

United States Championships

ANNAH McKAIG HALL

Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane Society

THE 1956 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS held at the Arena in Philadelphia and sanctioned by the Philadelphia Skating Club & Humane Society started March 14. Monday, the 12th, Tenley Albright, Hayes Jenkins, and Carol Heiss were officially welcomed to Philadelphia with an open car parade from the station to Independence Hall where representatives of the Mayor, the Chamber of Commerce and other prominent Philadelphia citizens extended their greetings and their congratulations on their victories in the Olympic and World Championships, and presented them with souvenirs of the city.

Wednesday at nine, the Novice Ladies took the ice. The Arena surface was in excellent shape and all the skaters were high in their praise of its texture and condition. Andy Sears, the Ice Manager, deserves great credit for the wonderful job he and his crew did resurfacing throughout the competition. Barbara Roles and Dorothy Ann Nelson seemed to have a slight edge over the others at the end of the figures. Laurence Owen finished with her wrist taped after having injured it in a fall during practice. When X-rays were taken, it was found to be broken so she was unable to go on to the free skating. Thirty-two years ago, at the same Arena during the Nationals, Laurence's mother, the incomparable Maribel Vinson, won the Junior Ladies' Championship.

The Novice Men took the ice immediately after lunch. Randy Phillips held a very inconclusive lead over Bob Hubbard in the figures. The judges were split in their placements of Edwin Zschau, David McDonald, and tiny Bruce Heiss. Bruce, though a good foot and a half smaller than any of his competitors, put down his figures with the assurance that shows he is following along in the footsteps of his talented sisters, Carol and Nancy.

The Senior Ladies' figures started at 8 A.M. Thursday. The hush was more pronounced than usual and one could feel

the excitement and tension in the air. Carol, looking very pretty, was wearing a red dress and had her pony tail hair-do held back with a red bow. Tenley wore a neat chartreuse dress piped and lined with gold. She wears suntan beige boots which add immeasurably to her long and lovely body lines. Tenley's posture and poise, her open hip and turned out knee, and her magnificent back bring to mind the sculpture of a Greek goddess. Catherine Machado was wearing bright blue shorts and sweater to match. Little Nancy Heiss, in Senior competition for the first time, also wore a red dress topped by a large red and white sweater. Mary Ann Dorsey and Claralynn Lewis wore green dresses, and Charlene Adams wore black. Tenley slowly and surely began to build up a slight lead over Carol, her most outstanding figures being the rocker and the double-three-change-double-three. Carol, however, decisively took the sixth and last figure, the loop-change-loop with the factor five.

As the ice was resurfaced and the judges were given coffee breaks, everyone would make a dash for the bulletin board to see the marks get posted. It seems a better system should be devised. Hardly anyone could get close enough to see the marks and those who did nearly got crushed.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to the Junior Men's figures. At their conclusion, Bob Brewer was on top followed by Bradley Lord and Barlow Nelson. However, after the free skating Friday night, Lord and Nelson reversed their positions for the final results.

Thursday evening's program brought in the crowd to see the Senior Pairs, Novice Ladies' and Men's free skating. Barbara Roles, the blonde bombshell from California, really brought down the house, wearing bright red and flashing a big smile. This fourteen-year-old miss should have a great future in store for her. She skates with dash and does lovely jumps. Dorothy

Ann Nelson, the Novice runner-up, wearing iridescent blue skated a very artistic and lovely program but lacked the content of Miss Roles. Linda Ann Epperson gave a delightful program which was highly rated and pulled herself up to fourth place.

The Novice Men as a whole left something to be desired. Their programs seemed a bit dull and unimaginative and one did not feel that a future world champion was as yet in the making among them. Randy Phillips who led in the figures had the bad luck to trip at the start of his program. He dropped to second place and Bob Hubbard who skated a nice and diversified program was the final winner.

The Pairs were very interesting but the results were nearly a foregone conclusion. Carole Ann Ormaca & Robin Greiner were outstanding. They have lovely moves, exceptional lifts, and skate with a studied precision and presence. Lucille Ash & Sully Kothman skate with more abandon. They have surprise moves but lack the togetherness of the former pair. Maribel Owen & Chuck Foster have a lot more skating to do together before they can catch the other pairs. However, they are pleasing to watch and had some nice separation moves.

