

# SKATING

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U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS



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1995 European Championships

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# SKATING

VOLUME 72 NUMBER 4

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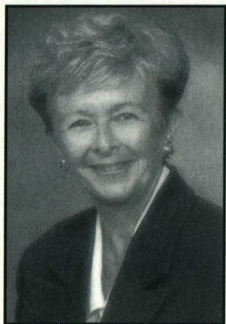
## COVER

The 1995 World Team, left to right, front row: Kyoko Ina, Renee Roca, Nicole Bobek, Jenni Meno, Michelle Kwan; back row: Jason Dungjen, Gorsha Sur, Todd Eldredge, Todd Sand and Scott Davis.

Photograph by Paul Harvath.

# Reflections on an administration

By Claire Ferguson, USFSA President



**A**t next month's Governing Council meeting in Phoenix, Ariz., I will conclude my three-year tenure as President of the USFSA. It has been an honor and a challenge to serve as the USFSA President.

While most of my pre-administration proposals for the future of the National Governing Body for Figure Skating have been fulfilled, I have a feeling most members did not understand what that direction meant. Over the course of the last few years, I believe it has become more evident and controversial.

It all began in 1990, when the International Skating Union passed the rule allowing athletes to earn money and "cash in" on their fame. The problem with this rule, however, was that it did not "grandfather" in skaters before 1990, who had been forced to give up their eligibility under the old rules because of financial considerations. The result was that, even though a few skaters chose to be reinstated, it was short-lived because the only opportunities for these skaters were qualifying sanctioned events and the 1994 World Championships and Olympic Winter Games. The result was the skating world was left with a large group of highly visible skaters, who had no sanctioned events in which to compete. Promoters were quick to seize on this opportunity to start more of their own competitions and many of the very best skaters opted to join up.

The much misunderstood eligibility rule in 1992 allowed ineligible athletes back into the fold to skate in sanctioned I.S.U. and national federation competitions and was supposed to level the playing field, thereby correcting the problems with the 1990 rule. Not so, because the extra new "show" competitions, offering a lot of prize money, could not get sanctioned. We have seen the results on television this past season with many "show" competitions that are not sanctioned and can only invite ineligible athletes.

During I.S.U. Council meetings at the 1995 World Championships in Birmingham, England, there was agreement to sanction a number of competitions with new interpretive program rules that will emphasize performance (please see the release on page 8). This will give skaters "old and new" more opportunities. Reinstatement is over as of April 1, 1995, and it is hoped the circle is finally closed.

This series of events has had a profound effect on the very nature of this "amateur" sport — in particular, the eligible members of the USFSA. The spin-off for me, as president, has meant keeping more than a few steps ahead of this new direction and to guide the policies formed by the various USFSA committees to reflect the changes. I always felt it was better for the USFSA to be part of the discussion and change and have a say in this new direction.

Of course, along the way, we have encountered many other interesting changes and issues that have been closely followed by the television and print media.

■ **The Kerrigan/Harding incident.** The unprecedented coverage of this unfortunate incident exposed figure skating to many who had never followed the sport. The chain of events not only forced our governing body, but others throughout the Olympic Family, to review and revise their codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures.

■ **The restructuring of the USFSA Headquarters operation.** The most notable change in this area was the hiring of Executive Director Jerry Lace, who is one of the most highly regarded administrators working in the U.S. Olympic movement today. His experience and expertise in sports administration, particularly in the areas of television and sponsorship, has helped place the organization on solid financial ground

*Continued on Page 8*

## SKATING

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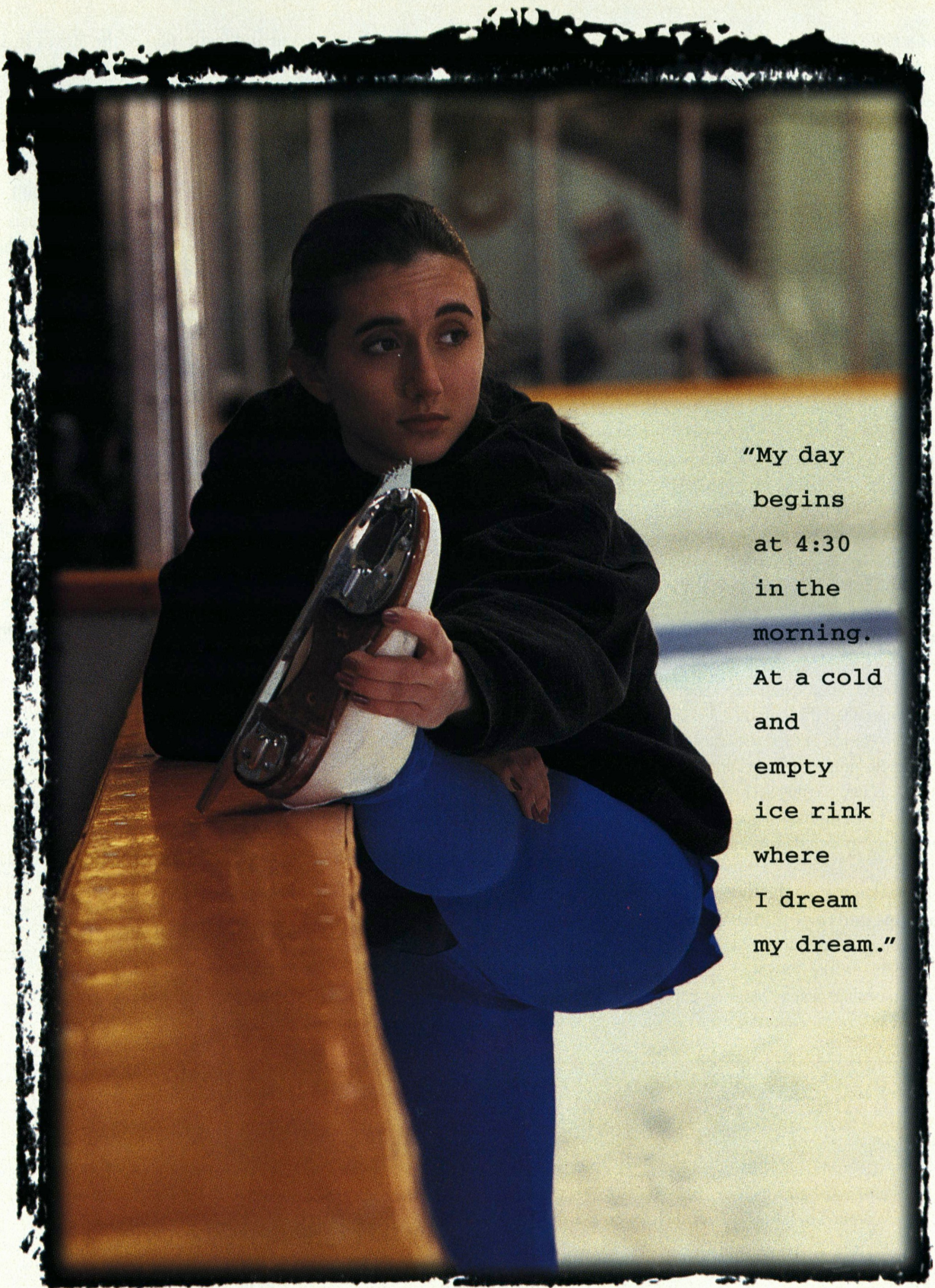
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morning.  
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and  
empty  
ice rink  
where  
I dream  
my dream."

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## President's Message

*Continued from Page 6*

for the near future. Past President Oscar Iobst deserves special recognition for his capable handling of the interim executive director duties during 1993-1994.

■ **The signing of new television contracts.** Our new agreements with ABC Sports will ensure greater visibility for the sport and financial security for several years to come. The new agreements return the USFSA to the preferred position of selling its TV rights, rather than bearing the responsibility of producing our own events — which was an impossible task for a volunteer organization.

■ **The development and success of International "pro/am" competitions.** While these competitions will continue to develop and adapt for years to come, we are finally headed in the right direction by bringing all skaters together to compete for ever-growing purses.

■ **Abandoning the athlete trust funds and drafting new athlete contracts.** In response to the relaxing of the eligibility rules, the USFSA was able to implement a new system that works better for the athletes and for the Association. The Association is no longer in the role of "policing" or monitoring how our athletes spend their earnings, and the athlete contracts create more of a partnership between the Association and its athletes.

■ **Maintaining a position of strength within the I.S.U.** In June 1994, the USFSA successfully hosted the 45th Ordinary Congress of the I.S.U. in Boston, Mass. The United States' position within the I.S.U. was strengthened through the election of three U.S. individuals to key posts: Patricia French as Chair of the newly created Precision Team Skating Technical Committee; Ron Pfenning as a member of the Figure Skating Technical Committee; and myself as a member of the I.S.U. Council. Also of note, the United States delegation to this Congress included an athlete and coach for the first time.

■ **The "repackaging" of the Juvenile/Intermediate Championships into the U.S. Junior Olympics.** The efforts to make this event more attractive to potential sponsors and television have already paid off. The 1995 Kodak U.S. Junior Olympic Figure Skating Championships will be aired on television (Prime Sports Network, April 23) for the first time ever.

■ **The development and institution of the Moves In The Field free skating test elements.** This joint project between the USFSA and Professional Skaters Guild of America was a mammoth undertaking, but one that was well thought out, organized and effectively implemented. To this point, the entire program has been well received by the membership.

■ **Precision skating being designated as an official I.S.U. discipline.** The fastest-growing discipline in the United States and the world will soon be contested at its own World Championships. In this country, precision skating is attracting more and more attention — not only from participants, but sponsors and television as well. The U.S. Postal Service recently signed an agreement for title sponsorship of the 1995 U.S. Precision Championships, April 7-8, in San Diego, Calif. Like the Junior Olympics, this event will be televised for the first time ever (Prime Sports Network, April 30).

■ **The creation of the U.S. Adult Nationals.** With more than 625 competitors ready to compete in the first-ever Adult Nationals in April, this event has been moved off the drawing boards and become a reality. I think this event has a very strong future.

■ **The steady growth of the USFSA's Basic Skills program.** One of the most important developments in the past several years has been the tremendous and steady growth of the USFSA's Basic Skills program. With membership levels now topping 75,000 and growing each year, we can be proud of the programs that are bringing in so many young skaters.

These are but a few of the more memorable changes and issues that we have faced in the past few years. In fact, so much has happened that it is difficult to reflect and more interesting to think ahead.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and commitment to effective leadership of this organization. As a group, we have tackled many difficult issues and faced many unprecedented challenges during the past three years. Each of you is to be commended for the ideas and solutions you have brought to the table and for the manner in which you have represented your constituencies. ■

*Claire W. Ferguson*

## I.S.U. expands "open" competitions; supports Grand Prix concept

*Birmingham, England, March 11, 1995*

— Today, the International Skating Union (I.S.U.), recognizing the growing popularity of figure skating around the world, has made three major decisions with regard to future competitions and Championships.

1. To expand the number of Open International Competitions from two to eight for the season 1995/1996. These events, in which both eligible and ineligible skaters may compete, will be held under the I.S.U. Regulations and will be sanctioned by the I.S.U.

The Technical Committees for Figure Skating and Ice Dancing are now preparing the technical requirements for these events. These will be presented for final approval at the I.S.U. Council Meeting to be held in Athens in May 1995.

2. To support the concept of the Grand Prix in which five member countries (Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United States) will combine their existing international competitions (Skate Canada, Trophee de France, Nations Cup, NHK Skate and Skate America) into a series called the

Grand Prix.

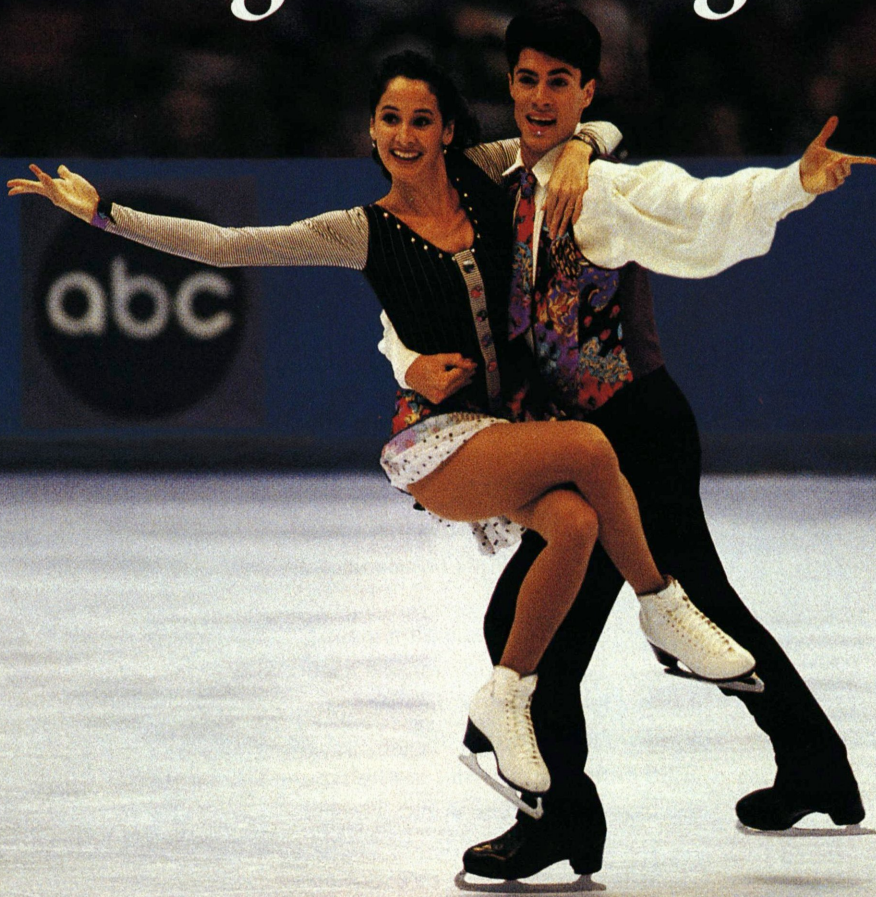
The best skaters will then compete in a new event, the Grand Prix Final. This series is only open to eligible skaters.

3. To award prize money for all I.S.U. Championships in Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Short Track, Grand Prix series of Competitions and Open International Competitions.

The I.S.U. Council under the leadership of President Ottavio Cinquanta will continue to advise as to the developments in regard to these matters. ■



# USFSA and ABC. Perfect Figure Skating Partners.



## 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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## Names In The News

## U.S. fares well at Worlds

The 1996 U.S. World Team will be considerably larger thanks to the strong showing by the 10-member U.S. contingent that competed in the 1995 World Championships, March 7-12, in Birmingham, England.

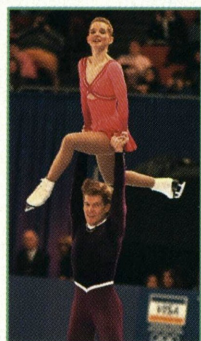
The three U.S. medal placements — **Todd Eldredge**, silver in men's; **Nicole Bobek**, bronze in ladies; and **Jenni Meno** and **Todd Sand**, bronze in pairs — coupled with Top 10 or better finishes across the board ensures a 16-member U.S. World Team (three men, three ladies, three pairs and two dance) for the 1996 World Championships in Edmonton, Alberta.

A complete report with full results from the 1995 World Championships will appear in the next issue of *Skating* magazine. ■

## Bobek, Eldredge added to cast of Campbell's Tour

Newly crowned U.S. ladies' champion and World bronze medalist **Nicole Bobek** of Chicago, Ill., and two-time U.S. champion and World silver medalist **Todd Eldredge** of Chatham, Mass., have been added to the cast of skating superstars performing in the "Campbell's Soups 1995 Tour of World Figure Skating Champions."

Other recent changes to the cast include the addition of two-time U.S. pair champions **Calla Urbanski** and **Rocky Marval** to replace 1992 Olympic champions **Natalia Mishkutenok** and **Artur Dmitriev** of Russia, who recently announced their break-up. Reigning Olympic men's champion **Alexei Urmanov** also has withdrawn from the tour.



Jenni Meno  
& Todd Sand

Michelle S. Harvath

The 70-city tour, produced by USFSA sponsor Tom Collins Enterprises and entering its 15th consecutive season, opened April 1 and will continue through July 9. The tour is sanctioned by the International Skating Union, the USFSA and the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

ABC Sports will air a two-hour special performance of the tour on Sunday, May 7, from 4-6 p.m. EST. ■

## Meno &amp; Sand honored for efforts on and off the ice

Two-time U.S. pair champions **Jenni Meno** of Westlake, Ohio, and **Todd Sand** of Thousand Oaks, Calif., were recently honored for their efforts on and off the ice.

