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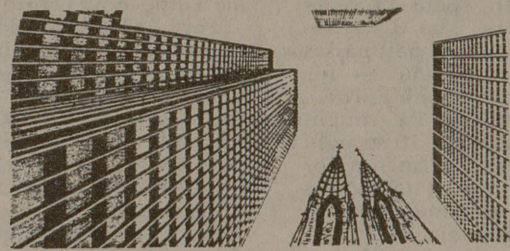


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Due February 8, 1988 12:00p.m.

MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness

Speedskaters look toward Calgary

Heiden's '80 5-gold sweep won't be repeated

From the Associated Press
Eight years have passed since Eric Heiden's one-man race against time at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics produced five speedskating gold medals.

Heiden's feat seems as untouchable as Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak.

In 1984, a young U.S. Olympic

Part two of three

speedskating team had little chance of meeting expectations that lingered after Heiden's performance. The Americans went 0-for-Sarajevo with several promising performances but no medals at the Games in Yugoslavia.

"People expected a lot in 1984 after Eric Heiden had been a one-man show. The rest of the 1980 team won a couple of medals but it was all Heiden," said Nick Thometz, a fourth-place finisher in the 1,000 meters at the 1984 Games and now the world record-holder at 500 meters.

"There is never going to be another Eric Heiden," he said.

"Things are so specialized now. For a person to win the 500 and the 1,000, there's just not anybody capable of that. Speeds are becoming so fast, it's just so difficult."

U.S. sprinters Thometz, Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen, three of nine members on the 1988 team who were in the 1984 Games, predict the Olympic medal shutout won't continue in February. And they hope to be three reasons why.

Blair has a shot at medals in the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 meters. She held the women's 500-meter record until East German Christa Rothenburger took it away at Calgary during a World Cup meet in December.

To win in Calgary, U.S. skaters will have to master an exceptionally fast and narrow indoor rink that is ripe for world records. They also will face the usual strong contingent of skaters from East Germany and the Soviet Union, among others.



"It seems things have been spreading out," Jansen said, looking at the men's field. "There are a good six, or seven or eight guys who could win on any day if they have a good day. Hopefully, we'll just be that much better when we get out there."

Jansen was fourth in the 500 meters in the 1984 Games.

The Calgary track is of special concern to bigger skaters like Jansen because of its narrow turns. The lanes are only 4 meters wide—many rinks are 4½ or 5 meters wide—and that means the final turn in a sprint is crucial, especially if the skater is on the inside lane.

Jansen went out of his lane during the World Cup meet at Calgary in December and was disqualified.

"It's very fast indoors, it's a high altitude at about 3,500 feet and there is low humidity so the rink is very fast. That is coupled with the fact that you have the narrowest lanes you can possibly have," said U.S. Coach Mike Crowe.

"It's exceptionally good for long distances but you have to be right on in the sprints and not miss a step."

"The big fellows like Dan, like (Soviets) Sergei Fokishev and Igor Zhelezovsky can go 36.5 (seconds),

but if they don't hold the turns, the little guys can win."

Jansen and Thometz are strong contenders for medals in the 500 meters and 1,000 while Eric Flaim of Pembroke, Mass., could win one at 1,500 meters, where he is the American record holder. Flaim qualified to skate in four events—the 1,000, 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000.

Thometz' and Jansen's chief competition in the 500 are Fokishev, Zhelezovsky, Jens Uew-Mey of East Germany, 1987 World Cup sprint champion Akira Kuroiwa of Japan and Ki Tae Bae of South Korea.

Another top skater in recent World Cup meets has been Jan Ykema of the Netherlands.

The field is much the same in the 1,000 with the addition of Nikolai Gulyayev of the Soviet Union and Yukihiko Mitani of Japan.

Another contender in both races is Gaetan Boucher of Canada, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist at 1,000 and 1,500 meters and a bronze medalist at 500.

In a wide open 1,500 meters, Crowe said Zhelezovsky, who set a world record in December, is one of the top medal contenders as is countryman Gulyayev.

At 5,000 meters Flaim and American Dave Silk, another member of the 1984 team, will be hard pressed against three Dutch skaters—Leo Visser, Girard Kemkers and Hein Berger— and Norway's Geir Karlstad. Karlstad set a world record in the 10,000 meters in December. Austria's Michael Hadschieff is also a threat in the 10,000 meters.

Blair knows her competition well. The East Germans dominated the World Cup meet in December winning 13 of 18 medals. In the 1984 Olympics, led by the lanky and powerful Karin Kania, East Germany finished 1-2 in every event and won nine of 12 medals.

The 5-9, 160-pound Kania won gold medals at 1,000 and 1,500 meters and silvers at 500 and 3,000 in

the 1984 Games. She dominated January World Cup meet by winning the 500, 1,000 and 1,500, finishing second at 3,000.

Rothenburger won the 500 meters in Sarajevo and holds the record in that event in 39.39 seconds.

Blair and Rothenburger are gold-medal favorites at 500 meters but Crowe thinks the fast track will mean even more for Blair, whose 5, 125-pound frame is suited to turns.

"With Bonnie's speed on the track there is even the possibility of getting closer or beating Karin's 1,000 and getting closer to her 1,500," Crowe said.

"They haven't shrunk any," Blair said, sizing up her bigger opponent. "Sure they're a lot bigger, but the technique has some flaws. I'm going to have to beat them technically skate my best and hope that's enough."

