



Courtesy of Frank Colby, Boston Transcript.

R. F. TURNER (right), F. GOODRIDGE (centre), J. L. MADDEN (left)
Winner, Second and Third, respectively, in 1929 Nationals

U. S. Figure Skating Championships

RICHARD L. HAPGOOD

The Figure Skating Championships of the United States for 1929 were held on February 18 and 19 at the Madison Square Garden rink, New York City, under the auspices of The Skating Club of New York.

The new dance competition offered the novel touch to this year's contests. With the exception of the winning couple, there was a wide variety of evaluation by the different judges which was a natural result from the fact that this event is aimed to prevent standardization. It is the playground for inventive skaters as it constitutes a challenge to the originality of those who admire the artistic as well as the competitive element in skating. For this reason the new dance is a good thing, and let us hope that in years to come, it will furnish a strong counterbalance to too much rigor in the other, longer established figure skating events.

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES

Miss Maribel Vinson of Winchester, Mass., retained her championship title, won for the first time last year, by a unanimous verdict of the judges. She skated far above the standard of any of her competitors in both prescribed figures and free skating, and any attempt to analyze her performances in comparison with American standards is merely to speak in terms of perfection.

No skater, of course, is perfect but Miss Vinson's approach to that goal is astonishing. Her ability places her in the first rank of world figure skating competitors, and it seems safe to hazard the prediction that she will retain her title for many years. Miss Bea-

trix Loughran, champion of two years ago, has definitely retired from competitive skating, and while she has never been beaten in competition either here or abroad by Miss Vinson, I should shrink from the task of having to judge them should they ever meet again.

Miss Vinson's free skating this year exhibited more grace than ever before, and this quality makes her truly champion of the United States.

Mrs. Frederick Secord of New York (2nd) also commanded a unanimity of the judges. While not yet advanced to Miss Vinson's class in either department of the contest, she proved herself to be among the leading skaters of the country.

Miss Suzanne Davis of Waban (3rd) was not seriously out-distanced by Mrs. Secord. She is naturally a strong, active skater; her control of prescribed figures is adequate, and her program is marked by a distinctive and pleasing style of execution. In my opinion she had an interesting free skating program, well-composed, well-skated, with requisite variety and difficulty.

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES

Roger F. Turner of Milton also successfully defended his title, won for the first time last year. His prescribed figures were good, but were not the best of which he is capable, though he gained a distinct advantage over his rivals in this division. His free skating form, however, shows marked improvement. He skated the same sort of difficult program in far better positions and with more grace than he has ever exhibited before, and while not naturally graceful like many of the best skaters, he has overcome whatever handicap he had along this line through patient and painstaking practice.

Frederick Goodridge of Cambridge was again runner-up in the National Championship. He was ranked ahead of Turner by one judge, and at the same time was ranked last by another. Goodridge is a more graceful skater than Turner, but his style is affected by a delicacy which might influence judges to think that he was insecure. His figures were genuinely well-skated, and his free skat-

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF UNITED STATES

	R. F. TURNER Boston					F. GOODRIDGE Boston				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge										
School	90.	102.75	95.5	90.25	100.9	67.5	78.	101.75	81.	95.3
Free	61.75	66.62	65.	71.5	67.	55.25	58.5	71.5	68.9	65.
Total	151.75	169.37	160.5	161.75	167.9	122.75	136.5	173.25	149.9	160.3
Ranking	I	I	II	I	I	II	IV	I	II	II
Result	I					II				

	J. L. MADDEN Boston					W. LANGER Brooklyn				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge										
School	47.5	85.	85.	74.75	85.1	65.	88.5	83.5	78.25	91.7
Free	60.12	63.37	73.12	68.25	63.7	39.	56.87	61.75	61.75	67.6
Total	107.62	148.37	158.12	143.	148.8	104.	145.37	145.25	140.	159.3
Ranking	III	II	III	III	IV	IV	III	IV	IV	III
Result	III					IV				

JUDGES: Mrs. A. B. Cramer, Mrs. E. S. Knapp, Miss B. Loughran,
Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. H. R. Robertson

ing exhibition was delightful to watch, particularly his spread-eagle and Salchow jump.

J. Lester Madden of Newton (3rd) has stepped up rapidly from the junior division, in which he was ranked the leader last year. Madden's forte is his free skating. Last year he did one of the most astonishing programs ever skated in a junior competition, and this year's was correspondingly better. While his form is not always the best, he has ability to do the most difficult jumps and turns at a high rate of speed and his Axel Paulsen is indeed worthy of great praise.

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP OF UNITED STATES.

