







The last four Midwestern Sectional Championships have meant cold and snow, and this year was no exception. However, the warm reception given to the competitors by Competition Chairman Joseph L. Serafine, Club President Flo Trybus and the many members of the Chicago FSC more than made up for the arctic conditions outside Randhurst Twin Ice Arena, Mt. Prospect, IL, January 12-14, 1978.

This was one of the most exciting Midwesterns in years because each National Senior competitor had to requalify. The excitement began at the first Senior practice session.

In Senior Ladies Peggy Amelon started things off with a beautiful figure which was appreciated by the knowledgeable audience. She won the first two figures but Kelsy Ufford kept everyone on the edge of his seat with her flawless execution and technique. Kelsy won the figures, Peggy was second and Cindy Perpich was third.

In the short program Sandy Lenz, fifth in figures, skated to second place, but no one could catch Kelsy Ufford who had the highest delayed double Lutz/double toe loop combination of the competition.

In the long program, Editha Dotson, dressed in black, started her routine to *Zorba the Greek* and included many jazzy moves. Her inventive program brought her the Bronze Medal. Sandy Lenz was next presenting a fine program with two double Axels finishing with a magnificent Arabian cartwheel to win the free style and put her in second place. Kelsy Ufford, however, was not to be defeated with her high, floating jumps and she captured the Ladies title.

The Senior Men were not to be outdone by the ladies. Scott Cramer, Charlie Tickner, David Santee and Scott Hamilton all skated near perfect forward paragraph loops. David's was judged more perfect, earning him first place, followed by Charlie and Scott Cramer.

Their short programs were spectacular. Scott Hamilton upset the field by pulling from fifth place to third by winning the short program with a beautiful triple Lutz/double toe loop

(L to R) Top Row - Kelsy Ufford, Libby Chabot & Peter Oppgard, Gail Hamula & Frank Sweiding, Middle Row - Alicia Risberg, James Santee, Laurie Heath, Bottom Row - David Santee, Scotty Cudmore, Carol Fox & Richard Dalley. Photos: Noel Ledin





combination that left the audience gasping. David and Charlie kept their positions with fine performances.

Their free style warm-up was worth the price of admission. Forty successful triple jumps were completed with each skater out jumping the other. Scott Cramer opened with four triple loops, skating to Shostakovich's *Limpid Brook* and Adams' *If I Were King* overture. Santee was next and, skating in black, brought down the house with three consecutive double Axels. Charlie skated to *Carmen Ballet* and *El Cid*, but in addition to his mastery of the triple jump his superb musical interpretation earned him first place in free style. Last to skate was Scott Hamilton who worked a triple Lutz followed by a triple loop into his program to *Sea Hawk* and *Star Wars*. The final standings had David Santee in first with Charlie Tickner taking the Silver Medal and Scott Hamilton with the Bronze. Scott Cramer was fourth and Billy Schneider was fifth. Both Scott and Billy qualified for the Nationals.

In the Senior Pair event, Bill Fauver, with new partner Judi Owens, outfitted in beige, highlighted their long program with a one hand overhead lift and earned second place. Gail Hamula and Frank Sweiding took top honors with an exciting program featuring double throw Axels, step through flip overhead lifts and a fantastic forward inside death spiral. Kathie Laisure and Brian Kader did not compete because of an inner ear infection bothering Kathie.

The Gold Dance OSP was a variation of the Tango. José Greco would have been hard pressed to choreograph better routines. "Beanie" (Richard Dalley) and Carol Fox proved to be the most Spanish of the evening with Bonnie and Bill Burton second and Nancy Berghoff and Eric Walden third.

Eric Walden transformed into a flamenco dancer extraordinaire in the final round. He and Nancy Berghoff took the Bronze Medal. The Burton's footwork and intricate carries lead them to second place and Carol and Richard took the Gold with their kick-overs and step-overs in the best Spanish tradition.

In Junior Men, James Santee (David's brother) took top honors in figures, the short program and the free skating to take the Gold Medal. His interpretation of *2001* was unsurpassed. In second place was David Michalowski, second in figures, who kept his position with a triple Salchow in the free. The Bronze went to Richard Perez who moved up from fourth after figures, skating a great program to themes from *Evergreen* and *Charlie's Angels*.

In Junior Ladies the Gold went to Alicia Risberg whose long program had three double Axels. Tina Meizio, third in figures, took the Silver Medal and Dana Graham was third.

The Junior Pairs title was taken by Libby Chabot and Peter Opegard who received straight first place votes from the judges and

won the long program with their rendition of *Star Wars*. They were followed by short program winners Dana Graham and Paul Wylie who skated to *On A Clear Day* in light blue outfits. Chuck Shaull and his new partner, Lee Ann Miller, captured the Bronze. Dana Graham was the competition's only double medalist.

Silver Dance went to Becky Lee Baker and Rick Berg in dashing red and black costumes. Second went to Laura Lansinger and Andy Ouelette with a very interesting program. Angie Kruse and Eric Jacobson, skating to *What Kind Of Fool Am I* were third.

Scotty Cudmore, fourth in figures, skated to *Il Guarany* and took the Gold with three double Lutzes and two double Axels in Novice Men. Figures winner, Paul Guerrero finished second skating to some Glenn Miller favorites while Scotty Thompson finished third.

Laurie Heath was second in figures but moved up to take the Novice Ladies' title with two double Axels. Chris Meagher, fourth after figures, came in second, skating in a bright orange costume and she did a lovely double Axel. Figures winner Jennifer Scoggin was third.

The Novice Pair Champions were Kelley Williams and Burt Lancon. They were followed by Audrey and Bruce Englemann. The Bronze went to Natalie and Wayne Seybold.

In Bronze Dance, Carrie Phillips and Chip Rossbach were unbeatable, with four first places. Deborah Ahrens and Ralph Ball received four second places and in third place were Celeste Gerber and Dan Cudmore.

The "over 35" group scrapped the rust off their blades to show the youngsters how it's done in Veterans Dance. Each contestant signed an oath testifying that he or she was only a day or two over 35. Ruth Johnson and Arnold Savage were the most veteran and they came in first. Julia Jordan and Larry Tuggle were second with Joy Cunningham and Bill Wall third.

In the Intermediate Men's event Gary Dye proved the judges were right by maintaining his lead from figures to win the event. Angelo D'Agostino, second in figures, kept his place for the Silver Medal and David Kozlov was third.

Frankie Hermanson pulled from sixth in figures to the Gold Medal in Intermediate Ladies with her double Lutz and Arabian cartwheels. Paula Jean Hase came from fifth to finish second and figures winner Mary Lu Shipstad captured the Bronze.

At the end of the competition everyone rushed to the competitors' disco party to burn off the rest of their energy dancing to Chip Rauth's sound system. His giant JBL speakers deafened everyone for the next 24 hours so no one could hear the Super Bowl. Some skaters from Denver counted it as a blessing.

—Noel T. Ledin