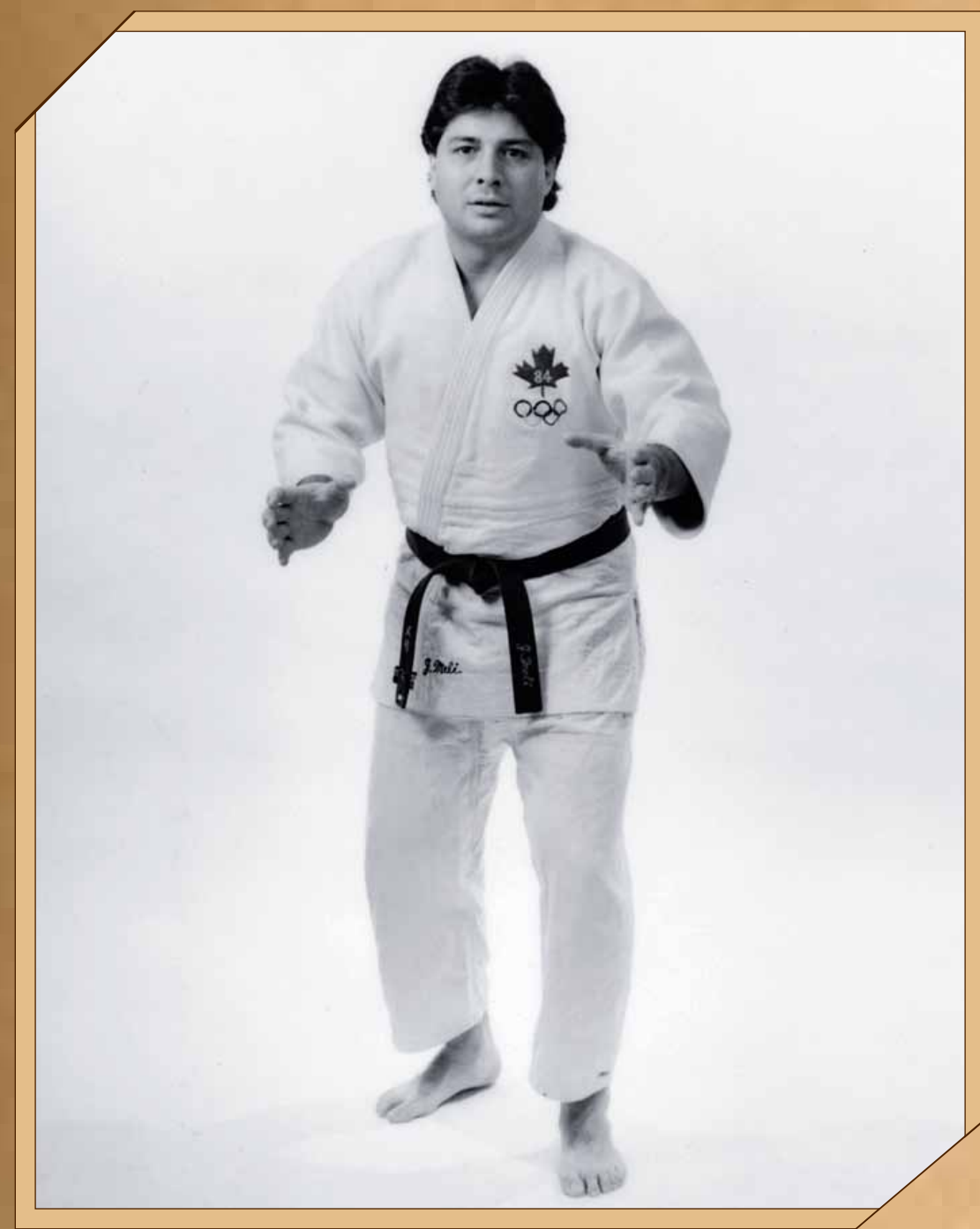




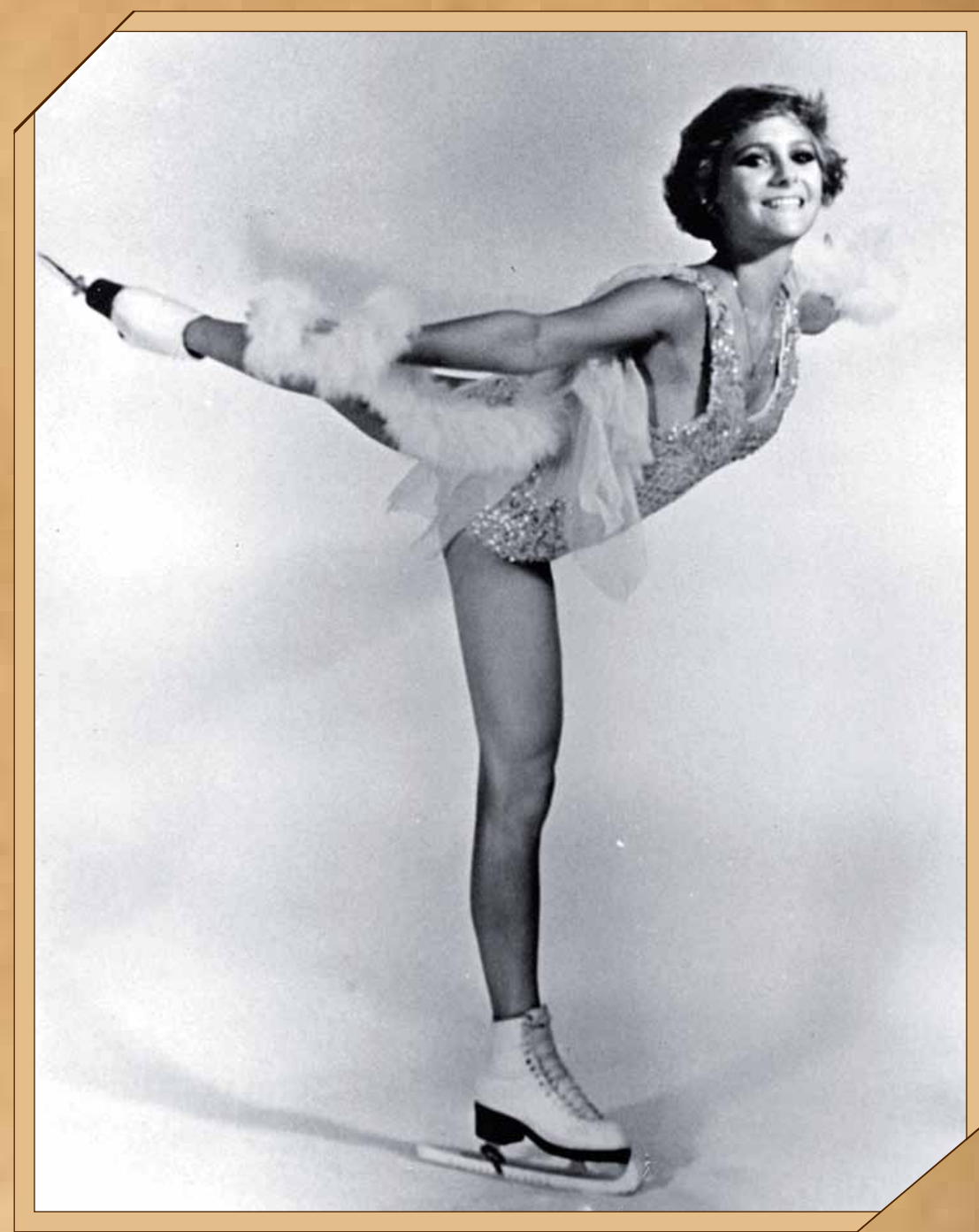
# 1988 ATHLETES



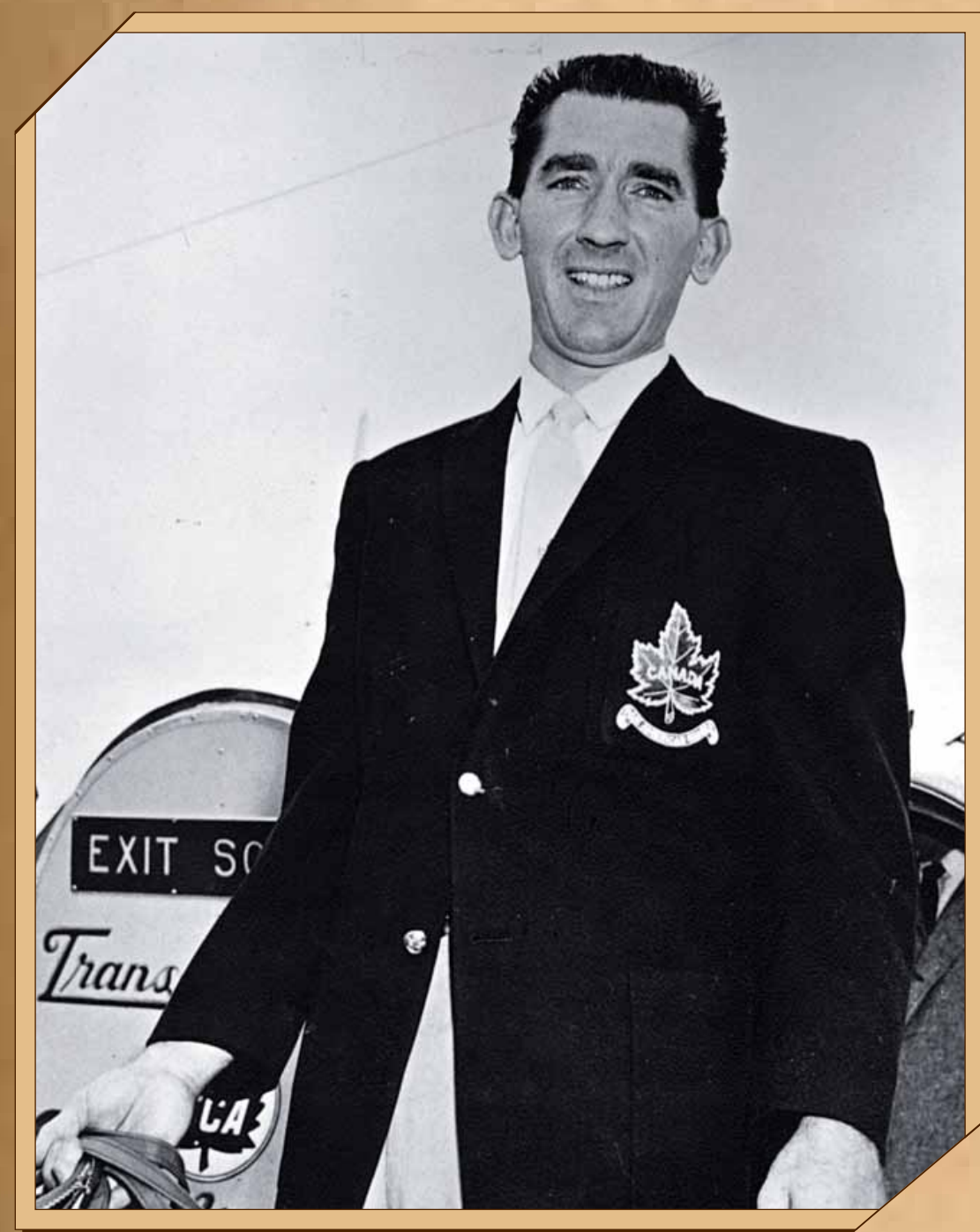
**JOE MELI**  
JUDO  
Joe Meli is an outstanding all-round athlete who made his name on the international circuit as one of Canada's top judokas. Meli has been a member of three Olympic teams. As well, he represented Canada at four Pan American Games, two World Championships and is a seven-time Canadian Champion. Meli competed in a variety of sports as a youth in Lethbridge. In 1975 he was captain of the Lethbridge Native Sons Hockey Club which won the gold medal at the 1975 Canada Winter Games held in Lethbridge. Joe Meli then went on to enjoy a successful career with the Lethbridge Broncos of the Western Hockey League.



