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# ICE ABROAD

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## THE SWISS SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Zurich, Switzerland

January 7-9, 1982

*by Nigel Brown*

With the disappearance from the Swiss Nationals of Denise Biellmann, the 1981 World Champion and her two Dauphines, also from Zurich, Corinne Wyrsh and Anita Siegfried, marked the end (for the moment anyhow) of a "Belle Epoque" of a fine standard that had reigned over the Swiss Ladies' Championships during the last three seasons.

The 1982 list of feminine competitors comfortably filled the ice in quantity (twelve ladies), their skill and possible brilliance in performance was awaited hopefully.

As expected, Claudia Cariboni of Davos, who for long had excelled in figures, took first place in this section. A string of adversaries, somewhat outdistanced, followed in good order.

The short program quickly brought a spectacular change for three competitors—the chance to stand on the highest step of the podium if all went equally well in the free skating.

Myriam Oberwiler of Geneva, (the nineteen-year-old Swiss-American who as a child had begun her career in the U.S.) largely compensated the "hole" left by the departure of Denise Biellmann to be her deserving successor in a brilliant free skating exhibition. Two double Axels, high and clean, a triple Salchow added, scintillating spins, a powerful, quick course running over the ice in music and a public entranced.

Eighteen-year-old Sandra Cariboni, who had trailed behind her sister Claudia, jumped out of her guarded, scientific shell in her figure and short program performance and made a bold exciting bid for the top Championship honor. Her duel with

Myriam Oberwiler in a faultless performance in the "free of her life", technically near her rival, triple Salchow, two double Axels, double Lutz, skating with elegance, light and sure, awarded her the second place.

Behind, came the second youngest competitor, the fourteen-year-old Manuela Tschupp from the Bernese Oberland who had tied with Claudia Cariboni after the figure/short programs for the first position but fell back in the final to third on the podium on the podium. A successful triple and an inspired Biellmann spin, not so fast as Denise, this young competitor in an excellent free, possesses talent, susceptible of improvement.

Claudia Cariboni, the elder impressing with the value of a musical program, filled the fourth place. Marina Scheibler of Lausanne, last season's promising competitor who this year looked like placing high at the beginning slid to fifth place after a disappointing final.

The youngest entrant, the twelve-year-old Claudia Villiger of Effretikon, with two triple Salchows and a nerve to rip through the free with the best intentions and courage of a youngster, could possibly in the future place high, having spectacularly finished sixth at this competition.

In the Men's category, Richard Furrer, the 1977 and 1981 champion was upset by Olivier Hoener, 1980 champion, who took first position, both exhibiting a free considerably less brilliant than the girls, Hoener beginning by two falls and Furrer having trouble with a double Axel and triple Salchow.

Gaby and Jorg Galambos, of Effreti-

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kon, the only pair competitors, attained sufficient points to guarantee their Swiss title.

In the Dancing, a shuffle in the latest results. The former champions retired, having ceded their title to last season's third-placed dancers, Graziella and Marco Ferpozzi or Weinfeldten.

## RESULTS

### MEN

	POINTS
1. Olivier Hoener	3.0
2. Richard Furrer	3.0
3. Eugenio Biaggini	6.4
4. Paul Sonderegger	8.4
5. Jorg Galambos	9.2
6. Roberto Cavallaro	12.6
7. Adrian Schmidlin	13.4

### LADIES

	POINTS
1. Myriam Oberwiler	4.4
2. Sandra Cariboni	4.8
3. Manuela Tschupp	5.6
4. Claudia Cariboni	6.5
5. Marina Scheibler	9.6
6. Claudia Villiger	11.6
7. Mirella Grazia	14.6
8. Esther Steinfels	17.8
9. Graziella Hort	17.8
10. Miss Pingitore	19.0

### PAIRS

	POINTS
1. Gaby & Jorg Galambos	1.4

### DANCE

	POINTS
1. Graziella & Marco Ferpozzi	2.0
2. Esther Cuilla & Roland Mader	4.0
3. Salome Brunner & Markus Merz	6.4
4. Silvia Biellmann & Adrian Schmidlin	8.0

## 1982 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

January 27-30, 1982

by Frank Loeser

A national champion entering the world competition has a distinct psychological and political advantage. Consequently in the home country there is a

strong tendency to protect an established title-holder. Fortunately for the betterment of figure skating this trend has be-

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gun to subside. Reason may be attributed to a change in attitude brought about by the increase in the number and importance of international competitions as well as changes made in the marking system. Now it is possible to come second or third in a prestige international event or a national competition and still stay in contention for a world title. Skaters falling from the top podium one year no longer need fear a permanent plunge into oblivion.

As a result of these changes there has been a healthy reshuffling in the upper placements at recent, important competitions. Such was the case in some of the senior events at both the latest U.S. and Canadian Championships.

