group leaves for the Special Olympics World Winter Games 1993 in Austria.

Jerry is one of nine athletes from Saskatchewan who will be competing at the 1993 Special Olympics. He is the son of Adolf and Lola Anderson of Nipawin.

Jerry, who has a learning disability, has been competing in the Special Olympics, on the provincial, national and international stage since 1983.

He took part in the 1983 Special Olympics Summer Games in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, competing in the 100 metre run and standing long jump.

Jerry says he qualified for the 1993 Special Olympics last year by winning two gold medals and a bronze in speed skating at the 1992 Canadian Special Olympics, held in Saskatoon.

His most recent accomplishments in speed skating took place at the 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Winter Games at Melfort last month.

At that competition, Jerry won two gold medals. He finished first in the 100 metres with a time of 14.7 seconds and completed 300 metres in a time of 42.91 seconds.

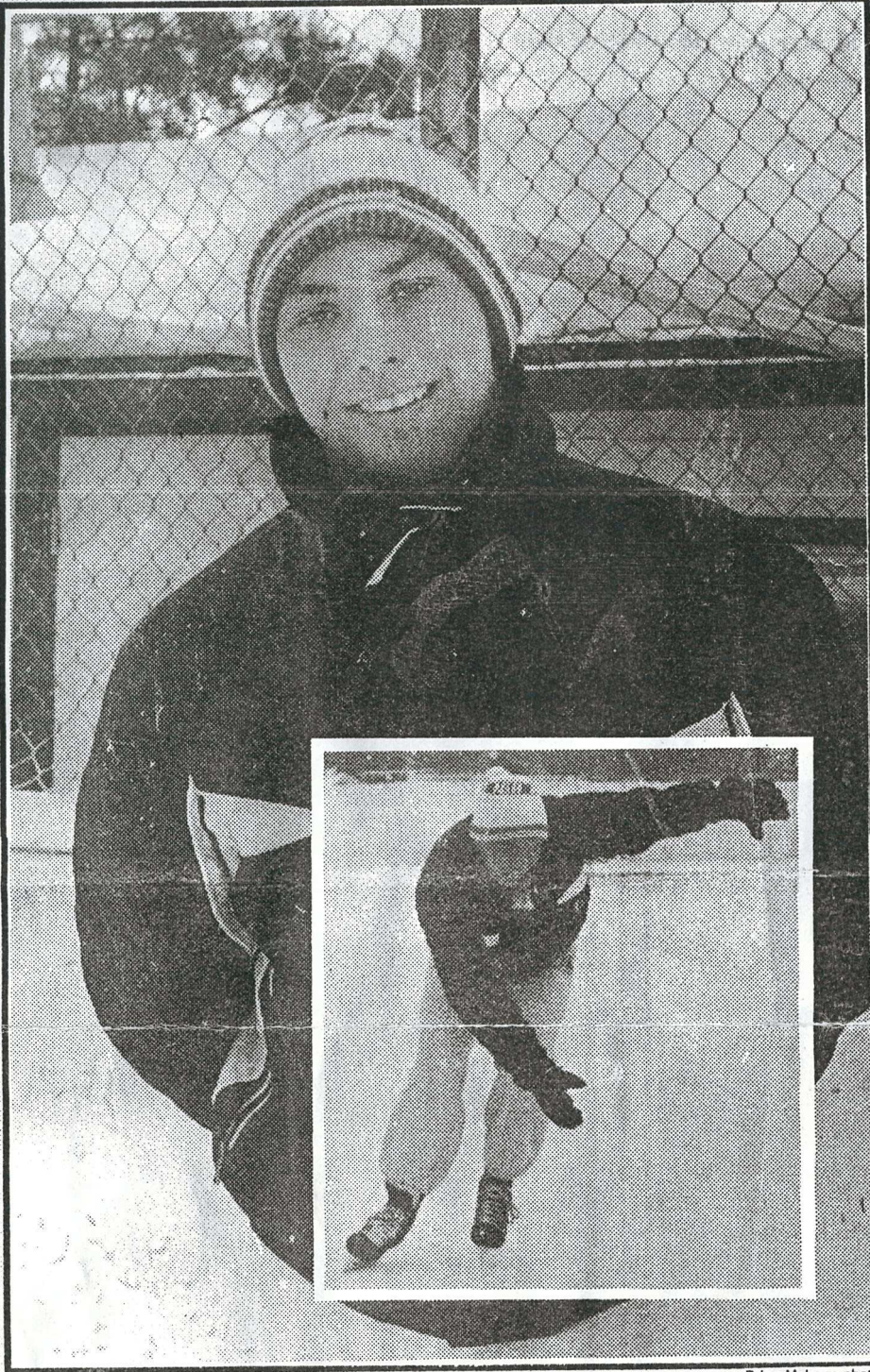
"I had trouble getting used to the longer skates (used in speed skating) and had trouble around the corners in the 500 m," said Jerry.

"During my practise sessions I use regular hockey skates but am using the speed skates more."

While in Austria Jerry plans to compete in three categories in speed skating, the 100 m, 200 m and 500 m.

Anderson says he keeps in shape by playing recreational hockey in White Fox.

He also plays floor hockey with the Zone 8 team from Melfort. He will



Brian McLane photo

Jerry Anderson of Nipawin practises speed skating most weekends on the open air rink in Pinedale. The 27-year-old will compete in speed skating at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 1993 in Austria later this month.

be competing in a provincial floor hockey tournament in Moose Jaw, March 12 to 14.

Jerry says he is looking

forwards to the Special Olympics "gets everyone pretty close before we have to get home again."

Jerry says he will have time in Austria for sight-

seeing and plans to spend a lot of time cheering on the other Canadian athletes. Some 1,600 athletes from nearly 60 countries will take part in The Fifth World Winter Games for Athletes with Mental Retardation — the largest winter sport event in the world held in 1993.

In addition, some 500 coaches, 2,000 family members and friends together with 1,500 volunteers are expected at the games which run from March 20 to 27.

The two host cities in Austria are Schalling, population 5,000, and Salzburg with a population of 150,000.

The distance between the two host cities is about 90 kilometres. Sports featured at the 1993 Austrian Special Olympics include alpine skiing, cross country skiing, floor hockey, figure skating, unified floor hockey and speed skating.

Jerry says he will be driving into Saskatoon later today (March 3) to pick up his Team Canada uniform.

"The Special Olympics gets everyone close before we have to go home again,"
Jerry Anderson

forward to the trip to Austria.

"It's a once in a lifetime chance," he says. "It's also an opportunity to see a different part of the world and to meet a whole bunch of new people."

Jerry says the time athletes and coaches spend together at the Special

olympics "gets everyone pretty close before we have to get home again."

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