

SKATING

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 9 5

The U.S. Figure Skating Championships

The Legends Live On...

- The Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge '94

- Behind the Scenes with ABC

- 1995 World Junior Championships

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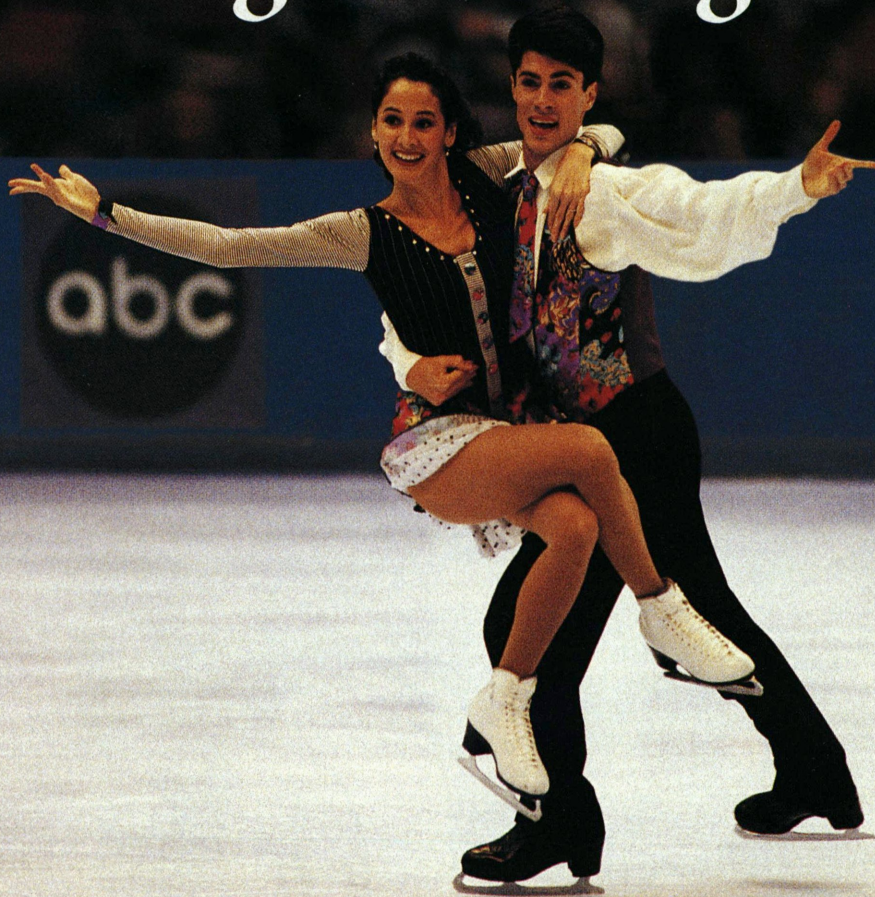
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ABC SPORTS/USFSA 1995 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Saturday, February 11 – U.S. Figure Skating Championships (Men) 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, February 11 – U.S. Figure Skating Championships (Ladies) 8:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday, February 18 – U.S. Figure Skating Championships (Pairs) 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, February 25 – U.S. Figure Skating Championships (Dance) 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, March 18 – Chrysler Skating Spectacular (From the U.S. Championships) 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Sunday, April 16 – Hershey's Kisses Pro-Am Challenge 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- Sunday, May 7 – Campbell's Soups Tour of World Champions 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- Sunday, November 12 – Sudafed Skate America International 2:00 – 4:00 PM
- Sunday, November 19 – Sudafed Skate America International 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, December 9 – Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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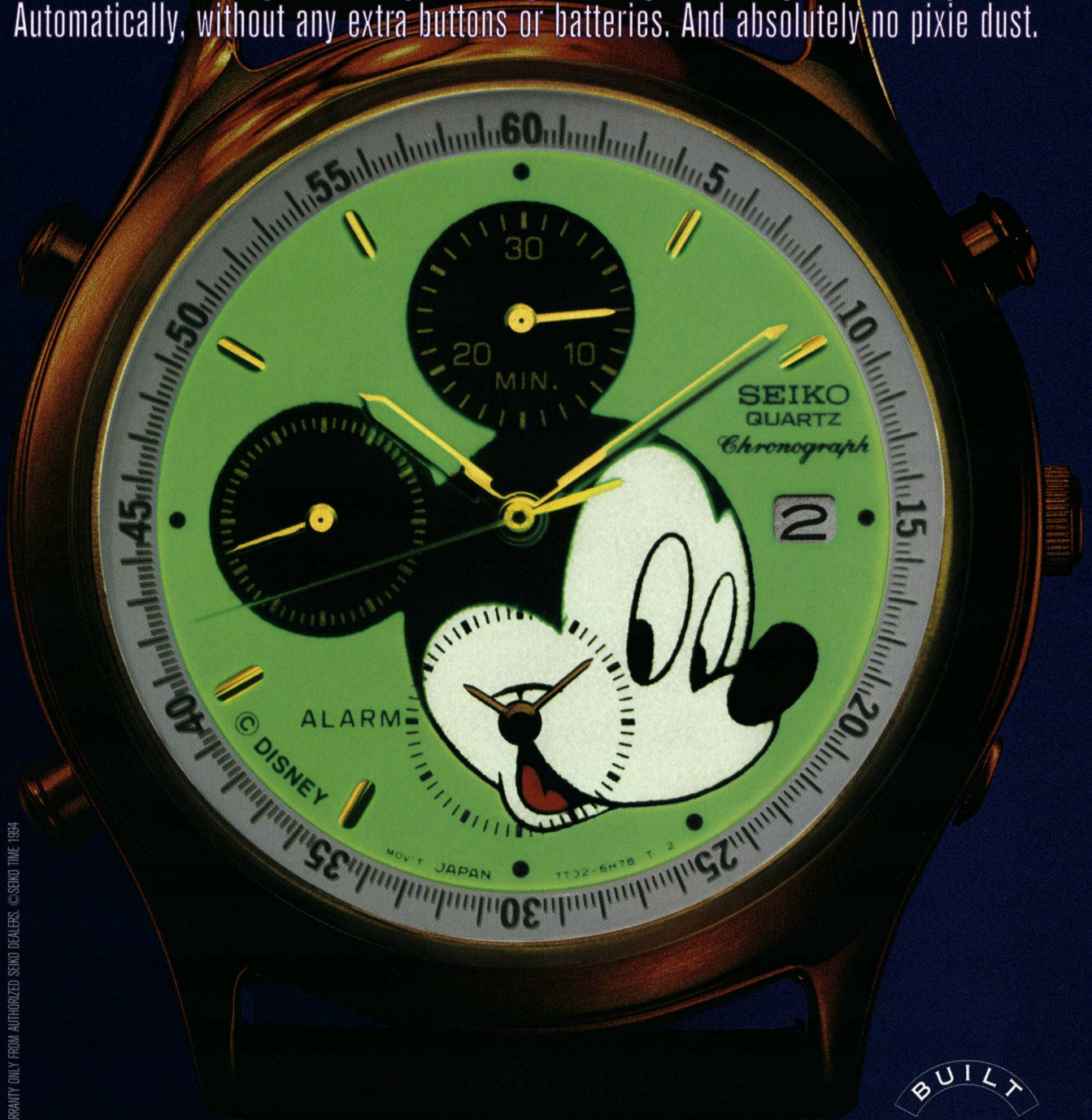
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SKATING

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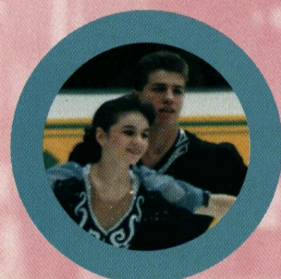
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COVER

This month's cover is a salute to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and the legendary champions it has produced during its 77-year history. PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE WORLD FIGURE SKATING MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME

PROSPECTIVE POLLSTER

Dear Editor:

I've got to tell you that reading the results from your recent poll was one of the greatest things I've read in *Skating*. It was really fun finding out what fellow skating enthusiasts thought and how their thoughts compared to mine. Extra bonus point for *Skating*!

For your next poll, I think it'd be fun to know what the most common age and level (including ISIA levels) of figure skaters are. I'd also like to know more personal information, like how old skaters were when they started and if they're active competitors, other sports that skaters participate in (or hobbies), how many hours of skating are put in per week, etc., etc., etc. (I could go on forever!) Anyway, I'd appreciate it if my suggestions were considered for the next poll. Thanks!

Connie Lee
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Connie,

We are pleased that you found our first readers' poll both interesting and fun to read. We are currently preparing our next readers' poll, but we will keep your suggestions in mind for future polls. However, we want to point out that all the personal information you requested about skaters — their ages, skating levels, training regimens, and other interests — is now provided by our new department, Faces At The Rink, which appears in the newsletter version of Skating. We encourage you — and all our readers who skate — to send a recent photo and a paragraph of information detailing your skating background and recent skating accomplishments to Skating Magazine, 20 First Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Photos should be either black-and-white or color head shots and will not be returned. We hope to see your Face at the Rink soon!

SEPARATING THE LADIES

Dear Editor:

I have a great story for you. I attended the South Atlantic Championships as a Senior Adult Ladies competitor. The person who won my division was my former coach who reinstated. She has passed her Senior Ladies free skating test and I haven't even passed Juvenile. How did we end up in the same competitive category? The rules. It seems there are none regarding competition at this level but, to be eligible to test at the "Adult" level the rules state that you can not have passed the Novice free skating test. Please inform all of your readers who are "Adult" skaters that the tests seem to have no bearing on the competitive categories. I only hope the \$85 I spent on this non-competition goes to feed the homeless or something equally worthwhile. Who knows? Maybe Dorothy Hamill will reinstate and show up next year.

Karen Shupack
Wayne, Penn.

Dear Karen,

First, to explain the situation you have described, we must say that your statement that there are no rules regarding competition at the Adult Senior
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SKATING

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Korbel toasts Eldredge's artistry at Thrifty Challenge

Two-time U.S. champion **Todd Eldredge** of Chatham, Mass., was bubbling with enthusiasm Nov. 30 after receiving the "Korbel Champagne on Ice" award at Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge '94 in Philadelphia, Pa.

Eldredge, who captured the gold at the competition to continue his current hot streak, was recognized by Korbel for earning the highest cumulative points for artistic merit of any competitor at the first-ever international "pro-am" competition. Eldredge earned 80.8 total artistic merit points during the two-day competition.

Eldredge was presented with an engraved Gorham champagne bucket and

a magnum of Korbel champagne. Korbel also donated \$1,000 in Eldredge's name to the USFSA Memorial Fund, a fund created to assist aspiring skaters.

"We're proud to recognize Todd for his impressive athleticism and creative flair — the combination of which continues to electrify audiences everywhere," said **Gary Heck**, Korbel Champagne Cellars president and chairman of the board.

The "Korbel Champagne on Ice"



Todd Eldredge is all smiles as he accepts his "Korbel Champagne On Ice" award from USFSA President Claire Ferguson following the Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge '94 in Philadelphia, Pa.

award will be presented again at the 1995 U.S. Figure Skating Championship in Providence, R.I., in February. ■

Thrifty named Official Car Rental Company of the USFSA

Thrifty Car Rental has signed a three-year commitment to become the official car rental company of the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA), the USFSA and Thrifty announced recently.

The agreement calls for Thrifty to take part in five high-profile USFSA events in 1995, including the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Providence, R.I. The company will retain title sponsorship of the International Challenge, the Fall "pro-am" event featuring international competitors.

"Skating provides us with a unique



opportunity to be involved in a sport that is appealing to all of our important target audiences," said **Bob Dimmick**, vice president of marketing for Thrifty. "In recent years, we have made a conscious decision to more aggressively promote Thrifty among women. Figure skating, like few other sports, promises to deliver to this very lucrative female audience, while maintaining the strong relationship

we have with men."

Along with an affiliation to the sport, Thrifty was looking to build upon its association with the USFSA, Dimmick said.

"Thrifty looks forward to being associated with a world-class organization like the U.S. Figure Skating Association," Dimmick said. "Few organizations demonstrate the level of creative excellence consistently presented by the USFSA. Thrifty is proud to be a sponsor of such a time-honored tradition." ■

State Farm signs on as title sponsor for the 1995 U.S. Championships

State Farm Insurance Companies have reached an agreement with the United States Figure Skating Association to become title sponsor for the 1995 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the USFSA announced recently.

The 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, featuring more than 700 of the nation's top young figure skaters, is slated for Feb. 6-12 in Providence, R.I.



"State Farm has a history of supporting sports and with its high level of commitment it is a natural fit for them to sponsor an event with the prestige of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships," said USFSA President **Claire Ferguson**. "We

hope this marks the beginning of a lasting and successful relationship between the USFSA and State Farm."

State Farm's commitment to the sport of figure skating and the USFSA will continue well past the U.S. Championships. The insurance company became an official sponsor under the joint marketing program developed by the USFSA and ABC Sports, and will extend its commitment to the USFSA through 1996. ■

Names In The News

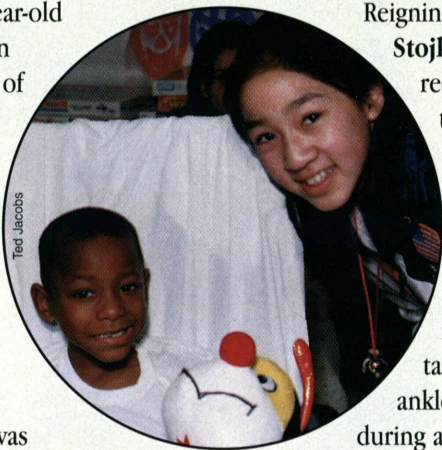
Kwan lifts spirits at LA children's hospital; Stojko recovering from recent ankle injury

Fourteen-year-old skating sensation **Michelle Kwan** of Torrance, Calif., recently played the role of Santa's helper when she made a Dec. 16 visit to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Kwan was there to donate and distribute dozens of stuffed animals to the hospital's young patients.

The animals were part of Kwan's personal collection from fans who toss them onto the ice following each of her performances. Kwan appreciates the animals that her fans have given her, but said she realizes that the young patients at the Children's Hospital need them more.

"I love all the stuffed animals that I've been given...they really mean a lot to me," she said. "But, I wanted to share them with other children who could enjoy them as much as I have. After all, when you're sick, there's nothing like cuddling with your favorite bear or bunny."

Kwan says she will continue to donate her stuffed animals to CHLA on a regular basis. "So, from now on when people give me a stuffed animal, they're not only making me happy, but they'll be making a lot of other people happy too!" ■



Ted Jacobs

Michelle Kwan's newest fan, Timothy, enjoys the stuffed animal that Michelle gave him during her recent visit to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Reigning world champion **Elvis Stojko** of Canada currently is recovering from an ankle injury that forced him to withdraw from the 1995 Canadian National Championships, Jan 11-15, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Stojko sustained the injury — a sprain of the talofibular ligament in his right ankle — when he hit the boards during an attempted triple Axel take-off in a Jan. 10 practice session. Three days later, Stojko skated onto the ice for the warm-up prior to the mens' short program, but determined he was not fit for competition and formally withdrew.

With Stojko out of the competition, **Sébastien Britten**, the bronze medalist at the 1994 Canadians, went on to win the men's title. Following the competition, Stojko was among those selected by the Canadian Figure Skating Association Board of Directors to represent Canada at the 1995 World Championships, March 6-12, in Birmingham, Great Britain. ■

The curtain has prematurely closed on the Ice Capades' production "Hansel and Gretel," starring 1976 Olympic gold medalist **Dorothy Hamill**, and an announcement of a restructuring of Ice Capades management is expected in the near future, according to a spokesman for 1976 Olympic gold medalist Dorothy Hamill and her company Dorothy Hamill

International.

Hamill and her husband, **Dr. Kenneth Forsythe**, had produced the theatrical presentations since purchasing the 55-year-old Ice Capades in 1993.

Hamill's sale of Ice Capades to International Family Entertainment, a Virginia-based entertainment conglomerate founded by televangelist and former presidential candidate **Pat Robertson**, was announced last summer. Under those arrangements, Hamill and Forsythe were to remain producers of the Ice Capades shows. Details of a new management structure were not disclosed by either Hamill's spokesperson or IFE.

Hamill has said recently that she will discontinue touring, but will continue to make special skating appearances. ■

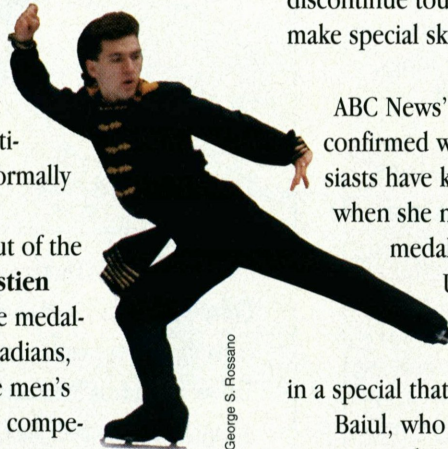
ABC News' **Barbara Walters** recently confirmed what figure skating enthusiasts have known for some time when she named Olympic gold medalist **Oksana Baiul** of Ukraine one of her "10 Most Fascinating People of 1994"

in a special that aired Dec. 13.

