

Boardwalk lands a first for TV event

Olympians to skate on portable rink July 11

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Sun, sand, surf and . . . ice?

Yes, Olympic ice skaters will glide into Surf City this summer.

In an unprecedented event on July 11, Olympians Oksana Baiul, Nancy Kerrigan, Viktor Petrenko, Elvis Stojko and Phillippe Candeloro will leap and twirl on a portable ice rink in the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk parking lot.

The evening show, "Hot Summer Ice," is being produced by Bill Graham Presents for a two-hour CBS prime-time special to be aired later.

"We've never done a beach ice-skating show before," said executive producer Stan Feig of Bill Graham Presents. "Where better than Santa Cruz?"

Boardwalk spokeswoman Ann Parker said there has never been such an event at the 88-year-old amusement park.

"I didn't think we could do this in the middle of July," Parker

said. "But the more I started thinking about it, the more I thought it was a great idea. After all, this certainly is the coolest place on Earth."

The event brings to Santa Cruz the all-star cast that turned the world's eye to ice skating during the 1994 Winter Olympics in Norway with its on- and off-the-rink drama.

There's Oksana, the 16-year-old Ukrainian orphan who erupted into tears after winning the gold medal and waited patiently while Olympic officials searched for her country's anthem.

And Kerrigan, the U.S. 1992 bronze medalist who took silver last year despite getting rapped on the knee in the tabloid-sensation plot involving rival teammate Tonya Harding.

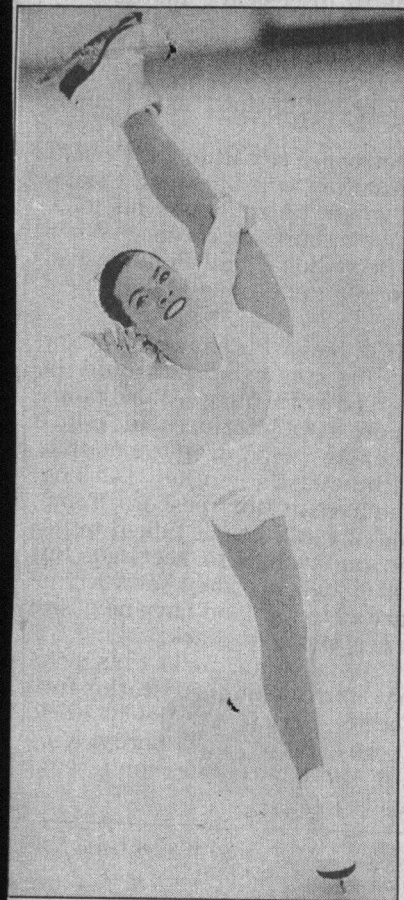
Harding won't be coming, but figure skating's latest bad girl, Nicole "Brass Knuckles" Bobek, is. The cigarette-smoking Chicago teen-ager and U.S. women's champ — nicknamed because of

her 10 rings — inherited Harding's mantle when she was arrested for allegedly breaking into a friend's house.

As for the guys, there are Petrenko, the Ukrainian 1992 gold medalist who skated to fourth place in Norway, and U.S. men's champ Todd Eldredge. They will be joined by 1994 silver medalist Stojko of Canada, a martial-arts expert who karate-chopped his way through an ambitious program in a biker-like outfit, and Candeloro, the bronze medalist from France.

The event also includes rising star Tara Lapinski as well as pairs skaters Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini, Shae-Lynn Bourn and Victor Kraatz, and Gia Guddat and Gary Beacom. Former skating champs Scott Hamilton and Verne Lundquist will host the show.

Most of the skaters have been traveling together on the 72-city Tour of Olympic and World Champions, which finishes at the San Jose Arena on July 9, Feig said. See **SKATERS**, Page 5B



Silver medalist Nancy Kerrigan

Boardwalk ices TV event SJMN JUNE 1, 1995 ■ SKATERS

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said. The skaters have new material for the Boardwalk show, he said.

Tickets are \$32.50 plus a service charge, and there are only 3,500 seats in the portable arena, he said.

Making ice in summertime Santa Cruz will be something of a challenge but not an insurmountable one, Feig said.

"It's more difficult than some other places, but the technology exists to get it done," he said. "I've seen ice made in Las Vegas in 100-degree temperatures."

The producers are summoning a team of ice specialists to create the rink, which, at 160 feet by 60 feet, will be slightly smaller than regulation size. There is also talk of setting up a smaller rink right on the sand for a free exhibition.

Don't strap on your own blades for this event, though. When the skaters go, the ice goes with them, and there will be no public skating, Parker said.