

SKATING

A P R I L 1 9 9 4

AT
HOME
WITH
LIZ
AND
JEROD

1994 U. S. NATIONALS • 1994 CANADIANS • 1994 EUROPEANS

DOUGLAS TAYLOR-GEBLER



CARLA'S BAUER: *This sculpture is being created in clay using figure skater Carla Schulz as model. Sculpture to be cast in bronze: approximately 28 inches high x 22 inches long x 12 inches wide. Bronze and walnut base in progress. Sculpture will turn above base 360°*

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To Our Readers:

You have probably been curious about the mail that has been received by *Skating* magazine, the USFSA, and the USOC throughout the whole affair following the unfortunate attack on Nancy Kerrigan at the 1994 U.S. Championships. The following are a random sampling of letters that were directed not only to *Skating*, but also to the USFSA and its officers as well as the USOC. We will let these letters speak for themselves with no rebuttal. They are simply divided into two categories, *Pre Olympics* and *Post Olympics*, to place them in the proper time frame in which they were received. But first, a letter of appreciation.

—The Editors

IN APPRECIATION

Barbara Flowers passed away peacefully, November 20, 1993 at her home in Brier, Washington after a long battle with breast cancer. The skating community was so kind and generous to my sister during her illness and in her death. Many visited Barbara during her illness and sent flowers and cards filled with good wishes. This meant so much to Barbara. After her death many of you attended her funeral during the busy Thanksgiving holidays, sent cards of sympathy, flowers, food, donations to the Barbara Flowers and USFSA Memorial Fund...so many remembrances poured in from people whom we do not know and most we have never met. On behalf of Barbara's sons, Jeremy, Zachary, and Austin and Barb's parents and sisters and brothers, thank you all for your remembrances of this very special person and to John Maier, President of the Highland Skating Club, Inc. for all his help with the Barbara Flowers Memorial Fund. Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Tena Hall
Waseca, Minnesota

PRE OLYMPICS

I am sending along copies of two articles that ran in today's edition of *The New York Times*.

I join with Mr. Berkow and Ms. Burger in the belief that Tonya Harding is innocent until proven guilty and that, as U.S. Champion, she deserves her place on the U.S. Olympic team. If she is later convicted in this sordid affair, she can be stripped of any medal she may win.

We live in the United States, where due process is a right of ALL American citizens. Miss Harding should not be excluded from this right.

Regarding the issue of character, is Tonya Harding of less "character" than Michael Jordan (a self-admitted gambler) or Earvin Johnson (an admitted womanizer and patron of prostitutes)—both acclaimed and canonized members of the U.S. Olympic basketball team in 1992?

Tonya Harding should be allowed to compete in Lillehammer, and the USOC and the USFSA should take a stand for the real American way.

Elena Gordon
New York, New York

Please allow me the opportunity to express my dismay with what I have been reading in *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times* and hearing on television about the Kerrigan/Harding situation.

It is alleged with some credible evidence that some members of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the U.S. Figure Skating Association are moving for the voluntary or forced withdrawal of Tonya Harding

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SKATING

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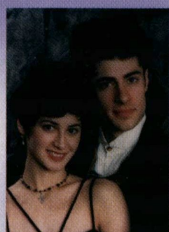
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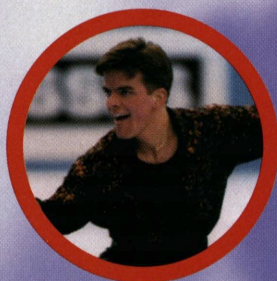
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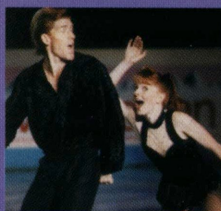
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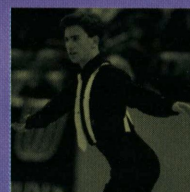
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Liz Punsalan and Jerod Swallow enjoy life in their new home.

For their story, turn to page 12.

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from the U.S. Olympics team. If so, this is wrong!

Harding earned her spot! The results of the competition must be honored until such time as there is an unambiguous legal judgment against her that she was involved in Nancy Kerrigan's terrible misfortune. Every American citizen not only deserves to be considered innocent until proven guilty, but has the legal and moral right to that treatment. Asking Harding to 'voluntarily' withdraw from the team or being refused a team spot by either the U.S. Olympic Committee or the U.S. Figure Skating Association is out of character for what we stand for.

Neither of these bodies should be engaging in guilt by association. Unless Tonya Harding confesses to explicit complicity in the incident or there is an explicit judicial judgment against her (an indictment is not a conviction) nothing out of the ordinary should be done...the Figure Skating officials should recommend the names of Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding to the Olympic Committee and the latter should vote to install these superb athletes on the Olympic team representing our country.

Anything less would tarnish the names and reputations of both bodies and cast considerable doubt on the legitimacy of their claim to impartially represent American values and our process of competitive athletics.

This letter comes not only from a concerned citizen but from a father who spent many winter years nurturing and supporting the aspirations and efforts of his two figure skating daughters. Along with my wife, I have followed figure skating for a long time and cheered for the Albrights, Buttons, Heisses, Flemings, Boitanos, Starbucks, T & D, etc. We are still very much interested and involved.

Robert Sokol

Hanover, New Hampshire

This letter is in expression of my hopes that, public furor notwithstanding, Tonya Harding will receive from the bodies governing the sport in which she excels the same support that Nancy Kerrigan so rightly received in your decision to place her on our Olympic Figure Skating Team this year.

The attack on Ms. Kerrigan was a dreadful thing, and it was right that she should be placed on the Team, in defiance of her attackers' aims, and in keeping with her gifts and her accomplishments.

The authorities maintain that they have no reason to place Ms. Harding herself under any suspicion. Should she be proven to be guilty of complicity in this horror, of course there is no place for her on a Team representing our nation before the world. If, however, she is guiltless, (as I believe she will be shown to be), to remove her from the Team would be a grave disservice, not only to her, but to the nation, as it would demonstrate to the world that we more highly regard opinion than truth. Further, would you truly wish to respond to an act of cowardice, which the assault on Ms. Kerrigan most certainly was, with the cowardly act of bowing to public pressure? (For all the talk of Tonya Harding's faults of temper and of temperament, has anyone ever, accused her of being a coward?)

There has been talk, in reference to removing Ms. Harding from the Team, of the importance of "sportsmanship," and "fair

play." These concepts are, of course, paramount, particularly in amateur sports, but what sort of example would you be setting, either of sportsmanship or fair play, by penalizing an athlete for an action of which she is innocent?

I have for years admired and cheered both ladies. I very much hope to see them both compete in Lillehammer, and to see them bring two medals home to our nation.

Thank you for your attention.

Ellen P. Kellogg

Jersey City, NJ

I have been horrified at the recent events surrounding the Nancy Kerrigan attack, that as of this date, implicates her main competitors family, employees and friends. I trust that you, too, have similarly been questioning those acts and are prepared to take the proper action of denying Tonya Harding a chance to compete as a representative of the United States if the allegations hold true.

The assault on Kerrigan is one of historic proportions as it relates to sports and including the highest form of Athletics, the Olympic Games. It should not go unnoticed or unpunished and, we as Americans, should not allow our representatives to engage or be part of such acts. I do not feel that anyone could believe that Harding has not been involved. Perhaps she was not involved in the actual committing or even plotting of the crime, but clearly it had to have been a thought, a suggestion, or even a joke that was the genesis of the act.

I am sure a groundswell of support for removing Tonya Harding from the Olympic team will occur during the investigations and if her family or friends are found guilty. From my point of view my response for no action will be the complete boycott of the USOC and all of the supporters, promoters, and advertisers of the USOC, the U.S. Figure Skating Association and the Olympiad until justice is served.

This is a situation that, if unpunished, could lead to athletes believing that the will to defeat your opponent during competition can include violence and aggression prior to the event. Think of the implications and the fact that these events will overshadow the Olympiad and the true meaning of the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

Rodney A. Riley

Delray, Florida

It has been awhile since I was a sports writer in Michigan and covered figure skating competitions for *The Ann Arbor News*. Like so many Americans, the U.S. Figure Skating Association and the ideals of the Olympic Movement have been very much in my thoughts these past few weeks.

As one who has gained an appreciation for administrative due process in a sports setting, I think you and the association are to be commended for handling a very difficult situation in a very fair and judicious manner. So I just wanted to take a moment or two to salute all hands for a job well done.

I might also add that Nancy Kerrigan has really set a shining example for all of us who in some way participate in sports. When she was asked on Saturday night's television program about the composition of the figure skating team, Nancy quite properly replied, "That's not my decision." It recalled to my

Continued on page 38



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Best wishes to all the athletes of the USFSA
and the 1994 U.S. Olympic Team.



PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
WOMEN OF THE 1994 & 1996
U.S. OLYMPIC TEAMS

36 USC 380



AFTER CAPTURING THE

1994 U.S. dance title, newlyweds Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow were further rewarded for their talent and efforts as they became the third recipients of the Korbel Champagne on Ice award.

The award, presented to the competitor(s) earning the highest cumulative points for artistic merit, went to Punsalan and Swallow after they scored a total of 105.5 points. The team narrowly beat out pairs team Jenni Meno and Todd Sand who received second highest cumulative points for artistic merit with a score of 105.4.

Korbel awarded the couple an engraved silver Gorham champagne bucket. In addition, Korbel Champagne donated \$1,000 in their names to the USFSA Memorial

Fund.

The Korbel Champagne on Ice award, also presented to Viktor Petrenko at Skate America '93 and Brian Boitano at this year's Pro-Am Challenge, is just one component of Korbel Champagne's multi-faceted sponsorship of the United States Figure Skating Association.

REVLON RECENTLY

announced that it has signed Nancy Kerrigan to an exclusive multi-year contract. Kerrigan will appear on behalf of the company in both print and television advertising campaigns promoting major Revlon product lines.

"We are very proud to have Nancy on the Revlon team," said George Fellows, Chairman of Revlon North

America. "Nancy possesses courage and beauty, qualities that women around the world admire. She is a fabulous role model and we are looking forward to working with her."

THE FABERGE ARTS

Foundation and the St. Petersburg (Russia) Organizing Committee (SPOC) announced that the Foundation will design and produce the medals for the 1994 Goodwill Games, scheduled for July 23-August 7.

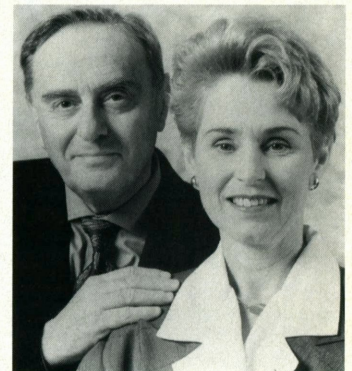
The Games mark the first time in Faberge's history that the jeweler has created medals for use in an international sporting event. Commissioned by the Faberge Arts Foundation, the medals were designed specifically for the Goodwill Games by 60-year-old Alexei Koroliuk, a renowned St. Petersburg artisan.

RENOWNED FIGURE

skating coaches Carlo and Christa Fassi joined the Ice Castle International Training Center (ICITC) staff on a full-time basis April 1.

"The Ice Castle International Training Center is light years

ahead of every other figure skating facility because we have the best facilities and the finest coaches," said Carol Probst, president and co-owner of the Lake Arrowhead, Calif., facility. "With the addition of



Carlo and Christa Fassi as full-time coaches, our roster reads like a Who's Who of Figure Skating Coaches. No other staff even comes close."

The Fassis have coached at ICITC for the past three summers and Carlo Fassi recently resigned his positions as coach of the Italian International Figure Skating Team and head coach and manager of Palazzo del Ghiaccio in Milan.

Fassi has coached four World Champions—John Curry, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill and Jill Trenary—and four Olympic gold medalists—Robin

Cousins, Curry, Fleming and Hamill.

TWENTY-SEVEN FEMALE

athletes and nine teams representing 22 sports and 18 states received Sudafed Travel and Training Fund grants during the first period of 1994. The grants, totaling \$41,000, were announced in late February by the Women's Sports Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization serving girls and women in sports. The foundation established the Travel and Training Fund in 1984 to provide direct financial assistance to aspiring athletes with successful competitive records who have the potential to achieve even higher performance levels and rankings.

One of the twenty-seven recipients recently announced was figure skater Wendy Millette, of Concord, Mass. Millette and partner Jason Tebo, of Waltham, Mass., placed fourth in ice dancing at the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships held in Detroit, Mich. The duo also won the bronze medal at the U.S. Olympic Festival '93.

Sudafed Travel and Training Fund grants are

awarded three times each year and are designed to relieve some of the financial burdens on athletes, allowing them to concentrate on training. A maximum of \$1,500 per individual and \$3,000 per team can be awarded each year.

IN JANUARY, THE

Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) announced ten finalists for the 1993 AAU James E. Sullivan Memorial Award, presented annually by the AAU to the nation's outstanding amateur athlete.

Among the finalists was figure skater Brian Boitano, who was also a finalist in 1988 when he won an Olympic gold medal at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada. Joining Boitano was football standout and Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward from Florida State University and former Duke University basketball star Bobby Hurley. Also nominated was sprinter/hurdler Gail Devers, wrestler Bruce Baumgartner, speedskater Dan Jansen, gymnast Shannon Miller, swimmer Jenny Thompson, decathlete Dan O'Brien and basketball player Sheryl Swoopes.

The finalists were selected from 50 nominees for the 1993 award.

The Sullivan Award is based on the qualities of leadership, character, sportsmanship, and the ideals of amateurism. Any athlete regardless of sport can be nominated.

OLYMPIC VIEWERS CAN

recapture the excitement and glory of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games right away with the rush release of CBS Video's officially licensed 1994 Olympic home videos: "The 1994 Winter Olympic Highlights Video," "The 1994 Winter Olympics Figure Skating Competition Highlights Video" and "The 1994 Winter Olympics Figure Skating Competition and Exhibition Gift Set" (two cassettes). The videos feature the most inspiring, memorable and emotion-evoking moments and personalities of the Winter Olympics from Lillehammer, Norway as well as footage not seen on TV.

Consumers can order the tapes by calling 1-800-747-7999. Single tapes will sell for \$19.98 each, while the Figure Skating Gift Set retails for \$39.98 and the Olympic three-pack sells

for \$49.98 (the three sets of tapes included).

THE BROADMOOR

Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently presented "The Broadmoor World Arena Farewell Reunion Extravaganza" on Feb. 5. The show was the last figure skating performance at the Broadmoor World Arena and featured 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton and 1994 U.S. Men's Champion Scott Davis, as well as a cast of champion skaters who trained and competed at the World Arena over the years.

Also participating in the event was 1994 U.S. Ladies' Bronze Medalist Nicole Bobek, 1960 Olympic Gold Medalist Carol Heiss Jenkins, 1950 World Pair Champions Peter and Karol Kennedy, 1956 Olympic Gold Medalist Hayes Alan Jenkins, 1960 Olympic Gold Medalist David Jenkins and many others.

The Broadmoor World Arena, home to many figure skating championships at all levels, closed at the end of March.■

The Harding-Kerrigan Controversy: An Overview

by Mike Spence

As members of the U.S. figure skating community gathered in Detroit, Mich., in early January for the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, an air of enthusiasm and high expectations dominated the talk and the outlook of all involved.

They looked forward to a celebration of U.S. figure skating's pride and joy. The country's best skaters competing against each other for titles. And spots on the 1994 U.S. Olympic Team.

In essence, the week in Detroit would be the launching pad for the next generation of Olympic dreams. Or, perhaps, the rekindling of old ones.

Brian Boitano, the 1988 Olympic men's champion, had returned. So had Elaine Zayak, the 1982 World champion. Their chief rivals were defending men's champion Scott Davis and defending ladies' champion Nancy Kerrigan. How a storied older generation of skaters fared against the latest generation should have been the championship's chief story line.

In any other year, it would have.

Instead, an assault on Kerrigan Jan. 6 rocked the U.S. figure skating community. An attacker struck Kerrigan on the right knee as she finished an afternoon practice session at Cobo Hall. Injuries suffered in the attack forced Kerrigan to withdraw from the competition.

The initial reaction was a stunned bewilderment at the reality of violence invading the athletic arena. And, worse, that it could invade figure skating, where beauty and grace are the tools of the trade. The ugliness of an attack on a skater was as unacceptable as it was unbelievableunbelievable.

As authorities uncovered details of the plot to injure Kerrigan, the story grew more unbelievable.

First, the bodyguard of rival skater Tonya Harding, revealed he and Harding's ex-husband plotted the attack. Shawn Eckardt also implicated Harding in the planning and cover-up. Eckardt implicated two other men, Derrick Smith, the getaway driver, and Shane Stant, the attacker.

