

# SKATING



## ALL SMILES

U.S. champions crowned in Spokane



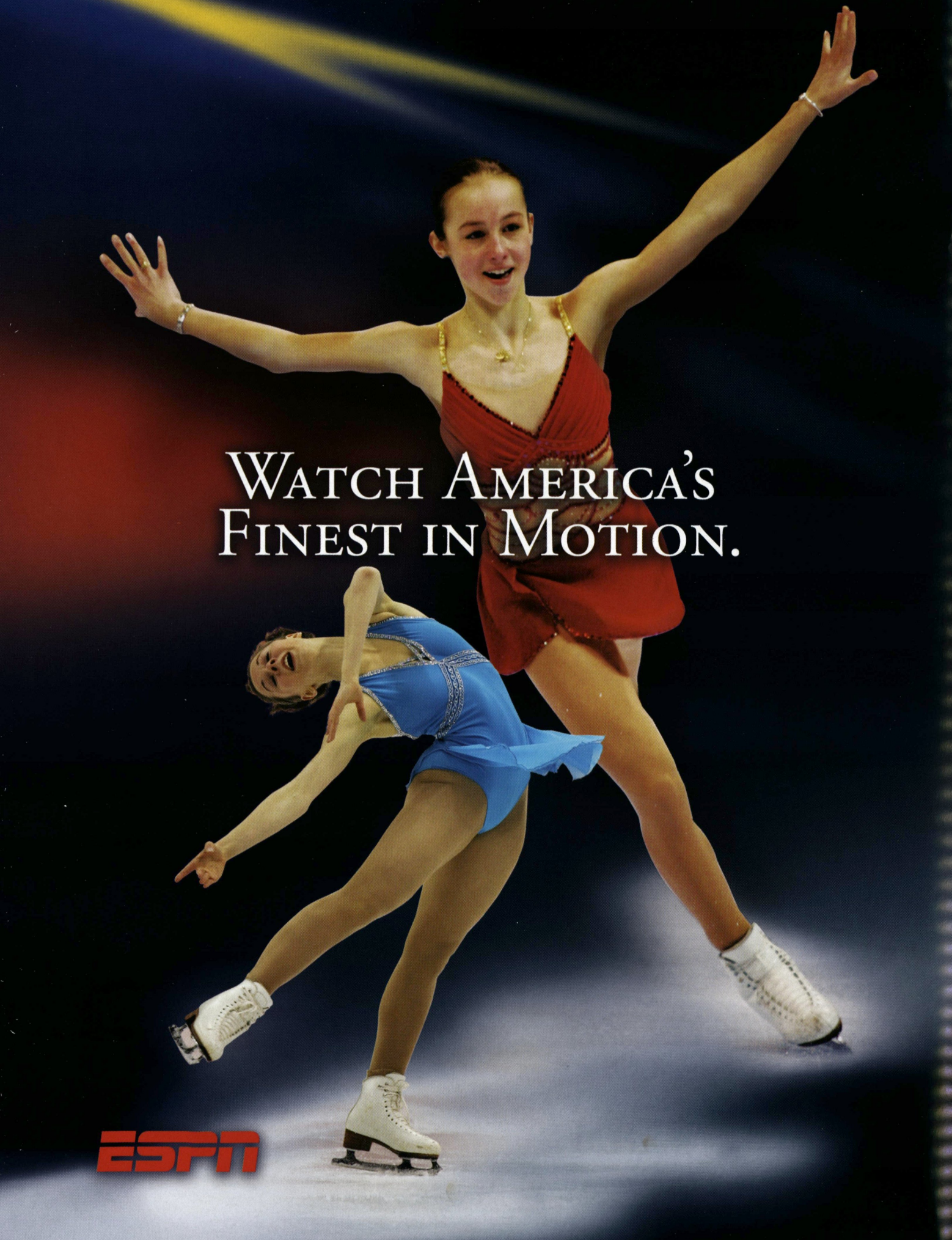
U.S. FIGURE SKATING  
CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

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**Inside:**  
Complete coverage  
of the 2007 State Farm  
U.S. Championships

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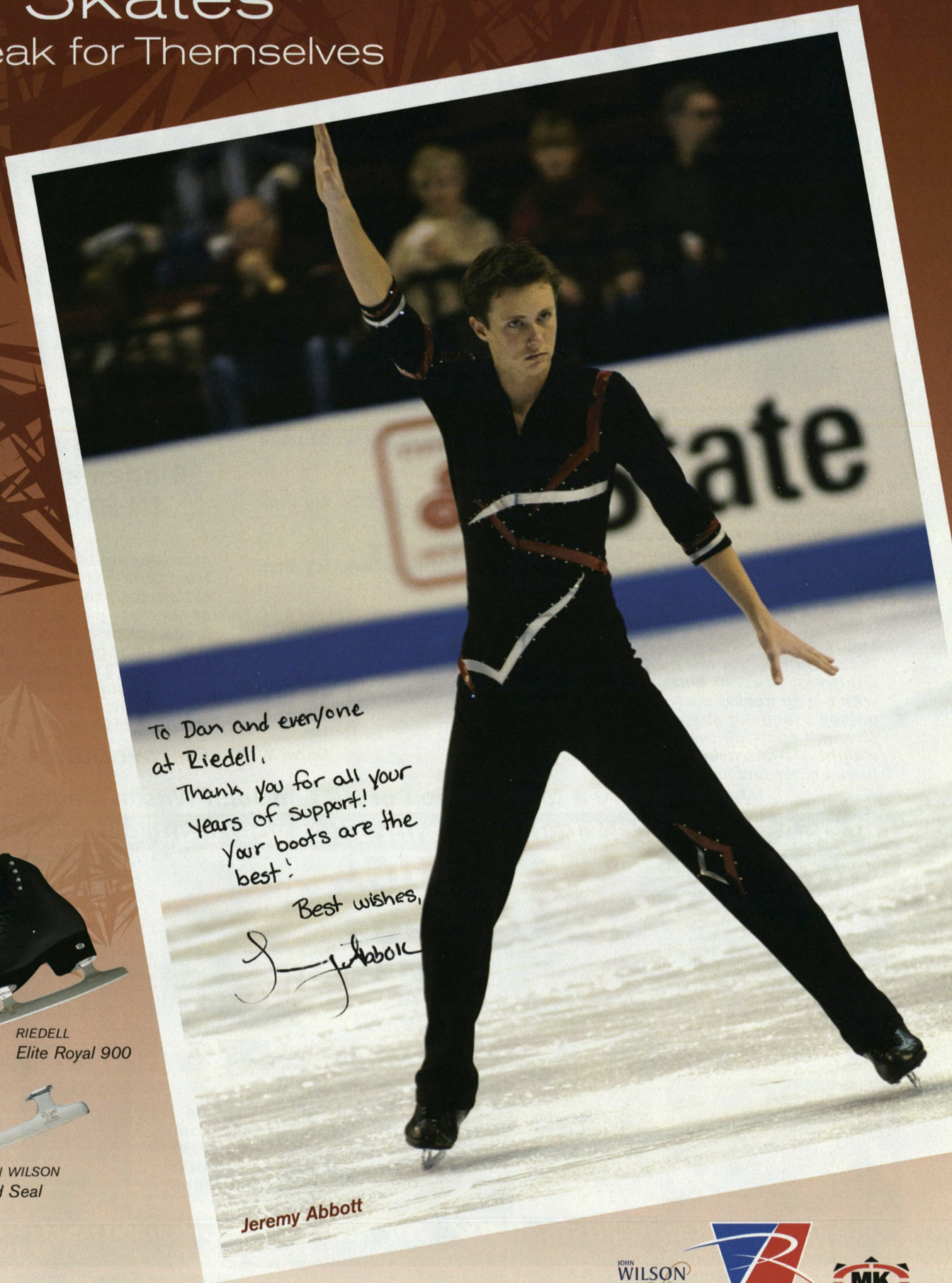
A full-page advertisement featuring two figure skaters in dynamic poses. The skater in the foreground is wearing a red dress and has her arms outstretched horizontally. The skater behind her is wearing a blue dress and is in a more complex, low-to-the-ice pose. The background is dark with a bright light source creating a lens flare effect. The text "WATCH AMERICA'S FINEST IN MOTION." is centered over the skaters. The ESPN logo is in the bottom left corner.

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*J. Abbott*

Jeremy Abbott



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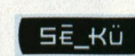
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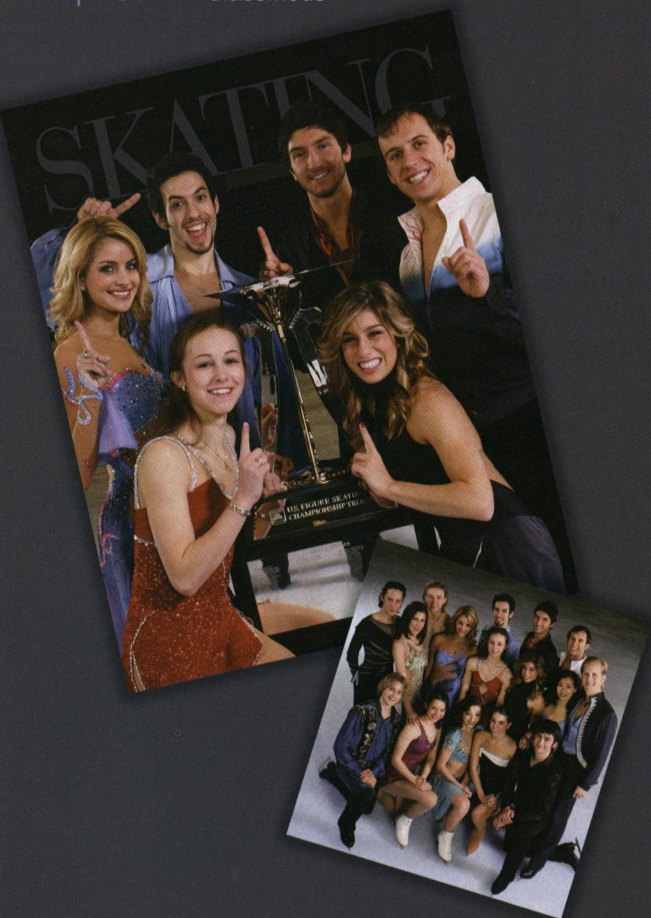
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## On the cover

### Photos by Paul Harvath

As is tradition, the 2007 U.S. champions gathered for a photo shoot with the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy. Clockwise are: Kimmie Meissner, Tanith Belbin, Ben Agosto, Evan Lysacek, Ben Okolski and Brooke Castile. On the back cover is a photograph of the World Team.



7 Olympic bronze medalist Tim Goebel enjoying campus life

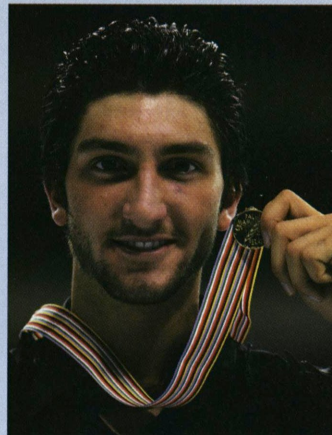
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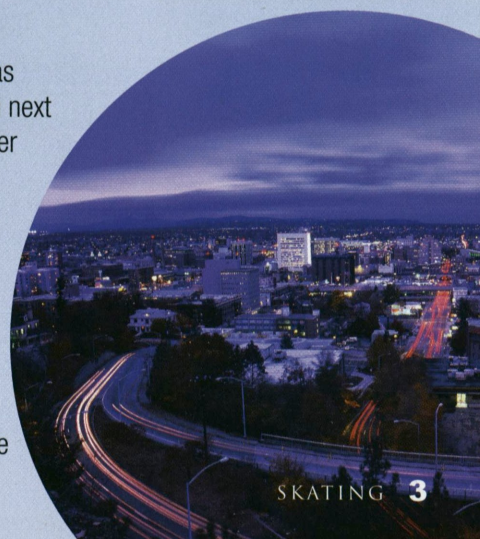
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Debi Thomas embarks on next great chapter of her life



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Spokane rolled out the red carpet during the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships



# Record crowds, great skating make for memorable U.S. Championships

On most days skaters toil in a relatively empty arena, trying to perfect their Lutzes, Axels and artistry for a program they hope to put out in front of a large, appreciative audience.

It's hard, detail-demanding work that goes unnoticed except for the coaches, parents and club mates who support their skating dreams on a daily basis.

At the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash., the top novice, junior and senior skaters in the land got the chance to experience that adrenaline rush that comes with performing in front of a sold-out arena.

For those few minutes on the ice in Spokane, skaters forgot about those cold, early-morning practices, and basked in the applause of each well-executed jump, lift and spin.

Without a doubt, the U.S. Championships in Spokane will go down in the history books as one of the best in the event's 88-year history. Many of the longtime media types and skating aficionados did nothing but rave about the way Spokane stepped up and supported the event, and how the skaters consistently delivered the goods on the ice.

U.S. Figure Skating President Ron Hershberger greeted reporters one day during the weeklong event, grinning from ear to ear.

"This has been an enormously welcoming city from the moment we arrived," Hershberger said. "Everything has been perfect. The community spirit and involvement have been tremendous."

When Hershberger showed up for the novice compulsory dance early in the week and witnessed a packed house of more than 4,000 fans at the Convention Center arena, he realized then that these U.S. Championships were going to be something special. And he was so right.

A U.S. Championships' record 154,893 fans walked through the turnstiles during the weeklong event, shattering the previous record of 125,345 set in Los Angeles in 2002.



Their unbridled enthusiasm was apparent from the moment the national anthem ended and the first skater glided onto the ice.

"The fans were amazing," ladies champion Kimmie Meissner said. "However you started off your program, you could always finish strong because the crowd pushed you."

Like Meissner, men's champion Evan Lysacek couldn't say enough about the way Spokane supported the skaters.

"It was bigger than skating or gold medals or silver medals or bronze medals," Lysacek said. "It helped us as a sport to move forward."

Arguably the top highlight of the event came on the final night of competition when Lysacek produced one of the most memorable free skates in U.S. Championships history. His opening quad toe-combination set the tone for a magical "Carmen" program that finished with 10,000 people on their feet cheering, and Lysacek on his knees, face in his hands, immersed the moment.

Alissa Czisny's personal-best free skate also made my highlight reel. Her signature spins and spirals left the crowd cheering for more. After Czisny landed a triple Lutz toward the end of her program, her coach, Julie Berlin, erupted with joy.

"It was the greatest coaching moment of my life," Berlin said.

It was also great to watch the relatively unknown pairs team of Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski win a title, and Ryan Bradley finally make it to the medal stand after six years of finishing between sixth and ninth.

The novice and juniors didn't disappoint either. The show put on by junior ladies Caroline Zhang and Mirai Nagasu demonstrated that the future of U.S. Figure Skating is a bright one.

With this year's competition in the books, it's now time to look ahead to Saint. Paul, Minn, and the crowds that await to cheer on skaters at the 2008 U.S. Championships.

*Greg Schmirer*

## LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear editor,

I received my copy of the January issue of SKATING magazine, one week prior to the 2007 U.S. Championships.

I am very disappointed to see the predictions (placement level) of the five veteran writers published in the magazine. As you note on the cover, SKATING is the "Official Publication of U.S. Figure Skating" and it is inappropriate to publish predictions of this nature in the official publication of the organization in general,

and most specifically, one week prior to the national championship competition.

For years, there have always been undercurrents in the skating world related to placements and judging. This article does nothing to alleviate those concerns.

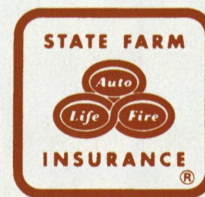
It also does a tremendous disservice to every other competitor who will be at nationals. If you were a senior level national championship competitor, how would you feel going into the competition that the

official publication of the NGB had just published a piece predicting the outcome of the event?

If you want to have the expert writers take us "down memory lane," that's fine. If the writers want to make their own predictions in their own publications, that's fine as well. But for the official publication of the host organization to publish these is out of line.

Joe Armstrong

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Printing  
IPC Communication Services, St. Joseph, Mich.

SKATING is the official publication of  
U.S. Figure Skating.

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The mission of SKATING magazine is to communicate information about the sport to the U.S. Figure Skating membership and fans of figure skating, promoting U.S. Figure Skating programs, personalities, events and trends that affect the sport.

SKATING (ISSN: 0037-6132) is published 10 times per year in January, February, March, April, May, June/July, August/September, October, November and December by U.S. Figure Skating, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Issue: Vol. 84, No. 3. Subscription rates: United States, one year \$25 (U.S.); Canada, one year \$35 (U.S.); Foreign, one year \$45 (U.S.). Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs and at additional mailing offices. Copyright ©2006 by United States Figure Skating, Colorado Springs, Colo. Phone: 719.635.5200. SKATING magazine assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Postmaster: Send address corrections to SKATING, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Canadian return address: Station A, P.O. Box 54, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J5. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from the editor.

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To ask Mr. Edge a question, send it to "Ask Mr. Edge" via mail, fax or online at [www.usfigureskating.org/magazine.asp?id=134](http://www.usfigureskating.org/magazine.asp?id=134).

Send Kids' Questions to "SKATING Kids' Questions" via mail, fax or online at [www.usfigureskating.org/magazine.asp?id=133](http://www.usfigureskating.org/magazine.asp?id=133). Only questions from kids age 18 and younger will be accepted. With your questions, send your name, age and hometown (city and state).

If you would like to be featured in the Kidz Spotlight, send your information to "Kidz Spotlight" via mail and include a few printed photos of yourself. Include in your submission your name, address, home phone number (not for publication) and U.S. Figure Skating member number. Answer as many of the questions that you see printed in the Kidz Spotlight as you want, and we might feature you. We cannot return the photos we receive.

For the chance to be featured in SKATING magazine's Synchronized Spotlight, email team information and a photo to [skatingmagazine@usfigureskating.org](mailto:skatingmagazine@usfigureskating.org)



Downtown Reading is the setting for the 2007 Marshalls U.S. Figure Skating Showcase on April 6.

## Reading, Pa., to host Marshalls Showcase

The biggest names in U.S. Figure Skating will take to the ice April 6 for the last event of the season at the 2007 Marshalls U.S. Figure Skating Showcase in Reading, Pa.

The entire 2007 U.S. World Team is scheduled to perform, including World champion Kimmie Meissner, two-time World bronze medalist Evan Lysacek and Olympic ice dancing silver medalists Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto. In addition, Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen and U.S. pairs bronze medalists Naomi Nari Nam and



Themi Leftheris will join the all-star lineup. Athletes are subject to change.

The event will take place at the Sovereign Center at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$15 and can be purchased at the Sovereign Center box office, the Sovereign Performing Arts Center box office, all Ticketmaster outlets, by calling 215.336.2000, or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

ABC will broadcast the event on April 14 from 4-6 p.m. EST.

## Parkinson receives Disbrow Award

Longtime judge Roberta (Bobbie) Parkinson is the 2007 recipient of the fifth annual Jimmy Disbrow Award.

Parkinson has been a judge for nearly 40 years. She became a national judge in 1981 and has held many positions within U.S. Figure Skating, including national chair for the rules committee, national chair for the judges education and testing subcommittee (JETS) and the national vice-chair for U.S. judges.

Her leadership role in judges' education is considered the most valuable contribution she has made to the sport; she also exemplifies the late Jimmy Disbrow's spirit and devotion to figure skating.

The Jimmy and Dede Disbrow Foundation presents the award to a person who embodies a passionate love for skating and an infectious zest for life. The recipient receives a cash award and a matching contribution from the U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund.

Foundation board member Libby Scanlan presented this year's award. Nominations for the 2008 Jimmy Disbrow Award are now being ac-

cepted. Mail a one-page nomination letter to: The Jimmy & Dede Disbrow Skating Foundation, 6401 Willow Wood Road, Edina, MN 55436.



Roberta Parkinson



PHOTO BY ANDREA NELSON

Judy Blumberg enjoys some ice time with daughter Etienne.

## Blumberg and child begin new chapter in life

"I took a big left turn and I'm loving it," said five-time U.S. ice dancing champion (1981-85), three-time World medalist (1983-85) and two-time Olympian (1980 and '84) Judy Blumberg.

After more than two decades in New York City, she is now living in Sun Valley, Idaho, (where she spent summers for many years) with her recently adopted daughter Etienne.

Although she loves New York, Blumberg feels Sun Valley provides Etienne, 21 months at press time, the perfect environment in which to grow up. When work calls, they hit the road together. Blumberg is a skating coach, ISU technical specialist for ice dancing and broadcaster. She also started a nutritional consulting business.

Etienne is from China and her birth name, Seng Chow Fang, translates to "sweet fragrance."

"When I think of sweet fragrances, I think of French fragrances," said Blumberg, who said the name kept popping up in different articles. Her daughter's middle name is Carolyn, after one of Blumberg's late grandmothers.

"Etienne is so adaptable and she's great in complex situations," Blumberg said. "She makes me go with the flow."

