

The Skater

The Tonya Harding Fan Club Monthly

Volume Two, Number One

Elaine Stamm & Jason Sferlazza, Editors

May/June, 1994

TONYA, DOROTHY HAMIL AND THE LLOYD CENTER

Dorothy Hamil, Olympic Gold Medal Winner, world-renowned figure skater and business woman has purchased the Ice Chalet at Clackamas Towne Centre where Tonya has trained for years. Dorothy and her husband, Ken Forsythe, are having the rink area

completely re-done and reconstructing the ice surface which was in deplorable condition and uneven. They are making great changes which will benefit skaters of every level of accomplishment in the Portland area. I was able to thank

Dorothy Hamil, Andrew Naylor and Tonya

Dorothy while she was in town and take this picture after watching her and Tonya share the ice during a teaching session. Also pictured here is Andrew Naylor of the Ice Capades with whom Tonya was working on "pairs."

During the re-construction, Tonya is now skating at the Lloyd Center in N.E. Portland where she began skating at the age of three. Fans enjoy watching her skate pairs with a

long-time associate, Patrick Page. She has done "throw triple salcows, throw double axels, and throw double loops, all the lifts and some spins. It's fascinating to watch and try to photograph! While at the Ice Chalet one day, Tonya completed several <u>quadruple loops----</u>an

unheard-of feat for a woman. She continues lessons with Diane Rawlinson and Erika Bakacs as well as with a "pairs" coach.

One Sunday, throngs of spectators enjoyed seeing the filming of a situation comedy by a Japanese TV crew featuring Tonya and

one of Japan's top comedians. It was funny, and Tonya was an awfully good sport. Too Bad it will only be seen in Japan, where by the way, they <u>adore</u> her. (and, no, she is not going to wrestle).

After a short lay-off during June, Tonya will be back skating at Lloyd Center giving her fans more entertainment and viewing pleasure. The Ice Chalet may not be completed until fall.

ELAINE'S LINES: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elaine Stamm

It seems that the media will not leave Tonya alone. Hearing a rumor, they run with it and broadcast "the news" as truth without checking it out. They would rather believe the parties who leak a story over those who are most likely to know. This recently happened in Portland. A rumor about Tonya and Jeff reuniting from an "eye witness" was refuted by her lawyer, her coach, her father, her "second father" as well as her fan club president. Nonetheless, it was the lead story of one of our local television stations on the 11:00 o'clock news, using an old picture of the two of them as if it were a recent one.

We have come to expect "sleaze" from the National Enquirer and other Tabloids, but can't we expect more from our local stations, especially when the story deals with people in their own home town? Are these mentalities daring because they know it is unlikely they will be sued due to the time and expense such action takes? Perhaps there will some day be courageous, crusading lawyers who will take on such cases on a contingency basis. It is so unfair to the victims of such stories because many people are quick to believe. Most of Tonya's fans now recognize the sham immediately, but the stories are still upsetting. Perhaps we should have a 1-800 Rumor Squasher line. Or maybe someday the media will abide by The Golden Rule. We can always hope.

On another subject, here is a Letter-to-the-Editor to newspapers and some national skating magazines I am sending out to let the public know we are still active. Feel free to borrow from it or create your own:

To the Editor: We would like your readers to know that the Tonya Harding Fan Club is not only still in existence but it is thriving. Since Nationals, our membership has quadrupled, and the mail and phone lines continue to bring in new requests for membership. About 40 states and seven countries are now listed in our membership roster, totaling about 1600 members.

We are still Tonya-believers, confident that she could not have and would not have had anything to do with hurting another human being. She had to "cover" for others until she felt she could be protected from great personal harm. "The recent O.J. Simpson incident should emphasize to all the very real threat a battered wife lives under.

Tonya's punishment is not light, but she is accepting it with grace. She enjoys her work at a Senior Center and for the Special Olympics, an organization she has worked with for nine years. We are proud of the manner in which she has conducted herself in very trying times and situations. Her poise and character have been inspirational to many. In fact, perhaps her greatest talent, even more than her exceptional skating ability, might be the way she inspires others to keep working toward their own dreams and goals. The stories we receive from fans are heart-warming, and her strength, perseverance and resiliency are exemplary.

Tonya is continuing to practice skating, including "pairs," and recently completed several quadruple loops, an unheard-of feat for a woman.