Friday morning before the start of the Senior Men's figures, a bomb was exploded in the form of USFSA President Kenneth Brown's release to the press and statement to the competitors. (See box.) Ronnie behaved very well under this difficult situation which was at best a strain, and went about the business at hand of putting down good figures. However, he could not equal those of Hayes Jenkins who skated with the ease and assurance of the champion that he is. The judges at the conclusion of the Men's figures were unanimous in their placements—Hayes, Ronnie, then David Jenkins.

The Junior Ladies did their figures in the afternoon. Joan Schenke established a substantial lead and from there down it was any girl's game. Sherry Dorsey had a tiny lead over Carol Wanek. Little Lynn Finnegan of Boston was in fifth place. Lynn was wearing navy shorts, the

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The United States Figure Skating Association has received from a representative of a foreign skating association a statement claiming that excessive expenses were demanded in connection with exhibitions which were to have been skated by Ronnie Robertson. This has raised questions as to the conditions under which he may compete in the 1956 National Figure Skating Championships, presently underway at the Philadelphia Arena.

There are specific provisions in the rules of the United States Figure Skating Association to cover a situation such as this when time does not permit a complete investigation and full opportunity for all concerned to be heard prior to the competition in which the skater is entered. These provisions have been invoked and a protest has been filed on behalf of the Association with the Chief Referee, Mr. Henry M. Beatty by Mr. Kenneth L. Brown, President.

This action does not impair the amateur status of Ronald Robertson and hence he is permitted to skate in the competition. It does mean, however, the placement of Ronald Robertson and of all lesser places will not be announced officially until the matter of the protest has been decided.

The procedure in these cases is for the person against whom a protest has been filed to be apprised of the grounds for the protest. He is then given ample time in which to reply and clarify the matter and, if he so requests, he may appear before the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association which makes the final decision. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held May 4, 5, and 6, in Berkeley, California.

In commenting on this action, President Kenneth Brown stated: "It is our sincere hope that when all the facts are established and Ronnie Robertson has been heard, the matter will be satisfactorily clarified."

only other girl besides Catharine Machado to wear shorts at this year's competition. One of the neatest outfits seen for figures was the navy dress with white collar and cuffs worn by Carol Wanek.

Friday evening brought great excitement. An unexpected heavy snowstorm caught people about the time they were preparing to go to the Arena, but mush through they did and filled the house in spite of very treacherous road conditions.

The evening's program commenced with the Junior Men, then the Junior Pairs which was won by Nancy Rouillard & Ronald Ludington. From the minute this pair started with a series of spins including a beautiful double lay-back to the time they finished with a series of jumps done together they had completely novel and surprising moves and lovely combinations which they did well. Mary Kay Keller & Richard Keller, brother and sister, were second. This pair is exceedingly pleasing to watch. They skate with complete togetherness, a lovely stroke and a soft knee. Their lifts are flashing and they have a gay lilt that went well to their music from "Oklahoma." Sharon Constable & Johnny Hertz were third. This diminutive couple, both wearing light blue, are aged eleven and twelve. They show tremendous promise and brought down the house with their excellent lifts and classical pair separation moves.

All those who braved the elements to see the World and Olympic Champions in the final of their current ice duel were more than royally rewarded. Carol drew the starting position. Wearing a lovely shade of greenish blue, she scintillated with fire and go. She was exciting; she was lovely, skating to "If I Were King." She threw in every double jump in the book, interspersed with intricate dance steps and changes of pace. The applause she received shook the Arena. It was hard to believe anyone could ever equal her. Then, Tenley came out, the epitome of poise and grace, wearing yellow. She acknowledged the crowd's ringing applause with the charm and presence of a true artist. It must have touched her deeply to have such a tribute before she skated and after Carol's magnificent job. Skating to an Offenbach medley, Tenley literally flowed from one move to the next. Her jumps, double and single, including her exciting delayed axel had great height and power. Her lovely positions, her finish and polish put her in a class entirely her own. She never hurried a move and thrilled the crowd, not by her speed but by her artistry, the like of which had never been presented by any other skater. These two

girls—so different—so wonderful. How lucky all the people in the Arena were to have seen them.