Eventually, all four confessed to their roles in the crime. Jeff Gillooly, Harding's ex-husband, pleaded guilty to

one count of racketeering in a plea bargain with authorities. He, too, implicated Harding in the attack. Harding steadfastly denied she had any prior knowledge of the plot or the attack.

The revelations led the U.S. Figure Skating Association and the U.S. Olympic Committee into uncharted territory.

For the first time, the USFSA had to deal with the chance one of its skaters participated in a plot to injure another skater. The USFSA had to protect the rights of an athlete involved in a criminal investigation. And the USFSA had to protect its rights as the national governing body for the sport of figure skating.

The incident challenged the constitution and bylaws of both the USFSA and the USOC. For the first time in its history, the USFSA tried to enforce its code of ethics. The USOC tried to invoke its sportsmanship clause to deal with an athlete implicated to a crime, but facing no charges.

"There is no precedent for this," said USOC spokesperson Mike Moran.

As with any seldom-used rules, questions arise when enforcing them. Unfortunately, the answers to those questions and many others remain unknown today.

U.S. courts prevented a timely resolution of the problem. And in protecting the rights of Harding, they denied the rights of the USFSA and the USOC to enforce their own rules.

A court ruling allowed Harding to skate in the Olympic Winter Games without facing the USOC's Games' Administrative Board. The court ruled that Harding did not have time to present a thorough defense.

Time constraints forced the USOC to call for its hearing on Feb. 17 in Oslo, Norway. USOC officials hoped to resolve Harding's status before the draw for the ladies' Olympic competition on Feb. 21.

Harding's attorneys struck first, filing a \$20 million lawsuit against the USOC. They also sought a temporary restraining order. The attorneys challenged the USOC's hearing process, questioning the composition of the administrative board and the right at cross examination of witnesses. A court ruling called off the USOC hearing and ordered the two sides to try to work out

their differences.

In a decision unpopular in the United States, the USOC announced an agreement with Harding. The deal allowed Harding to compete in the Games. In return, Harding dropped her suit against the USOC.

While the USOC appeared to cave in to Harding's legal maneuvers, in reality, it had little choice. USOC officials submitted to the agreement only after they realized they had no one to testify at the hearing. The FBI refused to allow its agents investigating the case to testify. And Portland, Ore., authorities refused to allow Gillooly to leave the country to testify.

The USFSA proceeded more slowly. It convened a hearing panel the first week in February to see if the evidence warranted a disciplinary hearing. The panel reported on Feb. 5 that, indeed, enough evidence existed to believe Harding knew about or perhaps actively participated in the attack on Kerrigan.

The panel called for a disciplinary hearing on March 9 in Colorado Springs. Panel members thought they set the hearing far enough in advance to accommodate Harding and the USFSA. One, it allowed (or so the panel thought) Harding time to prepare a defense. Two, it afforded the panel enough time to produce a verdict before the World Championships.

It didn't happen.

Again, Harding's attorneys struck first. They sought a temporary restraining order the first week of March, and won.

Again, Harding's attorneys argued she would not have enough time to prepare a defense. The judge reasoned that the only inconvenience suffered by delaying the hearing was to the USFSA's desire for a timely resolution of the matter. Besides, the court ruled, it had little doubt the USFSA panel would have found Harding guilty of some violation. While accusing the hearing panel of prejudging Harding, the court inadvertently-inadvertently prejudged the hearing panel.

The decision incensed and frustrated skating officials.

"We had every intention of conducting a fair and impartial hearing," said hearing panel chair Bill Hybl of Colorado Springs. "We had not pre-

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To Skate Your Best, Train With the Best

Start with our facility. The Ice Castle International Training Center is the ONLY complete figure-skating school in the world. We have: two modern international-size ice rinks, one indoor, one partially open; comprehensively-equipped gym; large dance pavilion with Bolshoi Ballet star teacher; heated swimming pool plus Jacuzzi; 64-bed dorms; 24 cottages for older students; and lodge with superb training menu. Year-around students attend nearby schools in the mile-high San Bernardino Mountains.

Then consider our Olympic-caliber coaches. Above, Frank Carroll coaches Olympic hopeful Michelle Kwan, Peter Opepgard works with America's top junior pair, Lance Travis and Stephanie Stiegler, and Irina Rodnina guides little Tiffany Stiegler.

You'll have world class competition to spur you on. In just the last 12 months, skaters from 21 foreign countries have trained with us. One recent day, three of the world's top skaters practiced on our ice; Surya Bonaly, Chen Lu, Kristi Yamaguchi.

With all this, it's no wonder our students quickly advance from one level to the next!

Take the first step toward becoming a world class figure skater. Call Carol Probst at 909-337-0802 for information on our year-around program. Or, write the Ice Castle International Training Center, P.O. Box 939, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352.



*At Home
with Liz
and Jerod*

*Dinner
for Two*

BY BARRY FEDEROVITCH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL HARTVATH

Watch out for men wearing rings on their left pinky finger. The first time Jerod Swallow did it around Elizabeth Punsalan, it made her laugh. The second time, it got them married. "We were in Lake Placid (New York) for a competition," said Punsalan, Swallow's ice dance partner since March 1989. "We were shopping around town. It was a ruby antique ring. I told my mom I wanted it and she told me it was too expensive.

"A month later, we were at Skate America and Kristi Yamaguchi and Rudy Galindo started commenting what a beautiful ring Jerod had. I said 'Let me see that ring!' My mom bought the ring and sent it to Jerod. He wanted to see if I would notice it. I thought she bought it for him."

Three years later, over dinner at the Broadmoor Tavern restaurant in Colorado Springs, there was no question who the ring was for. When their waiter departed to fetch their cream of broccoli soup, Swallow handed Punsalan a card that said, "The time has come. We're right for each other. Be my wife." This time, he was wearing an engagement ring. A little over a year later, on September 4, 1993, after knowing each other for 10 years, they became husband and wife in his hometown of Northville, Mich.

But if the last 12 months have been a dream for the two-time U.S. ice dance champions en

route to their first U.S. Olympic berth in Lillehammer, Norway, there can be little doubt about their nightmare. Going into the 1992 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Orlando, Fla., they were defending U.S. champions and

"You hear about a worst case scenario and you don't realize the magnitude until you go through it yourself," said Swallow. "We were so lucky we had



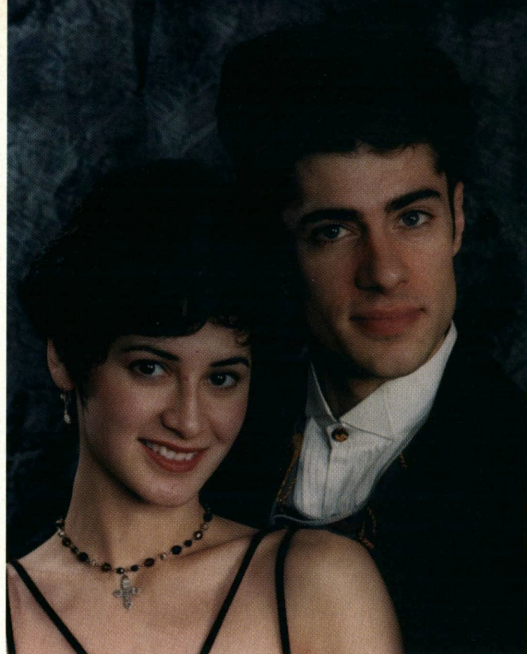
were in prime position going into the original dance to finish in the top two, earning them a trip to the Olympics in Albertville, France.

Three minutes into their original dance, they maintained that standard. Then, with 45 seconds left in their program, came the fall that dropped them to third behind winners April Sargent-Thomas and Russ Witherby and second-place finishers Rachel Mayer and Peter Breen. The blow was crushing.

Yet from the biggest disappointment of their lives, the two-some found a priceless resource that would fuel an improvement on the ice beyond their wildest dreams in the 1993-94 season.

each other during that time. The first thing we did afterward was go back to (Sheffield) Ohio (where Punsalan's parents live) and spent five days with her family, relaxing. Then we came up to Michigan. My family had bought a whole block of tickets for the Olympics and we said, 'Let's go over anyway. We might never get this chance again, so let's go over as spectators.' It was probably the best thing we ever did."

When they returned to Colorado Springs, something was missing. They needed a change. So they moved back to the Detroit area to train under one-time World Junior Champion Igor Shpilband. The pair met Shpilband shortly after the 1992 World Championships through Gorsha Sur and he choreographed an



“We’re right for each other.”

exhibition program for them. When coach Sandra Hess saw their improvement through Shpilband, she suggested the move and they parted on amicable terms.

“In August 1992, we were in Colorado Springs with Sandy Hess. Roca and Sur were there too,” said Swallow. “They were reinstated (as amateurs) and Mayer and Breen were there also. It was going to be a big load for Sandy. Igor (Shpilband) was in Detroit and didn’t have any other teams. When Sandy saw us, she said, ‘He’s done great work. Why don’t you go back to him?’” The duo have remained friends with Roca and Sur since the move and admire the professionals who have been reinstated because they have “raised the standard of the sport.”

Shortly after going back to Detroit, the pair added Elizabeth Coates to their coaching family and their “compulsories improved immeasurably.” They finished

third again at the U.S. Championships in Phoenix, Ariz. a few months later. But it was their love off the ice that was making their renaissance this year on the ice most possible. “We decided that we weren’t going to put our life off the ice on hold just for our skating,” said Swallow. “After what we’ve been through it just wasn’t worth it.”

After marrying, they bought a 65-year old cape cod in the Northville area and filled it with everything from an old aqua 1950’s loveseat to an old Evil Knievel toy that Jerod had loved as a child. With the smell of steaks on the barbeque it was home. And just the right atmosphere to transfer their passion to the ice.

Their original program was a rumba. And in front of their home crowd at Joe Louis Arena, their Olympic dream became a reality with their second U.S. title.

They have yet to decide what they will do next year, but for now they will keep things simple. Two

two-hour shifts on the ice five days a week and sleeping late on Sundays. “We weren’t sure what was going to happen this year,” said Swallow. “We wanted to take advantage of our personal joy and for people to say, ‘These people are enjoying each other.’” Still, even now, that joy is being tested.

Just a few days before departing for Lillehammer, the pair received the tragic news that Punsalan’s father had died at his home in Sheffield. One of the pair’s biggest fans, it was an opportunity to quit for obvious reasons.

There was the rush back to Ohio the next day for the funeral and four days lost to family commitment. Right up to the time they took the ice for the first compulsory dance, Swallow left the door open for his wife to withdraw as he is her husband and friend first and skating partner a distant second.

But they had come too far to quit and remembering the joy her father had gained from watching

them together, Punsalan went on noting at a tearfilled press conference that "he would've wanted us to compete."

"Everyone in the family insisted that we compete," said Swallow. "One positive at the Olympics was having our families there to see us. Liz's mother, sister, two brothers and brother-in-law were there. One of our cousins even came. It was like graduating from college, in a sense."

"You never know when something like this is going to happen and we weren't sure that we were mature enough to be able to deal with it. But they were all there for us."

The pair had problems on their first compulsory dance and in the

free skate, dropping to 15th. They had hoped for the top 10 position that had eluded both U.S. pairs at last year's World Championships.

But sad endings are not what this couple is about.

At presstime, they were boarding another plane for the World Championships in Chiba, Japan, determined to do better and bring the U.S. a second World team position for 1995. Their compulsory dances this time will be a starlight waltz and tango romantica.

The heartbreak may still be vivid, but ahead lies the U.S. Pro-Am competition April 7-8 and Tom Collins Tour of Champions, a further tribute to how far they have come.

"We found out two weeks

after Nationals about the Tom Collins Tour," said Swallow. "It's something we always wanted to be a part of. We're ready to give it one last valiant effort at Worlds, though, first. It's always nice to get one more shot at the end of the season."

"The last two and a half weeks, we've really trained hard and the opportunity is good."

When you stick together, as Liz and Jerod have, it always is. ■

Barry Federovitch has been a staff writer for The Trenton Times in Trenton, N.J. for five years since his graduation from Trenton State College with a B.A. in English. He enjoys softball, dancing and skating.

Official Update

Continued from page 10

judged the issue. No decisions had been made."

Added another official, who did not want to be identified: "You've got to protect the rights of the individual. You've also got to find a fair balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of the organization."

Equally frustrating to USFSA officials was the cost of the protracted legal proceedings.

"It detracts from our ability to run the organization ... and could ultimately take money away from those areas of the sport that really need it," said USFSA President Claire Ferguson.

USFSA and USOC officials admitted they struggled because Harding faced no charges. In fact, she still faces no charges as of this writing. The grand jury probing the conspiracy and the attack continually pushed back the date it planned to issue its findings. Originally, the grand jury was to conclude its work during the first week of February. Eventually, the grand jury pushed the date back to March 21.

Regardless of the grand jury's delay,

the USFSA and USOC officials said they wanted only to examine the chance Harding violated their rules—not the law. Neither the USOC nor the USFSA sought a criminal hearing. What they wanted was a procedural hearing. Neither sought to violate Harding's rights. They merely wanted to exercise their rights to operate their organizations according to their rules. They thought they had that right when Harding agreed to abide by the rules of the USFSA and the USOC. The courts never gave them the opportunity.

Ironically, the USFSA earnestly sought to protect Harding's rights in the days just after the attack. Even after Harding's ex-husband and bodyguard admitted to their roles in the attack, and even after both implicated Harding, the USFSA refused to act because it lacked firm evidence.

"As the investigation into the incident continues, the USFSA will continue to follow its policy of refusing to speculate. We will continue to deal only with the facts," said USFSA Executive Director Jerry Lace on Jan. 13.

"Until authorities provide us with information that Tonya was involved in the attack, she remains on the team," Ferguson said on Jan. 19.

The USFSA remained firm in that stance until Jan. 27, when Harding admitted she lied to police about the attack.

"I had no prior knowledge of the planned assault on Nancy Kerrigan," Harding said in a statement she read to reporters. "I am responsible, however, for failing to report things I learned about the assault when I returned home from nationals."

Within hours of Harding's admission, the USFSA announced the formation of the five-member hearing panel.

"The events prompted our federation to take a pro-active role in dealing with the allegations surrounding the attack," Ferguson said.

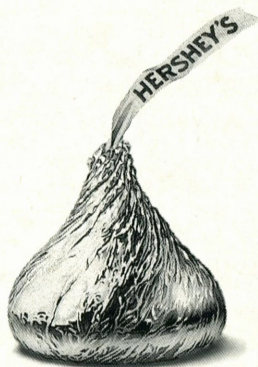
Then the courts stepped in, issuing rulings that both the USFSA and the USOC hope do not set precedents for future cases. Yet now, neither organization is sure.

In yet another irony, the USOC discovered after the Olympics it easily could have booted Harding from the U.S. team for a more clear-cut violation of its rules. Harding signed a contract worth \$600,000 with the TV program *Inside Edition* for exclusive rights to her story. USOC rules strictly prohibit Olympic

Continued on page 42

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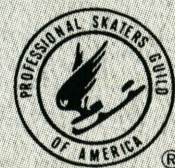
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B Y L I B B Y S L A T E

It was a foregone conclusion that this year's U.S. Championships, hosted by the Detroit Skating Club and held at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena, would be memorable. After all, the competition would not only serve as the trials for the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, but would see the return of more former professionals to national competition.

As it turns out, though, "trials" was indeed an apt term, on occasion more Herculean than Olympian. No one could have predicted all the twists and turns—some dictated by fate, others man-made—that would befall virtually all four championship-level divisions and at times render the competition itself almost anti-climactic.

The big story of the 1994 U.S. Championships was sup-

posed to be Brian Boitano's bid to make the U.S. Olympic Gold in Calgary. But the incident which occurred on the afternoon preceding the men's finals not only overshadowed Boitano's comeback, but sent shockwaves throughout the world.

At approximately 2:35 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, while talking with a reporter after stepping off the ice at practice site Cobo Arena, defending U.S. Ladies' Champion and 1992 Olympic Bronze Medalist Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed above her right knee by a man with a metal baton. Her assailant had slipped in unnoticed by security, run by and struck her on her landing leg, then continued running, escaping by hurling his body through a glass arena door.

An agonized and badly bruised Kerrigan, captured on videotape sobbing "Why

me?...I'm so scared," was forced to withdraw from what was to have been her final Nationals as an eligible skater, where once and for all she would prove that last year's disastrous fifth-place finish at Worlds was but a distant memory. Not widely recognized outside the sport, she became an instant celebrity, the lead news story throughout America and the world, as people struggled to make sense of such a bizarre act and its implications for the personal safety of athletes and other public figures.

