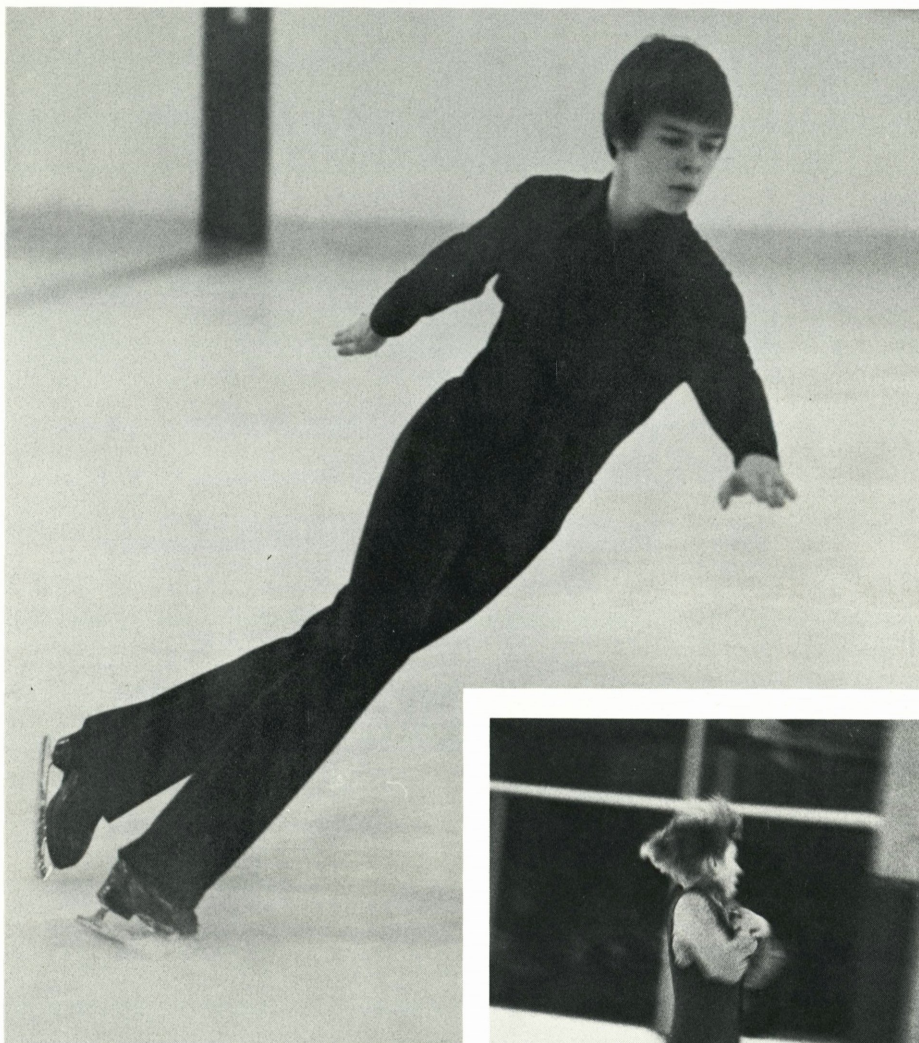


MIDWESTERNERS

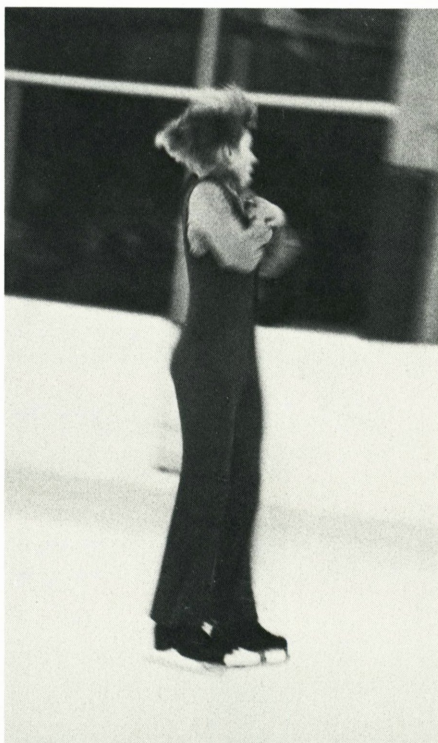
Photo: Phil Martin; below, Doris DeWitt



by Brian Moynahan

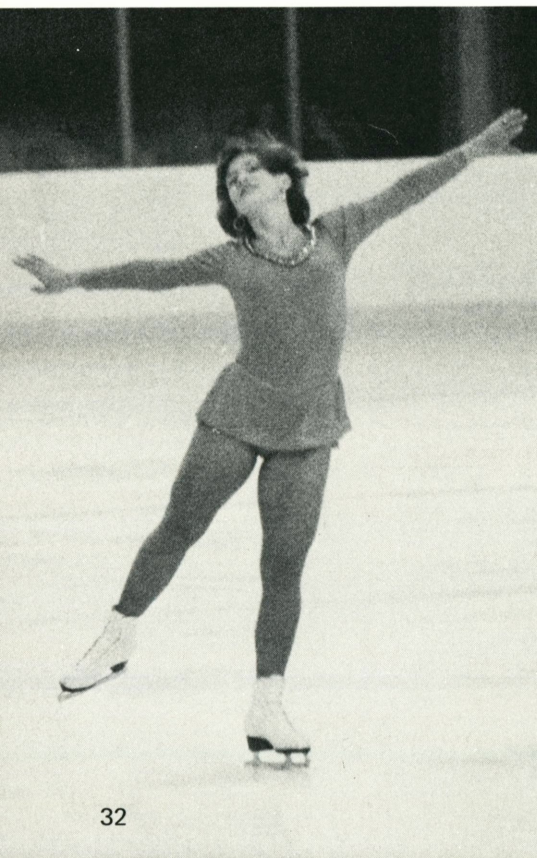
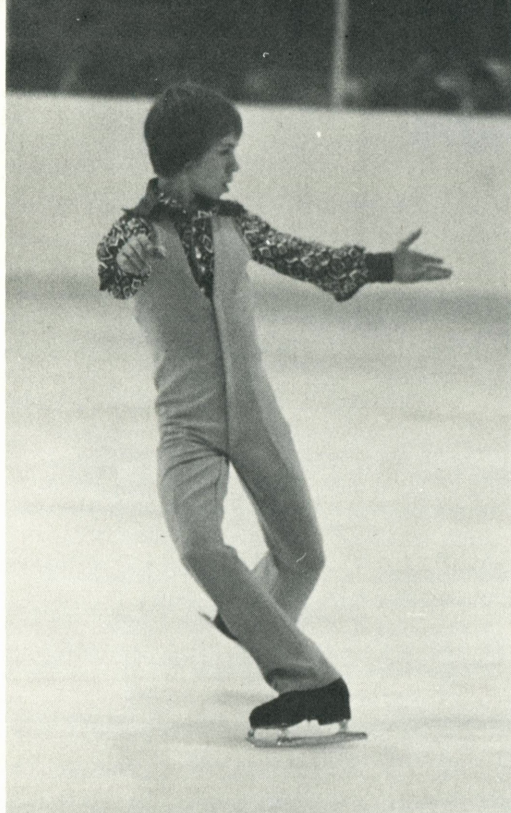
Bitter cold weather and tragedy overshadowed the 1975 Midwestern Championships held at the rustic Wagon Wheel FSC. Before the event began, skaters learned of the deaths of David Assafi and his father in a light plane crash while en route to the competition. We were further saddened at the passing of USFSA

Senior Men's champion David Santee, above; and Novice Man Patrick Hughes.



March '75

Photo: Phil Martin; far right: Margaret Williamson; below: Doris DeWitt



official Dr. Gordon Brown and of competitor Lisa DeLaney's father.

When the competition got underway, computer results flashed from the Eastern and Pacific Coast Championships kept the rinkside analysts busy between events.

Spectators and officials were highly impressed by the competitive debut of Senior Pair champions Emily Benenson and Jack Courtney. They performed both short and long programs with superb artistry in unison that belied the programs' difficulty. Emily and Jack heightened the crowd's reaction by including two rarely seen items, the "impossible spin" and the bucket lift. Silver medalists Gail Hamula and Flip Grout set their content-filled programs to "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" but could not match the polish of the winners. Rose Mary Wilzbacher and Rick Turley edged out Beth and Frank Sweiding with fewer mistakes in the free skating to take the bronze medal.

David Santee displayed a maturing style in his long program. Although he faulted a triple Salchow, a sensational triple toe-loop and strongly executed Lutzes, flips, etc., confirmed his technical mastery. David added first place in free skating to his first in figures to take the

Our thanks go to John Busse, FSC of Omaha, who took the excellent photos of participants in the 1975 Southwestern Championships published last month in *SKATING*.