Baiul, who spoke in her interview of winning the gold medal at the 1994 Olympic Winter Games and of her memories of

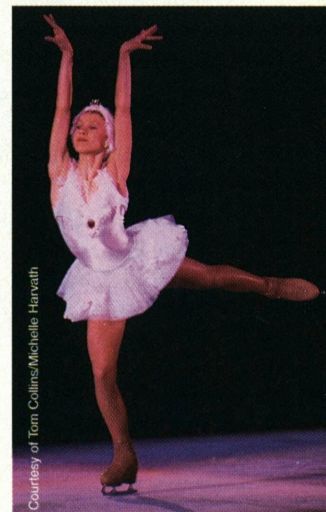
her family and late mother, joined the likes of former President **Jimmy Carter**, entertainer **Barbra Streisand** and South African president **Nelson Mandela** in making the list of 1994 notables. ■

Oksana Baiul



George S. Rossano

Elvis Stojko



Courtesy of Tom Collins/Michelle Harvath

Entry deadline approaches for 1995 U.S. Adult Championships

This year marks the first time adult-level skaters will be able to compete in their own separate national championships. The 1995 U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships will be held on April 21-23, 1995, in Wilmington, Del. The deadline for entries is March 15. Free skating events in three categories — Bronze, Silver and Gold — as well as Figure, Pair and Dance events will be among those contested. The championships are open to all eligible skaters age 25 and over.

For entry fees, qualifications, and event information, interested adult skaters should contact the United States Figure Skating Association, 20 First Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, 719-635-5200. ■

Miami U. establishes memorial precision scholarship

Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, has established a Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of **Thomas Fisher**, father of Miami Precision Team Coach and USFSA Board of Directors Member **Vicki Korn**. Fisher died Dec. 17 in Spokane, Wash., following a brief illness.

Fisher was noted for being very supportive of his daughter's skating and the efforts of his daughter and Miami University to further the growth and development of precision skating. It is hoped that enough money may be raised to award an annual scholarship to a deserving skater.

Tax-deductible contributions to the newly established fund may be made to: The Thomas Fisher Fund, Miami University, Panuska Development Center, Oxford, Ohio 45056. ■

1996 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



◆ All Event Ticket Packages will go on sale March 1, 1995 by mail order only. Orders received by mail on or after March 1, 1995 will be assigned seats on a first come, first served basis. ◆ All Event Ticket Packages will include Ladies, Mens and Pairs Technical and Free Programs and Compulsory, Original and Free Dance as well as a general admission pass to both the Coliseum and Agricor for practice sessions. The "Parade of Champions" Exhibition on Sunday March 24, 1996 is not included in the All Event Package but may be purchased as an extra at the time of purchase of the All Event Ticket Packages.

◆ Ticket prices in Canadian Dollars are as follows:

	All Event Ticket Packages	Exhibition
Rows 1-24	\$400	\$50
Rows 25-41	\$200	\$35
Rows 42-53	\$150	\$20

◆ Payment will be accepted by cheque, VISA, MasterCard or American Express and should be mailed to:

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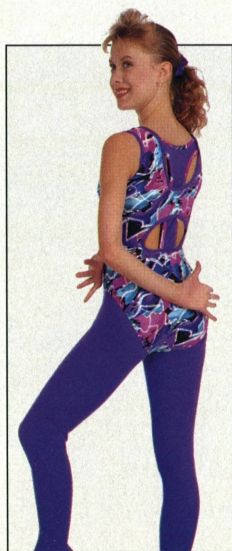
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The 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships

For 77 of the past 80 years, The U.S. Figure Skating Championships have served the dual purpose of being a coronation ceremony for an entire class of U.S. champions, while also showcasing the rising talent in the sport.

Both functions will be in full display, Feb. 6-12, when more than 300 of the United States' top figure skaters converge on Providence, R.I., for the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

This 78th edition of the annual assemblage will be the third to be held in Providence — site of the 1930 and 1974 Championships.

By week's end, 18 national championships will have been decided from the 300-plus competitors. Additionally, 10 senior skaters (two ladies, two men, two pairs and one dance couple) will have qualified to represent the United States at the World Figure Skating Championships, March 6-12, in Birmingham, England.

Following are brief overviews of the senior ladies', mens', pairs and dance divisions, along with complete listings of all senior figures, junior and novice competitors that will comprise the entire field for the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Ladies

Few will soon forget the bizarre incidents surrounding the ladies' competition at the 1994 U.S. Championships, but the crowning of the 1995 U.S. ladies' champion will go a long way toward relegating the

events of the past year to the history books.

One of the leading contenders to rightfully assume the U.S. ladies' title in Providence will be 14-year-old Michelle Kwan of Torrance, Calif., who has registered five consecutive medal finishes in major international competitions since earning the silver medal at last year's U.S. Championships. If Kwan were to win the U.S. title at this year's Championships, she would become the youngest woman to accomplish the feat in the history of the sport — edging 1969 U.S. titlist Janet Lynn by three months to the day.

If Kwan is to enter the record books, she will need to outskate another experienced teenager, Nicole Bobek of Chicago, Ill., who skated to a bronze medal at the '94 U.S. Championships. Bobek, 17, has undergone two coaching changes since last year's Nationals, but appears to be regaining her competitive focus under Richard Callaghan of Detroit, the long-time coach of two-time U.S. mens' champion Todd Eldredge.

Also challenging the two teens for a spot on the medal platform will be Tonia Kwiatkowski of Broadview Heights, Ohio, who will be making her 10th consecutive appearance at the U.S. Championships. The 23-year-old Kwiatkowski, who is coached by 1960 Olympic gold medalist Carol Heiss Jenkins, is coming off of a silver-medal performance in November at the France Trophy international competition and will be looking to improve on a fifth-place finish at the '94 U.S.

News & Notes

First Lady

Josephine Lawless of West Hills, Calif., has been appointed chief referee for the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, marking the first time in the history of the U.S. Championships that a woman has been appointed to this capacity.

It's in the genes!

Kyoko Ina, who will be competing in both senior ladies' singles and senior pairs at the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, comes from a long line of notable athletes. Ina's grandfather ran the 5,000- and 10,000-meter events for Japan in the 1924 Olympics, her grandmother once played at the Wimbledon tennis tournament and her mother was a swimming champion at the Asian Games.

Sibling rivalry

Sisters Michelle and Karen Kwan will be competing against one another in the senior ladies' free skating competition. The sisters train together at Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

Welcome back!

Senior ladies' free skating competitor Joanna Ng of Woodland Hills, Calif., was recently reinstated to compete for the United States. Ng, 16, holds dual citizenship in the U.S. and Taiwan and spent the last two years competing for Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).

ESPN, ABC Sports combining for unprecedented Championships coverage

ESPN cable sports network and ABC Sports are teaming to bring U.S. television viewers an unprecedented 12 hours of coverage from the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Following is the schedule for coverage (all times are Eastern):

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday, Feb. 8	Ice Dancing (original dance)	8:30-9:30 p.m./ESPN
Thursday, Feb. 9	Men's Singles (short program)	6:30-7:30 p.m./ESPN
Friday, Feb. 10	Pairs/Ladies' Singles (short programs)	7:30-9:30 p.m./ESPN
Saturday, Feb. 11	Men's Singles (free skate)	4:30-6 p.m./ABC
	Ladies' Singles (free skate)	8-10 p.m./ABC
Saturday, Feb. 18	Pairs (free skate)	4:30-6 p.m./ABC
Saturday, Feb. 25	Dance (free dance)	4:30-6 p.m./ABC
Saturday, March 18	Chrysler Skating Spectacular (exhibition)	4:30-6 p.m./ABC

Championships.

Other challengers in the field of 16 competitors include: Teresa Aiello of Stamford, Conn.; Lisa Bell of Marengo, Ill.; Kathaleen Kelly Cutone of Lexington, Mass.; Chrisha Gossard of Newark, Del.; Kyoko Ina of Guttenberg, N.J.; Karen Kwan of Los Angeles, Calif.; Laura Lipetsky of Northridge, Calif.; Tricia Mansfield of Georgetown, Mass.; Lisa Matras of Redford Township, Mich.; Jessica Mills of Chicago, Ill.; Joanna Ng of Woodland Hills, Calif.; and Tanya Street of Chicago, Ill.

Men

By the conclusion of the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit, Mich., two-time U.S. champions Todd Eldredge and Scott Davis were two skaters headed in opposite directions — literally and figuratively.

Davis, who had successfully held off a challenge from reinstated '88 Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano to capture his second consecutive U.S. title in Detroit, was headed to the competition of his life at the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

Meanwhile Eldredge, whose untimely bout with the flu contributed to a disappointing fourth place finish in Detroit, was headed back to his training

home of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., with his future in the elite circles of international figure skating in question.

Since that time, Eldredge has reeled off four medal performances in major international events. Davis, on the other hand, has struggled in recent international competitions and has been hampered by a stress fracture in his lower back.

Both Davis and Eldredge are expected to be 100 percent when they cross paths in Providence for what could become a one-on-one showdown for a third U.S. title.

Among those looking to expand the cast of the two-man show will be '94 U.S. bronze medalist Aren Nielsen of Kansas City, Mo., '93 U.S. bronze medalist Michael Chack of Brick Township, N.J., and '94 World Junior Champion Michael Weiss of Fairfax, Va.

Other challengers in the field of 15 competitors include: Damon Allen of Rockford, Ill.; John Baldwin Jr. of San Diego, Calif.; Brian Buetsch of Rockford, Ill.; Mel Chapman of Grosse Ile, Mich.; Shepherd Clark of Atlanta, Ga.; Rudy Galindo of San Jose, Calif.; Daniel P. Hollander of Huntington Woods, Mich.; Russ Scott of Costa Mesa, Calif.; Derek Stedingh of Anchorage, Alaska; and Jason Sylvia of New Bedford, Mass.

Pairs

Defending pairs champions Jenni Meno of Westlake, Ohio, and Todd Sand of Thousand Oaks, Calif., have proven to be a successful combination on- and off-the-ice since joining forces in April 1992.

On the ice in the past year, the pair followed up fifth and sixth-place finishes at the Olympic Games and World Championships respectively with two medal finishes in three international event appearances. Off-the-ice, the pair has announced plans to be wed later this year.

To successfully defend their U.S. title, Meno and Sand must hold off an expected challenge from the '94 U.S. silver medalists Kyoko Ina of Guttenberg, N.J., and Jason Dungjen of Troy, Mich. Although Ina and Dungjen must improve on the inconsistent performances through this competitive season to date, the pair is certainly considered capable of seriously contending for the title.

Yet another up-and-coming pair with their sights set on the medal platform are Stephanie Stiegler of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and Lance Travis of Greensboro, N.C. Stiegler, 15, and Travis, 23, will be making their second consecutive appearance in senior nationals competition after winning the

U.S. junior title in 1993. After gaining valuable experience on the international circuit throughout the season, the pair hopes to improve on their fifth-place finish at the '94 Championships.

The 13-pair field at the Championships also will include: Nicole Bateson-Rock of Spring Mount, Pa., and Keith Tindall of Thornbury, Pa.; Romina Baron and Richard Alexander, both of N. Hollywood, Calif.; Holly Benson of Indianapolis, Ind., and Steve Moore of Dallas, Texas; Shelby Lyons of Oswego, N.Y., and Brian Wells of Chesterfield, Mo.; Cheryl Marker of St. Paul, Minn., and Todd Price of Mason City, Iowa; Erin Moorad and Richard Gillam, both of Costa Mesa, Calif.; Aimee Offner of Norristown, Pa., and Brad Cox of Madison, Wis.; Dawn Piepenbrink of Glendale, Ariz., and Nick Castaneda of Livermore, Calif.; Brie Teaboldt of Indianapolis, Ind., and John Zimmerman IV of Birmingham, Ala.; and Stephanie Woodman of Overland Park, Kan., and Jeff Myers of Stockton, Calif.

Dance

The defending champion dance team of Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow know all too well the caliber of competition they'll be facing from 1993 U.S. champions Renee Roca and Gorsha Sur.

The former were coached by the latter before Roca and Sur were reinstated into eligibility in 1993. Since that time, Roca and Sur have edged their former students in the final standings of all four events in which the two teams have competed.

The last meeting between the two teams — at the 1994 U.S. Championships — was cut short when Roca suffered a fractured left wrist before the original dance competition and she and Sur were forced to withdraw.

Punsalan and Swallow went on to capture their second U.S. dance title (they won their first in 1991) and rep-

FIGURES, JUNIORS & NOVICE COMPETITORS FOR THE 1995 STATE FARM U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS FEB. 6-12, 1995 • PROVIDENCE, R.I.

(As of 1/25/95)

SENIOR MEN FIGURES

Name/Hometown

John Baldwin, Jr./San Diego, Calif.
Anthony Bardin/Sun Valley, Calif.
Anthony Chicalace/Bartlett, Ill.
Daniel Clausen/Anchorage, Alaska
Kevin Donovan/Park Ridge, Ill.
Everett Weiss/Albuquerque, N.M.
Owen Williams/Ridgefield, Conn.

SENIOR LADIES FIGURES

Jennifer Blount/Barrington, R.I.
Lisa Bryson/Denver, Colo.
Shirl Cattani/Washington Crossing, Pa.
Theresa Cho/Whittier, Calif.
Kathaleen Kelly Cutone/Lexington, Mass.
Melanie Dupon/Phoenix, Ariz.
Janette Lewis/Arvada, Colo.
Cassy Papajohn/Littleton, Colo.
Lynne Petta/Scottsdale, Ariz.
Jessica Rainey/Midland, Mich.
McKenzie Savidge/Newark, Del.
Karen Terry/Newport Beach, Calif.
Shantelle-Marie Westbrook/Fullerton, Calif.

JUNIOR MEN FREE SKATING

Bert Cording/Raleigh, N.C.
Don Baldwin/San Diego, Calif.
Eric Bohnstedt/Colorado Springs, Colo.
Derrick Delmore/Ft. Washington, Md.
Timothy R. Goebel/Rolling Meadows, Ill.
Eddie Gornik/Salt Lake City, Utah
Ryan Jahnke/Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.
Matthew Kessinger/Indianapolis, Ind.
Dwayne Parker/Philadelphia, Pa.
Robert Schupp/Erie, Pa.
Peter St. Germaine/Minneapolis, Wis.
Jeff Tilley/Newark, Del.
John Wagner/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.
Trifun Zivanovic/Los Angeles, Calif.

JUNIOR MEN FIGURES

Colin Bennett/Potomac, Md.
Michael Keller/Seven Hills, Ohio
Jonathan Lawrence/Long Beach, Calif.
Christopher Malato/Avon, Colo.
Fred Palascak/Middleburg Heights, Ohio
Lloyd Sarbacker/Indianapolis, Ind.
Scott Sheets/Sagamore Hills, Ohio
Robert Shmalo/Cincinnati, Ohio

JUNIOR LADIES FREE SKATING

Dena Darland/Las Vegas, Nev.
Amy D'Entremont/Stonham, Mass.
Cohen Duncan/Los Angeles, Calif.
Emily Freedman/Lakewood, Ohio
Annika Gill/Rochester, Minn.
Heather Johnson/Apple Valley, Minn.
Tara Lipinski/Sugarland, Texas
Brittney McConn/Marietta, Ga.
Diana Miro/Westbury, N.Y.
Angela Nikodinov/San Pedro, Calif.
Serena Phillips/Sunnyvale, Calif.
Bethany Quintin/Cohasset, Mass.
Jenni Tew/Clearwater, Fla.
Sydney Vogel/Anchorage, Alaska
Amanda Ward/South Fallsburg, N.Y.

JUNIOR LADIES FIGURES

Jaime Clark/Springfield, Ill.
Susan Elizabeth Cooper/Colorado Springs, Colo.
Sarah Devereaux/Chugiak, Alaska

Tracey Hanfling/Manhasset, N.Y.
Heather Higgins/Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Sarah Klapper/Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.
Domenica Palandro/Saugus, Mass.
Dee Dee Ratto/Stockton, Calif.
Lyndsey Read/Warwick, R.I.
Jennifer Rickard/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.
Michele Taylor/Tacoma, Wash.
Kristen Varney/Littleton, Colo.
Lori Williamson/Strongsville, Ohio
Jamie Wunderlich/Arvada, Colo.

JUNIOR PAIRS

Katie Barnhart/Huntsville, Ala.
Charles Bernhard/Homewood, Ala.

Sarah Booth/Marble Hill, Mo.
Matthew Buttrey/Scott City, Mo.

Jacki Davison/Torrance, Calif.
J. Paul Binnebose/Newark, Del.

Erin Elbe/Castro Valley, Calif.
Jeffrey Weiss/Foster City, Calif.

Whitney Gaynor/San Francisco, Calif.
David Delago/Antioch, Calif.

Danielle Hartsell/Westland, Mich.
Steve Hartsell/Westland, Mich.

Melanie Lambert/Medfield, Mass.
Fred Palascak/Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Anne MacWilliams/Hershey, Pa.
Philip Dulebohn/Newark, Del.

Nicole Perry/Redwood City, Calif.
Paul Dulebohn/Germantown, Md.

Kelly Peterman/San Jose, Calif.
Matthew Stuart/San Jose, Calif.

Emily Pirronello/Canton, Mich.
Brent Echols/Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Celina Taylor/Taylor, Mich.
Mel Chapman/Grosse Ile, Mich.

Katie Tobin/Delmar, N.Y.
Jim Peterson/Puyallup, Wash.

Natalie Vlandis/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.
Jered Guzman/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

JUNIOR DANCE

Eve Chalom/Birmingham, Mich.
Mathew Gates/Birmingham, Mich.

Jamie Coffey/Orlando, Fla.
Kurt Dreger/Indianapolis, Ind.

