

Erica is after more honours

Many girls have at some time or other dreamed of becoming a skating champion, writes a correspondent. A champion, for instance, like lovely Erica Batchelor of Edinburgh, Britain's figure-skating title holder.

It is a thrilling life, with air trips to many parts of the world. Erica spared a few minutes from her practice at an Edinburgh Ice Rink to tell me that she will be

luxurious place where film stars, big business men, and even President Eisenhower himself have spent vacations. "I'd simply love to meet the President," she said with a smile.

Erica, incidentally, is the happiest champion I have ever met. She is always smiling. But a champion's life is not all sugar and spice, and all things nice. I offered her a chocolate. "No thanks," she



Young enthusiasts watch intently as Erica shows them how it is done

leaving in a few days for the European Championships in Vienna (February 14-16) and from there she will fly to America to compete in the world figure skating championships at Colorado Springs, which starts on February 26.

Erica was in America about ten years ago, but she is very excited to be going again. The championships will be held on the skating rink of the Broadmoor Hotel, a

said with a sigh. "I don't eat sweets while I'm in training."

I asked Erica if she had a message for C.N. readers.

"Well, if you want to become a champion," she said, "work hard at your skating. Practice as often as you possibly can. Learn to love the sport and you won't notice the hard work so much. Go to bed early. And do what your instructor and parents tell you. They know best. Good luck."

SPORTS SHORTS

First steps to Wembley

It is cup-tie time again in the Rugby League. On Saturday the 30 senior clubs and two junior qualifiers meet in the First Round ties of the R.L. Challenge Cup of 1957. The final will be played at Wembley Stadium on May 11.

The present cupholders, St. Helens, have to travel to Whitehaven, while Oldham (current Lancashire cup-winners and strongly fancied for the major trophy this year) have a hard game at Workington.

The match of the round, however, is that between Leeds and Wigan at famous Headingley, where these two clubs have played many classic games in the past.

The two junior teams have both been given hard tasks in the draw. St. Marie's, a Widnes amateur team, have to visit Halifax (cup finalists of 1954 and 1956), and Wakefield Loco (a works team) have to meet Barrow, who won the Cup in 1955.

THE M.C.C. tourists will be at Kimberley, centre of the diamond industry, this weekend, when they meet Griqualand West. Denis Compton has happy memories of his last visit to Kimberley, in 1948, for on that occasion he scored 150 not out (in 95 minutes) in the M.C.C. total of 542 for 4 declared. He also took five wickets in the double dismissal of the local side, who were beaten by an innings.

England too cold?

Is England too cold for sprinters? International Mike Ruddy thinks so, and has decided that next season he will concentrate on ¼-mile events. Mike, you will remember, was nominated for the Olympic sprints, but had to drop out at the last moment because of pulled muscles.

POST OFFICE officials were rather puzzled the other day when they received a letter addressed simply B.C. Molesey, Esq. The letter reached its proper destination, however—The Molesey Boat Club on the Thames.

Record style

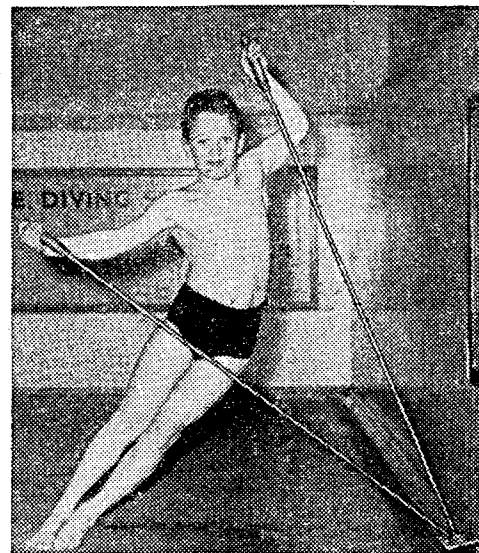
THE amazing increase in the standard of mile running since the war is well illustrated by the news from Australia of 18-year-old Herb Elliot's achievement in covering the distance in 4 minutes 6 seconds. Less than 20 years ago this would have beaten the world's senior record.

Elliot's performance was all the more remarkable as it was run in a temperature of 97 degrees F.

ON Saturday England's Soccer Youth XI meet Wales, at Ninian Park, Cardiff. The majority of the English XI are members of well-known League clubs. One of them, 16-year-old inside-right Jimmy Greaves, who comes from Dagenham, has already scored nearly 70 goals this season for Chelsea's juniors and in representative games.

Training for 1960

Looking ahead to the 1960 Olympics is young Brian Phelps of East London, who already holds many diving titles. Here we see him doing some exercises on apparatus designed for body-building



Eager to score

BOBBIE ETHERIDGE, the young inside forward who is doing well in his first season with Bristol City, whom he joined from Gloucester City, hopes to achieve "double" sports fame. He is to join Gloucestershire C.C.C. as a wicket-keeper-batsman.

ENGLAND meet Ireland on Saturday, at Dublin, in a Rugby Union international. Since these countries first met in 1875, England have won 41 times, Ireland 22, with five matches drawn. But not since 1938 have the Irish been defeated by England in Dublin.

C N Competition Corner

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