Barely 24 hours later, Kerrigan answered questions before the press, describing the attack as "one good whack." Saying that she was "upset, hurt, and angry" about being unable to skate, she added, "I want to compete more than ever before....I know it's going to be okay." Kerrigan was later named to the

U.S. Olympic Team.

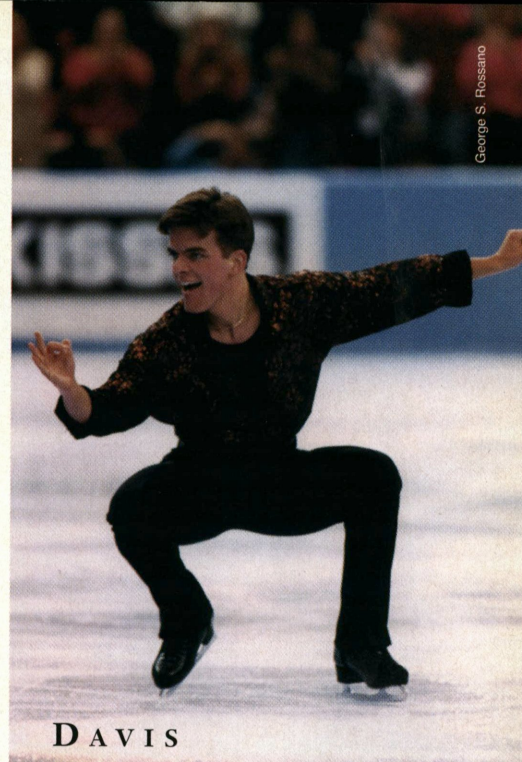
But the show must go on, and the men's free skate, the first of the four championship disciplines to be decided, did proceed Thursday night. In the technical program the evening before, Boitano had finished first, placed there by five of the nine judges despite a dip forward on the landing of his trademark "Tano" triple Lutz. Defending Champion Scott Davis was a close second, with the remaining four first-place votes. Hometown favorite Todd Eldredge was third while last year's Silver Medalist Mark Mitchell, a vocal opponent of reinstatement, a disappointing sixth.

"I would have liked to have done better," Boitano said afterward, but added, "I was just really proud of myself tonight. The pressure is definitely so much more than I ever experienced as an amateur before."

Indeed, Boitano's comeback—or homecoming, judging from the

warm crowd reception—was not to be the easy victory that many (but not Boitano himself) had anticipated. While during much of the free skating he displayed his commanding presence, turning a spread eagle into a work of art, Boitano again landed a bit shakily on his triple Lutz and, more seriously, popped his second planned triple Axel near the program's end.

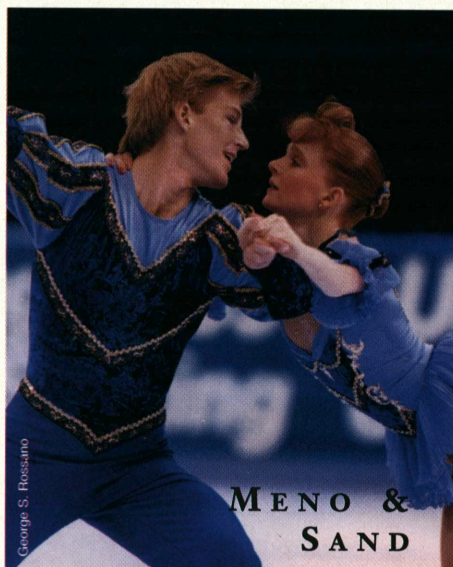
Davis, on the other hand, effortlessly tossed off triple jumps and lightning fast spins, perfectly timed to the music, tiring only



DAVIS

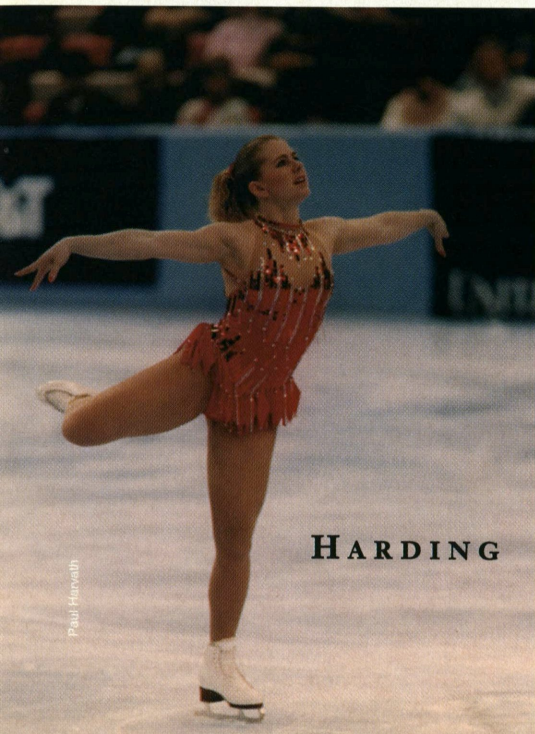
ful delayed Axel.

"I am just really thrilled to have retained my title," Davis said. "It was really tough. Growing up watching Brian, he was the one that I looked to as a great athlete. Just to compete against him—I didn't think it was possible."

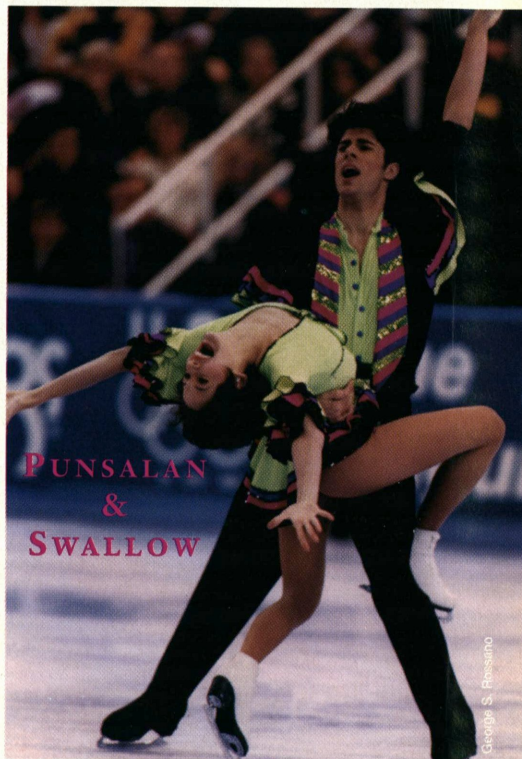


MENO &
SAND

near the end when he fell out of a triple Salchow and doubled a triple Lutz. He retained his national title, in the process becoming only the third skater—Paul Wylie and Viktor Petrenko being the other two—to defeat Boitano since Calgary. A jubilant Aren Nielsen, whose long program last year had been choreographed by Boitano, moved from fifth after the technical program to the bronze medal with good spins and assured jumps, including a beauti-



HARDING



PUNSALAN
&
SWALLOW



For his part, Boitano berated himself for not performing "that (second) stupid triple Axel" and acknowledged that nerves and pressure had taken their toll. "The only time I've said to myself, 'What am I doing this for?' was these last two days," he said.

The dramatics took place off the ice in Dance, the second championship event to be decided. Last year's national titlists Renee Roca and Gorsha Sur already knew that they were ineligible for Olympic competition because Russian defector Sur's bid for accelerated U.S. citizenship had been denied. But even the chance to defend their title and go on to Worlds was not to be: Tied with Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow for the lead after compulsories, Roca collided with dance teams Galit Chait and Maxim Sevostianov during the original dance warm-up, breaking her left wrist. Carried off in tears by Sur, Roca returned later that afternoon to compete, finishing second.

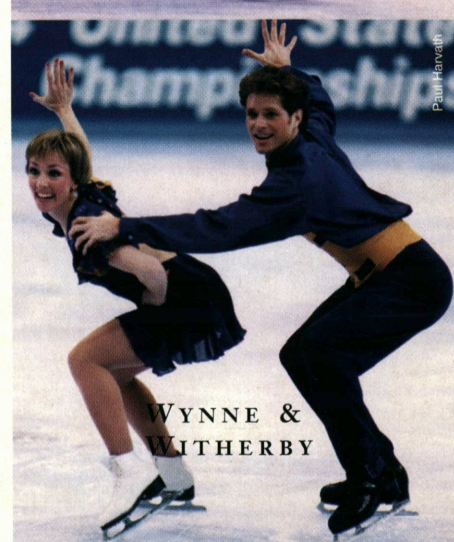
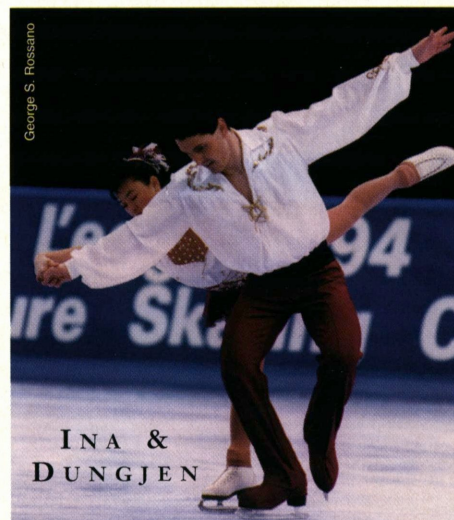
But the pain would have been too excruciating to withstand the rigors of the free dance, and the couple withdrew. Roca then underwent surgery, facing a 10-week recovery period.

The title and the sole Olympic dance berth was ably won Friday night by 1991 U.S. Dance Champions—and newlyweds—Punsalan and Swallow, who skated an exuberant, rule-minding Latin jazz-flavored program. Susan Wynne and Russ Witherby repeated last year's second place standing, while Amy Webster and Ron Kravette moved up one notch from 1993 to take the bronze medal.

Competing in the city where they train, Punsalan said afterward, was "such a rush. The audience was so loud that we really had to concentrate on the program. But the audience helped us

through it."

The pairs division, with its three Olympic berths courtesy of Jenni Meno and Todd Sand's 1993 fifth-place World finish, was contested Saturday afternoon. One only had to watch Meno and Sand's coach, John Nicks, to know what the outcome would be: Rather than tensely scrutinizing every move, Nicks settled back atop a table, calmly confident. His charges did not disappoint. The pair—Sand sporting a black eye received six days earlier when he caught Meno's elbow during a practice session split triple twist—skated with their customary classical elegance and a harmonious flow enhanced by their off-ice



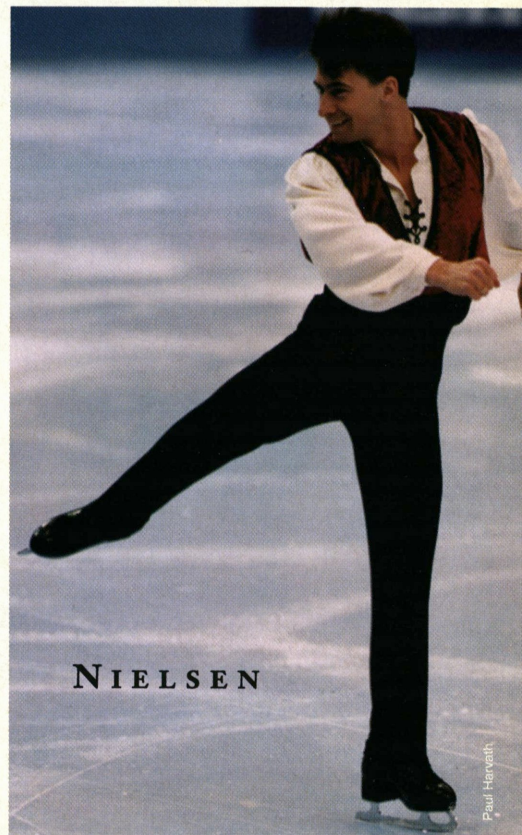


B O B E K

romantic relationship. With a nice throw double Axel, original moves such as a flip-over death spiral and only minor mistakes, they received first-place marks from all nine judges.

Second place was unanimously awarded to Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungjen, she the 1987 National Japanese Junior ladies' champion, he the 1984 World junior pair champ with sister Susan, with a solid performance lit up by Ina's smile.

It was with third place that the tribulations arose. Karen Courtland and Todd Reynolds, in third place following the technical program, skated a routine filled with glaring errors. Courtland fell on a throw triple loop and throw double Axel, fell out of a side-by-side double jump, and then tripped Reynolds, so that they



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both went down. Nonetheless, they were awarded marks ranging from 5.3 to 5.6 for technical merit, compared to Meno and Sand's 5.7's and 5.8's. Meanwhile, Natasha Kuchiki and Rocky Marval, fourth after the technical, skated strongly if not flamboyantly, but still ended up fourth. The decision drew loud boos from the crowd and much discussion among skating insiders. Though a USFSA rule prohibits judges from speaking with the media, the consensus was that Courtland and Reynolds' level of difficulty was much higher than Kuchiki and Marval's.

Marval was philosophical afterward. "Inside, I'm a little perturbed," he said. "But each time you step on the ice you take a chance.... We skated both our programs well, and that's basically what we wanted to do here... to show that we are a contending team." Marval's former partner Calla Urbanski, with whom he had won the 1992 and 1993 U.S. pair championships, finished seventh with new partner Joseph Mero and subsequently announced her retirement.

That left only the ladies to wrap things up Saturday evening. With Nancy Kerrigan watching from a sky box, the competition was won by fiery Tonya Harding, claiming her first U.S. title since 1991. Clenching her fist as she skated out to take the ice, Harding opened with a soaring triple Lutz, but then singled her planned triple Axel. The rest of the power-packed program went smoothly. Second place was captured by 13-year-old Michelle Kwan, looking

as if she were thoroughly enjoying herself, her tiny frame darting across the ice with beautiful triples, other than a two-footed Lutz, and nice spins. With Kerrigan named to the Olympic Team that night, Kwan became Olympic alternate. The bronze medal went to the vivacious Nicole Bobek, who experienced some problems with jumps and dropped from her second place technical standing.

Harding said afterward, "I came here to win, and I did. I think I've proven myself to be worthy... But it won't be a complete title without being able to compete against Nancy. At the Olympics, it will feel complete."

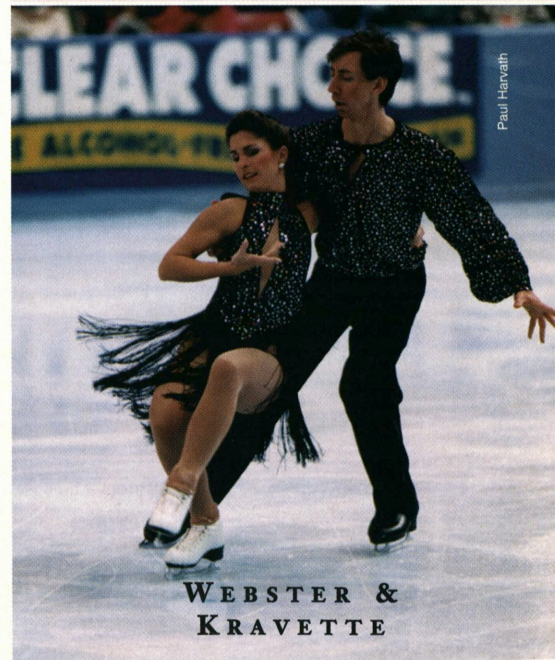
The ladies sentimental favorite, though, was Elaine Zayak, the sole U.S. woman to reinstate and the skater who started the triple jump frenzy among women. The 28-year-old, who was not at Nationals to make the Olympic Team but to prove to herself that she could compete again after some troubled years away from skating, received a warm welcome from the crowd. Skating to her 1984 Olympic music, the 1982 World champion showed much of her former explosive style, completing several triples. Thrilled, she exited to a standing ovation and a hug from next competitor Bobek.

