The United States

and

North American Championships

As the following story had to be written within 48 hours after the Championships, a trio of skaters from The Skating Club of New York agreed to collaborate. It is difficult to rush impressions onto paper after having seen so much excellent skating, but we think they painted a very clear picture of an exciting week end.—T. W. B.

THE 1945 NATIONALS AND NORTH AMER-ICANS proved that skating is certainly one of the things the "Home Front" has been fighting to preserve. It presented a most encouraging contrast to the Nationals held in New York two years ago when wonder and doubt and war worries overshadowed all endeavor. But this year the competitors came in large and eager numbers. They came early, in good spirits, and greeted one another with wild enthusiasm. The crowds who came to watch, to applaud, and to learn were good-natured and unmindful of our inability to seat them all comfortably. However, there was room and cheer in Madison Square Garden for everyone. But we are getting ahead of our story.

It began days and weeks before ... with plans to be thought out, tickets to be printed, schedules to be agonized over, signs to be painted, and all the million and one things incident to the arranging of a competition which included not only the Nationals but the North American Cham-

Photo (5) by Kenneth M. Wright Studios, St. Paul; all others by Henry Kloss, 1529 59 St., Brooklyn. Mr. Kloss took many pictures at The Championships, which are available at one dollar each.

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pionship for Ladies. Usually the North American Championships, which are a team competition between the United States and Canada held every second year, consist of Singles for Men and Ladies, Pairs, and Fours, and are the climax of the season. Because of the war, no competition was held in 1943, and it was decided to hold only the Ladies' Championship this winter.

Iceland rink had cancelled all public and club sessions for the two full days preceding the competitions; practice periods, patch sessions, and music timing appointments were allotted equally and fairly by the Committee. There were skaters who handed in unlabelled records, skaters who didn't appear when expected, and skaters who begged for more than we could give, but the Committee never faltered in tactfulness and courage.

Chief praise and huzzahs are very much in order for Mr. Howard Meredith, Chairman, and Miss Anne Harvey, Vice-Chairman, who had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy and tact, and performed miracles. Their headquarters, the Committee Room, couldn't have been more like Grand Central at the height of the commuters' rush.

The Seattle group were the first competitors to arrive and were soon followed by hosts of others from far and near; distance and discomfort of present day travel seemed to hinder no one. And we were glad to see an unusually large number of pros in our midst, coaching, studying and exchanging ideas. They seemed to realize that the young pupil of today is bounding forward in the sport, and that it is quite a feat for even the veteran teachers to anticipate their demands.

Gretchen Van Zandt Merrill, United States Lady Champion, and President Walter S. Powell.
Donna Jeanne Pospisil and Jean-Pierre Brunet, United States Pair Champions, with Mr. Powell.
Barbara Jones, Novice Lady Champion, Richard Button, Junior Champion, and Eileen Seigh, Junior Lady Champion. (4) Mr. Powell with Betty Jean Higgins and Lyman E. Wakefield, Jr., Junior Pair Champions. (5) John Lettengarver, Novice Champion. (6) Gretchen Van Zandt Merrill, Barbara Ann Scott, Janette Ahrens with Mr. Powell, second, first, and third in North American Championship.

Soon we were off to a momentous beginning. The Nationals began at 8 o'clock on Friday morning, March 2, in Iceland, our club rink, and the competitions continued all that day and evening, and Saturday morning, afternoon and even-A few events (Pairs, Fours, and ing. Senior Dance Finals) were held over until Monday night in Madison Square Garden. The North American Championship school figures were skated on Monday in Iceland while the National Pairs. Fours, and Dance competitors practiced in the Garden in preparation for the big moment of the evening.

There were 98 competitors in all, promising many hours on the ice for the judges who trooped forth, bundled to the teeth, to inspect the tracings minutely. The judges did a good and serious job and encouraged the competitors between classes, in the balcony restaurant where Henry provided warmth, good food, and renewed vigor.

The evening sessions were very well attended, and Iceland found it necessary to discontinue the sale of admission tickets by 8:45 each evening. Several pleading friends and anxious fathers begged to be allowed in. Of course we welcomed them.