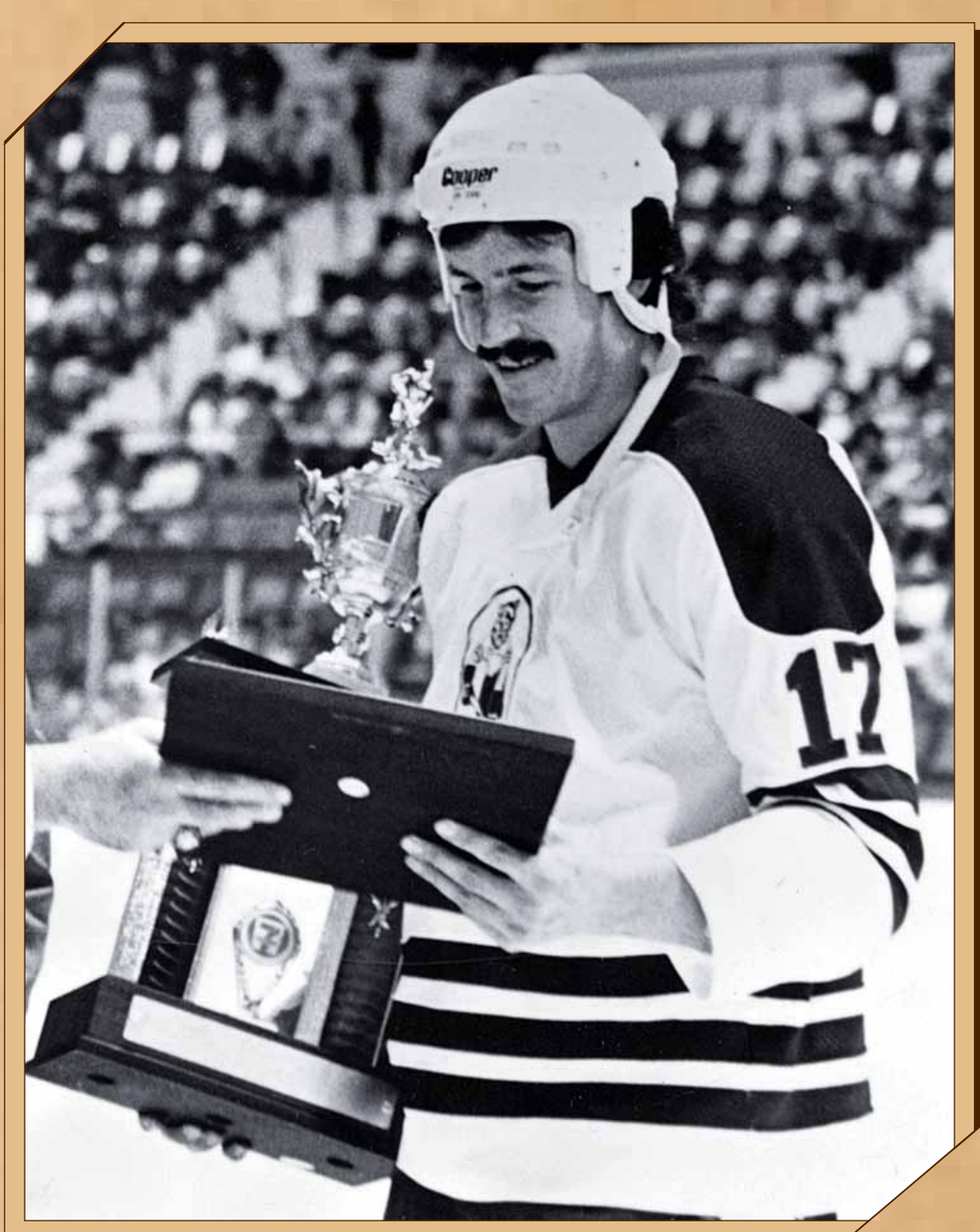
**CAROLE GENZER**  
TRACK & FIELD  
Carole Genzer was an outstanding performer in the early 1960's, earning a prominent place in Canadian track and field annals during that period. Carol was a thrower and she won a bronze medal in shot put at the 1962 Canadian National Championships. At the 1963 Nationals, Genzer showed amazing versatility, winning silver in both the shot put and discus, as well as a bronze medal in javelin. Carol was the recipient of the A.R. Lawrence award as Alberta's Outstanding Female Athlete in 1962 and '63. She established numerous provincial records and was named Lethbridge's Kinsmen Athlete of the Year in 1964. Since the completion of her track career, Genzer has gone on to be one of Lethbridge's leaders in track and field and gymnastics, from an administrative and coaching perspective.



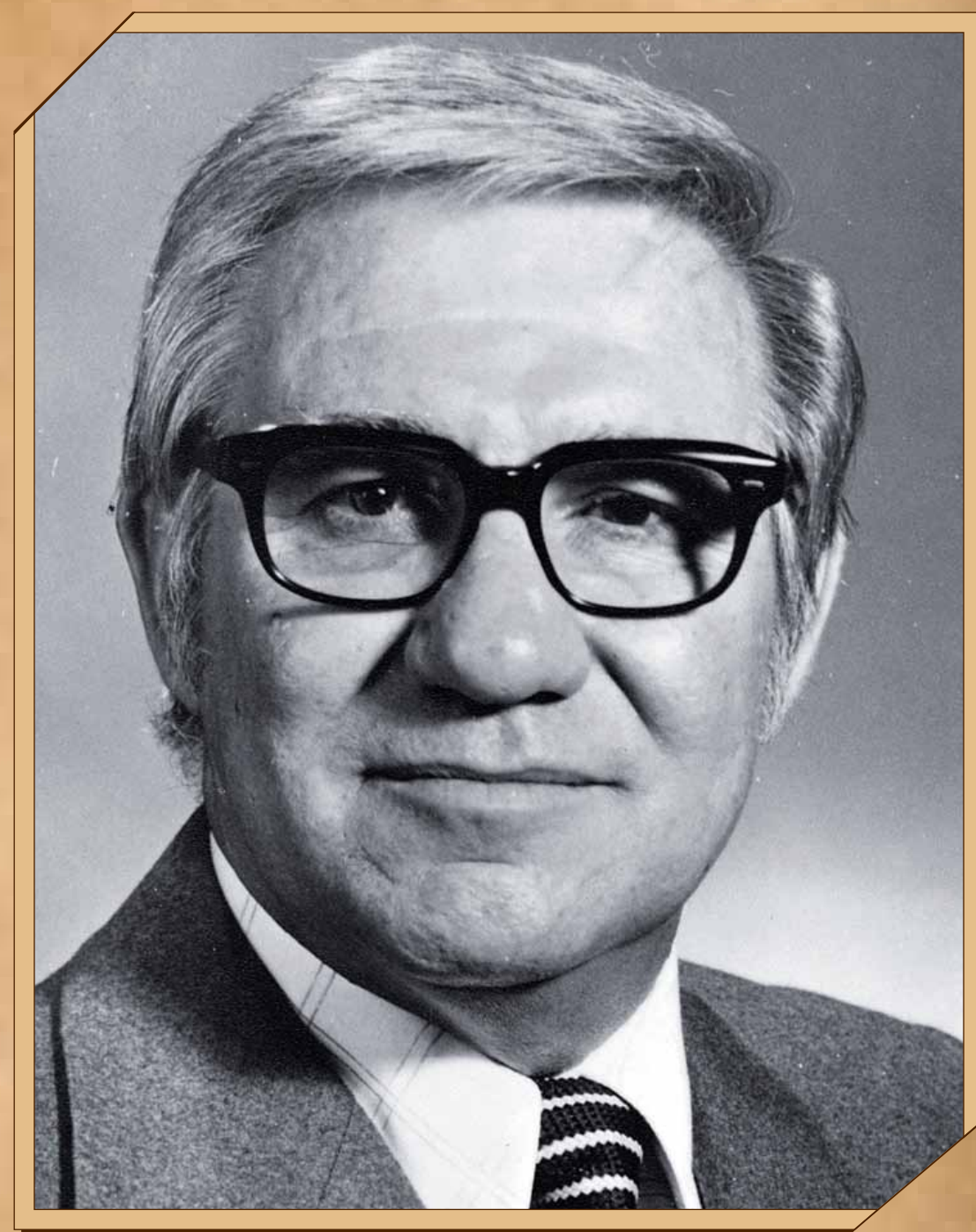
**NATALIE (SHADY) REIMER**  
FIGURE SKATING  
In the late 1970's and early 80's, Natalie Reimer was Lethbridge's top female singles figure skater. Reimer started skating with the Lethbridge Figure Skating Club in 1967, at the age of four. By age 10 she was competing, winning the Southern Alberta Juvenile Ladies' the following year. At 12 Natalie won the Southern Alberta Regional, as well as the Alberta Sectionals in Juvenile Ladies'. As a 13 and 14 year old Reimer was Southern Alberta Regional Novice Champion. In 1979, at 16, she moved into the national picture with a gold medal performance at the Canada Winter Games. From there Reimer went on to win a silver and gold at Provincial and Western Canadian Championships and in 1982 she won a silver medal at the Canadian Championship. In 1982-83 Natalie Reimer was a member of the National Team.