"It is the best thing I've ever done and I'm loving this day to day. She makes me see so much more in a day than I ever used to and we fit a lot more in. This is a new chapter in my life."

— Lois Elfman

## HQ Profile:

### KEVIN LEONARDO

I manage all aspects of the qualifying events (regional, sectional, Junior Championships and Adult Championships), working with local organizing committees from the start of the bid process through the conclusion of their events. For the ISU and U.S. Championships, I work with the hotels and handle all on-site credentialing before moving to the arena to direct the kiss-and-cry, skaters' entrance and awards ceremonies during competition.

#### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

Anything that involves being outdoors, playing and watching sports and listening to live music. Occasionally I am known to "calmly watch" a horse race or nine. I have also been bartending two nights a week at an Irish pub (Jack Quinn) for the last two years.

#### **What would people be surprised to know about you?**

All 5'10" of me played Division III basketball at Hobart College in western New York, where I started at point guard for three years and was the captain of the most accomplished team in the school's 115 year history. Additionally, in giving credit to my athletic background (my mom would say recklessness), I have had stitches 11 times, four surgeries and six broken bones, and by the grace of medicine I am still in one piece.

#### **What is the favorite part of your job?**

The people. I really enjoy working each day with the individuals on our events team. I also feel privileged and lucky to have met and worked with so many wonderful people all over this country and the world.

#### **What do you cherish most?**

Time with my family (who still live on the East Coast). My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004 and is now cancer free. It was a speed bump in life that brought out the love that each member of my family has for each other. Also, I have known my childhood friends most of my entire 27 years of existence. We speak on a weekly basis.

#### **If you could take a trip anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

Anywhere overseas would be a start. This summer could lead me to Italy and Amsterdam with a potential pit stop in Finland. Actually, my dream trip would be to the winner's circle at the Kentucky Derby. I would trade all my trips for that one.

#### **Family:**

My parents, married 33 years, live in Cocksackie, N.Y., in the same house that we grew up in. My younger brother lives in Albany, N.Y., works at St. Peter's Hospital and is getting married in October.



Kevin Leonardo, second from left, with friends Jimmy Burk, James Monks and Mark Carroll

## College suiting Goebel just fine

When 2001 U.S. men's champion, 2002 Olympic bronze medalist and two-time World silver medalist Timothy Goebel enrolled at Columbia University School of General Studies last fall, he wanted to just blend in.

"For the most part, I've been able to do that," he said.

Now in his second semester, Goebel, 26, loves life in New York.

"I hate driving," he said. "With the subway, even though it's dead time, I can get stuff done, like reading. I don't ever have to drive anywhere, which I love. I walk to school. Everything is so convenient. I'm really happy here."

This semester he's taking economics, calculus, Russian and a required music course. He plans on majoring in math, which he expects to be incredibly challenging but will ultimately make it easier for him to find a job. Although he'd previously taken courses at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, his first semester at Columbia was stressful.

"The first month I lost like seven or eight pounds," Goebel said. "I would forget to eat. Now I look like a little kid with a lunchbox. I bring little snacks and stuff for the day."

Columbia has a beautiful gym on campus, and he works out almost every day.

"I'm in pretty good shape," he said. "I don't do cardio anymore because it's boring, and I don't have to. I do more upper body weightlifting than I used to, so I don't have skinny arms anymore, which is kind of nice."

Once a week he teaches at Riverbank State Park in Harlem — just north of the Columbia campus — for Figure Skating in Harlem. After making appearances with the group over the past couple of years, he enjoys working with the girls on a regular basis.

"It's a really good program and the kids are great," he said. "They really, really want to be there."

He also guest coaches with some of his friends in the area and will probably be doing more coaching in the coming months. Although he's been trained as a technical specialist, he passed on working regionals and sectionals this year, preferring to focus on school. By next season, he will probably be ready to take on some competitions.

Goebel admits he misses training and competing, "competing probably more than training. I really did like to compete. And I miss a lot of the people."

He is glad that Brian Joubert of France has equaled his accomplishment of three quadruple jumps in a program.

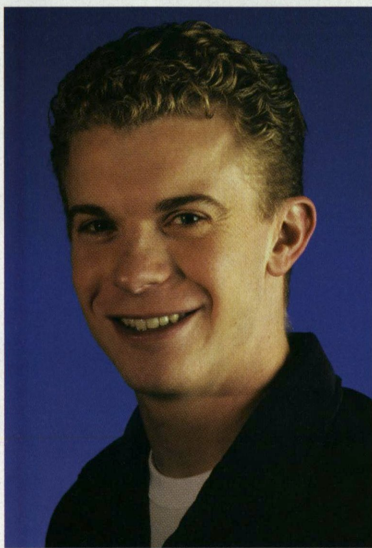
"I respect the people who are going out and going after the stuff," he said. "The whole point of sport is to be doing more, not less. If you're not doing a quad, it's not a senior program."

"I did triple Lutz-triple toe to win junior when I was 15. I understand with program components it's a whole different ballgame now, but that was stuff my generation — me, Alexei Yagudin, Evgeni Plushenko and Takeshi Honda — was doing when we were 14 and 15 in juniors. Now that's acceptable in a senior Grand Prix. I don't think that part is moving in the right direction."

One thing is sure: Goebel does not intend to return to challenge the current stars of the sport.

"I had a good run," he said, "and I'm glad to have moved on."

— Lois Elfman



Timothy Goebel

## Numbers from the U.S. Championships in Spokane

- 12** Hot seat interviews done by KXLY of the top senior athletes prior to competition
- 154,893** Record number of tickets sold
- 1** Red carpet leading into the Tom Collins party
- 255** Media with credentials, of whom 86 were from the local ABC affiliate KXLY
- 8,000** Number of programs printed for the event.
- 150** Number of Friends of Figure Skating members who attended a brunch in their honor
- 3** Number of large television screens inside the media room
- 20** Number of dollars for a taxi ride from the Spokane Airport to the host Davenport Hotel

## CN8 to carry U.S. Synchronized Championships events

CN8 of the Comcast Network will carry taped broadcasts of the 2007 U.S. Collegiate and Senior Synchronized Team Skating Championships this month.

More than nine million homes in 12 states and the District of Columbia receive CN8, with a large percentage of those households on the East Coast in New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Boston

The collegiate synchronized championships will air March 4 at 7:30 p.m., with a second air date of March 10 at 4:30 p.m. All times are Eastern.

The senior championships will air March 11 at 7 p.m., with a second air date of March 17 at noon.

These CN8 programs will air on icenetwork.com following the conclusion of its TV schedule.

Taped broadcast dates for the World Synchronized Championships are April 8 at 7 p.m. and April 14 at 4 p.m. Broadcast times and dates are subject to change.

The 2007 U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships were held Feb. 22-24 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

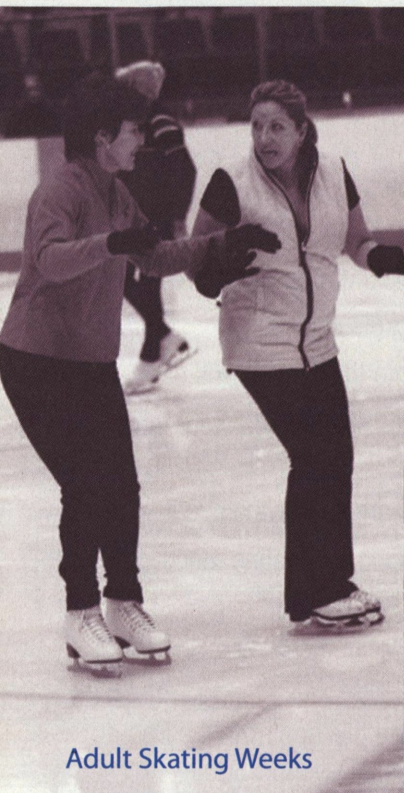


Miami senior synchronized team

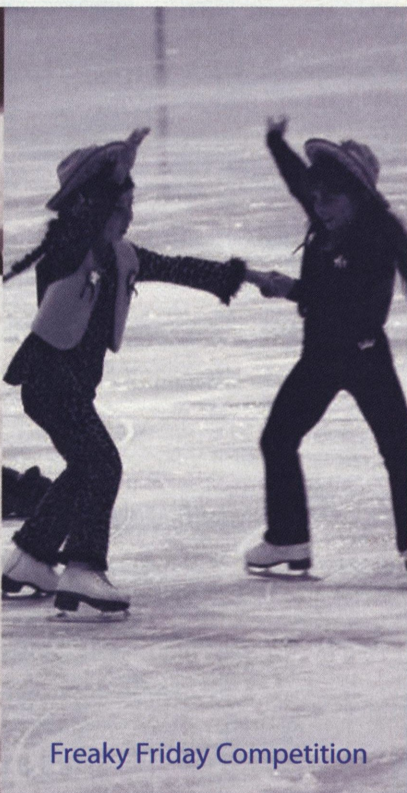
PHOTO BY PAUL HARVITH

# LAKE PLACID

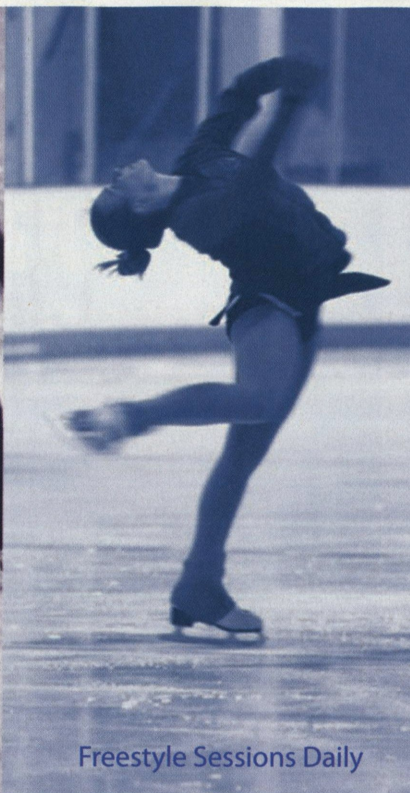
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U.S. men's champion Evan Lysacek hit his opening quad-toe combination again during his free skate en route to the Four Continents Championships crown.

# Cream rises

## Meissner, Lysacek rally for gold at Four Continents

BY TROY SCHWINDT, LAURA FAWCETT AND MICKEY BROWN

**T**he best international lineup of skaters in the history of the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships converged on Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 7-10. In such a strong field, the United States held its own, winning half of the 12 available medals at the event, including gold in ladies and men.

### LADIES

A disappointing short program finish was all the motivation Kimmie Meissner needed when she took the ice for the ladies free skate.

World and U.S. champion Kimmie Meissner rallied from a disappointing short program to win her first Four Continents Championships title.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

The reigning U.S. champion regrouped nicely in front of an enthusiastic crowd to overtake the 24-woman field and claim the title with a score of 172.75 points. U.S. silver medalist Emily Hughes placed second, and Canada's Joannie Rochette earned the bronze.

In the short program, Meissner fell on her triple Lutz-triple toe combination and also had trouble with her lay-back spin. Those mistakes landed her in sixth place, a little more than four points behind short program leader Rochette.

Meissner connected on the opening triple Lutz-triple toe in her "Galicie Flamenco" free skate and finished her program in strong fashion, her only stumble coming during the third of 13 elements, when she popped the front end of a triple flip-triple toe combination.

"I was pretty disappointed with myself after the short because I do train so much every day," Meissner said. "I know I have that jump (Lutz). I can do it in my sleep. It really makes me mad when I miss something that to me is really easy. I guess I was a little angry at myself."

Hughes took the lead momentarily with a score of 166.60 after turning in a personal-best free skate.

Performing to music from the ballet "Sylvia," Hughes skated well despite leaving her first two combination jumps on the shelf. She later tacked on a double toe-triple toe.

"This is the first time I'm going out there and doing all the triples," Hughes said. "Even though I didn't do some combinations, I'm really happy about getting my personal best, which is always a goal of mine. I'm hoping to build on that for Worlds."

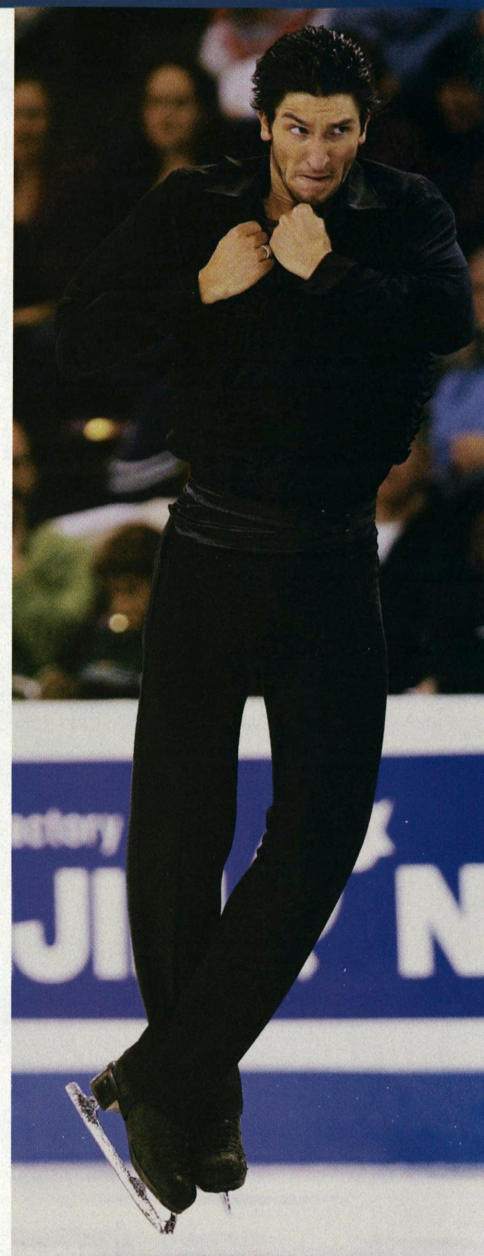
Rochette, 21, popped both of her triple Lutzes in an otherwise strong free skate. The reigning three-time Canadian champion finished with a total of 165.90 points.

Alissa Czisny came in fifth.

### MEN

U.S. champion Evan Lysacek admitted he didn't have his best stuff in the men's free skate, but it was good enough to rally from nearly 11 points down to win his second Four Continents Championships title.

Lysacek's free skate score (159.23) and total score (226.27)



were international personal bests, and he needed every one of those points to edge short program leader Jeffrey Buttle of Canada. Colorado Springs' own Jeremy Abbott grabbed the bronze in his first major international competition.

After opening his short program with a triple Axel, Lysacek struggled with the front end of his triple Lutz combination and doubled the back end. He followed that with a double flip, something rarely seen from the two-time World bronze medalist.

He turned it around in the free skate, executing his opening quad toe-triple toe, though not quite as smoothly as he did at the U.S. Championships.

"I've been practicing the quad really well and it wasn't one of my better ones, but when the time comes I like to try and fight for every point," Lysacek said.

Buttle botched both of his planned triple Axels in the free skate, doubling his first and a singling his second.

"Today, it wasn't really a technique issue on the Axel," said Buttle, who scored 223.96 points. "In the short program I was just a little bit outside the circle, so that's what caused me to step out, but today there was really nothing wrong with it. I just wasn't aggressive with the snap going in."

Abbott found himself in second after the short program, and with the locals cheering loudly, he turned in a solid effort in the free skate to total 203.22 points.

Ryan Bradley fell from third after the short program to fourth overall.

## PAIRS

Two-time Olympic bronze medalists Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao of China won their third Four Continents Championships title, but their victory was overshadowed by a gruesome on-ice incident.

Skating first of the nine teams in the free skate, Canadian Jessica Dubé was struck under her left eye by her partner Bryce Davison's skate during a side-by-side spin, causing her to fall face down on the ice. She was transported to Memorial Hospital, where she underwent surgery to repair the wound. Dubé was released the following day.

She and Davison, who recently won their first Canadian title, fully intend on competing at this month's World Championships.

Shen and Zhao's country mates, Qing Pang and Jian Tong, captured the silver with a score of 185.33, while Rena Inoue and John Baldwin of the United States claimed the bronze medal with a score of 175.48.

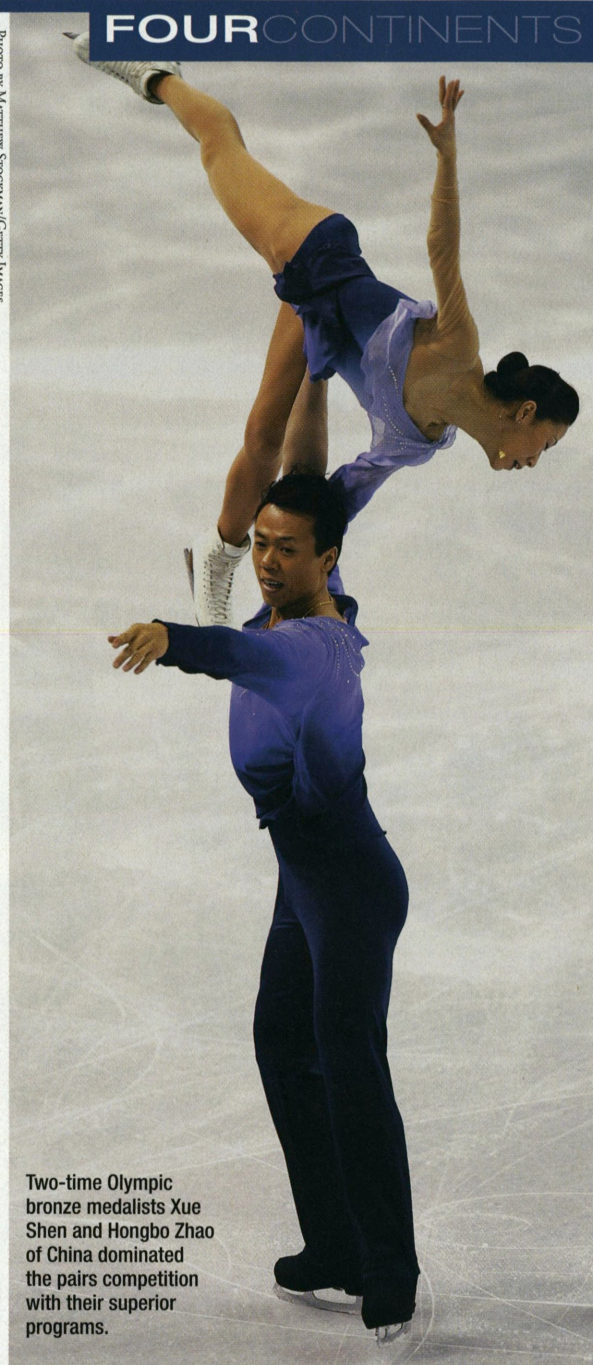
Shen and Zhao nailed their triple toe loops and landed their typically huge throw triple loop to grab a sizable lead over Pang and Tong after the short program. They also delivered a strong free skate performance to Jules Massenet's "Meditation from Thais," executing back-to-back throw triples late in their program.

"It felt good today, and I'm very happy and just a little bit tired," Shen said.

Reigning World champions Pang and Tong turned in a crowd-pleasing free skate to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera."

Inoue and Baldwin struggled with their second double Axels and their signature throw triple Axel in their free skate, but Baldwin did execute his opening triple toe loop.

"It felt really good because I'd missed it five times in a row this season and at four Grand Prix competitions," Baldwin said.



Two-time Olympic bronze medalists Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao of China dominated the pairs competition with their superior programs.

The two other U.S. entries, Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski, and Naomi Nari Nam and Themis Leftheris, finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

## ICE DANCING

One got the feeling that if there was a fourth dance segment, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto would have come out on top.

The reigning four-time U.S. champions went from second after the compulsories to first following the original dance and back to second at the conclusion of the free dance, flip-flopping throughout the competition with Canadian champions Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon. Belbin and Agosto's silver medal snapped their three-year winning streak at the event.

Belbin and Agosto's new "Amelie" free dance remains a work in progress.

"Right now it's at a stage where we just need to think so much about performance, emotion, connection, and also every

element," Belbin said. "We want it so that it's more of an autopilot kind of performance, from a technical standpoint."

Dubreuil showed no ill effects of the displaced femur with which she competed at the Canadian Championships in January. In a strong ice dancing field, her and Lauzon's elegant "At Last" free dance was the best this Four Continents Championships had to offer.

Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir blew away their career-best free dance score, totaling 93.99 points. The tension they displayed during their "Valse Triste" free dance was palpable, and their superior skating skills were evident.

U.S. bronze medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White acquitted themselves well with a fourth-place finish, as did Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre, who came in fifth. ■



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Medical crews tend to pairs skater Jackie Dubé after a serious accident with partner Bryce Davison during the free skate. Dubé was cut under her left eye by Davison's skate during side-by-side spins. She was taken to a local hospital and underwent surgery. Despite the accident, the Canadian champions plan to compete later this month at the World Championships.