Barbara Jones took the house on Friday night with her delightful program to win the Ladies' Novice in a field of twelve girls. John Lettengarver won first in the group of eight Novice Men in school figures and more than held his lead with his sure and sensational free skating. Unfortunately this class was the only men's group of any size. Here, unmistakably, the war had robbed us of some of our best competitors, but we did have three good Junior Men and dynamic Dick Button took first after carrying off the Novice Men's in Minneapolis last year. Eileen Seigh, last year's Novice Champ, accomplished the same quite remarkable feat by winning the Ladies' Junior this year, jumping to first place with her refreshing and difficult free skating, although Yvonne Sherman had the lead in school figures.

The Senior Ladies' class was watched with keenest interest, as the top four were to have the honor of skating against the Canadian girls in the North Americans. Gretchen Merrill retained her title by a unanimous decision. Janette Ahrens was a sure second, and in the fight for third and fourth places Madelon Olson and Margaret Grant just nosed out Phebe Tucker.

The finish and form of the Senior contestants, and of the North American teams brought the skating to its highest point in singles. One would never realize sitting applauding the fine free skating of the North American contenders in the Garden that these young ladies had gone through six exhausting hours of figures during the day up in Iceland rink, for all gave vigorous, gratifying performances. Local newspapers were generous in pictures and comments and very aptly described Gretchen and Barbara Ann as "Queens of the Flashing Blades." A prominent judge voiced the opinion of many of us that Barbara Ann Scott skated the surest and most flawless performance seen at any competition in years. She skillfully and apparently without effort included every possible jump and spin. Gretchen Merrill, who had just carried off the National Championship for the third time, closely contended the North American honors.

Interest in skating dresses, too, mounted high. The neat tailored shorts of Phebe Tucker and Gretchen Merrill gave an atmosphere of dignity and seriousness to the figure session. In the free skating these were replaced by the sparkling pinks and blues of our Champion, the pastels of Barbara Ann Scott, Janette Ahrens, Marilyn Take and Madelon Olson, Margaret Grant's soft white satin, blonde Nadine Phillips' brilliant rose, and Gloria Lillico's becoming turquoise.

We were so glad to welcome Fours back again as this competition has been missing for several years. It is an event with great audience appeal. Jackie Dunne, Joan Yocum and the Van Der Bosch boys presented their Chicago Four, an outstanding program with original moves and lift combinations. The girls are memorable for their poise and smiles, and their sleek dresses of gold cloth. They captured first place while the Four from Philadel-(Continued on Page 47)

SKATING

North American Marks

The school figures for the North Americans were drawn according to the I.E.V. system as shown on page 26 of the RULEBOOK and were Nos. 21 a & b, 23a, 31 a & b, 37a, 40a & b.

JUDGES: Norman V. S. Gregory, Montreal; Joel B. Liberman, New York; Henry M. Beatty, Cleveland; George E. B. Hill, Boston; Melville F. Rogers, Ottawa; J. Alan Priestman, Toronto.