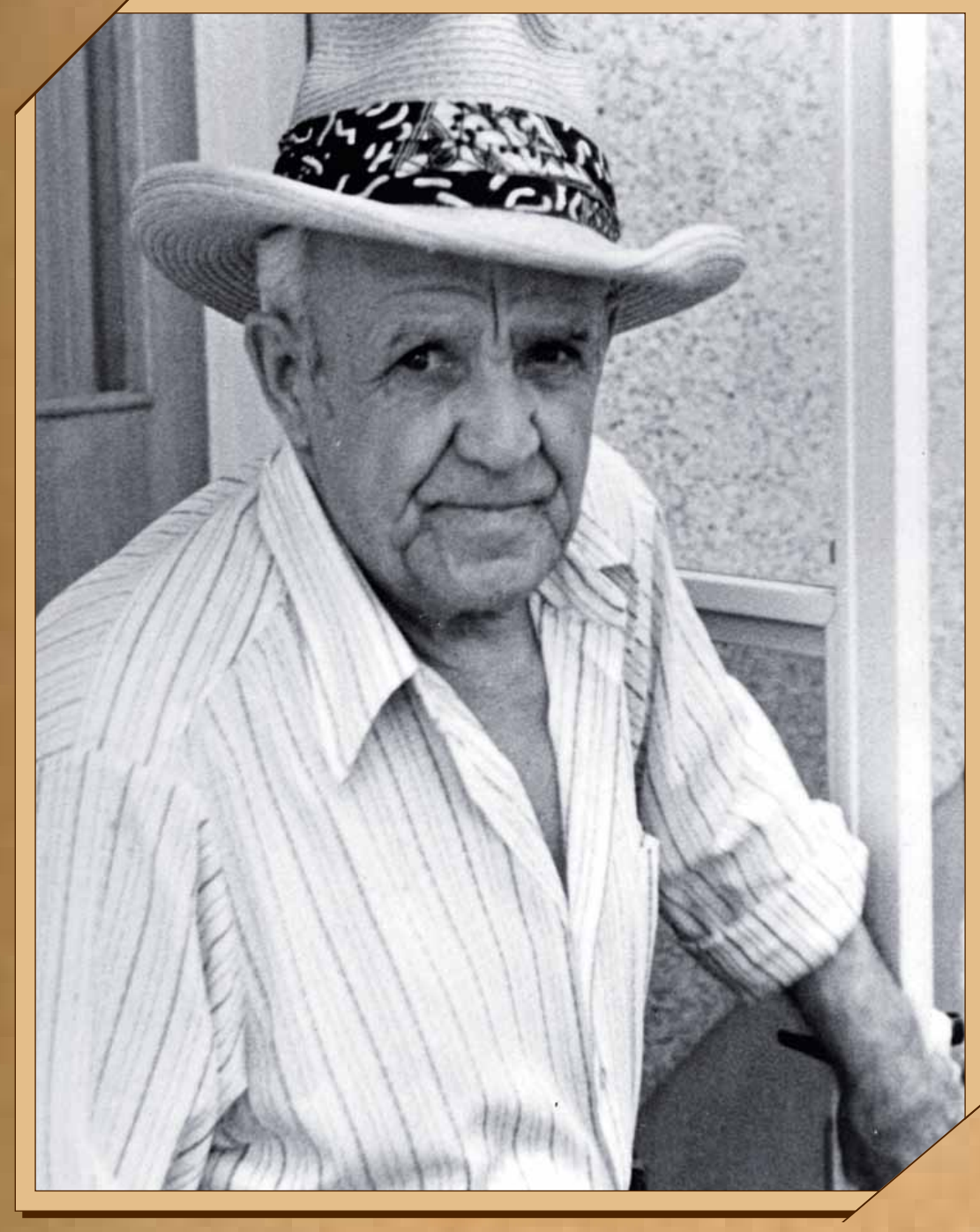
**JACK LILJA**  
BASEBALL  
Jack Lilja was one of the greatest baseball showmen ever to grace the hardwood in Lethbridge. Lilja moved north from his native California to become a star of local hoops in the 1920's and 30's. He was a great guard who combined good outside shooting with tricky passing and dribbling. Lilja was a crowd favorite at a time when indoor basketball was the top draw in Lethbridge. Jack played on the Lethbridge Green Acres from 1950-55, the Broders Chasooks from 1956 to '62 and the Lethbridge Nationals in 1962-63. During this time he was a member of three Canadian Championship clubs and competed internationally on a number of occasions, including the 1959 and 1963 Pan Am Games and international tournaments in Manila and Rio. Jack Lilja went on to serve as coach and official after his playing days were over.