For their exceptional presentation marks at the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the pair was awarded the "Korbel Champagne On Ice" Award during the Chrysler Skating Spectacular exhibition on Feb. 12.

The award is presented by Korbel Champagne to the competitor of competitors earning the highest cumulative points for presentation at select USFSA events.

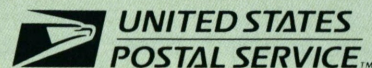
Korbel presented Meno and Sand with an engraved Gorham champagne bucket and magnum of Korbel Champagne. In addition, Korbel Champagne donated \$1,000 in their names to the USFSA Memorial Fund.

The pair also was recently recognized by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for their off-ice contributions to the organization's public education campaign on depression as a treatable illness.

Meno and Sand recently donated of their time and talent to film a public service announcement that outlines the various symptoms of depression and gives viewers ways to seek help. Since its distribution in December, the PSA has been

Continued on page 61

## SPONSOR UPDATES



The U.S. Postal Service has signed on as the official title sponsor for this year's U.S. Precision Figure Skating Championships, April 7-8, in San Diego, Calif.

The U.S. Postal Service 1995 U.S. Precision Figure Skating Championships will air on cable television's *Prime Sports Network* on April 30. Check local listings.

In addition to the event's title sponsorship, U.S. Postal Service is the most recent company to become an official sponsor of the U.S. Figure Skating Association and the U.S. Figure Skating Team. ■

## UNITED AIRLINES

United Airlines and the USFSA signed an agreement naming United as the official airlines for the Hershey's Kisses' International Challenge in Los Angeles, March 28-29.

The Hershey's Kisses' International Challenge will air April 16 on ABC. Check local listings.

United Airlines also was an official sponsor during the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and looks to renew its agreement with the USFSA on an event-by-event basis. ■



The Eastman Kodak Company recently signed an agreement to become the first title sponsor of the Junior Olympic Figure Skating Championships, formerly the Juvenile/Intermediate Championships.

The 1995 Kodak Junior Olympic Figure Skating Championships, April 11-15, in Indianapolis, Ind., will be televised on April 23 on cable TV's *Prime Sports Network*. ■

**Left to right:**  
**Josephine Lawless,**  
**Chair of the World Hall**  
**of Fame Electors;**  
**Claire Ferguson,**  
**USFSA President;**  
**Robin Lee, Cynthia**  
**Kauffman Marshall,**  
**Ron Kauffman, Jill**  
**Shipstad Thomas and**  
**Hugh C. Graham, Chair**  
**of the U.S. Hall of**  
**Fame Electors at the**  
**U.S. Hall of Fame**  
**induction ceremony in**  
**Providence, R.I.**



## Four-member "Class of '95" inducted into U.S. Hall of Fame at Nationals

Four individuals who made a significant impact on the development of figure skating in the United States were inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame during ceremonies at the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

This class of inductees included Robin Lee, Roy Shipstad, Cynthia Kauffman Marshall and Ronald Kauffman.

Following are some of the career highlights of this year's inductees:

**Robin Lee** was born in Minnesota on Dec. 2, 1919. Like the fictional literary character Robin Hood he was named after, Lee became a legend in his own realm — the ice rink.

As for his skating accomplishments, Lee was a member of the Skating Club of NY, the Chicago Skating Club and the St. Paul Skating Club. He won the U.S. men's title from 1935 to 1939. Lee also was a member of the U.S. World Team in 1932 and 1936, where he finished ninth and eighth respectively.

**Cynthia Kauffman Marshall** and **Ronald Kauffman** began their skating careers at the ages of eight and seven respectively. The brother and sister duo skated at the Seattle Skating Club, where Ronald Ludington was their coach. Their programs were always a joint effort, where Cynthia and Ronald would select the music and choreograph the program.

The rise of their skating career began

in 1963 when they were crowned the U.S. Junior Pairs Champions. From that accomplishment, they went on to win the U.S. Senior Pairs title from 1966 through 1969.

The duo's skating exploits not only encompassed the United States, but the world. From 1966 to 1969, this pair placed no lower than fourth in the World Championships — three times attaining a bronze medal.

**Roy Shipstad** joined his brother Eddie as a member of the Hall of Fame. Both men, along with Oscar Johnson, founded the first professional ice show, the Ice Follies.

Roy was not only a founder, but also a main attraction. His infamous exit, where he slid off the ice at 30 miles an hour while in a "spread eagle," was complemented by his smooth ballroom dancing steps. Within his routine, Roy created many original steps.

The U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame was established in 1976 to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of figure skating in the United States. Nominees may be inducted for outstanding performances as amateur and professional skaters, professional coaches and other significant accomplishments. To be considered, a competitive nominee must be retired for at least five years. ■

## Detroit named site of '95 Sudafed Skate America

Elite figure skating returns to the Motor City this fall, as Detroit's Joe Louis Arena has been selected as the site for Sudafed Skate America International '95, Nov. 9-11, the USFSA announced recently.

Joe Louis Arena most recently hosted the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships and attracted record-breaking crowds during the week-long event.

"We are very happy to host Sudafed Skate America International '95 in the city of Detroit and at Joe Louis Arena," said **Bill Lee**, Director of Marketing for Joe Louis Arena. "Detroit is a great figure skating market and that is evident by the support for the skating shows that come here as well as the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, which were very successful."

Detroit's past enthusiasm for top-level skating should only be enhanced by the recent performances of 1995 U.S. Champions and World Medalists **Todd Eldredge** and **Nicole Bobek**, who train in the Detroit area. Eldredge and Bobek could be among the many top World and Olympic medalists that will be invited to compete in this 13th Skate America event.

In 1979, the first unofficial Skate America, then called Norton Skate, was held in Lake Placid, N.Y. The event attracted 65 skaters from 16 countries and was expected to be a one-time event. Due to its popularity, the event returned to Lake Placid in 1981, and Skate America has become an annual, international, invitational event. ■



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C H A M P I O N S H I P S

New Generation

BY JAY MILLER

The United States' new generation of figure skating talent shone brightly throughout the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Feb. 6-11, in Providence, R.I., and by week's end the crown jewel of U.S. figure skating events had been relieved of its unseemly tarnish of the past year and restored to full luster.

Coming on the heels of one of the most hectic competitive seasons in recent memory and carrying the distinction of being the first Championships since the Mayhem in Motor City, many observers were expecting the 1995 edition to be anti-climactic.

It didn't take long before those who were looking for excitement in the corridors of the Providence Civic Center were reshifting their focus to the ice at the three Providence-area rinks where inspired performances were creating the story lines for these Championships.

Interestingly, the developmental significance of this event, which, for the past four years, had been virtually ignored under the glare of two Olympic Winter Games, was brought to the forefront again through the performances of such Novice competitors as the pair team of Tiffany and Johnnie Stiegler of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and Junior competitors Sydne Vogel of Anchorage, Alaska, and Tara Lipinski of Sugarland, Texas.

While the pre-teens were grabbing their fair share of attention and establishing the early order for the marathon race to the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, the competitors in the Championship divisions were again vying for more immediate rewards, namely seven berths on the 1995 U.S. World Team that would compete in Birmingham, England.

Perhaps the only thing overshadowing the enthusiasm of the 300 competitors throughout the week was the excitement of the crowds and the people of Providence and Warwick, R.I., for having the opportunity to host the event. The local organizing committee, chaired by Jerry McCrone, and the host club — The Warwick Figure Skaters — overcame minor inconveniences presented by a major snowstorm two days before the Championships and are to be commended for their efforts, organization and hospitality throughout the week.

At week's end, USFSA President Claire Ferguson summed up the sentiments of both her skating constituents and her fellow Rhode Islanders by saying, "This is as good (of an event) as we've had in some time. There was a lot of good skating here, and that tells you a lot about a place. A lot of skaters skated their personal

bests, and that doesn't happen if they don't like where they are."

Following is an event-by-event look at a few of the outstanding performances from the 1995 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

## MEN

Despite having won here twice before, the U.S. Championships held bitter-sweet memories for Todd Eldredge.

Since winning back-to-back titles in '90 and '91, Eldredge had failed to return to the medal platform in three consecutive attempts.

With each disappointing finish, Eldredge began to question whether he would ever return to the upper echelons of U.S. men's figure skating.

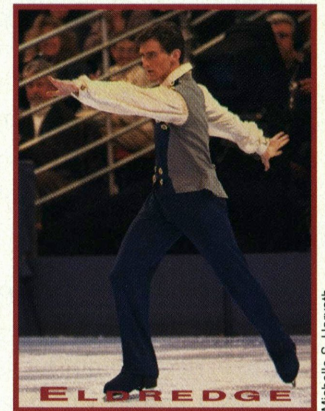
But, the 1992 Olympian did rejoin the best in the world this past season. Following a silver-medal performance at the Goodwill Games, Eldredge reeled off three consecutive wins in major international competitions. Throughout his successful season, however, Eldredge always maintained his primary goal was to win a third U.S. title and qualify for his fourth U.S. World Team.

Eldredge's chief opposition — two-time defending champion Scott Davis of Great Falls, Mont. — had not been enjoying the same level of recent success. A nagging back injury and waning confidence had plagued

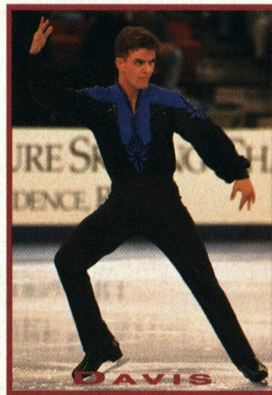
Davis throughout the season as he had failed to medal in any of the three competitions he had entered earlier in the season.

In the short program, Davis overcame the problems of his recent past by skating a clean program to "Zorba the Greek" that included a well-executed triple Axel-triple toe loop combination. Eldredge followed with an impressive, but not flawless, performance

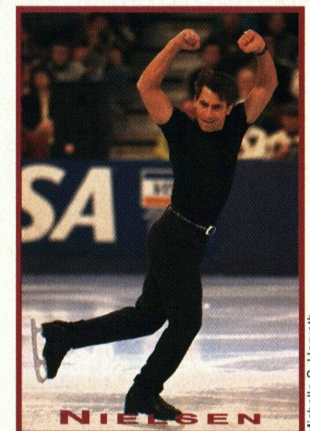
to music from the movie "Swing Kids." Davis had managed five of the judges' first-place ordinals to Eldredge's four to carry the slimmest of leads into the free skate. Shepherd Clark of Atlanta, Ga., finished third in the short



Michelle S. Harvath



Michelle S. Harvath



Michelle S. Harvath

with his performance to music by "Frankie Goes to Hollywood."

In the long program, Eldredge, skating to music from the film "Gettysburg," placed the pressure squarely on Davis by landing seven of his eight planned triple jumps, earning him technical merit marks ranging from 5.6 to 5.9 and presentation marks ranging from 5.8 to 5.9.

Davis succumbed to the pressure during his long program, skated to music from the movies "Dick Tracy" and "The Untouchables," as he two-footed landings on three of his planned seven triple jumps.

"This is tremendous," Eldredge said of his long-awaited third U.S. title. "I'd say this means the most of any of the three because of the three hard years I had since I won."

Davis said he was pleased with his performance in light of the troubles of the past year. "It's been a tough year. To come here and win the short program and skate decently in the long program and make the world team, I'm pleased," he said.

Aren Nielsen of Westlake, Ohio, pulled up from a fifth-place standing after the short program to finish third overall for the second consecutive year.

In the Championship Men's Figures competition, John Baldwin, Jr. of San Diego, Calif., skated to first-place finishes in each of the three compulsory figures — RFI, LBI Counter; LBO, RBI Paragraph Bracket; and RFO, LFI Paragraph Loop — to garner the gold. Baldwin, the only Championship Men's skater to compete in both figures and free skating, finished ninth in the free skating competition. Kevin Donovan of Park Ridge, Ill., and Everett Weiss of Albuquerque, N.M., tied for the silver.

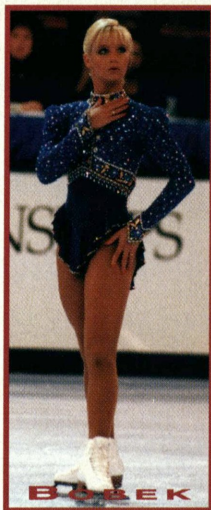
## LADIES

For the second consecutive year, the Championship Ladies event was dominated by the unexpected.

In contrast to Detroit, however, the setting for this year's thriller was on the ice as several serious and primed contenders challenged for the only vacant title in U.S. figure skating history.

Top billing for the event had been reserved for 14-year-old Michelle Kwan of Torrance, Calif. As the returning silver medalist and the most consistent of the central cast of U.S. ladies throughout the past season, Kwan entered the competition as the odds-on favorite to unseat Peggy Fleming as the youngest ladies' champion in U.S. history.

Among those who figured to challenge the child-star Kwan for the lead role was the charismatic and self-



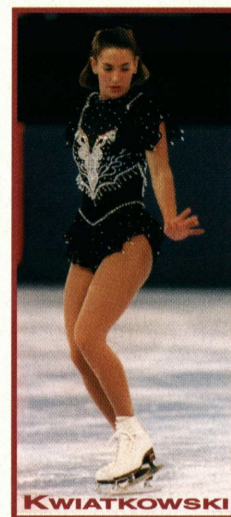
described "free-spirit," Nicole Bobek of Chicago, Ill. Like Kwan, Bobek had exhibited star potential at an early age when she won the 1991 U.S. Olympic Festival at age 13. Now 17, Bobek had seen that early spotlight diminished significantly by injuries, inconsistencies and a legendary restlessness with many of the nation's top coaches.

The seasoned veteran among this young cast of contenders was 23-year-old Tonia Kwiatkowski of Broadview Heights, Ohio, competing in her eighth consecutive U.S. Championships at the senior level.

Skating first in the short program, Kwiatkowski quickly assumed the role of sentimental favorite by delivering

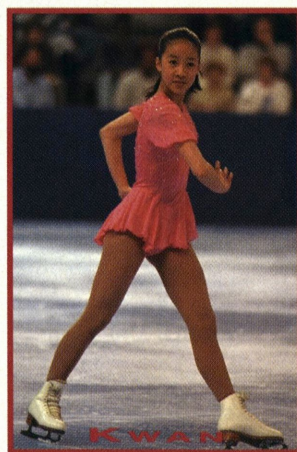
an error-free performance to "Firebird" that included a clean triple Lutz combination. Her marks, ranging from 5.5 to 5.7 for technical merit and 5.7 to 5.8 for presentation, held up through the remainder of the order. Minor miscues left Bobek and Kwan in second and third respectively.

Skating first among the leaders in the free skate, Kwiatkowski saw her hopes significantly diminished when she managed only three clean landings out of five planned triple jumps. Her marks from 5.6 to 5.8 for technical merit and 5.7 to 5.9 for presentation left plenty of room



at the top for the teenagers. The pressure then shifted to Bobek.

