

National Figure Skating Championships

RICHARD L. HAPGOOD

The 1928 Figure Skating Championships of the United States, which were held at New Haven on March 26 and 27, mark a milestone in the history of figure skating in this country. Each year the Nationals have proved convincingly at least one outstanding fact about a sport which deals with intricacies and delicately balanced adjustments, but the year 1928 may safely be said to mark an epoch in figure skating in America.

Aside from our Championships, the United States sent a team to St. Moritz to compete in the Winter Sports Division of the Olympic Games and many of the contestants also competed in the World's Figure Skating Championships. Our Olympic team this year was the strongest ever to represent this country and results indicate that America has made a permanent dent in world figure skating circles.

Our National Championships offer certain poignant facts for the consideration of interested figure skaters. Of the four singles titles competed for annually, three were won by skaters who have not yet passed their twentieth birthday and only one individual from the senior and junior pair winners has attained majority.

Within the last five or ten years we have seen a new generation arise in practically every other line of organized sporting activity, and at last in skating the era of youth seems to have arrived. Older champions who have held sway in senior and junior singles and pairs, have finally given way before indomitable youth, and while youth has yet to make its reputation and permanent mark, the memories of our former champions' glorious achievements will linger for many years.



MISS MARIBEL Y. VINSON
LADY CHAMPION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1928
SECOND IN LADIES' WORLD'S; FOURTH IN OLYMPICS

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES

Miss Maribel Vinson of Boston (1st) is a skater of true championship calibre. Fourth in the Olympics and second in the World's, she has a record of which she may be justifiably proud. She has at last won the Championship of the United States, and has but one more field to conquer: the Championship of the World. She is probably the only figure skater this country has ever seen who has developed with equal rapidity in both departments of the sport, school figures and free skating. Yearly her school figures have

improved in accuracy and style, and simultaneously her free skating has increased in ease, difficulty and control.

While it is true that Miss Beatrix Loughran of New York, winner in 1927, did not defend her title this year and also that she has never lost to Miss Vinson, these facts should in no manner detract from Miss Vinson's glory in gaining the National Championship. The latter's skating during the past two years has sufficiently demonstrated that her standards were dangerously close to those of Miss Loughran. Miss Vinson's school figures have attained a peak of precision that would make her very hard to beat, and her free skating has a grace and charm which is combined with difficulty, particularly with regard to spins, constituting as near a perfect whole as has been seen in this country at least.

Miss Suzanne Davis of Boston (2nd) was Miss Vinson's only competitor, and although outclassed in both departments by a distinct margin, she clearly indicates that before many years she will attain a high standard of performance and style. Miss Davis is a fine type of athlete. She is almost too abandoned in her skating style to achieve an easy yet controlled form, but when she has steadied and smoothed out her style, she will rank with the best. She won the junior title last year, and has made rapid progress toward the championship class.

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP OF UNITED STATES

	MISS VINSON Boston			MISS DAVIS Boston		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge						
School	178.6	178.	184.	156.3	160.7	145.5
Free	116.6	116.6	124.63	96.14	107.8	105.38
Total	295.2	294.6	308.63	252.44	268.5	250.88
Ranking	1	1	1	2	2	2
Result	I			II		

JUDGES: C. M. Rotch, Boston; J. A. Cruikshank, New York; R. G. Van Name, New Haven