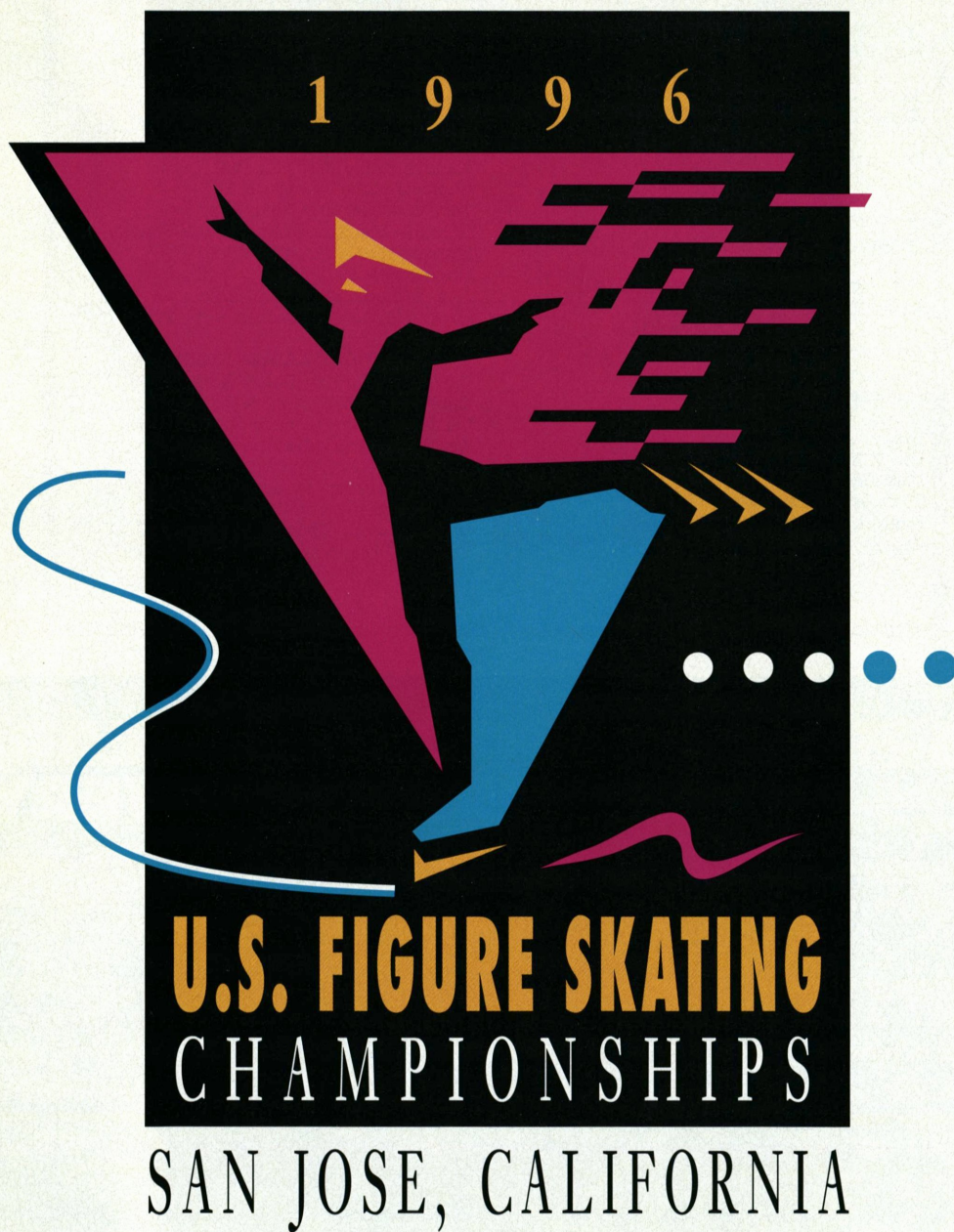
Stephanie Crawford/Middleton, Del.
D. J. Gray/Mukilteo, Wash.

Jenny Dahlen/St. Louis, Mo.
Sergei Lihachov/St. Petersburg, Russia

Kristina Feliciano/Daly City, Calif.
Alex Jacoby/Belmont, Calif.

Continued on Page 18

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resented the United States at both the Olympics and World Championships, finishing 15th and 12th respectively. Since that time, the husband-and-wife team from Bloomfield Hills, Mich., has reeled off three consecutive medal performances at major competitions, including a first-place finish at Sudafed Skate America International.

Bouncing back from the injury, Roca and Sur captured first at the Hershey Kisses' Pro-Am Championships in May and third place at both Skate Canada and the Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge in the fall.

Other dance teams expected to challenge the favorites for a spot on the medal platform are '94 U.S. bronze medalists Amy Webster of Yarmouth, Maine, and Ron Kravette of Costa Mesa, Calif., along with Tamara Kuchiki of Los Angeles, Calif., and Neale Smull of Wilmington, Del.

The 28-team dance field also will include: Julia Bikbova and Robert Peal,

Continued from Page 16

Elisabeth Hill/Chicago, Ill.
Richard Peal/Chicago, Ill.

Jessica Joseph/Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Charles Butler/Kalamazoo, Mich.

Tara Eve Modlin/Great Neck, N.Y.
Marc Fenczak/Fredon, N.J.

Dawn Ponte/Foster, R.I.
Paul Frey/Scituate, Mass.

Azumi Sagara/Rosemead, Calif.
Jonathan Magalnick/Phoenix, Ariz.

Shannon Simon/Pittsburgh, Pa.
Jason Simon/Pittsburgh, Pa.

Celeste Treadwell/Syracuse, Del.
Shawn Jelise/Redford, Mich.

NOVICE MEN FREE SKATING

Justin Dillon/Puyallup, Wash.
Joshua Figurido/Gloucester, Mass.
Amir Ganaba/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.
Jonathan Keen/Villa Park, Calif.
Joe Knazek/Parma Heights, Ohio
Josiah Modes/Temple Terrace, Fla.
Braden Overett/Denver, Colo.
David Recchia/San Diego, Calif.
Matt Savoie/Peoria, Ill.
Scott Smith/Baltimore, Md.
Everett Weiss/Albuquerque, N.M.
James Yoo/Littleton, Colo.

NOVICE MEN FIGURES

Ronnie Biancosino/Wilmington, Del.
Justin Cogley/Erie, Pa.
Jason Heffron/Rockford, Ill.
Garrett Krug/Rockford, Ill.
Andre LeBlanc/Houston, Texas
Kyle Magneson/Port Huron, Mich.
Christopher Mattern/Brooklyn, Ohio
David Recchia/San Diego, Calif.
Scott Sarbacher/Nashville, Tenn.
Christopher Young/Stockton, Calif.

NOVICE LADIES FREE SKATING

Alissa Cline/Carrollton, Texas
Sarah Del Valle/Crowley, Texas
Amy Evidente/Woodland Hills, Calif.
Andrea Gardiner/Baytown, Texas
Kendra Kent/Mint Hill, N.C.
Shelby Lyons/Oswego, N.Y.
Tara Maceiko/Dix Hills, N.Y.
Kristine Nishimura/Anchorage, Alaska
Erin Sutton/Northville, Mich.
Rhea Sy/Cerritos, Calif.
Aya Yamada/Stockton, Calif.
Molly Ziolkowski/Hudson, N.H.

NOVICE LADIES FIGURES

Cassandra Arvizo/Palos Verdes, Calif.
Emily Best/Matthews, N.C.
Cammi Bruns/Colorado Springs, Colo.
Natalie Copeland/Tampa, Fla.
Heather George/Plymouth, Minn.
Emi Lesure/San Mateo, Calif.
Danielle Piro/Danville, Calif.
Megan Raymond/Venice, Fla.
Lindsay Ronayne/Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.

Continued on next page



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both of Chicago, Ill.; Elizabeth Buhl of Federal Way, Wash., and Augustine DiBella of Newark, Del.; Cheryl Demkowski of Liverpool, N.Y., and Gregory Maddalone of Glenville, N.Y.; Christina and Mark Fitzgerald, both of Cranbury, N.J.; Laura Gayton and Oleg Fediukov, both of Natick, Mass.; Debbie Koegel of Phoenixville, Pa., and Michael Slutovsky of Indianapolis, Ind.; Sian Matthews and Yovanny Durango, both of Newark, Del.; Wendy Millette of Concord, Mass., and Jason Tebo of Waltham, Mass.; and Kate Robinson of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and Peter Breen of Brockton, Mass. ■

Melissa Sarbacker/Nashville, Tenn.
Rachel Sunderlin/Springfield, Ill.
Rhea Sy/Cerritos, Calif.

NOVICE PAIRS

Heather Allebach/Bear, Del.
Matthew Evers/Fargo, N.D.

Mackenzie Baltz/Park City, Utah
Kevin Garrett/Salt Lake City, Utah

Lauren Carpenter/Louisville, Ky.
Brad Russi/Columbus, Ind.

Alissa Cline/Carrollton, Texas
Kelby Renfro/Dallas, Texas

Rebecca Erb/San Ramon, Calif.
Joel Vinson/San Jose, Calif.

Carissa Guild/Springfield, Pa.
Andrew Muldoon/Newark, Del.

Nicole Purdy/Palm Harbor, Fla.
Josiah Modes/Temple Terrace, Fla.

Tiffany Stiegler/Manhattan Beach, Calif.
Johnnie Stiegler/Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Lisa Weitzman/Lake Placid, N.Y.
Marc Weitzman/Lake Placid, N.Y.

Elizabeth Wilcut/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.
Brian Boissonneault/Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

Amy Wiseley/Rockford, Ill.
Jason Heffron/Rockford, Ill.

Harmonie Yoder/Sterling Heights, Ill.
Craig Joeright/Cleveland, Ohio

NOVICE DANCE

Margot Contois/Marquette, Mich.
Raphael Lieb/Wauwatosa, Wis.

Karen Ferrara/Malden, Mass.
Colin Ward/Hazel Crest, Ill.

Kristen Fraser/Upland, Calif.
Peter Kongkasem/Lakewood, Calif.

Melissa Gregory/Indianapolis, Ind.
James Shuford/Evanston, Ill.

Cerise Henzes/Pittsburgh, Pa.
David Gratta/Belle Vernon, Pa.

Naomi Lang/Allegan, Mich.
John Lee/Niles, Ill.

Christie Moxley/Newark, Del.
Tom Gaasberk/Brickton, N.J.

Kerrie O'Donnell/Westwood, Mass.
Brandon Forsyth/Lexington, Mass.

Elizabeth Philpot/Kent, Wash.
Nick Hart/Seattle, Wash.

Susanna Stapleford/Bear, Del.
Vincent Van Vliet/Lima, N.Y.

Annalise Swanson/Rochester, N.H.
James Swanson/Rochester, N.H.

Erica Vance/Pittsford, N.Y.
Brandon Jellison/Milwaukee, Wis. ■

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Another historic assembly in Philadelphia...

...the USFSA's first international Pro-Am

By Matt Pensinger

Photographs by Ingrid Butt

In a city known for historic assemblies, the world's top skaters recently came together for one of their own.

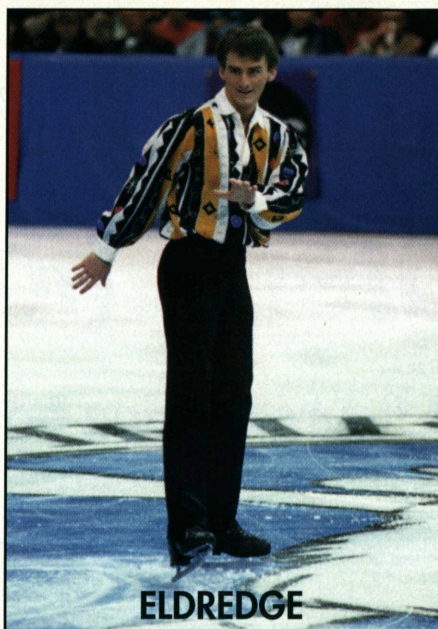
The Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge, Nov. 29-30, at Philadelphia's CoreStates Spectrum, brought together 15 Olympians and others from Russia, Ukraine, France and the United States — some eligible, some ineligible — to compete in the first-ever international pro-am competition sanctioned by the International Skating Union.

At stake for the competitors was a share of more than \$300,000 in prize money and bragging rights in this new era of figure skating competitions.

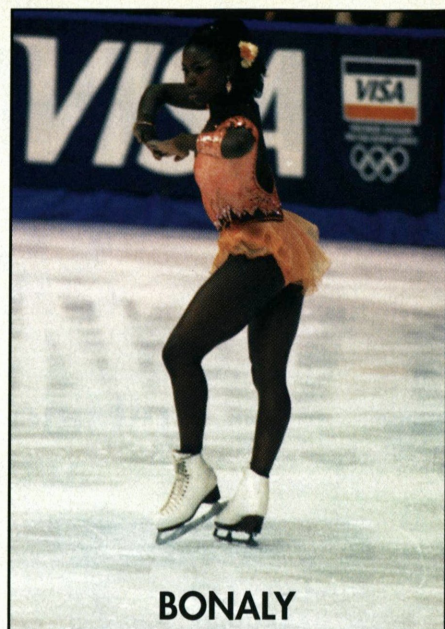
The men's event featured 1994 Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov of Russia and 1992 Olympic champ Viktor Petrenko of Ukraine, but it was American Todd Eldredge, of South Chatham, Mass., who continued his Fall hot streak and ran away with the title.

"I competed against these guys before in '93 and beat them, and they had beaten me," said Eldredge, when asked if he was surprised to defeat the last two Olympic champs. "I don't feel I have to prove anything. I'm definitely gaining confidence with good performances at good competitions like Skate America. It's something to build on for the next competition and, hopefully, the next."

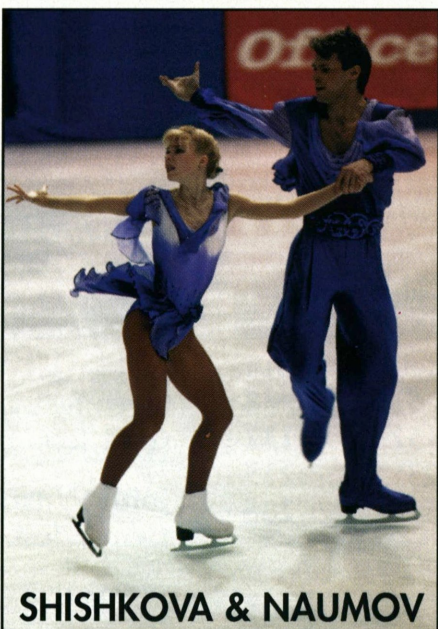
Eldredge, who won Sudafed Skate America and the French Trophy earlier this season, positioned himself as one of the



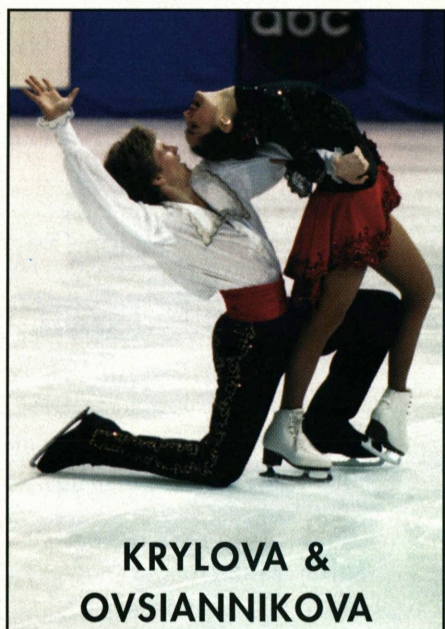
ELDREDGE



BONALY



SHISHKOVA & NAUMOV



KRYLOVA & OVSIANNIKOVA

favorites in the men's division heading into the U.S. Championships with the victory. He enjoyed a strong short program that placed him in first and then held on to weather a late surge from Petrenko to take the victory. Urmanov tied Eldredge in the free skate, but a shaky short program left him to finish in second with Petrenko third.

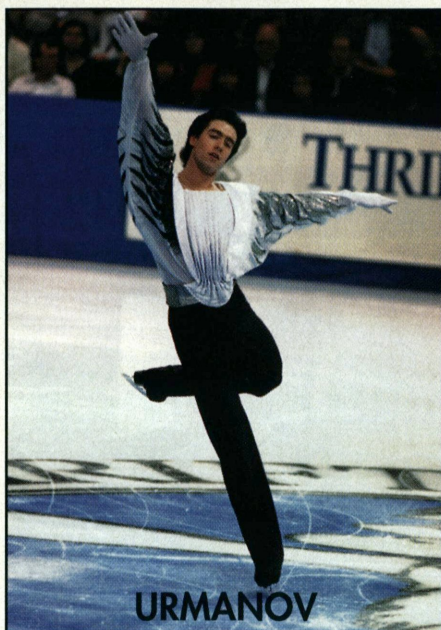
"I don't feel very good," Urmanov said after the short program. "I think it is the first competition this season after a difficult season. Maybe I'm not ready to compete right now."

Petrenko rebounded from a last-place finish in the short program to win the free skate and finish third. Mark Mitchell, of Hamden, Conn., who was participating as an ineligible skater for the first time in a

USFSA event, finished fourth and 1994 U.S. champion Scott Davis, of Great Falls, Mont., placed fifth.

In the ladies' competition, Olga Markova of Russia jumped out to a surprising lead with a flawless short program that put her in first ahead of the favored Surya Bonaly of France. But, Bonaly rebounded in the free skate to edge out Markova for the title. The Thrifty Car Rental International Challenge marked the fourth straight competition Bonaly has won this season — the Goodwill Games, Sudafed Skate America, the France Trophy and the Thrifty event.