## Colorado Springs holds fond memories for Inoue and Baldwin

**F**or two-time U.S. pairs champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin, the Four Continents Championships provided a chance to reminisce about some golden times they have had in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Both competed at the World Junior Championships in 1990 at the Broadmoor. Inoue skated pairs for Japan, while Baldwin was a singles skater who claimed a bronze medal at that event.

"One time at Christmas (Inoue and Baldwin met 10 years later in California) I pulled out this VHS tape of that 1990 competition and there was this little girl doing this layback spin," Baldwin said. "Rena said, 'That's me.' That was a lot of fun to watch."

It was Inoue's first international competition.

Baldwin, the 1987 U.S. novice champion, lived and trained in Colorado Springs in the mid-1980s under legendary coach

Carlo Fassi. He watched the Cheyenne Mountain Resort (host hotel for Four Continents) being built.

Baldwin's mother attended Cheyenne Mountain schools and his parents met in Colorado Springs. His grandmother, now 91, lived in Colorado Springs her whole life until moving four years ago.

Memories for Inoue and Baldwin were also made at this year's Four Continents Championships. Besides their bronze-medal performance, the day of their short program marked the birthday of her father, who passed away 10 years ago from lung cancer.

"She said she felt him with her during our short program," Baldwin said. "It was a personal best for us." ■



Canadian champions Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon edged four-time U.S. ice dancing champions Taniith Belbin and Ben Agosto for the gold medal.

Rena Inoue and John Baldwin wave to the crowd at the Four Continents Championships.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



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# Thomas fulfills lifelong dream

BY LOIS ELFMAN

When I interviewed Debi Thomas for this piece, I told her a story about the night in 1986 when she won the U.S. ladies title. To my amazement, she'd never heard the story, so I've decided to repeat it here.

Thomas was the first black skater to win a U.S. Championships senior title. The first black skater to ever win a U.S. title was Atoy Wilson, who claimed the novice men's crown in 1966. Years after Atoy had skated off to "Holiday on Ice," his mother, Thelma, continued to attend amateur competitions because competitive skating was her passion. Anyone who ever encountered Thelma Wilson would never use the word "demure" to describe her.

As spectators stood waiting for the ladies medal ceremony at the 1986 U.S. Championships, I saw Thelma, and for once she was silent. I asked her if she was OK, and she answered, "You dream your whole life about something, but you don't believe you'll actually ever see it."

Since that night more than 21 years ago, I've known that Debi Thomas' achievements were about so much more than continuing the brilliant tradition of American ladies skating.

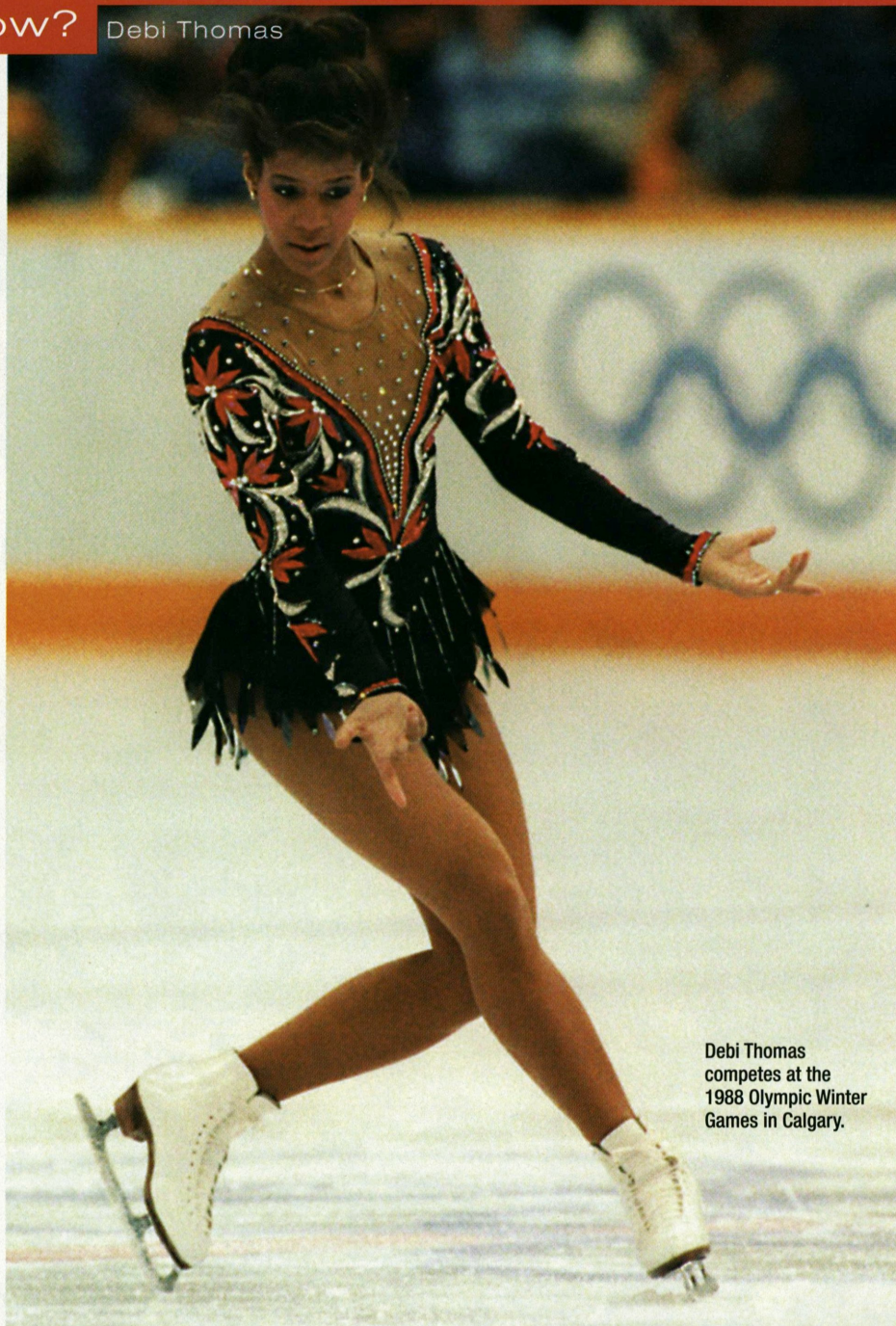
Fittingly, Thomas' life has been about so much more than a successful skating career, which included a second U.S. title in 1988, the 1986 World title, two other World medals (1987 and '88) and the 1988 Olympic bronze medal, which was the first Olympic Winter Games medal won by a black athlete. She also won three World professional titles and toured with "Stars on Ice" for four seasons before retiring to attend medical school.

This autumn, Debra Thomas, M.D., will begin the next phase of her life when she begins work at the Carle Clinic Association in Urbana, Ill. It is one of the largest multi-specialty medical groups in the country, with 321 doctors. Although there are 11 orthopedists on staff, the clinic was looking for someone with Thomas' specialty — adult reconstruction (hips and knees) — that had fellowship training. She is currently completing a one-year fellowship at the Dorr Institute for Arthritis Research and Education at Centinela Freeman Regional Medical Center in Inglewood, Calif. She works with patients who have had joint replacement for the first time and those who've had prior surgeries that need to be redone.

"The Carle Clinic is a great opportunity," Thomas said. "It took me so long to get to where I wanted to be. I'm excited to finally break out and do what I want to do. I love what I do."

Thomas, who will turn 40 on March 25, said at the age of 5 she declared she was going to be a doctor.

"Pretty much everything I say I'm going to do, I mean it," she said, admitting the only thing she may not accomplish is her dream to be an astronaut.



Debi Thomas competes at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary.

"It took me longer to get to where I want to be in orthopedics than I meant to, so the astronaut thing may be the one thing I don't end up doing. Although I imagine that before I die there will be civilian flights in space. So, there's still hope.

"When I get free time to write my autobiography, I'll talk about how it wasn't easy getting here at all. I had all kinds of failures. You have to keep going. If you really believe in something and it's really what you want to do, you have to be able to take some hits and keep going. If you commit to that, then you'll eventually get to where you want to be."

None of her journeys in life have been easy. After landing on the U.S. podium in novice, she did not even qualify for sectionals as a junior. She almost quit skating, but instead changed her perspective. She started skating for herself. Although winning medals was



East German figure skater Katarina Witt faces her American rival Debi Thomas before a practice session at the Olympics in Calgary.

great, what motivated her was achieving the perfect performance. That is why the 1988 Olympics remain a disappointment.

"Before '86 nationals, when I would compete, if I'd make a mistake I used to tell myself, 'There is no way you're making another mistake in this program,'" she said. "I would really fight for it. Then, after '86 nationals, when I had this performance that brought people to their feet, it was like, 'OK, it has to be like that every time because anything less than that is just not going to be satisfying.' My mental approach was more about trying to skate this fantastic program than trying to win or trying to skate as clean as I could.

"When I two-footed the triple-triple at the Olympics, I didn't fight. If I had realized that America and the world were watching and pulling for me and biting their nails, I think I would have done a little more. ... I know so much about psychology now, that I know it's all psychology."

One of the people who saw Thomas on television and enjoyed her skating was Christopher Bequette, 42, a former football player and non-practicing attorney turned financial planner whom she married during her final year of medical school at Northwestern. She gave birth to their son, Christopher (Luc) Jules Bequette II on July 1, 1997, less than a month after graduation. She took a few months off and then became involved in research. After completing an internship, Thomas was intent on doing a residency in orthopedic surgery. When she didn't initially receive offers, she returned to research until she found a residency in her desired specialty.

"I knew what I wanted," she said. "I sort of had a back-up plan. I have an undergraduate engineering degree. If I really never got into orthopedics, I could



Debi Thomas enjoys a fishing excursion with husband, Christopher Bequette, and son "Luc."

have been an engineer. There are all kinds of alternative careers that I would love to do if I had the time.

"I knew if I didn't make it, it wouldn't be the end of the world, but I knew that's what I wanted to do and what I was meant to do."

She chokes up when speaking of one of her mentors, Dr. Carl L. Nelson, who died in January 2005 before Thomas completed her residency. His support and encouragement meant the world to her.

Just as she was determined to do the right residency for her, she has also been picky about where she would practice medicine. She declined numerous offers until she found the Carle Clinic. She wanted a center of excellence for arthritis care and she wanted the ability to continue her work in joint replace-

ment. She's working on new techniques that involve minimally invasive surgery — incisions as small as 10 centimeters for hip replacements — and alternative pain management. She recently co-wrote a paper for "Clinical Orthopedics and Related Research" about the psychology of joint replacement patients.

With her medical career now moving into high gear, she thanks her husband for his willingness to relocate for her career and for his unwavering support.

"He has been a rock," she said. "I couldn't have asked for a better partner. He compromises a lot. He drives me nuts sometimes, but I cannot thank him enough."

They're both trying to instill in Luc a sense of determination and focus.

"He's a great kid and a smart kid," Thomas said. "I'm trying to teach him how to live up to his potential and do things the best he can do them."

While she loved her skating career, Thomas always planned beyond it.

"I could see 10 to 20 years into the future," she said. "My mother (Janet) was happy for me to be in skating, but I had to keep my grades up. She kind of knew that I couldn't rely on skating for the rest of my life. Whether I became famous or whatever, she just knew that as a black woman you need to have an education and you need to have a plan. There really wasn't much of an argument there. I agreed with her, especially when I had three triples in juniors and didn't even make it to sectionals.

"I was an emotional skater and I thrived on adrenalin," she said. "It was all mental toughness. That's what makes you able to go through life and get kicked down and fail and have to come back. I've always been that kind of person." ■



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# Spokane delivers

Skaters treat record crowds to unforgettable U.S. Championships

BY TROY SCHWINDT

**I**f grades were handed out for the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, A+ would be the mark awarded across the board.

The top skaters in the United States delivered the goods each day and night to frenzied fans, who packed the Convention Center arena and Spokane Arena to the rafters.

A record 154,893 skating die-hards walked through the turnstiles during the weeklong event, Jan. 21-27, and it's safe to say no one left disappointed.

"This U.S. Championships was one of the most successful

in history in several respects," U.S. Figure Skating President Ron Hersberger said. "Not only to set the attendance record but to smash the previous high proves that well-marketed figure skating events have limitless potential, and that the sport is vibrant and popular among fans of all ages.

"Beyond that, fans were treated to some of the best figure skating and most exciting competition in all four skating disciplines and at all levels: novice, junior and senior. Spokane has truly set the bar for the future of U.S. Figure Skating events."

Everyone had their favorite moment from this exciting competition, but most in attendance on the event's final night would agree that Evan Lysacek's free skate is one destined for the time capsule.

The Illinois native, silver and bronze medalist at the past two U.S. Championships, brought his

"Carmen" program to life. He nailed his opening quadruple toe-triple toe, which set the tone for the magical performance.

The spellbinding free skate earned Lysacek a personal-best score of 248.88 and a standing ovation. Lysacek's efforts drew comparisons to the electric 1996 free skate of Rudy Galindo in San Jose, Calif.

Earlier that day, World champion Kimmie Meissner added a U.S. title to her growing list of accomplishments. The 17-year-old Maryland native made an early mistake but rallied to finish strong, winning the gold medal by less than a point over fellow high school senior Emily Hughes of New York.

In what has to be considered the biggest upset of this U.S. Championships, the relatively unknown pairs team of Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski edged defending champions Rena Inoue and



John Baldwin by .025 points.

Their memorable free skate, to the "Requiem for a Dream" soundtrack, garnered a standing ovation.

"It still hasn't sunk in," said Okolski, who trains with Castile at Arctic FSC in Canton, Mich.

Three-time U.S. ice dancing champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, who also train at Arctic FSC, made it four in a row thanks to a brand new free dance to the "Amelie" soundtrack.

While the seniors drew the most attention, the novice and junior skaters grabbed their share of the spotlight. The junior ladies competition that featured Mirai Nagasu and Caroline Zhang proved that the future of U.S. Figure Skating is in good hands.

There was also plenty of excitement outside the arena with the Windermere Real Estate Fan-Fest at the Convention Center, and the media – local and national – providing blanket coverage from start to finish.

"This has been an enormously welcoming city from the moment we arrived," Hershberger said. "Everything has been perfect. The community spirit and involvement have been tremendous."

Hershberger said he knew something special was happening when he witnessed a capacity crowd of 4,000 at the new Convention Center arena to watch novice compulsory dance. That scene, he said, repeated itself every day. ■

## 2007 U.S. WORLD TEAM

### LADIES

Kimmie Meissner  
Emily Hughes  
Alissa Czisny

### MEN

Evan Lysacek  
Ryan Bradley  
Johnny Weir

### PAIRS

Brooke Castile & Ben Okolski  
Rena Inoue & John Baldwin

### ICE DANCING

Tanith Belbin & Ben Agosto  
Melissa Gregory & Denis Petukhov  
Meryl Davis & Charlie White

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

2007 Spokane, Wash. . . 154,893	1995 Providence, R.I. . . 56,856
2006 St. Louis, Mo. . . 124,009	1994 Detroit, Mich. . . 86,233
2005 Portland, Ore. . . 117,000	1993 Phoenix, Ariz. . . 90,328
2004 Atlanta, Ga. . . 89,318	1992 Orlando, Fla. . . 52,969
2003 Dallas, Texas. . . 82,162	1991 Minneapolis, Minn. 79,185
2002 Los Angeles, Calif. 125,345	1990 Salt Lake Cty, Utah. . N/A
2001 Boston, Mass. . . 122,141	1989 Baltimore, Md. . . 87,333
2000 Cleveland, Ohio. . 119,044	1988 Denver, Colo. . . 77,000
1999 Salt Lake City . . . 36,459	1987 Tacoma, Wash. . . 75,750
1998 Philadelphia, Pa. . 115,004	1986 Uniondale, N.Y. . . . N/A
1997 Nashville, Tenn. . 103,578	1985 Kansas City, Mo. . . 47,809
1996 San Jose, Calif. . . 114,444	

LADIES

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

# 'Coming of age'

## Meissner leads next generation, wins gold

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

**K**immie Meissner knew it was going to be tough. Nine-time U.S. champion Michelle Kwan was in Beijing, fulfilling a mission as the country's first public diplomacy envoy. Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen, winner of last year's U.S. title, was auditioning for acting roles.

"It's different that there's no national champion here," Meissner said. "It's really up in the air. It will be exciting to see what happens."

At the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash., the next generation stepped up to the plate.

"These young women know there are openings to make the U.S. World Team," 1984 Olympic champion Scott Hamilton said. "Kimmie is World champion, but she is going to be challenged. For the audience, it's fresh stories and a youthful exuberance. The new generation is kind of coming of age."

Meissner, who won the U.S. silver medal last season and took home bronze (behind Kwan and Cohen) in 2005, accepted her unaccustomed role as the favorite.

"There was a lot of pressure, but I think I do well under pressure," she said. "I enjoy competing; it's one of the better things I do. Plus, the fans were amazing. However you started off your program, you could always finish strong because the crowd pushed you."

That turned out to be a good thing because the ladies competition proved that it's OK to make a mistake, as long as you recover quickly.

After winning the short program with a clean, crisp performance, Meiss-

## SENIOR LADIES MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Kimmie Meissner – 181.68

**SILVER** | Emily Hughes – 180.86

**BRONZE** | Alissa Czisny – 177.74

**FOURTH PLACE** | Bebe Liang – 167.15



Emily Hughes, Kimmie Meissner, Alissa Czisny and Bebe Liang enjoy the medal ceremony at Spokane Arena.

Photo by Paul Harvath

ner ran into trouble at the start of her free skate to flamenco music from "Galicia," the Spanish home of her maternal great-grandfather.

The 17-year-old from Bel Air, Md., put a hand down on her first jump, a triple Lutz, but came back strong to land five other triples and execute her step sequences with flair. Despite placing third in the free, Meissner's overall total edged Emily Hughes by less than a point, 181.68-180.86.

"I train my programs to be perfect and I train them with little mistakes, so I've learned over the years to keep going," Meissner said.

"It wasn't my best. The levels of some of my spins were not what we expected, which hurt my technical score. But except for the hand down on my first jump, it was good."

Meissner is the first woman since Barbara Roles in 1962 to complete the U.S. Championships triple crown: novice (2003), junior (2004) and senior champion.

But why no triple Axel, the jump she landed at the 2005 U.S. Championships?

"I've been working more on my triple-triple combinations and making [Galicia] a better program," Meissner said. "When (the triple Axel) goes in, whether I land it or not, it sometimes alters the rest of the program. I need more time to work on it. Hopefully it will be there at Worlds."

After placing third in the short, Hughes seemed well on her way to a clean performance in her free skate, to music from the ballet "Sylvia" when she fell on a triple flip. The Great Neck, N.Y., high school senior, who turned 18 in Spokane, finished with a flourish, landing two more triples and closing with fine layback



Emily Hughes skated two solid programs en route to the silver medal.



World champion Kimmie Meissner added a U.S. title to her growing list of accomplishments with her performance in Spokane, Wash.

PHOTOS BY PAUL HAWORTH

Alissa Czisny, right, demonstrated her signature elegance and grace during a memorable free skate, which helped earn her a bronze medal.

Below, Kimmie Meissner acknowledges the crowd.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

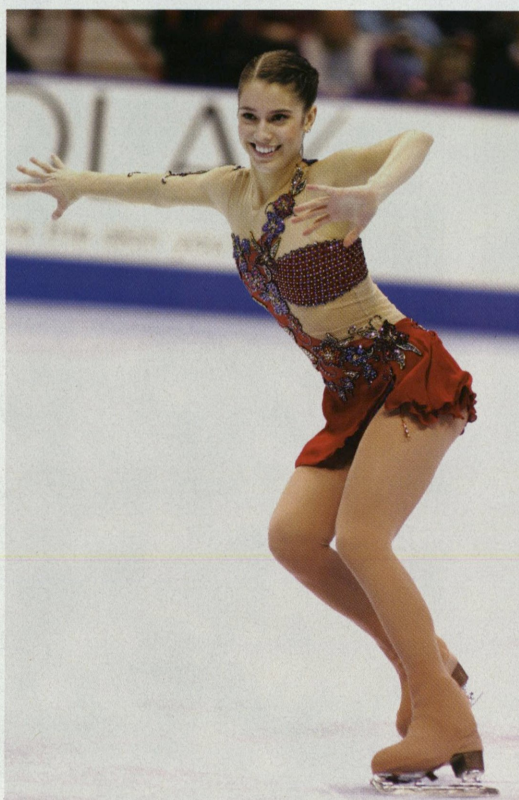


PHOTO BY PAUL HANCOCK

and combination spins to win the silver medal.

"I was really motivated to go out and skate a clean long program," Hughes said. "After the fall, I knew that couldn't happen, but I've learned to get up and keep going. I skated pretty good, except for that one jump. I took my time and did what I had to do."

The biggest "comeback" came from Alissa Czisny, who singled an intended triple Lutz in her short program and entered the free skate in fifth place. The elegant skater then won both the crowd and the judges with a mesmerizing routine to music from the soundtrack of the 1954 Audrey Hepburn film "Sabrina."