1.	Barbara Ann Minto Skati						
	265.2 195.7	276.2 193.64	279.4 195.70	271.3 194.67	276.7 194.67	284.5 197.76	1653.3 1172.14
	460.9 1	469.84 2	475.10	465.97	471.37	482.26	2825.44 8
2.		an Zandt Me					
	264.3 190.55	280.3 191.58	280.3 192.61	273.3 193.64	261.7 186.43	279.0 192.61	1638.90 1147.42
	454.85 2	471.88 1	472.91 2	466.94 1	448.13 2	471.61 2	2786.32 10
3.	Janette Ahr	ens gure Skating	Club				
	254.1 193.64	273.2 195.70	266.7 192.61	260.5 196.73	265.2 180.25	266.5 190.55	1586.20 1149.48
	447.74	468.90	459.31 3	457.23	445.45	457.05	2735.68 18
4.	Margaret Gi St. Paul Fig	rant gure-Skating	Club				
	249.8 174.07	262.1 179.22	249.2 173.04	257.6 180.25	250.3 176.13	256.4 182.31	1525.40 1065.02
	423.87	441.32	422.24	437.85 4	426.43 4	438.71 6	2590.42 28
5.	Marilyn Ta Toronto Ska	ating Club					
	247.9 178.19	244.5 170.98	251.8 169.95	251.5 161.71	250.4 166.86	262.8 190.55	1508.90 1038.24
	426.09 4	415.48 8	421.75	413.21 8	417.26 6	453.35 4	2547.14 35
6.	Gloria Lillio Toronto Sko	ating Club					
	248.5 177.16	252.8 179.22	246.6 170.98	253.0 168.92	249.0 167.89	260.5 188.49	1510.40 1052.66
	425.66 5	432.02 6	417.58	421.92 6	416.89 7	448.99 5	2563.06 36
7.	Nadine Phi Toronto Ski	ating Club					
	249.3 173.04	254.9 170.98	242.5 174.07	253.8 167.89	249.2 168.92	255.2 183.34	1504.90 1038.24
	422.34 ' 7	425.88 7	416.57 8	421.69 7	418.12 5	438.54 7	2543.14 41
8.	Madelon Ol St. Paul Fi	lson gure Skating					
	247.0 169.95	254.0 179.22	248.9 169.95	254.2 170.98	246.3 165.83	252.6 174.07	1503,00 1030.00
	416.95 8	433.22 5	418.85 6	425.18 5	412.13 8	426.67 8	2533.00 40

See Pages 48, 50, and 52 for U.S. Championship marks.

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bright red hair that has naturally earned him the nickname of "Red." Entering a rink in 1938, Walter put on skates for the first time. After two times around he struck out for the middle ice and liked skating so much he has been at it ever since. Although they have both skated for seven years (winters at home in Washington, D. C., and summers at Lake Placid) they have only skated together one year, and this was their first National competition. Earlier this year they won the Eastern Junior Dance title. Patsy enjoys photography and badminton, while Walter likes swimming and tennis, but they both agree that so much of their time and interest is bound up in skating, that there aren't many free hours for anything else.

BECAUSE OF the usual pressure of deadlines, it was possible to interview only the skaters who won titles on March 3. "Meet the Champions" will be continued in May with stories on all the champions omitted here.



THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Continued from page 6

phia placed second and the Cleveland Four took third.

The Junior Pair title was won by Lyman Wakefield and Betty Jean Higgins of Boston. Their accurate performance of a varied program of fine lifts, jumps, and speedy dance steps gave them a clear first place over eight pairs. Yvonne Sherman and Bob Swenning of New York skated a smooth and artistic pair which won second place, and third honors went to Peter and Karol Kennedy of Seattle.

The Garden audience was delighted with the spectacular skating and youthful exuberance displayed by Donna Jeanne Pospisil and Jean-Pierre Brunet, Juniors of The Skating Club of New York, who won the Senior Pairs by a considerable majority. Michael McGean and his cousin Ann McGean of Cleveland were a popular second, and the sophisticated performance of James Lochead and Marcella May Willis brought them third honors.

The different styles and expression of dancing shown by the finalists in the Senior Dance Competition were interesting to watch. New trends became apparent and individuality of performances were marked. Even the lateness of the hour did not prevent the spirit of the audience from rising to appreciate the swing and sway of the four dance couples. Kathe Mehl Williams and Bob Swenning of New York "edged out" the champions of last year, James Lochead and Marcella May Willis, who took second. Bob and Kathe seemed to float through the dances as a unit to a happy finish. Youth at its appealing best came up into third place in the persons of Anne Davies and Carleton Hoffner of Washington, D. C.

Extreme youth claimed all honors in the finals of the Junior Dance which was skated on Saturday night in Iceland. Red Bainbridge and Patsy Jones of Washington, D. C., lead the list.

There were the familiar and recurrent aspects of these competitions such as the oft repeated cry for the clarification of judges' standards and the happier acceptance of the judges' findings. And again this year, as in previous years, the intriguing mystery presented itself: Why is it in every competition there is at least one piece of music which attracts so many skaters at once? Why is it one record seems to answer the needs of each skater as just the right selection for his particular free skating? At any rate, it demonstrates a certain community of tastes. This year the "Warsaw Concerto" was the favored one, with three of the Junior Pairs using it! It is certainly a fine composition, and it is surely worthy of the honors bestowed upon it!