"I can't say it was 100 percent excellence, but I did my job out there," Bonaly said.



URMANOV



MARKOVA



MENO & SAND



ROMANOV &
YAROSHENKO

Michelle Kwan, of Torrance, Calif., also had been a strong favorite going into the competition, but a fall in the short program left her in fourth place until she came back in the free skate to finish third.

"I try to take this type of competition like in training," said the 14-year-old Kwan, who won the 1994 World Junior title. "I'm trying to make it help me for the other competitions."

Caryn Kadavy, the two-time Hershey's Kisses Pro-Am Championships winner, finished fourth and Nicole Bobek, of Chicago, Ill., placed fifth.

Bobek faltered after a strong short program that had her in third place, despite competing only two days after being bitten in the neck by a dog. Unnerved by the

attack, Bobek said she never considered pulling out of the competition.

"I felt a burst of energy," she said. "I just wanted to get out there and do it. It was like a show. You just go out there and perform more relaxed."

The pairs competition pitted 1994 World Champions Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov of Russia against 1994 U.S. Champions Jenni Meno, of Westlake, Ohio, and Todd Sand, of Thousand Oaks, Calif. Meno and Sand placed fifth at the 1994 Olympic Winter Games and sixth at the '94 World Championships, but were competing in their first competition since April 1994.

While Meno and Sand unveiled two impressive new programs that were nearly flawless, Shishkova and Naumov proved to

RESULTS

THRIFTY CAR RENTAL INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA NOVEMBER 29-30, 1994

MEN

JUDGES: 1 Petr Grushman, RUS; 2 Jean Robinson, USA; 3 Sviatoslav Babenko, RUS; 4 Olga Alexeeva, RUS; 5 Joseph Inman, USA; 6 Vladislav Petukhov, UKR; 7 Alfred Korytek, UKR. REFEREE: Alexander Lakernik, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Lucy Brennan, USA. ACCOUNTANT: Suzanne Courtright, USA.

NAME, CLUB NAME, SP-FS-PLACES

1. Todd Eldredge, USA, 1-2-2.5
2. Alexei Urmanov, RUS, 2-2-3.0
3. Viktor Petrenko, UKR, 5-1-3.5
4. Mark Mitchell, USA, 4-4-6.0
5. Scott Davis, USA, 3-5-6.5

LADIES

JUDGES: 1 Joseph Inman, USA; 2 Olga Alexeeva, RUS; 3 Gennady Alexeev, RUS; 4 John LeFevre, USA; 5 Sviatoslav Babenko, RUS; 6 Alfred Korytek, UKR; 7 Joan Gruber, USA. REFEREE: Lucy Brennan, USA. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Alexander Lakernik, I.S.U. ACCOUNTANT: William M. Howard, Jr., USA.

NAME, CLUB NAME, SP-FS-PLACES

1. Surya Bonaly, FRA, 2-1-2.0
2. Olga Markova, RUS, 1-3-3.5
3. Michelle Kwan, USA, 4-2-4.0
4. Caryn Kadavy, USA, 5-4-6.5
5. Nicole Bobek, USA, 3-5-6.5

PAIRS

JUDGES: 1 Olga Alexeeva, RUS; 2 Petr Grushman, RUS; 3 Joseph Inman, USA; 4 Joan Gruber, USA; 5 Alfred Korytek, UKR; 6 Jean Robinson, USA; 7 Vladislav Petukhov, UKR. REFEREE: Alexander Lakernik, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Lucy Brennan, USA. ACCOUNTANT: William M. Howard, Jr., USA.

NAME, CLUB NAME, SP-FS-PLACES

1. Evgenia Shishkova & Vadim Naumov, RUS, 1-1-1.5
2. Jenni Meno & Todd Sand, USA, 2-2-3.0
3. Kyoko Ina & Jason Dungjen, USA, 3-3-4.5
4. Elena Belousovskaia & Sergei Potalov, UKR, 4-4-6.0

DANCE

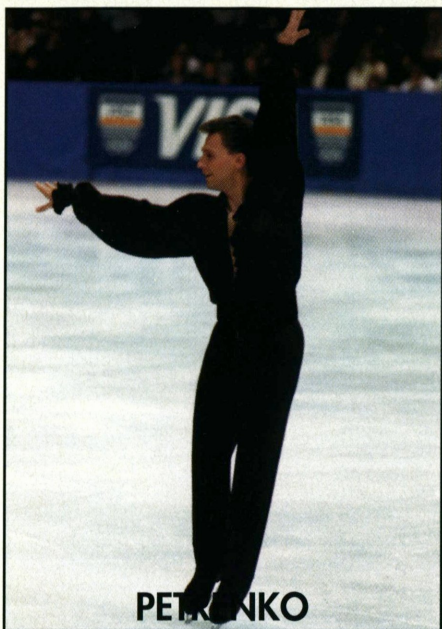
JUDGES: 1 Vladislav Petukhov, UKR; 2 John LeFevre, USA; 3 Petr Grushman, RUS; 4 Gennady Alexeev, RUS; 5 Robert Horen, USA; REFEREE: Alexandr Gorshkov, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Ludmila Mikhailovskaya, I.S.U. ACCOUNTANT: Suzanne Courtright, USA.

NAME, CLUB NAME, D1-OD-FD-PLACES

1. Anjelika Krylova & Oleg Ovsiannikova, RUS, 1-1-1-2.0
2. Irina Romanova & Igor Yaroshenko, UKR, 2-2-2-4.0
3. Renee Roca & Gorsha Sur, USA, 3-3-3-6.0■

be too tough in taking the title. Meno and Sand finished second and Kyoko Ina, of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., and Jason Dungjen, of Troy, Mich., finished third. Elena Belousovskaia and Sergei Potalov of Ukraine finished fourth.

The ice dancing competition proved to



PETRTENKO



KWAN



INA & DUNGJEN

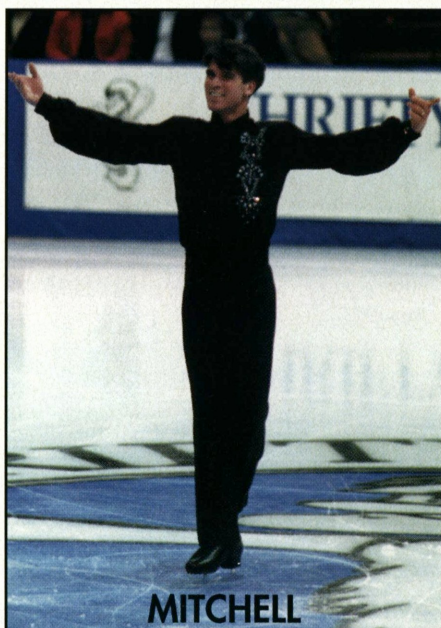


ROCA & SUR

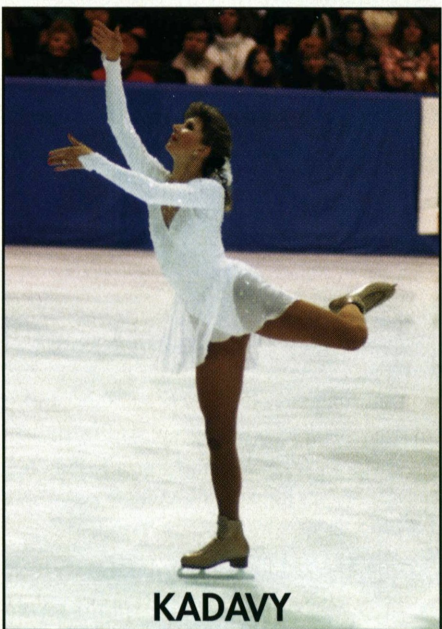
be an unexpected surprise as the replacement team of Angelica Krylova and Oleg Ovsianikov of Russia took the title in their first international competition as a couple. Krylova was a 1994 Olympian with Vladimir Fedorov and she and Ovsianikov replaced 1994 Olympic champions Oksana Grischuk and Evgeny Platov, who withdrew at the last minute due to illness.

The 1994 Goodwill Games champs Irina Romanova and Igor Yaroshenko of Ukraine placed second and 1993 U.S. Champions Renee Roca, of Rochester, N.Y., and Gorsha Sur, of Moscow, Russia, finished third. ■

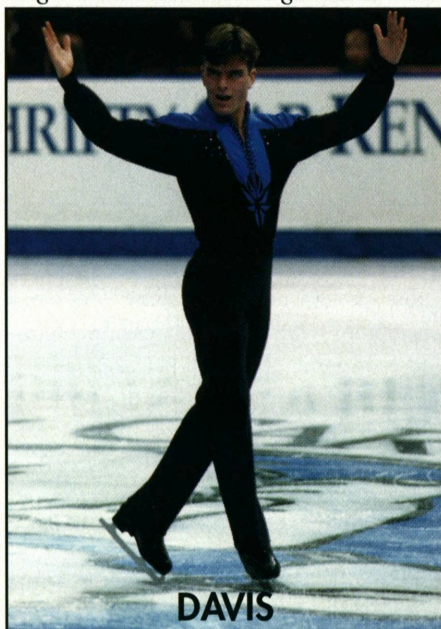
Matt Pensinger is the USFSA Corporate Programs and Events Manager.



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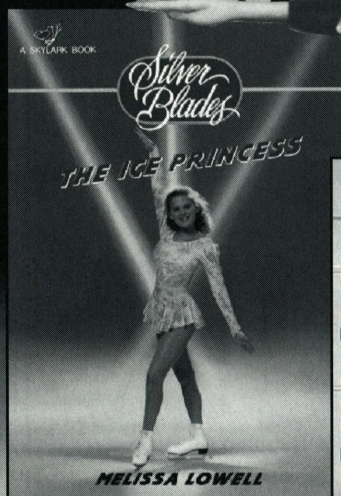


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Behind The Scenes

With



BY JAY MILLER
PHOTOS BY PAUL HARVATH

Months of intense preparation. Careful and precise coordination of all program elements. The ability to react quickly to ever-changing situations — on and off the ice. Experience in the heat of competition — where your every move is being judged.

Skating enthusiasts know these are among the characteristics a skater must exhibit in delivering a quality performance on the ice. Few of us, perhaps, realize that these also are required elements for the professionals who work to deliver these exciting performances to our television sets. For the majority of United States Figure Skating Association events, these professionals collectively are known as ABC Sports.

To help you appreciate the time, effort and expertise it takes to bring you a few hours of quality skating programming, we wanted to give you a behind-the-scenes look at an ABC-televised event. Following is what we saw after spending four days with ABC Sports at the first skating event of the 1994-1995 season — Sudafed Skate America International '94, Oct. 27-31, in Pittsburgh, Pa. ■

It's the day before the start of Sudafed Skate America International '94, and amid the usual flurry of activity surrounding an international skating competition, the ABC production team is converging on Pittsburgh to begin final preparations for its telecast.

The 15-plus members of the ABC production team, who will make up the creative nucleus of this show, arrive sporadically throughout the day. The group is a mix of freelancers and full-time ABC staffers, but most have worked together on numerous skating broadcasts.

The production team's first opportunity to meet as a group for this broadcast will come at a 6 p.m. production meeting at the headquarters hotel. While this group has much work to do as a unit in a short time, individually they already have done much planning and preparation for this show in their respective areas.

Through their preparations, they have developed a "skeletal framework," known as a format, on which they will build this broadcast. The format, which outlines the second-by-second progression of a two-hour show to be aired about 14 hours following the conclusion of the Saturday night's finals, will serve as the focus for the initial production meeting.

As members of the production team begin congregating for the meeting, coproducers Nancy Stern and Kathy Cook are quickly joined by Director Doug

Wilson, Associate Producer Meg Streeter-Lauck and a host of associate directors, researchers and assistants. The most widely recognized trio in this team — announcers Dick Button, Peggy Fleming-Jenkins and Julie Moran — round out the group.

The early atmosphere of the meeting is like a reunion of old friends, but the talk quickly turns to the project at hand.

Stern explains that there are many competitors at this event that ABC Sports has not seen in the past, so there is much homework and research to be done in the next few days. She adds that the first broadcast, which will feature mens' and ladies' long programs, will air Sunday afternoon after the competition ends Saturday night. The time constraints mean that Stern and Cook will be editing the show throughout the night at a local production facility and must "feed" the show to ABC studios in New York City via satellite by 11 a.m. Sunday. A worst-case scenario, she explains, would involve transmitting the last hour of the show while the first hour is being aired nationally. To avoid this, the show will be edited by two separate "teams;" one led by her, the other led by Cook. She emphasizes the need for everyone to treat the broadcast as a "live" show to help reduce the editing requirements.

Stern begins the review of the format by explaining that a Halloween-type "intro" — complete with a witch and steaming cauldron — already has been filmed in New York. The Halloween

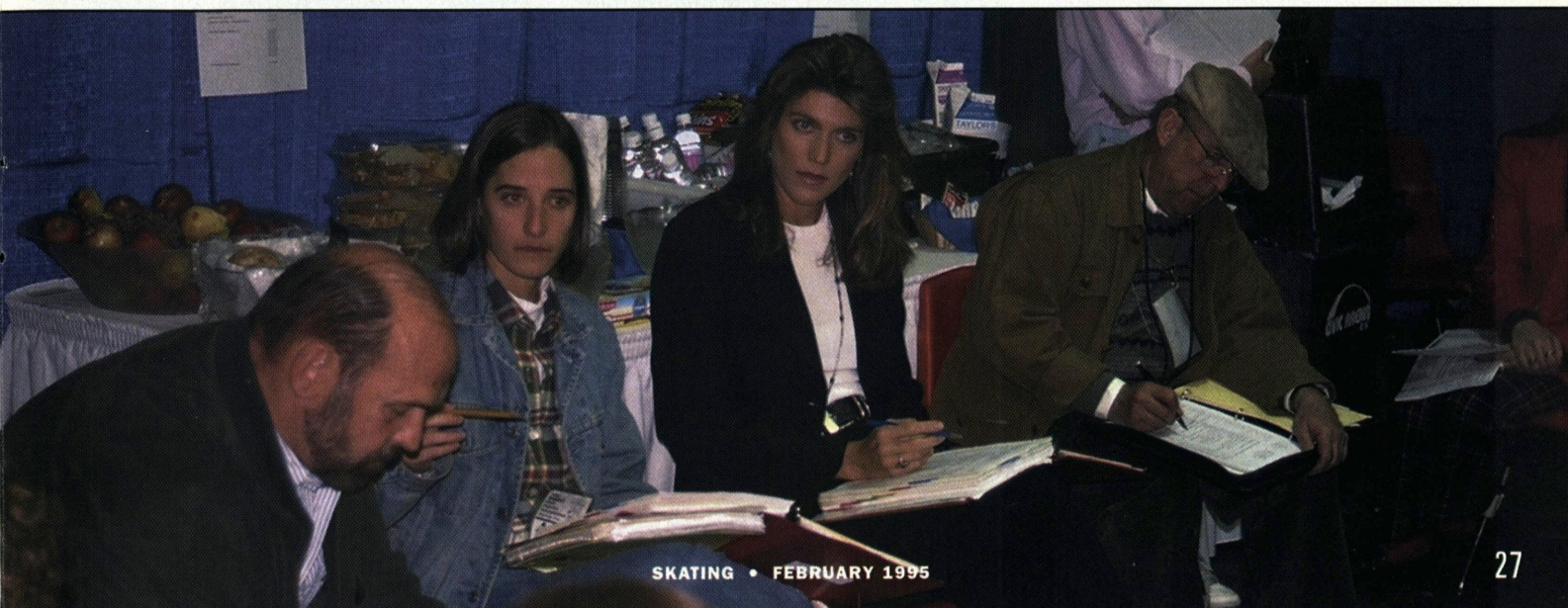
theme will carry throughout the Oct. 30 broadcast in the form of macabre backdrops behind the skaters during one-on-one interviews and elaborately carved pumpkins signalling the show's return from a commercial. It's suggested that Button, Fleming and Moran join the fun by finding masks to wear for their opening on-camera appearance. Button jokes that he'll be disguised as "a man with a full head of hair."

As the review of the show continues, team members openly discuss aspects of the format and current issues in the world of skating that may be reported during the course of the show. The group is careful to consider only that material which has been verified and is relevant to this particular show.

Most of the verified information that will serve as "talking points" for Button, Fleming and Moran during the course of a broadcast comes through the work of the ABC research department. Director of research Beth Schmidt and her staff have compiled the information through what she calls a "a real journalistic approach."

"In the past month, we've contacted each American and Canadian skater personally by phone to get the most up-

Below, left to right: ABC's Dick Button, Nancy Stern, Julie Moran and Doug Wilson review elements of the upcoming broadcast during one of the team's pre-competition production meeting.



to-date and accurate information," explains Schmidt, who previously covered the Olympic beat for *Sports Illustrated* magazine. "We couldn't get in touch with most of the foreign skaters, but, at this point, we've got good information on most of the field and for the next 24 hours, we'll be filling in the blanks."

Copies of Schmidt's preliminary collection of athlete biographies are circulated to the production team prior to their arrival in Pittsburgh and revisions will be forthcoming daily or even more frequently now that the team has arrived on location. Schmidt's research material will serve as the network's "bible" throughout this event for everything from correct spellings of names to correct pronunciations.

