

# Edgewater girl hopes to find her event in '84 Olympics

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THE UNITED STATES does not have a rhythmic gymnastics team for the 1980 Olympic games. Nor for that matter does any other country, for the simple reason that there will be no such competition in the upcoming Olympics.

But one 14-year-old North Side girl is hoping that rhythmic gymnastics will be part of the 1984 Olympic games, and she hopes to be on the U.S. team.

IRINA KORMAN, 2606 Glenlake, is a native of Kiev. She moved to America last August with her parents, Vladlen and Anna Korman. Irina has been practicing rhythmic gymnastics for seven years and currently trains four hours a day at Horwich JCC, 3003 Touhy.

If you don't know what rhythmic gymnastics is, you're not alone. While it has been popular in Russia for 30 years, it only recently emerged around Los Angeles and New York.

A form of light, non-sport gymnastics,

it is performed to music on a square 40-foot mat and is combined with dance choreography.

Although she is talented and experienced, Irina realizes she must also have coaching to reach the level of ability necessary to qualify for Olympic competition. She had a coach in Russia but since rhythmic gymnastics is relatively new to America, she is having trouble finding one here.

ONE POSSIBLE coach for Irina is a physical education student and gym-

nast at Northwestern university, Irina Vdovetz. According to Korman, the two have worked together on occasion and Vdovetz has agreed to coach Korman after she is through at Northwestern.

Vladlen Korman says that if his daughter doesn't find a coach soon, he and his family will move to Los Angeles, where he is certain they could find one.

While in training, Irina is also in eighth grade at Clinton school, 6130 N. Fairfield. She has attended English classes with her parents at congrega-

tion Ezras Israel synagog, 7001 N. California.

Vladlen Korman, 42, is a refrigeration engineer and his wife, Anna, 38, holds a doctorate in microbiology. Both plan to seek employment after they learn to speak English more fluently.

Vladlen says his family is very happy in America, a "good, democratic country." He says that Chicago is "very interesting" and that they have made some friends at the JCC. But, he adds, for Irina, gymnastics is "a big friend."