

MIDWESTERNS MIDWESTERNS MIDWESTERNS

The days from January 9 to 16 will be known in Cincinnati as the week that ice dominated the news. While the ice and snow occupied the front page, the Midwestern Skating Championships was front page news on the sports page. The ice and snow outside was causing many a grimace, but the ice inside the Cincinnati Gardens was causing nothing but excitement as the Midwesterns were underway.

The highlight of this year's competition was Charlie Tickner's capture of the Senior Mens' gold medal. Charlie jumped out ahead of the other five competitors by placing first in the compulsory figures. He maintained his lead throughout the short program with an unusual program done to the tango. This was a sign of things to come. Tickner's strong, dynamic, near perfect final program brought a standing ovation from the audience. Skating to "Carmen"; Charlie dazzled the crowd with two triple toe loops, a triple Salchow, two double Axels, and an excellent delayed Axel solidifying his grasp on first place. Billy Schneider maintained his hold on second place, as he was second after figures and short programs too. Scott Hamilton placed third in his first year in Senior Mens' Competition. Scott was last year's National Junior Mens' Champion.

A second standing ovation was given to the Senior Ladies' Champion, Kathy Gelecinskyj from the Broadmoor SC. Kathy skated a perfect program including three double Axels. Her performance in the short and final programs captured the gold medal for her. After the compulsory figures Kathy was ranked sixth and Barbie Smith headed the group. At the completion of

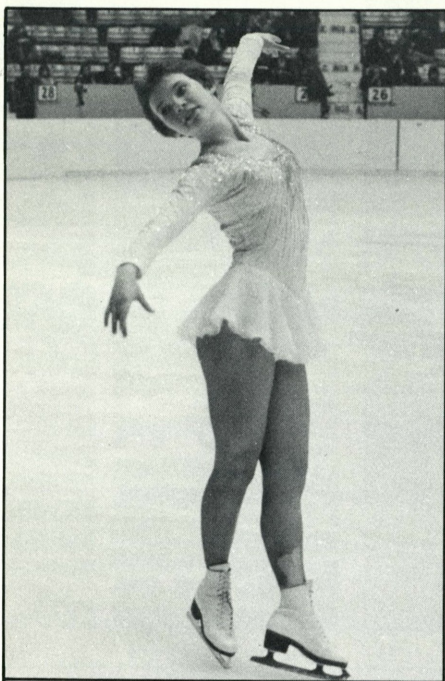
the short program, Kathy had moved to third and Editha Dotson was first. Editha skated a great short program, including a combination of double Axels and toe loops. This set the stage for Kathy to skate her perfect program and to win the closely contested event. Editha Dotson and Barbie Smith both from Colorado SC were second and third respectively.

In the Junior Ladies' Division Sandy Lenz placed first, as she took the lead after figures and stayed there after the two other events. Sandy is a strong, mature, and stylish skater. Cindy Perpich won the silver medal and Tina Miezio the bronze. Alicia Risberg's long program was a highlight as she executed a triple toe loop which moved her into fourth place, after a ninth in figures.

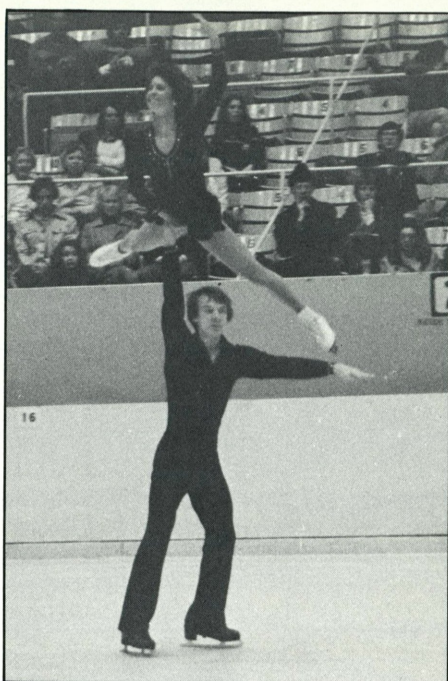
The Junior Men's category found Patrick Hughes, coming to Midwesterns' with a first place finish at Upper Great Lakes, with another win to his credit. Patrick's long program included a triple Salchow and a triple toe loop. He also led after each event while Ted Masdea placed right behind him for the silver medal. Richard Perez placed third.

Jackie Farrell was the unanimous first place preference of the judges in the Novice Ladies' Singles. Jackie skated a strong program with a nice double Axel. Dana Graham placed second and Kelly Webster third.

