

Westchester

Section **14**

Victory Measured in Feet

You don't have to be Irish to learn Irish step dance, and you don't have to be a youngster to begin lessons. At the O'Rourke Academy of Irish Dance in White Plains, "anyone who has a love for the music and the dance, and has some kind of physical coordination," is welcome, said the school's director, LuAnn O'Rourke-Boyd.

A competitive spirit helps, too, because competitions are big in the Irish dance world. Last month two teams from the O'Rourke school - the adult ladies 8-hand ceili team (eight dancers) and the adult ladies 4-hand ceili team (four dancers) - won first place in the Eastern Regional Irish Dance Championships held in Philadelphia. The teams are now qualified to compete in the Royal Championships held in Ireland in the spring, should they choose to go.

The adults, whose ages range from late 20's to mid-40's are "very dedicated" and practice twice a week, Ms. O'Rourke-Boyd said, adding, "Some of them just started five years ago." Information: (917) 453-0375.

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