Skating to the theme from "Doctor Zhivago," Bobek attacked her program with mind, heart and body in rare synch. Minor miscues, such as touching a hand down on the landing of an early triple toe loop, did not seem to faze her as she progressed through her artistically powerful routine. It hadn't been a



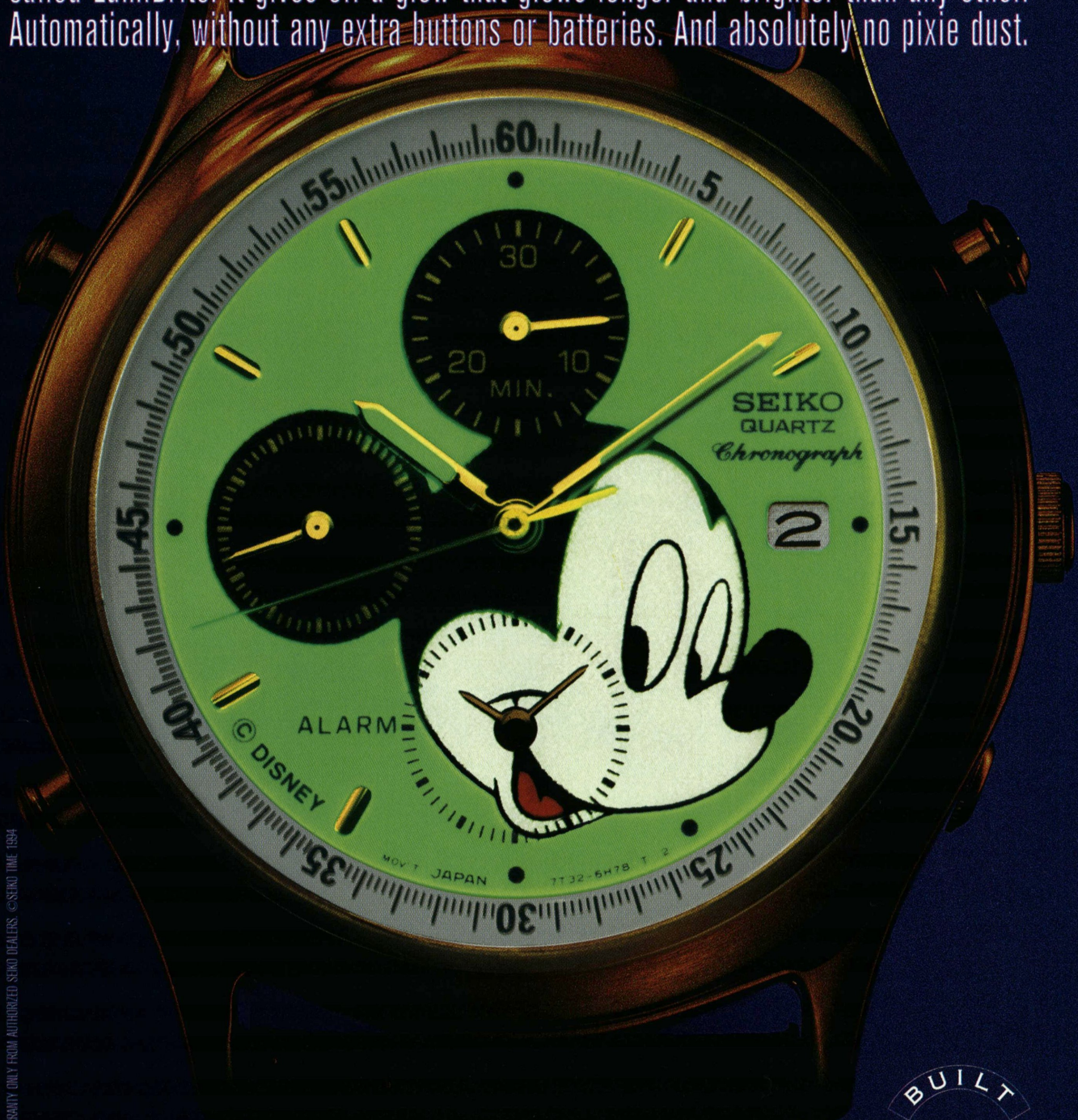
flawless four minutes for Bobek, but it was a marked improvement over the long programs of the recent past. Her deservedly high marks for presentation — ranging from 5.7 to 5.9 — pushed her into first place with Kwan yet to skate.

If executed cleanly, Kwan's planned program, which



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included seven planned triple jumps, would have been more than enough to overtake Bobek. For one of the few times in her career, however, Kwan was unable to deliver.

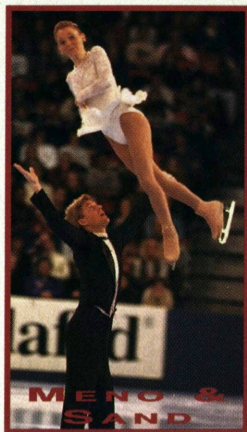
Skating to music by Camille Saint-Saëns, Kwan fell on her second triple Lutz and two-footed her landing on a triple loop. She had landed five of her seven planned triple jumps, but it was not enough. Six of the nine judges ranked her performance second to Bobek's. Perhaps no one was more surprised by the final standings than Bobek herself.

"I didn't believe it," Bobek said afterwards. "When I was told, I said, 'No, no ... somebody's made a mistake! When they told me again, I said 'Oh, my God!'"

"It just goes to show that a lot of hard work, pain and suffering can be worth it," she added.

With her third-place finish in the free skate, Kwiatkowski settled for the bronze.

In Championship Ladies Figures competition, Lisa Bryson of Denver, Colo., moved up from a fourth-place standing after the first compulsory figure to capture the gold medal, while Melanie Dupon of Phoenix, Ariz., dropped to second with the eighth-place marks in the third compulsory figure. Jennifer Blount of Barrington, R.I., and Cassy Papajohn of Littleton, Colo., tied for the bronze medal.



Michelle S. Harvath

## PAIRS

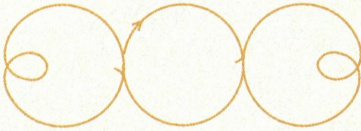
The immediate and long-term outlooks for U.S. pair skating received much-needed infusions of optimism and promise as a result of the showings in the Championship Pairs event.

A slew of break-ups and retirements among top pairs after the 1993-94 season was thought to have seriously depleted the depth of the current U.S. pairs talent pool. With 1994 Olympians Karen Courtland and Todd Reynolds no longer in the mix and 1992 Olympians Calla Urbanski and Rocky Marval

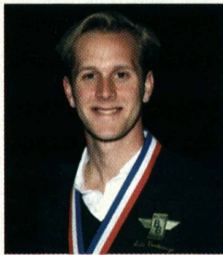
having relinquished their eligibility, the number of tested veteran teams was significantly down heading into these Championships. Even the veteran pairs that remained — defending U.S. champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand and 1994 U.S. silver medalists Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungjen — had enjoyed less than stellar seasons to this point. Meno and Sand had been forced to lay off until November to give Sand's ailing lower back a chance to heal, while Ina and Dungjen had difficult outings at Skate America and France Trophy, finishing fifth in both. The up-and-coming team of Stephanie Stiegler and Lance Travis, who had gained valuable experience and shown marked improvement in the early phases of the season, rounded out the field of medal contenders.

*Continued on page 37*


**THE CHAMPIONSHIP**



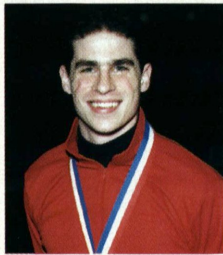
**FIGURE MEDALISTS**




**BALDWIN**  
**GOLD**




**BRYSON**  
**GOLD**




**DONOVAN**  
**SILVER**




**DUPON**  
**SILVER**



**WEISS**  
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Photographs by Paul Harvath

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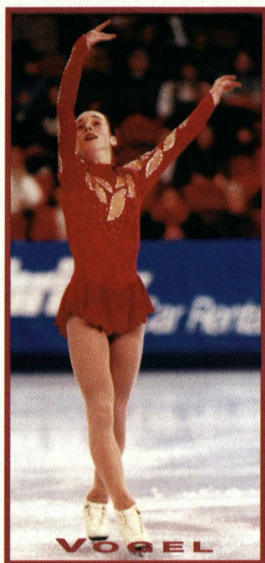
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BY ELIZABETH LEAMY

By nature, the Junior competition at a U.S. Figure Skating Championships is expected to serve as a major stepping stone in the competitive careers of this country's skating stars of tomorrow.

Where this year's Junior competition exceeded expectations, perhaps, was in the apparent depth of this emerging talent pool and the exceptional technical and artistic abilities that these up-and-coming skaters are exhibiting at present. The quality of the overall competition gave much reason for an optimistic outlook on the future of U.S. figure skating.



Paul Harvath

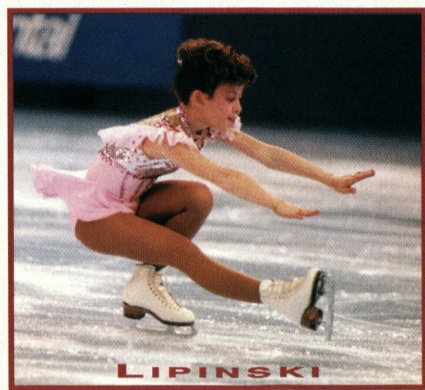
## LADIES

Sydne Vogel didn't enter the Junior Ladies' competition with the same level of experience and name recognition as some of her fellow competitors.

The 14-year-old Anchorage, Alaska, native did, however, bring to Providence an impressive arsenal of five triple jumps, through the Lutz, with which to counter the likes of 12-year-old jumping dynamo and early favorite Tara Lipinski of Sugarland, Texas.

The competition opened with Lipinski, who last July had earned a great deal of national attention by becoming the youngest gold medalist in U.S. Olympic Festival history, drawing to skate first in the short program.

Skating to René Dupéré's "Cirque du Soleil," the vivacious, pony-tailed Lipinski opened her program with



Ingrid Butt

a triple loop-double loop combination followed by a solid double Axel and a double flip. Lipinski's performance, which garnered an overwhelming response from the audience, set the pace for the field,

until Vogel took the ice halfway through the order.

Skating to Esmeralda's Latin piece "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," Vogel proved to do just that by

opening her program with a soaring triple flip-double toe loop combination. She followed with a high, fast double Axel and a double Lutz. The performance earned her six first-place ordinals to capture the lead.

Brittney McConn of Marietta, Ga., turned in a well-choreographed, technically exceptional routine that featured a triple Salchow-double toe loop combination, double Axel and double flip to earn the third-place marks for the short.

With the stage set for an exciting and intense free skate, Vogel was the first among the top flight to take the ice. Skating to a Spanish instrumental piece and "I Dreamed a Dream" from the Broadway show "Les Misérables," Vogel opened her program with an enormous triple Lutz-double toe loop combination followed by a soaring triple flip-double toe loop combination. After the tempo change, Vogel executed a triple toe loop-double toe loop combination and a triple loop from a long-held spread eagle.

Despite a stumble on a butterfly spin at the end, her marks put her in first with Lipinski and McConn to follow.

McConn's program to a medley of Russian folk dances included high jumps through the triple Salchow, but did not garner the marks necessary to overtake Vogel.

Lipinski, skating last, took the ice with visible confidence and determination. Lipinski opened her program to the music of "Samson and Delilah" with a triple toe loop, a double Axel-half loop-triple Salchow combination and double Lutz. She punctuated her technically difficult performance with a high triple flip, a jump she had only learned two and a half weeks prior to the competition.

Still, she was unable to push Vogel out of the first-place slot and ended up with the silver medal. McConn finished third in the free skate to capture the bronze.

"I was surprised," Vogel said of her gold-medal finish. "I hoped to win, but I just wanted to do the best that I could. I was out there doing it for myself."

Vogel, who trains three hours a day, five to six days a week, said she wants to start working on the triple Axel with coach Traci Coleman in the spring, and would like to compete next year in the Senior division.

Lipinski, who trains with coach Jeff DiGregorio throughout the year in Wilmington, Del., said she was pleased with her performance.

"I'm not disappointed. I just like competing and



Michelle S. Harvath

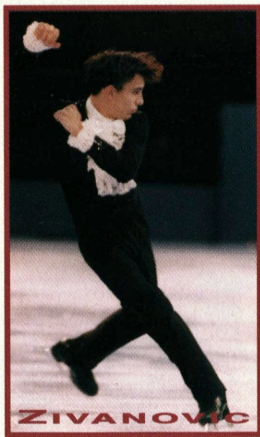
skating and doing what I've been working on all year," Lipinski said.

In the Junior Ladies' Figures competition, Jamie Wunderlich of Arvada, Colo., skated to the gold. Warwick, R.I.'s own Lyndsey Read skated to the silver medal and Kristen Varney of Littleton, Colo., finished third.

## MEN

The third time proved to be a charm for Matthew Kessinger in the Junior Men's competition, as the 19-year-old from Indianapolis, Ind., took top honors in his third consecutive run at the Junior title.

With a silver-medal finish in 1993 and a fourth-place finish in 1994, Kessinger needed more than just experience to overcome the challenges posed by fellow three-year veteran Trifun Zivanovic of Los Angeles, Calif., and '93 U.S. Novice Champion Ryan Jahnke of Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. Namely, he needed the triple Axel — a jump he added to his repertoire just before regionals.



George S. Rossano

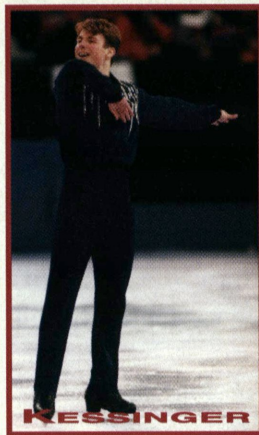
Ironically, it was a fall on a triple Axel that contributed to Kessinger's third-place standing after the short program. In contrast to Kessinger's vivacious style, Zivanovic took first in the short with a "mysterious" program that featured a fast, well-executed triple Lutz-double toe loop combination, a triple flip

and a double Axel. Jahnke earned the second-place marks in the short with a program that included a triple Lutz-double toe loop combination, a triple toe loop and a double Axel.

In the free skate, Kessinger, skating last in the order, saw the opportunity to move up in the standings after Zivanovic stumbled on the landing of a triple Lutz in an otherwise clean program to the music of "Phantom of the Opera."

Exuding confidence throughout his performance, Kessinger nailed a high-flying, solid triple Axel — the first of his competitive career. As one of only two skaters to execute this unusually difficult element (the other was Derrick Delmore of Fort Washington, Md., who placed fourth), Kessinger earned seven first-place ordinals to capture the title.

"I knew I had to come out and really do my best, and



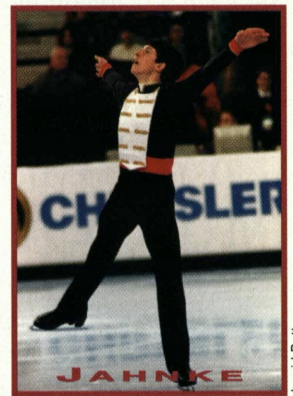
Ingrid Butt

I couldn't believe it when I landed the triple Axel. This experience has been unbelievable. I'm so psyched," Kessinger said. He added that the title was a welcome conclusion to an otherwise difficult year that included back problems that left him frustrated at times.

Zivanovic expressed satisfaction with the progress he had made over the past year, saying, "I'm happy with placing second. I was sixth last year, and I accomplished my goal of coming back and improving my placement. I've been skating well all year ... I've worked hard and am happy with the progress I've made."

Jahnke held on to capture the bronze medal after a fourth-place finish in the free skate.

In the Junior Men's Figures competition, Christopher Malato of Avon, Colo., skated to the gold. Colin Bennett of Potomac, Md., and Michael Keller of Seven Hills, Ohio, finished second and third respectively.



Ingrid Butt

## PAIRS

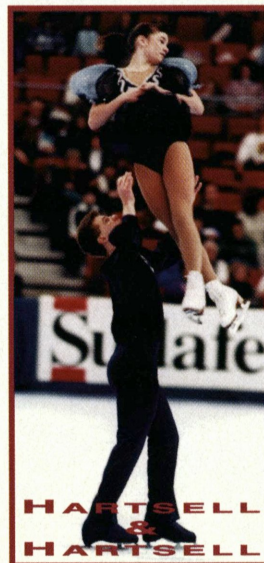
The Junior pair team of Danielle and Steve Hartsell picked up in Providence where they left off in November.

Coming off their silver-medal performance at the World Junior Championships in Budapest, Hungary, the brother-and-sister team from Westland Hills, Mich., dominated this competition with first-place finishes in both the short and the long.

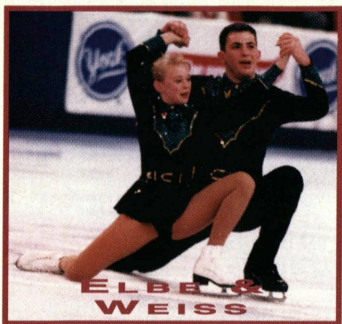
The Hartsells opened their bid for the gold with a short program that was technically difficult, including a throw double Axel, a split double twist lift that covered nearly the length of the rink and side-by-side double flips.

"I was really happy with the short program," Danielle said. "We wanted to show we had improved our skating and I feel we accomplished our goal."

The Hartsells' long program, skated to music from "The Planets" and "Dance of the Kings," was dynamic, fast, well-synchronized and technically loaded. They included such elements as a throw triple Salchow, throw double Axel, side-by-side



Michelle S. Hervath



Michelle S. Harvath

double Axels from back spirals and side-by-side double flips into double toe loops.

“This program was definitely challenging. It was the most difficult one they’ve ever done and they really delivered,” said the

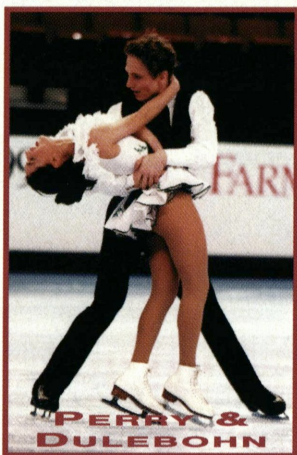
Hartsells’ coach Johnny Johns, who won the Senior Pairs’ title in the same arena exactly 21 years earlier in 1974 with partner Melissa Militano.