Other contenders in the 500 and 1,000 in addition to Blair, Kania, Rothenburger are American Keri Class, Japan's Seiko Hashimoto, East Germany's Andrea Ehrig, a gold medal winner in the 3,000 meters four years ago.

In the 1,500, Kania, Ehrig, moto and Yvonne van Gennip of the Netherlands will make it tough for Blair to win a medal, but she says bronze is not impossible.

Crowe admits that his distance skaters will have trouble winning medal against Kania, Ehrig and Gennip. Heading the American contingent in the 3,000 and 5,000 are Mary Docter and Nancy Swier. Peltz. Docter, a three-time Olympian, came out of retirement just months before December's meet. Swider-Peltz, 31, also came out of retirement and is the only U.S. skater to ever make four Olympic teams.

Another U.S. skater, Leslie Barr, qualified to skate in four events while men's sprinter Erik Hendrik is also on the Olympic team for a third time.

Houston GM, Bass' agent hold contract talks

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros General Manager Bill Wood and agent Chuck Berry met to try and iron out a multi-year contract for right fielder Kevin Bass in order to avoid arbitration.

Bass, who could be eligible for free agency at the end of the coming season, has requested a salary of \$930,000 for 1988. The Astros have countered with a salary offer of \$730,000. Both parties can avoid the arbitration process by reaching an

agreement in the next two weeks.

Wood said he and Berry had a three-hour meeting Monday. Bass' salary arbitration hearing has been scheduled Feb. 15 in New York.

Bass, a 1983 All-Star, hit .284 last season and was second behind first baseman Glenn Davis with 19 home runs and 85 RBI. He also had 21 steals.

The Astros are expected to reach agreement with utility man Jim Pankovits before his scheduled Feb. 12

arbitration hearing. Pankovits has requested \$150,000. The Astros offered \$135,000.

Pankovits was used mostly as a pinch hitter and hit .230 with one home run and eight RBI.

At Tucson, he hit .327 with four home runs and 25 RBI.

The Astros also are trying to resign Davis, who was a holdout before the 1986 season. Davis was in New York last weekend to meet with Astros owner John McMullen.

Wood said the Astros have no interest in veteran left-hander Terrence Lambert, who has expressed interest in returning to Houston. Lambert, however, is still pursuing a right-hander George Frazier, member of the Minnesota Twins World Series championship team last year.

Former Astros left fielder Cruz reportedly is weighing offers from Detroit, the New York Yankees and two teams in Japan.

Maryland freshman gets early accolades

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — When Maryland's Brian Williams stepped out on the floor of Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium earlier this season for the pregame warmup, he got a reception he never expected.

"One half of the gym was saying, 'Over,' and the other half was saying, 'Rated,'" the 6-foot-10 freshman said after a recent practice. "I was laughing because if you're going to let it get you, they're going to see that. Then they'll taunt you more."

Williams responded by scoring 14 points, grabbing seven rebounds and playing a key role in the Terrapins' upset over the then-No. 9 rated Blue Devils.

"It does pump you up because they want you to do bad and you want to prove them wrong," Williams said.

He did, showing everybody what Maryland Coach Bob Wade has already seen.

Williams, who was averaging 11.7 points and 5.5 rebounds going into Maryland's game Tuesday night at Notre Dame, has shown rival coaches in the Atlantic Coast Conference enough to start worrying about the future.

"I've always been a Brian Williams fan," North Carolina Coach Dean Smith says. "We tried to recruit him, but he did not elect to come here. He's a quick athlete who competes extremely hard. He and Rudy Archer give Maryland a whole new look this year...."

"Williams is coming on in each game this season. He's a fine young man and a good student. I think you'll be hearing a lot about Brian in the future."

North Carolina State Coach Jim Valvano agrees.

"Brian Williams: we'll be saying that name for a long time," Valvano said.

Incaviglia threatens to miss spring training

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Rangers outfielder Pete Incaviglia says the team won't budge in contract talks and threatened to stay away from spring training next month.

"If they won't move, they are forcing me into a position to make them pay me or trade me," Incaviglia said.

Incaviglia, who made \$197,000 last year when he hit .271 with 27 home runs and 80 RBI, said the Rangers have offered a \$250,000 salary for 1988 and have refused to negotiate from that figure.

Incaviglia challenged baseball's amateur draft and forced a trade to the Rangers in the fall of 1985. He has two years of major league experience and would not be eligible for salary arbitration for another year, forcing him to accept the Rangers' final offer or hold out.

General Manager Tom Grieve said he has left most contract negotiations, including Incaviglia's, to assistant Wayne Krivsky.

Krivsky told the Associated Press he was surprised by Incaviglia's re-

marks and that it was too early to worry about spring training, but he had no further comment.

"We don't make a policy of negotiating contracts in the paper," Krivsky said.

Incaviglia initially sought more than \$500,000, but lowered his request to a \$300,000 base salary. Incentives based on awards and bats.

"I hope this doesn't get to be a deal," he told the Dallas Morning News, "but they are being unreasonable. Not giving me incentives, letting me have a chance to earn the money during the season, is unfair."

Grieve said he did know of threatened holdout, but said he would not alter the Rangers' contract talks.

"All players have the right to come to spring training," Grieve said. "That's why baseball has strike two years ago. Owners didn't want to pay those kind of salaries."

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