	MISS M. Y. VINSON Boston				MRS. E. SECORD New York				MISS S. DAVIS Boston							
	A	B	C	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
Judge	98.6	95.5	89.5	84.5	99.5	91.7	87.	84.	61.	88.5	81.6	71.55	67.	51.75	81.5	
School	66.	67.5	72.	66.	63.	56.4	61.5	64.5	45.	57.	60.	61.5	54.	39.	54.	
Free	164.6	163.	161.5	150.5	162.5	148.1	148.5	148.5	106.	145.5	141.6	133.05	121.	90.75	135.5	
Total	I	I	I	I	I	II	II	II	II	II	III	III	III	III	III	
Ranking																
Result	I															

JUDGES: Mrs. A. B. Cramer, Mrs. E. S. Knapp, Miss B. Loughran, Mr. H. R. Robertson, Mr. J. Chapman.

PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP OF UNITED STATES

	MISS VINSON MR. COOLIDGE Boston				MRS. BLANCHARD MR. NILES Boston				MRS. SECORD MR. SAVAGE New York				MISS DE PIERCE MR. BRAAKMAN New York							
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E.	A	B	C	D	E.	A	B	C	D	E
Judge	4.5	5.5	4.5	5.5	5.25	5.	5.	4.75	5.5	5.	4.5	5.5	5.	5.5	5.25	3.	3.5	3.	3.5	3.5
Program	5.5	5.	5.	5.75	5.25	4.5	5.5	5.	5.25	5.	4.	5.5	4.	5.	4.5	3.	3.5	3.	4.	4.
Performance	10.	10.5	*9.5	11.25	10.5	9.5	10.5*	9.75	10.75	10.	8.5	11.	9.	10.5	9.75	6.	7.	6.	7.5	7.5
Total	I	III	II	I	I	II	II	I	II	II	III	I	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
Ranking																				
Result	I																			

JUDGES: Miss B. Loughran, Mrs. E. S. Knapp, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. F. T. Martin, Mr. S. C. Badger.

*Where totals are equal, the couple having highest mark for "performance" wins.

Dr. Langer of New York (4th) skated under the handicap of having just recovered from influenza, and consequently did not do himself justice. From the judges' cards, however, it can be seen that he was not far behind the other competitors.

PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES

The most interesting point about the pair championship competition was that the three leading couples exhibited three entirely different styles of pair skating, a fact which caused some disagreement among the judges.

Pair skating in this country is less standardized than singles for the simple reason that two persons are skating rather than one and that involves the added element to be considered in judging of how well-matched the pairs are in skating ability and form. Degrees of "pairness," as exhibited by the best European pairs, are not always recognized enough by judges who themselves are not pair skaters. The elusive quality of "pairness" when balanced against difficulty of program, speed and novelty resulted in a divergence of marks.

Miss Vinson and Thornton Coolidge, formerly of Boston and now of New York, retained their title by rather a narrow margin—according to addition of place marks—from Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard and Nathaniel Wm. Niles of Boston (2nd). Mrs. Frederick Secord and Joseph K. Savage of New York were third, yet they too had one first place. Miss De Pierce and George Braakman of New York were fourth.

LADIES' JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. Bruce Mapes of New York, (1st) gained a unanimous verdict from the judges, mainly on account of her superiority in free skating. Last year she placed third, but this year's contest brought out clearly the fact that she has made good progress in her prescribed figures. At the same time, her figures were not considered quite as good by most of the judges as those of the runner-up, and her free skating ability is unquestionably what gained her the title.

Before passing on to the other competitors, it seems fitting to make especial mention of Mrs. Mapes's free skating. Her program contained all the elements of a championship program with difficult jumps, spins and so forth. Her style of performance was marked by tremendous speed, vigor and strength, as she unhesitatingly essayed the most intricate spectacular features. It is interesting to note that her free skating form was much improved over last year, in that she was less wildly abandoned, more restrained and controlled, and consequently much more pleasing to watch from the point of view of amateur figure skating standards.

Dr. Hulda Burger of New York was again runner-up in this event. Her strength lies in her school figures, where she led the winner by four out of five judges. Her free skating program was well-composed and well-skated, but she was outdistanced in this department by Mrs. Mapes, who has had perhaps more actual exhibitional experience.

Miss Grace Madden of Newton (3rd) was close to Dr. Burger in both school figures and free skating. She is young in competition, yet has the natural ability for great improvement. She placed fourth in this contest last year, and with another year of work she ought to give the leaders a hard battle.

The remaining contestants finished in the following order: Miss Dorothea Sanders of New Haven, fourth; Miss Charlotte Hopkins of Boston, fifth; Miss Annabelle Boyrer of New York, sixth.

MEN'S JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

George E. B. Hill of Cambridge won his title by a clear margin over his rivals with four first places and one second. Hill's prescribed figures were excellent and averaged about five points ahead of the next competitor in the opinion of the judges. His free skating showed a marked improvement over last year at which time he placed second to Madden after leading in the prescribed figures.