“This pair team is hungry and they are very eager to learn. And because they are brother and sister, they tend to communicate well,” Johns added.

Silver medalists Erin Elbe of Castro Valley, Calif., and Jeffrey Weiss of Foster City, Calif., were third in the short program and third in the free skate, which moved them into second place overall.

Skating to music from the movie “City Slickers” for their free skate, this talented team executed side-by-side double flips, a difficult split triple twist lift, and a high double-handed split lift that covered nearly the length of the arena.

“We are very happy. We’ve been together on and off for two years, and we’ve worked hard,” Elbe said.



Michelle S. Harvath

In an astonishing comeback, bronze medalists Nicole Perry of Redwood City, Calif., and Paul Dulebohn of Germantown, Md., who train in Wilmington, Del., jumped from a seventh-place standing in the short to third overall with their second-place finish in the free skate.

“We just wanted to get a top six placement, so we’re thrilled with how we came out,” Perry said. “We’ve only been training together for four and a half months, so we’re really happy with our success so far.”

## DANCE

The team of Eve Chalom and Mathew Gates, both of Birmingham, Mich., showed improvement over their bronze medal finish in 1994 and swept every portion of the Junior Dance competition to claim the gold.

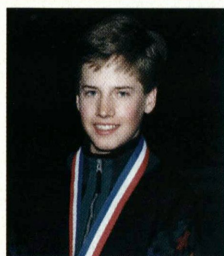
Chalom, 15, and Gates, 19, seemed to gain confidence throughout the week with every well-executed and technically well-rounded performance.

This talented team’s Quickstep in the Original Dance was a display of fine edge expertise, exceptional style and unison.

For their free dance, Chalom and Gates demonstrated flow, synchronicity and a maturity in their Samba, Cha Cha and Paso Doble program to “Malagueña.”

“I feel Eve and Mathew skated their best and were

*Continued on page 38*

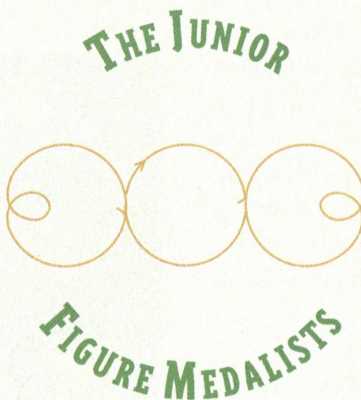


**MALATO  
GOLD**

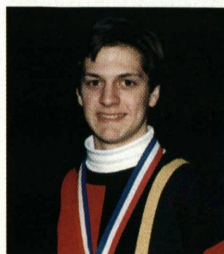
**WUNDERLICH  
GOLD**



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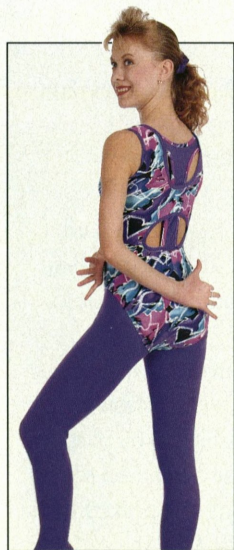
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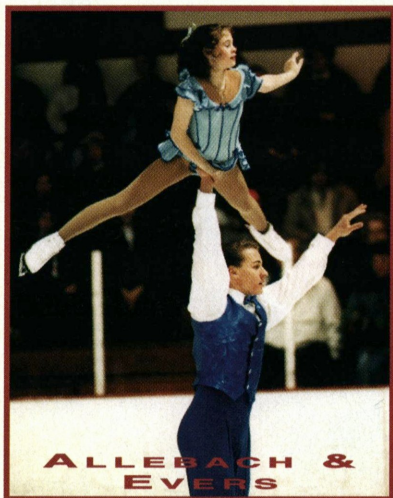
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BY ALEXANDRA STEVENSON

## PAIRS

Both inside and out of Thayer Arena, site of the Novice events, it was cold. It wasn't long, however, before Tiffany and Johnnie Stiegler warmed the spectators with the shining star quality of their performance.



Paul Harvath

The brother-and-sister team from Manhattan Beach, Calif., drew to perform first for the short program in the pairs championship. Despite a problem with their solo double Lutz jumps, eight of the nine judges rewarded their flamboyant Tango routine first, a tribute to the Stieglers' polish and

showmanship.

Both Tiffany and Johnnie emoted with a sophistication well beyond their tender years. Tiffany turned 11 in January; Johnnie will be 13 in April.

Their Tango concluded with Tiffany throwing herself onto Johnnie's leg while he feigned indifference and tried to leave her behind. "It's fun to make the audience laugh," is Johnnie's philosophy.

Many senior ice dance couples could learn from these youngsters' stage presence. Their coach, three-time U.S. Senior Pairs Champion Peter Oppegard confided, "I give Tiffany any emotion, *any* emotion, and she will copy it exactly — even add some things."

Tiffany explains, "If I wasn't a skater, I'd like to be an actress."

For their long program, they chose the music "Swan Lake." This past summer, during their stay in St. Petersburg, Russia, to see older sister, Stephanie, and her partner, Lance Travis, perform

in the Goodwill Games, the Stieglers were extremely fortunate to see the Kirov perform this classic ballet.

"It helped to see the dancers — the way they moved their

arms and choreography," Johnnie admits.

Their long included throw double loop, throw double Salchow and a double twist. It was awarded unanimous first places.

Despite their youth, they have a great deal of experience. They each began skating at 3 and started pairs when they were 5 and 7. In 1993, they were National Intermediate champions and last year were sixth in the U.S. Novice championship.

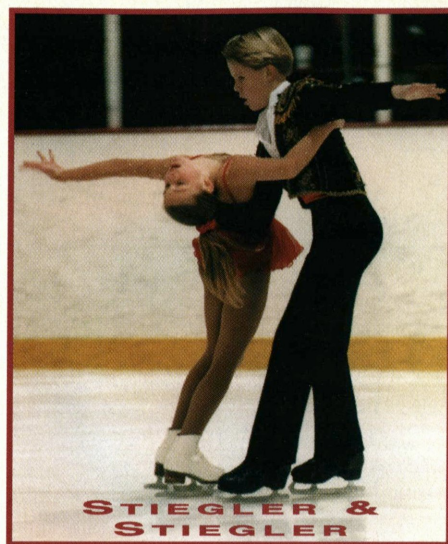
What about skating with his sister? Isn't that a pain? A lot of brothers and sisters hardly speak.

"We have arguments. Sure we do. But we don't argue in a mean way. And then we go home and get over it. We get along pretty well," Johnnie says. "And when we win, it's good to share it with family."

They know that for their next move — to Juniors — they will have to work on more difficult moves and must increase their power and strength. But so far, their career is right on schedule.

Elizabeth Wilcut and Brian Boissonneault, both of Lake Arrowhead, Calif., were second after the short, but had problems in the long and dropped out of the medals.

Heather Allebach from Bear, Del., and Matthew Evers from Fargo, N.D., who jump in opposite directions, advanced one place to claim the silver medal, while Lisa and Marc Weitzman from Lake Placid gained the bronze.



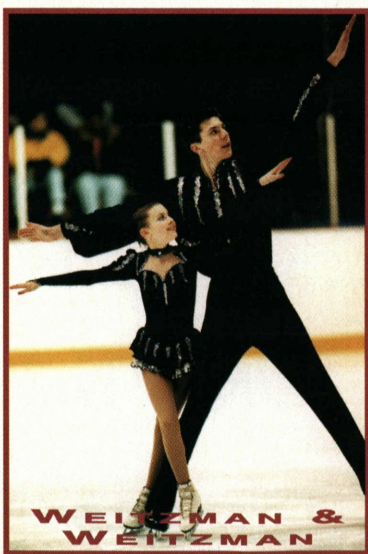
George S. Rossano

## LADIES

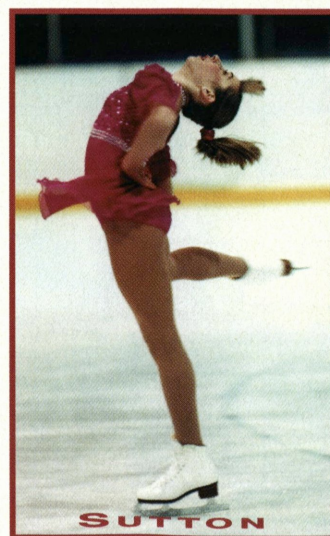
The Novice Ladies' Free Skating was won by 13-year-old Erin Sutton from Northville, Mich., who advanced from second after the short. This was the first year Sutton had made it to Nationals.

Sutton's motivation to win was the invitation for the gold medalists to be part of the Sunday exhibition schedule in front of a packed house in the Civic Center.

"I wanted to skate in the



Paul Harvath



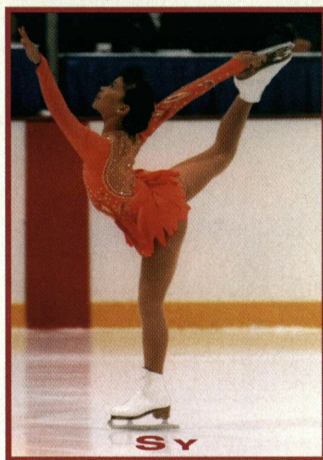
Paul Harvath



big rink, with all the winners," said Sutton, who was captured by the sport after seeing skating in a mall in Memphis when she was 4. "I just loved to go fast."

She took gym class when she was young, and the flexibility learned then enhanced her energetic Sunday exhibition, which was to the "Conga" and in which she included splits and a

Biellmann spin. "If I were not a skater, I would be a gymnast or a dancer," Sutton explained.

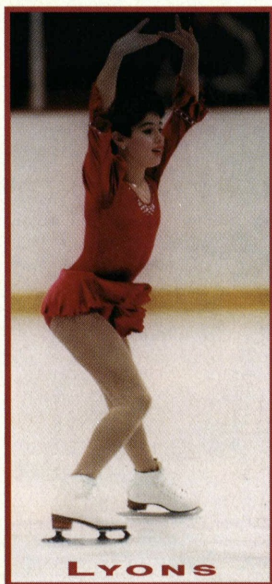


George S. Rossano

Sutton is trained by Theresa McKendry and Gerry Williams, a former judge, who is able to provide her pupil with insights from the other side of the barrier.

Her goals now are, "to get two or three more triple jumps and move up to Juniors." Sutton currently executed triple toe loops and triple Salchows, jumps that she only recently added to her repertoire.

The silver medal was claimed by another 13-year-old, Rhea Sy of Cerritos, Calif. Rhea had been in the lead after the



Paul Harvath

short in which she treated the judges to a splendid double Axel to double loop combination.

Sy also competed in, and won, Novice Ladies' Figures. Asked why she pursues figures now that she has reached the stage where they are no longer required, Sy said a figure patch between free skating sessions is "very relaxing."

The bronze medal was claimed by an exceptional 4'4", 60-pound bundle of energy, Shelby Lyons of Oswego, N.Y. Lyons fell on her combination in the short, but pulled up from fifth place with a free that was rated second-best.

The 13-year-old Lyons also competed in Senior Pairs with her partner since last May, Brian Wells, and came fourth.

Wells has had two previous partners. In 1994 he went on a country-wide search for the right partner and became convinced Lyons was the one. She had never done pairs and wasn't at all sure it was worth all the effort. One of the disadvantages was that she would have to move.

Wells persisted and Lyons and her mother moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., where they are trained by Irina

Vorobieva and Kathy Casey. Since it was only after the move that Lyons acquired her double Axel and two triples, what was the quality that Brian, Kathy and Irina saw in her?

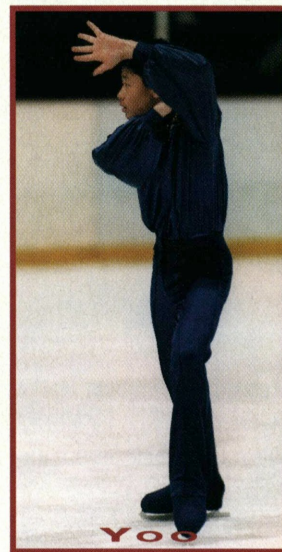
"It was her personality," Casey explained. "She had had a lot of floor dance and ballet training. She could really move. And she was the right size."

Emily Best from Matthews, N.C. and Cammi Bruns from Colorado Springs finished second and third in Novice Ladies' Figures.

## MEN

Novice Men's Free Skating was won by 14-year-old James Yoo from Littleton, Colo. However, Yoo won neither section of the event. He was second in the short, and third in the long.

The short was won by Scott Smith, a 13-year-old from Baltimore, Md., who executed a smooth triple Salchow to double toe loop for his combination. But, Smith was only fifth in the long and dropped to fourth overall.



George S. Rossano

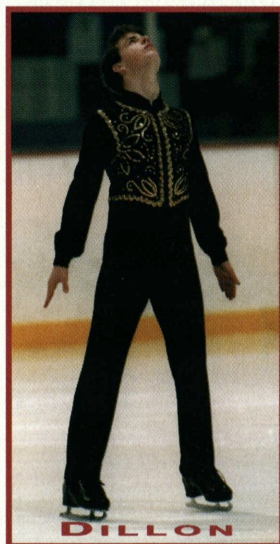
Justin Dillon had a bad time in the short, falling on his triple toe loop and executing a single instead of a double Axel. However, the 18-year-old from Puyallup, Wash., showed off his high jumps and maturity in far better style in the long.

Dillon's win in this section, worth two thirds of the contest, pulled him up from eighth to second overall.

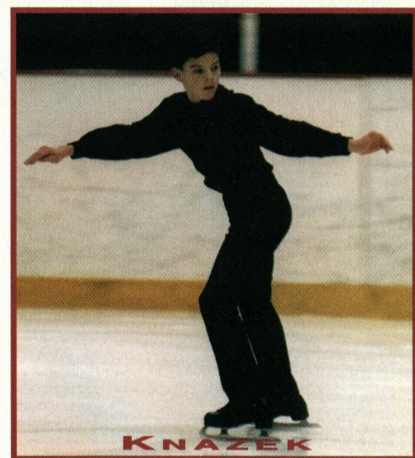
Joe Knazek had a similar experience to Dillon. Knazek couldn't hold the landing of his triple toe loop and was sixth in the short. However, he finished second place in the long, which advanced the 14-year-old from Parma Heights, Ohio, to third overall.

Scott Sarbacker

of Nashville, Tenn., Christopher Mattern of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Kyle Magnuson of Port Huron, Mich., were first, second and third in the Novice Men's Figures.



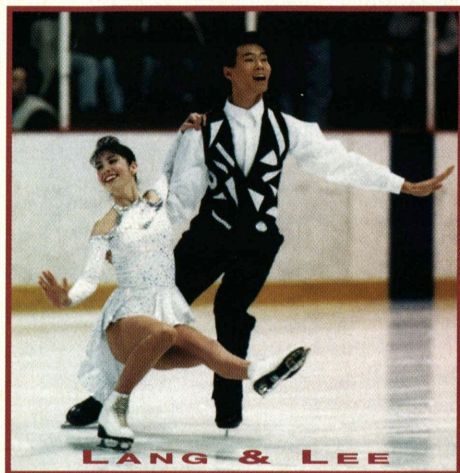
George S. Rossano



George S. Rossano

## DANCE

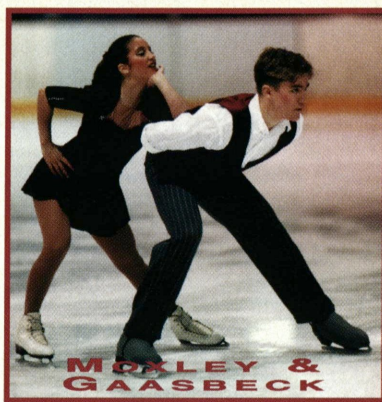
The Novice Ice Dance championship was a hard-fought contest dominated by two couples. Naomi Lang and John Lee



Paul Harvath

took an immediate lead on the Blues, but were overtaken by Christie Moxley and Tom Gaasbeck on the American Waltz and Foxtrot.

Lang, whose hometown is Allegan, Mich., and Lee, who is from Niles, Ill., didn't give up. The couple, who have only skated together since June 13, gave a sophisticated and polished presentation



Paul Harvath

using "Let's Face the Music and Dance," "Putting on the Top Hat," "Harlem Nocturne" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" to overtake their rivals and claim gold.

The third-place team throughout the competition was Kerrie O'Donnell of Westwood, Mass., and Brandon Forsyth of Lexington, Mass.

