

NATIONALS:

A Bird's-Eye View

By Mary-Lucile Ager



A blustery Cincinnati, the Queen City and northernmost Southern city, bounded on all sides by beautiful briars hosted the National Championships and did it with warmth and style. Cincinnati put its best foot forward in hospitality for more than 140 championship skaters, coaches, officials and spectators. No stone was left unturned to provide the best of everything. This included ice expert Herb Brault imported from Lake Placid to create and maintain perfect ice for the events.

There were several "firsts" in this competition. It was the largest amateur sports event ever held in Cincinnati and had the largest advance ticket sales for a Nationals. There was a record attendance set for the Men's and Dance finals, Saturday night of 13,573. This record was broken 16 hours later during the Sunday exhibitions. One TV commentator said, "The sport sells itself immediately when the beauty and excitement of it are seen."

Another "first" was the flock of starlings that swooped over the audience and officials and fearlessly took to the ice with the skaters.

Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, in a class by themselves, won firsts from all the

judges in both the short program and free skating, finishing 7 points ahead of their nearest competitors. Dressed in stunning electric blue rhinestone trimmed costumes they free skated to music from *Planets* and *Don Quixote*. Their dazzling program brought cheers from their opening throw triple Salchow and side-by-side double Axels to the final extended close pair spirals, beautiful pair spread eagles, cartwheel lifts and their famous pull Arabians. The audience roared and jumped to its feet for a long, well deserved ovation.

The upset of the week came as Vicki Heasley and Robert Wagenhoffer placed second. The young 1977 United States Junior Pair Champions, both strong free skaters who also skated singles, skated a power packed program. They have been skating together for only 2½ years. Their rapid ascent to the silver medal indicates their potential. Sheryl Franks and Michael Botticelli, second in the short program, were a very close third. Tracy and Scott Prussack, another strong team with a crouching style of speed like the Russian World Champions, were fourth. The most beautiful program was skated by Bill Fauver and Lea

Anne Miller who placed fifth.

Linda Fratianne easily won her third United States Ladies' title by a comfortable margin. Solidly landing a triple toe loop and triple Salchow, she got off to a good start and, to *Carmen*, performed throughout as the champion she is. Her free skating dress caused as much comment as her skating. A sequined show-type costume, splashed all over in shades of brilliant reds and pinks with a hint of a skirt, brought gasps, applause and whistles from the audience. She was indeed a fiery-red-skating—"Carmen."

Wearing a traditional dusty rose colored dress, Lisa-Marie Allen bobbed her double Axel but otherwise skated a strong, smooth free program to remain in second place. Sixteen-year-old Carrie Rugh finished in third place and became a new member of the World Team. She has good figures to match her much improved free skating—she was fourth last year. Her long program was very artistic and well-choreographed with delicate hand movements.

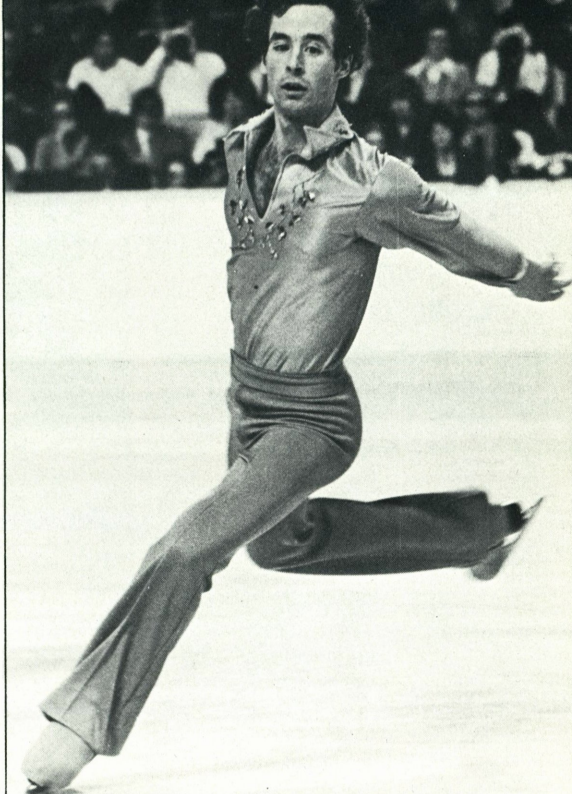
Strong free skater Sandy Lenz finished less than 0.2 of a point behind her in fourth place. Young Alicia Risberg stayed a solid fifth from the beginning in her first Senior