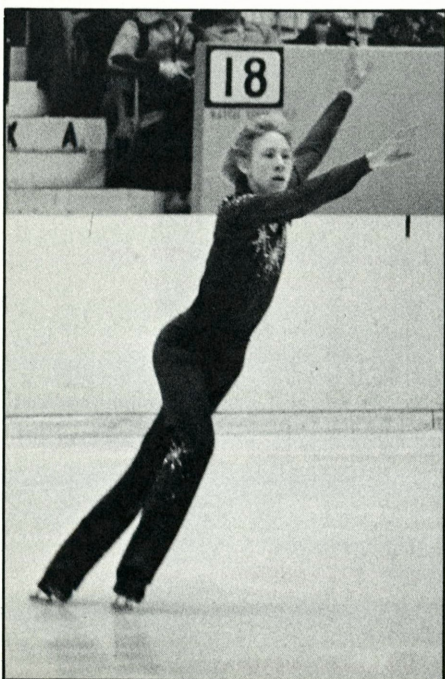
James Santee of the Broadmoor SC, in the family tradition, captured the gold medal in Novice Mens'. James stood in second after the compulsory figures and pulled up to first after his long program. Greg Kajfez placed second and Eddie Dom third.



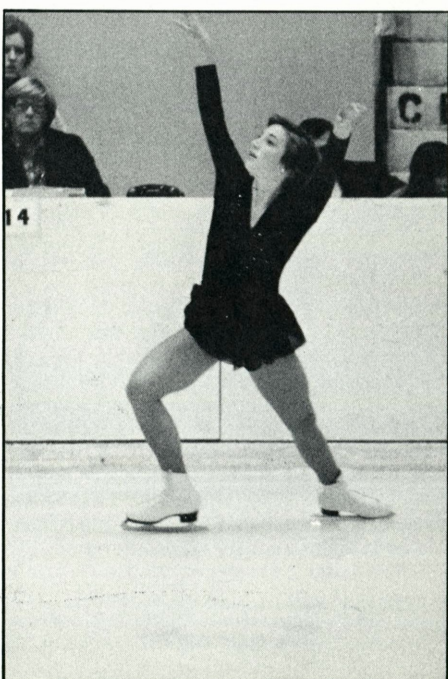
Senior Ladies - Kathy Gelecinskyj



Senior Pairs - Gail Hamula & Frank Sweiding



Junior Men - Patrick Hughes



Junior Ladies - Sandy Lenz

The Intermediate Ladies' gold medal went to Jennifer Lanfranki (Detroit FSC) who also had placed first in the Eastern Great Lakes Competition. Diane Reilly won the silver medal and Sherry Keran the bronze.

Paul Wylie won the Intermediate Mens' honors with a good program which displayed his skills as a fine jumper. Paul appears to have a good future ahead of him. Scott Thompson placed second and Scott Cudmore third.

To the delight of the home crowd, Jackie Booth and Tim Hodges from the Queen City FSC won a very close competition in Gold Dance. Although outscored by Carol Fox and Richard Dalley (Wyandotte), the Cincinnati pair was awarded first place for receiving more first place votes from the judges. Carol & Richard skated a final program—an almost flawless performance, mixing daring spins with technical merit. But with the strength of Jackie & Tim's original set pattern, they received the gold; Carol & Richard the silver, and Helen Zinns and David Chrien the bronze medal.

In the Silver Dance, Kelly Morris and Michael Seibert placed first out of nine pairs. They looked strong and displayed good unison. Becky Baker and Rick Berg placed second and Linda Munz and Donald Steiner third.

Sheila and Mark Rich from FSC of Madison

won the Bronze Dance category. They took the lead from the initial round and skated a good program to win the gold. Kim Davis and Ken Tekancic won the silver medal and Lisa BekGram and Eric Korbitz grabbed the bronze.

In their first year of skating together, Gail Hamula and Frank Sweiding, placed first in the Senior Pairs. They displayed their strength as single skaters and were a standout with their strong lifts and jumps. Holly Blunt and Bruce Hurd were second while Kathie Laisure and Brian Kader third.

Mary Lou Robinson and Ray Belmonte captured all five first place votes to win the Junior Pairs. They had nice side by side double Lutz and also displayed their strength as single skaters. Kathy Swick and Richard Murphy were second with Sue and Chuck Shaull third.

In the Novice Pairs' Judi Owens and Gary Kemp placed first (they also won the Upper Great Lakes Competition), followed by Dana Graham and Paul Wylie in second and Kathleen Haverty and Joseph Mero third.

Ruth Johnson and Arnold Savage won the Veterans' Dance Competition with Margaret & Robert Ouellette second. Bernice Faust & Anthony Hogan placed third.

—Chris Stubbins

ALL PHOTOS: Noel T. Ledin



Gold Dance - Jackie Booth & Tim Hodges