But there were new aspects in this year's competitions also: Great interest was evidenced in the contest for the Oscar L. Richard Trophy given for the first time this year to the lady who in the opinion of an independent group of three nonskating judges gave the most artistic performance in free skating in the Senior or Junior events regardless of content. It was decided that Janette Ahrens of the St. Paul Figure Skating Club, with her truly lovely and statuesque performance, was the most deserving of this award. Mr. Richard himself, looking his most distinguished best and not at all as his 90 years would seem to dictate, presented the trophy as photographers crowded in to take lightning shots.

Another innovation in this year's proceedings was provided by none other than James Byrnes of the Federal Government who had decreed a most firm and positive curfew. Therefore the usual cherished and traditional midnight supper could not be held. Instead Mr. David T. Layman, President of The Skating Club of New York, received competitors and friends at a Tea Dance Sunday afternoon at Sherry's from four to seven. It proved a delightfully gay and enthusiastically attended party and was a perfect time for renewed friendships, discussions, and current postmortems.

But just as the curfew had pressed our schedule for the Nationals in Iceland on Friday and Saturday evenings, so did it loom over the events on Monday night in Madison Square Garden to meet a midnight deadline. Suspenseful excitement tensed the moments as the race against time proceeded while the awards were

Photographers' bulbs popped as made. the long table with the tremendous and shining cups was carried out on the ice. The house lights repeatedly flickered in warning, laughing spectators jostled for the most advantageous position for a quick exit. Attendants of the great arena barked directions and whisked in and out of the hallways with flashlights past the dressing rooms where the skaters were hastily dressing, in preparation to leave the rooms which one might almost call the heart of it all. There, where excitement and tautly keyed nerves had been paramount, stood Quinta (the maid), our petite rock of strength, ever ready with a cheerful smile of encouragement, first aid for small accidents, willing hands to fix recalcitrant zippers, headache remedies and other comforts. But the skaters won this competition too and the huge Garden was emptied in record time. Hearty congratulations and brief good-byes were called after departing friends.

LADIES' SENIOR FOR GERTRUDE CHEEVER PORTER TROPHY

JUDGES: H. Kendall Kelley, Philadelphia; Mary Louise Premer, St. Paul; Joseph K. Savage, New York; Roger F. Turner, Boston; Howell Janes, York; Roger San Francisco.

5

- 1. Gretchen Van Zandt Merrill The Skating Club of Boston 1 1
- Janette Ahrens St. Paul Figure Skating Club 22 2 2 3 2 11
- A delon Olson St. Paul Figure Skating Club 4 3 5 2 5 Margaret Grant St. Paul Figure Skating Club 3 4 4 6 4
- 19 4.
- 21 5.
- Phebe Tucker The Skating Club of New York 5 4 3 20
- 6. Dorothy Glazier The Skating Club of Boston
- 29 6 6 5 6 6

The school figures drawn for the Senior Ladies were Nos. 20a, 22a, 31a, 34a, 36a, and 40b.

SENIOR PAIRS FOR HENRY W. HOWE MEMORIAL TROPHY

JUDGES: Mrs. A. B. Cramer, New York; H. Ken-dall Kelley, Philadelphia; Mary Louise Premer, St. Paul; Roger F. Turner, Boston; Mrs. Werner Paul; Roger F Hoyt, Berkeley.

- 1. Donna Jeanne Pospisil & Jean Pierre Brunet
 - The Skating Club of New York
- 1 1 1 1 2 6 Ann McGean & Michael McGean Cleveland Skating Club 2 3 2 2 3 12
- $\begin{array}{c} 2 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 12 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 12 \\ \text{Marcella Mav Willis & James Lochead, Jr.} \\ Skate & Ski Club \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 12 \end{array}$ 3.