Stacey Smith
&
John Summers



Dee Oseroff
&
Craig Bond



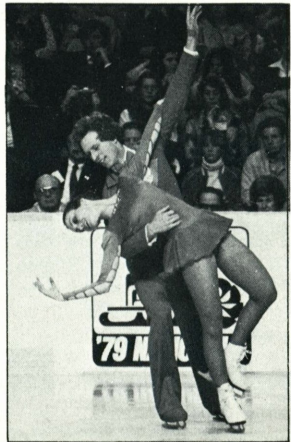
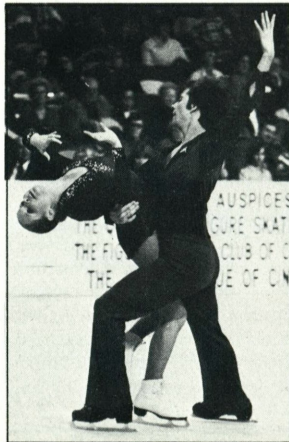
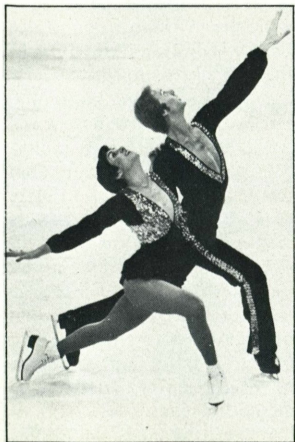
Charlie Tickner



E. Pulver
&
D. Adair

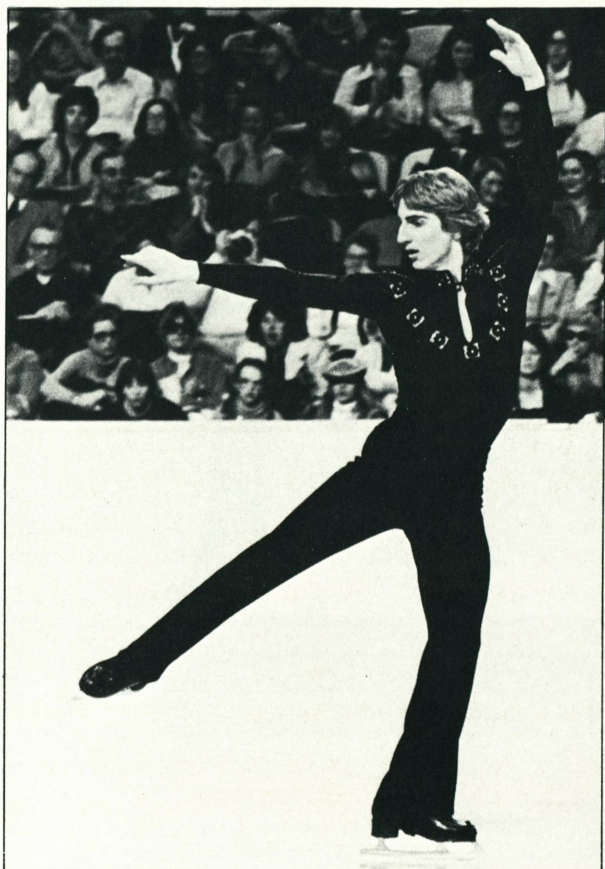
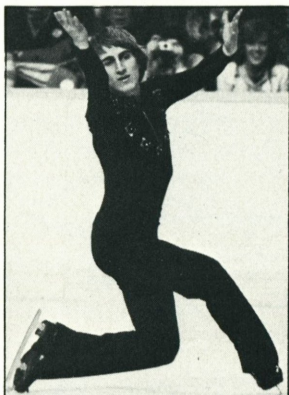


Sheila Corcoran
&
J.J. Kohlhas





“Allen Schramm
dared to be
dramatic and
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Ladies' try. These two girls are first and second alternates on the 1979 World Team.

