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ICE KING -- Eric Heiden, 18-year-old University of Wisconsin freshman, circles the rink on his way to becoming the first American to win the men's world speed-skating championship. He set a new world mark in the 1977 competition at Herrenveen (Holland), placing first in the 500-meter race, third in the 1,500 meters, ninth in the 5,000 meters and third in the exhausting 10,000 meters for the highest aggregate point total. A week later at Inzell (West Germany), he won the world junior speed-skating title, setting world records in the 500, 1,500, and 5,000 distances and placing third in the 3,000-meter event.

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