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF UNITED STATES

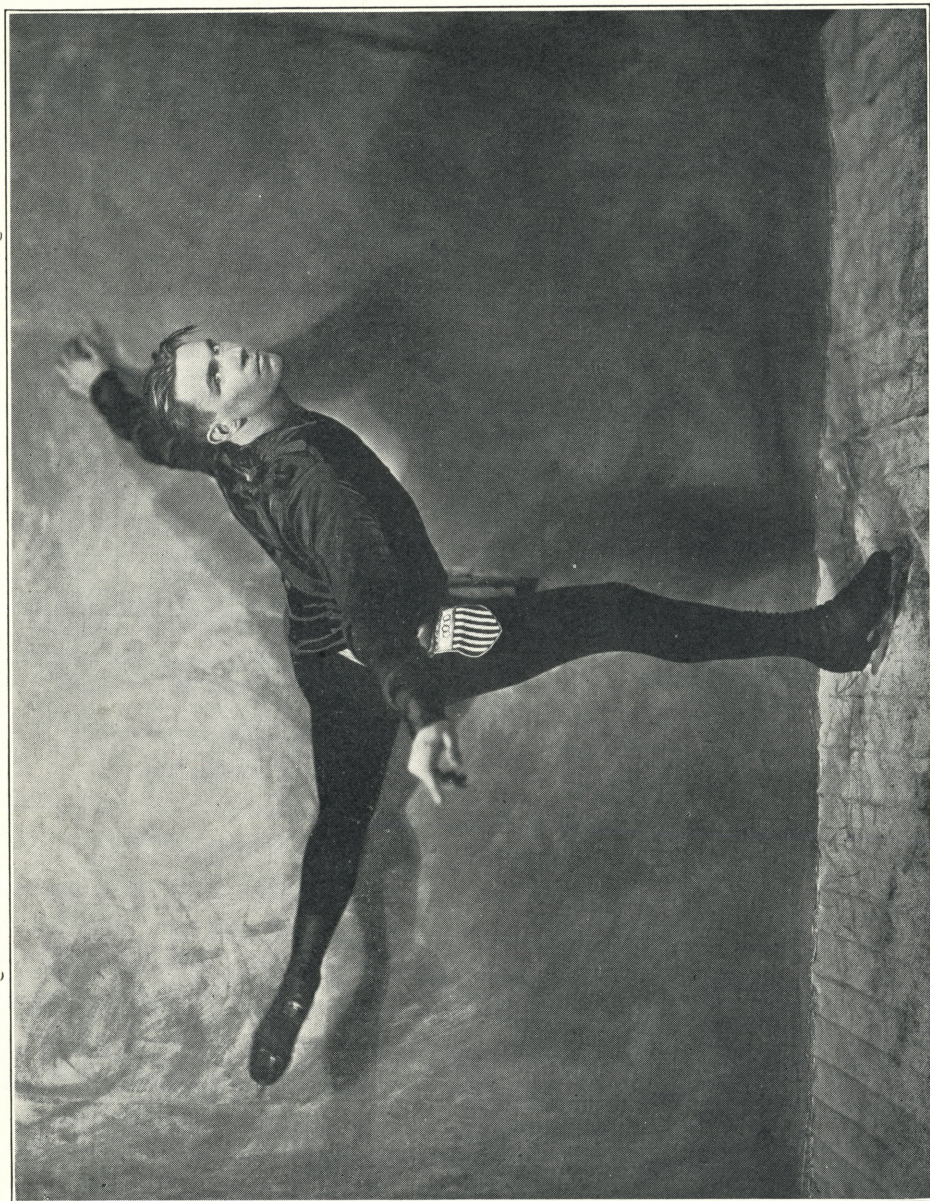
	MR. R. F. TURNER Boston			MR. F. GOODRIDGE Cambridge			DR. W. LANGER Brooklyn			MR. F. T. MARTIN New York		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge												
School	232.	231.75	226.6	216.1	188.5	208.1	217.5	200.5	199.7	191.3	169.25	175.4
Free	147.9	154.57	150.22	147.9	130.5	135.28	142.1	135.28	136.73	140.65	137.75	138.18
Total	379.9	386.32	376.82	364.	319.	343.38	359.6	335.78	336.43	331.95	307.	313.58
Ranking	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	4	4
Result	I			II			III			IV		

JUDGES: C. M. Rotch, Boston; J. A. Cruikshank, New York; R. G. Van Name, New Haven.

UNITED STATES PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

	MISS VINSON—MR. COOLIDGE Boston					MRS. BLANCHARD—MR. NILES Boston					MISS BAUMAN—MR. BRAAKMAN New York				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge															
Program	4.	5.	4.16	5.25	5.4	5.	4.83	4.92	5.08	5.2	3.	5.	4.5	5.17	5.
Performance	5.5	4.9	5.	5.17	5.6	5.	4.83	4.75	5.17	5.4	4.5	4.66	4.16	5.	5.
Total	9.5	9.9	9.16	10.42	11.	10.	9.66	9.67	10.25	10.6	7.5	9.66	8.66	10.17	10.
Ranking	2	1	2	1	1	1	2½	1	2	2	3	2½	3	3	3
Result	I					II					III				

JUDGES: Mrs. Frothingham, Boston; J. A. Cruikshank, New York; H. R. Robertson, New Haven; S. C. Badger, New York; C. M. Rotch, Boston.



ROGER FELIX TURNER
1928 CHAMPION OF THE UNITED STATES

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES

Roger F. Turner of Boston (1st) depends upon an almost flawless execution of school figures to put him on top in the final result. His free skating style has by no means reached the climax of its development, for although it contains the necessary difficulty for a championship program, having jumps and the hard turns as well as excellent spins and a good spread eagle, the form in which it is skated is not up to the best. Turner is not a natural skater on account of his thick-set physical makeup, but through sheer persistency and hard patient toil, he has overcome many natural handicaps and converted his tremendous strength and endurance into controlled smoothness.