Joseph K. Savage of New York (2nd) has been active in this competition for several years and has reaped the second prize on

U. S. JUNIOR LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

	MRS. MAPES Brooklyn					DR. BERGER New York					MISS MADDEN Boston				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge	55.5	53.25	61.25	57.37	56.6	57.	51.5	66.5	63.	58.8	46.	49.25	60.	56.25	55.8
School	48.	48.	46.	46.	48.	39.	36.	34.	34.	34.8	43.	34.	34.	24.	36.
Free	103.5	101.25	107.25	103.37	104.6	96.	87.5	100.5	97.	93.6	89.	83.25	94.	80.25	91.8
Total	I	I	I	I	I	II	II	II	II	II	III	III	III	IV	III
Ranking	I					II					III				
Result	I					II					III				

	MISS SANDERS New Haven					MISS HOPKINS Boston					MISS BOYRER New York				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge	46.	47.5	52.25	55.25	55.2	44.5	47.75	58.25	50.	50.9	37.5	39.	42.25	37.62	42.2
School	33.	30.	39.	26.	36.	33.	28.	32.	20.	32.	40.	32.	40.	32.	35.6
Free	79.	77.5	91.25	81.25	91.2	77.5	75.75	90.25	70.	82.9	77.5	71.	82.25	69.62	77.8
Total	IV	IV	IV	III	IV	V	V	V	V	V	VI	VI	VI	VI	VI
Ranking	IV					V					VI				
Result	IV					V					VI				

JUDGES: Miss R. M. Knapp, Mr. H. R. Robertson, Mr. F. Gabel, Mr. R. Harvey, Mr. J. B. Liberman.

U. S. JUNIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

	G. E. B. HILL Boston					J. K. SAVAGE New York				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge										
School	54.37	51.75	54.12	56.37	53.6	46.25	45.25	50.75	54.12	50.6
Free	26.	33.25	34.12	37.62	34.3	31.5	35.	33.25	35.	32.2
Total	80.37	85.	88.24	93.99	87.9	77.75	80.25	84.	89.12	82.8
Ranking	II	I	I	I	I	III	II	II	II	II
Result	I					II				

	W. NAGLE Brooklyn					R. REED Brooklyn				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge										
School	49.25	37.25	47.75	50.5	45.7	44.	40.	45.25	41.5	39.9
Free	40.25	35.43	32.37	34.12	35.7	21.	27.12	24.5	24.5	28.7
Total	89.5	72.68	80.12	84.62	81.4	65.	67.12	69.75	66.	68.6
Ranking	I	III	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
Result	III					IV				

JUDGES: Miss R. M. Knapp, Mr. F. Gabel, Mr. R. Harvey, Mr. J. B. Liberman,
Mr. H. R. Robertson

U. S. JUNIOR PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

	MISS WELD—MR. HAPGOOD Boston					MISS BIJUR—MR. HARNED New York				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge										
Program	4.	4.	4.5	4.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.	4.66
Performance	5.	5.	5.	5.	4.9	3.25	4.	4.5	3.	4.
Total	9.	9.	9.5	9.	9.4	7.75	8.5	9.	7.	8.66
Ranking	I	I	I	I	I	II	II	II	II	II
Result	I					II				

JUDGES: Miss B. Loughran, Mrs. C. Frothingham, Mr. S. C. Badger,
Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. J. B. Liberman

various occasions. He is mainly distinguished for good school figures, but in this year's contest, he was unable to match the standard set by the champion. Savage's free skating was improved this year, and two out of the five judges marked him higher in free skating than they did Hill.

William Nagle of New York (3rd) and Robert Reed of Brooklyn (4th) were not far behind the leaders in points. Nagle showed up to better advantage in his free skating, done in good form and containing a requisite amount of difficult spins and jumps; while Reed's prescribed figures were rated much higher than his free skating.

JUNIOR PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

Miss Dorothy Weld and Richard L. Hapgood of Boston won the title after six years of trials. They skated a moderately difficult program with good unity and fairly good form.

Miss Ethel Bijur and Bedell H. Harned of New York (2nd) competed under a decided handicap, for Mr. Harned was fighting off a bad cold the day of the competition. Their program was considered better than that of the champions by some of the judges and equal by the rest, but owing to Mr. Harned's physical condition, they were not able to do themselves justice. Their program deserves mention for the artistic lifts and pair spins which it contains and which are rather different from the ordinary style of pair figures.

DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES

The dance competition furnished a radical departure in figure skating contests in this country. It was based upon the procedure which has been used with considerable success in Europe, and it was adopted last year by the Governing Council of the United States Figure Skating Association in an effort to get away from the stereotyped style of dancing which had grown up in this country during the last five or six years.