The 19-year-old from Bowling Green, Ohio, landed five clean triples, including three in combination, and showed off her exceptional flexibility with the most impressive spins and spirals of the event. She won the free skate with 119.59 points and claimed the bronze medal.

"I tried not to think about how far I was behind after the short or how many points I had to make up," Czisny said. "I just wanted to entertain the crowd, and I'm so happy I could do it when I really had to."

In second place after a clean and speedy short program, Bebe Liang fell twice in the free skate and settled for fourth place.

"I got a little ahead of myself and rushed a bit. Next time I'll take things one at a time," Liang said.

Rachael Flatt, the youngest skater in the field at age 14, placed an impressive fifth with two solid programs.

Meissner, Hughes and Czisny will represent the U.S. at the World Championships in Tokyo this month. ■

## LADIES NOTEBOOK

### Champ turns editor

While training for the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships this winter, Kimmie Meissner helped create the first issue of "Cool Kids Connection," an inspirational newsletter distributed to 200 U.S. hospitals that treat pediatric cancer patients.

"The kids sent in poems, letters and artwork, and parents wrote survival stories," Meissner said. "I made time to (co-edit) the newsletter because I think it could make a difference."

Since joining the Cool Kids Campaign last spring, Meissner has visited hospitals, designed fundraising bracelets and hosted skating parties. For the newsletter, she even enlisted other students at Fallston High School for the cause.

"Our Spanish Club translated all of the (newsletter's) puzzles and some of the letters, so more kids could read it," she said.

One letter was particularly close to Meissner's heart.

"There's a story from one girl, a skater, who was having a hard time getting through her program," Meissner said. "She thought it was a stamina problem, but it turned out to be cancer. She got through it and she's still skating today. She uses her skating to help cope."

A few days after her triumph in Spokane, the busy Meissner traveled to New York City to film her first national commercial for Subway restaurants.

"I always wondered whether they use real food when they film commercials," she said. "Well, now I know they do. I had to repeat my lines over and over, but it went really well."

### Never too old

At age 26, Angie Lien—whose five trips to the U.S. Championships span more than a decade—has seen it all. When she placed seventh in the novice division in 1996, Michelle Kwan won her first U.S. title. Now the University of Minnesota graduate, who finished 20th in Spokane, is skating with a new generation.

"I still love the rush of competing, the chance to perform my programs for the audience," Lien said. "I'm telling all these young kids, 'You can go to college and still do this.' A lot of skaters think that after high school, they're done at this level. But there are college competitions and synchronized team skating competitions. You don't have to quit."

Lien is speaking from experience: she placed second at the 2003 World University Games and twice competed at the U.S. Collegiate Championships.

"Most of the girls I grew up with are skating on cruise ships or have normal jobs," she said. "But I guess I'm greedy because making it to nationals is always my big goal."

### Zukowski inspired in Weir camp

Christine Zukowski, who placed 10th, arrived in Spokane with new coaches, Priscilla Hill and Carla Briccotto, and a new training partner, Johnny Weir.

The 17-year-old Philadelphian moved from the University of Delaware training center to the nearby Pond Ice Arena shortly after placing fifth at the NHK Trophy in November.

"When I practice with Johnny, I really get inspired, but I have to be more careful," Zukowski said.

"Right before we left for Spokane I was doing a triple toe and he was doing a quad. I turned my head to see if he would stand up, and I crashed. Of course, he landed his jump."

She added that Weir keeps her laughing.

"Johnny is hilarious. He's as funny at the rink as he is in some of his interviews."

Weir is happy to train with another elite skater.

"I've really been skating by myself the last year," Weir said. "Having Christine there pushes me. Before we left, she did a clean short program, so I said to myself, 'OK, I need to do a clean short.'"

"It's been really great for both of them," Hill said. "It's cool for Johnny to have someone to compete with. And it's great that they both jump lefty, so Christine can study his technique. I guess the Pond is the home of the lefties."

### Costume crisis

She won the silver medal, but Emily Hughes counts herself lucky just to have made it out on the ice for her free skate.

"When I got to the dressing room, I looked down and there was no dress in my bag," Hughes said. "I was concentrating so hard on my skating I forgot to pack it. I thought I would have to go out in lululemon (yoga-style) pants and a top. I said, 'Oh my gosh' and started running around in circles."

Hughes' coach, Bonni Retzkin, ran outside to catch the van to the skaters' hotel. She arrived back at the dressing room with just five minutes to spare, and Hughes took the ice in her lovely deep red costume.

"There's always some drama," Retzkin said.

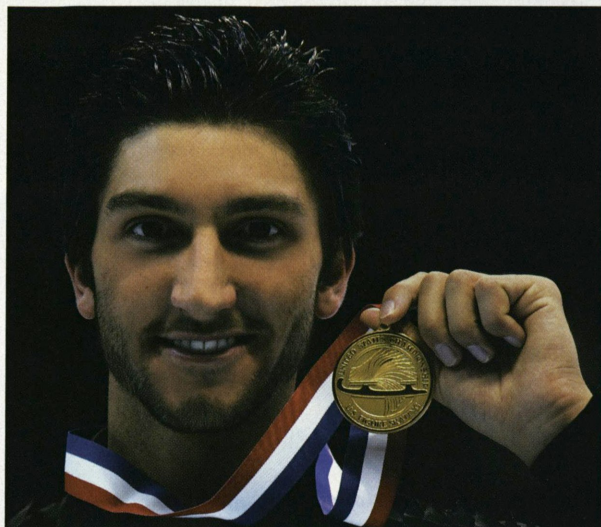


Photo by MATTHEW STOCKMAN/Getty Images

## Leap of faith

Lysacek makes statement with historic performance

BY MICKEY BROWN

**M**oments before taking the ice for his free skate warm-up on the last night of the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Evan Lysacek got the news from his coach, Frank Carroll.

He'd be doing a quad.

That's the way Carroll does things, one of a hundred or so reasons why he's on the short list of "All-Time Greatest Figure Skating Coaches." By telling his prize pupil at the last possible second that he was going to attempt a jump he'd never landed cleanly in competition, it took one huge factor out of play: Lysacek's tendency to think too much.

In actuality, Carroll left Lysacek a minute or two to dwell on the impending task, so Lysacek did the first thing that came to mind: he left the main warm-up area, walked into a curtained-off space behind the mixed zone, grabbed a black plastic chair and set it down next to the platform on which the skaters stand when they do their post-skate interviews.

Then, he took a seat and stared straight ahead, moving nary a tensed-up muscle.

"What I try to do is get away from anything that could be a distraction," Lysacek said. "Seeing cameras and lights and people

### SENIOR MEN MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Evan Lysacek – 248.88

**SILVER** | Ryan Bradley – 219.21

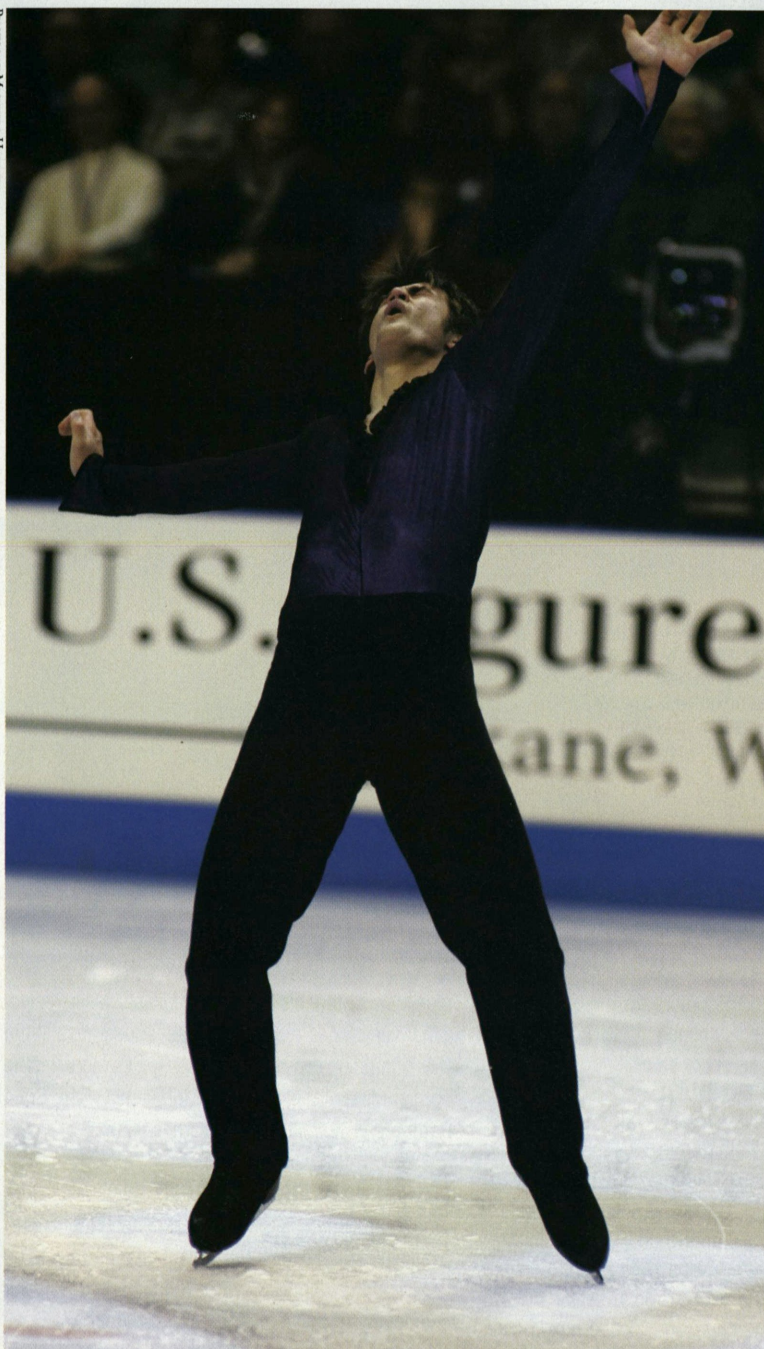
**BRONZE** | Johnny Weir – 213.20

**FOURTH PLACE** | Jeremy Abbott – 200.95

Photo by PAUL HARVATH



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Above, Ryan Bradley turned in the best performance of his long career and left the packed house at Spokane Arena cheering for more.

Left, U.S. men's champion Evan Lysacek basks in the glory after his unforgettable free skate. Lysacek's performance earned him the gold medal, which he accepted on the medal stand with, from left, Ryan Bradley, Johnny Weir and Jeremy Abbott.



PHOTOS BY PAUL HARVATH

running and celebrating because they're done and other people (upset with themselves) or sad because they didn't do well, that all affects your mental state. I try to stay away from all of it. It's something I learned from Frank, and it works really well."

It sure did that night.

We all know what happened next. The quad toe-triple toe combination. The seven ensuing triples. The collapse to the ice at the conclusion of his "Carmen" program. The capacity crowd at Spokane Arena giving him a standing ovation that seemed to go on forever.

Lysacek's performance will be replayed – whether on television, YouTube.com or in the minds of people who want a reminder of just how good this sport can be – as long as figure skating highlights are shown. It will be singled out as the precise moment when this 21-year-old man, who grew up outside Chicago and now makes his home in the Hollywood Hills; who had become as well-known for his recent history of failings in the short program as he had for his eye-catching looks and towering height (for a figure skater, at least); who had already made his mark on the World and, to a lesser extent, the Olympic scene; finally realized his potential in front of his countrymen.

With all the attention surrounding Lysacek's breakthrough, it's easy to forget the other stories that emerged from one of the most memorable U.S. Championships in years, chief among them Ryan Bradley.

Bradley's journey has been an arduous one. Since winning the junior men's title in 1999, he had yet to distinguish himself on the senior level, finishing between sixth and ninth at each of his six previous U.S. Championships appearances.

Known more as an entertainer than a serious competitive skater, Bradley changed that perception in Spokane. Landing just one fewer triple than Lysacek, Bradley went from third place after the short program to the silver medal.

But it was his post-skate celebration that really got people talking.

While in the kiss and cry with coaches Tom Zakrajsek, Becky Calvin and Damon Allen, Bradley saw his scores and placement come up on a TV monitor that only they could see. They started freaking out, and their excitement gradually spread through the crowd.

Bradley, however, needed to hear it to confirm that it was real.

"I don't like to count my chickens. I thought, 'What if that's not right?' I wanted to make sure that they announced it to the whole arena," Bradley said. "There was a moment of tension, and I was thinking, 'Just say second, just say second.' As soon as they did, it was pandemonium."

The emotions were too much for him to take sitting down (or even standing up), so after doing a quick interview with ESPN's Peter Carruthers, Bradley dashed onto the ice, did a half-victory lap, and punctuated it with a backflip.

Look out, Tokyo, here comes Ryan Bradley.

"I thought if I snuck into that third (World team) spot, it would be like, 'Oh, Ryan Bradley made it to Worlds, but he made it in a weak year. He made it because all those guys (i.e. Timothy Goebel, Michael Weiss, Matt Savoie) dropped out,'" Bradley said. "Obviously, there was an opportunity because those men retired. But by

skating well and getting the crowd into it and placing ahead of Johnny (Weir), I feel like it really proved I should be there, that I deserve to be the one on the World team."

Speaking of Weir, the three-time and defending champion said he felt the world on his shoulders as he prepared to follow the spellbinding free skate of Lysacek and the thundering standing ovation that ensued.

While Weir skated around the rink, all eyes were fixated on the kiss and cry where Lysacek and coach Frank Carroll intently awaited the judges' marks.

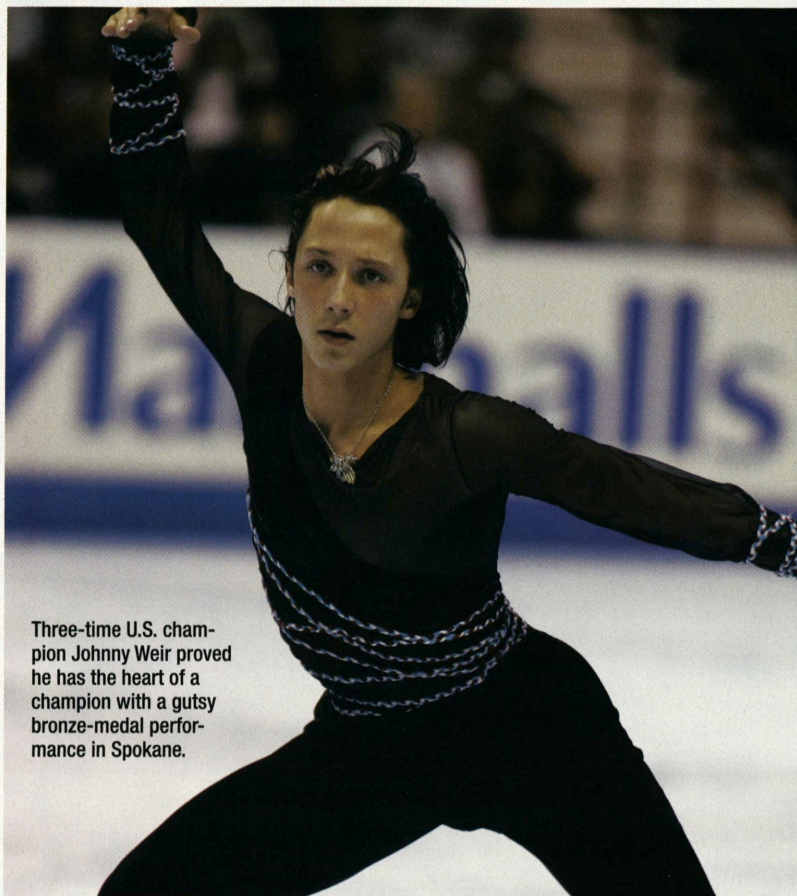
The announcement of those gaudy scores sent the audience into a frenzy once again, as Weir tried his best to maintain focus.

This night, turned morning on the East Coast, simply wasn't meant to be for the flamboyant Weir, who struggled on several elements and never threatened what Lysacek just accomplished.

Weir called it the "most difficult performance of his career," but vowed to build on the experience and be on the medal stand at the World Championships.

While Lysacek, Bradley and Abbott (his fourth-place finish enabled him to skate in front of his hometown fans at the Four Continents Championships, where he came in third) were clearly the week's big winners, it was the sport of figure skating that benefited the most from these U.S. Championships. The Spokane community embraced the event as no host city ever has, and the men's champion took notice.

"It was bigger than skating or gold medals or silver medals or bronze medals...It helped us as a sport to move forward," Lysacek said. ■



Three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir proved he has the heart of a champion with a gutsy bronze-medal performance in Spokane.

Photo by Michelle Harvath

## MEN'S NOTEBOOK

### Lysacek leaves mark

With his gold medal-winning performance in Spokane, Evan Lysacek became just the fourth skater in U.S. Championships history to claim senior men's bronze, silver and gold medals in consecutive years. Lysacek won the bronze in 2005 and silver in 2006. The other three skaters to accomplish that feat are Timothy Goebel (1999-2001), Kenneth Shelley (1970-72) and Robin Lee (1933-35).

Lysacek joins Parker Pennington as the only singles skaters to win U.S. titles in four divisions over the course of their careers. Lysacek was the U.S. juvenile champion in 1996, the novice titleholder in 1999 and the junior champ in 2000. Pennington has worn the crown in juvenile (1995), intermediate (1996), novice (1998) and junior (2001).

Lysacek is the fifth skater to win a U.S. senior championship while coached by the legendary Frank Carroll. The other four are Linda Fratianne, Christopher Bowman, Michelle Kwan and Timothy Goebel.

Lysacek joins the Jenkins brothers — David and Hayes — as the only U.S. men to win two or more World medals before claiming their first U.S. gold medal. Lysacek has won the World bronze medal each of the last two years. Similarly, David Jenkins won the bronze at the World Championships in 1955 and 1956 before winning his first of four straight U.S. gold medals in 1957. Hayes Jenkins won World

bronze in 1950 and 1952 before his run of four consecutive U.S. gold medals began in 1953.

### Weir stays on podium

Depending on how you look at it, Johnny Weir achieved something rather dubious at this year's U.S. Championships. Winning the bronze medal after capturing three straight U.S. titles, Weir became the first senior men's skater in more than 70 years to earn a medal immediately following a title reign of three years or more. Of the nine previous senior men to win at least three U.S. championships in a row, none had even so much as medaled the year they were dethroned. The last — and only — senior men's competitor to finish in the top three the year he was knocked off the top of the podium was Roger Turner, who won silver in 1935 after a record seven straight U.S. titles from 1928-34.

### Abbott shines

A number of competitors made their senior men's debut at the 2007 U.S. Championships, with mixed results. The most successful of those skaters was Jeremy Abbott, who did not even make it through the qualifying pipeline — finishing fifth at the Midwestern Sectional — in 2006. Abbott, skating eighth out of 17 competitors, found himself at the top of the standings after his free skate and had to sweat out

nine more before his fourth-place finish was revealed. Other senior men making their first appearance at the U.S. Championships included Stephen Carriere (ninth), Jordan Miller (12th), Daisuke Murakami (15th), Craig Ratterree (16th) and Geoffrey Varner (17th).

### Bradley breaks through

Ryan Bradley's silver medal at the U.S. Championships in Spokane was his first on the senior level, coming eight years after winning the U.S. junior championship in 1999. That is the longest a U.S. junior men's champion has ever gone before winning his first medal as a senior. The previous high was seven years, a mark held by Paul Wylie. Wylie took the U.S. junior men's title in 1981 but did not win the first of his five senior medals until 1988, when he won the silver.

Bradley is just the second U.S. Collegiate senior men's champion to also earn a medal at the U.S. Championships. Bradley is the reigning two-time U.S. Collegiate senior men's champion. Wylie won the inaugural senior men's competition at the 1986 U.S. Collegiate Championships and, as previously mentioned, went on to win five medals at the U.S. Championships. Bradley is the only senior man to accomplish the feat in the same season.



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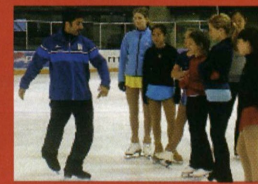

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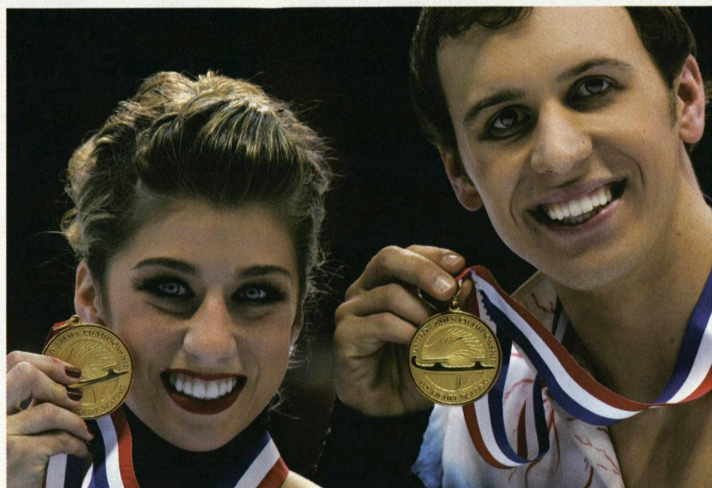


PHOTO BY MATTHEW STUCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY PAUL HAWARTH

## New kids on the block

Castile, Okolski steal show in Spokane

BY TROY SCHWINDT

One of 16 pairs teams at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Michigan's Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski arrived in Spokane, Wash., with just one goal: get noticed.