Gold Dance was a very strong event. The free dance produced many new and exciting moves. Stacey Smith and John Summers won all firsts in compulsory's, OSP and free dance to take the title for the second year. They are a polished team who had sharpened up considerably during the year. Dressed in tailored maroon outfits with rhinestoned lapels, their program was a highlight of the event. Their music, *Concerto for the Domva*, *Summertime*, *It Ain't Necessarily So*, and *12th Street Rag* was slick and difficult and they performed superbly.

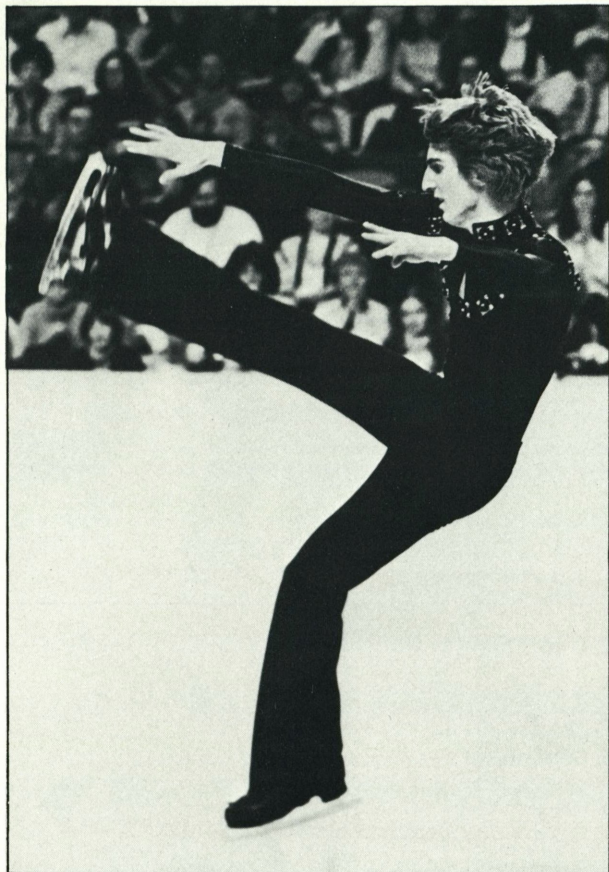
Carol Fox and Richard Dalley held second place. Their black and gold metallic outfits resembled those worn

by the Russian dancers. Their swift movement, unison and smooth flowing style make them favorites of any crowd. A new team, Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, won the bronze medal. They skated a smooth program with feeling for their music. They opened with a beautiful horizontal drape and skated a program that flowed well from one rhythm to the other.

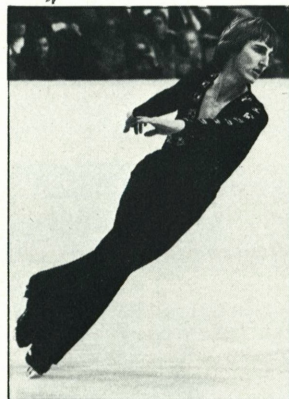
The Men's event was last and it was a powerful and well-skated event. Winner Charles Tickner was never in trouble and stayed more than six points ahead throughout the competition. The polished technical master of American Men's skating used six strikingly different pieces of music in his new program, including *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Sabre Dance* and *Moon-*

light Sonata. The only flaw was a spill he suffered while gathering up the bouquets of flowers thrown on the ice for him.