Hans Kutschera, Chairman of the International Skating Union's Ice Dance Committee, watched all the free dances, writing down his opinions. Afterwards, the coaches of the skaters were able to ask Kutschera for his comments which he appeared to give with great gusto.

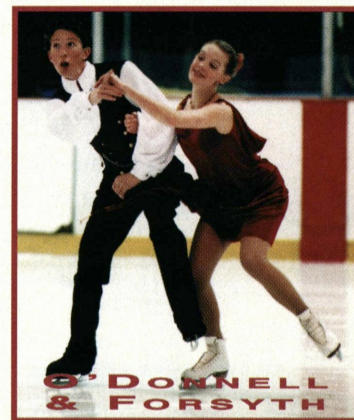
One of the points Kutschera made was that the skaters should not give the judges the opportunity to make deduc-

tions. "If there is any doubt, a move should be omitted," he advised.

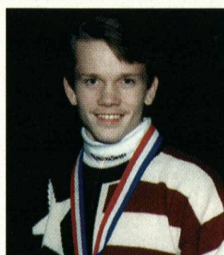
Also on hand was Warren Maxwell, Chairman of the USFSA Dance Committee. Maxwell said he would like to see two streams of competition for Novice. The "A" group would be for those competitors meeting age requirements; the "B" group would be for the others.

"We have got to get the competitors into more competition so that when they get sent abroad they have had more experience and will do better," contends Maxwell. ■

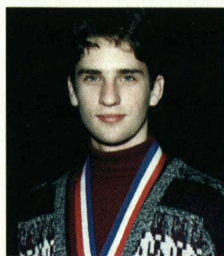
*Alexandra Stevenson is a free-lance writer for various skating publications.*



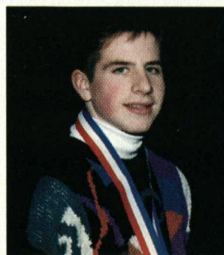
Paul Harvath



**SARBACKER  
GOLD**



**MATTERN  
SILVER**



**MAGNESON  
BRONZE**



**SY  
GOLD**

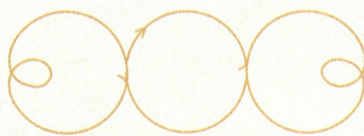


**BEST  
SILVER**



**BRUNS  
BRONZE**

## THE NOVICE



## FIGURE MEDALISTS

Photographs by Paul Harvath



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*B r e a t h*

*o f F r e s h*

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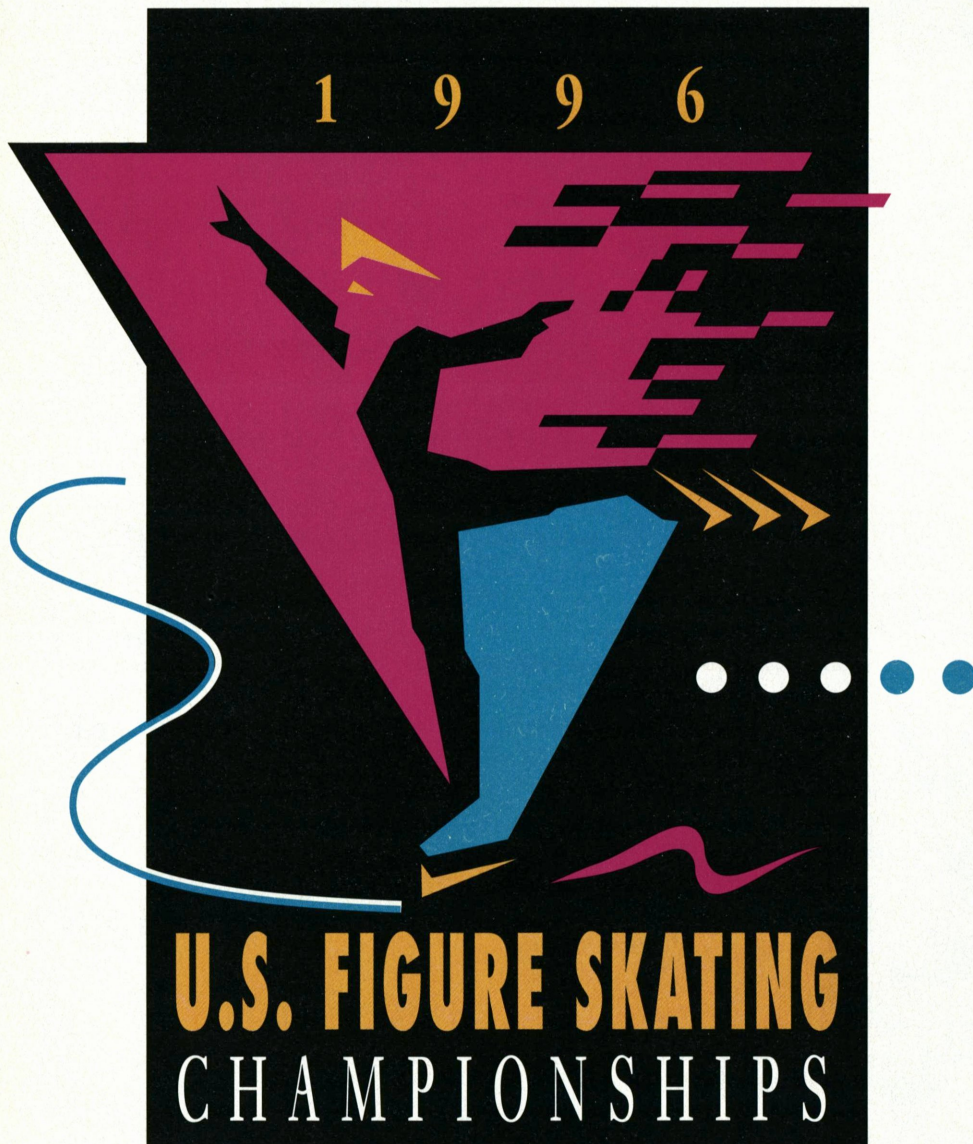
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# L L L I E S

*Humor, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.*

*That's why when *Skating* wanted to take a look at some of the funnier moments in the sport of figure skating, we turned to you — the readers.*

*In a recent issue, we asked you to send us your personal accounts of some of the more humorous incidents you have seen (or been a part of) on or around the ice. As you will see, our readers responded with a miscellany of tales about untimely mishaps, well-staged practical jokes, bizarre behavior and more.*

*As you read the following accounts, we hope that you will recall some of the funnier moments associated with the sport that you have experienced and submit them to us for future consideration. In the meantime, we hope you will share a few laughs with your fellow readers as they relate some of their funnier memories from around the rink.*

## **Hair today, gone tomorrow...**

The year was 1972, and my partner Gary Forman and I were preparing to compete in the Junior Dance competition (then known as Silver Dance) in the Los Angeles FSC-sponsored Southern California Inter-Club Championships at the Pickwick Ice Arena.

Gary was a very handsome 20-year-old with long, brown hair. Even though this was a time when long hair was "in" for most young people, the style was not seen as appropriate for competitive skaters. As the Inter-Club competition approached, everyone involved with Gary's skating bothered him to get his hair cut. He assured us that he would get it done.

The day of the competition came, and sure enough Gary showed up with the perfect haircut...or so everyone thought.

My newly groomed partner and I skated to a second place in the initial round of the competition. Entering the final round,

the competition was close. If we skated well, we could pull up to first place. Little did we know what waited in store for us during the warm-up for the final round!

At the end of the warm-up, the announcer made the call to clear the ice. Gary and I were the only skaters remaining on the ice, when he insisted we do one more rocker foxtrot mohawk. It was an ill-fated move.

Upon falling during the maneuver, I turned to Gary and said, "I told you we shouldn't have done another mohawk!" IN SHOCK, I NOTICED THAT GARY'S NEW "HAIRDO," WHICH WAS ACTUALLY A MAN'S WIG, HAD FALLEN OFF HIS HEAD! He was wearing a beanie over his hair and looked sillier than you could imagine. I grabbed the wig and placed it back on his head.

The judges, officials, audience (by the way, the rink was packed), and my coach, Darlene Gilbert, were laughing so hard! The laughing went on for a good five to 10 minutes. We didn't pull up — we

dropped to fourth. I don't think we skated our best, but we sure have a good story and memory about that competition!

**Jo Ann Schneider Farris**  
**Colorado Springs, Colo.**

## **The sounds of silence**

I was on an early morning patch with a couple of my friends. We were against the wall, putting up our scribes. I was talking to my friends and just casually leaned back against the boards. To my surprise, the boards were not there! I fell through a door, my scribe landing on top of me. My friend said that she just saw me going down in mid-sentence and all she could see were my feet. That has to be more embarrassing than funny because in the silence of patch it sounded like a cannon being shot!

**Elizabeth Keith**  
**Birmingham, Ala.**

## Northern Exposure

It was Friday, Nov. 5 and I was at the Ottawa Civic Center for the 1993 SunLife Skate Canada International. Kurt Browning, Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov had been getting most of the attention during the competition, but Britain's Steven Cousins was getting his fair share too. Even though Steven would go on to win his first international medal (a bronze), that may not be what everyone who was in Ottawa remembers him for.

It was the afternoon before the men's technical program and many school children had come to watch one of the men's practices. Little did they know, they were about to see the show of their lives.

Steven Cousins had been having a tough practice, all his elements were on target except for his triple flip. He kept falling when he attempted it. Finally, Steven took one hard fall, and what happened? The seam on the derrière of his pants split open! Steven had to skate along the boards to prevent being exposed! This made the whole building roar.

Steven proceeded into the changing room where he borrowed a practice outfit from Canadian Marcus Christensen. Five minutes later, Steven came out from behind the curtains and received a thunderous applause. He proceeded back out onto the ice to practice his triple flip. The first time he tried, he two-footed it. The second time, he put a hand down. It was looking better and we all thought Steven would land it this time. Boy, were we wrong!

Crash! Steven fell to the ice again, but that wasn't his biggest problem. He had split Marcus Christensen's outfit — again in the derrière. Steven didn't know what to do, so he went over to the first aid kit and stuck a bandage over the split seam.

But the bandage wouldn't stick because "the area" was so wet from falling! Steven decided to try the triple flip one more time, and to our surprise (and his), he landed it cleanly. Steven then decided he had had enough practice and went and spent half an hour signing autographs (with a jacket around his waist I might add!)

**Jenny Ward**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

### Judge not!

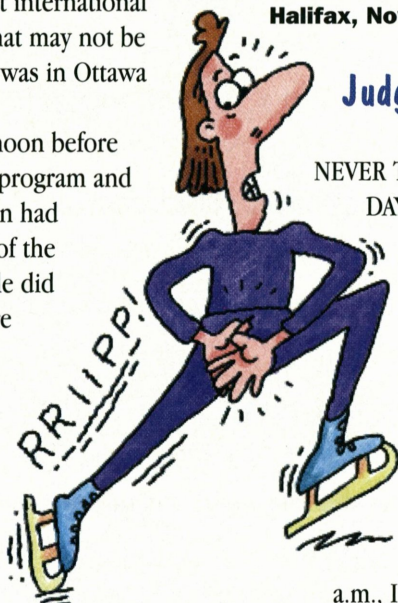
NEVER TURN 16 ON AN ICE SKATING DAY !!!

It was Aug. 2, 1992, and it was my big day — a driver at last. I was so excited about going to get my license that I didn't even catch the fiendish look in my coach's eye when she told me an international judge was coming to watch my program. At 7 a.m., I usually can't walk and talk at the same time, so I really had to settle in to concentrate on what I had to do to impress this unknown entity.

Audrey Weisiger, my coach, had told me to wear a competition outfit — middle of the summer, hot, early in the morning. "Ugh." "Okay," I dragged.

I was already practicing when he came in. I hardly noticed him or the rather odd clothes he was wearing. He went over, sat down by the barrier; I could only see his head, but he had a hat on, and a coat. I did my program — funny how everyone sort of moved back to the sides and let me do it solo. But, no matter. They probably had heard there was a judge, and they normally see me in cut-off jeans and a baseball cap on backward when I skate.

As I finished, Audrey said, "Let's go over and see what comments the judge has."



After all the preparations and hype, I had done a really nice short program, under much duress that early in the morning, I might add.

As I got within six feet of the judge, I realized he was my best friend from my old neighborhood, a friend I had grown up with since kindergarten, but now rarely see more than once a year — on my birthday! I almost died! He had on my Dad's old coat and hat; and Audrey was literally on the ice, on her back, in stitches! Literally EVERYONE at the rink was in on the prank, except the stupid 16-year-old in the competition outfit at 7 a.m.!

"Gottcha!" seemed appropriate at the time!

**Michael Weiss**  
Fairfax, Va.

### Early morning bath

I am writing about one of the funniest things that has happened at my rink.

One of the mothers was there at 5:15 a.m. to monitor the early session and she was looking for the Zamboni driver. As she was walking back to where the Zamboni is kept, she wasn't watching where she was going. She didn't find the Zamboni driver, but she did come across the Zamboni pit, a huge hole filled with dirty water, and unknowingly walked into it.

After the Rink Guard heard her yell, he went and fished her out!

**Anonymous**







## Generation gap

I am an active ice skater and competitor at age 79 and a longtime USFSA member.

My first competition after I turned age 65 was held at Newbury Park, Calif. As always when I sign in, the youngsters gather around with the same “ooh’s” and “ah’s” and ask, “Are *you* going to skate? My reply is always, “Of course!” Eventually, the temptation is too great and one out of the group asks “Well, how old *are* you?”

On this occasion, I asked one of them to guess and she replied, “Well, you must be 40!” Well, that made my day!

The youngsters went on to hang on the rail, watch me perform and applauded along with the rest of the audience.

**Emily Kander**  
Las Vegas, Nev.

## Let down your guard(s)

I was about to step onto the ice, when I saw a girl who skates at the rink fall. I got onto the ice, but the girl kept falling! Finally, I realized she had gone onto the ice with her guards on and didn’t know it. If that wasn’t enough, a coach had to tell her to take the skate guards off!

**Anonymous**  
Kent SC, Ohio

## Eternally grateful

Each year, our skating club invites its adult skaters to participate in the annual ice show. A fun number is always written with the adults in mind, and we spend many busy months learning the routine, choosing partners and making costumes.

This past year, our coach thought it would be fun to try a precision number. We were billed as “The Swiss Folk Dancers,” complete with lace dresses and wreaths of flowers in our hair. We spent days learning the maneuvers, making sure we all spliced together. We even had a wheel in our number.

After dazzling the audience with this great routine, the gentlemen were supposed to take a bow, and the ladies smile and curtsy. The plan was to stay in these positions until the lights dimmed and the next skater came out — about 20 seconds.

During the Saturday evening performance, just as we completed the curtsy, and put on our biggest smiles, an announcement came over the public address system.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we have a list of several cars that are illegally parked. Please listen for your license plate, and promptly move your car.”

For the next two minutes, the announcer proceeded to read a long list of plate numbers, while, you guessed it, the spotlight continued to shine on the

adult skaters — still standing in our curtsy and bowing positions, and smiling like crazy.

**Joanne Vassallo**  
Clinton, N.Y.

## Kids say the darndest things

My student, Karen, had started doing a long, controlled “shoot-the-duck” across the ice, but when she got close to the corner of the rink she tipped over and splayed out on the ice. I skated up to her and with an impish grin she said, “The duck shot me!”

My Learn-to-Skate class was lined up in front of me as I explained that the supervisor was going to make the rounds of the classes that day and give a star to each student who perfected one of the skills we were learning. An 11-year-old boy in the class, just learning to skate, piped up, “A movie star, I hope!”

**Lee Tribuzio**  
West Hartford, Conn.



## Ice fishin'

One of the funnier incidents in skating I recall took place at the 1993 SunLife Skate Canada International competition in Ottawa, Ontario.

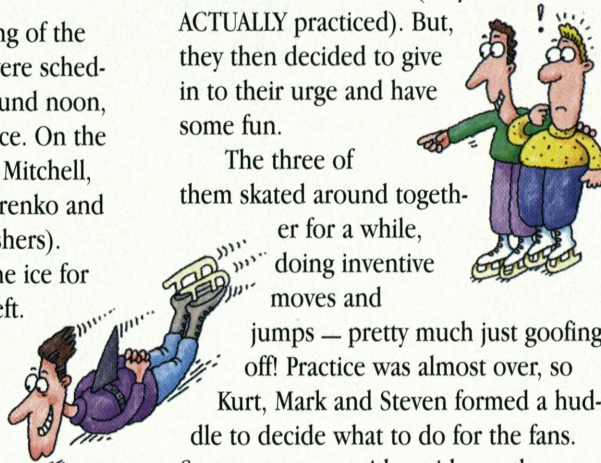
It was Nov. 7, the morning of the exhibition programs which were scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m. Around noon, the men were having a practice. On the ice was Kurt Browning, Mark Mitchell, Steven Cousins, Dmitry Dmitrenko and Oleg Tataurov (the top 5 finishers). Dmitry and Oleg stayed on the ice for about 15 minutes and then left. Kurt, Mark and Steven remained on the ice and that was when the fun began.