Their modest resumes had featured an eighth-place finish at the 2006 U.S. Championships and a silver medal in the junior ranks at the 2004 U.S. Championships. They finished second at the Midwestern Sectional to qualify for the big show in Spokane.

Based on those lukewarm results, their goal seemed like a logical one.

Cinderella, however, crashed the party at least a year early. Castile, 20, and Okolski, 22, third after the short program, delivered a personal-best, standing ovation-inspired free skate to the "Requiem for a Dream" soundtrack, overtaking defending champions and heavy favorites Rena Inoue and John Baldwin (178.40-178.15), each of whom had a fall during their free skate.

Naomi Nari Nam and Themis Leftheris, second after the short program, also had mistakes in their free skate and ended up with the bronze medal (168.49).

Castile and Okolski's improbable rise to the top of the U.S. ranks stunned everyone, including their coach Johnny Johns,

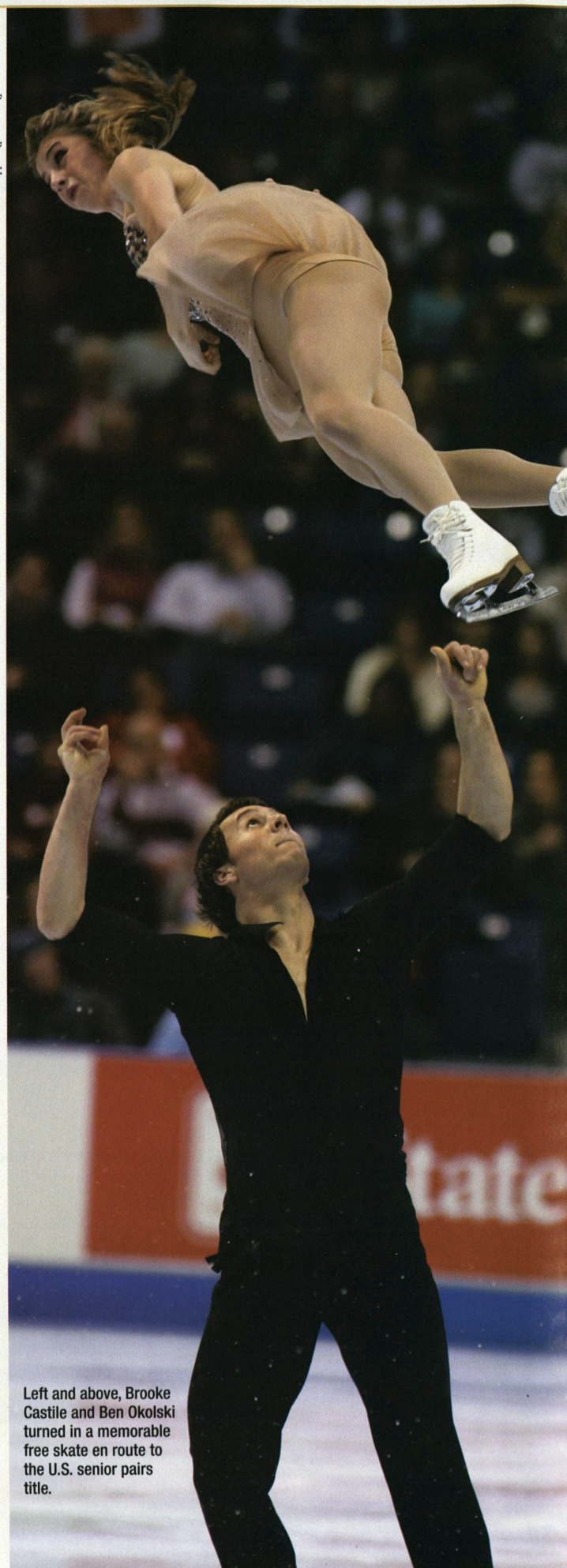
### SENIOR PAIRS MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski – 178.40

**SILVER** | Rena Inoue/John Baldwin – 178.15

**BRONZE** | Naomi Nari Nam/Themis Leftheris – 168.49

**FOURTH PLACE** | Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig – 158.



Left and above, Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski turned in a memorable free skate en route to the U.S. senior pairs title.

PHOTO BY PAUL HANWORTH



U.S. Championships pairs medalists bask in the glory at Spokane Arena. From left, Rena Inoue and John Baldwin, Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski, Naomi Nari Nam and Themis Leftheris, and Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig.

whose last pairs champions were 1999 titlists Danielle Hartsell and Steve Hartsell.

"We were obviously extremely pleased with how they skated," said Johns, who works with choreographer Marina Zoueva. "We figured it was good enough to get a medal. We weren't expecting to get this at all. I am still in shock. Usually this is a two or three-year project when you prepare a senior team. We were just trying to lay some groundwork, but they laid it pretty quickly."

Johns began coaching Castile and Okolski last March at the Arctic Figure Skating Club in Canton, Mich., and there seemed to be instant chemistry between the coach and his eager pupils.

"They believed in me and I believed in them, and this is, like, crazy," Johns said. "They were focused all week. We talked about it last week, just to stay focused, that anything can happen, especially with the new system. This is just the beginning for them."

Castile and Okolski entered the free skate less than three points behind Inoue and Baldwin. Their first element, a triple twist, set the tone for their nearly flawless program. The daring element is performed by just a few pairs teams in the United States.

"It's always been our trademark element," Okolski said. "It's very explosive and it happens very quickly."

"There's so much contact between the guy and the girl, it's very dangerous," Castile said. "It takes a ton of energy, and it's a really hard element to do from day to day because if one thing goes wrong, the whole twist can go bad."

The only negative grade of execution in the tandem's free skate came on its level-four combination spin.

When it finished, the pair took a lap around the rink, enjoying every moment of its rousing standing ovation. Their score was 33 points better than their previous best, which was earned at the 2007 Midwestern Sectional in the middle of November.

"This is incredible," said Castile, who has skated with Okolski for five years. "It feels really good. It's really cool because all of our best friends are here who we train with as well as our friends from all over the country who we've gotten to know through skating, and they are just so thrilled for us, and that makes it even better."

The move to Arctic FSC, Castile said, was undoubtedly the key to taking the monumental step.

"That's been the most influential thing with our skating," she said. "We have an incredible group of coaches and skaters and so much support at that club."

The victory earned Castile and Okolski one of two U.S. berths at the World Championships in March in Tokyo, Japan.

Inoue, 30, and Baldwin, 33, followed Castile and Okolski

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HANWORTH



John Baldwin lifts Rena Inoue. The two-time champions fell twice during their free skate and ended up with a silver medal.

with their free skate to selections by Puccini. Things started badly when Baldwin fell on the team's side-by-side triple loop. Their signature throw triple Axel ended the same way, with Inoue falling on the landing.

"We skated well," Baldwin said. "We just missed a couple of our elements and that was the key to winning tonight, but I'm actually pretty happy with the performance considering what we've been through."

The loss prevented Inoue and Baldwin from winning their third U.S. title and second consecutive crown, but Baldwin said the emergence of Castile and Okolski bodes well for the future of pairs skating in the United States.

"They are a great team, and I think the U.S. is looking really strong," said Baldwin, who added that the champions' triple twist is something he and Inoue would like to incorporate into their programs for the World Championships.

"We'll put it in our program, too – as long as it's comparable to theirs," Baldwin said.

After Inoue and Baldwin left the door open, Nam, 21, and Leftheris, 24, skated last to the music "Caravan," and had a golden opportunity to seize the moment and a gold medal.

They started strong by landing their tripletoe-tripletoe sequence and triple twist, but Nam later fell on their throw triple Salchow and throw triple loop.

"We had a great opening, and I just think we need to stay focused throughout the whole thing," Nam said. "It's just another lesson learned, and we'll take it all in and be back next year."

Nam and Leftheris started skating two years ago and placed fifth at the 2006 U.S. Championships.

"They usually, obviously, skate a lot better than that, but it's nationals and you have to do it when they say your name, so sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't," said Karen Kwan-Oppgaard, who with her husband, Peter, coach Inoue and

Baldwin and Nam and Leftheris. "It's all a learning process. You take what you learn today and make it work for you tomorrow."

Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig placed fourth with a score of 158.66. They landed a throw triple Lutz, triple twist and throw triple loop to music from "West Side Story." ■



Naomi Nari Nam and Themis Leftheris captured the bronze medal in only their second trip to the U.S. Championships.

Photo by Paul Haworth

## PAIRS NOTEBOOK

### Close, but no cigar

Tiffany Vise and Derek Trent flirted with the figure skating record book in their attempt to land a throw quad Salchow, an element that has never been landed by a U.S. team in a major competition. During warm-ups before the free skate, Vise and Trent nailed the highly difficult maneuver much to the appreciation of the 9,250 fans at Spokane Arena. During their actual free skate, however, Vise missed the clean landing and hit the ice. Last year at the U.S. Championships, Rena Inoue and John Baldwin executed the first ever throw triple Axel. Baldwin predicts that Vise and Trent will eventually land their throw quad in competition. Vise and Trent placed fifth in Spokane.

### Next stop: Tokyo

By winning the U.S. pairs title, Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski earned one of two U.S. pairs berths for the World Championships later this month in Tokyo. "I'm going more with the mindset of experiencing everything there and learning from all of the other teams," Castile said. "I'm not going to focus on placement, just like we did here. We didn't expect anything from what we can't control but expected a lot out of ourselves, and we'll do the same thing for Worlds."

Inoue and Baldwin are the other U.S. team that qualified for Worlds.

### Learning curve

Julia Vlassov and Drew Meekins chalked up their first U.S. Championships as seniors to experience. The Massachusetts duo incorporated side-by-side triple Salchows in their programs for the first time, which they failed to land in the short program. That miscue landed them in ninth place entering the free skate, where they attempted the element again. This time they landed it but with negative grade of execution marks. "We didn't have any huge goals of medaling or qualifying for Worlds in our first year," Meekins said. "We were just mainly looking to get experience." Said Vlassov, "Our main goal for next year is to work on our skating skills and become a real senior team; we just need to polish things up because we have the elements down."

### Handy man

Coach Todd Sand made a trip to the local hospital after he cut his hand while trying to tighten the blade on the skate of junior pairs skater Joseph Jacobsen prior to the short program. "The screwdriver slipped and he cut his hand, so he's at the hospital

getting stitches," Jacobsen said. "I feel pretty horrible, but it kind of took my nerves off the short program. I was ready to go." Sand and wife, Jenni Meno, are three-time U.S. pairs champions and coach several teams, including senior pairs Katie Beriau and Alexander Merritt.

### Still goin' strong

Baldwin competed in his 21st consecutive U.S. Championships. He skated in his first U.S. Championships in 1986, and claimed the U.S. novice title in 1987. Inoue is a three-time Olympian. She skated singles for Japan at two Olympic Winter Games before competing as a pairs skater with Baldwin at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino.

### Youth movement

Ten of the 16 pairs teams at the U.S. Championships in Spokane were first-year senior teams. "It's great to see such depth with the U.S. pairs teams. I think we have a big future in front of us," Baldwin said. Kendra Moyle and Andy Seitz were the highest placing first-year team; they finished sixth with 148.70 points. Moyle and Seitz, the 2006 U.S. junior champions, placed fifth in the short program and ninth in the free skate.

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# Change is good

Belbin and Agosto notch No. 4  
with new free dance

BY DAPHNE BACKMAN

**E**ach of the ice dancing medalists at the U.S. Championships experienced their own “season of change” in 2007.

Many wondered if three-time and defending U.S. champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto would scrap their “That’s Entertainment” free dance and create a new one in time for the U.S. Championships after a silver-medal finish at Cup of China and a lukewarm response at Cup of Russia.

Just one week prior to the event, that question was answered when the team announced it would debut a new program to music from the “Amelie” soundtrack.

The free dance, though rough but packed with difficulty, was unveiled to a crowd of more than 10,000. Belbin and Agosto took the ice as the final skaters of the competition and delivered another clutch gold-medal performance. Only their two step sequences did not receive level fours, and the performance also received no negative GOEs.

Despite their success, they admitted it was difficult changing their free dance mid-season.

“We thought it was going to be hard enough to put just one free dance together after returning home so late to training,” Belbin said. “To do two was quite an accomplishment; nothing that we could have foreseen possible before we attacked it.”

“We’re so pleased with the change we made. I think it was a gutsy move on our part, and it was the right one. Tonight, we did a great job with it being so new, and it has limitless potential, and we’re only beginning with it. We just feel so proud to be able to put out a program we feel is more true to what we’re capable of.”

Four-time U.S. silver medalists Melissa Gregory and Denis Petukhov received a standing ovation for their “Adam and Eve” free dance to music by Yoev Goren.

This season, the team focused on using totally original music to help broaden the idea that there are other music choices available.

“The audience was great,” Gregory said. “We love this program. It’s really special to us – the music, the choreography, everything about it. We just really feel it



PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto unveiled a new free dance en route to their fourth consecutive U.S. title.



Kim Navarro and Brent Bommementre, Melissa Gregory and Denis Petukhov, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto and Meryl Davis and Charlie White take in the applause on the medal stand.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

## SENIOR ICE DANCING MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto – 202.88

**SILVER** | Melissa Gregory/Denis Petukhov – 187.64

**BRONZE** | Meryl Davis/Charlie White – 184.11

**FOURTH PLACE** | Kim Navarro/Brent Bommementre – 175.68

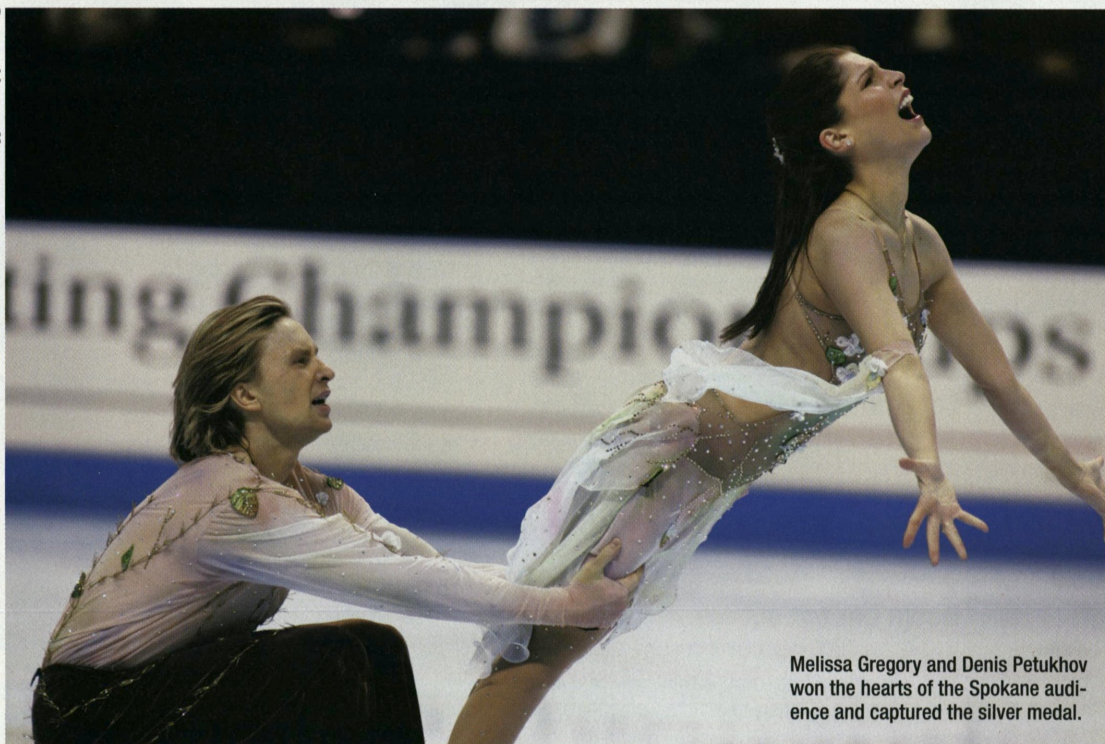
every time we perform it; we just absorb the audience in with us. We can't wait to work harder and at Worlds have the best performances."

Last year, Gregory and Petukhov moved from Simsbury, Conn., to Newark, Del., to train with their new coaches, Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov, the 1980 Olympic ice dancing champions.

"This year, we had a change of coaches and we attribute most of our skating right now to the support of our new coaches," Gregory said. "They've been wonderful for us and pushed us further than we thought we could go. There is still more time between now and Worlds, and we feel we can improve more and more. We're going with a full tank and our mind is open and we're ready to fight."

Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who train in Canton, Mich., with coach Igor Shpilband and are training mates of Belbin and Agosto, continued their successful season by winning the bronze medal.

Davis and White finished fourth at their senior Grand Prix events, receiving all level fours on their elements (for their free dance) at the NHK Trophy. Moving up to the senior level at the U.S. Championships was an easier step than they expected. The couple spent four seasons working their way up the junior ranks, missing the 2005 U.S. Championships because of an injury to White before coming back to win the junior title in 2006.



Melissa Gregory and Denis Petukhov won the hearts of the Spokane audience and captured the silver medal.

PHOTO BY MITCHELL HARVATH

"This year has definitely been a surprise for us on the senior circuit and at nationals," Davis said. "It's really different than what's happened to us when we were at the last two levels."

"Coming in we didn't have a lot of expectations for placement," White said. "Instead we were focusing on skating well. Skating well and achieving a good place would obviously be great. It's an honor to be with the two U.S. superpowers of the past couple of years."

Belbin believes the U.S. is stepping it up in ice dancing, beyond the top three.

"I think that year after year, as we keep raising the bar, we see the teams getting stronger and stronger," Belbin said. "Whereas, just a few years ago, we just had maybe one-two in ice dancing, now we have depth even beyond this World team."

Davis and White look forward to making their senior World Championships debut. Alongside Belbin and Agosto and Gregory and Petukhov, he and Davis will travel to Tokyo this month.

"They've [Belbin and Agosto] done a great job of making a name for the U.S. in our sport, and it's phenomenal just to be here with them," White said. "We're really looking forward to going to Worlds and learning from them and hoping to follow in their steps."

Belbin and Gregory agreed.

"I can't wait to go to Worlds with these guys because we know we can do the best, and I think the United States is starting to make a name for itself in our sport," Belbin said.

"We're at a great time for U.S. ice dancing," Gregory said. "The level has been brought up so much and it's really at a time now that it's really special to be part of it. For us to have three couples for now the second year in a row, it's a strong team, and we're looking to definitely do it again." ■

Newcomers to the senior division, Meryl Davis and Charlie White won the bronze medal.



Photo by Michelle Hamner

## ICE DANCING NOTEBOOK

### Full plate

One of the busiest duos at the U.S. Championships was at the boards rather than on the ice. The coaching tandem of Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva not only had two of the top three teams at the senior level in Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, and Meryl Davis and Charlie White, but they were also working with seniors Mimi Whetstone and Chris Obzansky; juniors Shannon Wingle and Ryan Devereaux, and Brianne Oswald and Buck Withrow; and the novice teams of Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein, and Megan Evans and Nathan Truesdell.

### Winning streaks

Since competing at their first U.S. Championships in 2000, Belbin and Agosto have won five gold and three silver medals. Melissa Gregory and Denis Petukhov have a similar streak going. The 2007 silver medalists have won two silver and four bronze medals since they debuted at the 2002 U.S. Championships.

### 'Heroes'

Sixth-place finishers Jennifer Wester (with husband and partner Daniil Barantsev) competed with a knee injury at the U.S. Championships. She credits the medical staff with helping her get through the week, calling them her "heroes."

### What a trip!

During the awards ceremony, Kim Navarro was so excited to receive her medal that she accidentally tripped en route from the ice to the podium. She recovered quickly with the help of Brent Bommentre, her skating partner of two years, and was all smiles as Ron Hershberger, president of U.S. Figure Skating, put the fourth-place medal around her neck.

### Mission accomplished

Obzansky, who took a two-year break from skating to complete a Mormon mission to the Baltics, returned to the U.S. Championships with new partner Whetstone.

### Love on the ice

Gregory and Petukhov were one of two married couples competing at the U.S. Championships in ice dancing. The team, which married on Feb. 2, 2001, was joined by Wester and Barantsev, who tied the knot on May 6, 2006.