The battle was between Scott Cramer and David Santee for second place along with the 1978 bronze medalist Scott Hamilton who fought to keep his World Team berth. Cramer was second going into the final round but a miss and a fall cost him some points. The rest of the program went well. Skating last, David Santee skated his heart out with a well-rounded program of spins, double and triple jumps, earning him second place in the free skating. It pulled him up but he was still short by 0.2 of a point and remained in third place. Scott Hamilton made the audience a part of his performance and they



... he did some of the trickiest, most impossible footwork ever seen."



loved it. He skated well, opening with a triple Lutz, triple toe loop and high double Axel, but was too far behind to catch up and finished fourth.

Robert Wagenhoffer, John Carlow and Reggie Raiford all skated powerful programs. It was however, Allen Schramm who dared to be dramatic and different. He did some of the trickiest, impossible footwork ever seen. The crowd loved him and loudly booed when his marks weren't higher.

James Santee, 16-year-old brother of David won the gold in Junior Men. To music from *James Bond*, he skated an excellent program with good footwork, controlled extended spins, a good triple toe walley and the seldom seen cantilever, a move made famous by Frick and Frack.

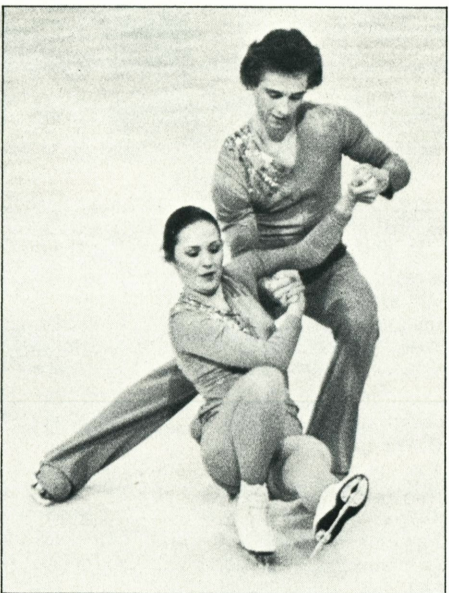
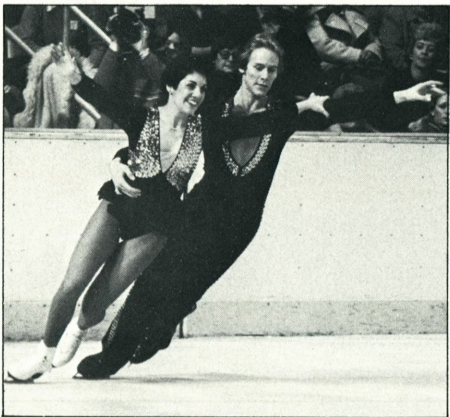
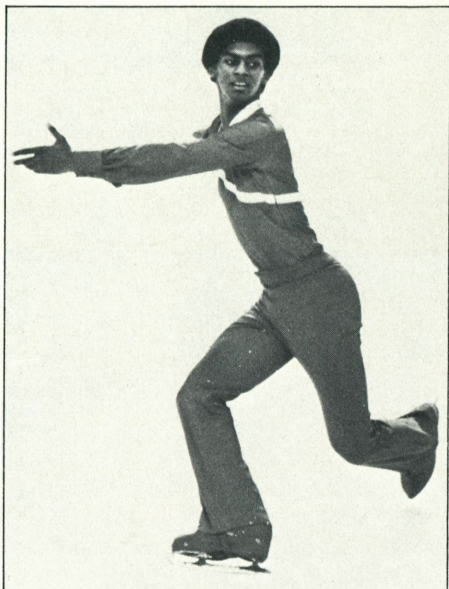
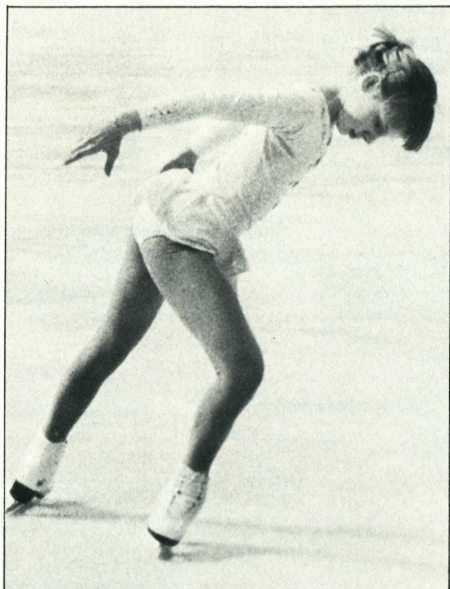
Bobby Beauchamp pulled

