

Pairs



World Team members Gale and Joel Fuhrman

During the past few years, you could count on the Militanos to be different and a pair coached by John Nicks to win the Junior Pairs. Both things happened. After three years as runners-up in the Senior Pairs, Mark and Melissa Militano moved to the top spot, and Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner put on a good performance to win a tough Junior Pairs event.

The Militanos were solidly in first after the short program, although Melissa had trouble getting her steps. Instead of three large loops for the crossing serpentine footwork, they broke up their pattern with a smaller loop. Gale and Joel Fuhrman were in second with a clean routine and a good hand-to-hand loop lift. The surprise in the short program was Johnny Johns and his new partner, Emily Benenson. They rated a good third with flying sitspins in opposite directions.

In the finals Thursday night, the Fuhrmans started off the competition. They put themselves on the World Team with an exciting routine that rated a

standing ovation from the crowd. Their "flip down" lift brought a good response from the audience, as did an interesting pair spread eagle into a death spiral.

Melissa and Mark showed early that they were having difficulty. Entering the jump too fast, Mark decided against the double Axels but still wound up overturning while his sister did a single Axel. Later Mark missed a double flip that his sister did, and he couldn't catch up on the steps. Melissa, whose peach outfit contrasted with her brother's cream vest-type top and dirt brown pants with matching boot covers, performed the program without apparent difficulty. Their program nevertheless exhibited good artistic expression, reflected in the judges' marks of 5.7 and 5.8 for composition and style which it received.

Emily Benenson and Johnny Johns showed some future promise by staying in third. A throw double loop and side-by-side double Lutz jumps were their highlights.

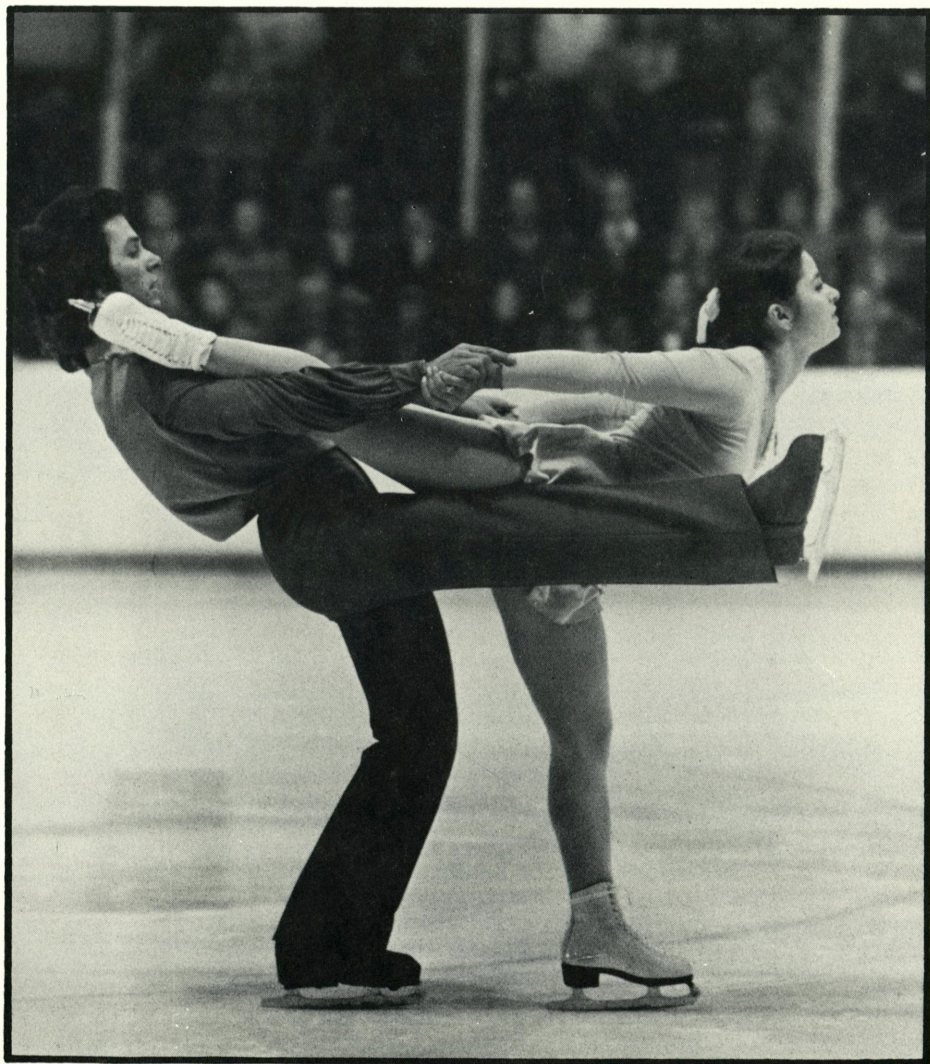
In the Junior Pairs, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, both good individual skaters, had some good one-arm lifts. A super one-arm throw Axel was their top crowd pleaser. Patti Morton and Bill Fauver had the best double twist lifts of the competition, including Seniors, as well as a clean, sure one-hand overhead. Erika Susman and Tom Huff had a most unusual one-hand entry into a lift behind his back for third place.