During the practice session before, ice dancers Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz had been practicing their hydro-blading. Kurt and Steven decided they would try (key word) and be dance partners and hydro-

blade like Shae-Lynn and Victor. Let me say this: "Guys, stick to men's singles!"

As interesting and fun as Kurt and Steven were to watch, they weren't the greatest! For a while, the three guys settled down to business (they ACTUALLY practiced). But, they then decided to give in to their urge and have some fun.

The three of them skated around together for a while, doing inventive moves and jumps — pretty much just goofing off! Practice was almost over, so Kurt, Mark and Steven formed a huddle to decide what to do for the fans. Steven came up with an idea — they were going to do "The Fish" as he called it. Steven demonstrated for Kurt and Mark. He sped halfway down the ice then dropped onto his stomach and wiggled



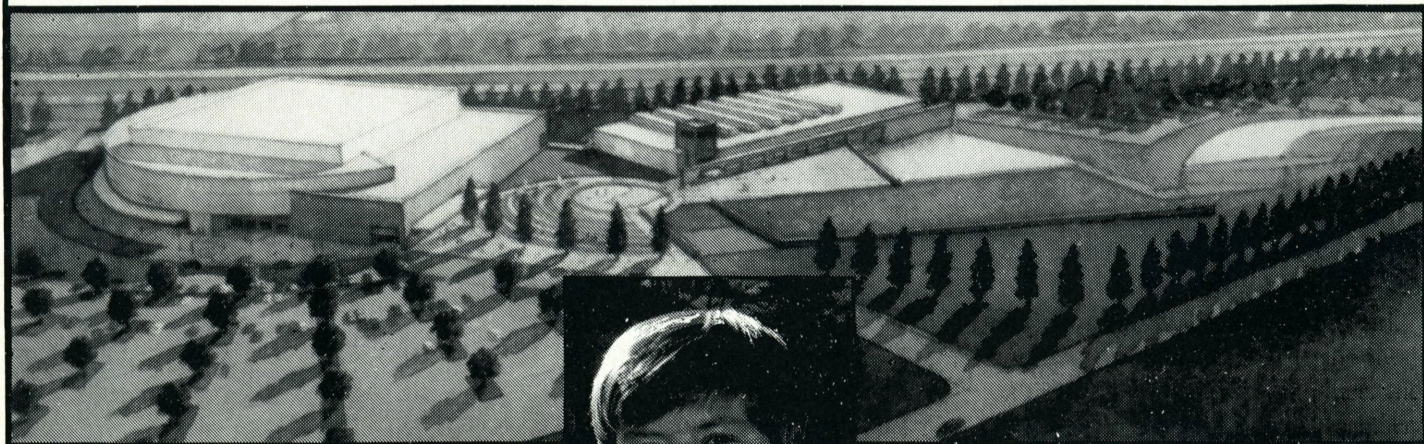
down the rest of the ice. Kurt and Mark just stared with their eyes wide and jaws dropped. Steven skated back to them and said they were all going to do it together. Kurt and Mark decided they'd give it a shot (after all, what did they have to lose...besides their sanity). So, down the ice they skated. Steven dropped to his stomach and wiggled, but Kurt and Mark seemed to miss the concept, they just went down onto their sides and squirmed a bit. The crowd didn't mind, however, they were being wonderfully entertained.

All the guys got up and went to center ice where they took a bow while people snapped photos and gave them a standing ovation. After that, they each went and signed autographs and came back that night and gave outstanding exhibition performances.

**J.W.  
Canada ■**

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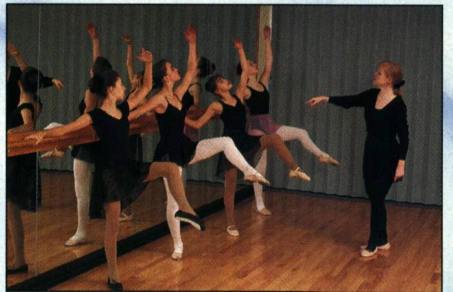
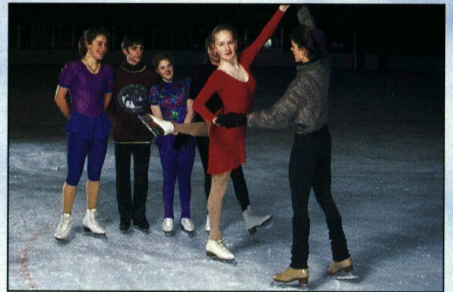
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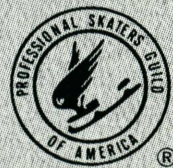
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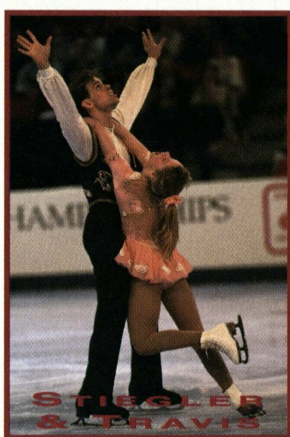
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## The U.S. Championships

Continued from page 18

For their short program, Ina and Dungjen were hoping to rekindle some of the magic from the past by dumping their newly developed routine to "Cats" in favor of a revised version of their 1994 short program to "Swan Lake." The tactical move appeared to be paying off as the team neared the end of the program that included a soaring double twist and well-executed side-by-side triple toe loops. The only glitch in the program came in the final move, when Dungjen slipped in a transition during their side-by-side camel-sit-change-sit spin. The marks — ranging from 5.3 to 5.6 for required elements and 5.5 to 5.7 — were enough to give them a short-lived lead.

Next up, Meno and Sand skated with poise and panache in their classical presentation to Blue Danube from the movie "Strictly Ballroom." The soon-to-be-wed duo "engaged" the audience and judges with their side-by-side double Axels and their dramatic, performance-punctuating swoop exit from an overhead lift. The Providence Civic Center crowd rewarded them with a rousing, standing ovation; the judges echoed their approval with unanimous first-place marks.

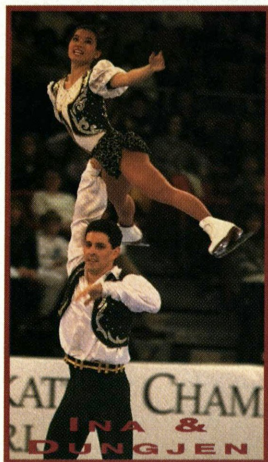


Paul Harvath

"Gypsy Dance" from "Henry VIII" that was highlighted by side-by-side triple Salchows.

Skating first in the final group of the free skate, Stiegler and Travis solidified their medal hopes with a classical and elegant performance to music by Mozart and Tchaikovsky.

Next up, Ina and Dungjen left little room at the top for Meno and Sand with their clean delivery of a technically difficult program to music from the movie "Far and



Michelle S. Harvath

Third place in the short program went to Stiegler and Travis for their performance to "Caravan" highlighted by well-executed side-by-side double Axels. The brand-new pair team of Shelby Lyons and Brian Wells, who only had been skating together seven months, provided the most pleasant surprise of the evening. Lyons, 13, and Wells, 24, proved innovative and daring in their program to

Away."

Skating last and needing a flawless performance, Meno and Sand answered with one of the most memorable pair performances in recent memory. Their classical and romantic presentation of the Italian opera, "Nessun Dorma," was captivating to the audience and judges alike. Moreover, the energy crescendoed through every successfully completed element and ended with a roaring standing ovation from the crowd.

The ovation continued throughout the reading of the marks — eight 5.9s for technical merit and six 6.0s for presentation.

"We feel great," Meno said. "We wanted to present our program as a whole package and show our technical as well as our artistic side. We did exactly what we set out to do."

Coach John Nicks seemed to have been as moved by the performances as the judges and the crowd.

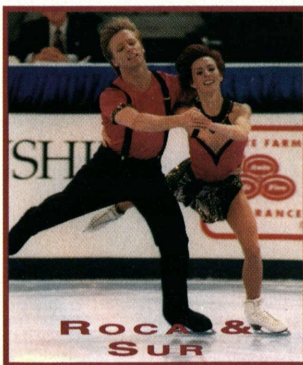
"I don't know when I've enjoyed two performances more," said Nicks, who also coached five-time U.S. Champions and 1979 World Champions Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner. "I would rank this performance with that of Tai and Randy — there were many similarities. In fact, I might give Tai a call when I get home to further develop their program."

Ina and Dungjen expressed no regrets about their performance, which resulted in their second consecutive silver medal.

"We were happy with the way we skated and ended up the free skate," Dungjen said. "We felt the presentation marks were very high and we're happy about that since we've never gotten high marks in that area before."

With their third-place finish in the free skate, Stiegler and Travis took home the bronze — their first medal at a U.S. Championships.

"They skated beautifully and demonstrated along with the other top pairs a new wave in the level of American pair skating," said coach Peter Opeppard, who with partner Jill Watson won a bronze medal at the 1988 Olympics. "We've never seen this kind of skating among the cream of the crop at Nationals before."

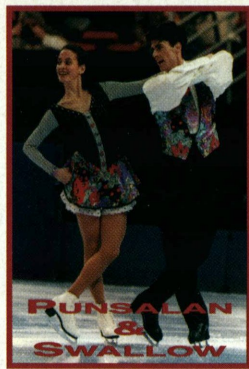


George S. Rossano

## DANCE

Defending U.S. dance champions Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow of Pontiac, Mich., faced a formidable challenge from their former mentors, 1993 U.S. champions Renee Roca and Gorsha Sur for the Championship Dance title.

Both teams were riding high entering the event as a result of strong showings in different international competitions in the fall. The husband-and-wife team of Punsalan and Swallow, who had also won the U.S. title in 1991, were coming off of three consecutive medal finishes in major international competitions. Roca and Sur, who were forced to withdraw from the 1994 Nationals because of an injury to Roca's wrist, had managed three medals out of four events on their comeback campaign.



George S. Rossano

In the compulsory dances (the Argentine Tango and the Ravensburger Waltz), Roca and Sur opened up to an early lead by winning both dances with unanimous marks. The judges were likewise unanimous in awarding the second-place ordinals to Punsalan and Swallow.

"The compulsories have traditionally been a struggle for us," Roca explained. "I think it has been due to the different backgrounds that we both have. When we first began two years ago, every step in compulsories was a struggle. It requires very, very good technique."

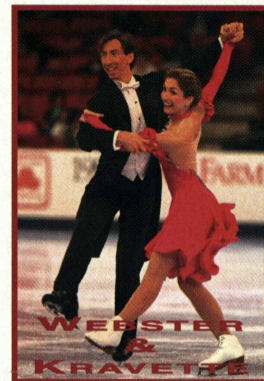
Amy Webster of Yarmouth, Maine, and Ron Kravette of Costa Mesa, Calif., were in third place following the compulsories.

Roca and Sur extended their lead in the Original Dance, set to the Quickstep, with a clean delivery of their routine to "That's Plenty." Again, the judges were

unanimous in their ordinal rankings of the top two — Roca and Sur first; Punsalan and Swallow second. In only their second competition together, 16-year-old Kate Robinson of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and 25-year-old Peter Breen of Brockton, Mass., moved ahead of Webster and Kravette for a third-place standing after the Original Dance.

The Free Dance held much of the same for the top two teams, as Roca and Sur delivered speed, unison and excellent footwork in a program inspired by Fred Astaire's choreographer Hermes Pan and skated to a medley of jazz and blues tunes from the 1950s. The team captured all nine first-place ordinals to sweep the competition, earn their second U.S. title and secure their second trip to Worlds. Punsalan and Swallow secured their silver medal with a program they describe as a "romantic comedy" that opened with a Charleston and ended with a jive. Webster and Kravette's reorchestrated 1994 free dance to "Phantom of the Opera" was well-received by the crowd and garnered the third-place marks for the free dance, boosting them to third overall.

"This is vindication," Roca said of the win. "Last year was such a lost year. This makes up for all we went through." ■



Paul Harvath

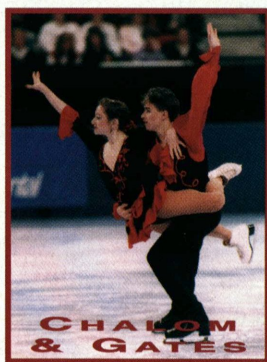
## The Junior Championships

*Continued from page 22*

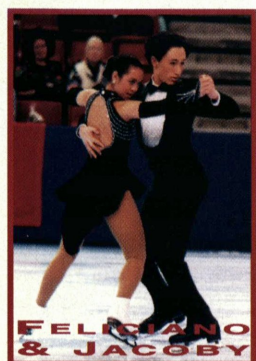
given recognition for their efforts. They work hard and have excellent basics, which makes an important difference," said Igor Shpilband who, along with Elizabeth Coates, coaches not only Chalom and Gates, but bronze medalists Jessica Joseph of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and Charles Butler of Kalamazoo, Mich., as well.

Although Joseph and Butler made a critical error in their Original Dance, when she lost an edge and took a spill, their performance in the free dance was still good enough to merit a third-place finish.

"We had more feeling in this performance than ever before. I think we were technically strong and had good unison. I am very happy with how we did," Joseph said.



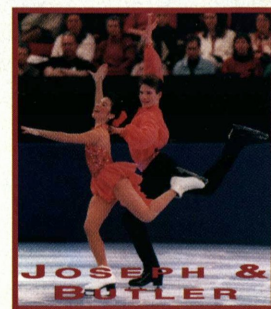
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Kristina Feliciano of Daly City, Calif., and Alex Jacoby of Belmont, Calif., improved upon a third-place finish after the first compulsory dance to finish second in the second compulsory, the Original Dance and Free Dance to earn the silver medal. Their free dance to a medley of '50's hits, captured the attention of both audience and the judges with its energetic, fluid style.

"We are definitely happy with how we did. We didn't know what to expect coming into this competition," said Jacoby. "Being here somehow seemed to enhance our performance. I felt we got more into the program than usual." ■



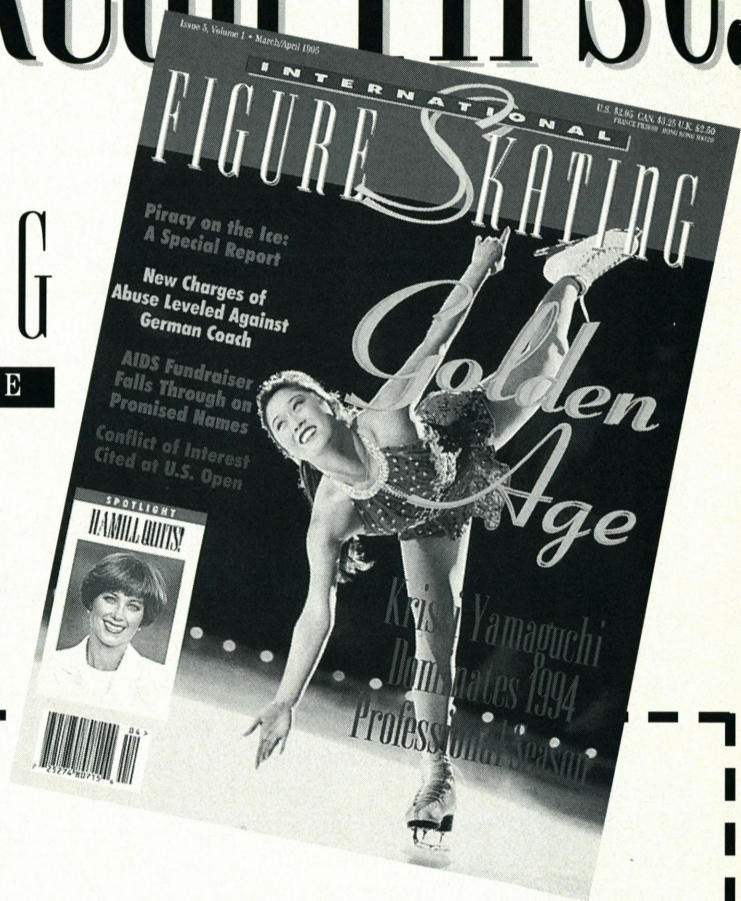
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*Elizabeth Leamy is a competitive skating coach in the Westchester, N.Y., and Fairfield County, Conn., areas. She has written freelance articles for Gentlemen's Quarterly, Glamour and Polo magazines.*

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**1995 EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

by **Ronald A. Scheurer** & **Charles C. White**

Dortmund, Germany, Europe's premier beer city, hosted this year's Europeans at the Westfalenhalle, Jan. 29-Feb. 5, 1995.