Those who wish to express their support for Tonya may reach her fan club at P.O Box 3255, Gresham, OR 97030.

We have always wished Nancy Kerrigan well and continue to do so. We especially want to publicly thank Oksana Baiul and other skaters for their kind words in Tonya's defense. They are true champions--- and so is Tonya.

TEE FOR TONYA

I invited Tonya to our golf club for her first golf game—outside putt putt golf. (A couple of her friends took her over to another golf course to play a few holes to prepare for the big game, so she had swung a few clubs before we started.) Teeing off, there was a lot of laughing, pirouettes and fanning of the air. Out on the fairway, she started to tee up her ball. "No, Tonya, you don't tee up the ball on the fairway." She said, "The guys let me." After a few holes, she was getting the hang of it. Since that day, she has taken some lessons and has been playing quite a bit. Watch out, Nancy Lopez!



Rolling Stone Magazine is doing a story on Tonya this summer. Watch for it!





FANS' MAIL-INS:

(A case in point of Tonya's power to inspire)

My name is Andr'es Olivo. I am a senior at Jefferson High School. I started taking ballet at age 8. I, like Tonya came from a working class family. I always felt a little "less than" around many of the other students because they came from better off families. The Ballet world, like figure skating, is usually only available to upper class people. I always felt the pressure of having to prove myself. Ballet lessons are also very expensive. If it wasn't for the generous scholarships of my ballet teacher, I would've stopped training at age 9.

When I was 12 my family made the great sacrifice of moving from the Willamette Valley to Portland (Oregon) so I could attend Jefferson High School and join the dance company, "The Jefferson Dancers." I enjoyed being a part of the company my freshman through junior year. but the pressure finally caught up with me this year: it was time for me to find out what to do with my life, and being working class, dance didn't seem reasonable.

So I gave up! "It's a rich man's world, "I thought of dance. I wasn't happy about quitting, but I was sick of feeling poor.

Then the "scandal" happened. I learned how Tonya came from a poor background but was determined to succeed. I saw how strong Tonya was and how unfair it was that people treated her like a criminal because of her poor beginnings and because she seemed "rough around the edges."

I had always liked figure skating, but Tonya's energy, charm, and strength of character really made me a fan.

I recently returned to dance. Watching Tonya skate made me miss dancing--- Tonya inspired me to fight for my dream. I am once again a member of The Jefferson Dancers, and I was recently featured in a community theater production; I performed a dance I choreographed and made up a spinning step and named it after Tonya!

Tonya, thank you for your inspiration and for showing that all you need to succeed is talent.

I love you, Tonya!

Sincerely, Andr'es Olivo

(Editor's note: Andr'es just called and told me that he has been awarded a prestigious scholarship for a month's intensive training this summer in New York City --- at the Martha Graham School of Dance. Out of about 400, one is chosen. Congratulations, Andr'es. We're proud of you.)

RING A DING DING:

If anyone in the greater Portland area does not receive phone call reminders about meetings, please call Katie at (503) 452-0046. And if you want to help call and tell Katie.

Mailing Addresses:

TONYA: The Postal Annex 12042 SE Sunnyside Road Clackamas, OR 97015-6394

THE FAN CLUB: Tonya Harding fan Club PO Box 3255 Gresham, OR 97030

VIDEOS OF PAST COMPETITIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Ledin Photo & Video 22495 Madison St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 Phone or Fax: (313) 778-8971

> R&J VIDEO PO Box 70287 Stockton, CA 95267 Phone: (209) 476-0124

Back issues of "THE SKATER"

Because we have now caught up with the heavy mails and because of the great influx of new members since January, we are now making past issues of the newsletter available. Each issue will be 50¢. some are a couple pages, some more, so it averages out. We will cut out the repetitious pages such as merchandise and application for membership. Issues are monthly from April 1993 through December. Then January/February issue, March, April and this month's May/June. Send order and check made out to the Tonya Harding Fan Club, att'n. of Ron Wood.