### Down but not out

At the 2006 U.S. Championships, C.G. Lee collided with another skater in a warm-up, forcing him and partner Kate Slattery to withdraw after the original dance; Lee suffered a concussion and a broken nose

in the accident. Although Lee fell during the Golden Waltz at the 2007 U.S. Championships, no injury was involved, and Slattery and Lee skated their original and free dances.

### Strong bond

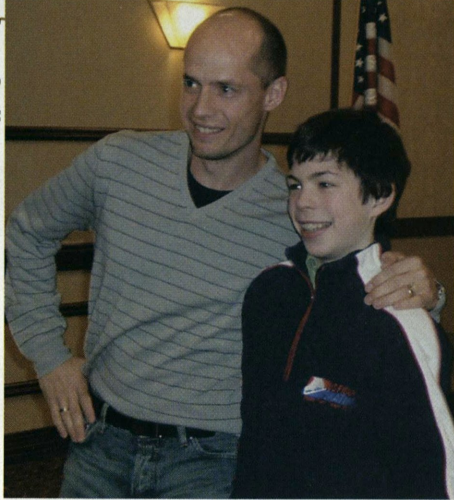
Davis and White have the longest partnership in U.S. ice dancing, with 10 seasons of competitive experience under their belts. At this event, Davis and White skated a strong Golden Waltz and free dance, with only their original dance containing an error, a fall by White at the end of their step sequence.

### Expert instruction

Caitlin Mallory and Brent Holdburg learned the Golden Waltz from the creators themselves, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko. Mallory and Holdburg are coached by Klimova and Ponomarenko in San Jose, Calif. Ponomarenko laughed, "If I had known it would be made into a compulsory dance, I would have made it harder."

### Years gone by

The youngest and oldest senior ice dancing competitors at the U.S. Championships were separated by 11 years. The youngest dancers were Isabel Elliman (16) and Charlie White (19), while the oldest were Kim Navarro (25) and Denis Petukhov (28).



Four-time World champion Kurt Browning poses for a photo with novice medalist Keegan Messing during the State Farm 2010 breakfast in Spokane. Pictured below is the entire 2010 Team.

## Browning addresses 2010 State Farm Team

Following the conclusion of their competition, the novice athletes from the 2007 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships participated in the U.S. Figure Skating State Farm Team 2010 national novice seminars.

The seminars kicked off with a breakfast and keynote address from Kurt Browning. Browning spoke to the skaters about a variety of topics, including why he likes skating, performing and dealing with the pressures of competition.

Browning, a four-time World champion, also spoke and took pictures with many of the skaters, parents and coaches.

Following breakfast, the skaters participated in

## U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

a communication workshop. Its purpose was to help them learn how to work with their coaches, partners (for pairs and dance) and even parents. At the same time, parents and coaches learned about the process of international competition selection from Sharon Wiggins, chair of the International Committee.

Attendees continued to rotate through presentations throughout the day. Topics included media training, proper off-ice warm up and cool down and the international judging system.

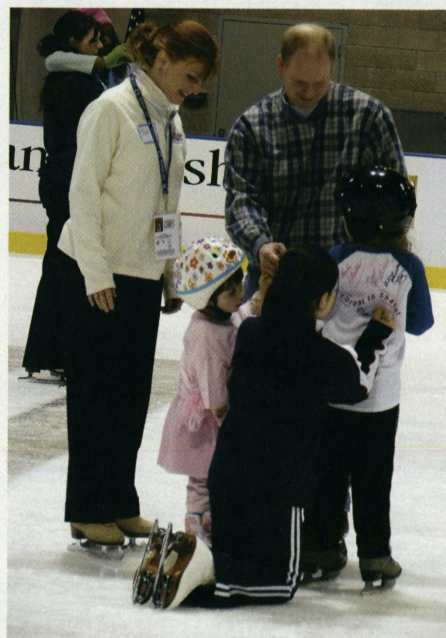
In addition, all skaters were able to practice judge a junior or senior event within their own skating discipline, with the help of a certified technical specialist and judge.

Ultimately, it is the hope of U.S. Figure Skating that the information provided during the Team 2010 seminars might help some of these skaters to reach the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

## National Skating Month celebration a big hit

More than 350 people took part in a National Skating Month celebration during the final Saturday morning of the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash.

U.S. Figure Skating hosted the event, in which the public was invited to skate for free at the Convention Center arena. The local KXLY television station sponsored the festivities with help from Ice Rink Events, which donated the use of 300 pairs of rental skates.



Many of the novice and junior skaters at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships took time out to help at a National Skating Month celebration sponsored by U.S. Figure Skating.

Skaters of all ages received a free half-hour lesson from local instructors, met several of the top novice and junior skaters who had competed at the U.S. Championships and learned about the local programs offered.

Participants also collected autographs from their favorite skaters.



## Fans get inside scoop from icenetwork.com

Icenetwork.com provided figure skating fans a taste of what they can expect with its diverse coverage of the 2007 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash.

Icenetwork.com treated fans to free behind-the-scenes coverage of the event, which included athlete interviews, practice sessions and all press conferences. It also provided special reports from the event.

To subscribe, go to icenetwork.com. The cost is \$29.95 for the 2006-2007 figure skating season, ending June 30.

IceNetwork.com followed up its U.S. Figure Skating Championships coverage with a webcast of the 2007 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, including live coverage of all events on the final day of competition.

## Passionate fan gives Spokane two thumbs up

Seattle's Andy Depew has attended the last 20 State Farm U.S. Championships, and this latest one in Spokane, Wash., tops them all when it comes to local support and fan enthusiasm.

A U.S. Championships record 154,893 fans walked through the turnstiles during the week-long event, which shattered the previous record of 125,345 in Los Angeles in 2002.

"I would say as far as promotion to the local community to get them out here, I think it's the best I've seen," said Depew, who sat in the front row with his wife and several longtime friends. "There have been a lot of places we've been to where the locals don't even know what's happening or where to get tickets, but everyone seemed to know about it here."

Depew is one of figure skating's most ardent fans. Retired, he and wife, Evelyn, attend virtually every skating event they can, no matter when and where it might be.

"I've watched the little novice skaters go through the senior level, and I kind of feel attached to them,"



Andy Depew, his wife, Evelyn Sakoda, and friends Mavis and Wayne Fern take in the action at the U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash.

said Depew, a member of Friends of Figure Skating. "I come to show them my support. I just know how much work they put into this. I'm addicted to it. I want to come and see them all do well, and I like them equally."

Depew became a skating fan more than two decades ago while working briefly with the father of Olympic silver medalist Rosalynn Sumners. At the time, Rosalynn was 8 years old.

"He said at the time that she's going to the Olympics," Depew said. "I thought, 'Oh sure.' He said, 'You should see some of her local competitions and so I went to those. I ended up meeting people from work who were either judges or skaters themselves, so it just became a fascinating thing.'"

Too much irrelevant commentary on skating telecasts also prompted Depew to attend the events in person.

"There was one day when I was really upset," he said. "They were talking about something other than what was happening. Evelyn told me, 'Why don't we just go in person?' so basically that's what we've been doing."

Like clockwork, Depew submits his ticket requests and money up to three years in advance of the U.S. Championships to ensure getting the best seats. He tries to sit as close as possible to the action so his friends won't hear him cheering on the skaters.

As with each of the last 20 U.S. Championships, Depew had his favorite moments from Spokane.

"I think Evan's (Lysacek) performance for me was the best," he said. "Again, I've been trying to support him for as long as I can and to see him complete (all the elements in his free skate), it was hard for me to contain my emotions."

"Then, of course, Ryan Bradley has tried for so long. He's always been the best entertainer there is as far as I'm concerned, and he finally put it all together, too, and that was terrific."

Depew also likes to gamble, so he made sure to try the penny slots at the Northern Qwest casino in Spokane before checking into his room.

"We kind of casino-hop our way to the skating events," he joked. "We combine both of our addictions."

## *Peanuts'* creator Schulz inducted into U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame

Ever see a beagle try to land a double Axel? For more than 50 uninterrupted years Charles Schulz, the creator and cartoonist of the comic strip *Peanuts* that debuted on Oct. 2, 1950, delighted more than 335 million readers worldwide with his unforgettable characters.

Schulz's comic strips detailed the *Peanuts* gang's adventures - and misadventures - on the ice. They reflected the cartoonist's intimate knowledge of figure skating acquired from his real-life experiences; in fact, in 1969 Schulz built the Redwood Empire Ice



*Peanuts'* comic strip creator Charles Schulz was posthumously inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. His wife, Jean, accepted the award from Olympic champion Scott Hamilton and World Figure Skating Museum and Hall of Fame President Jan Serafine.

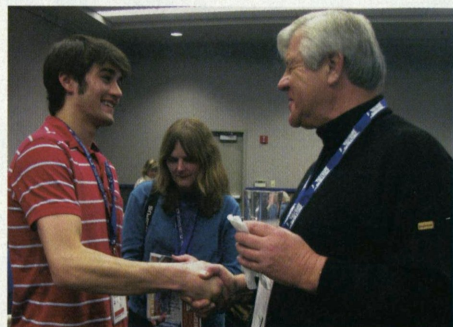
Arena in Santa Rosa, Calif. The arena was famous for its annual ice shows held there from 1986-2003.

Nearly 10,000 skating fans at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena shared in the posthumous induction of Schulz into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame during the 2007 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Skating fans viewed a JumboTron presentation highlighting Schulz's career and showing representative cartoon strips featuring the *Peanuts* gang's figure skating misadventures. Schulz's widow, Jean, accepted the award on behalf of her late husband. Family friend and 1984 Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton and World Figure Skating Museum President Jan Serafine honored Schulz's widow with a Hall of Fame medallion and a commemorative silver bowl.

## Friends of Figure Skating brunch a huge success

More than 150 Friends of Figure Skating members attended a brunch in their honor at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships on Sunday, Jan. 28. The brunch is a members-only event that allows Friends of Figure Skating members in attendance the opportunity to meet and visit with U.S. Figure Skating athletes.



Senior men's silver medalist Ryan Bradley visits with fan Tom Newman during the Friends of Figure Skating brunch at the U.S. Championships in Spokane.



Photo by Paul Haworth

**Head of the class:** This year's recipients of the State Farm Scholastic Honors Team were honored during a break in the action on the final night of the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash. This is the third consecutive year that State Farm has supported this program, providing \$2,500 scholarships and team jackets to 10 deserving honorees. The program recognizes student-athletes

who have excelled in their academic pursuits and sport of figure skating. The honorees are, from left, Scholastic Honors Team Vice Chair Jonathan Geen, Jennifer Barnes, Kylie Gleason, Emily Hughes, Emily Samuelson, Katy Taylor, Taylor Toth, Stephanie Zastrow, Q. Kelvin Vu and State Farm's Kris Berry. Not pictured are Princeton Kwong and Kara DeFreitas.

In addition to meeting their favorite athletes, Friends of Figure Skating members were automatically entered into a door prize raffle.

Alissa Czisny and Bebe Liang assisted in the raffle, drawing names and presenting the winners with their prizes. Margie Beck won the grand prize, an autographed photograph of Taniith Belbin and Ben Agosto that was on display at the U.S. Figure Skating booth during the week. Other athletes who attended the Friends brunch were Brooke Castile, Ben Okolski, Rena Inoue, John Baldwin, Naomi Nari Nam, Them Leftheris, Kimmie Meissner, Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Kimberly Navarro, Brent Bommentre, Ryan Bradley and Jeremy Abbott.

To learn more about the Friends of Figure Skating program and the benefits members receive, visit [www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org) and click on "Join Now!"



Photo by Sandy Lamb



Photo by Mickey Brown

Senior ladies bronze medalist Alissa Czisny signs an autograph during the Friends of Figure Skating brunch.

## Alumni Association gathers in Spokane

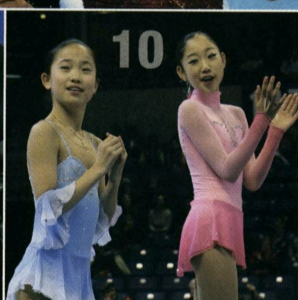
For the second year in a row, the U.S. Figure Skating Alumni Association invited former U.S. champions to attend the State Farm U.S. Championships.

Thirty-five champions enjoyed the senior events and attended a reception hosted by Olympic champion Brian Boitano. They gathered to reminisce and support the talented athletes of U.S. Figure Skating competing in Spokane.

Danielle Hartsell Minnis is the leader of the Alumni Association, which is the brainchild of the Athletes Advisory Committee. The goal of the Alumni Association is to encourage retired skaters to stay involved in the sport to whom they dedicated their lives and to serve as mentors for future champions.

The Athletes Advisory Committee hosted a lunch at the 2006 Governing Council meeting to raise money to establish the association.

The Alumni Association will gather again at the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minn. For more information contact Minnis at [drminnis@comcast.net](mailto:drminnis@comcast.net).



**1** U.S. ladies champion Kimmie Meissner has some fun during the World Team photo shoot.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**2** U.S. men's champion Evan Lysacek hams it up with the U.S. Figure Skating Championship Trophy.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**3** U.S. pairs champions Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski take their turn with the prestigious hardware.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**4** Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto celebrate their fourth consecutive U.S. Championships titles.

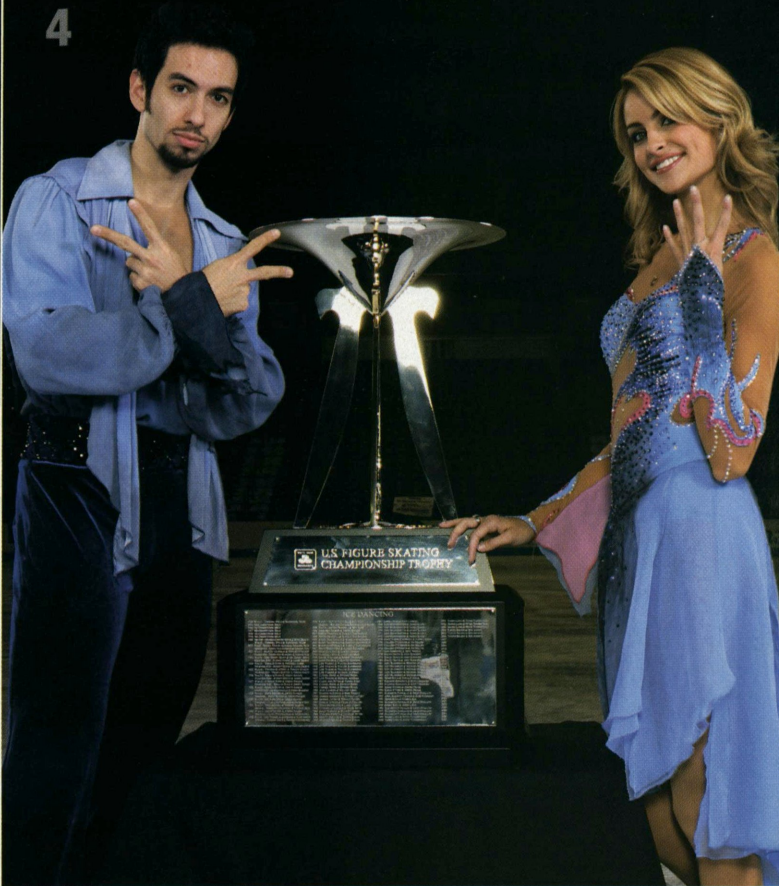
PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**5** Novice pairs champions Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau gets the crowd's motor started with their short program.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

**6** Emily Hughes and coach Bonni Retzkin enjoy the moment in Spokane.

PHOTO BY JULIET NEWCOMER



**7** U.S. ladies champion Kimmie Meissner reacts to the scores alongside coach Pam Gregory.

PHOTO BY JULIET NEWCOMER

**8** Spokane organizers made the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships an event to remember. Pictured is the beginning of a medal ceremony inside a sold-out Spokane Arena.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**9** U.S. pairs champions Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski, their coach Johnny Johns and choreographer Marina Zoueva anxiously await the final scores.

PHOTO BY LAURA FAWCETT

**10** Junior ladies medalists Caroline Zhang and Mirai Nagasu enjoy the moment on the podium.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**11** U.S. silver medalist Ryan Bradley limbers up before his free skate.

PHOTO BY EMILY FELTES

**12** U.S. men's champion Evan Lysacek basks in the applause after his electric free skate.

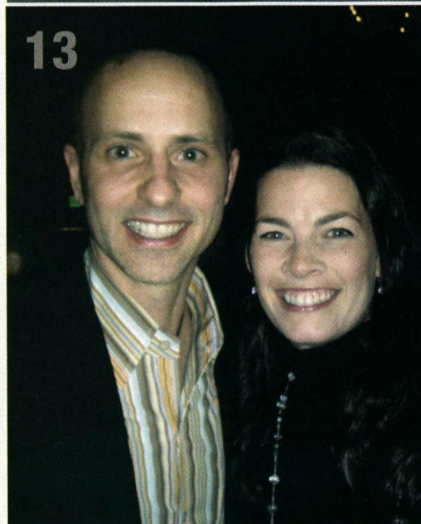
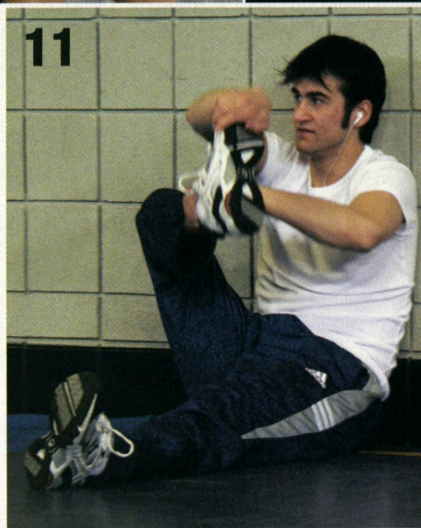
PHOTO BY JULIET NEWCOMER

**13** Olympians Brian Boitano and Nancy Kerrigan share some laughs at the Tom Collins party.

PHOTO BY LORRIE PARKER

**14** A string orchestra helped kick off the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships at Spokane Arena.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



# A plentiful crop

Juniors prove ready and willing to make their mark

**T**he United States dominated the competition during the Junior Grand Prix season and won nine of 12 medals, including four golds, at the Junior Grand Prix Final. This rare collection of superb skaters displayed their many talents on home soil during an unforgettable week in Spokane, Wash.

## Ladies

Two of the brightest stars on the horizon for the United States put on a show as Mirai Nagasu (Arcadia, Calif./Pasadena FSC) and Caroline Zhang (Irvine, Calif./All Year FSC) battled for supremacy in the junior ranks.

In front of more than 6,000 fans at the Spokane Arena, Nagasu, 13, landed five triples and combined that with spectacular spins to capture the free skate and finish with 155.46 points. Zhang, 13, fell on a triple flip midway through her program and finished second with a score of 151.88 points. Last year's fourth-place finisher, 15-year-old Ashley Wagner, moved up one spot to claim the bronze medal with marks totaling 145.86 points.

Although Nagasu's win was a major surprise, considering how Zhang dominated the Junior Grand Prix circuit, she didn't exactly come out of nowhere. Anyone who watched Nagasu's lyrical performances on IceNetwork.com at both the Southwest Pacific Regional and Pacific Coast Sectional knew she had what it took to challenge Zhang. What's not clear, however, is whether Nagasu knew she had it.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," she said. "I wasn't expecting to win."

Coached by Charlene Wong, Nagasu won both the regional and sectional titles this year after a disappointing 2005-06 campaign. She finished fifth as a novice at the 2006 Southwest Pacific Regional, failing to qualify for the Pacific Coast Sectional.

"Last season was a disaster because I didn't make it out of regionals," she said. "I was one of the people who expected to go, and that maybe made me overconfident. This year I worked to live up to my potential."

Nagasu's jumps included a triple Lutz-double toe combination and a triple loop-double loop combination. She attempted a second triple Lutz late in the program, but it was downgraded to a double. On her level three layback spin, she earned six +2 grades of execution and a rare +3.

She also earned level fours on her spiral sequence and final combination spin.

"She's incredibly disciplined, very driven," Wong said. "She has a passion for skating, and when you combine that with talent and discipline and determination, I think she has what it takes to make a good career for herself."

Nagasu led by less than a half point heading into the free skate after Zhang fell on a double Axel in the short program.

Zhang's fall in the free skate sealed the deal for Nagasu, but Zhang, one of Nagasu's best friends, put her placement in perspective.

"It's great to be able to medal," she said. "Last year I was eighth, so this is a big step."

Zhang opened with a smooth triple Lutz-double toe-double loop combination and then did a back spiral into a double Axel. After falling on the triple flip, she went on to land a triple loop, triple Lutz, a triple flip-double toe and triple toe-double toe combination.

"It was OK, besides the flip," Zhang said.

"I could have landed it, because I landed them all in warm-up today...it was just a stupid thing. I wasn't paying attention much on it."

Skating last, Wagner (Alexandria, Va./Washington FSC) also made only one mistake in her program falling on a triple Lutz near the end of her program.

She was pleased she moved up in the standings this year, albeit only one place over last year's fourth-place finish.