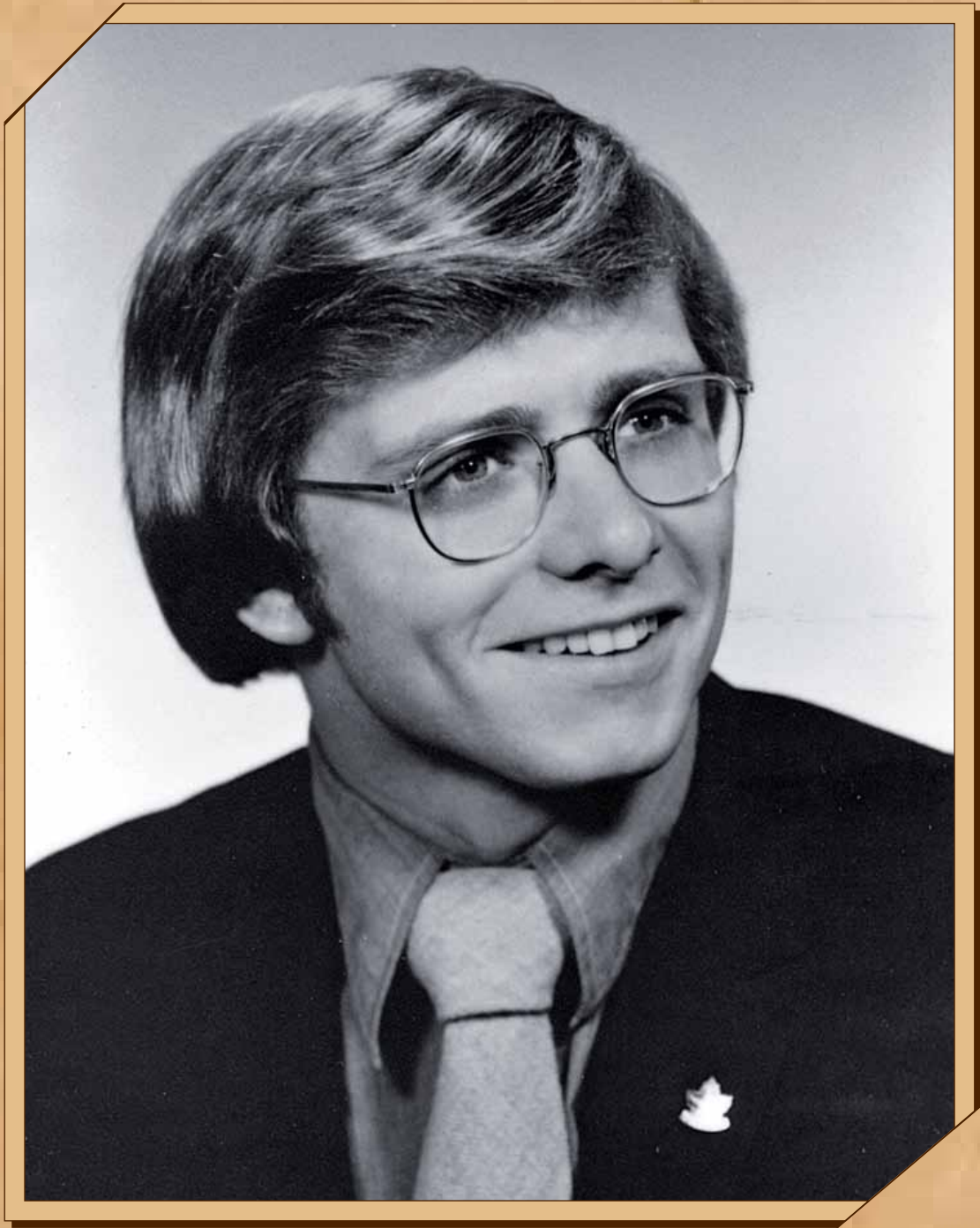
**HARVIE PUCCA**  
MULTI SPORTS  
Harvie Pucca was undoubtedly one of the finest youth athletes Lethbridge has ever seen. Pucca excelled in many sports, competing at a national level in baseball, bowling, hockey, football and showpitch. Harvie's Little League baseball career included a perfect game at the Whittier tournament and winning the 1971 Prairie title. In 1972, his Bantam team won a Provincial crown. Pucca won two Provincial Youth Bowling Council Championships and Y.C.C. Junior Singles National Championship in 1974. Harvie Pucca played his minor hockey in Lethbridge before moving on to the Western Hockey League with the Billings Bighorns. He was a fourth round draft choice of the Washington Capitals in 1979 and played in the American Hockey League with the Hershey Bears. In 1982 Pucca was the Top Player in the Championship Round, as the Lethbridge Schwartz Slow Pitch team won the National Championship.