The week ended with Sunday afternoon's traditional exhibition of champions and a closing ceremony featuring a lively production number set to "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." It seems safe to say that when the last skater left the



COURTLAND & REYNOLDS

George S. Rossano



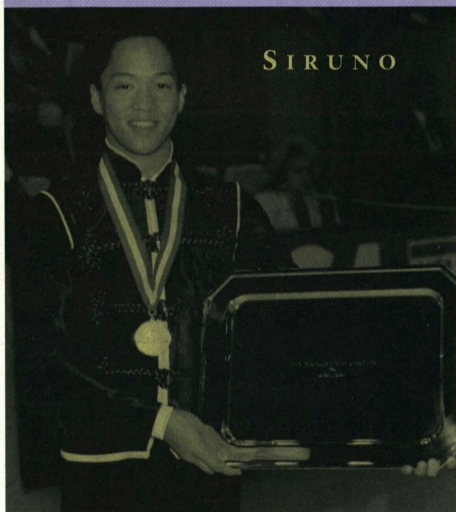
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Paul Harvath

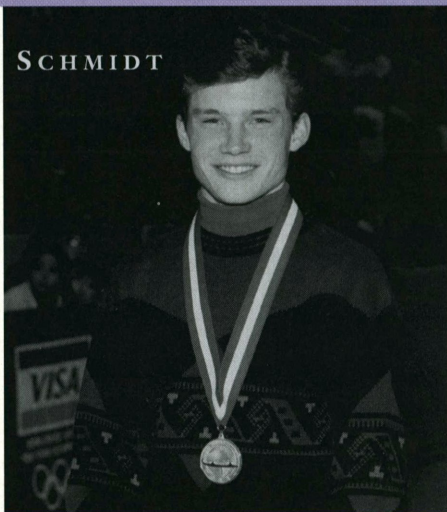
ice, there was a collective sigh of relief that the 1994 U.S. Championships were over. ■

Libby Slate is a Los Angeles-based free-lance writer specializing in entertainment and figure skating who writes for The Los Angeles Times.

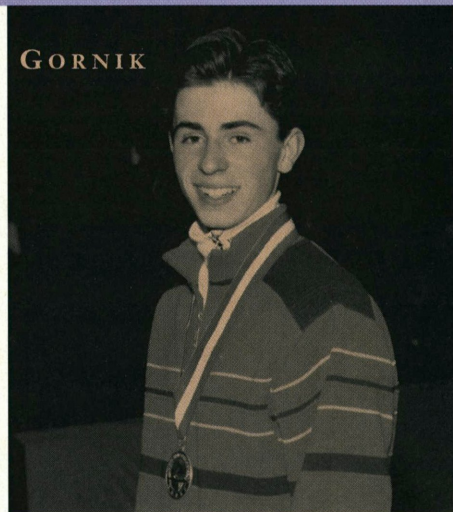
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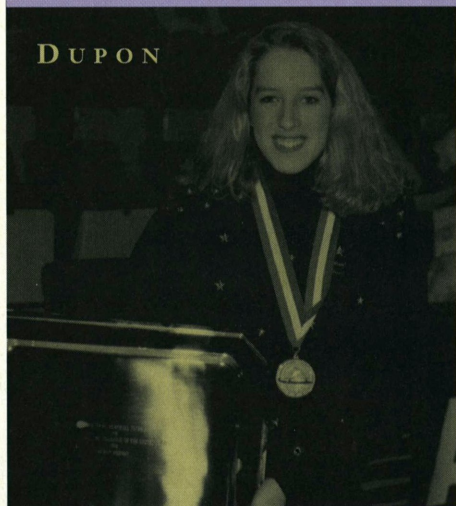
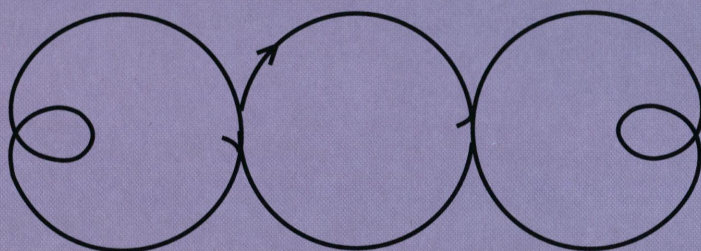
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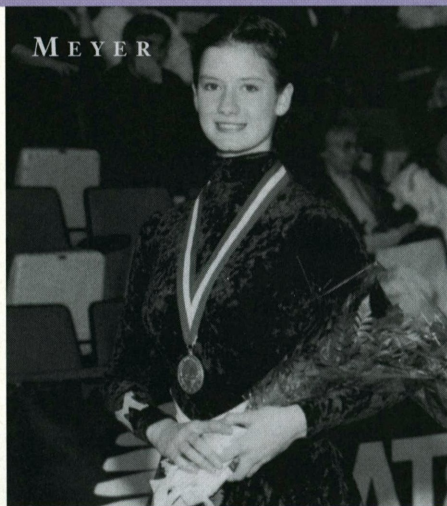
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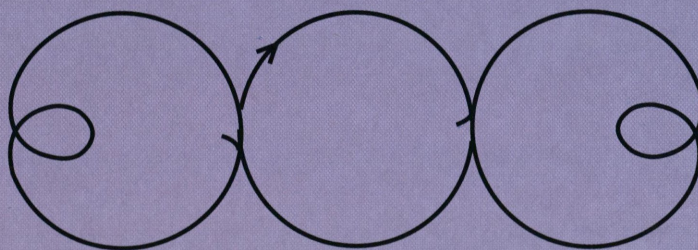
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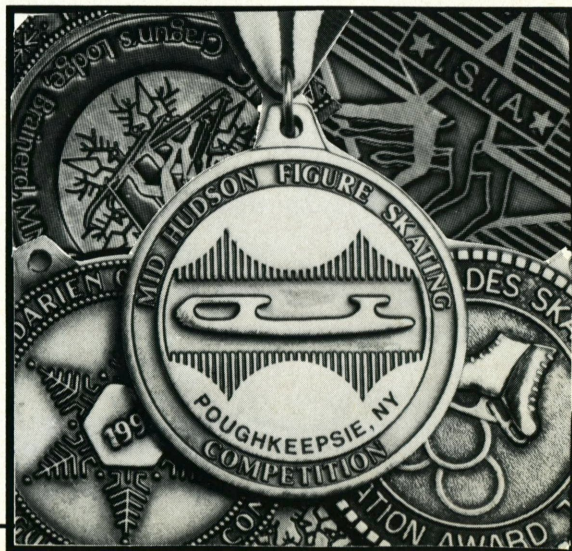
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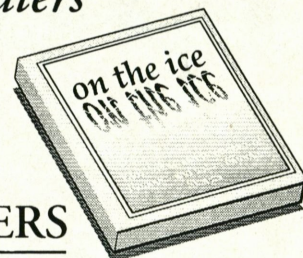
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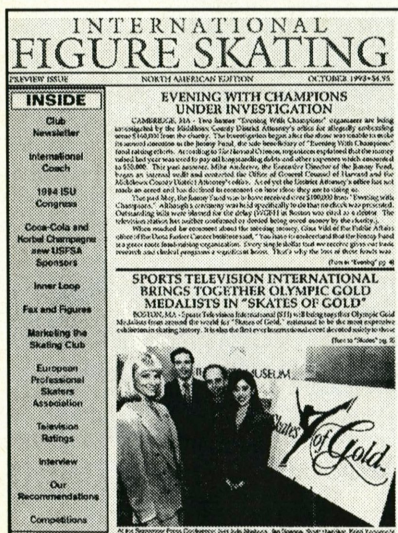
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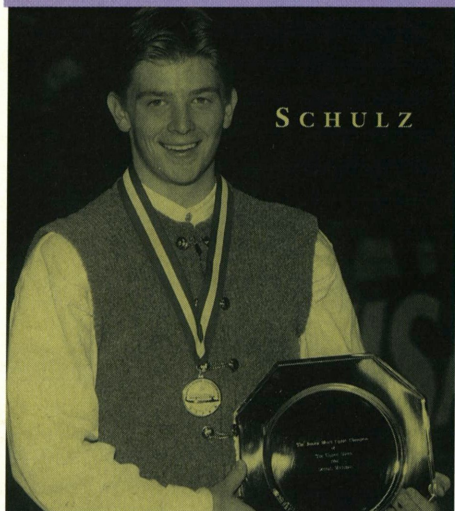
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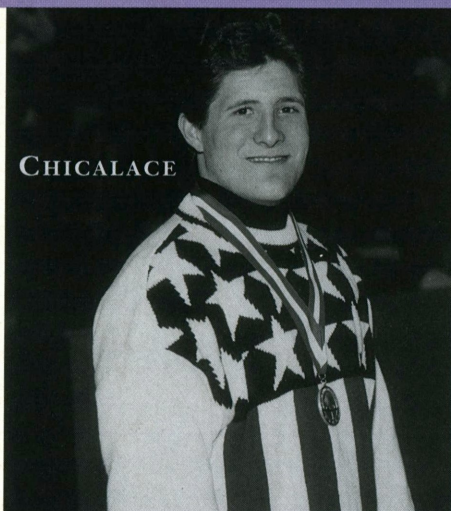
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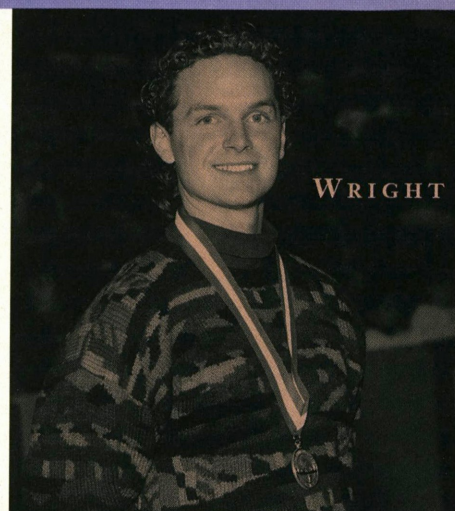
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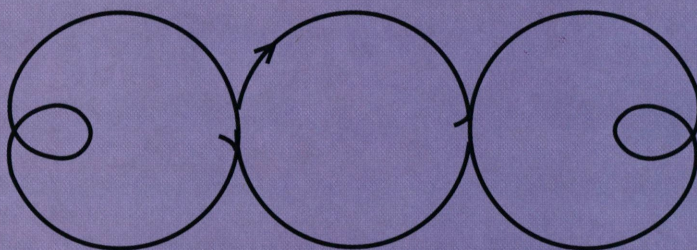
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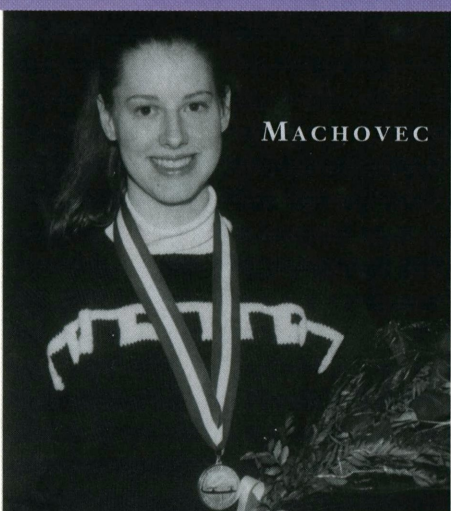
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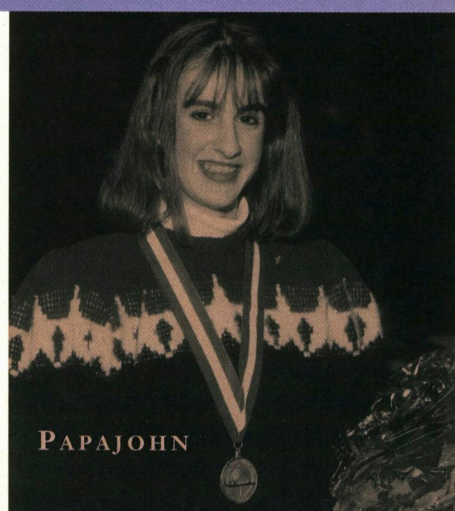
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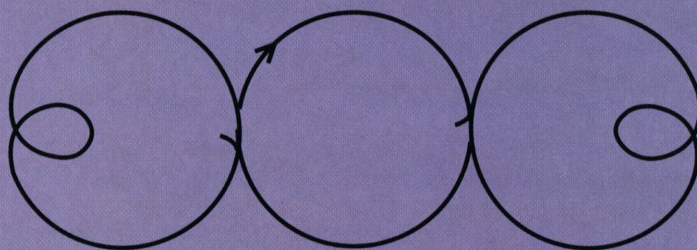
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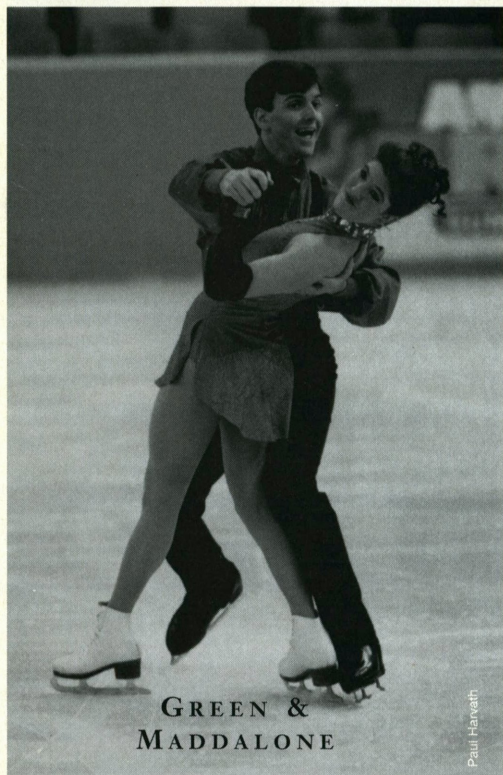
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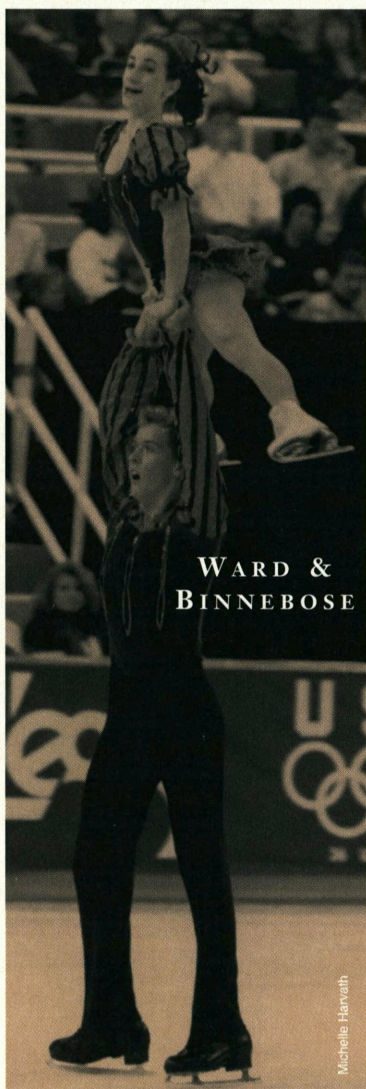
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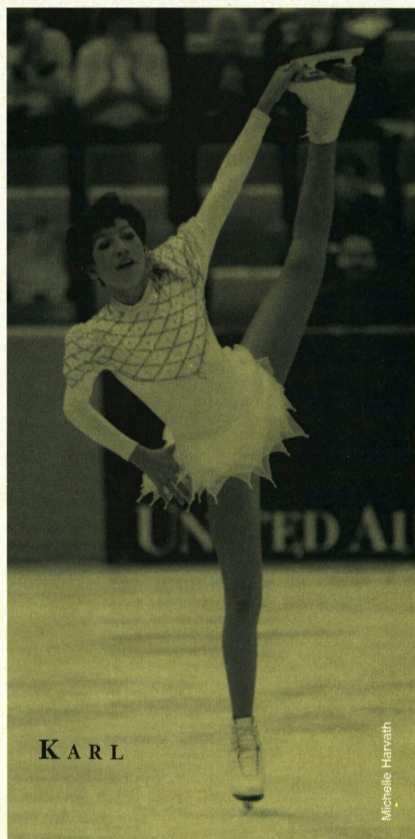
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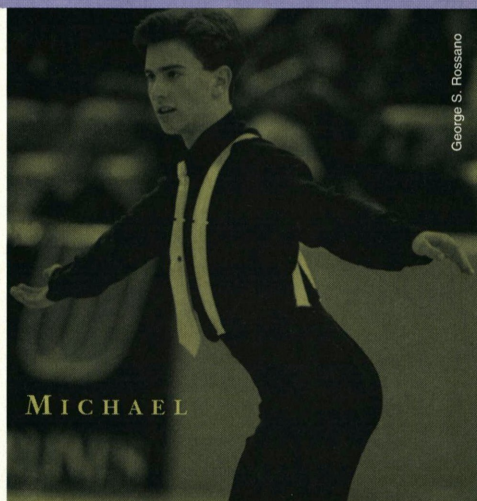
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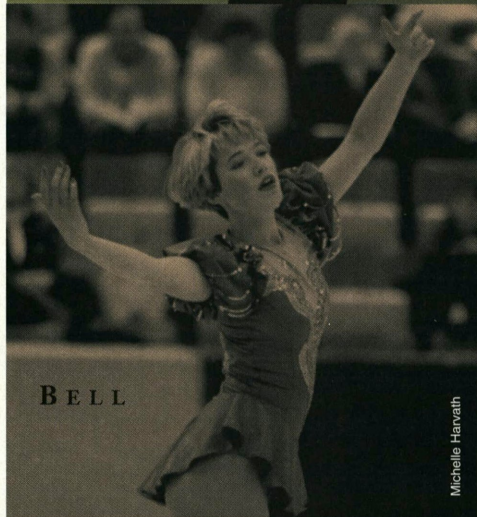
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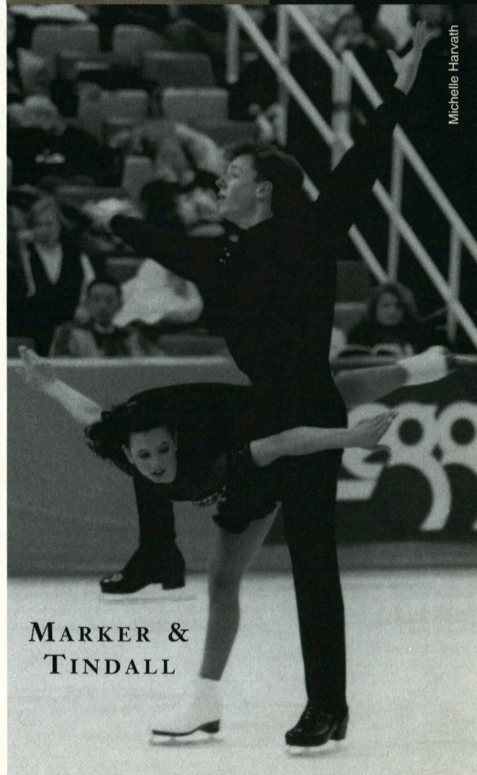
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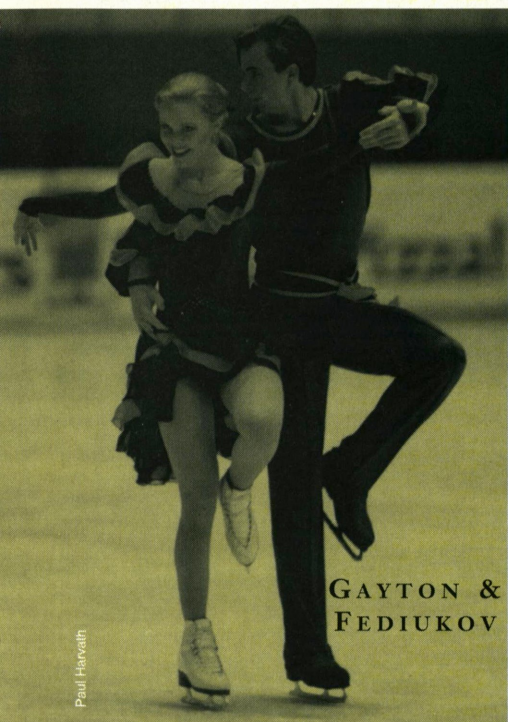
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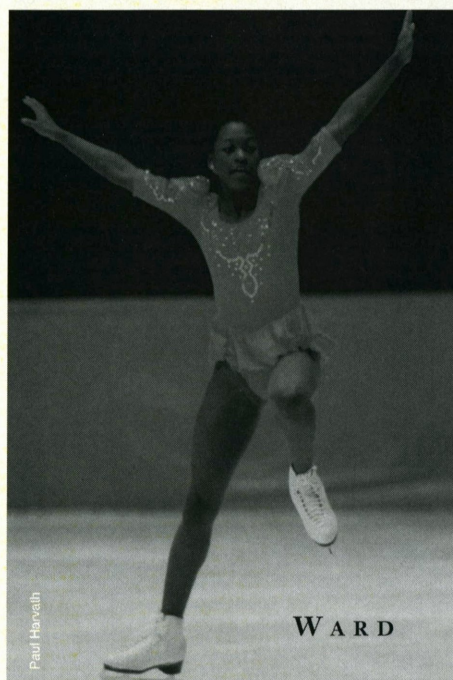
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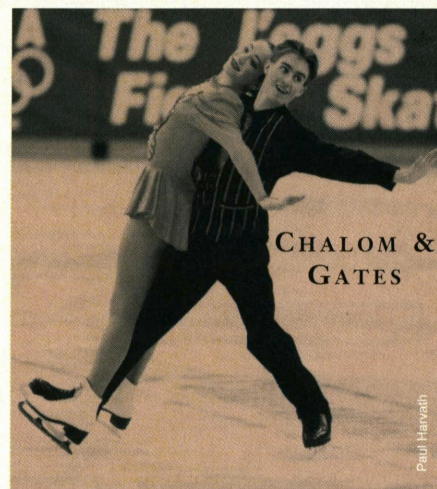
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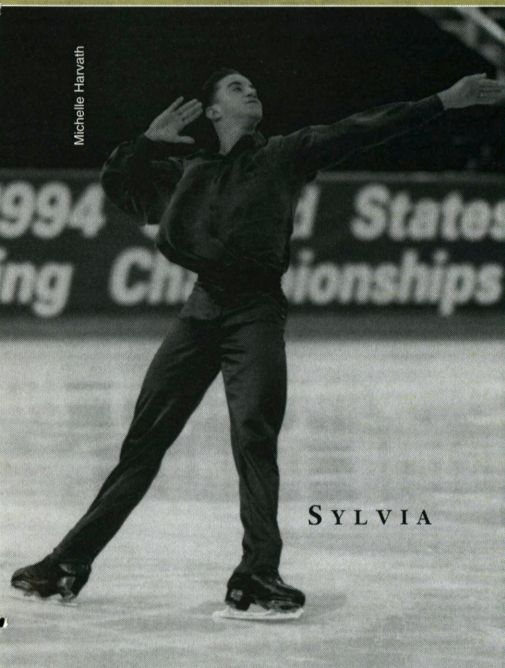
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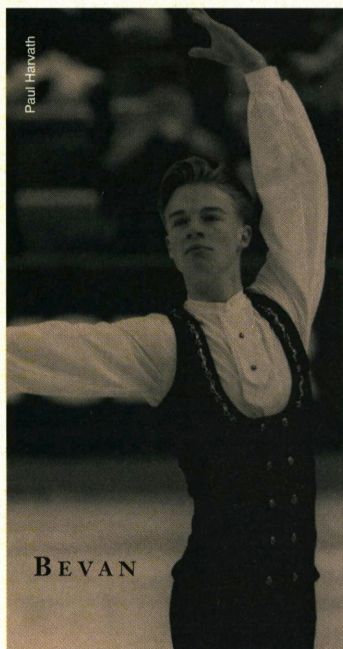
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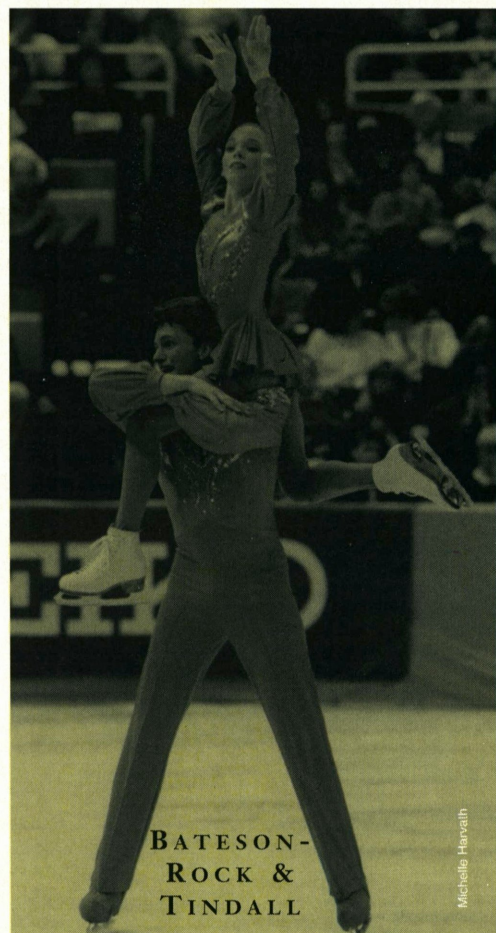
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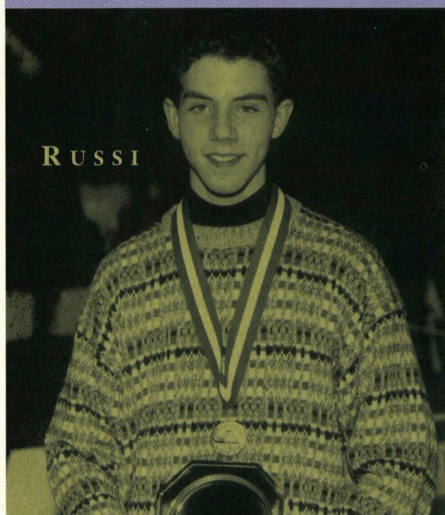