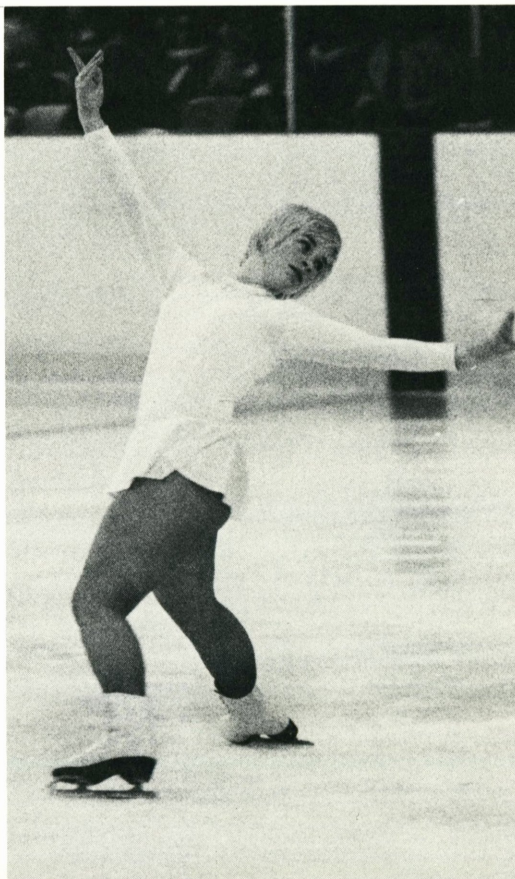
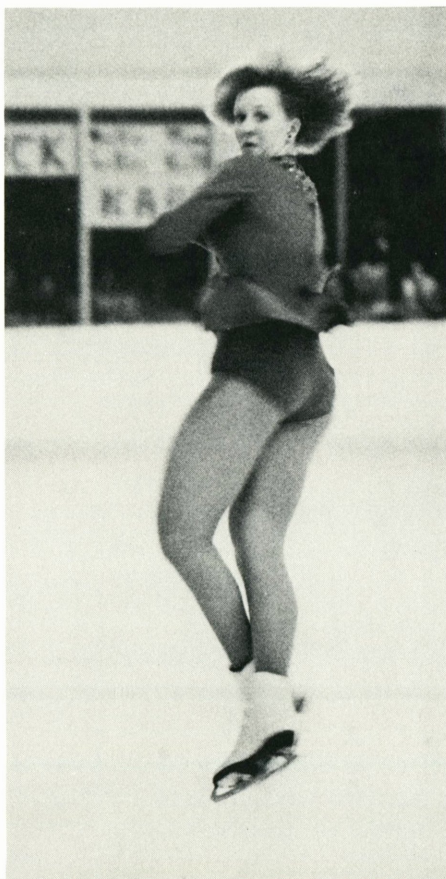
Midwesterners

Senior Men's title. Bill Schneider, who had the best short program, was not as sharp in the free but gave a thrilling display of very difficult footwork sequences to place second. Ronnie Green pulled up to third in the final; like Schneider, he did not do any triple jumps.

Karen DeAngelo proved the value of balanced strength in figure tracing and free skating as she won the Senior Ladies' title in spite of some free skating errors. Her choreography was excellent. Second-placed Paula Larson was sharp in the final, exhibiting some of the best spins in the competition, to gain a huge ovation. Teri Klindworth performed all the big items correctly in her free program to pull up from sixth after figures to third overall.

Jackie Booth and Michael Podmore opened the Gold Dance compulsories with a sensational execution of the Kilian that had the crowd cheering. The couple from Cincinnati, Ohio, found favor with all the judges, winning the free dance and the Midwestern title. Pressing hard all the way were Cathy Macri and Tim

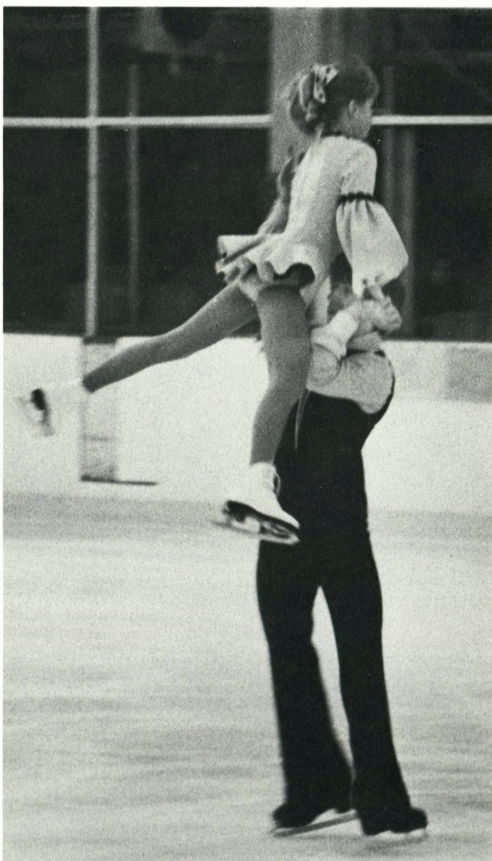
Clockwise, from right: Senior Lady Teri Klindworth; Junior Lady Missy McCandless; Junior Ladies' champion Leslie Glenn; Senior Lady Paula Larson; Junior Man Scott Hamilton; and Senior Ladies' champion Karen DeAngelo.