After these two had gone through their programs, the thought immediately was that anything else would be a complete letdown. This, however, was not the case, and Catherine Machado, wearing a black dress, did a splendid job. She skated with feeling a very lovely and intricate program which demanded the attention and the respect of the audience.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to dancing. The initial rounds of the Silver were first, then the Gold, followed by the Silver Free Dance. Aileen Kahre & Charles Phillips came through on top in the Silver Dance followed by the very attractive couple from Baltimore, Claire O'Neill & John Bejshak. The free dance is fascinating and has at last become strictly a dance competition with no resemblance to pair skating.

The Gold Dance ladies all appeared wearing black dresses for the initial rounds. The Bodels were lovely as usual but seemed just a trifle stiff compared to Joan Zamboni & Roland Junso, who had a great deal of flow and life. Sidney Arnold & Franklin Nelson were gay and popular with the crowd.

Saturday evening brought another capacity crowd to the Arena. Among the Junior Ladies tiny Lynn Finnegan, wearing white, was sensational with her speed and double jumps. She was able to pull herself up from fifth to second place. Joan Schenke, very fetching in a short-sleeved red dress, maintained her figure lead and added a great free skating program to be first. The free Gold Dances were varied and interesting. Then Zamboni and Junso enlarged their slight lead over the Bodels to become the National Champions.

Then came the moment all were waiting for—the Senior Men. For a change, the men were dressed more colorfully than usual. Hayes Jenkins wore two shades of brown, a light jacket and darker brown trousers. Ronnie Robertson wore a white mess jacket with dark pants while David Jenkins wore Air Force blue pants and a jacket to match. Tim Brown and Tom

Moore wore the conventional black, and Ray Blommer wore a blue sort of Eisenhower battle-jacket. Ronnie skated first. He was marvellous. No one has ever been able to spin faster. His program was full of surprise moves and he pulled his great double jumps off when you least expected him to. Hayes skated toward the end of the class and received an ovation from the crowd before he started his more conventional program. He has matured a lot and one feels a great respect for him as he does his really fine championship program. David Jenkins is a very strong skater. He has height to his jumps and looks as though he will be a worthy successor to brother Hayes who has announced his retirement from competition. All five judges gave Hayes first place. It really was amazing when the performance marks went up to see five 9.8's. The other boys skated creditably but are simply not in the same league with the first three.

While all marks were being tabulated in the accounting room—a long and tedious process—the previously crowned champions gave exhibitions. Tenley Albright skated a whimsical and delightfully entertaining number called "Barney, the Bashful Bullfrog's Lady Friend," in which she dresses like a green frog with a bright cerise bow.

The artists who judged the Richard Trophy for the most artistic lady's performance picked Carol Heiss, and the athletes who judged the men on outstanding performance picked Ronnie Robertson. The Club winning the Harned Trophy was The Skating Club of Boston.

LADIES' SENIOR FOR GERTRUDE CHEEVER PORTER TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Dr. Arthur R. Vaughn, Jr., Philadelphia; (2) George B. Jenkinson, Tulsa; (3) Mrs. Robert Sackett, Kansas City; (4) Howell Jones, San Francisco; (5) Mrs. Joseph Jensen, Seattle. Figures: No. 21a, 22b, 32a, 34b, 37b, 39a.

1. (1) Tenley Albright									
<i>The SC of Boston</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1			5
2. (2) Carol Heiss									
<i>The SC of New York</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2			10
3. (3) Catherine Machado									
<i>Los Angeles FSC</i>	3	3	3	3	3	3			15
4. (6) Claralynn Lewis									
<i>Broadmoor SC</i>	5	4	5	4	6				24

5. (5) Nancy Heiss									
<i>The SC of New York</i>	4	6	6	5	4				25
6. (7) Mary Ann Dorsey									
<i>Broadmoor SC</i>	6	5	4	6	5				26
7. (4) Charlene Adams									
<i>Chicago FSC</i>	7	7	7	7	7				35

MEN'S SENIOR FOR GEORGE H. BROWNE MEMORIAL TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Mrs. Phebe Tucker Cox, New York; (2) Frank J. Goodwin, Philadelphia; (3) Louis F. Cody, Cleveland; (4) Allen M. Lomax, Detroit; (5) Mrs. Joseph Jensen, Seattle. Figures: No. 20a, 23b, 31b, 35a, 36b, 41a.

