



MIDWESTERN PRIZE WINNERS

*Front Row:* Mr. A. F. Preusch, Mrs. A. F. Preusch, Mrs. Ruth English, Mr. L. Fogassey, Mr. R. Piro, Miss Jeanne Schulte, Mr. O. Haupt  
*Back Row:* Miss Elizabeth Reflow, Miss Frances Johnson, Mr. W. Swallender, Miss Katherine Durbrow, Miss Myra Azbe, Miss Virginia Bucher

# The Midwestern Championships

BY ETHEL R. BIJUR

*The Skating Club, Inc., New York.*

The Midwestern Figure Skating Competitions held at St. Louis on the twenty-ninth of January are an encouraging sign of the really serious interest shown in a difficult sport by the skaters of this section of the country. The standard they have set for themselves is a high one, and while all technical equipment is not yet fully at their command, they showed by their skating the earnest endeavor to grasp and retain only that which is fine and worthwhile, and to cast aside that which is meretricious and shoddy. With but an exception or two, one and all skated with a natural good taste and a refinement of expression.

The Men's Senior Title was won by William Swallender of the Twin City Skating Club of Minneapolis. Mr. Swallender showed both in his school figures and in his free skating a comprehensive grasp of technical difficulty and of good form. His figures were large, beautifully retraced, and the turns good. The free skating program was comprised of many of the standard difficult jumps and spins with the inclusion of some delightful dance steps and novel moves. Mr. Arthur Preusch, Minneapolis, who placed second, is an experienced competitor who skated well both in his school figures and in his free program in which he kept the best time to the music of any one. Ollie Haupt, St. Louis, who placed third, is only thirteen years old. He showed himself to be a natural free skater of promise, but due to the fact of having to attend school, and also of skating a Pair, needed more time spent on his schools to reach a higher rating. Robert Piros, St. Louis, fourth, skated excellent figures, and showed the result of earnest application. With a more varied free program, in future he will undoubtedly place higher.

The Women's Single Title was won by Miss Katherine Durbrow of the St. Louis Skating Club, and who performed well, with Miss Frances Johnson of Minneapolis, a very close second, and Miss Myra

Azbe of St. Louis, third, a coming skater. Miss Elizabeth Ann Reflow, St. Louis, who showed much promise in her free skating was fourth. All these ladies skated well and were a pleasure to watch, while not quite reaching the standard of difficulty set by the men.

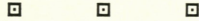
The Pair Skating was most interesting, this event being won by Mrs. Ruth English and Mr. Len Fogassey, who skated with excellent pace and rhythm and a good feeling of pairness. Their routine included some familiar lifts, such as the carry lift and the lift from a right back outside edge, both nicely done, and rather more separating figures than are done in the East, although their meetings were timed beautifully. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Preusch, second, had a very attractive routine, which was very well executed, in splendid time to the music. Both Mr. and Mrs. Preusch also skated in the Singles, and are excellent all around skaters. Ollie Haupt and his partner, Miss Jeanne Schulte, are the youngest pair skaters to be seen in senior competition; their program was charming, they were always in perfect unison, used great pace, and were a delight to the eye.

The evening's program finished with a waltzing contest, skated with a stranger partner, and won by Miss Virginia Bucher and Mr. Len Fogassey. Miss Bucher lives in Kansas City, and is a charming young skater who competed in the singles, never has had any instruction, and who skated with the instinctive good form of her fellow competitors. A Ladies Four, composed of Mrs. George Muller, Miss Myra Azbe, Miss Reflow and Mrs. English gave a varied and polished performance, and were greatly applauded. The prize exhibition, however, was given by seven year old, Shirley Reflow, daughter of the Winter Garden's capable manager—Shirley, who passed her first class test the day before, skated a charming single with the poise of a champion.

The Championships were held at the Winter Garden Skating Rink, under the auspices of the St. Louis Skating Club, which is most fortunate in having Mr. Erwin P. Hilts as its hard working president, and who is ably seconded by Mrs. Hilts in their unselfish endeavors to promote the best interests of the skaters of their section. Mr. William Cady, secretary of the Club, is another member who works untiringly to promote figure skating and to help in every possible way by precept and example. Mr. Cady is an excellent pair skater and dancer. I

must add that the St. Louis Club is most fortunate in having Mr. and Mrs. George Muller to guide and train their members with whole hearted devotion.

An interesting side light at the competitions were the number of visiting skaters eager to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them at this time, due to the presence of Boston and New York judges, Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard, Mrs. Lillian Cramer and Miss Ethel R. Bijur, of taking Tests, ranging from the first to the sixth. Among them were Miss Nass, Miss Bucher, Miss Murdoch and Dr. Ockerblad of Kansas City.



## Invitation to World's

We hope earnestly America will send some good competitors over here for the World's Championships. We reckon on Maribel Vinson as a certainty, as she is already in Europe, but Mrs. Samuel, her brother, and others are the object of our hope also.

The rinks for these competitions are all open air rinks, naturally frozen, and not covered. In Stockholm there is a seating capacity of some 22,000 people, in Oslo about 16,000, and in Helsingfors some 6,000. At last winter's Ladies' Championship in Stockholm, the Stadium was overcrowded and the following night, for the show, some 19,000 people attended. Great enthusiasm, fine weather, nice prices—everyone was very content.

May I extend a greeting of welcome to all American and Canadian prospective participants.

ULRICH SALCHOW.