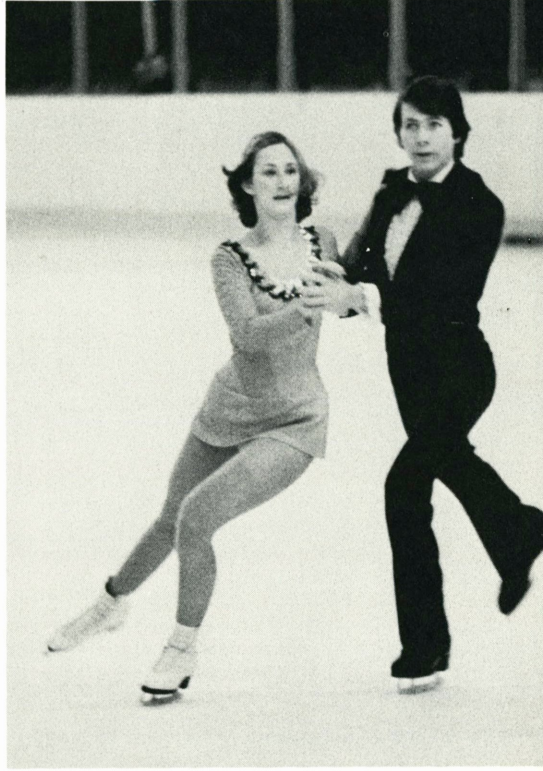
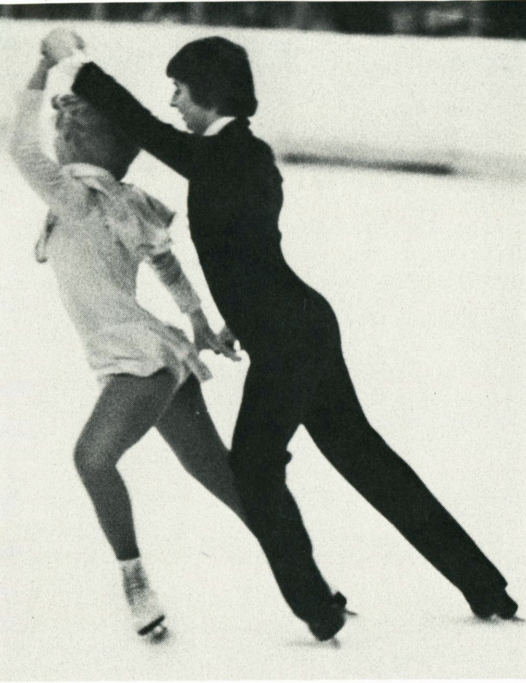
Hodges, whose OSP blues was really a crowd pleaser. Jennifer Young and Frank Recco were a solid third throughout.

Leslie Glenn, who matched her first in figures with an unbeatable free performance, left no doubt that she was the Junior Ladies' champion. Solid free skaters claimed the other medals as Missy McCandless pulled up from fourth after figures and Jeanette Evans from fifth to place second and third, respectively. Scott Sherman has improved his skating since last season, and this year he annexed the Junior Men's title after a free skating battle that was content personified. David Kinser didn't let up a bit, especially in the free, to be second overall. But it was Scott Hamilton who brought the spectators to their feet to cheer the top free skating performance of the night. Scott's winning style in the free pulled him up from fifth to third.