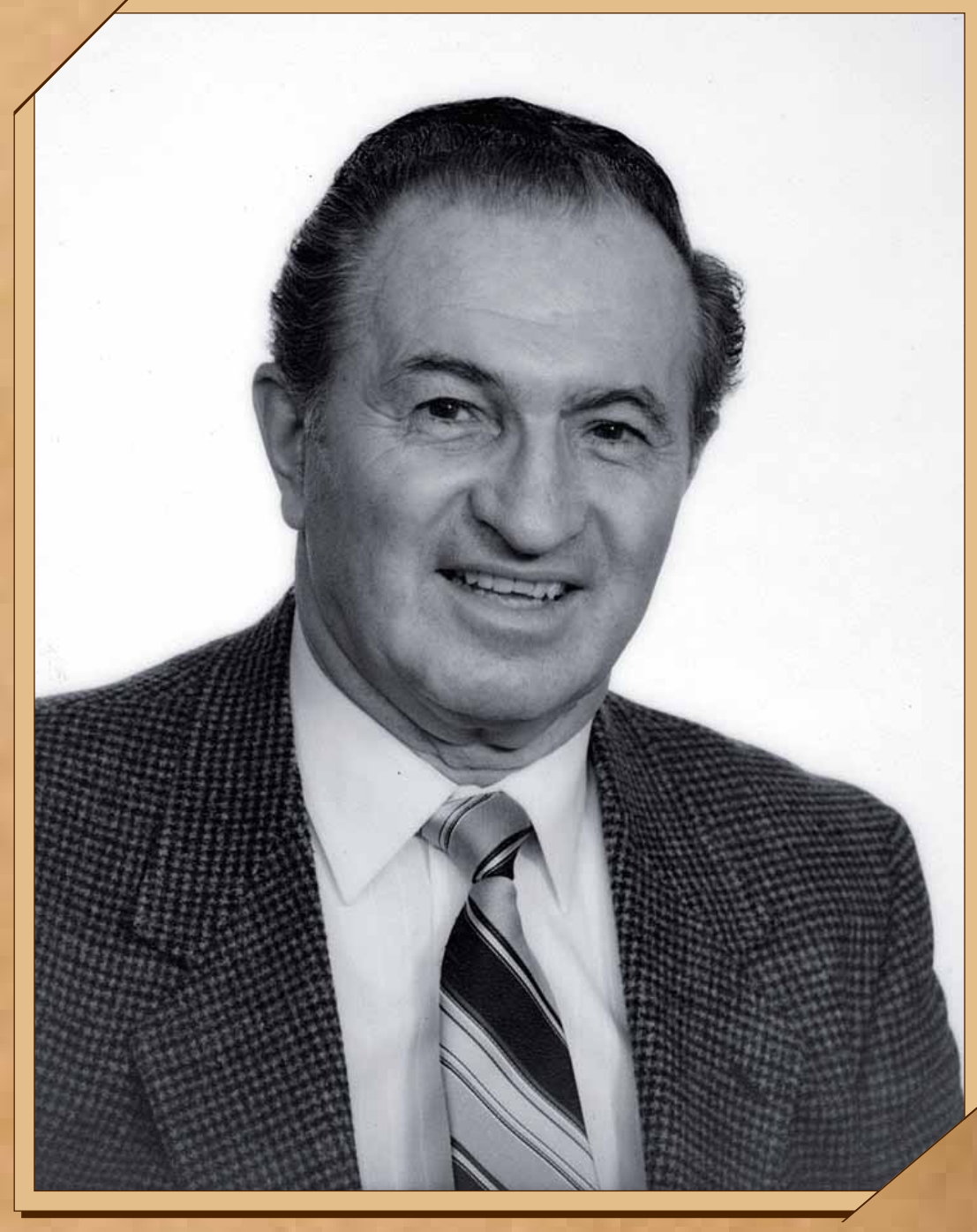
**STEVE ODNEY**  
BASEBALL  
Steve Odney was one of Alberta's top baseball and football players in the 1940's and 50's, a remarkable feat in that he often played both sports concurrently during the same season. Odney started his career in 1941 with the Wells St. Baseball Team. In 1947 he moved to Lethbridge and played five years of baseball and football in the area for teams such as the Lethbridge Minors, Town Hall, Lethbridge Reds and Shaunessy Cadillacs. In 1952 and '53 Steve started for Canadian Softball Championships teams in Calgary, leading the Western Canada League in batting with a .500 average in 1953. From 1954 to '56 this slick fielding outfielder played baseball for the legendary Grams White Sox. Unfortunately Steve Odney's career came to an abrupt end in 1957, when he suffered a severe knee injury.



**BILL "IRON MAN" TAGELSON**  
BASEBALL  
Bill "Iron Man" Tagelson was one of Alberta's and Montana's strongest baseball pitchers in the 1920's and 30's. A farmer by trade, Tagelson took to baseball as a youth in 1914 at Warner, Alberta, where Tagelson quickly developed as a hurler. Baseball was really rolling in Southern Alberta at that time and Tagelson became in great demand, winning as many as 25 games per season, pitching for teams such as the Lethbridge Red Sox, Lethbridge Minors, Spring Coulee, Cardston Sunbeams, Milk River, Coultas and Great Falls. The "Iron Man" was known for his strong arm, often winning both games of a doubleheader. His single game strike-out record was 25 against Red Deer. Tagelson turned down two offers to join the minor pro leagues, instead preferring to hold his record here in Southern Alberta, where a top pitcher could command \$50 per game, while finding summer employment.



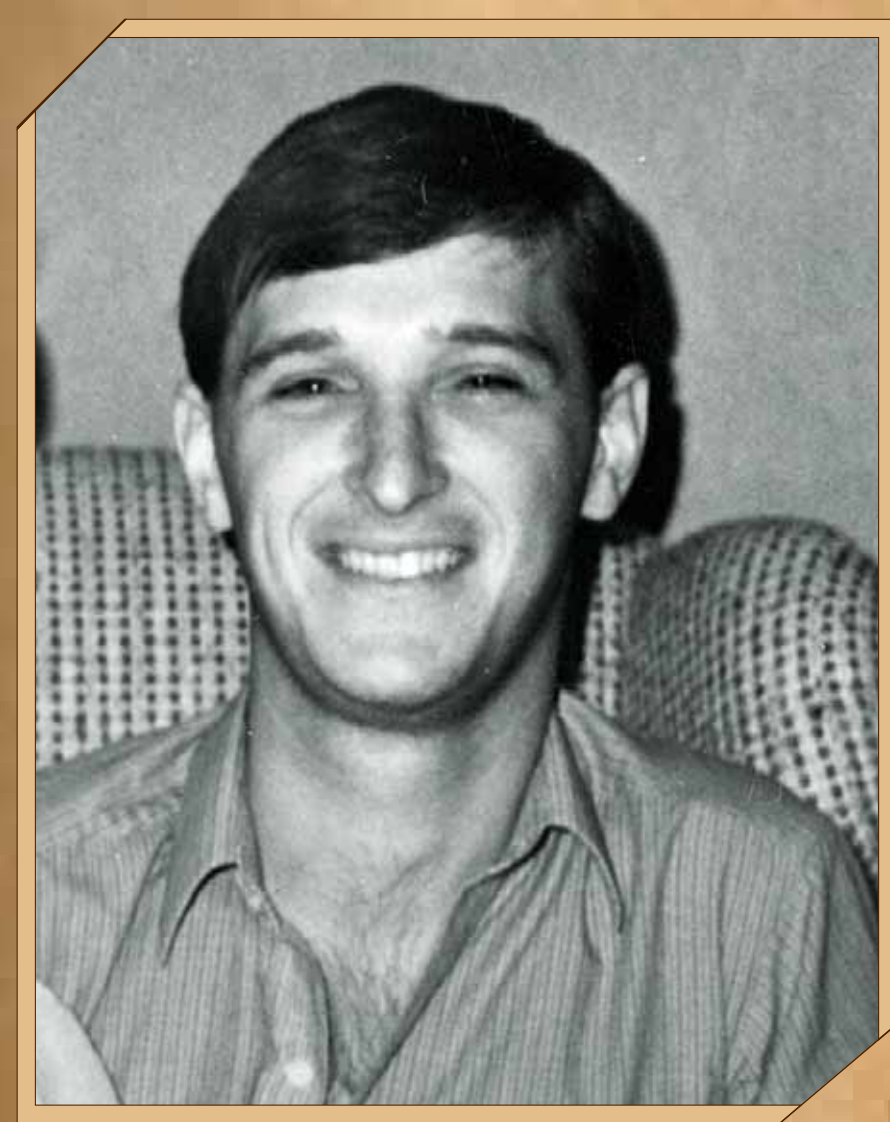
**ROBERT "DUD" KASTING JR.**  
SWIMMING  
Robert Kasting Jr. is certainly the most successful swimmer Lethbridge ever produced. Kasting brought provincial, national and international recognition to Lethbridge as a result of his outstanding accomplishments in the sport of competitive swimming. Kasting's provincial and national swimming championships are too numerous to mention. His greatest swim was international competition. Kasting won one gold and four silver medals at the Commonwealth Games, five silvers at the Pan American Games and a bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics, as a member of Canadian relay teams. As well, in 1971, he won an individual bronze medal in the Pan American Games in Cali, Columbia in the 100 freestyle event.