THE RINK REPORT

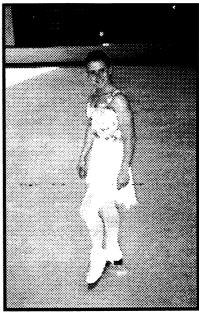
By Jason Sferlazza

I am writing this from the food court at Clackamas Towne Centre, overlooking an Olympic-sized space that has been on televisions around the world-- the former Ice Capades Chalet. It was on the ice here that Tonya Harding practiced her way to two National Championship titles, and it was here that thousands of spectators and paparazzo gathered a short four months ago to see Tonya prepare for the Olympics. School is out and the food court and the huge mall around it is as busy as ever. There is only one difference.

Looking over the railing at the massive void below, one is reminded of the north face of Mount St. Helens. The Ice Chalet has been completely obliterated. There is no Ice. No happy poneytailed skaters gliding to ZZ Top. No red carpeted walls and railings. Just a bare earth floor with gravel and a few large water mains exposed. What was once the skate rental counter is now serving as a break bench for the work crew, who at this very moment is lounging and enjoying their lunch. The space that once occupied Tonya's locker and bench is now piled to the ceiling with new marble tile to go around the rink. The entrance to the rink and it's apparel shop is walled off with sheetrock, and painted on the wall is a happy message--"Clackamas Towne Centre welcomes the DOROTHY HAMIL SKATING CENTER... coming soon". How soon? Good question. I am waiting for the rink's new manager to return my call on my pager so I can find this out.

Half an hour later now. The workers have reappeared with a large garden hose and are taking turns

wetting the entire "floor", apparently to keep the dust from rising up and annoying the dining masses above. Now another has appeared with a paint roller and tray and is painting the perimeter wall white. Another good reason for hosing the dirt. Just noticed a huge pile of coiling tubes piled up at the far wall. The manager still hasn't called. he must have heard I was coming, and made good his escape. I'm outta here. How long till the rink is ready? Your guess is as good as mine, but when I hear something, I can assure you that you will be the first to know.



Meanwhile, Tonya skates the Lloyd Center.

TRIBUTE TO TONYA DINNER

Reservations for the August 19th dinner for Tonya are coming in from all over the US --- and Germany. We know you will all be with us in spirit, and we with you could be with us in person, too, for it will be a warm and wonderful evening. So that you can be included in expressing a Tribute to Tonya, we propose this plan. Write your thoughts on a 3x5 card-- on one side only-- with your name and address-- and send it to us. We will place all into a photo album which will be on display at the dinner and then given to Tonya. Your picture may be glued or taped to the back as long as it fits the size. Mail your card to:

Jan Hancock

11716 SE Lexington St. Portland, OR 97266

If you wish to contribute anything for the success of the dinner, your check is always welcome. We will be renting some equipment and giving out favors. Thank you in advance for your wonderful support. Checks for this purpose should be so marked, made out to the Tonya Harding Fan Club and mailed to our treasurer:

Nancy Welfelt 10905 SE Mt. Scott Portland, OR 97266

For the convenience of those of you who are traveling from out of town to come to Tonya's dinner, here are some hotels / motels: Portland Marriott: 1-503-226-7600, on the Willamette River

Hilton Hotel: 1-800-445-8667, downtown Portland

Red Lion: 1-503-281-6111, at Lloyd Center and on light rail

Travel Inn: 1-503-233-8415, near Lloyd Center

Dress code: Men: jackets, ties. Women: Dressy dresses or pant suits. No jeans. The weather should be warm. You may bring your cameras. Use discretion so that flash bulbs are not going off in Tonya's eyes all evening.

Other than our video by Merrill Eichenberger and two of our official photographers, no media will be allowed.

THANK YOU JOEL AND ROLONDA

We would like at this time to thank Joel Loy of "Inside Edition" and Rolonda Watts of "Rolonda" for the thoughtful and highly informative way they presented Tonya's side of the story. During the Olympics, Joel was our only real link to Tonya, and his informal interviews at Norway made us all feel closer to the action and Tonya than we really were. Even more important is Joel's interview with Tonya in early May where we finally got to hear Tonya tell her side of the story in reference to her plea agreement and her innocence from involvement in the Kerrigan attack, and why she had to cover up to the FBI. If Joel's line of questioning in this interview seemed a little harsh, it was for a reason. Joel was asking the questions that were in most demand, and needless to say some of them were in fact quite trying. In doing so, we were finally able to hear Tonya tell of a part of her life till up to this point was only told by the media or in clip statements, often highly misleading I may add.