LADIES' JUNIOR FOR JAMES A. TOWER TROPHY JUDGES: Henry M. Beatty, Cleveland; Mrs. A. B. Cramer, New York; George E. B. Hill, Boston; Mary Louise Premer, St. Paul; Jane Vaughn Sullivan, Philadelphia.

- 1. Eileen Seigh Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane S. 1 2 3 1 1 8
- Yvonne Sherman The Skating Club of New York 5 4 1 2 2 .4 14
- Joan Swanston St. Louis Skating Club 2 1 4 3 4 14
- Shirley Lander Seattle Skating Club 4. 3 8 3
- 25 Barbara Uhl St. Moritz Ice Skating Club 5. 4 3 6 5 6 24
- 6. Jeanne Leroux Tulsa Figure Skating Club 6 7 5 8 5 31
- Joan Yocum Chicago Figure Skating Club 7 5 8 6 8 7 34
- Helen Uhl St. Moritz Ice Skating Club 8 9 2 7 9 35
- Margaret Field Skate & Ski Club 9 10 9 0 9 10 47
- 10. Charlotte Kave Brooklyn Figure Skating Club 11 6 10 10 7 44 10
- Beverley Compton The Skating Club of New York 10 11 11 11 15 11. 54

MEN'S JUNIOR FOR IRVING BROKAW TROPHY JUDGES: Mrs. A. B. Cramer, New York; William O. Hickok, IV, Hershey; Mrs. Werner Hoyt, Ber-keley; Walter S. Powell, St. Louis; Jane Vaughn Sullivan, Philadelphia.

- 1. Richard Button Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane S. 1 1 1
- Michael McGean Cleveland Skating Club 11
- Robert Swenning 3. The Skating Club of New York 14

JUNIOR PAIRS

JUDGES: George E. B. Hill, Boston; Howell Janes, San Francisco; Walter S. Powell, St. Louis; Joel B. Liberman, New York; Jane Vaughn Sullivan, Philadelphia.

Betty Jean Higgins & Lyman E. Wake-field, Jr. 1.

7

- The Skating Club of Boston 1 2 1 2 1
- Yvonne Sherman & Robert Swenning The Skating Club of New York 2 3 2 1 2 10
- Karol Kennedy & Peter Kennedy Seattle Skating Club 5 1 3 3 3 15 3.
- Yvonne Cameron & Dean Cameron 4. Cleveland Skating Club 3 4 5 5 5 22
- Nancy Lemmon & Charles W. Brinkman Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane S. 8 5 4 4 6 27 5.
- Sally Blair & Huntington Blair Cleveland Skating Club 4 7 6 6 7 30 6. 30

- 7. Anne Davies & Carleton C. Hoffner, Jr. Washington Figure Skating Club 6 6 7 8 4 31
- Nancy Sue Jenkins & Hayes Alan Jenkins Akron Skating Club 7 8 8 7 8 38 8.

LADIES' NOVICE

JUDGES: Henry M. Beatty, Cleveland; George E. B. Hill, Boston; Mary Louise Premer, St. Paul; Joel B. Liberman, New York; Howell Janes, San Francisco.

- Barbara Jones Tulsa Figure Skating Club 1 1 1 3 1 1 7
 - Lois Johnson Chicago Figure Skating Club 2 2 2 1 2 0
 - 3. Jane Weiss Commonwealth Figure Skating Club 5 5 5 2 7 24
- Eleanor Levorsen Arctic Blades Figure Skating Club 4 4 10 10 3 31 4.
- Jane Lemmon Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane S. 9 6 3 6 8 32
- Virginia Baxter Olympia Skating Club, Detroit 3 10 6 12 4 6. 35
- Gloria Suess Seattle Skating Club 6 8 7 5 7. 9 35
- 8. Helen Geekie St. Louis Skating Club 7 12 8 11 5 43
- Catherine Trenholm Brooklyn Figure Skating Club 10 3 4 9 11 9.
- 37 Kathryn Ehlers The Skating Club of New York 12 7 9 4 12 10.
- 44 11. Glee Patten
- Seattle Skating Club 11 9 11 7 6 44
- Barbara De Julio St. Moritz Ice Skating Club 8 11 12 8 10 12 49

MEN'S NOVICE

JUDGES: Hulda Berger, New York; Mrs. Werner Hoyt, Berkeley; Walter S. Powell, St. Louis; Ar-delle Kloss Sanderson, New York; Jane Vaughn Sullivan, Philadelphia.