At the 1982 Canadian nationals the Senior Pair title again went predictably and deservedly to the fast-moving Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini and the Dance crown to a new, dynamic couple, Tracey Wilson and Robert McCall who honestly ascended on the merits of strong skating and theatrical savvy. However, in the Senior Ladies' event, Tracey Wainman, the fifteen-year-old sprite who was persuasively moved into the title in 1981, was bested this year by two tenacious rivals, Kay Thomson and Elizabeth Manley. Wainman executed superior figures but was unable to withstand the freestyle displays of the other two. Thomson is a brilliant spinner and capable jumper; Manley wields speed as well as a secure double Axel, triple toe loop, and triple Salchow. Both were exacting in their technical output at this competition and this coupled with musically considerate programs (with, in Thomson's case, an exquisitely fashioned slow passage to a little known piece by the Czech composer, Fucik) enabled them to ascend over Wainman who had to suffer the consequences of two cliché-ridden, musically insensitive solos. She was not only faced with overcoming chal-

lengers for the title but also, as it appeared, her own choreographers.

In the Men's competition Brian Pockar was back to regain the title wrested from him in 1981 by Brian Orser. This year, Pockar produced steady, classically skated figures to win the first phase of the competition and Orser skated to a generously placed third spot. In the short program Orser was sparkling and Pockar, looking uncertain and even mediocre, appeared destined to another supporting role. Orser, skating first in the long, whipped off his triple Axel with great polish but the dazzling effect usually gained by his array of triple jumps was diminished by a faulty landing on a triple Lutz and an over-rotated triple Salchow. Pockar following gave an incredible performance—one that could never have been predicted from observing either his practices, his short program, or even the brief warm-up preceding his final skate. He fulfilled the technical quota in a musical and stylish manner but beyond that his display was an exhilarating and uplifting triumph of spirit. As the Men's event closed the competition, with Pockar skating next to last, the audience was left in a euphoric state tarnished only somewhat by the judges' division of four to three in favor of Orser. One waits with a good deal of anticipation for future encounters and reshufflings in both the Men's and Ladies' categories.

## RESULTS

### SENIOR MEN

	PLACES
1. Brian Orser	3.2
2. Brian Pockar	4.2
3. Dennis Coi	6.8
4. Gary Beacom	8.4
5. Gordon Forbes	8.8
6. Kevin Parker	12.6
7. Neil Paterson	13.8
8. Neil Giroday	17.0
9. Shaun McGill	17.0
10. Louis Lasorsa	17.6

### SENIOR LADIES

	PLACES
1. Kay Thomson	4.0
2. Elizabeth Manley	4.4
3. Tracey Wainman	5.2
4. Diane Ogibowski	8.8
5. Charlene Wong	11.8
6. Andrea Hall	12.6
7. Kathryn Osterberg	15.2
8. Kerry Smith	17.0

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9. Anissa Gurchin
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12. Melanie Buzek

17.6  
18.2  
19.8  
21.4

#### JUNIOR LADIES

1. Monica Lipson
2. Natalie Reimer
3. Lana Sherman
4. Melinda Kunhegyi
5. Tracey Robertson
6. France Mantas
7. Anissa Gurchin

POINTS  
125.14  
122.78  
120.20  
121.88  
120.88  
117.28  
115.80

*fourteen competed*

#### SENIOR PAIRS

1. Barbara Underhill & Paul Martini
2. Lorrie Baier & Lloyd Eisler
3. Rebecca Gough & Mark Rowsom
4. Melinda Kunhegyi & Lyndon Johnson
5. Katherina Matousek & Eric Thomsen
6. Vanessa Howe & Jeffrey Mawle

PLACES  
1.4  
2.8  
4.2  
5.6  
7.0  
8.4

#### JUNIOR PAIRS

1. Julie Brault & Richard Gauthier
2. Bonnie Epp & Leonard Warkentin
3. Leslie Robinson & Neil Tymoruski
4. Lynn Frasson & Mark Bystreck
5. Lynda Ivanich & John Ivanich
6. Lawrie Emerson & Sidney Shanks
7. Andrea Derby & Michael Koshilka

POINTS  
102.06  
98.26  
93.00  
92.64  
92.06  
90.90  
87.14

*eleven competed*

#### SENIOR DANCE

1. Tracy Wilson & Robert McCall
2. Kelly Johnson & Kris Barber
3. Joanne French & John Thomas
4. Karyn Garossino & Rod Garossino
5. Tracy Michael & Kerry Spong
6. Donna Martini & John Coyne
7. Karen Taylor & Robert Burk
8. Teri-Lyn Black & Mirko Savic
9. Catherine Cardiff & Keith Baker

PLACES  
2.0  
4.0  
6.0  
8.0  
10.0  
13.0  
13.0  
16.0  
18.0

#### JUNIOR DANCE

1. Teri-Lyn Black & Mirko Savic
2. Isabelle Duchesnay & Paul Duchesnay
3. Michelle McDonald & Patrick Mandley
4. Deanna Poirier & Brett Schrader
5. Anna Griffith & Loch MacDonald
6. Marywin Dill & David Wallace
7. Christine Horton & Michael Farrington

POINTS  
124.08  
118.46  
118.78  
118.32  
112.52  
109.84  
110.80

*sixteen competed*

#### JUNIOR MEN

1. Lyndon Johnston
2. Brad McLean
3. Andre Bourgeois
4. Louis Lasorsa
5. Scott Maybee
6. Mickey Prillisauer
7. Patrick Greasley

POINTS  
129.08  
128.12  
125.96  
124.38  
121.00  
119.88  
119.84

*eleven competed*