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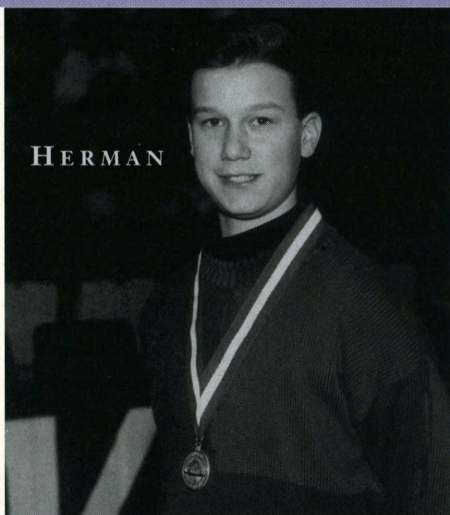
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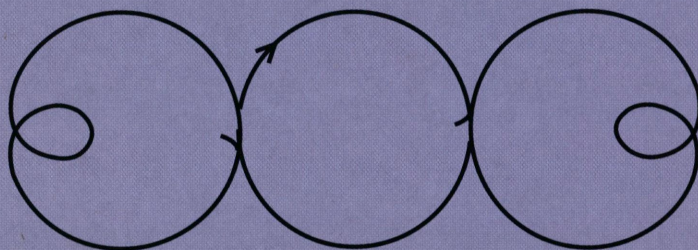
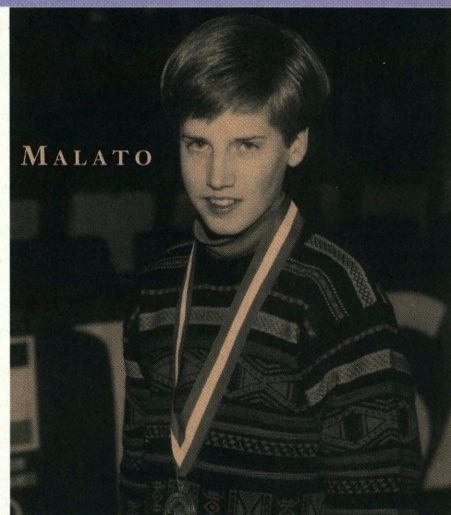
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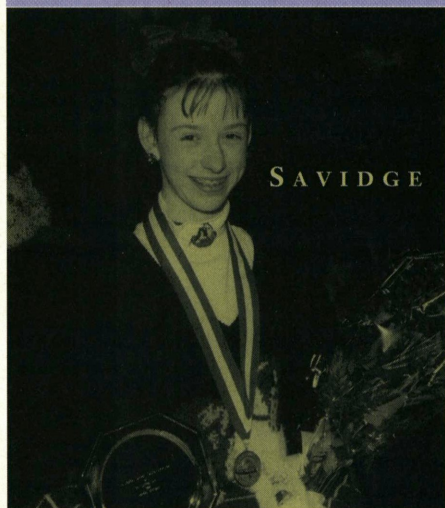
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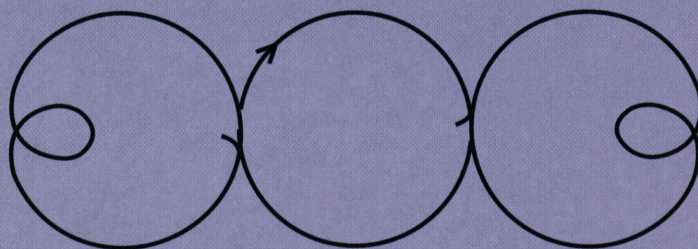
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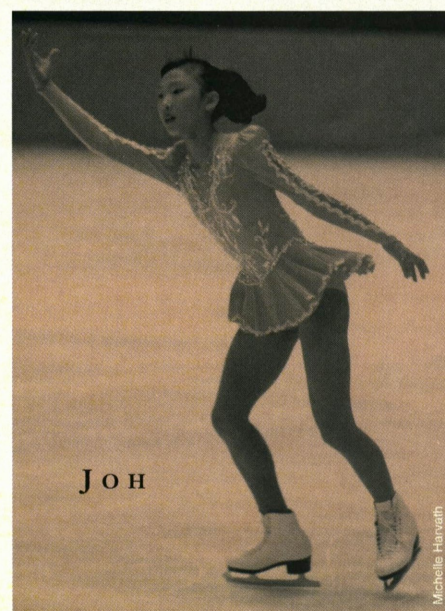
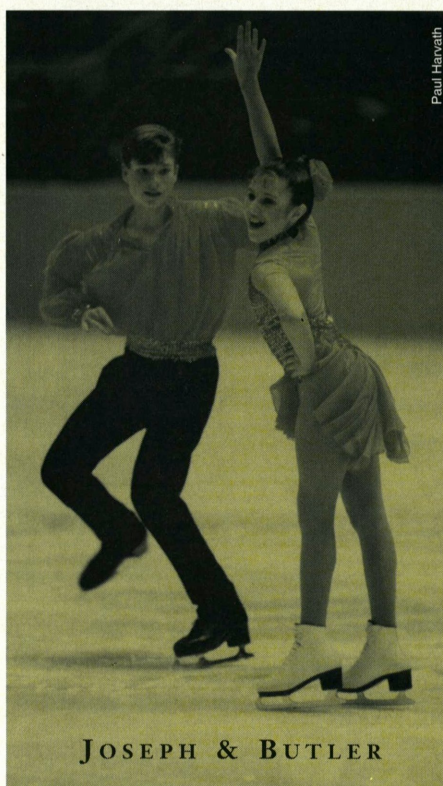
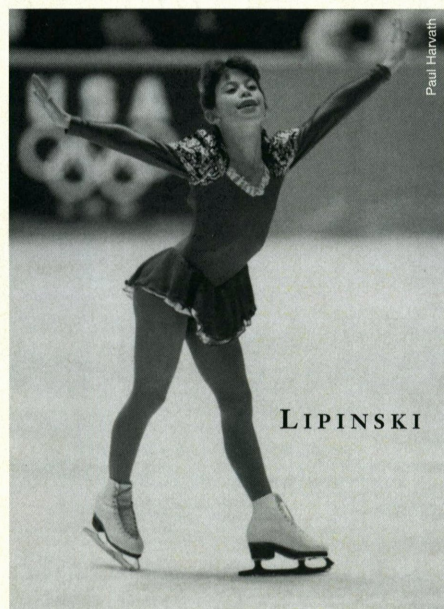
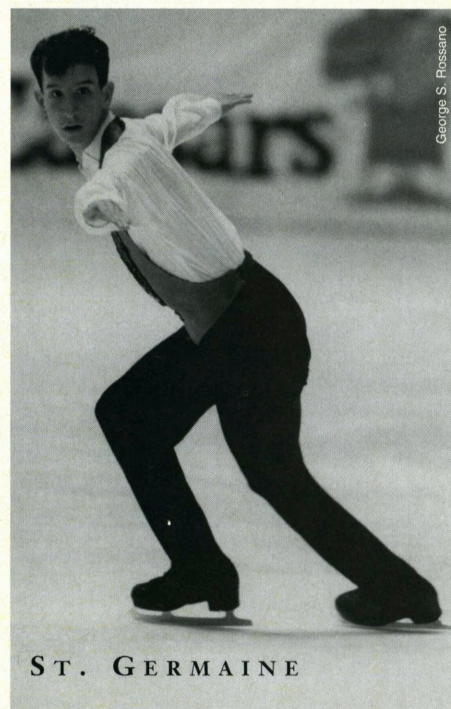
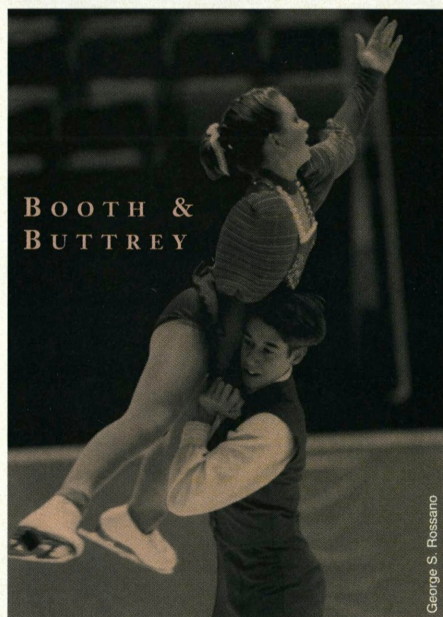
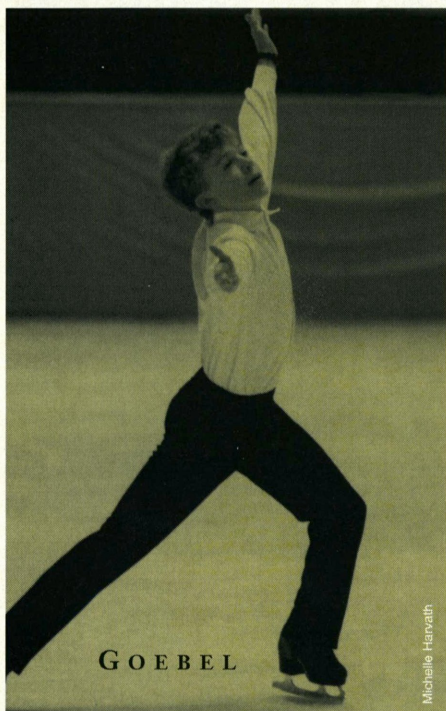