1. (1) Hayes Alan Jenkins									
<i>Broadmoor SC</i>	1	1	1	1	1				5
*2. (2) Ronald Robertson									
<i>Arctic Blades FSC</i>	2	2	2	2	2				10
*3. (3) David Jenkins									
<i>Broadmoor SC</i>	3	3	3	3	3				15
*4. (4) Tim Brown									
<i>Los Angeles FSC</i>	5	4	4	4	4				21
*5. (5) Thomas Moore									
<i>Seattle SC</i>	4	6	5	6	5				26
*6. (6) Raymond Blommer									
<i>Philadelphia SC & HS</i>	6	5	6	5	6				28

SENIOR PAIRS FOR HENRY WAINWRIGHT HOWE MEMORIAL TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Mrs. Lloyd B. Sanderson, Lake Placid; (2) Benjamin T. Wright, Boston; (3) George B. Jenkinson, Tulsa; (4) Mrs. Robert Sackett, Kansas City; (5) Mrs. Joseph Jensen, Seattle.

1. Carole Ann Ormaca & Robin Greiner									
<i>St. Moritz ISC</i>	1	1	1	1	5				
2. Lucille Ash & Sully Kothman									
<i>Broadmoor SC</i>	2	3	2	2	2				11
3. Maribel Owen & Charles Foster									
<i>The SC of Boston</i>	3	2	3	3	3				14
4. Carol Lux & James Barlow									
<i>Arctic Blades FSC</i>	4	4	4	4	4				20

LADIES' JUNIOR FOR JAMES A. TOWER TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Mrs. Lloyd B. Sanderson, Lake Placid; (2) Benjamin T. Wright, Boston; (3) George B. Jenkinson, Tulsa; (4) Mrs. Robert Sackett, Kansas City; (5) Howell Jones, San Francisco. Figures: No. 17, 19a, 21b, 22b, 29a.

1. (1) Joan Schenke									
<i>Lakewood WC</i>	1	3	1	4	1				10
2. (5) Lynn Finnegan									
<i>The SC of Boston</i>	3	2	2	2	5				14
3. (2) Sherry Dorsey									
<i>Seattle SC</i>	2	4	5	3	2				16
4. (3) Carol Wanek									
<i>The SC of New York</i>	6	1	4	1	6				18
5. (4) Karin Hepp									
<i>The SC of New York</i>	5	5	6	5	3				24

*Unofficial.

6. (8) DeeDee Wayland
Blade & Edge Club
4 7 3 6 4 24
7. (7) Carol Keyes
Cleveland SC
7 6 7 7 7 34
8. (9) Tonny Hoonhout
Lansing SC
5 8 8 8 8 40
9. (6) Gladys Irene Jacobs
Chicago FSC
(withdrew after figures—illness)

MEN'S JUNIOR FOR IRVING BROKAW MEMORIAL TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Mrs. Phebe Tucker Cox, New York; (2) Benjamin T. Wright, Boston; (3) Louis F. Cody, Cleveland; (4) Allen M. Lomax, Detroit; (5) Virginia Vale, Los Angeles. Figures: No. 20a, 23b, 30a, 32a, 34b.