Turner's school figures reveal a really wonderful accuracy and control, and through them he reaps many useful points. Free skating is still his chief problem and until he has ironed out the few rough edges, he will not be a truly versatile skater. If hard work deserves reward, Turner has well-earned the title for the improvement which he has made during the past two or three years is indeed extraordinary. Nathaniel Wm. Niles, defending Champion, was unable to compete this year in the singles.

Frederick Goodridge of Cambridge (2nd) won the Junior Championship last year from a field of fourteen contestants, and this year his work is correspondingly improved. He is a most pleasing skater to watch in either figures or free skating because of his natural grace and ease. Goodridge's figures are good but as yet lack the unfaltering accuracy and control necessary for championship skating. His free skating is marked by a certain delicacy of touch that affords an exhibition at once beautiful from the artistic and of high standard from the judges' point of view.

Dr. Walter Langer of Brooklyn (3rd) made his first entry into figure skating in this country with this competition and successfully demonstrated his right to belong to the championship class. Both his school figures and his free skating were close enough to those of Goodridge to cause some difference of opinion among the judges.

Ferrier T. Martin of New York (4th) once again entered the National Championships, but this year under the distinct handicap

of very little preparation. He has not been able to devote as much time as usual to hard practise and consequently the results by no means did him justice as a skater.

LADIES' JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Miss Virginia Badger of Boston (1st) with a slight margin in school figures and a noticeable edge in free skating nosed out the title on her first entry into competitive skating circles. Like her brother, Sherwin C. Badger, former National Champion, she is a strong skater of much natural ability. Although her school figures are up to junior championship standard, her main strength lies in free skating, in which she combines a well-constructed program of amply difficult figures with charm and grace of execution.

Dr. Juni of New York, née Hulda Berger, (2nd) was the cause of some disagreement among the judges. She received one first, one third and one fourth. She is proficient in both school figures and free skating, but depends for her high ranking on her sureness and accuracy in the former. While her school figures showed a careful studied style, her free skating was somewhat lacking in ease of execution.

Mrs. Bruce Mapes of Brooklyn, née Evelyn Chandler, (3rd) gave a most astonishing free skating exhibition. Her school figures gave her high consideration, but her free skating astonished the average observer I am sure. Within the short space of three minutes and a half, she crowded as much into contents as most skaters could in five minutes. Her style was marked by a relentless abandon and energy that savored of the professional, but she hardly faltered in the execution of spins, jumps, turns or dances.

Miss Grace Madden of Boston (4th) was not far behind the three place winners, and on account of the general excellence of both her figures and free skating, she ranks from now on as a logical contender for the title. She was adjudged two points behind Mrs. Mapes by two of the judges, while the third judge gave her a five point margin over the latter.

The remaining contestants placed in the following order: Miss Margaret Bennett, Minneapolis; Miss Gertrude Meredith, New

U. S. JUNIOR LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

	MISS BADGER Boston			MRS. JUNI* New York			MRS. MAPES** Brooklyn			MISS MADDEN Boston			MISS BENNETT Minneapolis		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge	52.4	50.	48.2	52.4	53.5	43.6	49.3	47.	45.4	50.8	42.75	47.4	48.4	46.25	42.6
School	32.65	28.	33.6	31.04	27.4	30.8	34.3	26.84	27.3	30.66	28.	30.1	31.39	25.09	31.85
Free	85.05	78.	81.8	83.44	80.9	74.4	83.6	73.84	72.7	81.46	70.75	77.5	79.79	71.34	74.45
Total	1	2	1	3	1	4	2	4	6	4	6	2	5	5	3
Ranking	I			II			III			IV			V		
Result															

	MISS MEREDITH New York			MISS BOYRER New York			MISS HOPKINS Boston			MISS SANDERS New Haven		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge	48.7	51.	42.4	47.4	40.	40.2	46.6	41.	38.4	44.5	37.5	37.2
School	30.8	26.84	31.15	31.74	30.17	28.7	28.59	21.59	21.	27.51	22.15	23.1
Free	79.5	77.84	73.55	79.14	70.17	68.9	75.19	62.59	59.4	72.01	59.65	60.3
Total	6	3	5	7	7	7	8	8	9	9	9	8
Ranking	VI			VII			VIII			IX		
Result												

JUDGES: C. M. Rotch, Boston; R. G. Van Name, New Haven; J. A. Cruikshank, New York.

* Dr. Hulda Berger.