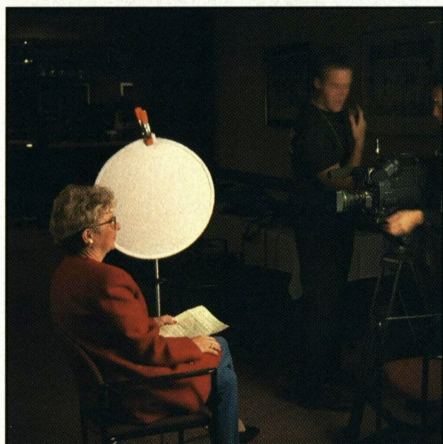
"It's our job to make sure that everyone from the producer to the director to the production assistants are up-to-speed before we get on-site and up through the show," Schmidt says. "We're also responsible for covering anything that might happen in the arena related to the competition and relaying that back to the producers and announcers."

With the review of the format complete, Stern closes the meeting by outlining the team's daily schedule for the next four days. It will be two days before they meet as a group again, but there is much work to be done individually during that time.

On the opening day of competition at Skate America, the production team is splintered into various sub-groups.

Director Doug Wilson spends the day at the arena checking "the lay of the land." He's looking at lighting levels throughout the arena, camera positions and angles, platform positioning, etc. He's mapped it all in advance and communicated his needs to the arena, but situations invariably change. For this competition, he will be directing every shot taken by six different cameras.

Wilson knows what is required to put together a quality skating show, estimating he has been involved, either as producer or director, "with 95 percent of



Top: ABC Sports Director of Research Beth Schmidt reviews the notes she has compiled on the skaters competing at Sudafed Skate America International '94; Bottom: USFSA President Claire Ferguson is interviewed by ABC Sports on the role of the USFSA.

the skating that has appeared on ABC Sports." In his 30 years with ABC Sports, Wilson has helped broadcast skating events from more than 15 different countries and has played an integral role in six Olympic broadcasts for the network.

Wilson is well aware of what attracts him to his job and to the sport of figure skating. "There's a purity in this sport that requires a classical approach," Wilson says. "You don't want to trash up art, even if it means not employing all of the technological advances we've made in the television industry over the past 30 years."

And, despite television's technological advances, things still go wrong. Technical problems, most notably lighting

problems, still create the biggest headaches for Wilson.

"If you're doing a skating performance and you don't have the proper lighting, it's like trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," Wilson said.

Wilson apparently will dodge his dreaded lighting problem in Pittsburgh with the help of two banks of movie-quality lights hanging from the rafters of the Civic Arena. The lights were being used for the filming of Jean Claude Van Damme's latest movie, but now they'll play an integral role in Wilson's upcoming action-thriller.

Back at the hotel, Schmidt and her research crew are in the middle of an eight-hour marathon interview session.

During the course of the day, they will conduct brief, on-camera interviews with all of the mens' and ladies' competitors. Some of the better clips, or "sound bites," will be worked into the broadcast, while other information will help in updating the research biographies.

While it seems simple, the pre-competition interview process can prove difficult at times when athletes don't show up, coaches get irate, schedules are changed at the last minute, etc. Today's session didn't present any of the usual challenges, but that's not to say it ran without a hitch.

One of the interviewees arrives in the room and immediately objects to the Halloween setting — complete with a black velvet backdrop, jack-o'-lantern and burning candles. The crew scrambles to assemble a different look to the interview area — complete with softer floral arrangements — and minutes later the interview begins.

"We had to roll with the punches on that one," Schmidt later says. She's optimistic that tomorrow's session with the pairs and dance competitors will not present similar challenges, but there's no time to dwell on it — she's off to the arena for the opening night of competition.

For the opening night of competition featuring the compulsory dances and men's and pairs' short programs, ABC will use only a "skeletal" camera crew to record the action and the announcers will not be calling the action. With limited time in the broadcast, only highlights from the top short program performances will be considered for the show. It's not, however, an off-night for the team.

Co-producers Stern and Cook join Schmidt and the announcers at ABC's "announce position" at rinkside to watch the action and take notes on the performances and finishes. Tonight's standings will help narrow the focus on those who are most likely to make the final broadcast.

Beginning early the next morning, the arena is a whirlwind of cables and equipment — much of it associated with the presence of ABC Sports. The arrival of the semi-tractor trailer that will serve as ABC's on-site production facility has set crews into motion — establishing power to the truck, rolling out thousands of feet of cable for video and audio, setting up monitors and cameras and the other hardware that the network will require to capture the action at this event.

As they are making the connections to record the sights and sounds of the competition, the set-up crew also is working to establish an elaborate communications system that will enable the producers and directors in the truck to maintain constant communications with those inside the arena. This web of two-way headsets and cable will serve as the only communication link between those in the arena and the producers and directors inside the truck. Any glitch in this system during taping could prove disastrous.

As crews continue the day-long process of setting up in the arena, members of the production team converge on the truck to continue "building" elements of the show. The

team is working on the features, or competitor profiles, that will give viewers an inside look at the personal side of the skaters. The features typically will be a compilation of off-ice footage shot prior to arriving in Pittsburgh, highlights from recent competitions and "sound bites" from interviews filmed since the team arrived on location.

Inside the truck, Stern and Cook are reviewing footage for an Aren Nielsen feature on a bank of monitors that makes up the entire front wall of this production compartment. The voice of ABC's Julie Moran can be heard throughout the compartment as she



ABC Sports commentators Dick Button, Julie Moran and Peggy Fleming tape the opening for the broadcast.

reads the carefully prepared script for the short story, but Moran's not in the truck. Looking just outside the truck, one realizes that what appeared to be an illegally parked minivan at first glance is actually a makeshift "sound booth" from which Moran, wired with a headset and microphone, is delivering the "voice over."

With the final touches being put on the features and the arena set-up near completion, the ABC production team assembles one final time for last-minute directives at a 5 p.m. production meeting backstage at the arena. While much has been accomplished since the group's last "formal" meeting two days ago, the major element of the broadcast — the competition itself — begins in less than three hours. The atmosphere in the production meeting is not unlike that of a team locker room just before a big game. Team ABC is putting on its "game face."

Stern opens the meeting by handing out a revised format. This is the final "game plan" and is the product of the team's work for the past 48 hours. Stern quickly reviews the format, gives final instructions on appropriate "lead-ins" to different portions of the competition and outlines the correct procedure for the reporting of judges' scores. As the group is abuzz with last-minute conversations on different aspects of the show, Stern closes the meeting with an emotional goodbye to the team.

She announces that this will be her final skating broadcast, as she is moving on to produce a daytime television show. The meeting adjourns with an unspoken resolve on the part of the group to make this broadcast a special one for their friend and colleague.

It's Saturday afternoon — the final day of competition at Skate America — and the ABC crew has had the benefit of a full dress rehearsal during Friday night's ladies' short program. Even though the team is heading down the home stretch toward the completion of this broadcast, the majority of the action for tomorrow's show — the mens' and ladies' long programs — has yet to take place. It's clear that the planning and preparation of the past several weeks was necessary to make the next 24 hours run as smoothly as possible.

As the start time for the first session



of the day draws near, the ABC team begins settling in for what will be a full day of coverage. For Stern, Cook and a handful of editors, Saturday and Sunday will become one as an all-night editing session at a local production house looms. For announcers Button, Fleming and Moran, the last few hours before competition race by as they continue to study the notes that will have to serve as fodder for more than 10 hours of commentary.

With minutes to go before the start of competition, ABC's cameras are rolling as Button, Fleming and Moran are setting the stage for the action about to take place. Through the magic of television and creative editing, 45 seconds later Philippe Candeloro takes to the ice for his long program.

Once the competition is underway, ABC shifts its entire focus to capturing the energy of the competitor's performance. There is no room for discussion; there is no second-guessing of decisions. All eyes and cameras are on the ice and the team is reacting in a split-second to every movement by the skater.

This synchronization of sight and sound creates a collective adrenaline that permeates the team. Excellent reactions build the group's collective confidence, while mistakes can chip away at it. Throughout this period of intense

concentration, the producer and director are constantly communicating their needs to those in the arena.

Outside the arena, in the truck, all eyes are fixed on the bank of 21 monitors that bring the competition into the 12'-by-12' "command center." These monitors show the producer and director each of the six camera angles at any given time and give them the opportunity to isolate elements of a skater's performance to be replayed seconds after the performance is complete. Stern and Wilson, with dozens of controls at their disposal, occupy the row closest to the monitors and together will coordinate every second of the broadcast.

The number of images entering the truck during a competition is equalled only by the number of voices that can be heard simultaneously. Because every channel of the team's elaborate communications system funnels through this compartment, numerous conversations can be heard at all times. Through this whirlwind of sound and images, the production team remains focused on the progress of the show.

As the competition progresses, the team begins settling into its rhythm. Much like the skaters they showcase, the team members shake the early jitters and cobwebs that come from a few weeks out of the "heat of competition." With each

successfully completed element of the show, the team becomes more relaxed, more confident. By the end of the last session of the day — the ladies' long program — the team is working in complete concert with one another.

With the conclusion of the ladies' long program at 11 p.m. Saturday night, the broadcast enters its post-production phase. Stern and associate director Norm Samet will spend most of the night piecing together the final hour of the show. Later in the morning, they'll send both one-hour portions of the broadcast via satellite to ABC Studios in New York City, where it will be "turned around" to air on the network at 2 p.m. EST. The footage for the broadcast featuring pairs and dance will be taken back to New York, where it will go into post-production for a Nov. 20 air date. Footage from the exhibitions, which the network will tape Sunday, will be returned to New York as well for post-production and airing at a later date.

With most of the on-site requirements complete, the ABC production team prepares to depart Pittsburgh, and the focus shifts to the next USFSA competition one month later in Philadelphia, Pa.

There's much work to be done in a short time, but then again, that's the nature of ABC Sports. ■

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The 1995 World *Junior* Championships

By Ronald A. Scheurer

The 1995 World Junior Championships took place in Budapest, Hungary, Nov. 22-26, 1994. Each of the four disciplines had a full range of competitors. Preliminary rounds cut the field of men and ladies to 24 and 34 respectively.

Men

In the qualifying rounds, Ilya Kulik (RUS) and Paolo Vaccari (CAN) each finished as the top qualifier in their groups of 13 entries. Four skaters, who were in the top 10 last year, did not have to skate the qualifying rounds. Twenty-nine competitors went for the gold.

The short program was won by Ilya Kulik, a 17-year-old from Moscow. His generally solid performance to "La Donna Mobile" from Verdi's *Rigoletto* set the pace. Thierry Cerez (FRA) followed in second; Evgeny Martinov (UKR) was third.

The top contender from America, Johnnie Bevan (USA), withdrew after suffering a back injury during practice.

Derrick Delmore (USA), entering his first junior worlds, was eighth. The next closest American was Timothy Goebel in 17th.

In the freestyle, Kulik won the gold by surpassing his competition with a well executed series of triple jumps. His program included a triple/triple combination, and a triple Axel. One fall on a double Axel was the only fault in an otherwise excellent rendition to "An American in Paris."

Cerez held onto the second spot for the silver medal. Seiichi Suzuki (JPN) moved up a notch from fourth for the bronze.

Of the Americans, Derrick Delmore dropped two places to 10th after the long program. He started with an excellent triple Lutz, followed by a triple/triple combination. After popping a triple Axel, he seemed a little distracted. Delmore fell on his double Axel, falling leaf/triple toe sequence.

Timothy Goebel, facing little or no pressure at this point, moved up to 14th after a 12th place long.



The 1995 U.S. World Junior Team (back row, left to right: Jeffrey Weiss, Charles Butler, Jr., John LaLonde, Ed Cossitt, (second row) Danielle Hartson, Erin Elbe, Team Leader Carolyn Kruse, shown with Ambassador to Hungary Donald M.

Ladies

In the qualifying rounds, Tara Lipinski (USA) took first place in qualifying round B. Round A was won by Elena Ivanova (RUS). Thirty places were at stake for 45 entrants.

The short program was won by Irina Slutskaya (RUS); no surprise given her recent and remarkable short performance at Skate America. Elena Ivanova took second, and was followed by Vanessa Gusmeroli (FRA). Tara Lipinski, fourth, was followed by Krisztina Czakó (HUN).

Slutskaya's freestyle program to Hungarian music, began with a well-executed triple Lutz; then, in contrast to her long performance at Skate America (a disaster), she went on to hold her lead and win the gold.



(From right) Steve Hartsell, Team Doctor Johnnie Bevan, Chrisa Gossard, Assistant Team Coach, Derrick Delmore, Timothy Goebel, Teresa Blinks, Jessica Joseph and Tara Lipinski are the U.S. Pairs team.

Then, Zuzanna Szwed (POL), who finished 15th in the short, upset the apple cart by taking second place in the long. The top six skaters were lucky, but Szwed's move placed her seventh overall, and shoved everyone else down one notch.

Ivanova's fourth place long did not affect her position overall. She won the silver. Gusmeroli dropped to seventh in the long; fifth overall, and made room for Czako to snatch the bronze. Lipinski's fifth place long left her in fourth overall.

Pairs

Maria Petrova and Anton Sikharulidze (RUS) moved early to defend last year's title. Despite Petrova's minor problem during their death spiral, the pair won the short program.

Second place went to Danielle and Steve Hartsell (USA), who lost points for unison difficulties during their side/side spins. Third place went to Viktoria

Shliakhova and Alexander Maskov (RUS). Erin Elbe and Jeffrey Weiss (USA), making their world championship debut, placed ninth.

Petrova and Sikharulidze won their second title by skating a solid long program. There was a minor deduction for Petrova's touchdown during a double Axel.

The Hartsell team brought home the silver. Danielle touched down on her double Axel, and landed badly on another jump.

"We were happy we stayed on our feet on both cases," said Steve. Next year

Danielle and Steve Hartsell won the silver medal in the Pairs event — and the highest placement of the U.S. Team.

they'll aim for the gold in Brisbane, Australia.

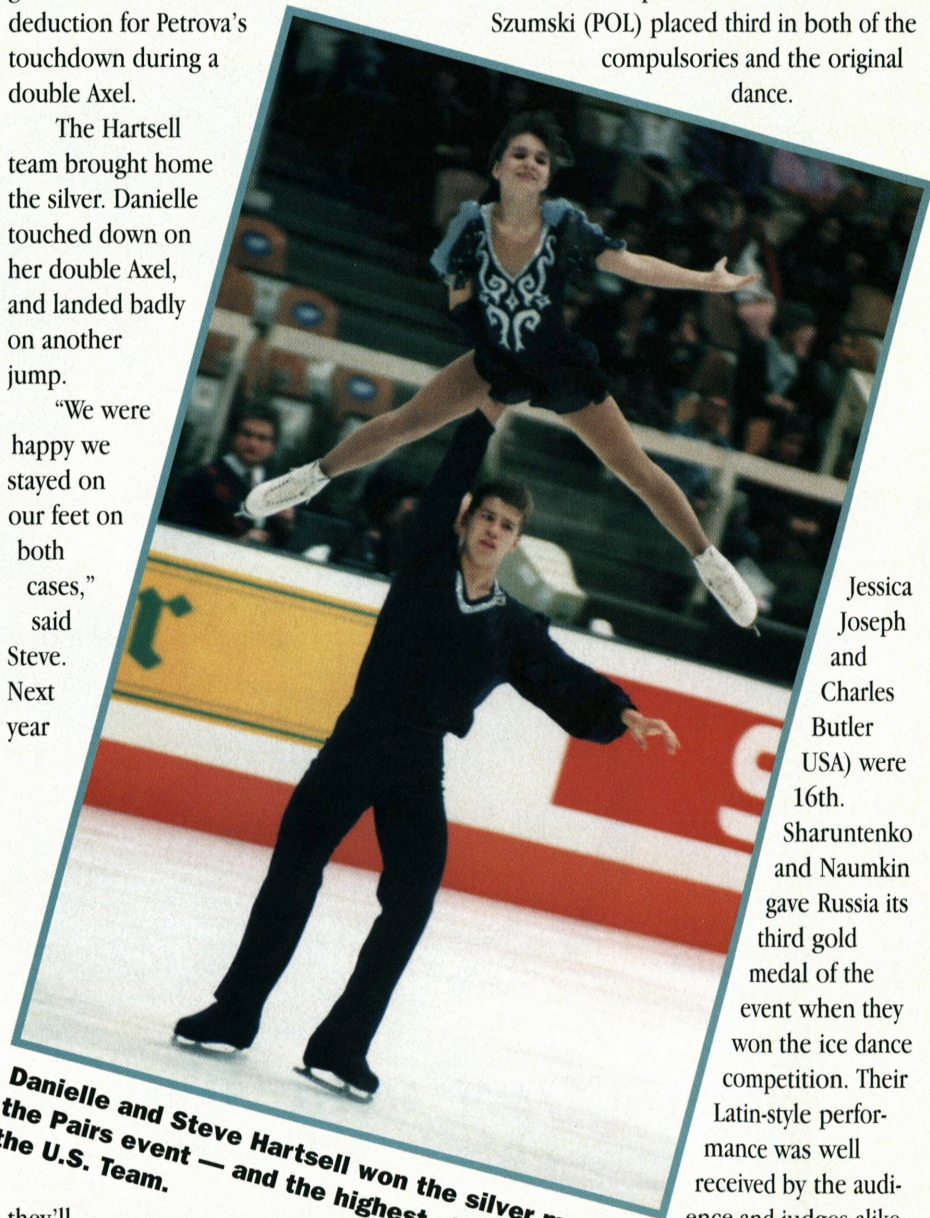
Evgenia Filonenko and Igor Marchenko (UKR) moved up from fourth to win the bronze. Shliakhova and Maskov dropped to fourth.