**MATTHEW "MATT" SLAVICH**  
BASEBALL  
Matt Slavich was one of the best ball players in Alberta in the late 1930's, 40's and early 50's. Slavich was a pitcher known as "Lefty" to many of his fans. He began his organized career in 1937 with the Alberta Columbian Junior Squires, leading the team to two Alberta titles. In 1940, Matt joined the former Forces and pitched for the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in the foothills League for two years. He earned Most Valuable Player honors in the league for the 1941 season. Upon return from overseas in 1946, Slavich put in seven highly successful seasons with the Lethbridge Minors. Matt was an amazing player, often leading the club in wins, batting average, strikeouts and home runs. Slavich was an all-round athlete excelling in boxing, basketball and racquetball in addition to his baseball prowess. In 1975 he won the Canadian Racquetball Masters Singles Championship in Winnipeg.



# 1988 TEAMS



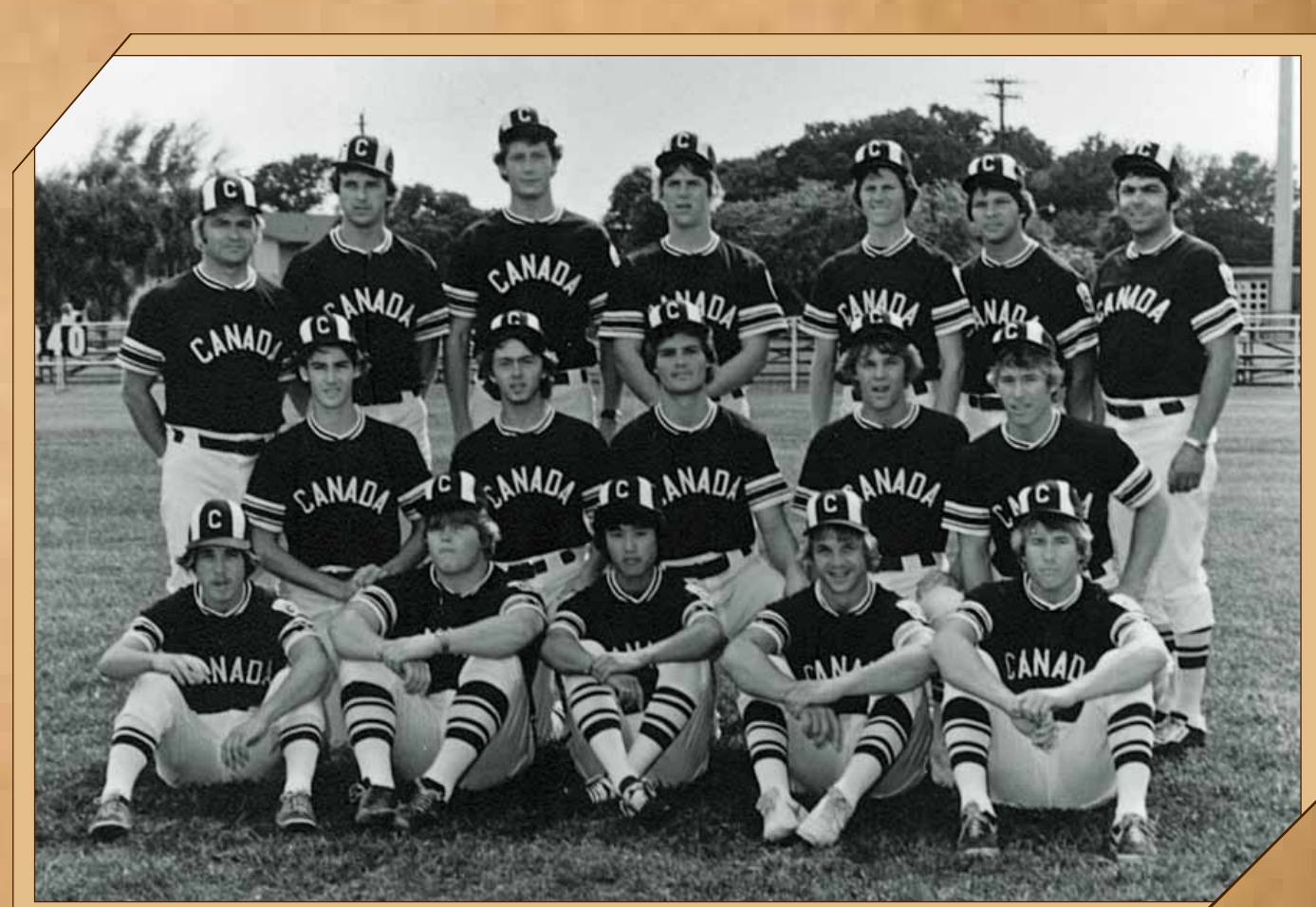
**BILL & CORI-JO PETRUNK**  
FIGURE SKATING  
Lethbridge's 1975 Canada Winter Games were a showcase for the team of Bill and Cori-Jo Petrunk. The brother-sister combination had much success during the 1970's. Both Petrunks were strong individual skaters, who won many awards before teaming for the first time in 1974, when Cori-Jo was 11 and Bill 15 years of age. Over the next five years the Petrunks won three Novice and two Junior Alberta titles. As well, they captured the Western Canadian Junior Championship, and were twice fourth at the Canadian in Novice and Junior. The Petrunks were chosen to represent Canada at the World Junior Championships. However, their greatest notoriety came during the 1975 Canada Winter Games. Cori-Jo had the honor of lighting the flame at the opening ceremonies. Then on the final day of competition, just preceding the Lethbridge Native Sons hockey victory and the closing ceremonies, a 2-2 record in 1979 and a 1-2 mark in 1980. The 1979 squad finished tied for 8th. After the 1980 season the EKs were essentially forced out of Canadian Big League competition. They moved on to the Montana American Legion where they proved themselves to be very competitive as well.