The purpose of the dance was to develop allround dancing ability. The contest was divided into two parts, each of which was

marked separately, consisting of waltzing and dancing. The waltzing half of the competition was conducted under more or less the same regulations as in the past. There was a slight variation in the marking. The competing couples were given one set of marks, as the whole group waltzed together in so-called Continental style, and then each couple waltzed individually for one minute and were given a separate ranking.

The dancing half of the contest, however, was the part on which the most interest was centered. It was stated in the preliminary rules for the dance, published at various times, that the dance was to be based upon the ten-step. Originality, however, was considered the most important element in judging the dance, and it was given a factor of two, as against a factor of one for the two other elements, namely teamwork and surety, and power, carriage and rhythm.

The framers of the dancing rules were motivated by the theory that the dancing field of skating has been neglected during the past few seasons, and that the new contest would afford the inventive skater an opportunity for self-expression far exceeding the bounds of singles and pairs. Originality in single and pair skating should not be marked up unless that originality is good from a sound skating point of view, but in the dance it is a different story. Research work by enterprising skaters in the realms of the dance should be encouraged, for in the dance as in no other department, there is much opportunity for developing something new that will benefit free skating and pair skating as a whole.

Naturally, as would be expected in a new type of contest, judges and contestants alike were somewhat at sea. All the couples had interesting dances to offer, which were for the most part the working out of individual ideas on the problem, and the result was that the judges differed in their opinions quite as much as the contestants.

It is remarkable to note that in the case of Mrs. Frederick Secord and Joseph K. Savage of New York the judges were unanimous in awarding them the verdict, but at the same time, their outstanding performance in the waltz was in large measure responsible for the judgment. All five judges placed this couple first on waltz-

UNITED STATES DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

	MRS. SECORD—MR. SAVAGE New York					MRS. BLANCHARD—MR. NILES Boston					MISS VINSON—MR. MADDEN Boston				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge	10.	11.	12.	11.	11.	8.75	8.	8.	10.25	10.	8.	10.	9.5	10.5	9.
Waltz	8.5	9.5	10.	9.5	10.5	8.75	10.5	8.25	10.	10.5	8.75	9.5	9.75	9.62	10.37
Dance	18.5	20.5	22.	20.5	21.5	17.5	18.5	16.25	20.25	20.5	16.75	19.5	19.25	20.12	19.37
Total	I	I	I	I	I	II	III	V	II	II	IV	II	II	III	IV
Ranking	I					II					III				
Result	I					II					III				

	MISS MEREDITH MR. HARTSHORNE New York					MISS WELD—MR. HAPGOOD Boston					MRS. FROTHINGHAM MR. TURNER Boston				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Judge	8.65	8.5	9.	10.25	10.25	8.25	8.5	9.	10.35	8.75	8.	7.5	7.5	9.	9.25
Waltz	7.87	8.	8.	8.25	9.5	7.5	8.5	7.5	8.87	9.62	9.25	9.	8.5	9.37	9.37
Dance	16.52	16.5	17.	18.5	19.75	15.75	17.	16.5	19.22	18.37	17.25	16.5	16.	18.37	18.62
Total	V	VI	III	V	III	VI	IV	IV	IV	VI	III	V	VI	VI	V
Ranking	IV					V					VI				
Result	IV					V					VI				

JUDGES: Mrs. E. S. Knapp, Miss B. Loughran, Mr. F. T. Martin, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. S. C. Badger.

ing, whereas only one placed them first on the dance. Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard and Nathaniel Wm. Niles of Boston (2nd), received for the dance two firsts and two ties for first place; one of these was with the winners, the other with Miss Maribel Vinson and J. Lester Madden of Boston (3rd).

The remaining couples received a wide variety of places from the different judges, and finished in the following order: Miss Gertrude Meredith and Harold Hartshorne of New York, fourth; Miss Dorothy Weld and Richard L. Hapgood of Boston, fifth; and Mrs. Channing Frothingham and Roger F. Turner of Boston, sixth.

CONCLUSIONS

From every angle the competitions this year were a great success. Our hosts, The Skating Club of New York, managed the "Nationals" in a very efficient manner and were most hospitable to the visiting skaters and their friends. Five judges were arranged for every event, which is more satisfactory than a lesser number. The quality of the judging was excellent, free from any possible suggestion of bias, and remarkably uniform.

There was no contest for fours this year and it is to be deplored that so little interest is taken in this branch of skating.

The judges who officiated in the various events were Miss Beatrix Loughran, New York; Ferrier T. Martin, New York; Mrs. E. S. Knapp, New York; Miss Rosalie M. Knapp, New York; Joseph Chapman, Philadelphia; Sherwin C. Badger, New York; Mrs. Channing Frothingham, Boston; Heaton R. Robertson, New Haven; Mrs. Lillian Cramer, New York; Raymond Harvey, New York; Joel B. Liberman, New York; and Frederick W. Gabel, New York.