Dance

In the compulsories, Stephanie Guardia and Franck Laporte (FRA) skated

well to both the European Waltz and the Paso Doble for the lead, but dropped to second after the original Quickstep. Olga Sharutenko and Dmitri Naumkin (RUS), not quite as sharp as the French team to start, moved up to first after the original.

Iwona Filipowicz and Michal Szumski (POL) placed third in both of the compulsories and the original dance.



Jessica Joseph and Charles Butler (USA) were 16th.

Sharutenko and Naumkin gave Russia its third gold medal of the event when they won the ice dance competition. Their Latin-style performance was well received by the audience and judges alike. Scores ranged from 5.4-

5.7 for technique; 5.6-5.8 for art. Guardia and Laporte won the silver;

Filipowicz and Szumski; the bronze. Americans Joseph and Butler finished in 17th place. ■

Ronald Scheurer is a free-lance journalist and short story writer who has written for numerous skating publications.


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Stojko reigns supreme at Skate Canada

By Peter K. Robertson

Several late withdrawals weakened the fields at this year's Skate Canada somewhat, but the warmth and hospitality of the people of Red Deer, Alberta, made all the skaters who did compete feel welcome and appreciated. They rose to the occasion with some fine performances.

Men

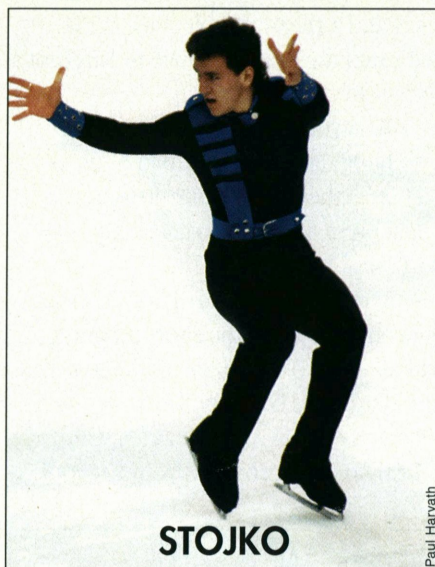
Overwhelmingly favored to win the men's event, World Champion Elvis Stojko lived up to expectations. He unveiled two new programs which were an interesting contrast.

Stojko's short program, set to futuristic music from *Total Recall*, was highlighted by a triple Axel/double toe loop combination and a great straight line step sequence at the end. In the long, he skated to the soundtrack of *1492: Conquest of Paradise*, the story of Columbus. Although he touched a hand to the ice on a quadruple toe loop attempt, he landed six triple jumps including two Axels, and was easily the class of the field.

Obviously pleased with what he called "one of my best skates," Stojko said he felt he was right on schedule for the season. "There's still a lot left in the program, like the triple/triple combination, the quad/triple combination and the second quad," he said.

With his third Skate Canada win, Stojko equalled the records of Brian Orser and Kurt Browning.

The surprise silver medalist was Michael Shmerkin of Israel. Definitely a crowd pleaser, Shmerkin moved up from fifth with an energetic free skate that included five successful triples, two Axels among them. The bronze went to Sebastian Britten of Canada. His goal this year is to add the triple Axel to his repertoire, and frustration at trying to achieve this almost led him to quit. Although it's not there yet, he has all the other jumps and his programs are artistically impressive. Dmitry Dmitrenko of the Ukraine, second after the short program, dropped



to fourth when he tumbled from a quad attempt and omitted some of his later jumps.

American Michael Chack got off to a strong start with an excellent short program. Skating to Latin themes from Rodrigo and the movie, *Strictly Ballroom*, he landed the triple Axel/double toe loop and demonstrated edges and extensions as good as any in the event. However, he was unlucky in the long.

Following Stojko, Chack had to wait while the ice was cleared of flowers and was later forced to stop when his pant strap came undone after missing his opening triple Axel. He restarted the program brilliantly with a triple Lutz/triple toe loop, but had trouble with some of his later jumps, doubling out of some of them. Chack had to settle for fifth place.

Ladies

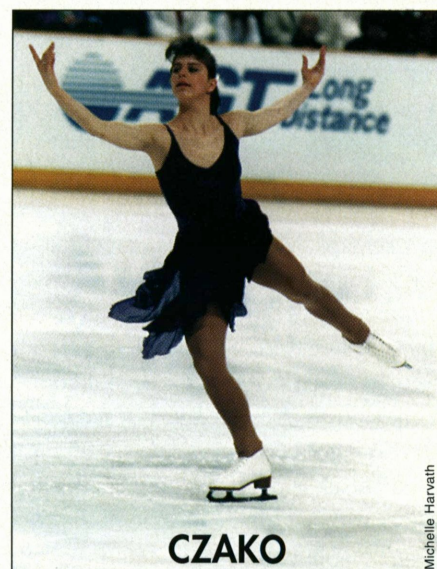
The ladies' competition was the event probably most affected by the late withdrawals. Nevertheless, Krisztina Czako recorded the most important international win of her career to date.

A fall on the triple Lutz dropped the Hungarian to second place in the short program, but her free skating was technically well ahead of any of her rivals, including five different triple jumps. Her programs lack artistry and maturity, but she makes up for it with her energy and high spirits.

"This is one of the best days in my life, it was really my happiest day," the delighted Czako said afterward.

Still only 15 years old and in the equivalent of the 10th grade, she will next challenge for the 1995 World junior title.

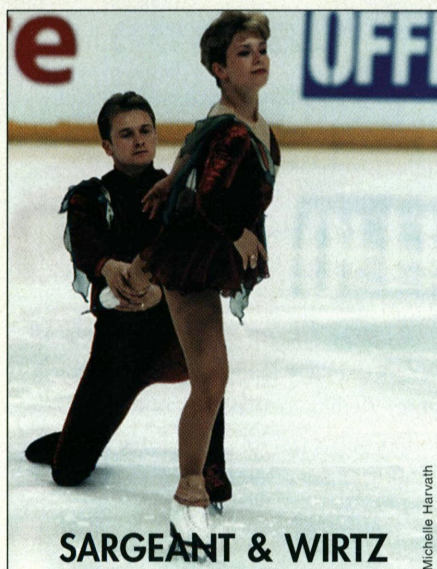
France's Laetitia Hubert took the silver medal after leading in the short program, thanks to a successful triple loop/double toe loop combination. Skating to *Les Misérables*, she turned several of her triple jumps in the long program to doubles before getting it together in the last half of the routine. That was good enough for third in the free skating



and second overall.

American Jessica Mills took the bronze. After winning the 1989 World Junior title at age 14, Mills has found the transition to senior competition difficult. Lost confidence, coaching changes and unrealistic goals have all taken their toll. But now, armed with two mature well-choreographed programs under the guidance of coach Gordon McKellen, she looks ready to be a real factor in U.S. ladies' skating.

Her short program included a triple Lutz/double toe loop and a triple flip. In the free skating, set to *The Phantom of the Opera*, she doubled out of most her triples, something she attributed to not being able to use her nerves constructively.



loops (although Wirtz doubled his), throw triple Salchow, individual double Axels and a throw double Axel. Wirtz dedicated their performance to Sargeant's 2-year-old daughter Tristin.

"Kristy has given up a lot of time with her daughter for the two of us to skate together. To win our first international event together, that was for her," Wirtz said.

Bereznaya and Schliakhov, after leading convincingly in the short program, had all kinds of problems in the free skating. Bereznaya fell from the triple toe loop and double Axel attempts, while Schliakhov had problems with some of

ly.

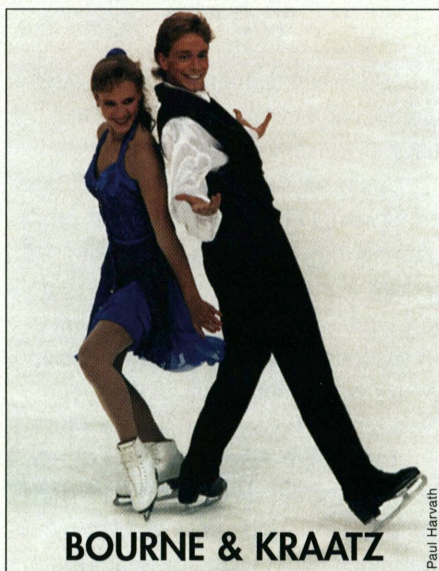
"I was really happy with the way last night went. I wasn't training well because I was so nervous and it reflected on my performance today. I couldn't use my nerves in a good way. It's a little easier to hold it together for two-and-a-half minutes in the short program than it is for four minutes."

Perhaps the unluckiest competitor was Germany's Marina Kielmann. She had the kind of short program skaters dread, falling twice. Second place in free skating, thanks to four triples, could only garner fourth place overall. The second American entry, Amanda Farkas, had good presentation, but experienced difficulties with her triple jumps in both programs. She finished seventh.

Pairs

Probably the biggest upset of the competition was the victory of Kristy Sargeant and Kris Wirtz of Canada over the Latvians Elena Bereznaya and Oleg Schliakhov.

Sargeant fell from the triple toe loop in the short program which left the team in second place. In the long program, skated to *Sleeping Beauty*, almost everything went well for them right up to the final move, a forward inside death spiral. Unfortunately, Wirtz leaned back too far and both skaters ended up sitting on the ice. However, their performance up to that point was more than enough to win, with a triple twist, side-by-side triple toe



the easier jumps late in the program. Schliakhov also failed to appear at the medal presentation, leaving his partner to accept the silver medal alone. In a classy gesture, Kris Wirtz escorted Bereznaya to the podium after doing the same for his own partner.

France's Sarah Abitbol and Stephane Bernadis overtook Elena Belousovskaia and Sergei Potalov of the Ukraine for third place after skating a cleaner long program.

For the young Americans, Cheryl Marker and Todd Price, this competition was largely to gain experience on the international circuit. The personable couple had trouble with the side-by-side double Axels in both the short and long programs and they did not perform several of the moves in the free skating as well as they are capable. Still, they saw a positive

side to their seventh place finish.

"When we got here, we were here to do the best we could," Price said. "We didn't come here to do individual moves, we came here to learn an overall experience at this level. The whole thing wasn't a failure for us at all. We've never done a throw triple Salchow in front of an audience before. You have to take the positive and move on."

Dance

First place in ice dancing went to the fast-rising Canadian team of Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz. They were convincing winners of both compulsory dances, the Ravensburger waltz and the rhumba. They strengthened their hold on first place by winning the original dance (Quickstep). For a team best known for their soft knees and deep edges, victory in a dance requiring fast steps and unison was a significant development. But it was in the free dance where they really shone.

Skated to big band music, it highlighted fast footwork and good edges; they even incorporated some of the moves they call hydroblading. Developed by choreographer Uschi Keszler, this involves both dancers skating low on deeply flexed knees with their upper bodies and free legs parallel to the ice. Woven into the program at a few key moments, it proved remarkably effective.

"What felt so good was we won, but we skated the best we could have skated and we were happy out there," said Bourne. "Even if we hadn't won, it was the best feeling." The twosome now move to Lake Arrowhead, Calif., to train with Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko.

Second throughout were Margarita Drobiazko and Povilas Vanagas of Lithuania. Their free dance was particularly effective, an energetic performance skated to music from the films, *Stepping Out* and *Soap Dish* that contrasted sharply with the jazz and blues favored by most of their competitors.

The bronze medalists were the American entrants, Renee Roca and Gorsha Sur. The wide range of marks in

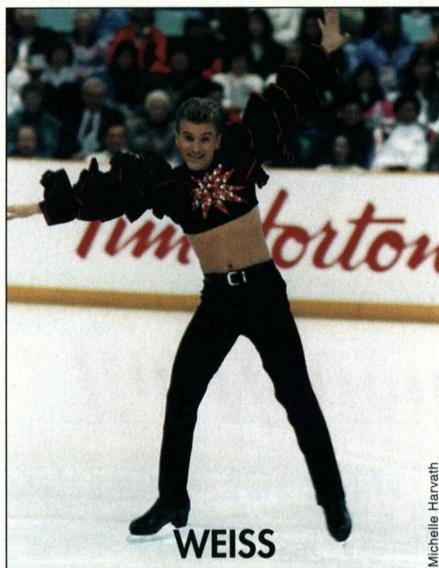
the compulsories (4.2 to 5.2) indicated the judges' uncertainty about where to place them, but for the rest of the competition they were solidly third. Theirs was one of the most authentic Quicksteps. The free dance, to "Fever," "Harlem Nocturne" and "Red Blues," was a salute to classic Hollywood musicals. It was inspired by film choreographer Hermes Pan, who worked with Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse.

"We took the music from that era and tried to interpret his choreography and put it on the ice and hope it works out," explained Sur. Given the field, they were content with their finish.

Men's Interpretive

Interpretive skating returned to Skate Canada after a one-year absence with stricter rules than ever. No longer permitted are vocal music, theatrical costumes and make-up, and beginning the routines off the ice surface. The judging, however, remains as confusing as ever.

The choice of the audience and most of the judges was the German, Daniel Hollander, had one of the most creative programs, a mime routine that was choreographed for him by Tom Johnson, a former pupil of Marcel Marceau. The theme was clear to the crowd right from his opening moves, but the judges only saw fit to place him fifth. It was suggested that there was too much mime done at a standstill and not enough actual skating.



But it was undeniably original and interpretive, and the audience response was second only to that of Weiss.

Hollander said he enjoyed competing in this event, but agreed with Weiss that the rules need to be clarified.

"I didn't know what to expect. I just thought, well, it's going to be a show and I wanted to impress people and make people happy. I don't think it's been very well defined what the judges want or are looking for. I'm very proud to represent the USFSA and if they asked me to do it again I would but, if so, I would probably request to have it a little bit more defined." ■

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

Weiss, understandably thrilled with the 6.0, was philosophical about the disparity.

"For the crowd it's great, but the question is can you judge something like that?" For Weiss, it's connecting with the audience that is most important. As he disarmingly expressed it, "I just show my strong points, my strong points are character, fast steps, no spins as I'm very bad at spinning, my jumps are not that hot so I don't do any jumps."

The silver medal went to David Liu representing Chinese Taipei whose com-

RESULTS

1994 SUNLIFE SKATE CANADA INTERNATIONAL RED DEER, ALBERTA NOVEMBER 3-6, 1994

MEN

JUDGES: 1 Simone Moore, AUS; 2 Jette Dresler, DEN; 3 Ingrid Reetz, GER; 4 **Steve Winkler, USA**; 5 Alfred Korytek, UKR; 6 Katalin Balczó, HUN; 7 Jane Garden, CAN. SUBSTITUTE JUDGE: Jean Matthews, CAN. REFEREE: Sally-Anne Stapleford, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Margie Berezowski, CAN.

NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-PLACES

1. Elvis Stojko, CAN, 1-1-1.5
2. Michael Shmerkin, ISR, 5-2-4.5
3. Sebastian Britten, CAN, 4-3-5.0
4. Dmitry Dmitrenko, UKR, 2-4-5.0
5. **Michael Chack, USA, 3-5-6.5**
6. Zsolt Kerekes, HUN, 6-6-9.0
7. Thierry Cerez, FRA, 8-7-11.0
8. Michael Tyllesen, DEN, 7-8-11.5
9. Steven Cousins, GRB, 10-9-14.0
10. Jeffrey Langdon, CAN, 11-10-15.5
11. Stephen Carr, AUS, 9-11-15.5
12. Mirko Eichhorn, GER, 12-12-18.0

LADIES

JUDGES: 1 Elfriede Beyer, GER; 2 Audrey Moore, CAN; 3 Prisca Binz Moser, SWI; 4 **Taffy Holliday, USA**; 5 Marguerite Zabern, FRA; 6 Lauma Jakabsone, LAT; 7 Katalin Balczó, HUN. SUBSTITUTE JUDGE: Jette Dresler, DEN. REFEREE: Britta Lindgren, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Lucy Brennan, USA.

NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-PLACES

1. Krisztina Czako, HUN, 2-1-2.0
2. Laetitia Hubert, FRA, 1-3-3.5
3. **Jessica Mills, USA, 3-4-5.5**
4. Marina Kielmann, GER, 8-2-6.0
5. Angela Derochie, CAN, 4-5-7.0
6. Jennifer Robinson, CAN, 7-6-9.5
7. **Amanda Farkas, USA, 6-7-10.0**
8. Alma Lepina, LAT, 5-9-11.5
9. Nathalie Krieg, SWI, 9-8-12.5

PAIRS

JUDGES: 1 **Steve Winkler, USA**; 2 **Taffy Holliday, USA**; 3 Lauma Jakabsone, LAT; 4 Marguerite Zabern, FRA; 5 Simone Moore, AUS; 6 Alfred Korytek, UKR; 7 Jean Matthews, CAN. SUBSTITUTE JUDGE: Katalin Balczó, HUN. REFEREE: Jack Greenwood, CAN. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Lucy Brennan, USA.

NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-PLACES

1. Kristy Sargeant & Kris Wirtz, CAN, 2-1-2.0
2. Elena Berezhnaya & Oleg Schliakhov, LAT, 1-2-2.5
3. Sarah Abitbol & Stephane Bernadis, FRA, 4-3-5.0
4. Elena Belousovskaia & Sergei Potalov, UKR, 3-4-5.5
5. Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr, AUS, 4-5-7.0
6. Lesley Rogers & Michael Aldred, GRB, 6-6-9.0
7. **Cheryl Marker & Todd Price, USA, 7-7-10.5**

DANCE

JUDGES: 1 **James Disbrow, USA**; 2 Prisca Binz Moser, SWI; 3 Odette Coulson, GRB; 4 Aleksander Afonin, LAT; 5 Ingrid Reetz, GER; 6 Jane Garden, CAN; 7 Chantal Burais, FRA. SUBSTITUTE JUDGE: Audrey Moore, CAN. REFEREE: Hans Kutschera, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Ann Shaw, I.S.U.