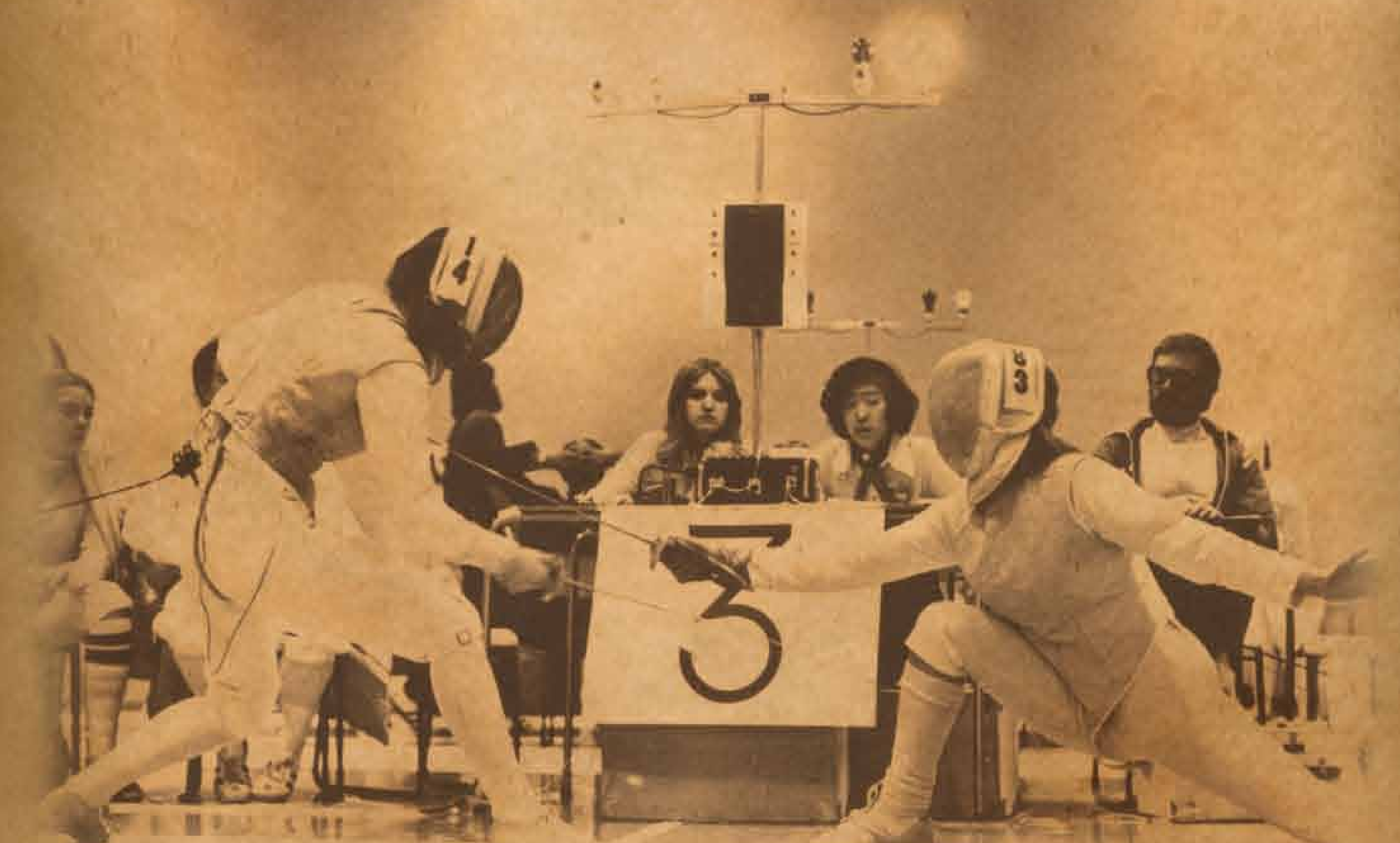
**BARRY COLEMAN RINK**  
CURLING  
Barry Coleman, Frank Rod, Bob Everett and Scott Henderson won the 1956 Alberta High School Curling Championships. In 1950 the present Lethbridge Curling Club artificial ice rink was opened and six years later it's first Provincial champion, were the Barry Coleman rink. The boys won the Provincial title in playdowns held at Edmonton, downing Vegreville in a sudden death playoff. As Alberta representatives at the Dominion playdowns held in Fort William, Ontario, they finished with a creditable 6-3 record, good for third place. In the course of the playdowns, Scott Henderson won the long-slide competition.



**1980 LETHBRIDGE ELKS**  
BASEBALL  
Back Row (L-R): Reed Spencer, Coach, Bruce Lyon, Craig Nyrose, Scott Retter, Tom Shawdow, Perry Osberg, Les Ohrs - Coach.  
Middle Row (L-R): Roger Wilkins, Jamie Coghlin, Wayne Pallati, Fred Fontarada, Barry Coghlin.  
Front Row (L-R): Rod Tomita, Dean Okawa, Rod Odland, Brian Osberg, Murray Benjane.



**1979 LETHBRIDGE ELKS**  
BASEBALL  
Back Row (L-R): Reed Spencer, Ken Mason, Perry McDonald, Brent Maxwell, Stan Sawicki, Brian Hogan - Coach.  
Middle Row (L-R): Warren Keith, Marlyn Bunnagan, Bruce Lyon, Warren Pallati, Barry Coghlin.  
Front Row (L-R): Tim Karl, Rod Odland, Rod Tomita, Grant Weins, Jamie Coghlin.



Fencing - 1975 Canada Winter Games

Photo Courtesy of The Galt Museum & Archives