1. (1) Robert Lee Brewer
Blade & Edge Club
1 1 3 1 2 8
2. (3) Barlow Nelson
The SC at Dartmouth
4 2 1 2 3 12
3. (2) Bradley Lord
The SC of Boston
2 3 4 3 1 13
4. (5) Tommy Weinreich
Broadmoor SC
6 5 2 4 5 22
5. (6) James Short
Los Angeles FSC
3 6 5 4 25
6. (4) Richard Swenning
St. Moritz ISC
5 4 8 8 6 31
7. (7) Peter Betts
R.P.I. FSC
9 7 5 9 7 37
8. (9) Robin Greiner
St. Moritz ISC
8 8 6 7 9 38
9. (8) David Shulman
Lansing SC
7 9 9 6 8 39

JUNIOR PAIRS FOR JOEL B. LIBERMAN TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Frank J. Goodwin, Philadelphia; (2) Dr. Arthur R. Vaughn, Jr., Philadelphia; (3) Louis F. Cody, Cleveland; (4) Allen M. Lomax, Detroit; (5) Mrs. Joseph Jensen, Seattle.

1. Nancy Rouillard & Ronald Ludington
Commonwealth FSC, North Shore SC
1 3 3 9 15
2. Mary Kay Keller & Richard Keller
Buffalo SC
2 1 2 2 1 8
3. Sharon Constable & Johnny Hertz
Seattle SC
3 2 3 5 2 15
4. Antoinette Abell & Robert Keyes
Cleveland SC
4 5 4 3 5 21
5. Margaret Jurmo & Roy Pringle
Detroit SC
5 4 7 4 4 24
6. Nancy Lee Copeland & Roy Cofer
St. Moritz ISC
6 7 6 7 6 32
7. Gayle Benvie & Karl Freed
Queen City FSC
7 8 5 6 7 33
8. Bridget O'Rourke & Carl Olsson
Great Neck FSC, The SC of New York
8 6 8 8 8 38

LADIES' NOVICE

FOR HEATON R. ROBERTSON MEMORIAL TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Mrs. Phebe Tucker Cox, New York; (2) Dr. Arthur R. Vaughn, Jr., Philadelphia; (3) Louis F. Cody, Cleveland; (4) Allen M. Lomax, Detroit; (5) Virginia Vale, Los Angeles. Figures: No. 17, 18a, 24b, 29b.

1. (1) Barbara Roles
Blade & Edge Club
1 1 1 1 1 5
2. (2) Dorothy Ann Nelson
Chicago FSC
2 2 2 2 3 11
3. (3) Marlene Gaynor
Los Angeles FSC
3 3 4 3 4 17
4. (6) Linda Ann Epperson
St. Moritz ISC
4 4 5 4 2 19
5. (4) Diana Jean Lapp
Denver FSC
6 5 3 5 5 24
6. (9) Stephanie Westerfeld
Broadmoor SC
8 7 7 6 6 34
7. (8) Brenda Joyce Farmer
Brooklyn FSC
7 6 8 7 7 35
8. (7) Bridget O'Rourke
Great Neck FSC
5 8 6 8 8 35
9. (5) Laurence Owen
The SC of Boston
(withdrew after figures—injury)

MEN'S NOVICE

FOR JEAN-PIERRE BRUNET MEMORIAL TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Frank J. Goodwin, Philadelphia; (2) Mrs. Lloyd B. Sanderson, Lake Placid; (3) George B. Jenkinson, Tulsa; (4) Mrs. Robert Sackett, Kansas City; (5) Virginia Vale, Los Angeles. Figures: No. 8b, 16, 18a, 29b.

1. (2) Bob Hubbard
Capitol City FSC
1 3 1 2 1 8
2. (1) Randy Phillips
Blade & Edge Club
3 1 2 1 2 9
3. (5) David McDonald
St. Lawrence FSC
2 4 4 3 3 16
4. (7) Ronald Ludington
North Shore SC
7 2 3 7 6 25
5. (8) Tommy DeBaca
Broadmoor SC
6 8 5 4 5 28
6. (4) Bruce Heiss
The SC of New York
4 6 6 5 8 29
7. (3) Edwin Zschau
FSC of Omaha
5 7 7 6 4 29
8. (6) Bill Hickox
St. Moritz ISC
8 5 8 8 7 36

GOLD DANCE FOR HARRY E. RADIX TROPHY

JUDGES: (1) Harold Hartshorne, New York; (2) Margaret G. Ridgely, Baltimore; (3) Louis F. Cody, Cleveland; (4) Mrs. Robert Sackett, Kansas City; (5) Howell Jones, San Francisco. Compulsory Dances: Three-Lobe Waltz, Argentine Tango, Westminster, Kilian.