from fourth in figures to second place by winning the free skating with a dazzling artistic program that included an opening very high double Axel and three good triples: Salchow, toe walley and toe loop. Beauchamp dazzled the crowd in clearly the best Junior Men's free skating. Stuart Bailey pulled to third place and figures winner Tom Dickson slipped to fourth.

Skating to *War of the Worlds* and *Seasons*, 14-year-old Rosemary Sweeney and 17-year-old Daniel Salera won both the short and long programs to take Junior Pairs. Their program contained nice solo jumps, a split double twist, a good back outside death spiral and a beautiful no handed star lift. Danelle Porter and Burt Lancon were second, Elizabeth Chabot and

Peter Opegard third. Maryan and Bryan Amaral, favorites of the audience, skated a well-prepared program that included several inventive moves. However they placed low in the short program and were unable to catch up with the medal winners.

Many silver dancers fell during the events—even the winners. Elisa Spitz and Stanley Makman, elegant in rhinestoned aqua, fell early in their free dance. They recovered quickly and skated away with the gold medal. Renee Roca and Andrew Ouellette skated their outstanding free dance with much speed and an excellent run of the blade. Displaying a series of beautiful drapes and good leg extension they finished second. Robi Shepard and Kelly Witt took the bronze with a well-choreographed,



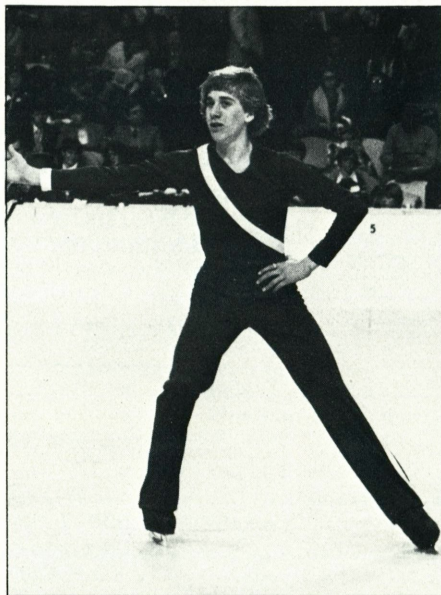
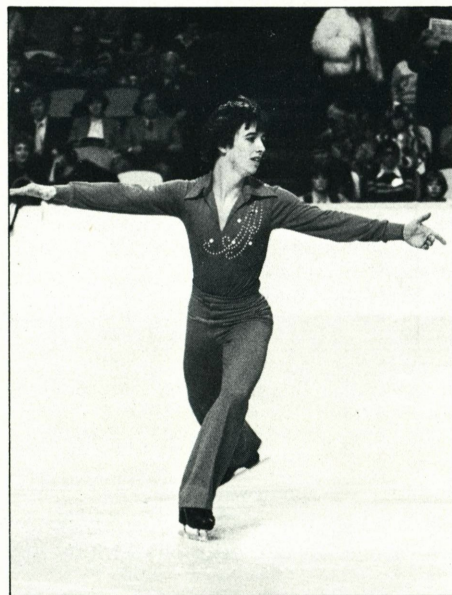
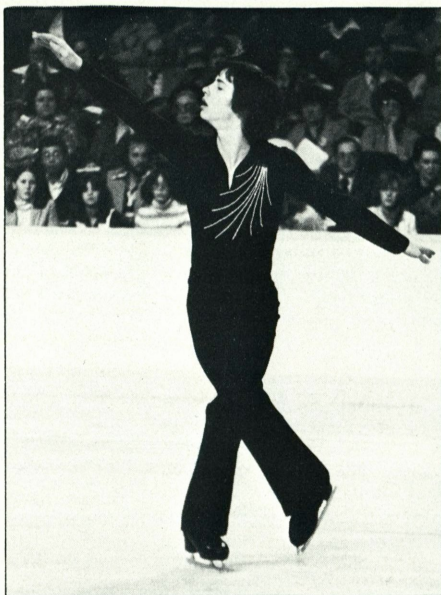
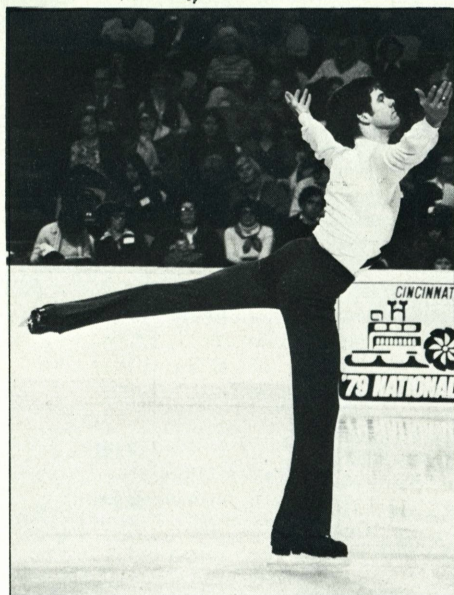
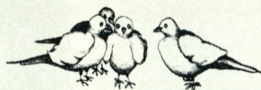
Left to right: E. Zayak, B. Beauchamp, B. Tilghman, B. Boitano, Oseroff & Bond, Roca & Ouellette, T. Murphy, T. Dickson.



smoothly, skated free dance. Each Nationals has its highlight and this one was the entire Junior Ladies' category. A group so powerful the majority of them outjumped their senior counterparts. Little 13-year-old Elaine Zayak, sixth after figures and third after the short program waited in the wings as the five pre-