- John Lettengarver St. Paul Figure Skating Club 1 1 1 1
- 5 Charles W. Brinkman Philadelphia Skating Club & 5 2 5 2 2 2.
- Humane S. 16 Edgar Newbold Black, 3. IV
- Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane S. 4 6 3 3 19
- Dudley Richards The Skating Club of Boston 3 4 4 6 4 4. 21
- Peter Kennedy Seattle Skating Club 2 3 6 4 5. 7 22
- Patrick Kazda 6. Chicago Figure Skating Club 24
- Walter H. Bainbridge, Jr. Washington Figure Skating 7 7 7 7 5 7. Club 33
- Justin E. Smith, Jr. Providence Figure Skating Club 8 8 8 8 8 4 40

FOURS FOR HENRY WAINWRIGHT HOWE TROPHY Judoss i Henry M. Beatty, Cleveland; Howell Janes, San Francisco; Mary Louise Premer, St. Paul; Joseph K. Savage, New York; Jane Vaughn Sullivan, Philadeiphia.

- Jackie Dunne, Joan Yocum, Larry Van Der Bosch, Edward Van Der Bosch Chicago Figure Skating Club 1 2 1 1 6
- 2. Jane Lemmon, Nancy Lemmon, Edgar Newbold Black, IV, Charles W. Brinkman Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane S. 2 1 2 2 2 9
 - 2
- 3. Mary Anderson, Patricia Ryan, Henry Trenkamp, Garry Wilson Cleveland Skating Club 3 3 3 3 15

SENIOR DANCE FOR HARRY E. RADIX TROPHY JUDGES: Fred Fleishman, Washington; William O. Hickok. IV, Hershey; Howell Janes, San Fran-cisco; Joel B. Liberman, New York; Mrs. Frothingham, Boston.

- 1. Kathe Mehl Williams & Robert Swenning The Skating Club of New York 1 1 2 1 2 7
- Marcella Mov Willis & James Lochead, Jr. Skate & Ski Club 2 2 1 2 1 8 2
- Anne Davies & Carleton C. Hoffner, Jr. Washington Figure Skating Club 3 3 4 3 16 3.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Andresen The Skating Club of New York 4 4 4 3 4 1 4. $\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & & \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 3 \\ & & & (10 \ Couples) \end{array}$ 19

JUNIOR DANCE FOR HAROLD HARTSHORNE TROPHY JUDGES: Fred Fleishman, Washington; William O. Hickok, IV, Hershey; Howell Janes. San Fran-cisco; Nettie Prantel Meier, New York; Mrs. C. Frothingham, Boston.

- Patsy Jones & Walter H. Bainbridge, Jr. Washington Figure Skating Club 1 1 1 1 5
- Yvonne Cameron & Dean Cameron Cleveland Skating Club 2 4 2 2 4 14
- Vivian Halliday & Richard C. Queisser Washington Figure Skating Club 3 2 3 3 2 13 3.
- 4 Ruth Parkinson & David J. Speck Washington Figure Skating Club 4 3 4 4 3 18 (12 Couples)

BEDELI. H. HARNED TROPHY FOR CLUB WINNING MOST POINTS

1.	The S. C. of New York	49
2.	Philadelphia S. C. & H. S.	34
3.	Cleveland S. C.	28
4.	The S. C. of Boston	26
5.	St. Paul F. S. C.	23
6.	F. S. C. of Chicago Skate & Ski Club (San Francisco)	18 18
7.	Washington F. S. C.	14
8.	St. Moritz I. S. C. (Berkeley) Seattle S. C.	66
9.	Tulsa F. S. C.	5
10.	St. Louis S. C.	4
11.	Commonwealth F. S. C. (Boston)	2
12.	Arctic Blades F. S. C. (Long Beach)	1



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