NAME, COUNTRY, DI-D2-OD-FD-PLACES

1. Shae-Lynn Bourne & Victor Kraatz, CAN, 1-1-1-1-2.0
2. Margarita Drobiazko & Povilas Vanagas, LIT, 2-2-2-2-4.0
3. **Renee Roca & Gorsha Sur, USA, 3-4-3-3-6.2**
4. E. Stekolnikova & Dmitri Kazarlyga, KZK, 4-3-4-4-7.8
5. Jennifer Boyce & Michel Brunet, CAN, 7-6-6-5-11.2
6. Michelle Fitzgerald & Vincent Kyle, GRB, 6-7-7-6-12.8
7. Kati Winkler & Rene Lohse, GER, 5-5-5-8-13.0
8. Allison MacLean & Konrad Schaub, AUT, 8-9-8-7-15.2
9. Berangere Nau & Luc Monerger, FRA, 9-8-9-9-17.8
10. Olga Mudrak & Vitaly Baranov, UKR, 10-11-10-10-20.2
11. Albena Denkova & Christo Nikolov, BUL, 11-10-11-11-21.8

MEN'S INTERPRETIVE

JUDGES: 1 Audrey Moore, CAN; 2 Chantal Burais, FRA; 3 Elfriede Beyer, GER; 4 Katalin Balczó, HUN; 5 Odette Coulson, GRB; 6 Jette Dresler, DEN; 7 **James Disbrow, USA**. SUBSTITUTE JUDGE: Aleksander Afonin, LAT. REFEREE: Sally-Anne Stapleford, I.S.U. ASSISTANT REFEREE: Britta Lindgren, I.S.U.

NAME, COUNTRY, PLACES

1. Daniel Weiss, GER, 1.0
2. David Liu, TPE, 2.0
3. Henrik Valentin, DEN, 3.0
4. Matthew Hall, CAN, 4.0
5. **Daniel Hollander, USA, 5.0**
6. Zsolt Kerekes, HUN, 6.0 ■



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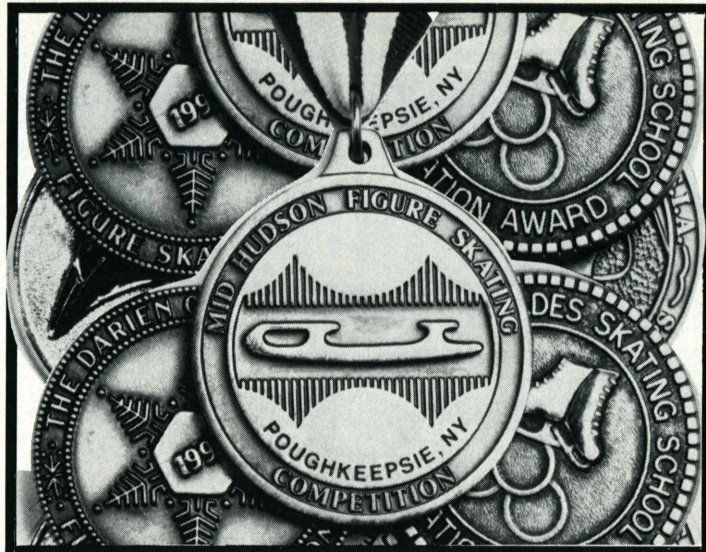
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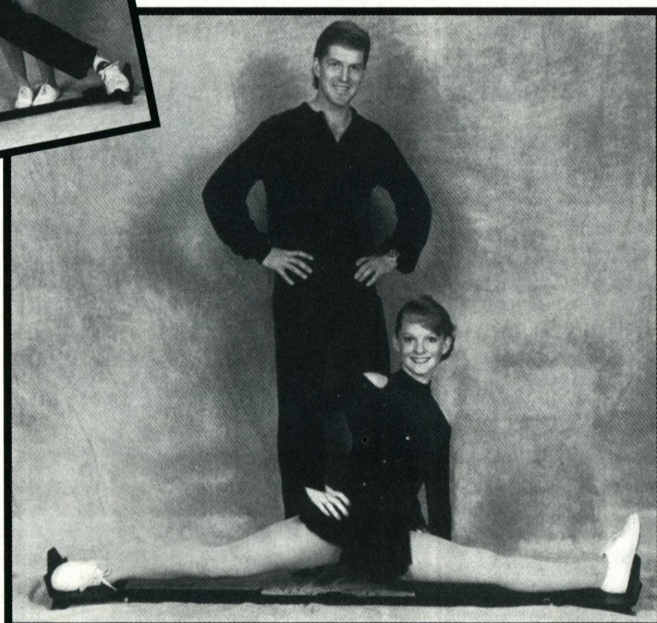
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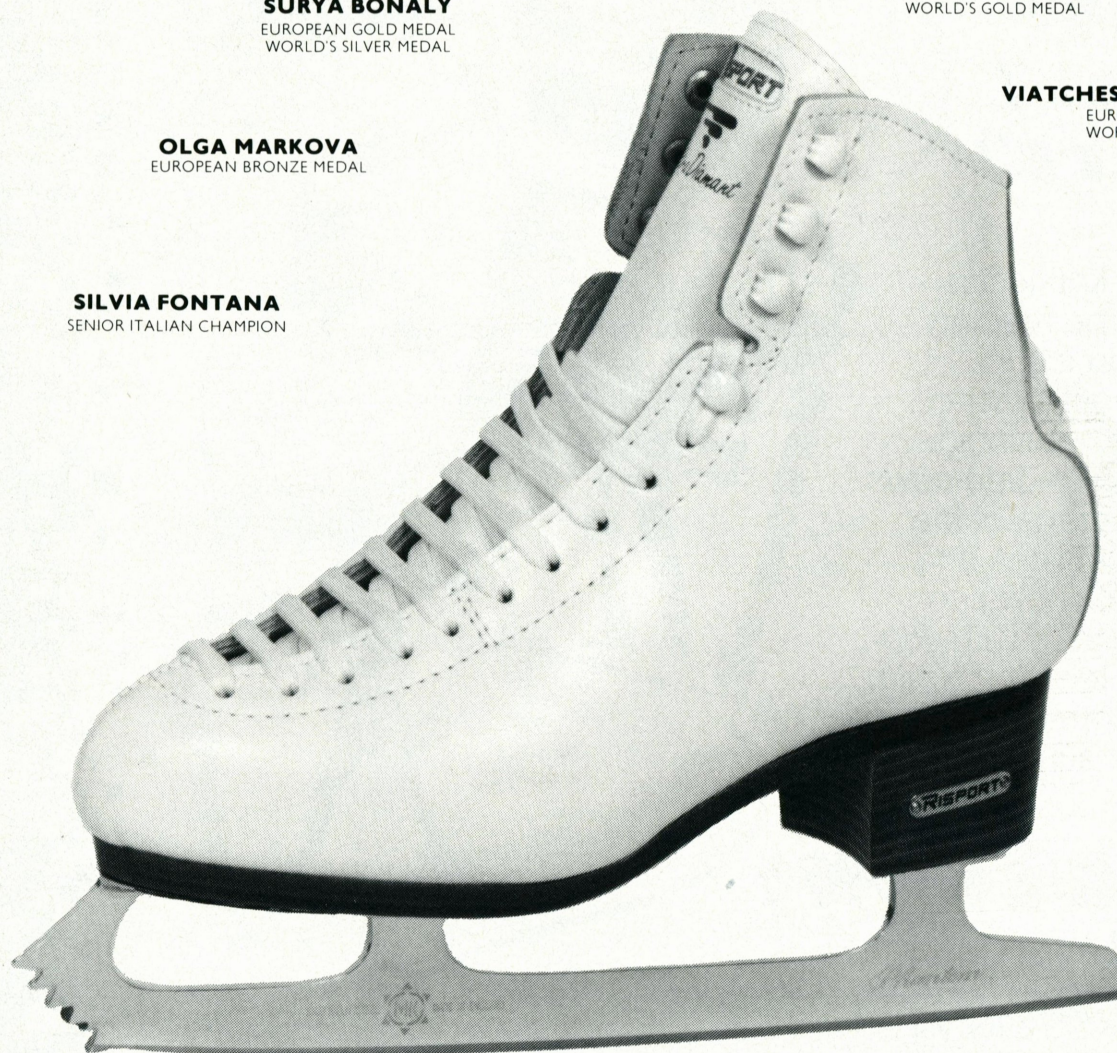
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Fine tuning your skating

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By Angela D. Smith, M.D.

Editor's Note: The following article has been reprinted from the June 1991 issue of Skating magazine with an update on boot improvements since the original article was written.

Athletes in a sport usually require several pieces of equipment. Skaters require only one — their skates.

In most sports, equipment used by the athlete has changed significantly over the decades; tennis rackets are larger, running shoes are highly engineered and football helmets provide much greater protection. However, the figure skating boot has changed very little in the last two centuries.

Skaters have chosen different boot heights over the years, from just above the ankle to the mid-shin and now back to the ankle. Favorite colors have changed according to fashion. Otherwise, the appearance of today's boots closely resembles that of skating boots from the 1700s.

Boot changes and problems

The inner structure of the boot has changed, but some of the alterations that are supposed to *help* the skater also cause problems. Boots have become much more stiff over the last 20 years. Many skaters request the stiffest boots available, since the extra strength of the boots allows a skater to land difficult jumps when the skater does not have enough strength to complete such moves otherwise. Unfortunately, there are drawbacks to wearing very stiff boots.

Skaters must move their ankles to bend their knees and point their toes. If the boot is so firm that it doesn't bend with the skater, then it presses against the

athlete's skin and underlying bones and tendons. To alleviate this problem, boot manufacturers insert thick padding between the layers of the leather in the ankle portion of the skate. Sometimes this padding is still insufficient. Sometimes this padding itself causes problems, squeezing vulnerable areas such as the Achilles tendon.

Most skaters who buy very stiff boots order them to be cut low, so that the boot top ends just above the ankle bones. However, when these skaters point their toes, the boot cuts into the Achilles tendon. With higher-cut boots, the boot top is cushioned by the calf muscles. When the skater with stiff boots bends his or her knees, the laces and the front of the boot compress tendons against the shin bone. This pressure can cause tendinitis, bursitis, clotted veins, or even benign tumors.

Some skaters unlace the top hooks to allow greater knee bend. This causes each of the remaining lace crossings to push with even more force against the skater's leg, and this force is now more concentrated over the more critical area where the tendons cross over the ankle joint. Other skaters simply tie all of the upper laces loosely. This takes away much of the extra support they wanted when they ordered the boots.

The other significant change in skating boots has been the variation of heel height. The modifications here seem to have been dictated mainly by fashion.

In all other sports, the shoes have little or no heel. Among skates, the less expensive models generally have low heels. However, most elite skaters choose higher heels. This choice is apparently based on aesthetics and tradition.

If a boot is so stiff that the skater wearing it is unable to point the toe, then the higher heel does give the appearance



of a more pointed toe and a better line. However, when the heel is high, the calf muscles cannot function effectively.

Every ballet dancer performs a plié before jumping — the calf muscles must be pre-stretched for their explosive contraction to produce a high jump. If the heel is tall and the boot is stiff, the calf muscles cannot contribute to the jump.

Orthotics

Runners have worn special inserts for years — to improve the alignment of the foot and the leg, to cushion the jarring force of each step, and to prevent or cure injuries.

When skaters tried to put their running shoe inserts into their skates, they often found that more problems were created than were solved. Fortunately, as more skaters consult sports medicine physicians and podiatrists about their alignment problems and injuries, boot manufacturers are gaining experience in building boots that accommodate orthotic devices.

These skate inserts range from simple arch supports to custom-fitted appliances. Orthotics should balance the foot within the boot, supporting it into improved alignment with the leg. They also may aid in distributing the force of jump landings more evenly throughout the foot.

If you plan to wear orthotics in your skates, take them with you for boot fit-

tings, or discuss them with your custom bootmaker.

Boot fit

By now, you may be wondering how you can ever buy boots that fit well, function well and don't cause injury. It is possible.

The first strategy is to find a boot fitter who is knowledgeable and who has a selection of different models and widths that include the ones that best accommodate your foot type.

If you wear orthotic devices, try on the boots with the orthotics inserted. Be sure that the foot portion of the boot fits well — your heel should not move up and down, or heel spurs (pump bumps) may result. You should have plenty of space to wiggle your toes. The arch area must feel comfortable to your foot, and you should not feel painful pressure areas.

If you are an advanced skater and have always worn very stiff boots, you may need to stay with them. However, if you have been plagued by boot-related foot and leg problems, you may decide that it is better to use less stiff boots. If so, you must develop your own muscle strength to provide the ankle support that you previously obtained from the boot. (When elite skaters have been tested over the last decade, most actually have weaker muscles around the ankle than non-athletes!) A sports medicine professional can teach you simple exercises to strengthen the muscles that prevent you from rolling over excessively to the inside or outside edge (the evertor and invertor muscles) and to stretch the calf muscles.

If you are just beginning to work on double jumps, I recommend that you wear boots with more flexible ankle regions. If you use the more flexible boots in your training, the supporting muscles will strengthen as they are needed and utilized. A number of young elite skaters have done this. They prove that it is definitely possible to perform all of the triple jumps and compete on internation-

al, World and Olympic teams with stock boots that are flexible.

If you decide to purchase the stiffer boots, make sure that the ankle padding does not pinch your Achilles tendon. If it does, the padding may need to be compressed, or some of it removed. The padding around the ankle bones must be sufficient. The padding should be "punched out" over painful or swollen bony prominences and tendons. If you are ordering custom-made boots, consider having a cast made of your foot in the well-aligned neutral position, and send the cast to the boot manufacturer. Send pictures and measurements of your orthotics as well.

Solving boot problems

Almost all boot-related injuries result from excessive pressure. Even flexible boots can cause the normal pockets of fluid over the ankle bones (malleoli) to become inflamed and swollen into bursitis. This should be treated by punching out the boot with a ball-and-ring device or by placing a doughnut-shaped pad between the foot and the boot. The hole of the doughnut overlies the swollen area, and the foam padding of the doughnut should be thick enough to relieve the pressure of the boot against the painful area.

Inflammation of the tendons at the front of the ankle is often solved by a simple foam pad. If the original foam lining of the tongue of the boot has become compressed, it may be replaced with a denser foam that has "memory" so that it springs back to its original thickness more readily. Many skaters rely on modern silicone compounds that resemble lumps of chicken fat, much like the material sold by Spenco in some sporting goods and running shoes stores.

Sometimes the laces have already made such rigid grooves in the tongue leather that simple padding is not sufficient. One solution for this problem is to insert moldable, semi-rigid plastic into the upper part of the tongue so that the force from the laces is distributed more

evenly over the entire front of the ankle. Orthopedic brace shops, hand therapists, and some physical therapists have this material available.

After the plastic has been cut to size (slightly narrower than the shape of the original tongue padding, starting from the major ankle crease and extending to the top of the tongue padding), it is heated so that it becomes pliable. The skater should already have the boot on, but not laced. The plastic is then inserted between the tongue leather and the tongue padding. The skater rapidly ties the laces snugly, but not tightly, and walks around. If the pressure does not seem to be improved enough by the first attempt, the plastic can be reheated and remolded until the skater feels comfortable. After the plastic hardens, the parts of the tongue are glued together.

With an injury, it is important to solve the problem early in its course. Once bursitis or even tendinitis is established, it takes much longer to resolve.

Although I have seen hundreds of skaters with feet problems in my practice, I have never needed to operate on a skater to relieve the pain from a swollen, inflamed bursa or bony prominence. However, it has been necessary to operate on many skating boots!

Surgeons who are not familiar with some of the possible boot alterations may recommend surgery to remove bursas or bone spurs, but the pain and inflammation can almost always be relieved by operating on the boot rather than the skater.

An Update

Bootmakers have attempted to address some of the problems discussed in the 1991 article.

Many styles now allow the skater to choose a narrow heel width and a wider forefoot (toe area) width. This decreases the slippage of the heel, and makes "pump bumps" less likely.

Some boot styles seem to have become even stiffer. Manufacturers have begun using silicone to provide improved

padding with the stiffer boots. This is good for many skaters, but now more skaters than previously seem to have problems from excessive padding around the back of the ankle region. Occasionally the bootmaker has needed to remove padding for a skater.

With the very stiff boot, the boots are now cut back farther, so that the tongue area is wider. The eyelets near the ankle bones are now so far down and back on some skaters that they rub against the ankle bones and cause pain or bursitis. Since the tongue has little or no padding at the edges, additional pads (foam powder puffs, adhesive-backed foam doughnuts, or silicone) may be needed to relieve the pressure.

I now have needed to operate on the enlarged ankle bursa of a senior lady competitor. Her bursa had been so large (never smaller than a golf ball, even

when compressed, and usually filled with fluid to almost twice that size) for so long (markedly swollen for more than two years) that it actually had many firm, separate chambers within it. The inflamed sensory nerve had been stretched to almost three times its normal length. The thick underlying tissues and the nerve had to be removed to allow the skin to lie flat in its normal position. This type of soft tissue mass is very unusual, and is probably avoidable by careful attention to boot fit and relief of excessive pressure at earlier stages of the problem.

