

# Mid-Western Championships

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*Figure Skating Club of Minneapolis.*

The Figure Skating Club of Minneapolis was host to the third Mid-western Championships on March sixth at the Minneapolis Arena. Due to holding the event after The Nationals the competition was somewhat of an anti-climax. We however were encouraged to hold the tournament by the officials of the St. Louis Skating Club and of the U. S. F. S. A. for fear that a lapse might cause the suspension of future competitions. We conceived the idea of hooking up the competition to our carnival and thus save considerable expense on ice rental. In response to our efforts the St. Louis Club, in spite of injuries and illness to prospective participants, displayed excellent sportsmanship and sent five entries.

We were in hopes that the occasion would bring a full quota of eastern judges but undoubtedly due to business pressure or the necessity of being on hand to take care of eastern carnival matters, our quota was not forthcoming. Fortunately Miss Suzanne Davis was the featured skater at the Winnipeg carnival and as she was nearby her services were available as judge. Having blanket authority, by reason of the exigencies of the occasion and by virtue of being originally appointed referee, we called upon C. I. Christenson, former National Champion, and pinch-hitted ourselves as the third judge, and appointed Richard W. Weston of our club as referee.

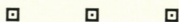
The Men's entry list included Earl Reiter, William Swallender, Lyman E. Wakefield, Jr., Oliver Haupt, Jr., Gene Reichel and Arthur F. Preusch, who finished in that order. It might be said that the ordinal ranking was largely determined by the respective ability of the participants to demonstrate the skating of the prescribed figures. The judges' marks indicate the competition very close between Reiter and Swallender. Bill did not skate the inner forward brackets and the back change loops with his usual accuracy and really lost the championship on these two figures. Reiter, on the other hand, had strong edges

on his brackets up to the turns with deep cusps, and well skated change loops. Wakefield skated with sureness and poise in both free and school figures. His superiority in the figures placed him third. Oliver Haupt was marked first in free skating by two judges: greater concentration on the figures should bring this young man a championship. Gene Reichel's free skating is most promising, having excellent jumps and a good spread eagle. His school figures however lacked accuracy of tracing. Arthur Preusch did not train for the event due to an injured shoulder and only entered to fill out the list.

In the Ladies' singles, Frances Johnson won the title. Her figures were not quite up to her usual standard but her free skating was handled with sureness and contained excellent spins. Mrs. Arthur Preusch was a close second, showing great improvement over last year. Third place was particularly close; as originally announced Elizabeth Ann Reflow of St. Louis was third, but the referee in checking over the addition discovered that Dorothy Snell of St. Paul should be awarded third place by a very small margin. Elizabeth Ann was superior in school figures but Dorothy, by reason of a more difficult program skated with sureness, gained a very slight superiority.

Four pairs were entered and finished in the following order: Ruth English and Len Fogassey of St. Louis, Jeanne Schulte and Oliver Haupt of St. Louis, Edith and Arthur Preusch of Minneapolis, Angeline Knapp and Dr. Pike of Minneapolis. There was little to chose between the two leading pairs; the winners having a shade the better on difficulty of program. The waltz contest was won by Edith and Arthur Preusch.

On the whole the skating was vastly improved as compared with the Mid-western last year. Thanks are extended to all participants, judges, and those assisting to make the event a success.



## May Issue

The publication of the final issue will be delayed until after the Annual Meeting of the Association in May.