

FOCUS
STORY

A year ago, Cornelia "Pooch" Harrington . . . age, fifteen . . . tried out for the 1960 United States Olympic speed skating team. Nobody figured Cornelia had a ghost of a chance. But an incredible race in the Olympic trials won her the right to represent America in the women's 3,000 meter championship.

In this last year, "Pooch" Harrington has worked hard and sacrificed much for the honor of country and the glory of sport. "Focus on 'Pooch' Harrington—America's Youngest Olympian" is her story . . . an exclusive **Screen News Digest** film feature that captures the limitless desire of a determined young girl.

Making the United States team meant twelve months of disciplined denial and extra effort for our youngest Olympian, who promised herself that on her "big day" she would be ready . . . and able . . . to give her best for her country.

And so "Pooch" Harrington . . . five-foot-two and 105 pounds . . . went to work . . . training faithfully day in and day out. In the summer, when she could not skate, she ran five miles and bicycled another fifteen miles a day.

In the fall, when the local rink in Packanack Lake, New Jersey, opened, "Pooch" changed from running and bicycle riding to skating. But the only time she could have the rink to herself was five o'clock in the morning. And so she and her father would rise every morning at four o'clock . . . reach the rink by five . . . and she would skate for two hours . . . covering ten to fifteen miles.

Then it was home for breakfast and, five days a week, off to De Paul High School, where "Pooch" is a junior. There was a full load of courses and then more . . . for she had to get six weeks ahead in her studies . . . the time she would miss while she was at Squaw Valley . . . training for . . . and taking part in . . . the Winter Olympics.

At night, it was to bed at eight . . . to get up at four. This was her life . . . each day, every day. No late dates and no late parties. "When you get up at four," she told **The Screen News Digest**, "you can't stay out late. This is too important for me now. I wouldn't want to break training for anything."

In January, 1960, "Pooch" went to Squaw Valley . . . to join the other members of the American team . . . and later to meet and get friendly with the members of the other twenty-nine nations represented in this year's Olympics.

The Screen News Digest brings to students the color and excitement of this greatest spectacle in sport as "Pooch," herself, sees it and is a part of it . . . recorded by a task force of trained cameramen. The opening ceremonies . . . the thrill-filled events . . . the understanding through sportsmanship . . . all come alive in the classroom.

And, at last, comes the day when "Pooch" takes her place among the competitors . . . to represent her country . . . the climactic moment about which she has dreamed . . . and for which she has given so much.

As this is written, the race is not yet run. But no matter where she places, "Pooch" Harrington must be a winner. She has a year of treasured memories . . . a "once in a lifetime" experience . . . that will make her a better student and a better American.



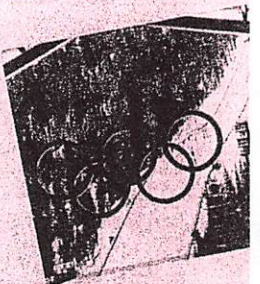
America's Youngest Olympian . . .



. . . training . . .



. . . studying . . .



. . . at Squaw Valley . . .



. . . the big day.