The qualifying rounds did not include last year's top 10 finishers in the men's and ladies' competition, however, those exempted were not seeded for the draw (a new change).

**Dance**

The Ravensburger Waltz and the Yankee Polka compulsories tested 24 couples. Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy of France clearly outclassed the competition, but not unanimously.

Susanna

Rahkamo and Petri Kokko of Finland took two of the first-place votes. Russians Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsianikov were third.

Rahkamo and Kokko moved ahead of the French with an unhurried yet lively original to the soundtrack from "Borsalino" by Bolding-Sydney Thompson. Moniotte and Lavanchy placed second; Krylova and Ovsianikov came in third.

In the free dance, Rahkamo and Kokko faced a friendly crowd. Five judges saw the Finn's climactic European performance to the Beatles' "Yesterday" and "A Hard Day's Night" as superior to that of the French.

"We appeared in the European Championships for the first time in 1986," said Kokko. "Now we are the European Champions. If we win the World title, the season would be perfect."

Moniotte and Lavanchy were disappointing. Choreographic tricks added to last year's free dance made their Astaire and Rogers "swing" routine look more like a Punch and Judy "fling" routine. It



Charles C. White

took the silver.

The bronze medal went to the exotic Krylova and the dramatic Ovsianikov.

Their free dance, a flamenco rendezvous, could challenge the best at Worlds.



Charles C. White

**Pairs**

In pairs, Russia's Shishkova and Naumov set the pace with a superb performance to "Rondo Caprice Andalous" by Saint-Saëns. Their solo jump requirement was side-by-side double Axels.

Host country favorites, Mandy Wötzel and Ingo Steuer, gave a first-rate performance as well, and came away with two first-place and a majority of second-place votes.

The night, however, belonged to the Czechs. Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny skated an exquisite and near perfect "Romeo and Juliet" for four first-place votes.

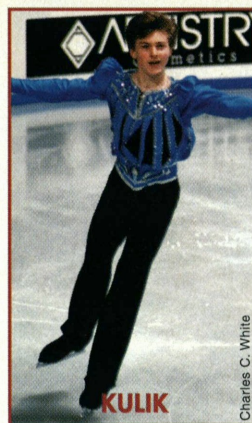
In the free skate, Shishkova fell out and touched the ice in her side-by-side double Lutz with Naumov. They settled for the bronze. For the first time in 12 years, a Soviet pair did not win the title.

The Czechs skated to Verdi. After a throw triple Salchow, Novotny doubled his part of what should have been side-by-side triple toes. The rest of their program was artful, but not enough to take the gold.

The creative Wötzel and Steuer skated to a quiet and reflective piece titled "Island" by Art of Noise. Their new overhead lift — a one-arm press where Wötzel assumes a pike position on the back of Steuer's shoulder — impressed everyone. Minor faults did not keep Wötzel and Steuer from winning the gold.

**Men**

In the men's competition, Ukrainian Dmitry Dmitrenko skated a clean program in his own unique style, but was



Charles C. White

not well received. Skating first out of 30 competitors didn't help. He placed fourth in the short program.

France's Philippe Candeloro continued the "Godfather" saga, but

his characterization of the great daddy was not inspiring. The judges placed him third after a rather lackluster program. "I'm not in good shape mentally ... and skated with no emotion," Candeloro later said.

The contest brightened. Ukrainian Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, who wore a striking red shirt under rhinestone suspenders, pulled out one of the most tilted triple Axel combinations ever seen. That strength coupled with some tremendous footwork gave him the second spot.

The star of the night, however, was World Junior Champion, Ilia Kulik. This new Russian skated sixth and demonstrated how it should be done. Five first-place marks put him in the lead with 24 competitors to follow. Not even compatriot World Champion Alexei Urmanov caught up. His off-night left him sixth.

In the freestyle event, Candeloro skated first in the last group of six. His "Godfather IV" was tiresome. The gesticulating hands, bobbing positions, and the gesture of real or imagined arrogance after adding his illegal ankle spin did him in. No medal. Candeloro finished fourth.

Zagorodniuk, as the apprentice, skated a very animated performance to "L'apprenti Sorcier" by Paul Dukas. The music was quiet, but the sound of seven triples registered high with the judges. At this point, Zagorodniuk had the title.

But this new kid Kulik was not about to let the kings go unchallenged. He answered with nine triples. Two had step outs. His jumps were effortlessly done. Kulik replaced Zagorodniuk at the top, but there was still room.

Urmanov? His outfit was impressive: a winged black, white and grey top accented by his white pants. Urmanov

*Continued on page 57*



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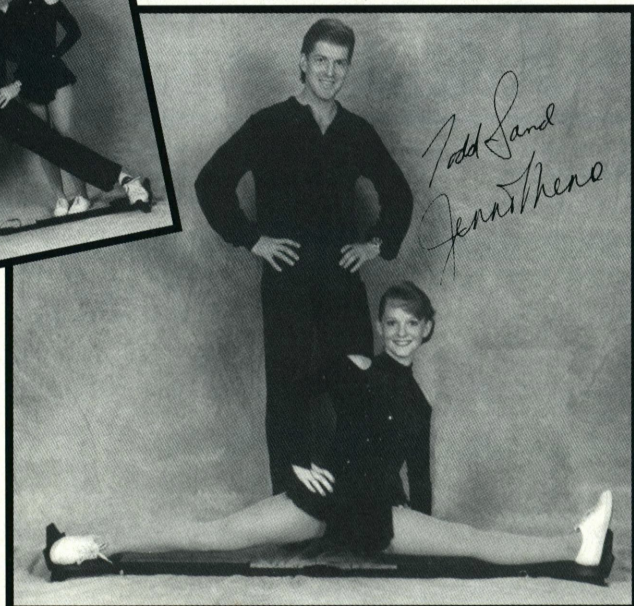
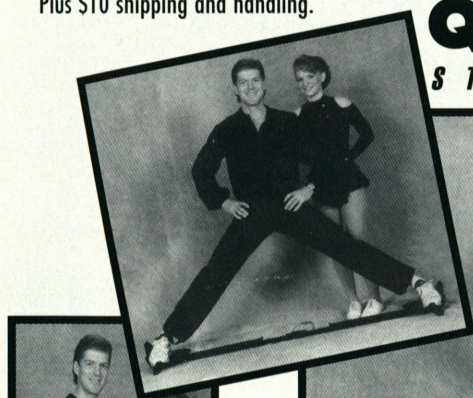
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## Providing effective first aid response to skating injuries

By Claire McCarthy, PTMS  
 Director of Dept. of Physical &  
 Occupational Therapy Services  
 at Children's Hospital in Boston,  
 Mass.

Both competitive and recreational skaters occasionally sustain injuries. Fortunately, most skaters' acute injuries are minor scrapes, bruises, sprains and strains. However, more serious lacerations, concussions or fractures also occur. Whatever the type or extent of an injury, immediate attention and early care are of utmost importance. Further injury should be minimized or, better yet, prevented. Skaters, parents and coaches should remember that even minor injuries have a negative effect on performance and can, if left unattended or given improper care, easily mushroom into major problems.

To provide appropriate care for acute injuries, skating facilities should plan ahead and be prepared with guidelines that are readily available and are known and understood by employees who are expected "to act." Others, such as club members and coaches, should be made aware of the guidelines. This is particularly important for early morning and late evening training sessions when a limited number of people are present. Appropriate guidelines may be developed by facilities and clubs independently or collaboratively. Skaters, coaches, parents, club personnel and facility employees need to know "what to do." Is there a first-aid box, is it appropriately stocked (see inset) and is it readily accessible? Is equipment such as a stretcher or wheelchair available for easy transport? What are the emergency telephone numbers? Where is the closest emergency service? Should a family member be contacted? Who is expected to do what?

When an event occurs such as a bad fall, a crash into the boards or a multiple-skater collision, a careful assessment of the situation should be made before any effort is made to move the involved skaters. Frequently, skaters will try to get up and off the ice themselves even

### ITEMS TO KEEP IN A FIRST AID BOX

- Gloves
- Sterile gauze
- Ace wraps
- Ice bags
- Adhesive bandages
- Kerlix bandages

though they may be seriously injured. Often such attempts are erroneously encouraged and physically helped by others because of the cold and a desire to clear the ice surface for continued use. If a head, neck or back injury is suspected, and no trained personnel are present, an emergency vehicle should be called immediately. The skater *should not be moved at all* but may be warmed with a blanket or coat placed *over* the skater! Unnecessary movement should be discouraged. If limb deformity is obvious, the skater should be transported directly to an emergency facility. Only trained people should apply immobilizing splints to injured limbs, but obviously deformed or unstable limbs should be splinted before emergency transport.

Serious lacerations from a skate blade are fortunately not common. However, when such an injury occurs, the presence of blood, particularly in significant amounts, presents two serious situations to the responding caregivers. The first is to contain the bleeding, by placing a sterile gauze pad over the wound, applying direct pressure and elevating the part. The second is to assure the protection of individuals involved in controlling the bleeding and handling the blood-soaked materials from viruses or pathogens such as HIV or hepatitis. To handle these emergencies, rink personnel should have readily accessible rubber gloves. Information on cleaning the area

and disposing of materials should be included in the guidelines for first-aid care. The injured skater, if possible, can assist with wound cleaning and care, as well as disposing of any blood-stained materials. If bleeding does not stop, or the wound is large and gaping, then emergency medical assistance is necessary. If a finger is completely severed by a skate blade, apply pressure with sterile gauze to the bleeding stump. Seal the severed part in a plastic bag, then put the bag into a second plastic bag that contains a mixture of ice and water. If a tooth is knocked out, the tooth may be replaced into its socket (if possible, and if the skater is conscious) and held in place with the tongue during transportation to an emergency facility. Alternatively, the tooth may be placed in a cup or bag of milk during transport.

Facility employees or coaches who might anticipate being the first person to reach an injured skater should seriously consider carrying rubber gloves. Alternatively, rubber gloves can be placed at rinkside with the first aid kit. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published materials and standards on the use of universal precautions when the potential for exposure to bloodborne pathogens can be anticipated.

The more common injuries, such as sprains and strains, are treated by rest, ice, compression and elevation (RICE). Rest means stop using the injured area — get off the ice. For a shoulder, arm, or hand injury, a sling can provide support. If a leg is involved, use crutches (only if you've had previous experience) or a wheelchair for transport. Ice application (from the concession stand or Zamboni pit) decreases bleeding and minimizes pain and swelling. Before applying an ice pack or ice bag, place a towel or cloth over the injured area. Never apply ice directly to the skin. Ice the injured region for approximately 20-30 minutes, interrupted by periods of 10-15 minutes. An elastic bandage may be wrapped around

*Continued on page 61*

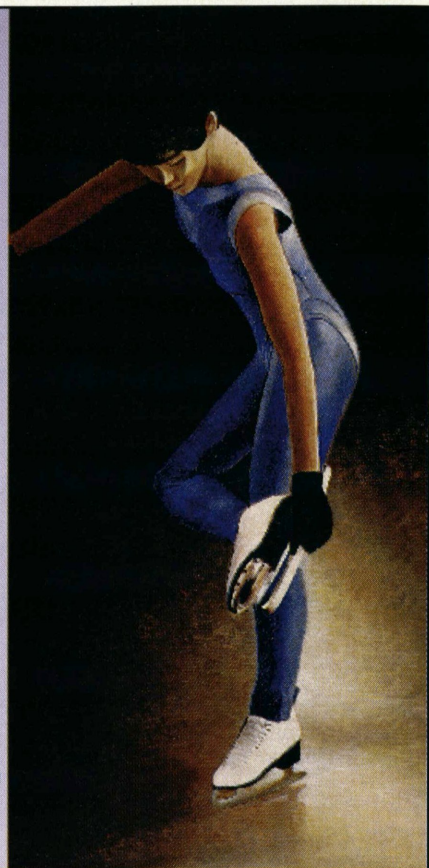
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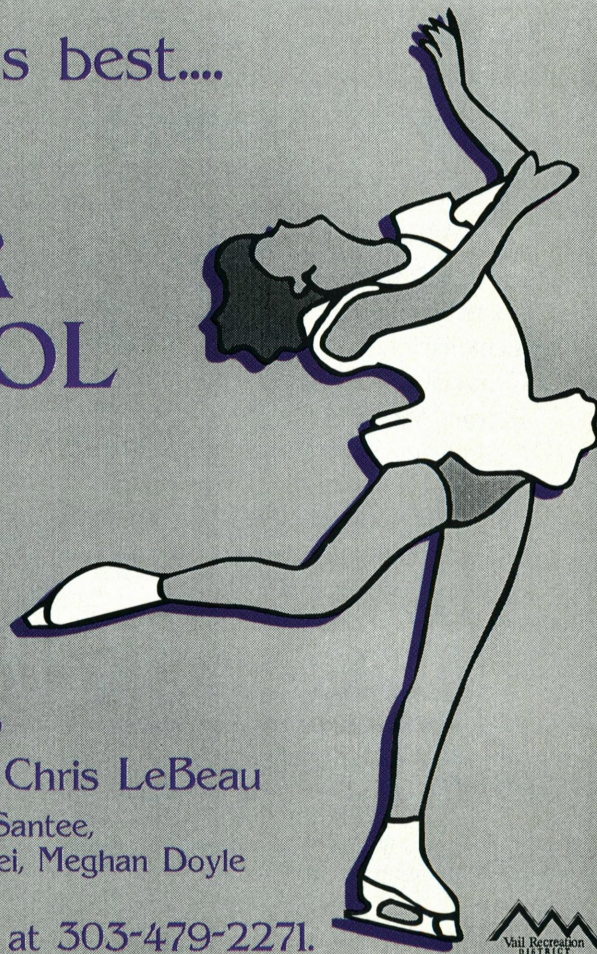
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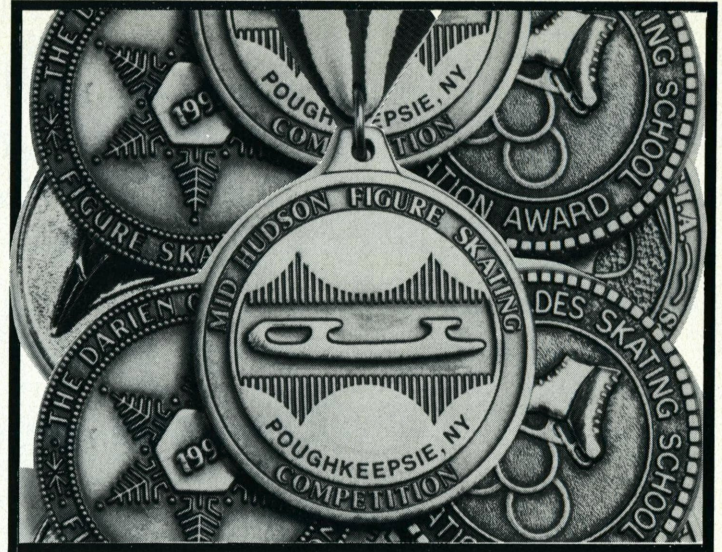
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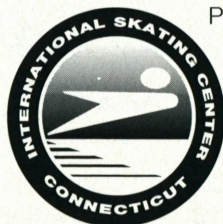


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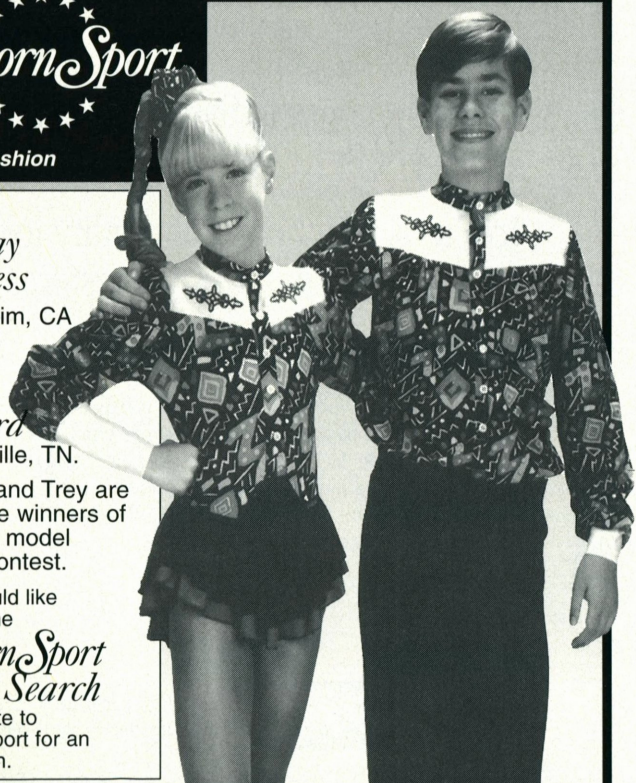
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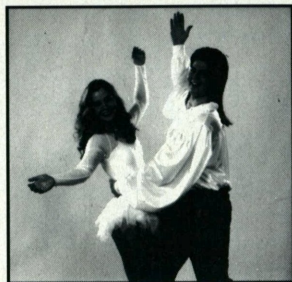