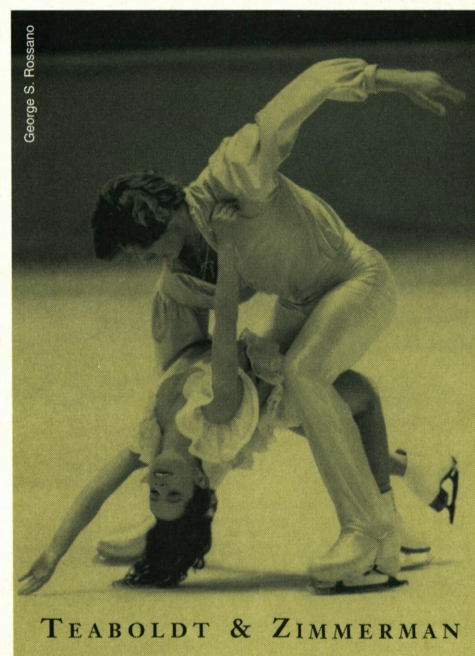
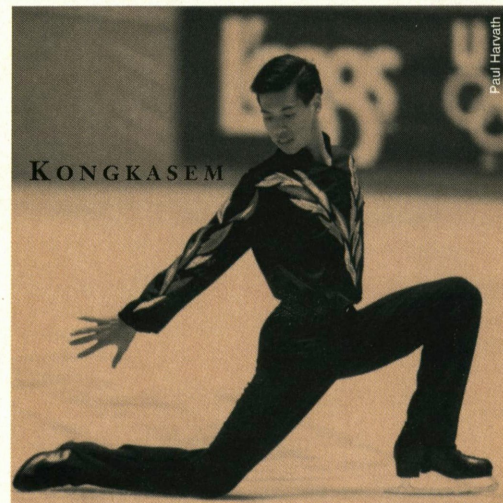
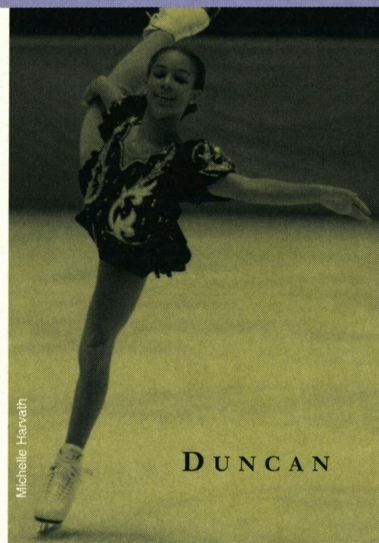
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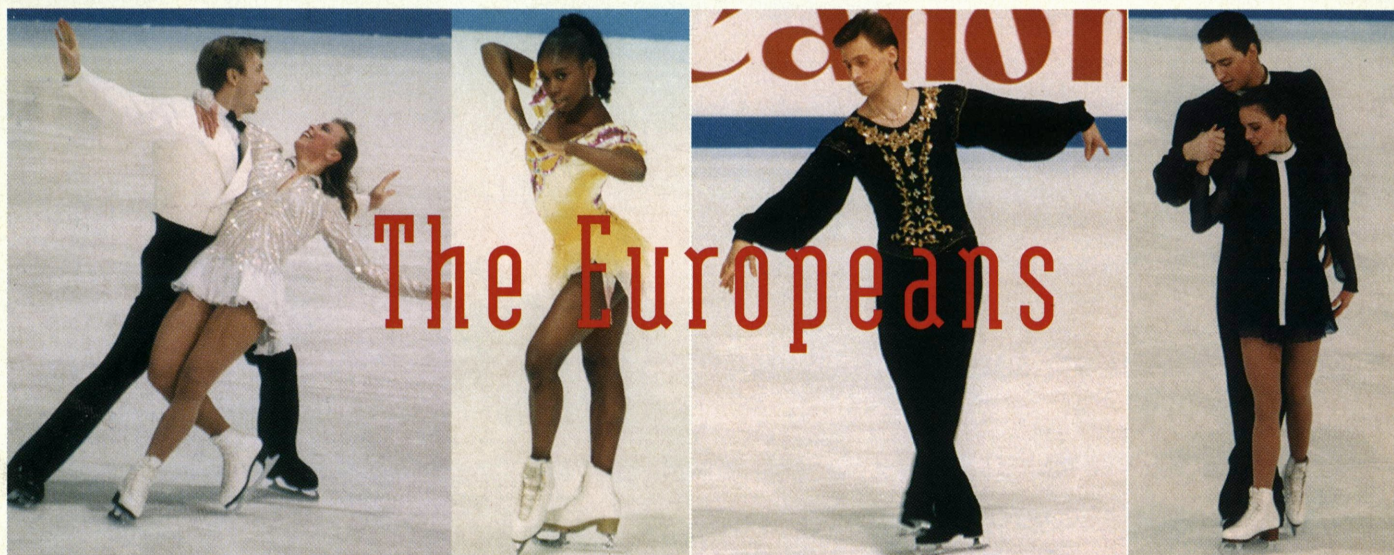
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NOVICE MEDALISTS







BY RICHARD A. SCHEURER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLES C. WHITE

The European Championships opened in Copenhagen, Denmark, on January 16, 1994, with the men's qualifying rounds. On January 17, the ladies faced off. By January 18th, the original 37 men and 37 women from 32 countries was whittled to 24 each. Pairs and Dance, with 19 and 29 couples each, did not have qualifying rounds.

The contests started with the dance compulsories which required each couple to interpret both the rhythm and passion of the Paso Doble and the Blues. Maya Usova and Alexandr Zhulin, skating for Russia, won both compulsories. Their cross-rolls looked slightly tentative in the Paso Doble, but it was otherwise well done. Their Blues number was fine. Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov (also Russians) led a tie for second with British couple Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. A similar tie

occurred between Angelika Krylova and Vladimir Fedorov (more Russians) and Finns Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, for fourth place. With no one in third, and the judges already tinkering over the decimal differences of dance, movement in the discipline was bound to teeter-totter as it progressed. In the original dance, Torvill and Dean ranked first with a rather conservative, plain jane, according-to-the-rules, Rhumba. Usova and Zhulin, with a far greater display of the Latin mood associated with the Rhumba, dropped to second. Gritschuk and Platov placed third; Rahkamo and Kokko, fourth.

By the time of the free dance, the mathematics of ordinal placements based on decimals and percents seemed to have the nine judges as mixed up as the audience.

Torvill and Dean finished second in the free dance with a Fred

Astaire/Ginger Rogers on ice routine to "Let's Face the Music and Dance," and were surprised to find that being number two was good enough to win the gold.

Oddly, Usova and Zhulin, tied with Torvill and Dean going into the free dance, got bumped to third overall, and had to settle for bronze. It was the freestyle win by Gritschuk and Platov, to M. Freedman's rock-n-roll "Hummingbird," that did it; though Gritschuk and Platov themselves only won the silver.

In pairs, the competition centered around three Russian couples; one amateur team and two reinstated pros.

Reinstated pros, Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov, won both programs, and took the gold. The apparent grace and elegance of these two made it all look easy, but they were not flawless. In the technical, there was an uncharacteristic unison problem

during side-by-side spins. In the freestyle, Gordeeva two footed the landing of the second side-by-side double Axel during Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. Were they any different from before? "I wouldn't say we were like machines when we competed before but we did not feel things like we do now," answered Gordeeva. Being parents now may have had something to do with it.

Amateurs Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov were sandwiched between the reinstated couples. They finished second in the technical and third in the freestyle. Their surprise was winning the silver medal over the second reinstated pair.

Natalia Mishkutenok and Artur Dmitriev skated a horrid technical program and wound up fifth going into the freestyle. They stepped out of their side-by-side double Axels, failed to complete an overhead lift, and had rather sloppy side-by-side spins. Seven judges overrated Mishkutenok and Dmitriev's technical effort, but ironically, a full point error (4.4 and 4.7 instead of a 5.4 and 5.7) by the Czech judge made up for it when the referee ignored her immediate and vociferous protest.

The uproar subsided, and by the following day, Mishkutenok and Dmitriev's excellent freestyle program to Rakhmaninov's *Concerto No. 2* moved them from fifth to third overall. Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny from the Czech Republic finished fourth.

In the men's technical competition, Ukrainian Victor Petrenko

made a remarkable rebound from an only fair qualifying round. A clean triple Axel/triple toe earned him technical marks of 5.8 and 5.9. For presentation, Petrenko's stylized skating to Bizet's *Carmen* earned him two 6.0's.

Second to Petrenko was France's Eric Millot, who placed immediately ahead of two other Ukrainian skaters, Viacheslav Zagorodniuk and Dmitri Dmitrenko. Better footwork since last year helped Millot, but other circumstances cinched it. Without his countryman's mishaps, it is not likely Millot would have been number two.

Philippe Candeloro fell on his triple Axel, and later lost his balance on a triple Lutz. Several other disasters put him in seventh place below two Russians, Oleg Tataurov and Alexei Urmanov, fifth and sixth respectively.

Petrenko's free program wasn't top notch; he two-footed two of his seven triple jumps. What kept him in the lead and won him the gold was two triple Axel combinations and a set of 5.8's and 5.9's for artistic impression.

Zagorodniuk moved up to second from third in the freestyle, and won the silver medal; but whether it was his performance to several Andrew Lloyd Webber themes that did it, or the headstart he had on Urmanov, is debatable.

Urmanov jumped from sixth to third, and won the bronze. Millot plunged from second to fifth, and wound up fourth overall; Candeloro moved from seventh to fourth to fifth overall. Neither Urmanov nor Candeloro skated very well to reach these freestyle

heights. Rather, those ahead of them skated worse. Dmitrenko went from fourth to sixth; Tataurov from fifth to seventh.

The ladies' competition was as simple as one, two, three: Surya Bonaly from France, Oksana Baiul from the Ukraine, and Olga Markova from Russia; same order in both programs.

Bonaly has improved. Better choreography and less bouncy jumps added elements of art to her presentation that she didn't have a year ago. A triple Lutz/double toe in the technical drove her point home. Bonaly's freestyle program was a rework of last year's "Four Seasons." Two triple combinations outclassed her competition and paved the way to her fourth European gold medal.

Oksana Baiul's ballet-like technical performance to Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* dazzled the crowd. Her freestyle program, though more elegant than Bonaly's, did not have the same technical difficulty. Baiul stumbled and took a step between her one attempted combination, a double Axel/double toe, to finish second.

Russian Olga Markova celebrated her 20th birthday by capturing the bronze.

What happened to Germany's Katarina Witt was more an embarrassment than something worth mentioning. Her disastrous technical program landed her in ninth place. A largely benign freestyle moved her to eighth in the long, and eighth overall. Marina Kielmann's ninth place spot earned her Germany's second ladies' spot at the Olympics. ■

Continued from page 6

mind Hemingway's definition of courage: "Grace under pressure."

Again, my best wishes to the association and to Nancy in the forthcoming competition. Both the association and Nancy have done much to keep the Olympic ideals alive and serve as beacons for the rest of us during a very troubling time.

William H. Anderson

Richmond, Virginia

Editor's Note: Mr. Anderson is a Policy Analyst for the Virginia Racing Commission.

POST OLYMPICS

Please do not give in to the legal maneuverings of Tonya Harding and her attorneys. She has marred the image of figure skating with her manipulative actions and bad sportsmanship.

This was so obvious at the Olympics. There is no excuse for not being ready at a competition, especially at the Olympics. It showed her disregard for the event, the other skaters and the audience. Are you sure she didn't put the short string in the skate on purpose?

Tonya Harding certainly doesn't represent the sport or her country well. Her filing a lawsuit against the Olympic committee was another insult. I was ashamed to see her in the rink at the Olympics and to see her pitiful performance. It would be a shame if someone doesn't stand up to her and put a stop to her manipulating and her impudence.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Dr. Larry A. Maxwell

Afton, New York

In today's society the politically correct attitude seems to allow the criminal to "vocal" their way around what is "right" and thus destroy decent standards, protocol, and reputations. The people who pride themselves in doing so are usually self-centered, arrogant, haughty, selfish, and inconsiderate. They are not team players and would attack even their friend for personal gain. I have just described Tonya Harding who, if remains unchecked, will destroy the figure skating organization. Her membership should be revoked and she should be disallowed any further representation or association with a United States organization.

The very sight of Tonya has become sickening and my pride really suffers to hear that someone of her caliber represents the country which I proudly served. If your group is unable to control its membership, then it has no real purpose and should dissolve itself.

D.L. Simpson

Longmont, Colorado

Most salient points are or should be made in a first paragraph so here goes. My family has asked that I represent their collective, unanimous view that Ms. Tonya Harding should be expelled from your organization. To us, Ms. Harding has brought disgrace, disgust, and shame to a sport we have always held in high esteem. It is our steadfast resolution to avoid going to or watching any further skating events. Ms. Harding's antics at the cost of her fellow skaters shows not only contempt for them but a willingness to achieve her own aims at their

expense. We do not feel she was a true representative of the United States at the Olympics and should not have been designated as such.

Since my own first experience with skating as a young lad seeing my first Sonja Henie movie, I have loved the art and grace of figure skating. The spirit of sportsmanship, competitiveness, and fair play seems to have gone from the sport if one chooses to call it that. Ms. Harding has placed a very vulgar factor on this event by virtue of her poor attitude, inferior skating, and the incessant manipulative antics she pulls to either forestall the action or prevent it. And on the matter of attitude: Ms. Kerrigan's isn't a great deal better.

It is our hope that we don't have to hear much more about Tonya Harding and her endless antics and lawsuits. If we do, you've lost the Cary family as devoted fans.

A new low was brought to the Olympics this year and it is our hope that a new and higher level of competitors will be brought to future events.

The Bud Cary Family

Oakland, California

How many more "explanations" are Nasty Nancy and her handlers going to expect us to believe?

1. According to a Minneapolis TV sports reporter who was there when Nasty first explained her comments about Oksana Baiul, Nasty said she had spoken that way because her feet hurt. Now she says she really meant "let's get to it and have this exciting time."

2. After Nasty expressed embarrassment while parading with Mickey Mouse, she said she was really expressing modesty about her medal.

3. When Nasty left Lillehammer early, we were told she had a commitment with Disney. Now her mother cites "some threats on her life." Those are very serious charges. What is the evidence they really are legitimate? Who is investigating?

It's not clear whether Tonya Harding is a liar—but it's quite obvious that Nasty Nancy is. And so, in fairness, what is the Association going to do about it?

Also, if it's wrong for Harding to fib to protect her husband, why is it all right for Nasty's mother to tell a calculated lie to protect her?

Nasty has proved herself to be a jealous, self-pitying, poor sport who would rather fib and blame the media and others than accept responsibility for her own behavior.

It's time for Nasty and the Association to face the facts about her serious character flaw. Nasty is not a victim, and it's unfair to our youth to let her get by with portraying herself as such while raking in \$10 million as a result of her "victimhood."

Alexandra Robbin

Minneapolis, Minnesota

P.S. How ironic that Nasty Nancy criticized Baiul for weeping. I remember when she herself cried—and whined bitterly—after losing a few years ago.