ceding skaters each skated difficult, almost flawless programs bringing the cheering audience to its feet time after time. The last to skate, but unruffled, she attacked the ice. A blurred vision in strawberry ice cream pink, ribboned pony tail flying, she skated the most exciting performance of the week. Her program was pep-

pered with good double and triple jumps plus a difficult double Lutz/triple toe loop combination. At the end when most skaters are too tired to do anything but spin she did a high split jump, triple toe loop, double toe loop/double loop combination and finished with a smile and the gold medal. A real little



fireball, she never slowed a minute and received a roaring ovation from a crowd that knew it had seen something special. Jacki Farrell, who moved well and skated a content-loaded program, placed second. Figures winner Lynn Smith dropped to third place.

Novice Ladies was won by 14-year-old Rosalynn Summers

who won both figures and the free skating. She skated to the end without a letup while performing an artistic, difficult program that included a triple toe walley, high double Axel, good spins and excellent footwork. Second place winner Vicki De Vries also landed a triple toe walley along with some beautiful spin combina-

tions. Eleven-year-old Leslie Sikes took the bronze. Standing on the podium to receive her medal she tried hard to smile through flowing tears at the large Atlanta contingent there to cheer on the first medalist from the deep, deep South.

Paul Wylie pulled out all the stops to win the audience



and the Novice men's division. Smoothly skating a difficult program to *I'm Reviewing The Situation* from "Oliver" he got the spectators to clap in time with the music and with a winning smile he also stole their hearts. Scott Thompson who won the figures was second. Another charmer, 11-year-old Christopher Bowman skated a strong program with an abundance of presentation and personality. This moved him from sixth after figures to a final third.