ODDS AND ENDS. . .Debbie Hughes and Phillipp Grout, fourth in Senior Pairs, also performed a throw double Axel. . .

Cozette Cady and Jack Courtney suffered a near disaster when she dropped to the ice from a one-hand overhead position . . .The Militanos skated two good exhibitions Saturday night. . .The Fuhrmans had a new, back-entry, one-hand twist lift. . .Emily Benenson and Johnny Johns have been skating together only nine months. . .Suki Hoagland and Mike Sahlin, sixth in Junior Pairs, had a face-down death spiral, invented by Toller Cranston.

The creative Militanos. Need we say more?

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Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, caught in mid-air



PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

JUDGES: A—Newbold Black, IV, New York, N.Y.; B—Mrs. Anne Gram, New York, N.Y.; C—Mrs. Claire Ferguson, North Providence, R.I.; D—Louis Bodek, Birmingham, Mich.; E—Mrs. Margaret Reed, Tulsa, Okla.; F—Raymond Alperth, San Francisco, Calif.; G—Mrs. Eleanor Curtis, Granada Hills, Calif. REFEREE: Charles Foster, Worcester, Mass. SHORT PROGRAM: Group D.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	M
1. (1) Melissa & Mark Militano, SC of New York	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7/1
2. (2) Gale & Joel Fuhrman, City of New York, N.Y.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7/2
3. (3) Emily Benenson, City of Wilmington, Del., & Johnny Johns, Detroit SC	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	7/3
4. (6) Debbie Hughes & Phillipp Grout, Denver FSC	4	4	4	4	4	4	7	6/4
5. (4) Cozette Cady, Troy SC, & Jack Courtney, SC of Wilmington	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	6/5
6. (7) Jodie Martin & Robert Berry, City of Paramount	6	6	5	6	6	7	5	6/6
7. (5) Cynthia Van Valkenburg & James Hulick, Arctic Blades FSC	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	7/7

JUNIOR PAIRS

JUDGES: A—Newbold Black, IV, New York, N.Y.; B—Mrs. Claire Ferguson, North Providence, R.I.; C—Louis Bodek, Birmingham, Mich.; D—Mrs. Eleanor Curtis, Granada Hills, Calif.; E—Norman Fuller, Chino, Calif. REFEREE: Robert McLeod, Norwalk, Calif.

A B C D E M

1. Tai Babilonia, Los Angeles FSC, & Randy Gardner, City of Burbank	2	1	1	1	2	3/1
2. Patty Morton & Bill Fauver, Troy SC	1	2	2	2	1	5/2
3. Erika Susman, Los Angeles FSC, & Tom Huff, Arctic Blades FSC	3	3	3	3	3	5/3
4. Rose Mary Wilzbacher & David Bolton, St. Paul FSC	5	4	5	5	6	4/5
5. Vickie Carr & Paul Tassone, Wasatch FSC	7	7	4	4	4 1/2	3/5
						TOM 12 1/2
6. Suki Hoagland & Mike Sahlin, Denver FSC	4	5	6	6	4 1/2	3/5
						TOM 13 1/2
7. Lorene & Donald Mitchell, Long Island FSC	8	6	7	9	8	4/8
						TP 43.0
8. Emily Wendell & Mahlon Bradley, SC of Boston	6	9	8	8	7	4/8
						TP 42.8
9. Sonja Bokoch & Richard Dodson, SC of Wilmington	9	8	9	7	9	5/9
10. Vicki & David Assafi, Denver FSC	10	10	10	10	10	5/10