"It might not seem like that big, one placement up, but I feel like I've grown so much in my skating this past year with all my international experience," Wagner said.

Blake Rosenthal (Radnor, Pa./SC of Wilmington, finished fourth with 130.99 points. ■

## JUNIOR LADIES MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Mirai Nagasu – 155.46

**SILVER** | Caroline Zhang – 151.88

**BRONZE** | Ashley Wagner – 130.99

**FOURTH PLACE** | Blake Rosenthal – 130.99



From left: Ashley Wagner, Caroline Zhang, Mirai Nagasu and Blake Rosenthal



Mirai Nagasu



Caroline Zhang



Ashley Wagner

## JUNIOR MEN'S MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Eliot Halverson – 187.79

**SILVER** | Brandon Mroz – 178.56

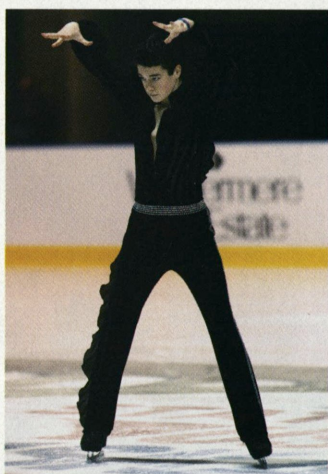
**BRONZE** | Austin Kanallakan – 177.94

**FOURTH PLACE** | Curran Oi – 170.50



PHOTOS BY PAUL AND MICHELLE

From left: Curran Oi, Brandon Mroz, Eliot Halverson and Austin Kanallakan



Brandon Mroz



Austin Kanallakan

JUNIORS

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Men

Reigning U.S. novice champion Eliot Halverson (St. Paul, Minn./St. Paul FSC) won back-to-back U.S. titles by securing the junior men's gold medal at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash.

The last man to pull off double victories in consecutive years was Evan Lysacek, who won the novice title in 1999 and followed it up with junior gold in 2000.

"I feel incredible," said Halverson, who earned a score of 187.79. "That was definitely the program I wanted to do. I wouldn't change anything."

Brandon Mroz (Colorado Springs, Colo./Broadmoor SC) won the silver medal with a score of 178.56, while his training mate, Austin Kanallakan captured the free skate en route to the bronze.

Halverson's program combined music from "Beetlejuice" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas." While he was solid in his jumping technique, landing six clean triples (the back end of a

triple Lutz-triple toe combination was downgraded), it's his smooth-as-butter presentation that sets him apart.

"I think that (presentation) is really important for me, and it's always been something that I concentrate really hard on doing in practice," he said. "I don't think about it during competition. In practice I will work on that a lot, and when it comes to competition I can just focus on the jumps."

With two U.S. titles under his belt, Halverson now will focus on the next step in his career. One of his goals is to work on the triple Axel. Although he has landed them in practice, Halverson and coaches Ted Engelking and Ann Eidson chose not to include it in his free skate. Landing that, and continuing his success internationally, will be part of his plans.

"I'm so excited about everything that will come with my skating career and with my life," he said. "I think as I get older I think about how much I've changed just from a couple years back, and it gets me so excited for what's going to happen in the next 10 years, 20 years. So this is just another stepping stone in my long career plans."

American junior men, including Halverson, had extraordinary success on the international circuit this year. The 16-year-old, who was adopted from Bogota, Colombia, as an infant, won two medals in the Junior Grand Prix Series but failed to qualify for the JGP Final.

Mroz's only major free skate error was a bad stumble out of the double Axel, but he had a few bobbles throughout his free skate.

"Going in second, you have that feeling of you're up there but if you want to move up you've got to throw down the gauntlet," he said. "I've been in this situation before. I've been in better and worse spots, so I know how to deal with the pressure. I've gone through that all season."

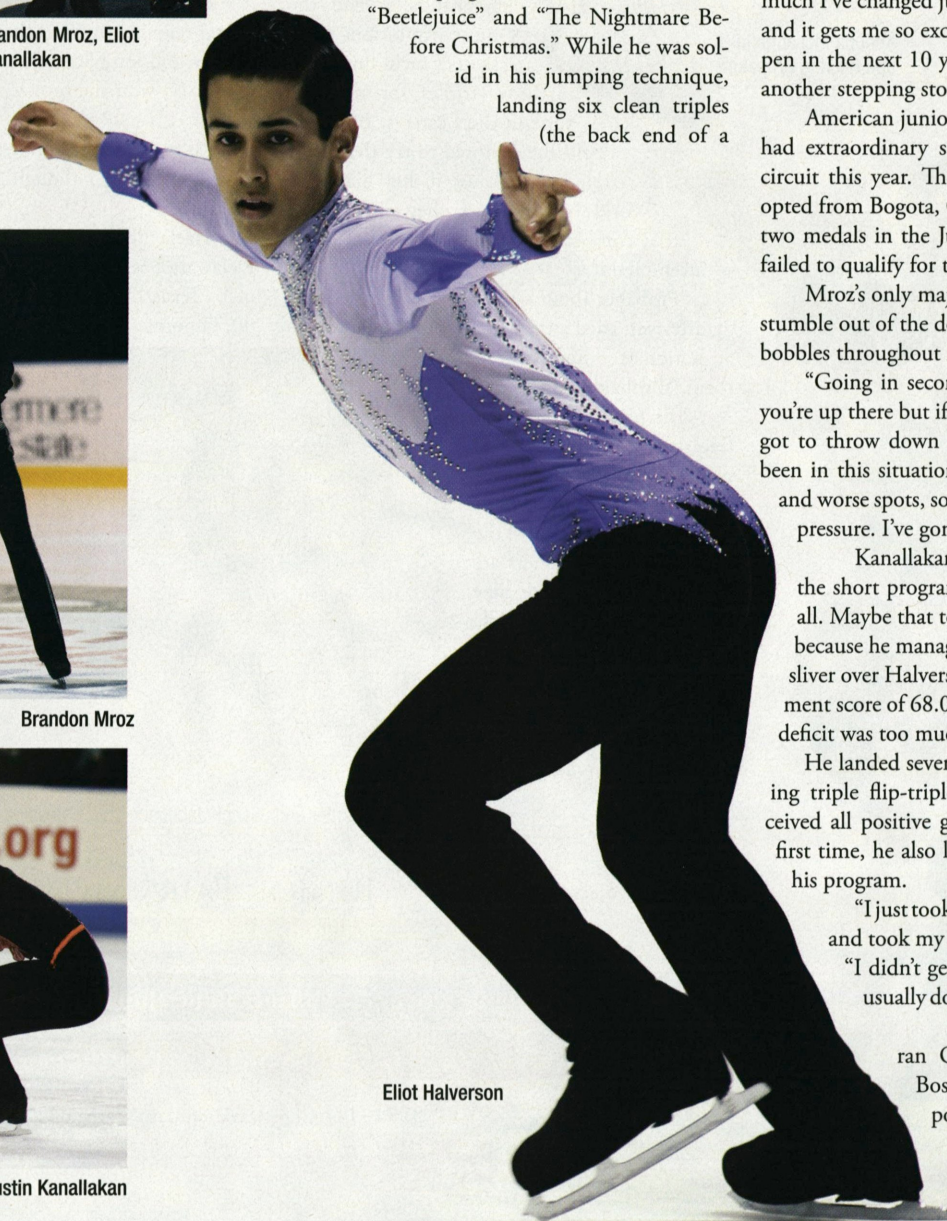
Kanallakan found himself sixth after the short program and skating seventh overall. Maybe that took some of the pressure off, because he managed to win the free skate by a sliver over Halverson, 122.90-122.67. His element score of 68.04 outpaced the field, but the deficit was too much to overcome the leaders.

He landed seven triples, including an opening triple flip-triple toe combination that received all positive grades of execution. For the first time, he also landed both double Axels in his program.

"I just took everything one step at a time and took my time in everything," he said.

"I didn't get into the choreography as I usually do, but it was still pretty good."

Fourth place went to Curran Oi (Wellesley, Mass./SC of Boston), with 170.50 total points. ■



Eliot Halverson



PHOTOS BY PAUL AND MICHELLE HARWITZ

From left: Kaela Pflumm and Christopher Pottenger, Bianca Butler and Joseph Jacobsen, Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker, Jessica Rose Paetsch and Jon Nuss



Keauna McLaughlin  
and Rockne Brubaker

## Pairs

Rockne Brubaker (Colorado Springs, Colo./Broadmoor) became a two-time U.S. junior pairs champion, as he and new partner Keauna McLaughlin (Los Angeles, Calif./Los Angeles FSC) ran away with the title.

Brubaker, 20, won the U.S. junior title with Mariel Miller in 2005, but after their split shortly before the 2006 U.S. Championships, Brubaker had to watch the national event from the stands.

In February 2006, he paired up with McLaughlin, and with only a few months training, they won two Junior Grand Prix Series events and the Junior Grand Prix Final.

Now, they're U.S. junior champions. "This year has probably been my favorite year," Brubaker said. "We have an awesome relationship and have so much fun."

McLaughlin, 13, and Brubaker had the most ambitious free skate, including two throw triples for the first time in their careers. Brubaker said they wanted to try the throw triple loop because if they made the World Junior Team, they didn't want that competition to be the first time they attempted it.

"Probably about seven months ago, Keauna hadn't even tried a throw triple, and here we are at nationals doing two of them," Brubaker said.

The team opened their free skate to a mix of "Romeo and Juliet" music with their magnificent triple twist – something not many of the U.S. senior pairs skaters are doing. Brubaker said they moved from double to triple twist in practice quickly because of McLaughlin's solid technique, and because it's her favorite move. They received five +3 grades of ex-

ecution and four +2s for the move.

Bianca Butler (Dana Point, Calif./All Year FSC) and Joseph Jacobsen (Lake Arrowhead, Calif./All Year FSC) capped what could have been a disappointing season with a comeback and the silver medal. In early fall, Butler suffered a concussion during the short program at the Junior Grand Prix event in Norway. They withdrew from the event and did not receive a second assignment.

Butler said they considered it a bump in the road, and she didn't let it hold her back too long.

"Actually, right when we got back from Norway, she went out there the first day and tried (the throw jump they fell on) again," said Jacobsen. "I'm very proud of her. She was very brave about it."

They also had a triple twist and landed a throw double loop and double Lutz-double flip sequence. She fell late in the program on a throw triple Salchow.

Although they finished fourth in the free skate, reigning novice champions Jessica Rose Paetsch and Jon Nuss (Centennial, Colo./Broadmoor SC) won the bronze medal by a mere .20 points.

"It wasn't our strongest performance of the year, but overall I thought it was pretty good," Nuss said.

Kaela Pflumm (Laurel Hollow, N.Y./Univ. Delaware FSC) and Christopher Pottenger (Coppell, Texas/Dallas FSC) finished fourth with 90.75 points. ■



Bianca Butler and Joseph Jacobsen



Jessica Rose Paetsch and Jon Nuss

## JUNIOR PAIRS MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker – 162.23

**SILVER** | Bianca Butler/Joseph Jacobsen – 146.83

**BRONZE** | Jessica Rose Paetsch/Jon Nuss – 143.27

**FOURTH PLACE** | Kaela Pflumm/Christopher Pottenger – 143.07



PHOTOS BY PAUL AND MICHELLE HAWORTH

From left: Piper Gilles and Timothy McKernan, Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell, Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates, Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giuletti-Schmitt



Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell



Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giuletti-Schmitt

## Ice Dancing

Ann Arbor, Mich., is officially the home of rising U.S. dancers. Couples from the home of Maize and Blue occupied the top three spots on the podium of the junior ice dancing event in Spokane, Wash., with just .17 points separating the gold and silver medalists.

Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates, second after the compulsory and original dance events, earned all level fours for their elements en route to winning the gold with marks of 167.65. Their program to "Thalia's Hits Remixed" maximized the technical difficulty while also showcasing Samuelson's flexibility and their expression, creating a fun performance for the audience.

The team had some ground to make up after their mistake in the original dance.

"We were definitely a little nervous, but I'd say we were excited," Samuelson said. "We just wanted to show what we could do in the free dance – that's all that really mattered. The fall in the original dance – it's unfortunate, but those things happen. We just had to bounce back."

Samuelson and Bates are the first team to be rewarded all level fours at the U.S. Championships since the international judging system was introduced at the 2006 event.

"It feels sweet," Bates said. "That hasn't happened yet this season, at all. We'll definitely take it as encouraging."

Training mates Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell, the leaders after the first two phases, drew the audience in with their performance to "Canto Alla Vita" by Josh Groban. The program has been successful for the duo this season. The team received mostly level fours and two level threes for their elements en route to a total score of 167.48.

"This time we had a little more difficulty in the footwork and we didn't get the kind of levels that we wanted, but we are happy with our performance," Madison said. "We're aware that Evan and Emi-

ly are amazing skaters and we expect to be competing with them no matter what. It could go either way. We're just happy it was close."

Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giuletti-Schmitt finished fourth in the free dance but were able to retain third place with marks of 142.92.

"It didn't really hit me until the end of the free dance," Kriengkrairut said. "I was sitting there and I looked around and just went 'Wow.'"

"We couldn't even have expected anything close to this," Giuletti-Schmitt said. "We're just thrilled. We've only been skating together for five months, so it's amazing. There have been little ups and downs with getting used to a new partnership right from the beginning, but things have been great overall. We couldn't have expected more for our skating and our chemistry on the ice."

The fourth step on the podium belonged to the Broadmoor SC's Piper Gilles and Tim McKernan with a score of 142.77. Gilles and McKernan skated an aggressive performance to finish third in the free dance, just .39 from the bronze medal. The team finished seventh at the 2006 U.S. Championships on the novice level, and so moving to junior was a risk that paid off.

"Taking the pewter medal is really good," McKernan said. "At junior, you just have more opportunities to do international events. It took us to the next level." ■



Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates

## JUNIOR ICE DANCING MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates – 167.65

**SILVER** | Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell – 167.48

**BRONZE** | Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giuletti-Schmitt – 142.92

**FOURTH PLACE** | Piper Gilles and Timothy McKernan – 142.77



PHOTOS BY PAUL AND MICHELLE HARVATH

From left: Kristine Musadamba, Angela Maxwell, Carolyn-Ann Alba and Deedee Leng



Kristine Musadamba



Carolyn-Ann Alba



Angela Maxwell

# Priceless

Novice skaters give packed arenas an electric show

**T**he novice competition at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash., was filled with dazzling skating, although the most impressive aspect of it may have been the

consistently jam-packed crowds that witnessed it. The thousands in attendance every day at both the primary venue (Spokane Arena, the first such venue to host all four novice finals) and the secondary venue (Spokane Convention Center) were treated to such a show of talent that, at times, it was tough to tell the novice competitors from their junior and senior counterparts.

## Ladies

In a competition filled with skaters making great leaps up the standings – as well as precipitous drops down them – it was Angela Maxwell's consistency that paid off.

Maxwell (Dallas FSC) finished second in the short program and free skate to take the novice ladies title. She made her own great leap, of sorts, as she improved on her 11th-place finish from 2006.

"I just wanted to do a little better than last year," Maxwell said. "I did not expect this. I'm a little bit in shock right now."

Maxwell landed a double Axel, triple Salchow-double toe combination and a triple toe in her short program, after which she was 1.71 points behind the leader, Carolyn-Ann Alba (All Year FSC).

Skating first in the second and final group of skaters in the free skate, Maxwell performed her "Children of Dune" program with ruthless efficiency. Her triple toe-double toe-double loop combination was the high point-earner of the evening, garnering her a whopping 7.77 points.

Kristine Musadamba (Washington FSC), the 2006 U.S. intermediate champion, vaulted from fifth after the short program to winning the free skate (by .12 points over Maxwell) and taking the silver. After stepping out of the first jump – a triple loop – in her "Malagueña" program, Musadamba made virtually no errors. Her triple toe-double toe combination received positive GOEs from eight of the nine judges, earning her almost seven points.

On the other side of the coin was Alba, who ran into some problems in her Spanish medley free skate. About halfway through she fell on her triple toe, and she seemed to lose focus after that, as the landings on many of her jumps were shaky. She settled for the bronze.

Deedee Leng (DuPage FSC) went from ninth place after the short program to losing out on the bronze to Alba by less than a quarter of a point (124.75-124.51). ■

## NOVICE LADIES MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Angela Maxwell – 131.65

**SILVER** | Kristine Musadamba – 129.25

**BRONZE** | Carolyn-Ann Alba – 124.75

**FOURTH PLACE** | Deedee Leng – 124.51

## Men

The first question from a reporter after Armin Mahbanoozadeh secured the novice men's title had nothing to do with his electric free skate.

But it was a predictable one: "How do you pronounce your last name?"

"It's Mah-ban-ooz-za-deh," he said. "It's pretty phonetic actually."

In front of an appreciative crowd of 6,808, Mahbanoozadeh reeled off a series of triples en route to the second-best free skate and novice crown. He finished seventh last year at the novice level.

It was tight at the top of the leaderboard after the short program, with seven men all passing 40 points and less than a point separating the top three. Mahbanoozadeh held the lead with a score of 45.50, with Scott Dyer close behind at 45.43 and Alexander Johnson third at 44.62.

Mahbanoozadeh's only miscue in the free skate occurred near the end of his technically challenging performance to "Symphony No. 5" by Tchaikovsky, when he fell attempting a triple toe. He regrouped with a level-four combination spin to finish strong, scoring 138.77 points.

"I've been practicing hard all year," he said. "I've made a lot of my triples consistent, and at sectionals I had a really good skate and posted the highest score in the nation. So, I felt confident going into here."

Johnson also showed dramatic improvement from last year — he placed ninth in the novice class — and earned the silver medal with a score of 135.90. Skating to "Autumn" from "The Seasons" by Glazunov, he took the lead from Anchorage, Alaska's Keegan Messing late in the competition despite having a few miscues along the way.

For me that was really good, and it was a personal best, so I'm happy," Johnson said.

Messing grabbed the bronze with a score of 135.01, winning the free skate thanks to superior technical marks. Skating to the "Pirates of the Caribbean" soundtrack, Messing ignited the crowd early in his performance, hitting a triple Lutz-double toe followed by a triple Axel, during which he put his hand on the ice.