** Evelyn Chandler.

York; Miss Annabelle Boyrer, Brooklyn; Miss Charlotte Hopkins, Boston; Miss Dorothea Sanders, New Haven.

MEN'S JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

J. Lester Madden of Boston (1st) gained his title through an extraordinary exhibition of free skating. I understand from those who saw the "World's," that in this department he would have compared very favorably. And he is a junior! Madden's school figures were good, but Hill's were better, forcing him to the limit in free skating to win. This competition was Madden's second appearance in competitive circles; he placed fourth in the juniors last year, yet this year he won and set a high standard.

George E. B. Hill of Cambridge (2nd) had enough of a lead in school figures ordinarily to win before the free skating was started, but because Madden skated so well Hill lost by a narrow margin. Every judge placed Hill ahead in school figures, but just enough behind in free skating to allow Madden first place.

Roy Shipstad of Minneapolis (3rd) lost higher ranking through a slight weakness in school figures as compared with the leaders. His free skating was interesting and pleasing; fast yet not flingy, with much "Christiansen" smoothness. His spins were excellent as was his spread eagle. He appeared to skate an unnecessary proportion with both feet on the ice; correcting this and with improvement in school figures he should give Hill a tussle next year.

Joseph K. Savage of New York (4th) ranked well in his school figures and slightly behind in free skating. He is an experienced competitor and skated his school figures easily up to standard. With improvement in free skating he will cause trouble for the winners another year.

The remaining contestants placed in the following order: Heaton R. Robertson, New Haven; Thornton Coolidge, Boston; Richard L. Hapgood, Boston; William Nagle, Brooklyn; Edmond Brigham, Boston; Robert Rothman, Brooklyn; Charles Wyman, Boston; Dr. L. Shepherd, Boston.

U. S. JUNIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

	J. L. MADDEN Boston			G. E. B. HULL, Cambridge			R. SHIPSTAD Minneapolis			J. K. SAVAGE New York			H. R. ROBERTSON New Haven			T. COOLIDGE Boston		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge	49.4	48.9	45.	49.9	51.3	47.	48.2	45.6	42.	44.4	48.2	43.	43.2	45.5	41.25	39.4	45.5	38.75
School	32.4	29.7	29.5	28.8	29.19	27.5	30.6	30.	27.5	28.8	28.8	26.5	24.6	26.7	25.5	28.2	27.39	27.5
Free	81.8	78.6	74.5	78.7	80.49	74.5	78.8	75.6	69.5	73.2	77.	69.5	67.8	72.2	66.75	67.6	72.89	66.25
Total	1	2	1½	3	1	1½	2	4	3½	4	3	3½	6	6	5	7	5	7
Ranking	I			II			III			IV			V			VI		
Result																		

	R. L. HAPGOOD Boston			W. NAGLE Brooklyn			E. BRIGHAM Boston			R. ROTHMAN Brooklyn			C. WYMAN Boston			L. SHEPARD Boston		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge	41.	44.1	36.75	38.8	41.7	38.	41.6	44.2	43.5	39.8	39.7	31.25	40.8	41.6	35.75	23.7	25.4	26.75
School	28.2	28.02	23.50	27.3	28.59	28.5	19.8	23.6	21.	26.7	28.1	20.5	21.	24.	21.	15.9	18.5	18.
Free	69.2	72.12	60.25	66.1	70.29	66.5	61.4	67.8	64.5	66.5	67.8	51.75	61.8	65.6	56.75	39.6	43.9	44.75
Total	5	7	9	9	8	6	11	9½	8	8	9½	11	10	11	10	12	12	12
Ranking	VII			VIII			IX			X			XI			XII		
Result																		

JUDGES: J. A. Cruikshank, New York; C. M. Rotch, Boston; R. G. Van Name, New Haven.

PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES*

Miss Maribel Vinson and Thornton Coolidge of Boston (1st) have made rapid progress since winning the junior pair title a year ago. They have progressed in skating ability,—especially Miss Vinson,—until now their execution is speedy and smooth flowing. Their program though very interesting, is still lacking in the strictly pair work which modern authorities (European) require, according to the latest information. This the Blanchard-Niles pair seem to have developed since their Olympic trip. The side by side, hand in hand work of the winners deserves much praise, but until they have eliminated a great part of that which savors of two singles, there is much room for program improvement. They are naturally very similar in style of skating as well as appearance, a fact which makes their performance extremely pleasing.

Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard and Nathaniel W. Niles of Boston (2nd), defending champions, lost the pair title this year, after winning it ten consecutive seasons, by a very close margin as an examination of the marks will show. Their program is a really beautiful exhibition of pair work, but at New Haven they by no means did themselves justice as far as performance is concerned. Much has been said in praise of the Blanchard-Niles program, and with this year's improvement it still holds true. Not content with the laurels of their first years of victories, they have continually improved in program and style, setting a fast pace in championship pair skating standards. And for this reason Miss Vinson and Coolidge deserve much credit for having won at New Haven. What the future will bring forth is hard to guess, for it is certain that Mrs. Blanchard and Niles will continue their pair work. Whatever the outcome, however, the vivid memories of their pair skating will last for many years.

Mrs. Daniel Kelly, née Ada Bauman, and George Braakman of New York (3rd) skated a fine program which was easily of championship calibre. Their style is marked by a vigor and zest necessary to good skating; with the smoothing out of some unevenness in execution, it can rank with the best pair skating in this country.

*Table on page 19.

JUNIOR PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

Miss Grace Madden and J. Lester Madden of Boston (1st) skated a well-conceived program in good pair style. They make a very attractive couple, with good spiral positions and ample difficulty in the shape of jumps, toe-points, dance steps and a spread eagle. Life and zest count for a great deal in free skating and the junior titlists in this event had a most pleasing presentation to offer.

Miss Dorothy Weld and Richard L. Hapgood of Boston (2nd) executed a well varied program and were very close to the winners. They did not do themselves justice, however, on performance. A very little more practise would have raised the effect of their pair tremendously.

Miss Ethel Bijur and Bedell Harned of New York (3rd) skated a program containing certain interesting innovations, particularly in the "pair spins." Their program for contents was by no means far behind the leaders in quality, and they were well up in execution.

WALTZING CHAMPIONSHIP

Miss Rosalie Dunn and Joseph K. Savage of New York (1st) exhibited a beautiful rendition of the waltz. Much credit is due to

U. S. JUNIOR PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

	MR. and MISS MADDEN Boston			MISS WELD—MR. HAPGOOD Boston			MISS BIJUR—MR. HARNED New York		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Judge	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Program	5.4	4.83	4.33	5.	4.83	5.	5.	4.83	4.5
Performance	5.6	4.93	4.33	5.	4.5	4.67	4.8	4.5	4.
Total	11.	9.76	8.66	10.	9.33	9.67	9.8	9.33	8.5
Ranking	1	1	2	2	2½	1	3	2½	3
Result	I			II			III		

JUDGES: J. A. Cruikshank, New York; H. R. Robertson, New Haven; C. M. Rotch, Boston.

Miss Dunn, who is perhaps the best waltzing partner in this country, but on the other hand it takes two to make a dancing team, and the marvelous rhythm and unison attained by them easily merited first place.

Miss Elsie Koscheck and Frederick Gabel of New York (2nd) gave the winners a close run as is almost always the case when New Yorkers are vying with one another for national dancing titles. Their performance was of the best, but subtly lacked the smoothness of the winners.

Mrs. Daniel Kelly and George Braakman of New York (3rd) were also of high ability and rank in the quality of their waltzing, and won out over the remainder of the field probably through experience and exactness.

FOURTEEN STEP CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. Daniel Kelly and George Braakman of New York (1st) won this event through their spirited interpretation of the dance. Full of life and controlled power, they squeaked out a victory by a narrow margin.

Miss Maribel Vinson and J. Lester Madden of Boston (2nd) skated in a manner that should be a warning in all future competitions that Boston skaters are improving in the dances and will begin to figure in a few years in the titles.

Miss Rosalie Dunn and Joseph K. Savage of New York (3rd) gave a smooth interpretation of the dance, but lacked enough in speed and life to keep them from holding the title which they won last year.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The National Championships are always a time for pleasant renewal of skating relations between different parts of the country, and the New Haven Club deserves congratulations on the efficient manner in which the contests were run as well as for the kind hospitality to the visiting contestants.

From now on it is safe to say that a new generation of figure skaters has arisen to walk the centre of the stage, and with this new influx of young skaters, there is the promise of greater things in an

international way, particularly with regard to future contests with the Europeans. The standards of skating here and abroad still differ somewhat, but when the American skaters have sufficiently impressed themselves on the consciousness of European judges and skaters, there will result a harmonious concept of the sport as a whole which will be beneficial to all.

The judges who officiated at the Nationals this year were as follows: James A. Cruikshank of New York; Charles M. Rotch of Boston; Ralph G. Van Name of New Haven; Mrs. Channing Frothingham of Boston; Sherwin C. Badger of New York; Heaton R. Robertson of New Haven; Mrs. Charles B. Blanchard of Boston, and Nathaniel W. Niles of Boston.