A week later, Tonya did an hour long formal interview with Rolonda. Picking up where the Inside Edition interview left off and showing some vintage photos of Tonya in her early years, Rolonda covered just about every subject about Tonya's life and recent situation that has been blasted by the media. It was a swift and powerful interview, very professionally done. After all these months of gossip, yellow journalism, rumor, and "Tonya and Nancy, the Reel Story", here at last is the real Tonya, more gorgeous than ever with her hair down, talking and joking, but most important, telling it like it is.

Sadly, because of the hours that these shows are broadcast in some regions, (in New York for example, Rolonda is on at 10:00am and Inside Edition at 1:00pm) many people missed these because they were at work or in school. Transcripts of the Rolonda show can be obtained through the address below. Inside Edition does not give out transcripts or copies of their shows. If you would like to inquire further, their number is (212) 737-3399.

Send requests for Rolonda tape, show #99, plus \$23.90(\$19.95+\$3.95 shipping and handling) to:

S.O.S TRANSCRIPTS PO BOX 845 Bloom Field Hills, MI 48303-0845 Phone # 1-800-655-5595

IN TALKING TO TONYA...

Other than what has been reported elsewhere in this issue, we learned the following:

- 1. She will be working on a movie July 10-20 (not her own story)
- 2. She will appear on "American Gladiators" this summer.
- 3. The movie of her life story is still "in the works." Her choices for an actress to play her part would be either Megan Ryan or the actress who plays Victoria Hudson on "Another World."
- 4. Her agent is the personable and dynamic Merrill Eichenberger of Portland, OR. One of his specialties is creating videos, and he and Tonya will be putting out teaching videos on "How to Skate." He worked at one time with Dr. Robert Schuler in California. We have asked Merrill to make a video of the Tribute to Tonya dinner and he has agreed. It will be for sale to our fan club members.
- 5. For those who will be in Portland for Tonya's dinner on August 19th, Tonya will skate an exhibition on Saturday, August 20th, either at Clackamas Towne Centre or at Lloyd Center. Afterward, she will pose for pictures on the ice in costume.
- 6. She is planning a fund-raiser, possibly a skating exhibition, for the Special Olympics this summer.
- 7. Tonya and Merrill are planning plaques made depicting her and her accomplishments which will be sold at Clackamas Towne Centre through her corporation, The Golden Blades.
- 8. She may be a radio talk host for a local station in Portland, OR for a specific time.
- 9. In answer to a fan's question as to what Tonya's favorite soap opera is, the answer is "Another World."
- 10. Tonya will appear in a summer issue of Esquire Magazine as one of the Top Ten Most Loved Women in America. Dolly Parton is one of the 10.
- 11. She received 10,000 letters at the Olympics and an additional 10,000 letters since.
- 12. July 1 to 10, she will go on a camping vacation with her dad for the first time since she was little.

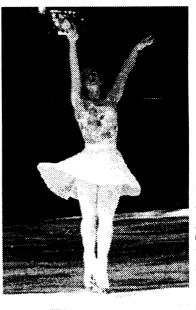


Photo by: Vergie E. Lougheed

Jete' on ice

A CALL FOR ACTION

by Jason Sferlazza

There was a certain world heavyweight champion boxer 30 years ago named Cassius Clay. The world had never seen anything quite like him. He was brash, cocky, loud, and was so fast on his feet most of his opponents couldn't even hit him, let alone knock him down. Many people loved Cassius, but many people also hated him because he was so different-- one of a kind, not poured from a mold. When he embraced a new religion and changed his name to Muhammad Ali, People hated him even more and wanted to get rid of him. Their opportunity came in 1967, when Ali refused to to pick up a gun and fight for the South Vietnamese because his religion wouldn't allow it. In so doing, the World boxing Council stripped him of his titles and banned him from competitive boxing. Three years later, the Council admitted they were wrong!! Once more, three years later, they admitted they were wrong. They allowed Ali to box again, but it wasn't until 1974 that he was able to win back his titles from George Forman. Buy that time, Ali was far past his prime and his lightning footwork was all but a memory. Muhammad Ali was in his prime in 1967, but because the authorities in that sport were biased against him he was robbed of the best years of his career. It was a terrible loss to the sport and a devastating blow to the athlete. Now it is 1994, and history is repeating itself once again, only this time with our National Figure Skating champion, one of the most talented athletes this fine country has ever seen.