The decision to allow Tonya Harding to compete in the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway has prompted this letter.

Continued on page 42

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1994 Royal Bank Canadian Figure Skating Championships

by Peter K. Robertson

The record-breaking cold snap that embraced much of North America the second week of January could not deter the city of Edmonton, Alberta, from setting new attendance records for the Canadian Figure Skating Championships. Northlands Coliseum, normally the home of the Edmonton Oilers, witnessed some unexpected results as Canada's team for the 1994 Olympics was chosen.

Men

The biggest surprise of all may have been Elvis Stojko finally emerging victorious in one of his battles with Kurt Browning. After a fast-paced, exciting technical program that featured a strong triple Axel/double toe loop combination, Stojko was in the driver's seat. His new long program is set to music from the film, *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story* and cleverly makes use of his off-ice interest in martial arts. The result is a sense of conviction in the choreography that has finally enabled Stojko to obtain marks for artistic impression comparable to those he received for technical merit: 5.8's and 5.9's. He landed six clean triples including a triple Axel/triple toe loop combination, but fell from a quadruple toe loop attempt and mislanded a triple Salchow.

Kurt Browning, on the other

hand, effectively lost any chance of becoming a five-time Canadian champion in the technical program when he stepped between the triple Axel and the double toe loop in his combination and later missed a double Axel. His presentation scores were easily the best, however, and kept him in fourth place. He bounced back strongly in the long program where his polished "Casablanca" routine brought the event's only 6.0 for artistic impression. Like Stojko, he landed two clean triple Axels among his total of six triple jumps, although he did over-rotate the flip. The decision in the free skating was as close as it could be, with five judges voting for Stojko while the remaining four preferred Browning. Nevertheless, Browning moved up to the silver medal and an Olympic berth.

The battle for the bronze medal and the final spot on the Olympic team was just as close. In the technical program, both Sebastien Britten and Marcus Christensen combined a successful triple flip/double toe loop combination and a triple Lutz with stylish and entertaining presentation to place between Stojko and Browning. In the long program, the technical merit was again virtually identical. Each landed seven triple jumps in a strong performance, making the decision a very subjective one of personal taste. In the end, six judges preferred Britten's swashbuckling program set to music from the film, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, while the other three

opted for Christensen's "Barber of Seville" routine.

Ladies

Defending champion Josee Chouinard got off to a good start when she landed a triple Lutz/double toe loop combination in her lyrical technical program. She maintained her grip on first place in the long program, skating to Gershwin's *An American in Paris* with a poise and a maturity that none of her competitors could match. She cleanly landed five triples, failing only when she fell from a second triple Lutz attempt. With no mark below 5.8, she was the unanimous choice for the gold medal.

The silver medal went to the fast-rising Susan Humphreys. Although her fourth place in the technical program seemed somewhat generous, considering the fact that she fell from a triple flip, she rallied strongly in the free skating. A technically sound skater with six triples highlighting her program, she is also graceful and elegant, with particularly beautiful arm movements.

The unluckiest competitor in the event was Karen Preston, who just missed a trip to the Olympics. Her solid triple flip/double toe loop combination in the technical program had her third going into the final, with the silver within reach. Unfortunately, although she performed six triples in the long, some of them were landed on two feet and she also fell from a triple flip. The mistakes took their toll

on her artistry as well and the result was a bronze medal finish.

Tanya Bingert, who had briefly retired after last season, was even less fortunate. After a brilliant start with a technical program set to Richard Rodgers' *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* that included a triple Lutz/double toe loop to rival Chouinard's, she could only manage two clean triples in a long program that dropped her to a final fourth place finish.

Pairs

Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, the 1993 world champions, were overwhelming favorites to win their fifth Canadian championship. Their technical program, highlighted by clean side-by-side double Axels and a double twist that no one else could equal, easily put them into first place at this stage. It was in the free skate, however, that they really dazzled. Skating to the same music as last year, this turned out to be the most mesmerizing performance of the entire competition. Except for a slightly two-footed landing on the throw triple Salchow, this was a flawless display of incredible lifts, strong individual skating and musically sensitive choreography. The artistic impression marks included four 6.0's and gave them a unanimous first place result.

The race for the other two Olympic berths, in contrast, remained in doubt almost to the very end. Kristy Sargeant, sister of 1990 Ladies' Champion Lisa

Sargeant-Driscoll, and her partner Kris Wirtz landed their individual double Axels in the technical program to place second. They then solidified their position with the second-best free program. Using excerpts from *The Phantom of the Opera* to their advantage, they brought off two superb throws, a triple Salchow and a double Axel, as well as repeating their side-by-side double Axels.

In third place was a fresh young couple, Jamie Sale and Jason Turner. A falter in their lift kept them in fifth place in the technical, but they rose to the occasion in the long program. Although they had difficulties with both throws, they included the most difficult individual jumps, landing side-by-side double Axel to double toe loop sequences as well as a second pair of double Axels.

For last year's silver and bronze medalists, Michelle Menzies and Jean-Michel Bombardier, and Jodeyne Higgins and Sean Rice, it was a difficult competition. Both teams missed their double Axels in the technical program and experienced further problems in the free skating, finishing a disappointing seventh and sixth, respectively.

Dance

With only one dance team eligible for the Olympics, Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz were expected to have little difficulty defending their Canadian title. However, a fall on the first com-

pulsory dance, the Paso Doble, got them off to a shaky start. They came back to win the Blues and ended the compulsories tied for the lead with Martine Patenaude and Eric Masse. In the original dance, the magic was definitely back and they had no difficulty topping the judges' scorecards with a Rhumba full of lilt and sway. Their exuberant gypsy free dance showed them at their best, combining excellent footwork and strong unison with their trademark soft knees and deep, flowing edges.

The team of Jennifer Boyce and Michel Brunet came back from a tie for third place in the compulsories to take second place in both the original and the free dance, capturing the silver medals. Their free, based on Scottish folk dances and set to music by the Chieftains, was deservedly a huge hit with the audience. Obviously, a great deal of thought and research had gone into the choreography and it was refreshing to see this young couple bring off something a little out of the ordinary.

The co-leaders of the compulsory dances, Patenaude and Masse, finally ended up with the bronze medals after a free dance that was technically difficult and well skated, but less innovative than those of the top two teams. ■

Peter K. Robertson, a longtime admirer of figure skating has been writing for Skating since 1988. He resides in Toronto, Canada and teaches computer programming.

Official Update

Continued from page 15

team members from signing contracts with newspapers, television, or radio outlets that pay them for interviews or commentary. The rule applies to athletes from the time of selection to the Olympic team until they return from the Games.

The USOC enforced the rule in 1988, when it refused to allow Boitano to do color commentary on the ladies' competition at the Calgary Games. It did so again in 1992. It barred sprinter Carl Lewis from writing a newspaper column for money. It blocked basketball star Charles Barkley from using a cellular phone to do a television report from opening ceremonies for pay.

However, the USOC did not invoke that rule in 1994. If it had, the Harding dilemma might have ended at that point. She would have remained in Portland during the Games with plenty of time to prepare for the USFSA's disciplinary hearing on March 9. Yet the USOC didn't act.

Yet there are reasons for encouragement in this painful episode—two of them, in fact.

One, the USFSA hearing panel remains determined to convene the disciplinary hearing. One way or another, Harding and the USFSA will have their day of reckoning.

"We will hold the disciplinary hearing," Hybl said. "Whether it be 30 days or 60 days from now, or whenever, we

will hold the hearing."

And, two, the plot to injure Kerrigan failed. She recovered in time to skate the performance of her life in winning an Olympic silver medal.

At least, in that instance, justice triumphed.■

Mike Spence is the Olympic beat writer for the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph.

Editor's Note

As we go to press, there has been a late-breaking development in the Tonya Harding legal battle. In a plea bargain, Harding plead guilty to the felony charge of conspiring to hinder the investigation into the attack on Nancy Kerrigan, in exchange for a no-jail sentence. Instead Harding was sentenced to three years supervised probation and a \$100,000 fine. In addition, she agreed to resign from the USFSA and forfeit her spot on the U.S. World Team; to undergo a psychiatric examination and any treatment deemed necessary; to provide 500 hours of community service; to donate \$50,000 to the Portland, Ore.-area Special Olympics; and to pay \$10,000 in court costs to Multnomah County, Ore.

The first clause of the sentence with which Harding complied was the resignation from the USFSA which she did in a letter to USFSA President Claire Ferguson the day before the U.S. Team was scheduled to leave for Japan. In her letter, Harding stated, "It is with consid-

erable regret that I have decided to resign my membership in the USFSA and withdraw from the World Figure Skating Championships in Japan."

In her letter, Harding cited the reasons for her decision, "the resolution of my criminal investigation and related matters has made it impossible for me to devote the full attention to my skating necessary to perform at my best in Japan" admitting that "I have a number of things in my personal life that deserve my full attention and I believe, in the long run, are more important than my figure skating." In closing, she stated, "I hope that you will understand and respect my decision."

In Harding's place, the USFSA sent the second designated World Team alternate Nicole Bobek to compete in the World Championships (the first designated World Team alternate, Michelle Kwan, having already been placed in the spot vacated by Nancy Kerrigan's earlier withdrawal from the Team).

"It obviously comes as a surprise and a bit of a shock that this could happen so close to the World Championships," remarked Ferguson. "But fortunately Nicole Bobek has been following the standard procedure for an alternate and is ready to compete in Japan. As far as this matter relates to Tonya Harding, we are currently reviewing the situation to determine how this turn of events affects our disciplinary proceedings and any other steps we might take."■

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 38

I find it disgraceful that the U.S. Figure Skating Association has allowed Tonya Harding to skate in Lillehammer, Norway as a representative of the United States. The American Public expects you to support standards of fairness and sportsmanship in any and all competitions. By her own admission Ms. Harding lied and withheld information, during a Federal Investigation, about the identities of persons that attacked a fellow skater during a championship competition endorsed by the USFSA. This

meets the standard of behavior required of our Olympic athletes and members of the USFSA?

I believe a person is innocent until proven guilty and our judicial system will deal with any felony charges that may develop. However, an Olympic berth is a privilege (not a "right") given to an athlete who epitomizes the spirit of competition. Ms. Harding has done quite the opposite throughout this entire ordeal. I am very disappointed with the Figure Skating Association for condoning her behavior and shirking its responsibility to take action to dismiss Harding from any competitions sanctioned by the

USFSA. The rights of the victim (Nancy Kerrigan), the spirit of competition, fairness and sportsmanship seem to have been overlooked entirely.

As much as I loved to watch the Olympics and the figure skating competitions in particular, I will not allow the 1994 games to be viewed in my home. It seems to me that they have definitely lost the appeal and credibility they enjoyed before the Harding disgrace. Dale L.S. Ambrose
Oxford, Connecticut■

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**BY
JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BERLOT**

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Take an enthusiastic crowd in Paris' biggest arena, a good number of skating champions, one of the most beautiful trophies ever created for skating, and you get the unique blend that make the Lalique competition. Less than three months before the next Olympics, this year's Lalique proved one thing: that returning champions are at their best. Todd Eldredge of the U.S., back after two off-seasons, Natalia

Mishkuteniok and Artur Dmitriev of Russia just reinstated, Surya Bonaly of France experiencing yet a new pair of skates, won clear-cut victories in Paris.

Rather ironically, the four magnificent crystal trophies had been placed unattended right across the dressing room exit, where skaters used to warm up and rehearse. They added to each competitor's motivation.

The pairs competition was one of the best seen in years. Karen Courtland and Todd Reynolds, from the U.S., impressed with their amazing strength and speed to finish fourth. Their teammates Jeni Meno and Todd Sand took

the bronze, right behind Maria Eltsova and Andrej Bushkov of Russia. Mishkuteniok and Dmitriev were a true class in themselves. Not only do these two skate together: they skate together for the same goal, call it sport, art, or perfection. First place was theirs from start to end.

Jerod Swallow and Elizabeth Punsalan of the U.S. certainly had the brightest smiles of the dance event, as they took a deserved silver medal, behind more classical Irina Lobatcheva and Ilya Averbukh of Russia. Marina Anissina and Gwendaël Peizerat of France allied the expressive warmth of her Russian origins to

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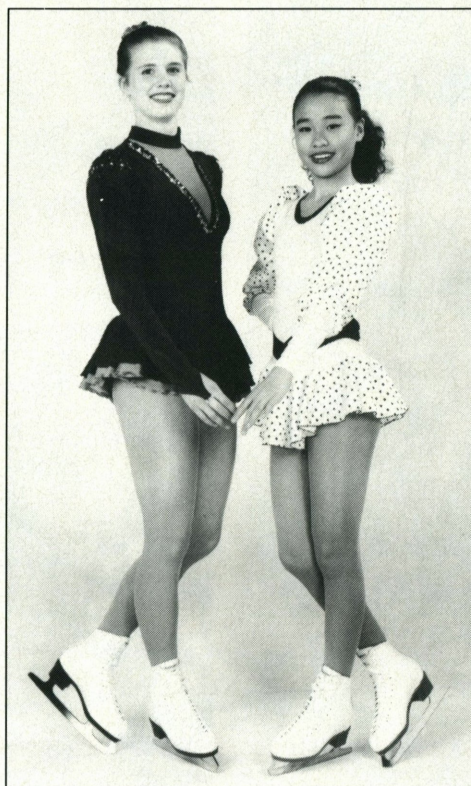
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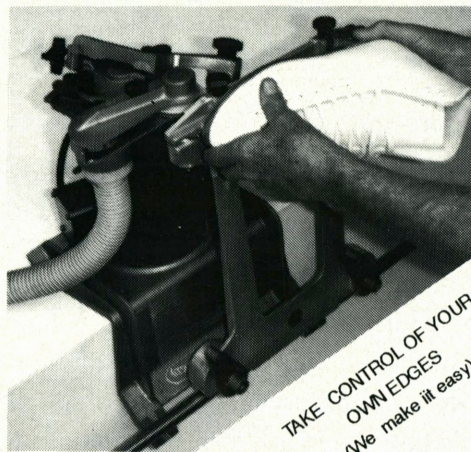
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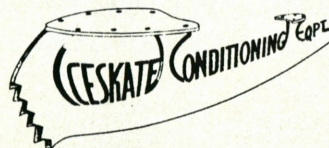
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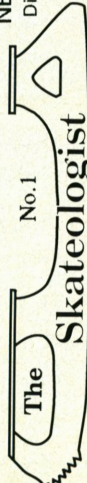


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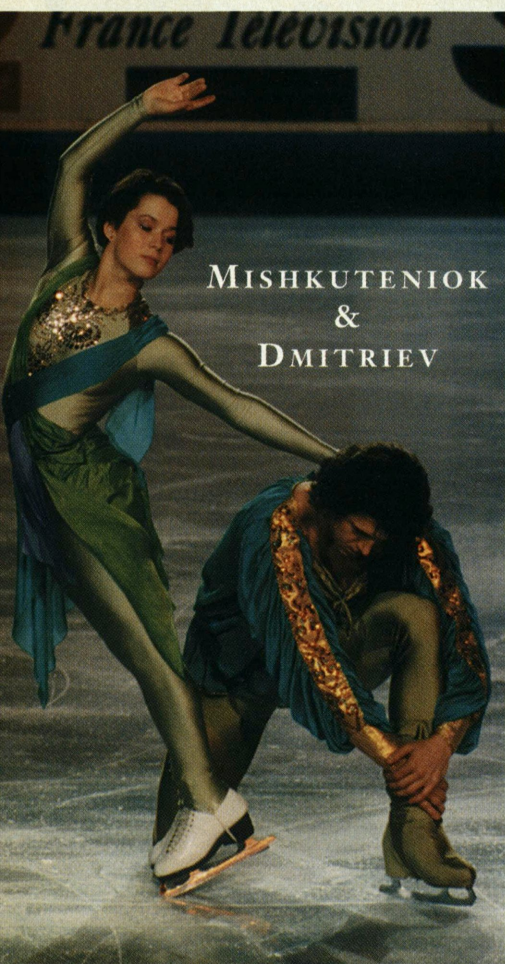
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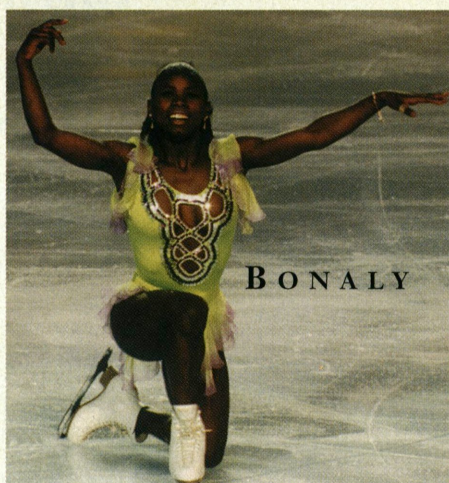
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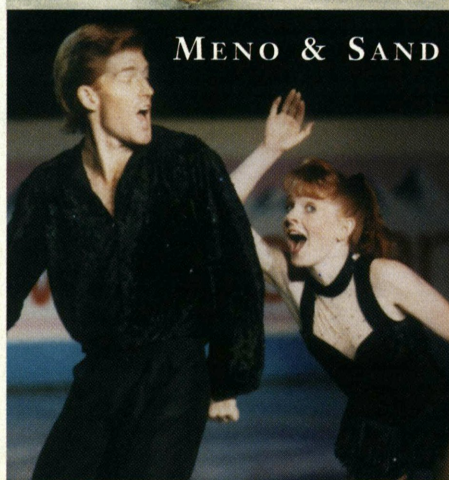
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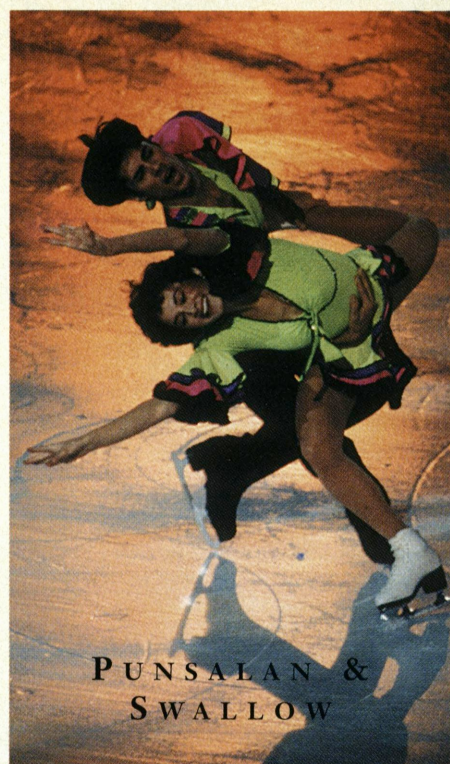
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the romantic strength of his French descent. They delighted their home audience and took the bronze.