Finally, a hinged boot is nearing production. It allows the ankle to flex and point, but controls the skater's ankle from falling onto an excessive inside or outside edge (inversion and eversion). The plastic outer shell is heat-molded for a customized fit, the inner padding is comfortable, and it is designed to accom-

modate an orthotic device. This column will have more information on this and other design changes as they become available.■

Dr. Angela D. Smith is a former Senior ladies competitor and chairs the USFSA Sports Medicine Committee.

Do you have a question related to sports medicine, science, nutrition, etc. as they relate to the sport of figure skating? Send your questions to "Ask The Doctor," c/o Skating Magazine, 20 First Street, CO 80906. We will answer your letters in future Sport Medicine & Science columns.

Continued from page 6

level is incorrect. In the 1995 Official USFSA Rulebook, CR 35.067 (a) states: There is no test requirement for Adult Senior Free Skating Events. An adult Singles competitor may not have entered a Senior Free Skating event in a qualifying competition in the past. (emphasis ours). Apparently, your former coach never competed in a qualifying Senior Ladies' Free Skating event and was therefore eligible to compete in this Adult Senior Ladies' event. To ease your mind, if Dorothy Hamill should reinstate, she would not be able to compete against you in an Adult Senior Ladies' Free Skating event because she previously competed in Senior Free Skating events in qualifying competitions.

WHAT'S THE DELAY?

Dear Editor:

Really enjoy *Skating* magazine and all the information in each issue! Excellent publication! Keep up the good work!

My only question is: *Why do the issues arrive so late?* Here it is Dec. 19; December is two-thirds over and I have yet to receive the December *Skating*! This

also means some of the information in the magazine is a bit dated! Why does it happen that way? (I do enjoy the magazine and just resubscribed through February 1996) *Just curious!*

Frank Kovacs, Jr.
Nazareth, Penn.

Dear Frank,

The recent delays you have noticed in receiving your magazine are partly intentional and partly unintentional. Please allow me to explain.

In the past several months, the Skating staff has been making a concerted effort to make each issue of the newsletter and the magazine as timely as possible. This was done in response to readers' (and editors') concerns that much of the material was dated by the time it appeared in print.

By pushing back the date that we expect the publication to hit the readership's doorsteps from the first of the month to about the 10th of the month and working with our various service bureaus and printers to reduce the lead time, we believe that we have made the contents of the publications more timely.

Unfortunately, competitions, major meetings and other newsworthy events do not always fall neatly into our production schedule. Sometimes, we believe that the need to place information in the next available publication supersedes the need to have the publication on the doorsteps by the 10th of the month. This was the case with the November Skating newsletter, which contained the Report of Action from the USFSA's Board of Directors meeting in October. Under the "old" production schedule, that information could not have been published until the January issue!

As stated previously, part of the recent problem was unintentional. Coupled with the fact that we had pushed back the publication date on the November issue, we recognized the need to make the December issue larger than usual to compensate for the additional advertising we had received. More pages, unfortunately, meant more time in production.

We hope this helps you understand some of the factors that can contribute to a publication being late and we appreciate your patience with us along the way.■

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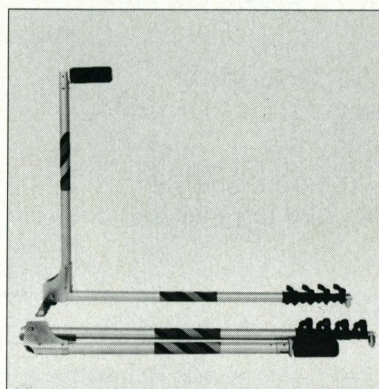
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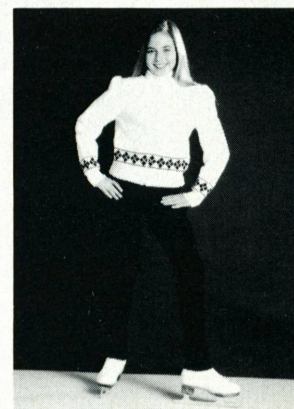
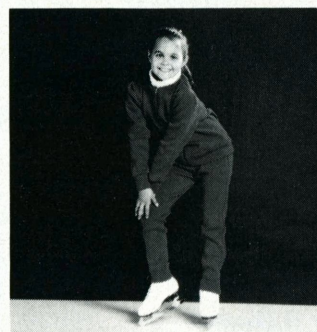
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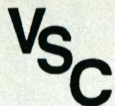
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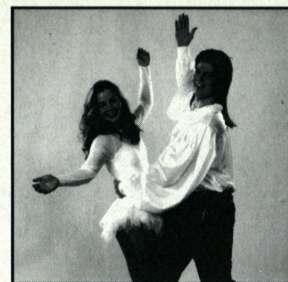
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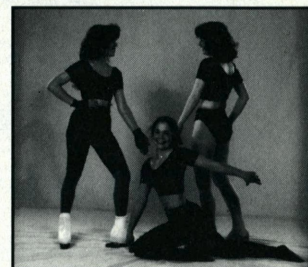


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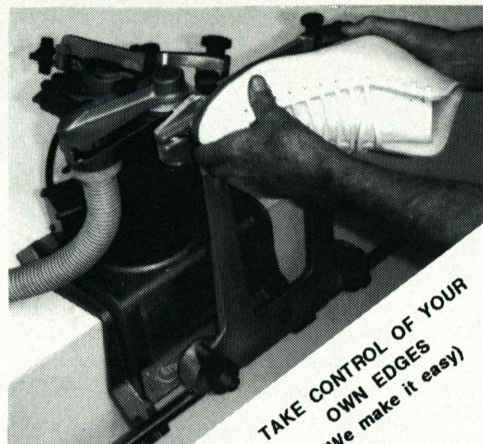
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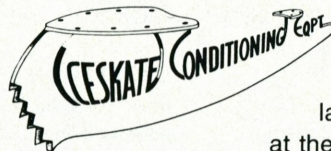
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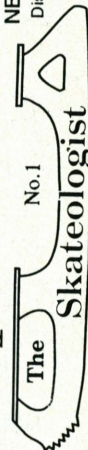
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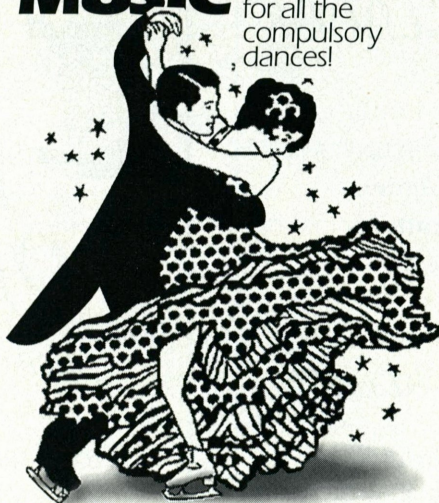
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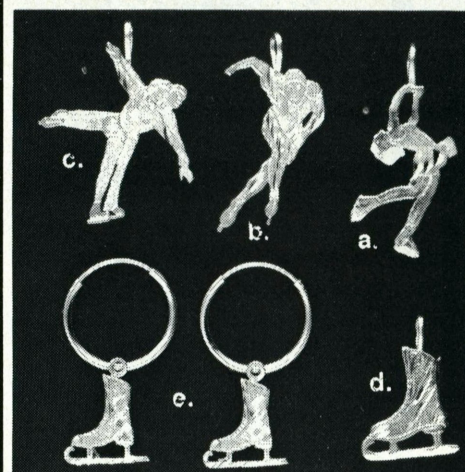
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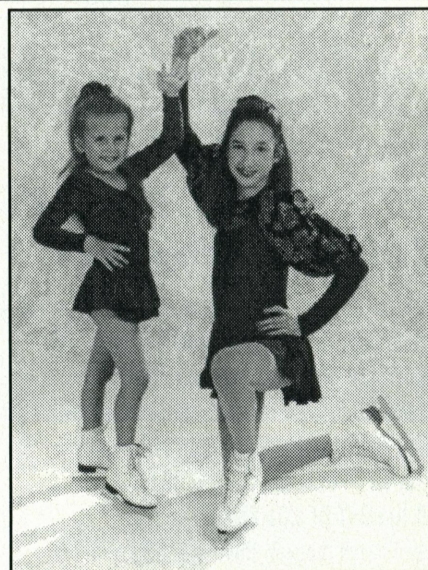
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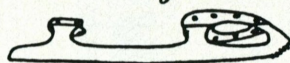
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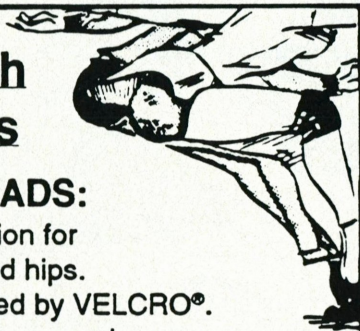
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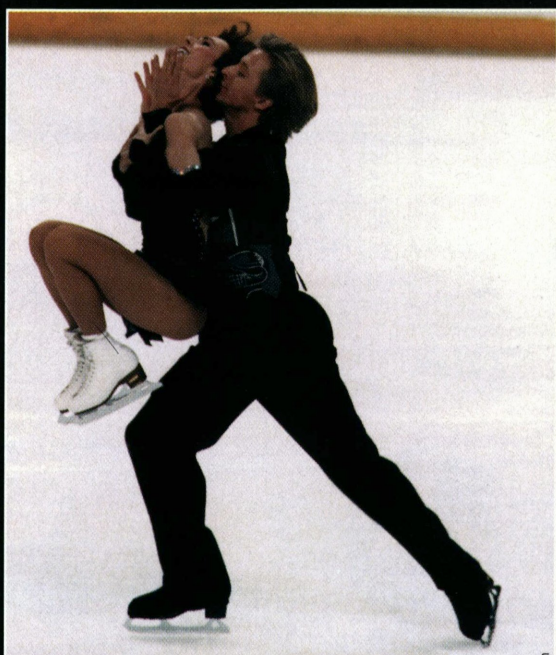
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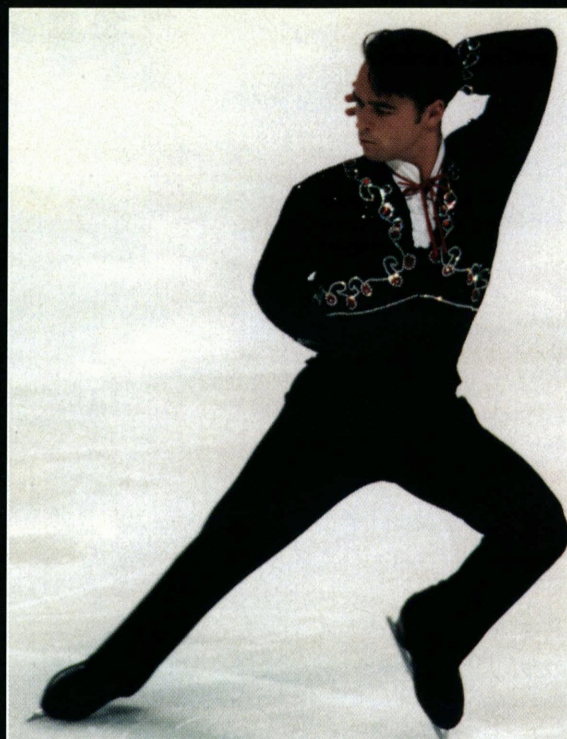
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Michelle Kwan	<i>United States</i>
Jill Trenary	<i>United States</i>

MEN

Brian Boitano	<i>United States</i>
Viktor Petrenko	<i>Ukraine</i>
Scott Davis	<i>United States</i>
Elvis Stojko	<i>Canada</i>

Philippe Candeloro	<i>France</i>
Alexei Urmanov	<i>Russia</i>
Toller Cranston	<i>Canada</i>

PAIRS

Isabelle Brasseur & Lloyd Eisler	<i>Canada</i>
Natalia Mishkutenok & Artur Dmitriev	<i>Russia</i>
Jenni Meno & Todd Sand	<i>United States</i>
Gia Guddat & Gary Beacom	<i>Canada</i>

DANCE

Maia Usova & Alexander Zhulin	<i>Russia</i>
Isabelle & Paul Duchesnay	<i>France</i>
Marina Klimova & Sergei Ponomarenko	<i>Russia</i>
Elizabeth Punsalan & Jerod Swallow	<i>United States</i>
Oksana Gritschuk & Evgeny Platov	<i>Russia</i>

1995 TOUR ITINERARY

CITY	VENUE	DAY & DATE	★	CITY	VENUE	DAY & DATE
ST. PETERSBURG, FL	ThunderDome	Sat. Apr 1	★	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	The Myriad	Sun. May 21
ORLANDO, FL	Orlando Arena	Sun. Apr 2	★	TULSA, OK	Tulsa Conv. Center Arena	Mon. May 22
MIAMI, FL	Miami Arena	Mon. Apr 3	★	WICHITA, KS	Kansas Coliseum	Tues. May 23
HUNTSVILLE, AL	Von Braun Civic Center	Wed. Apr 5	★	KANSAS CITY, MO	Kemper Arena	Thur. May 25
BIRMINGHAM, AL	Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Ctr.	Thur. Apr 6	★	ST. LOUIS, MO	Kiel Center	Fri. May 26
BALTIMORE, MD	Baltimore Arena	Fri. Apr 7	★	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	Target Center	Sat. May 27
WASHINGTON, DC	USAir Arena	Sat. Apr 8	★	FARGO, ND	FargoDome	Sun. May 28
PHILADELPHIA, PA	The Spectrum	Sun. Apr 9	★	BISMARCK, ND	Bismarck Civic Center	Tues. May 30
HAMPTON, VA	Hampton Coliseum	Wed. Apr 12	★	PEORIA, IL	Peoria Civic Center	Thur. June 1
HARTFORD, CT	Hartford Civic Center	Thur. Apr 13	★	MILWAUKEE, WI	Bradley Center Arena	Fri. June 2
SPRINGFIELD, MA	Springfield Civic Center	Fri. Apr 14	★	CHICAGO, IL	United Center	Sat. June 3
BOSTON, MA	Boston Garden	Sat. Apr 15	★	MOLINE, IL	The Mark	Sun. June 4
PROVIDENCE, RI	Providence Civic Center	Tues. Apr 18	★	AMES, IA	Hilton Coliseum	Tues. June 6
PITTSBURGH, PA	Civic Arena	Wed. Apr 19	★	FORT WORTH, TX	Ft. Worth/Tarrant Co. Con. Ctr.	Thur. June 8
BUFFALO, NY	Buffalo Memorial Auditorium	Fri. Apr 21	★	DALLAS, TX	Reunion Arena	Fri. June 9
ROCHESTER, NY	Rochester War Memorial	Sat. Apr 22	★	DENVER, CO	McNichols Arena	Sat. June 10
CLEVELAND, OH	Gund Arena	Sun. Apr 23	★	BILLINGS, MT	MetraPark Arena	Sun. June 11
CHAMPAIGN, IL	Assembly Hall, Univ of IL	Wed. Apr 26	★	PHOENIX, AZ	America West Arena	Tues. June 13
SYRACUSE, NY	Carrier Dome	Fri. Apr 28	★	HOUSTON, TX	The Summit	Thur. June 15
EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ	Meadowlands Arena	Sat. Apr 29 (Matinee)	★	NEW ORLEANS, LA	Louisiana Superdome	Fri. June 16
LONG ISLAND, NY	Nassau Coliseum	Sat. Apr 29 (Evening)	★	AUSTIN, TX	Frank Erwin Center	Sat. June 17
LONG ISLAND, NY	Nassau Coliseum	Sun. Apr 30	★	SAN ANTONIO, TX	Alamodome	Sun. June 18
NEW YORK CITY, NY	Madison Square Garden	Mon. May 1	★	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	Delta Center	Tues. June 20
NEW HAVEN, CT	New Haven, Ct. Coliseum	Tues. May 2	★	ANCHORAGE, AK	Sullivan Sports Arena	Fri. June 23
ALBANY, NY	Knickerbocker Arena	Wed. May 3	★	TACOMA, WA	Tacoma Dome	Sun. June 25
INDIANAPOLIS, IN	Market Square Arena	Fri. May 5	★	PORTLAND, OR	Memorial Coliseum	Tues. June 27
DETROIT, MI	Joe Louis Arena	Sat. May 6	★	BOISE, ID	Boise State Univ. Pavilion	Wed. June 28
CINCINNATI, OH	Riverfront Coliseum	Sun. May 7	★	LOS ANGELES, CA	The Great Western Forum	Fri. June 30
MEMPHIS, TN	Mid-South Coliseum	Tues. May 9	★	ANAHEIM, CA	Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim	Sat. July 1
NASHVILLE, TN	Nashville Municipal Aud.	Thur. May 11	★	SAN DIEGO, CA	Sports Arena	Sun. July 2
ATLANTA, GA	The Omni	Fri. May 12	★	LAS VEGAS, NV	MGM Grand Garden	Tues. July 4
TALLAHASSEE, FL	Leon County Civic Center	Sat. May 13	★	FRESNO, CA	Selland Arena	Wed. July 5
JACKSONVILLE, FL	Veterans Memorial Coliseum	Sun. May 14	★	SACRAMENTO, CA	ARCO Arena	Fri. July 7
CHARLOTTE, NC	Charlotte Coliseum	Wed. May 17	★	OAKLAND, CA	Oakland Coliseum	Sat. July 8
GREENSBORO, NC	Greensboro Coliseum	Thur. May 18	★	SAN JOSE, CA	San Jose Arena	Sun. July 9
COLUMBIA, SC	Carolina Coliseum	Fri. May 19	★			



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