1. (1) Joan Zamboni & Roland Junso
Arctic Blades FSC
1 1 1 1 1 5
2. (2) Carmel Bodel & Edward Bodel
St. Moritz ISC
2 2 2 2 2 10

3. (3) Sidney Arnold & Franklin Nelson
The SC of Boston 3 4 4 3 3 17
4. (4) Sharon McKenzie & Bert Wright
Los Angeles FSC 4 3 3 4 4 18
5. (5) Susan Sebo & Tim Brown
Duluth FSC, Los Angeles FSC 5 5 5 5 5 25

6. (6) Patricia Major & Peter Moesel
Metropolitan FSC 4 7 6 3 6 26
7. (7) Eleanor Reiss & Sydney Reiss
Brooklyn FSC 5 1 8 2 8 24
8. (8) Judy Kay Boner & Edwin Zschau
FSC of Omaha 8 8 7 8 9 40
9. (9) Gail Kizer & Roy Speeg
FSC of Cincinnati 9 9 9 9 7 43

SILVER DANCE FOR HAROLD HARTSHORNE TROPHIES

JUDGES: (1) Mrs. William O. Hickok, IV, Harrisburg; (2) Mrs. Howard Meredith, New York; (3) George B. Jenkinson, Tulsa; (4) Allen M. Lomax, Detroit; (5) Howell Janes, San Francisco. Compulsory Dances: American Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Fourteenstep.

1. (5) Aileen Kahre & Charles Phillips, Jr.
St. Moritz ISC, Arctic Blades FSC 6 3 2 1 3 15
2. (1) Claire O'Neill & John J. Bejshak, Jr.
Baltimore FSC 2 6 4 5 1 18
3. (4) Barbara Roles & James Short
Blade & Edge Club, Los Angeles FSC 1 2 5 7 4 19
4. (2) Margie Ackles & Howie Harrold
Los Angeles FSC 7 5 1 4 2 19
5. (3) Judy Lamar & Ronald Ludington
The SC of Boston, North Shore SC 3 4 3 6 5 21

BEDELL H. HARNED TROPHY FOR CLUB WINNING MOST POINTS

The SC of Boston	59
Broadmoor SC	58
Arctic Blades FSC	42
Los Angeles FSC	39
Blade & Edge Club	36
St. Moritz ISC	36
The SC of New York	22
Lakewood WC	15
Seattle SC	15
The SC at Dartmouth	12
Capitol City FSC	10
North Shore SC	9
Baltimore FSC	8
Buffalo SC	8
Chicago FSC	8
St. Lawrence FSC	6
Commonwealth FSC	5
Cleveland SC	4

Sectional Championships

EASTERNS

EMILY VAN VOORHIS

Assisted by

ETHEL W. BADGER, 2nd

Genesee FSC

EXCITEMENT KEPT MOUNTING as the army of 110 volunteer workers, hastily recruited from the ranks of our Genesee Figure Skating Club membership, suddenly realized that the day was at hand and it was up to them, a corps of eager though raw recruits, to put on the first figure skating competition ever to come to Rochester—the 1956 Eastern Championships!

Providentially, the Ritter-Clark Memorial Building had just been completed two months before, thus putting our club in a position to help out in the emergency created by the fire which razed the rink

in Baltimore where the Championships were originally to be held.

When the announcement of the arrival of the earliest contestant first sparked the press, the attention of a heretofore uninitiated, and somewhat apathetic, Rochester public suddenly burst into flame. The significance of this event caught on to such an extent that it, unfortunately, became necessary to turn spectators away at some of the final events because of the small seating capacity.

As each eager participant arrived, chanting: "What about my patch?" Rex Rial, His Majesty-In-Charge-of-Clarifying-Confusion, assigned to each one the scrap of ice requested. The wholehearted co-operation of the Rochester Institute of Technology in graciously relinquishing their public and student sessions made this practice time available.

In the Juvenile class the girls certainly