Nothing could prevent Eldredge from the overall victory in the men's competition, after Philippe Candeloro of France singled his planned triple Axel in the technical program. Eldredge's new routine to "Charlie Chaplin" musical themes was a delight to watch. Candeloro's definite mastery of the whole skating repertoire led him to a second place finish. Zagrodnuk of Ukraine finished third.

Surya Bonaly won both sections of the ladies' event. Her free program was certainly one of the greatest moments of the whole competition, as coaches, skaters,

and the 10,000 crowd rose from their chairs and suspended their breath. Her 5.8 to 5.9 marks reflected her constant improvement in style. Beautiful Mila Kajas of Finland came in second, and Lisa Sargeant-Driscoll of Canada in third. Nicole Bobek of the U.S. came back from eighth after the technical program to a deserved 5th place finish.

The final gala was held in a packed arena. The newly confirmed champions were joined by the strongest newcomers. They gave a flavor of what the next Olympic season should be: a formidable competition where sport and art will without a doubt be at their best. ■



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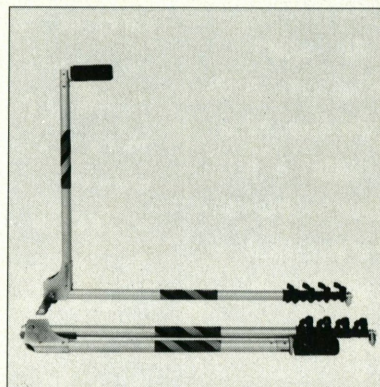
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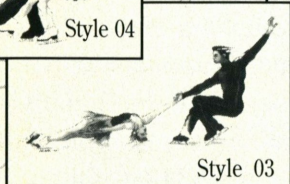
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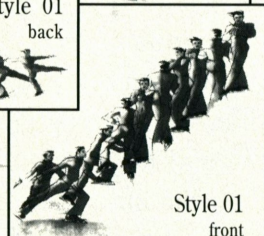
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Selectors Compromise After Shock Result

by Howard Bass

There was a more cosmopolitan flavor than usual when 17-year-old Stephanie Main from Edinburgh captured the ladies' title against all expectations in the British Figure Championships at Basingstoke on December 8-9. Runner-up was Natalia Gorbenko-Risk, with Emma Warmington third after finishing second the previous season.

As a former Soviet skater from the Ukraine, Kiev-born Natalia won the world junior crown in 1986 when two months short of her 16th birthday. Three years later, she finished third in the European senior event and eighth in the world.

In March 1992, she joined a Torvill and Dean ice show and subsequently married its British lighting technician, Mark Risk, thus qualifying to skate for Britain. Now coached in London by a former national champion, David Clements, Natalia aims to regain her old form next season.

The defending champion, Charlene Von Saher, 19, born in England of an Austro-Dutch father and German mother, had looked the likely winner after placing first in a confident, impressive initial round replete with clean landings, but a virus infection prevented her from competing in the final free skating.

Main, third before the final, owed her title chiefly to two sound triple Salchows and the fact that Gorbenko-Risk, after opening with one good triple Salchow,

failed to include her full jumping repertoire, probably because of insufficient preparation, her decision to enter having been made somewhat late.

Steven Cousins, 21, from Deeside, Wales achieved his fifth successive men's crown after taking third place in November's Skate Canada. John Martin, last season's runner-up, again came second, with Dave Ings third, but they were always overshadowed by Cousins despite his jumping a double Lutz instead of a triple in the technical section.

Landing six triples, Cousins ominously performed in the free skating to the *Chariots of Fire* film theme and wore a black outfit featuring Olympic rings and flames. The tall, powerfully built Welshman, after a period of self-doubt during the close of the season, persevered in Ontario under his new Canadian coach, Doug Leigh.

Unrelated to his namesake, Robin, the 1980 Olympic gold medalist, Steven has always aspired to add further reputation to the name and may well do so if able to fulfill the early promise of his strong multiple leaps.

The Anglo-American partnership of Dana Mednick and Jason Briggs took the pairs title, pipping defenders Jackie Soames and John Jenkins, who had led after the initial round. Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred came third.

The British selectors solved an embarrassing problem by acknowledging Main's deserving recognition as sole ladies' representative in the European Championships, but opting instead

for the considerably greater experience of Von Saher in the Lillehammer Olympics.

Cousins was chosen for both events, with Martin his number two in the Europeans. Mednick and Briggs were also named for Europeans but are ineligible for the Olympics because of Mednick's American nationality.

BRITISH FIGURE CHAMPIONSHIPS BASINGSTOKE, GREAT BRITAIN DECEMBER 8-9, 1993

LADIES

NAME, PLACE

1. Stephanie Main, 2.5
2. Natalia Gorbenko-Risk, 3.0
3. Emma Warmington, 5.0
4. Tammy Sear, 6.5
5. Danielle Hunt, 8.5
6. Elizabeth O'Loughlin, 10.0
7. Nancy Manning, 10.0
8. Susan Humble, 13.0
9. Stephanie Walker, 13.5
- Charlene Von Saher, withdrew

MEN

NAME, PLACE

1. Steven Cousins, 1.5
2. John Martin, 3.0
3. David Ings, 4.5
4. Clive Shorten, 6.5
5. Stuart Bradley, 7.0
6. Simon Briggs, 9.0
7. Leigh Yip, 10.5

PAIRS

NAME, PLACE

1. Dana Mednick & Jason Briggs, 2.0
2. Jackie Soames & John Jenkins, 2.5
3. Lesley Rogers & Michael Aldred, 4.5
4. Catherine Barker & Simon Briggs, 6.0
5. Karen Hamilton & David Haywood, 7.5
6. Emma Reed & Paul Reed, 9.0

French National Championships by Jean-Christophe Berlot

Surya Bonaly, Philippe Candeloro, Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy arrived at this year's French Nationals with a solid number of international victories: Bonaly had just won both the Lalique and NHK trophies, Candeloro was fresh from his NHK victory, and Moniotte and Lavanchy had won Skate America and Skate Canada a few weeks earlier. Of course they were clear favorites to win at home as well.

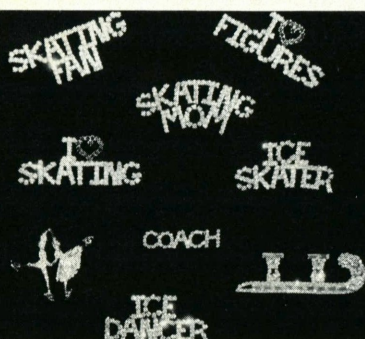
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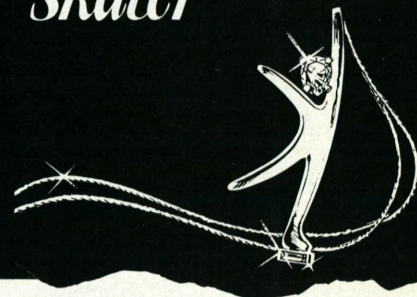
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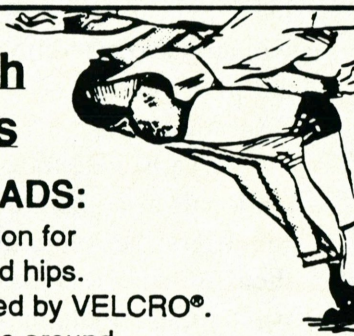
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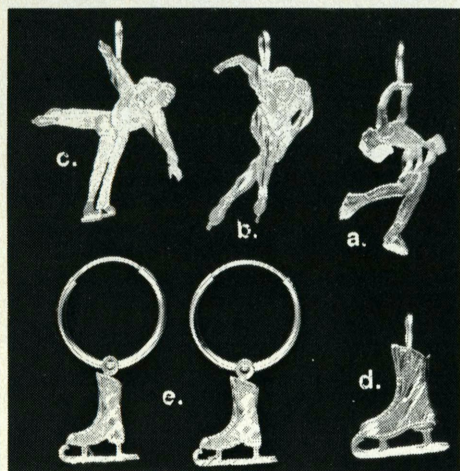
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Continued from page 48

National championships always add that "extra-pressure" that comes from performing in front of one of the toughest audiences that exist—one's own country. In addition, this year's motivation to win was particularly strong, with the Olympic team at stake for the best contenders.

Philippe Candeloro was especially cautious, as the National title had eluded him for the last few years. Both his technical and free programs this time were faultless, which emphasized even more the emotional content of their choreography to the music of *The Godfather*. However, Eric Millot did not give up his National title easily. His true class and precise jumps led him to a strong second place. Seventeen-year-old Thierry Cerez skated perfectly his delightful free program to win an unexpected bronze, ahead of Nicolas Pétorin and Axel Médéric.

Surya Bonaly took these Nationals as a good opportunity to rehearse her program with their full technical load. Her six triple jumps (including a triple Salchow to triple toe combination) did not prevent her, however, from gathering a full array of 5.9's for artistic impression. Behind her, Marie-Pierre Leray and Laetitia Hubert proved they were back on track after their hip and ankle problems of last season. Their charisma and strong jumps led them to second and third place respectively, just ahead of Stéphanie Ferrer, who displayed the most beautiful footwork and complete skating of the field.

Most noticeable and impressive was the improvement all three pairs displayed over last year. Sarah Abitbol and Stéphane Bernadis won their first national title, ahead of Line Haddad and Sylvain Privé.

Moniote and Lavanchy won their second national title in a row in Ice Dancing. Their entertaining "Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire" free dance was a delight to watch, and proved one can keep one's personality and originality even when conforming to stricter rules. They were followed by promising Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, and Bérangère Nau and Luc Monéger.

Bonaly, Candeloro, Moniote and Lavanchy and their teammates will now have to face more difficult challenges at the international level. However, their strong programs and reliability should make them strong contenders to the most coveted podiums ahead.

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 2. Eric Millot, 3-2-3.5
 3. Thierry Cerez, 7-3-6.5
 4. Nicolas Pétorin, 5-4-6.5
- (17 competitors)

SENIOR LADIES

NAME, TP-FS-PLACES

1. Surya Bonaly, 1-1-1.5
 2. Marie-Pierre Leray, 3-2-3.5
 3. Laetitia Hubert, 2-3-4.0
 4. Stéphanie Ferrer, 5-4-6.5
- (13 competitors)

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NAME, TP-FS-PLACES

1. Sarah Abitbol & Stéphane Bernadis, 1-1-1.5
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3. Sophie Gueustalt & Francois Gueustalt, 3-3-4.5

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NAME, PLACES

1. Sophie Moniote & Pascal Lavanchy, 2.0
 2. Marina Anissina & Gwendal Peizerat, 4.0
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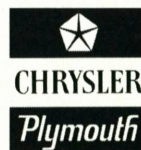
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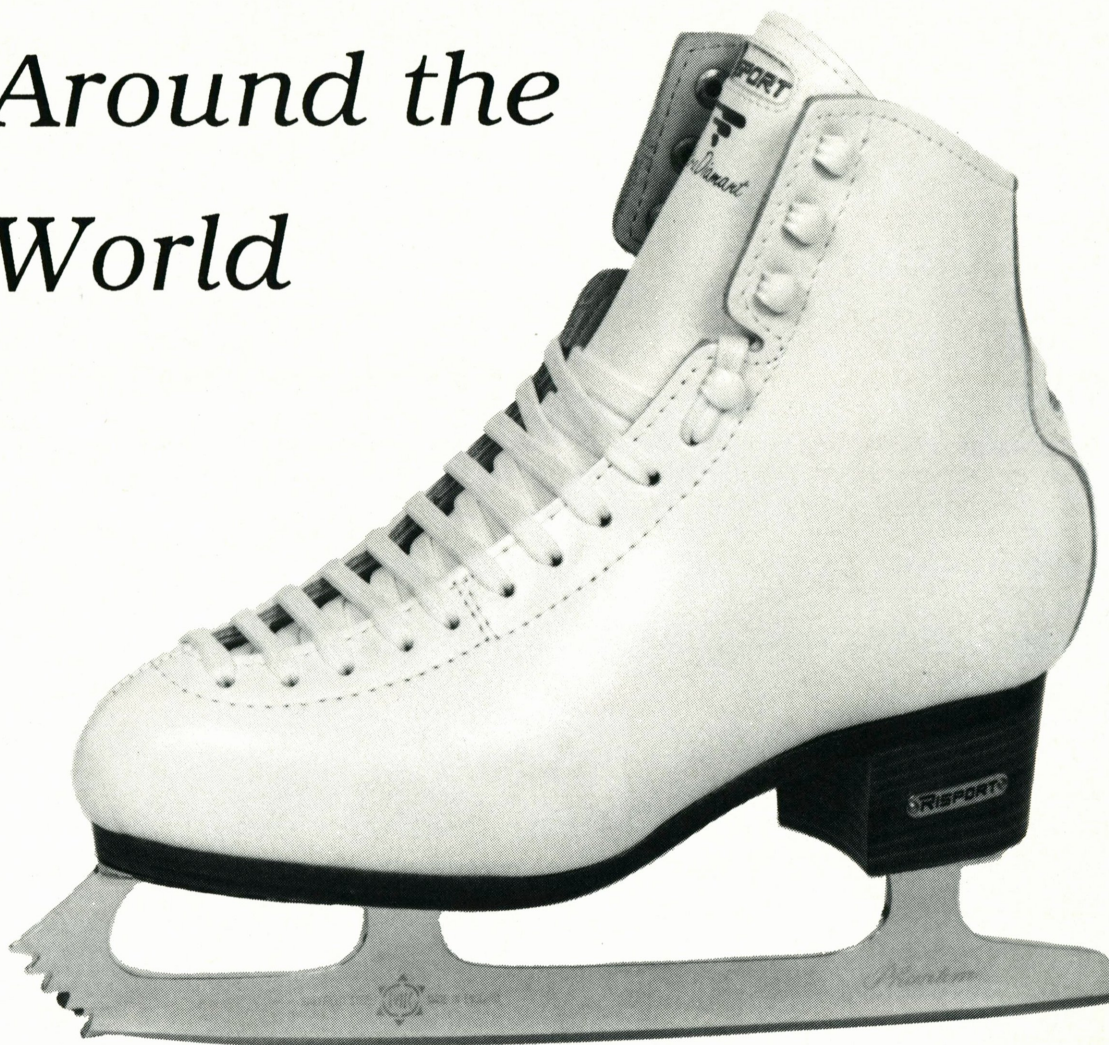
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