Like Muhammad Ali, Tonya Harding refused to come out of a mold, let alone someone else's. She was, and still is, her own person. Granted, many aspects of her personality and lifestyle were previously unheard of in the figure skating world, but one needs only to look at the very difficult situations she had to endure and the modern dog-eat-dog society she grew up in to understand and accept these aspects. Still, people refused to look at this in a 3 dimensional way-- refused to accept the fact that even a figure skater can be a victim of society. So, of course, when another skater becomes a victim of violence which is what some portions of society seem to thrive on today, naturally everyone will shift their anger and animosity to the one that is different. The outpouring of anger directed toward Tonya after the Nancy Kerrigan attack was staggering. People labeled her a criminal even though she had no involvement in the attack and knew nothing about it till after Nationals. This, my friends, is the honest to God truth. Granted, the people involved in the attack, two of them anyway, were people that Tonya knew and trusted, but that was a misled trust, as their motivation was one of self-interest, not Tonya's interest. One need only be reminded of that sickening "Current Affair" episode to confirm this point. This woman is no criminal. The only thing she did wrong was compromise the truth because she knew, not thought, but KNEW that her life was in grave danger if she didn't. And she realized this and told the truth yet she still suffers harsh punishment and loss of a career because of it. One is led to believe that society as a rule turns it's back on the abused and the battered, just like they turned their backs on Ali years ago when he resisted Vietnam, and thanks to some of our ever-loving media and their sensationalistic yellow journalism, one of the world's finest athletes has been literally blown out of her shoes.

Now it is June, four months have passed since Lillehammer, and the world has moved on. Tonya Harding survives, but like Muhammad Ali in 1967, she has been robbed of the fruits of a life's work. An innocent woman has been labeled a criminal, and now, slowly but very surely, more and more people are realizing the truth. I recently showed a video of both the "Rolonda" interview and the most recent "Inside Edition" interview to a couple of nonbelievers. As Tonya's side of the story unfolded, their eyes were opened. Afterward they admitted they were wrong for judging Tonya by the media version alone. <u>ADMITTED THEY WERE WRONG!!</u> Once more, they admitted they were wrong. Sound Familiar??

Even Olympic gold Medalist Oksana Baiul came forward to defend Tonya's innocence of conspiracy and assault, why do we Americans turn our backs on our own? Tonya is loved, respected, and admired all over the world for overcoming terrible odds by staying on her feet and doing her best under terrible pressure. Again, why does the American society turn it's backs on the good and thrive on the bad?

Our own Rich Slocum, in our previous newsletter, asked; "Is it possible for Tonya to go to the 1998 Olympics?" Well Rich, the answer is <u>YES</u>. Nothing is impossible. But it is up to us who know the truth to seek justice so that this possibility can be realized. It is in this writer's most sincere belief that if enough people were willing to come forward to this honorable cause and become involved in a massive letter writing campaign, very strong support can be gained from important individuals, and with that support the powers that be might become aware that <u>THEY WERE WRONG</u> and Tonya's good name and maybe even her competing license can be restored. There is nothing to lose but a few 29 cent stamps and a little time. The worst that can happen is absolutely nothing. However, the possibilities this could lead to...all positive....

If you would like to be a part of the letter writing campaign and receive a campaign supplement, send a 3x5 index card with your name, address and phone# for our campaign file, plus a stamped, self addressed envelope to: Campaign, PO Box 3202, Gresham OR, 97030.

If you would like to share opinions or ideas on how we could further pursue this goal, send responses to: Feedback, PO Box 3202, Gresham OR, 97030. Attn: Elsie

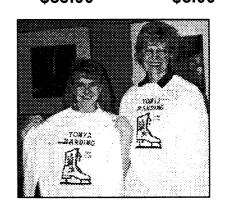
What's your opinion? We'd like to know.