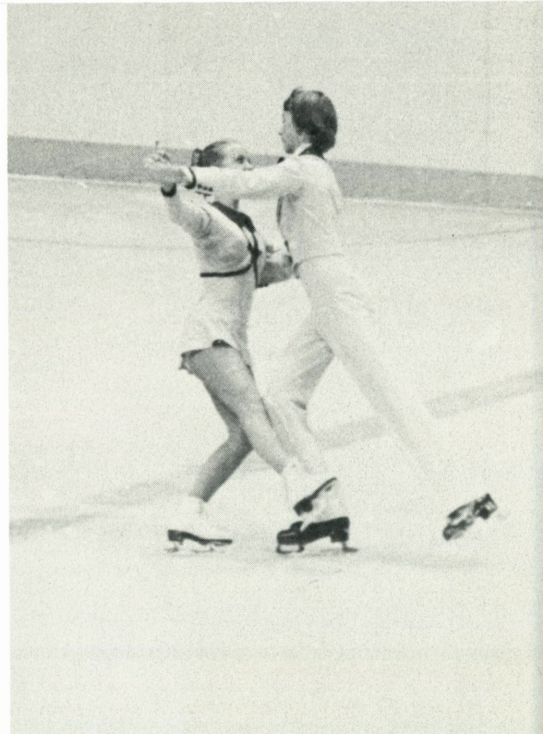
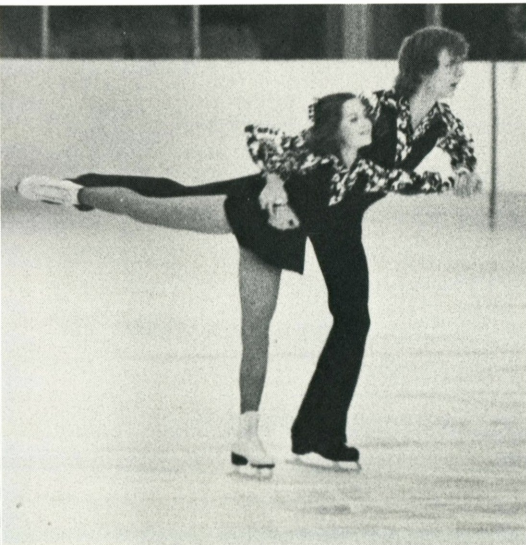
In Junior Pairs Holly Blunt and Bruce Hurd repeated their Regional victory—indicating some nice talent—to spearhead an Eastern Great Lakes sweep of the medals. Allison Washer and Peter Opegard claimed the silver medals, and Janet Van Camp and Gordon Black, the bronze. Carolyn Fortuna and Kevin Moran, who have been paired less than a year, won a cliff-hanging Silver Dance competition. After leading the initial round, Carolyn and Kevin clinched the title with an appealing OSP



Papp/Eddy photo: Phil Martin; all others: Doris DeWitt



Clockwise, from above: Bronze Dance champions Susan Papp & William Eddy; Silver Dance champions Carolyn Fortuna & Kevin Moran; Silver Dancers Helen Zinn & Richard Murphy; and Novice Pair champions Joy Hoepfl & Bruce Forciea. Opposite page: Intermediate Ladies' champion Julie Kirk, above; Senior Pair champions Emily Benenson & Jack Courtney, far left; and Novice Pair Dana Jo Boles & Dale Copenhaver, left.





Photos: Doris DeWitt



waltz. Solid skating describes runners-up Carol Fox and Richard Dalley, who dazzled the crowd with an intricate waltz in the final.

Sandy Lenz won both figures and free skating in Novice Ladies, establishing herself as a solid contender for the national title. Two good double Axels helped pull Laura McDonald up from fifth in figures to take the silver medal. Blonde Kelsy Ufford claimed the bronze. Ted Masdea continued an unbeaten string of wins as he added the Novice Men's title to his list. Patrick Hughes won the free skating and pulled up from fourth to second overall. Tom Miller came in third.

Novice Pair winners were Joy Hoepfl and Bruce Forcica, followed by Cheryl and David Michalowski—another repeat of Regional placements, this time from Upper Great Lakes. Mary Lynn Boyd and Ron Holbrook held third. Displaying quality skating Susan Papp and William Eddy earned the Bronze Dance trophy once won by their trainer, Jim Pennington. Kelley Morris and Bill Klock, the initial round leaders, came in second in the final, while Angela Kruse and Nigel Cass held third throughout.

The Intermediate division seems to be a transitional stage for most skaters but this year the Intermediate Ladies' medalists proved to be delightful exceptions. Julie Kirk included a lot of solid double jumps in her free program to win the event. Julie Youmans, whose program was strong in jump combinations but rather weak in spins, placed second. Another girl with combinations, Amy Van Huss, was third in the final standings. For Intermediate Men's champion Paul Binkley, second place in figures and second in free skating provided the winning combination. Stuart Bailey, who won the free skating, placed second, and figure leader Jim Santee finished third.

Gold Dance champions Jackie Booth & Michael Podmore, above, brought rare pizzazz to the Kilian to take the lead from the start. Runners-up Cathy Macri & Tim Hodges, below, challenged the champions all the way.