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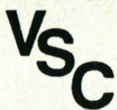
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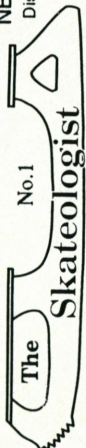
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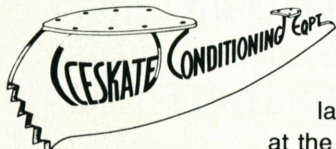
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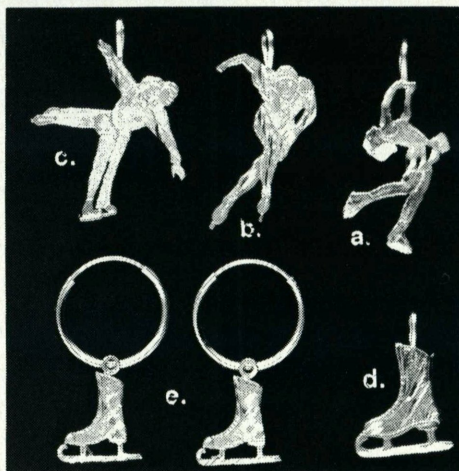
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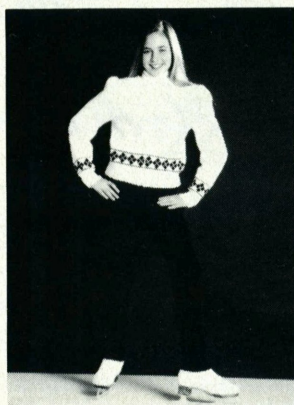
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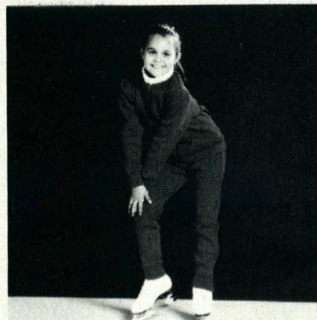
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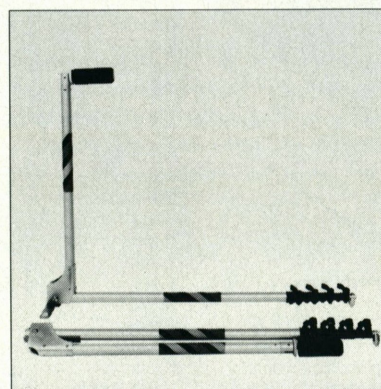
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Continued from page 40

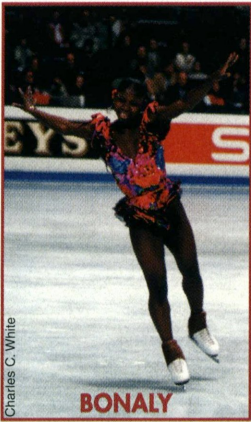
flew through Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" and "Romeo and Juliet" in perfect form. His effort earned one 6.0 for presentation.

Yes? No. Though Urmanov won the long, he had to settle for the silver medal. His move from sixth after the short was a great achievement, but it failed to catch Ilya Kulik. Kulik became Europe's new golden boy on his first try. Zagorodniuk settled for the bronze.

### Ladies

The ladies' event became a double drama. On the German side, Marina Kielmann faced Tanja Szewczenko. On the European side, everyone else, whom one of the Germans would face at Worlds.

In the short, Kielmann skated fifth



out of 30 competitors, had a disastrous short program, and placed 13th. Szewczenko skated tenth, and at that point took over the number one spot. Her smile lasted until Russia's Olga Markova hit the ice.

Markova is the ultimate of jazz; as cool as the surface she skates on. Each element of her short program has its own distinct air. The spiral sequence was one of the most innovative seen. She ended with an intricate spin combination and took the lead.

France's four-time European Champion, Surya Bonaly, followed Markova, and made no serious mistakes. However, the judges saw many deductions and gave her low technical marks. Bonaly trailed Markova with 11 skaters to go.

Of those, Russian Maria Butyrskaya was the only one who really clicked. Her "Blues" was precise and without major mishap. Placements after the short saw Markova first, Bonaly second, and Butyrskaya third. In fourth and fifth place were Szewczenko and Elena Liashenko, a

relatively unknown Ukrainian.

The freestyle event saw many twists of fate. After her horrendous short, Kielmann celebrated her 27th birthday with six triples and a great performance for the home crowd. She moved from 13th after the short to 4th in the long for a final 6th-place finish.

Irina Slutskaya, from Russia, who also had a poor short, redeemed herself rather nicely. She finished 5th after moving up from 11th with a 3rd-place long program. Tanja Szewczenko was lucky to hold on to fourth overall after a sixth-place long.

Liashenko pulled the master magician's trick. Skating to "The Widow of Valencia" by Khachaturian, and "Le Cid" by Massenet, this Liza Minnelli look-a-like came in fifth in the long and — with her fifth in the short — moved up two spots to win the bronze!

Butyrskaya and Markova could have taken it all. Both skated before Bonaly. And both blew the opportunity away. Butyrskaya's performance was terrible, and the few jumps she managed looked

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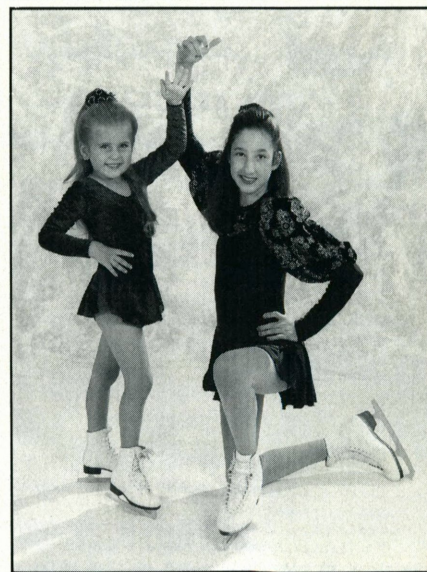
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immature. She dropped from 3rd to 10th to 7th overall. Markova repeated some of Butyrskaya's antics, but managed to pull out enough triples to hold onto second place. Her thought-provoking style helped. The crowd loved it. But it was a silver-medal performance.

Bonaly must have known, as she stepped onto the ice, that every challenge to her fifth consecutive European title was gone. She looked confident, skated consistently but not great, and took the prize. ■

*Ronald Scheurer is a freelance journalist who has written for numerous skating publications.*

## 1995 CANADIAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Peter K. Robertson

The 1995 Canadian Figure Skating Championships returned to the Metro Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the first time in 14 years. In 1981, Brian Orser, Tracey Wainman and Rob McCall

with his original partner Marie McNeil all won their first Canadian titles, while Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini won their third. This year, however, the retirements of several former champions, an injury to Elvis Stojko and the various health problems of several skaters all combined to create a somewhat lackluster competition.


## Men

The most dramatic moment in the men's event came before the competition even started. In his second practice session, World Champion Elvis Stojko took what appeared to be a routine fall. However, he slid hard into the boards, pushing his foot up against his leg and sustaining a tear to the anterior talofibular ligament in his right ankle. He still attempted to skate the short program two days later, but the obvious pain he suffered after falling from an attempted triple Axel made it impossible. Still, he was glad he'd tried. "I think I won my battle for myself. I couldn't go all the way

I wanted, but I did the best I could." A complete recovery is predicted and he received a medical bye to compete at Worlds.

Sébastien Britten now found himself in the unaccustomed role of favorite and the unexpected pressure appeared to affect him. He fell on a triple Lutz in the short program and made several mistakes in the free skate, but in both cases his high artistic marks kept him in first place. His two programs are an effective contrast of swing and classical, and were easily the most mature and sophisticated of the field. He admitted it wasn't the kind of win he would have preferred, but added, "It's just great to be first instead of third!"

The silver medal went to Marcus Christensen, who also experienced some difficulty with his technical elements. However, his programs are an effective vehicle for him, in particular the free skate set to "The Adventures of Don Juan" and "Captain Blood". He took second place in a very tight decision over Ravi Walia, the bronze medalist. Walia was



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the 1993 Junior Champion, but failed to make it to Canadians in 1994. This year, he presented the most technically ambitious program of all the men, landing six of the seven triple jumps he attempted cleanly. His presentation to "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" also was impressive and he easily took third place.

## Ladies

A strong favorite in the ladies' event was Susan Humphreys, the only competitor with Olympic and World experience. However, Humphreys has been plagued all season by a chronic back injury and it proved to be her undoing here. She fell on a triple toe loop in the short program and successfully landed only one triple jump in the free skate. Her presentation was much more mature and polished than last season and helped give her the bronze medal. "This has been the longest year of my life," she said, "but I'm only 19. I have plenty of time."

Benefiting from Humphreys' problems were two former junior champions,

Netty Kim, who won in 1991, and last year's winner, Jennifer Robinson. Kim included a triple loop/double toe loop combination and a triple Salchow in the short program and three different triples in the free skate. Her programs were the most entertaining and polished of all the ladies and she was a popular winner. "My goal was to finish in the top three this year," she said. In fact, she won both programs. Equally consistent in second place, Robinson fell from her triple Lutz in the short program, but attempted five triples in the long. Not everything came off perfectly, but she had the distinction of adding a new triple jump in every competition she entered this year. A delighted Robinson said, "It's so overwhelming. I didn't think this day was going to be today. I thought it would be a little later." Her achievement was all the more impressive for a skater in her first year as a senior. Since Canada is entitled to send only two women to Worlds, ironically it was the veteran Humphreys who would not be going.

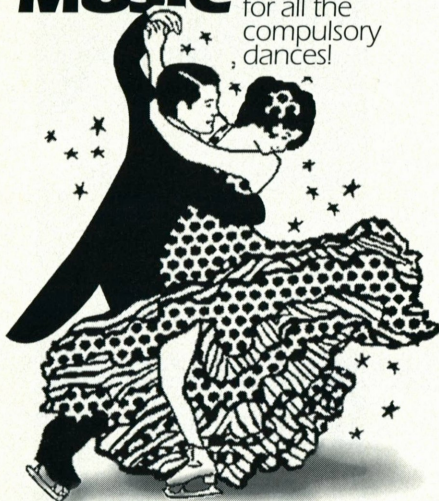
## Pairs

The pre-competition favorites in the pairs' event were Kristy Sargeant and Kris Wirtz, but they had a dreadful competition and could do no better than fifth place. In the short program, Wirtz, weakened by a respiratory infection, fell on a triple toe loop and again entering a camel spin when he apparently hit a hole in the ice. Problems with individual jumps continued for both skaters in the long, although some elements, such as two beautiful throws, were very fine.

Confidently taking over first place were Michelle Menzies and Jean-Michel Bombardier. After a terrible season last year, they moved to Toronto and a new coach, Lee Barkell. Despite a few mistakes — Bombardier only did a single Axel in the short program, something only three of the judges seemed to catch — they looked once again like the couple who had impressed in 1993. About the coaching change, Bombardier commented, "We needed that. We needed the change and obviously we decided what

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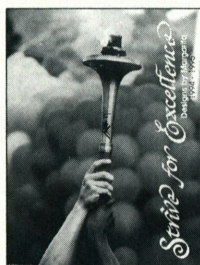


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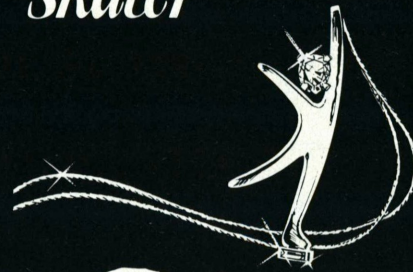
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The biggest surprise of the entire competition was the showing of Allison Gaylor and David Pelletier. Only eighth last year, theirs was technically the strongest free skate. Aside from a miss by Gaylor on the double Axel, everything came off in an exciting performance. The improvement in just one year has been phenomenal and this is a young team to watch over the next few years.

Before Gaylor and Pelletier skated, Marie-Claude Savard-Gagnon and Luc Bradet were standing in second place and Jodeyne Higgins and Sean Rice in third. However, a subsequent change in the ordinals dropped Savard-Gagnon and Bradet to fourth place, while retaining for Higgins and Rice the bronze medals and the third berth on the World team. Both teams were closely matched and it was unfortunate that one had to lose.

## Dance

The one event where the results were exactly as expected was ice dancing.

To no one's surprise, Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz, sixth in the 1994 World Championships, easily dominated the event, winning all four dances and receiving every single first place ordinal except one. They have been training in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., with former World and Olympic champions Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko since November. A noticeable improvement in technique in the two compulsory dances, the Rhumba and the Argentina Tango, bore out the wisdom of the coaching change. The Quickstep, set to “Goody Goody” was sparkling and sophisticated, while the free dance, to a pair of Louis Prima selections, was an effective marriage of the stronger technique and greater difficulty emphasized by Klimova and Ponomarenko with Bourne and Kraatz's own trademark soft knees and deep edges. As always, the hydroblading moves were a highlight with the appreciative audience. A delighted Bourne commented on their third Canadian title: “This is the best one yet. They just keep getting better. I was so happy out there tonight. I

felt so relaxed. I had a great time and the crowd was amazing.”

For the second year in a row, the silver medals went to Jennifer Boyce and Michel Brunet, but this time it meant a trip to the Worlds. Second throughout, they were particularly impressive in the original dance, where the Quickstep rhythm was perfectly suited to their fast footwork and expressiveness. This dance earned them one first place ordinal, an unexpected bonus. The free dance, to four pieces of alternating slow and fast music, was an effective demonstration of their versatility.

Janet Emerson and Steve Kavanagh took the bronze medals ahead of Marie-France Dubreuil and Tomas Morbacher, who finished one place higher than Emerson and Kavanagh in 1994. ■

*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 programming.*

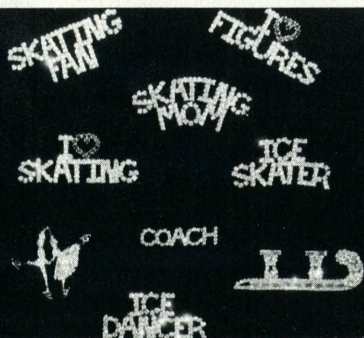
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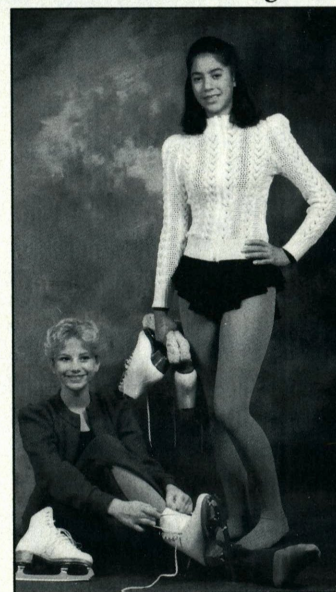


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*Continued from Page 44*

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These are but a few considerations that should be incorporated into an emergency preparedness plan and your plan should continue to be revised as new situations arise. Remember that time spent in planning on how to deal with an emergency before it happens is time saved when an emergency situation occurs. ■

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*Continued from Page 10*

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## Ferguson honored for promoting ethics, fair play

USFSA President **Claire Ferguson** was recently named one of 20 recipients of the 1995 Sports Ethics Fellows award given by the University of Rhode Island's Institute for International Sport (IIS).

The award is given to sports-related individuals who demonstrate an interest in promoting the ideals of ethics and fair play in sport and society.

"It is an honor to be selected by the Institute for International Sport and to be recognized as an individual who demonstrates the importance of fair play and ethics in sport," Ferguson said. "I do believe it is important to instruct and lead our young athletes and students into following ethical and fair behavior whether it is during a competitive activity or just in everyday life."

Other 1995 Sports Ethics Fellows include five-time Olympic speed skating gold medalist **Bonnie Blair**; Big Ten Commissioner **Jim Delaney**; Amateur Athletic Union Executive Director **Dr. Lou Marciani**; E.M. Swift, senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*; and **Sandra Palmer**, executive director for the President's Council of Physical Fitness and Sports. ■

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