The busiest twosome on Saturday afternoon were Paul Wylie and Dana Graham. After winning Novice Men Paul returned to partner Dana in Junior Pairs, the next event. They placed 5th. Dana then rapidly changed clothes to

compete in the Junior Ladies' finals which followed the pairs.

Although there wasn't a 6.0 given in the competition there were many championship performances. The skaters agreed the most memorable part of the competition were the tremendous record breaking crowds that inspired them to their best efforts all week. As Sunday's exhibition of champions ended and the last skater waved farewell one lone bird circling around the rinkside swooped low over the audience as if to signal the return of the flock. The flashing lights overhead changed to: "See you in Atlanta in 1980." The 1979 Championships, the most successful ever, were over.



PHOTO CREDITS:

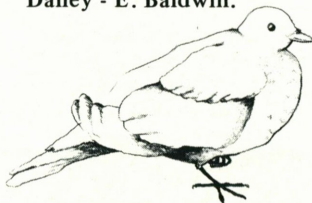
- p. 18—Elissa Baldwin
- p. 19—Smith & Summers; Oseroff & Bond - Lyra Ward. Pulver & Adair; Corcoran & Kohlas - Elissa Baldwin. Tickner - Ledin-Murphy.
- p. 20—Ledin-Murphy, E. Baldwin.
- p. 21—E. Baldwin, Ledin-Murphy
- p. 22—Zayak - Ledin-Murphy. Beauchamp; Roca & Ouellette - Lyra Ward. Oseroff & Bond - E. Baldwin.
- p. 23—Elissa Baldwin 

SKATING WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO SUBMITTED THEIR PHOTOS TO THE MAGAZINE. NEVER BEFORE HAVE SO MANY PHOTOS APPEARED IN ONE ISSUE AND NEVER BEFORE HAVE SO MANY PHOTOS BEEN SENT TO SKATING. SELECTING THE BEST PHOTOS FOR THIS ISSUE WAS NOT AN EASY TASK—KNOWING HOW MUCH TIME, TALENT AND EFFORT WAS BEHIND EACH PHOTOGRAPH, AND KNOWING ONLY A FRACTION COULD AND WOULD APPEAR IN THE ISSUE. SKATING THANKS YOU ALL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR PHOTOS THROUGHOUT THE UPCOMING SEASONS.



- p. 25 (Top)—A.C. Kalbfleisch. (Bottom two)—Noel Ledin.
- p. 26—Charles Tickner - T.J. Boesken.
- p. 27—Linda Fratianne - (2) Leonardi.
- p. 28—Tai & Randy - Leonardi; Inset: T.J. Boesken.
- p. 29—Smith & Summers - C. Kutchins; 2 Insets: Leonardi.
- p. 30—Scott Cramer - C. Kutchins; David Santee - E. Baldwin; Senior Men; Scott Hamilton - Noel Ledin.

- p. 31—Lisa Marie Allen, Sandy Lenz, Cindy Moyers, Carrie Rugh - Leonardi.
- p. 32—Heasley & Wagonhoffer, Franks & Botticelli - E. Baldwin; The Prussacks - Leonardi.
- p. 33—Gold Dancers, Krohn & Hagan - C. Kutchins; Blumberg & Seibert - Leonardi; Fox & Dalley - E. Baldwin.



- p. 34, 35, 36—Junior Men, Elaine Zayak, Jackie Farrell, Lynn Smith, Sweeney & Salera - E. Baldwin.
- p. 36—Chabot & Oppergard - Leonardi; Porter & Lancon - E. Baldwin.
- p. 37—Roca & Ouellette, Shepard & Witt - Leonardi; Spitz & Makman - E. Baldwin.
- p. 38—Novice Men - Noel Ledin.
- p. 39—Novice Ladies - E. Baldwin.

Birds by Margaret Koksi