TONYA MERCHANDISE

	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>SHIPPIN</u>
Sweat Shirts/Tee Shirts			
White embroidered long-sleeved sweat shirts	S,M,L	\$42.00	\$3.00
	XL	\$45.00	\$3.00
White embroidered short-sleeved tee shirts	S,M,L	\$32.00	\$3.00
	XL	\$35.00	\$3.00

OLYMPIAN T-Shirt, with Tonya's face. Black print on white cotton/ poly blend. \$20 plus \$3 postage. Sm, Med, Lg., X-Lg. XX-Lg \$21.00





"Team Tonya" yellow

Tee Shirts (Skater silhouette on back) BUMPER STICKERS, "TONYA" \$2.00	S,M,L,XL	\$15.00	\$3.00
Buttons			
"I Believe in Tonya" black printing on hot pink		\$5.00	\$0.50
"I.U.P.G" (Innocent Unless Proven Guilty)		\$3.00	\$0.25
Tonya picture buttons		\$5.00	\$0.25
Song Tapes by Linda and Greg Lewis			
"lt's Tonya's Turn", dreamy melodic ballad		\$5.00	\$0.50
"She's Fire on Ice", peppy, upbeat lyric and melody proclaiming Tonya's skating abilities "She's Worthy in His Eyes", -spiritual		\$5.00 \$5.00	\$0.50 \$0.50
Make checks out to: "Tonya Harding Fan Club" Mail orders to: Linda and Greg Lewis 2721 N.E. Stapleton Rd. Vancouver, WA 98661	NAME ADDRESS		

Autographed Pictures

Shipping: \$ 1.00

8 x 10 color

\$15.00

To our Canadian friends, please allow for the rate of exchange. thanks.

SPECIFY WHICH POSE: "NEW DAY", "UMBRELLA", "ROSE", OR "SKATING" OR "TRANQUIL" see pg. 8 for samples For ALL MERCHANDISE other than tapes, make checks out to:

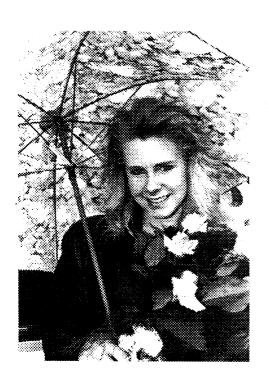
"Tonya Harding Fan Club", mail to Elaine Stamm, P.O. Box 3255, Gresham, Oregon 97030



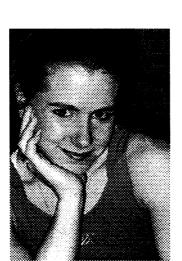




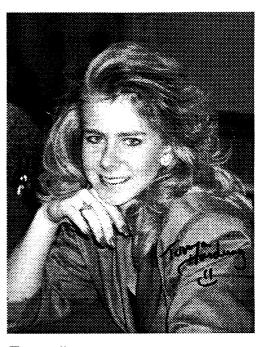
The Rose



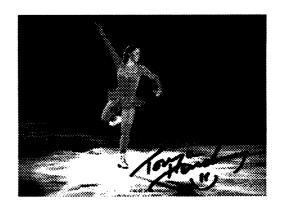
Umbrella



New Day



Tranquil



Skating



APPRECIATION DINNER FOR TONYA

Date: Friday, August 19, 1994

Multnomah Athletic Club

1849 S.W. Salmon Street Portland, OR 97207-0390

(Parking garage across the street)

Telephone: (503) 223-6251

No Host Cocktail Hour: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner:

7:00 p.m.

Cost:

Place:

\$26.00 adults, \$13.00 for children 12 and under. (Includes gratuity)

Menu:

Choice of entree: Poached salmon or London Broil

Tossed green salad

Rolls, butter and beverage Cheesecake with fruit sauce

Example for reservation: 1 Salmon, 1 London Broil

\$52.00

1 Salmon, child

\$13.00

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APPRECIATION DINNER FOR TONYA August 19, 1994 Multnomah Athletic Club

Name(s)Address		
City	State	Zip
Choice of Entree (Salmon or	London Broil)	
Spacial many if pandad. Vaca	(Total:

Special menu if needed: Vegetarian (same price)

Make check out to Tonya Harding Fan Club (note: dinner). Mail to: (Treasurer:) Nancy Welfelt, 10905 S.E. Mt. Scott, Portland, OR 97266

(If you wish confirmation, send a stamped self-addressed envelope. No cancellations after July 19, 1994)





TONYA HARDING FAN CLUB ROL

CATEGORIES OF GIVING

The Skater would like to acknowledge those contributors to Tonya's cause by category of giving.

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