Dyer was fourth in the free skate and fourth overall. ■

Armin Mahbanoozadeh

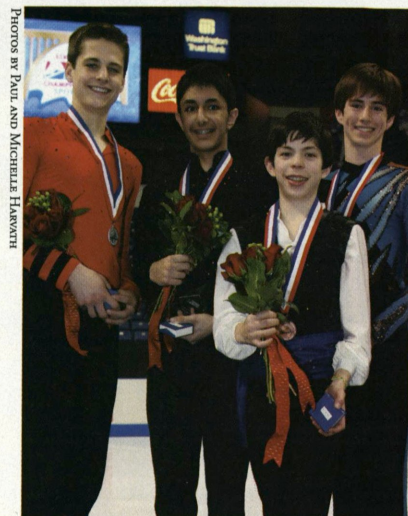
### NOVICE MENS MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Armin Mahbanoozadeh — 138.77

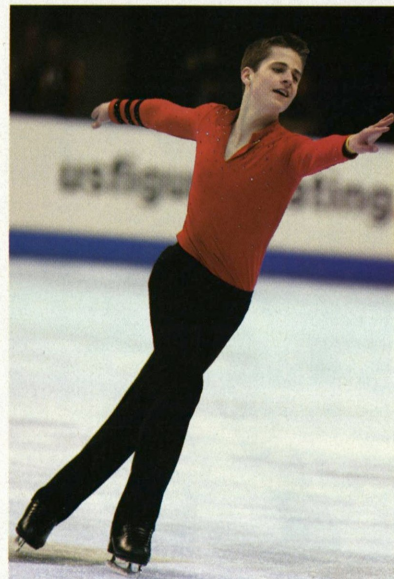
**SILVER** | Alexander Johnson — 135.90

**BRONZE** | Keegan Messing — 135.01

FOURTH PLACE | Scott Dyer — 133.95



From left: Alexander Johnson, Armin Mahbanoozadeh, Keegan Messing and Scott Dyer



Alexander Johnson

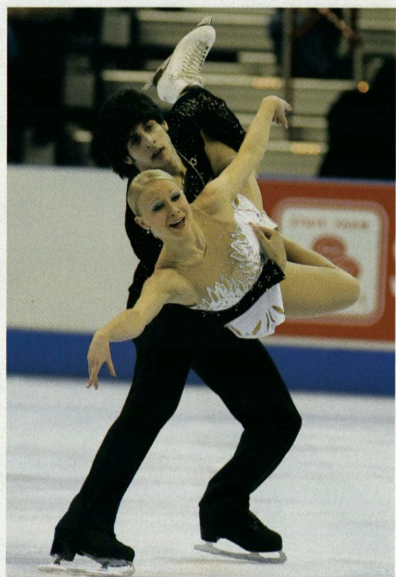


Keegan Messing



PHOTOS BY PAUL AND MICHELLE HARVATH

From left: Jaylyn Kelly and Gabe Woodruff, Caitlin Yankowskas and Daniyel Cohen, Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau, Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim



Caitlin Yankowskas and Daniyel Cohen



Jaylyn Kelly and Gabe Woodruff

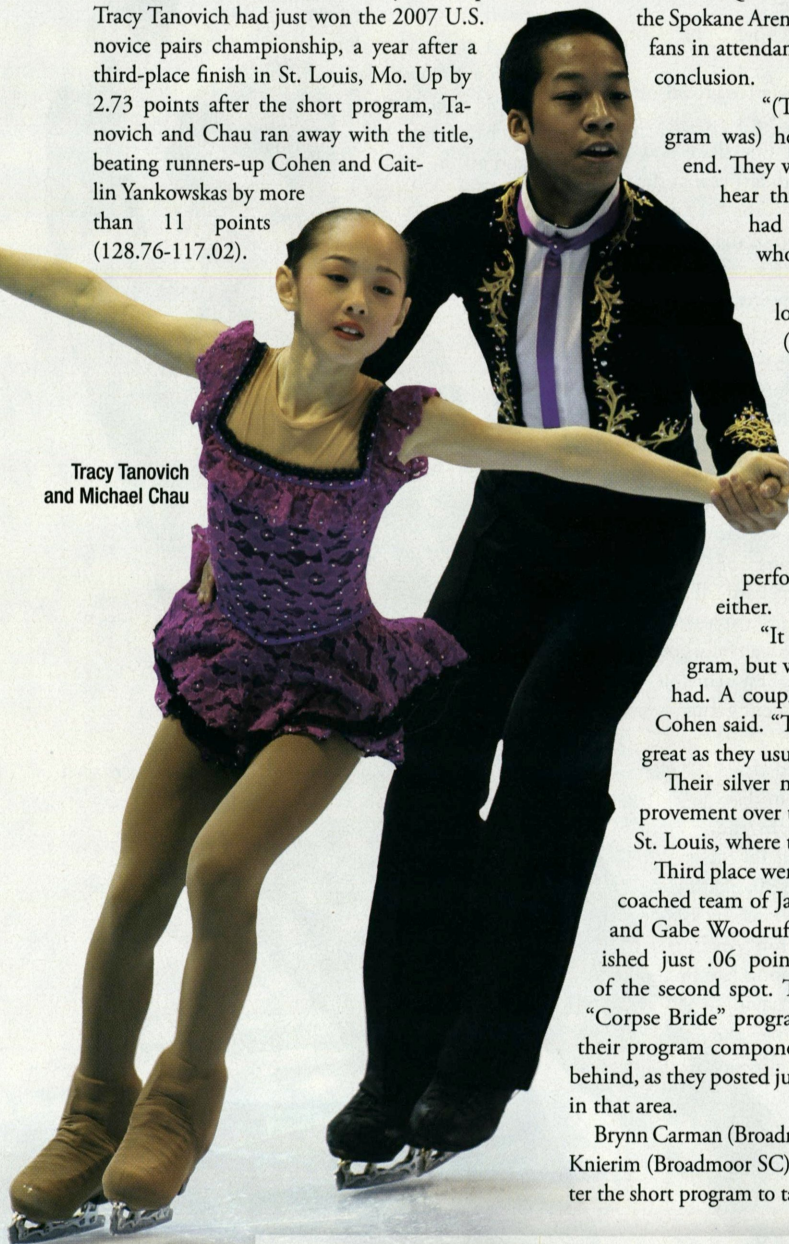
## Pairs

In the tunnel leading from the ice to the warm-up area, following the announcement of the marks for the last team of the afternoon, Daniyel Cohen bearhugged Michael Chau and hoisted him high into the air.

Not that Chau needed a lift at that point.

He and his diminutive, 10-year-old partner Tracy Tanovich had just won the 2007 U.S. novice pairs championship, a year after a third-place finish in St. Louis, Mo. Up by 2.73 points after the short program, Tanovich and Chau ran away with the title, beating runners-up Cohen and Caitlin Yankowskas by more than 11 points (128.76-117.02).

Tracy Tanovich  
and Michael Chau



Sporting matching black pants and NASCAR-themed tops, Tanovich and Chau, both from Southwest Florida FSC, brought the house down in the short program, earning the highest technical elements and program components scores en route to a mark of 45.47.

Their "Don Quixote" free skate was a hit with the Spokane Arena denizens, as many of the fans in attendance rose to their feet at its conclusion.

"(The best part of the program was) hearing the crowd at the end. They went nuts. It was great to hear that," Tanovich said. "We had the crowd behind us the whole program."

Yankowskas (Colonial FSC) and Cohen (Elite Training Academy) clawed their way back onto the podium despite a disappointing short program that left them in fourth. They were not terribly pleased with their performance of "Swan Lake" either.

"It wasn't our greatest program, but we put out everything we had. A couple elements were shaky," Cohen said. "Two of our lifts weren't as great as they usually are."

Their silver medal marks a huge improvement over their showing last year in St. Louis, where they came in 10th.

Third place went to the Aaron Parchem-coached team of Jaylyn Kelly (Lansing SC) and Gabe Woodruff (Detroit SC), who finished just .06 points (117.02-116.96) out of the second spot. They went through their "Corpse Bride" program relatively cleanly, but their program components score (36.10) lagged behind, as they posted just the sixth-highest mark in that area.

Brynn Carman (Broadmoor SC) and Christopher Knierim (Broadmoor SC) rose from eighth place after the short program to take fourth overall. ■

## NOVICE PAIRS MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau – 128.76

**SILVER** | Caitlin Yankowskas and Daniyel Cohen – 117.02

**BRONZE** | Jayln Kelly and Gabe Woodruff – 116.96

**FOURTH PLACE** | Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim – 112.25

## Ice Dancing

Maia Shibutani (SC of New York) and Alex Shibutani (Broadmoor SC) captured the audience and the gold medal in novice ice dancing, scoring 108.42 points for their two compulsory dances (the European Waltz and paso doble) and their “Memoirs of a Geisha” program.

Skating before a capacity crowd of 4,000 at the Convention Center, the Shibutanis trailed eventual runners-up Sara Bailey (Charter Oak FSC) and Kyle Herring (University of Delaware FSC) after the compulsories by a little less than a point, 49.87-48.90.

The Shibutanis, who won the 2006 U.S. intermediate title, skated an elegant and technically sound performance that included effortless lifts and good speed.

The program had special meaning for Maia and Alex.

“We kind of tossed (the “Geisha” program idea) back and forth with (our choreographer) Tom (Dickson),” Maia said.

“We were trying to come up with something that would be unique, something that we could really feel a connection to,” Alex said. “With our Japanese heritage, we thought we could make a connection to the audience – and between ourselves – that would really make the program something special for us.”

Bailey and Herring finished second with a score of 106.36. Their free dance to “Harem” by Sarah Brightman was well choreographed and appealing to the audience, but it was marred by an unexpected stumble by Herring just before the ending. The relatively new team (they had been together just nine months at the time of the U.S. Championships) had limited expectations heading into the season and was pleased with the results.

“At the start of the season, we really weren’t even thinking about nationals,” Herring said. “As our season progressed, we were hoping to skate our best and maybe be middle of the pack and hope for good results.”

Two additional University of Delaware FSC

teams took the final two steps on the novice ice dancing podium. Anastasia Cannuscio and Dean Copely won the bronze with their energetic performance to music from “Mr. and Mrs. Smith,” and Isabella Cannuscio and Ian Lorello finished third in the free dance and fourth overall. ■



Maia Shibutani  
and Alex Shibutani

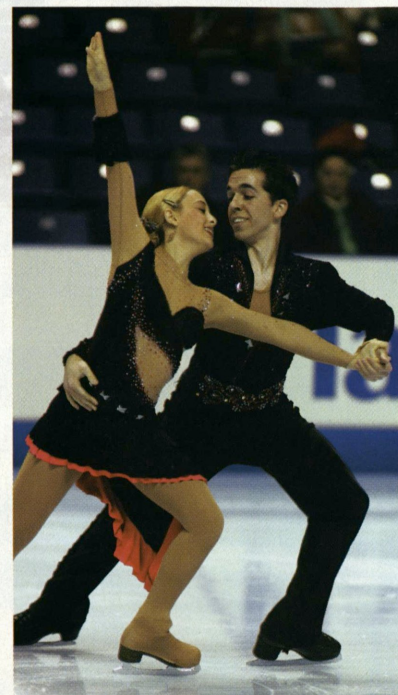


PHOTOS BY PAUL AND MICHAEL HAWORTH

From left: Sara Bailey and Kyle Herring, Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, Anastasia Cannuscio and Dean Copely, Isabella Cannuscio and Ian Lorello



Sara Bailey and Kyle Herring



Anastasia Cannuscio and Dean Copely

### NOVICE ICE DANCING MEDALISTS

**GOLD** | TMaia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani – 108.42

**SILVER** | Sara Bailey and Kyle Herring – 106.36

**BRONZE** | Anastasia Cannuscio and Dean Copely – 101.40

FOURTH PLACE | Isabella Cannuscio and Ian Lorello – 100.78

# It's true: skating brings out best in people

BY LEXI ROHNER

**KIMBERLY AND TIMOTHY MINARIK**  
Knoxville, Ill.  
Age: both 36  
Home Club: FSC of the Quad Cities  
Level: Adult bronze pairs

In 2002, 3-year-old Emily Minarik watched Sarah Hughes win Olympic gold and decided to try skating, with one condition: mom and dad had to try it, too.

"Once the 'What have I gotten myself into?' passed," Kim said, "I wanted to do pairs. I have the daredevil gene — death spirals, big tricks."

With no local pairs training available, Les Ascher directed them to a Chicago adult pairs clinic. They were overwhelmed by adults doing full overhead press lifts down the ice.

"I got to be lifted by Maxim Marinin and Tim got to do an off-ice lift with Tatiana Totmianina" Kim said, referring to the 2006 Olympic pairs champions.

Within a year, Elena Cockerell's coaching progressed them to split twist lifts and death spirals. Kim loves throw jumps and she is looking forward to overhead press lifts without the harness.

"Elena is my mentor, motivator and the best cheerleader any adult skater can have," she said.

Kim, a computer programmer, and Tim, a graphic designer, agree this is the healthiest they have ever been.

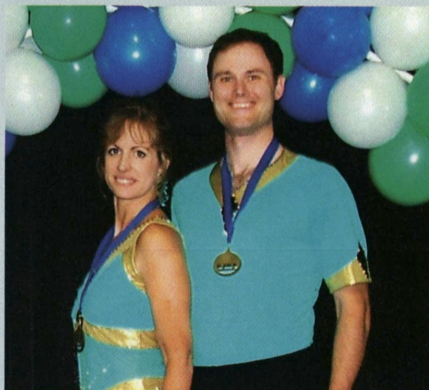
"We have found a foster family at the rink," Kim said. "Skating has added strength to our marriage tenfold."

After the 2007 U.S. Adult Championships, the Minariks aim to one day compete at silver and gold before moving to the standard track.

"Moving across the ice is a unique feeling, and it's quite invigorating," Tim said. "I do my best to never take that for granted."

And Emily?

"We are raising the best little girl. Nothing compares to that," he said.



**EVA ALESSANDRA**  
Hyannis, Mass.  
Age: 56  
Home Club: Lighthouse FSC

Skating is Eva Alessandra's passion.

"I loved it as a child and still do," Alessandra said. "It is the closest thing to feeling like a bird. Yep, there have been a few bad landings."

An 80-mile round trip from her small western Massachusetts town for skating lessons was too extravagant for her family to afford, so Alessandra skated on local ponds. She colored in her Carol Heiss books and dreamed about lessons. Skating twice a week for the past eight years, Alessandra recalls excitement at finding an adult group lesson when her son began skating.

"I didn't know you could learn to skate over age 12," she said.

Energetic and determined, Alessandra challenges herself to go as fast as she can. Her biggest challenge is program endurance.

"Skating is so hard for adults to learn," she said. "Passing tests and competing is such an accomplishment."

Skating has affected her life in indescribable ways.

"I have lots of inner strength. I am in touch with that inner child," she said. "God created me to enjoy this sport, and I am good at it."

Work as an occupational therapist and restoring her 1853 sea captain's home keeps her busy. But she found time to skate in a show with two other adults, Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen.

Alessandra returned to the ice after dancing for a few years with the Elaine Chase Dancers. She recently passed her gold moves test.

"Adult skaters are willing to risk injury, but we truly love skating, so we take these risks," she said. "My goal is to land an Axel before I am 60 and live to tell the tale."



**EBLE ELITE EDGERS**  
Adult Synchronized Skating Team  
Home Club: Wisconsin FSC

A few of them skated as children; most began as adults. Some are retired. Among them are painters, musicians, teachers and even a boat builder. Their ages range from 35 to 76, and skating experience from eight to 62 years, making them a diverse and enthusiastic group.

What do they love most about skating? It is a consensus: "Freedom, friendship and fun!"

Barbara Applegate, 56, formed the team with coach Craig Bodoh.

"Craig works hard to keep us focused," Applegate said. "We are all opinionated, stubborn adults. He does a terrific job."

Echoing sentiments many adult skaters feel about staying fit, new challenges and never being too old to learn, they also share the competition nerves all skaters feel.

Eve Farrell, 64, likes knowing she can skate and compete after 60. Farrell also plays tennis, cross country skis and rollerblades.

Carl Scheid, 76, said, "The most fun is to experience progress."

Sally Kehl, 64, chaperoned her husband's eighth grade class on a skating trip and fell in love with the sport.

"Skating was the first time in my life I felt pretty," Kehl said.

Lorraine Tacke, 67, recognizes skating's therapeutic value.

"It is a chance to clear everything from my head," Tacke said.

Remembering his daughter's reaction — "You're doing what?" — Wayne Zeleski, 60, aims to improve for the group.

The youngest of the group at 35, Nicole Busch said, "I can accomplish anything if I put my mind and hard work into it."

Carol Moeser, 59 agrees.

"I know through hard work I am able to do things I never dreamed I would."



Front row: Eve Farrell, Nicole Busch, Judy Slattery, Barbara Smith, Carol Moeser, Barbara Rambadt; back row: Craig Bodoh (coach/team member), Ginger Abram, Barbara Applegate (team captain), Lorraine Tacke, Sally Kehl, Carl Scheid, Wayne Zeleski. Not pictured: Naomi Jehly.

recover or reactivate.



regenerist **x2**

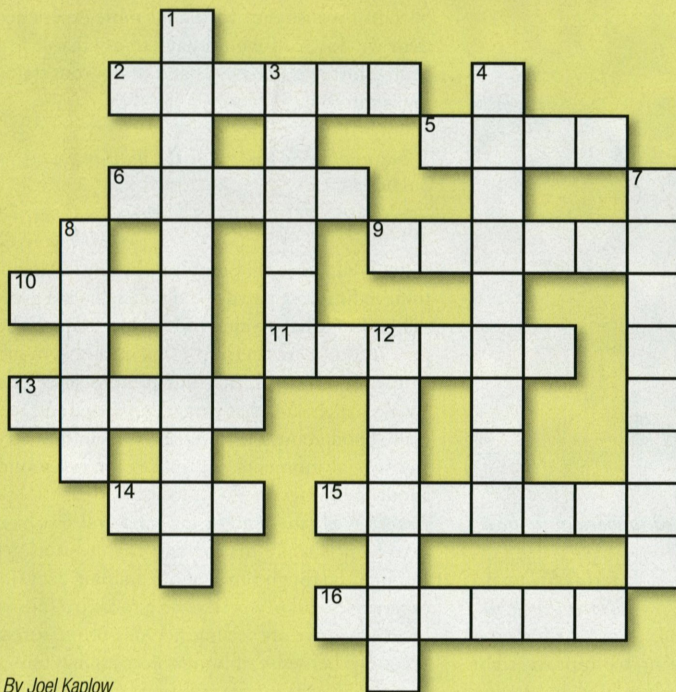
Olay Regenerist transforms tired skin into skin that looks beautifully regenerated. What better way to reactivate your skin. And your life. Without the drastic measures.

Results not equal to medical procedures.  
Reactivates your look with twice the exfoliation vs. untreated skin.

**OLAY**  
love the skin you're in™







By Joel Kaplow

### ACROSS

- 2 At the 2007 U.S. State Farm Championships, the bronze ladies medal went to \_\_\_\_ Czisny
- 5 Secretary of State Condoleezza \_\_\_\_ skated competitively as a child
- 6 At the 2006 NHK Trophy, the sixth leg of the ISU Grand Prix Series, this country swept all six of the ladies and men's singles medals
- 9 Torvill and Dean danced to Ravel's \_\_\_\_ in their long program to earn Olympic gold in '84
- 10 At the 2006 Marshalls U.S. Figure Skating Challenge, the winners were not determined by judges, but by the votes of \_\_\_\_

- 11 Peggy Fleming has made several appearances on TV's "\_\_\_\_ Street"
- 13 Founded in 1986, Scott Hamilton's \_\_\_\_ On Ice tour is still going strong
- 14 U.S. pairs skaters Naomi Nari \_\_\_\_ and Themi Leftheris took the bronze at Skate America in 2006
- 15 Mary Mapes Dodge's "Hans \_\_\_\_ or the Silver Skates" was first published in 1865
- 16 The first U.S. lady to win Olympic and World gold was \_\_\_\_ Albright

### DOWN

- 1 Kristi Yamaguchi's \_\_\_\_ Foundation helps under

privileged and disabled kids (2 wds.)

- 3 When the Hartford Hilton had a fire alarm last October during Skate America, Emily Hughes brought her \_\_\_\_ outside with her, just in case
- 4 A difficult spin is named for Denise \_\_\_\_ of Switzerland, World Ladies champ of 1981
- 7 It's a sequence of step maneuvers carrying the skater across the ice in patterns
- 8 The \_\_\_\_ jump is considered one of the easiest figure skating jumps
- 12 Ice dancing blades are about 1" \_\_\_\_ er

## KIDZ SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Madison George

**Age:** 8

**Level:** Preliminary

**Club:** Detroit Skating Club

**Coach:** Deryck Szatkowski, Kristin Vivian and Liz Coats

**How often I skate:** I skate five days a week. I do three double sessions during the week and I am also on Team Elan (preliminary synchronized). I have a private off-ice coach in Kim Brown. I do ballet and dance for Team Elan.

**Favorite jumps/moves:** My favorite pre-juvenile move is power pulls. My favorite jump is the Axel. I also love doing flips.

**Favorite skaters:** Sasha Cohen is one of my favorite single skaters. Sasha is so graceful and it is beautiful to watch her skate. I love Marcy Hinzmann and Aaron Parchem (Marcy was one of my coaches). Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto are my favorite ice dancers. I like it when Ben lifts Tanith and she curls her legs around him.

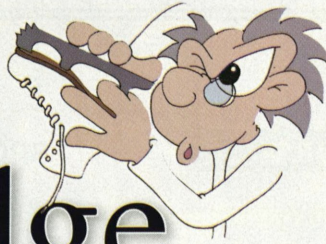
**Goals:** I would like to go to the Olympics.

**What else you should know about me:** I like to play soccer, golf, tennis and swim. My favorite subjects in school are math, drama and art. I would like to be a pediatrician when I grow up. I like children.

*You can be in the spotlight, too. Send your picture along with information about yourself to: SKATING magazine, Kidz Spotlight, 20 First Street, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906.*



# Ask Mr. Edge



## Adult skaters face unique problems

**T**his month I was going to give you a glimpse into what's new in equipment, but I was sidetracked when an adult skater strolled through my doors.

She mentioned some problems that she frequently encounters while skating. After listening to her, I realized I've never taken the time to analyze the needs of the adult skater, and how those needs differ from those of the younger, more agile skater.

Reality check: skating isn't quite like riding a bicycle. Bikes go in straight lines and make wide turns. Skaters don't.

Let's start with how good a skater we think we are compared to how our coach or other people see us. Now, couple that with thoughts of youthfulness dancing in our heads...could this be an accident waiting to happen?

With that in mind, what are the needs of the adult skater who is 40 years and older?

### Skate safely

1. Stretch before skating. No matter what your age, there are exercises one can do to limber up.
2. Don't do too much at one time. What you were able to do as a young skater, you can no longer do without feeling it in some way, shape or form. In other words, skate in moderation.
3. Know when enough is enough. When your body starts talking back to you, i.e. lower back pain, take a break, sit down and have a cup of java. It's OK to relax, take your time and talk to other skaters. Remember, this is quality time for you, so enjoy.
4. Don't spend weeks or months trying to perfect a certain element. Be content with your ability to do it and move on. I'm not saying you shouldn't strive for perfection, but listen to what your body is telling you and try to separate it from your ego.

Allow me to share with you an example of what it might be like when your ego decides to take on the rest of your body.

**Ego:** *I can't wait to get out on the ice today.*

**Body:** *Do I really have to go skating? I was out way too late last night.*

**Ego:** *Mind over matter, that's all. I'm going to do that sit spin.*

**Body:** *Remember pal, your lower back is in no shape to be bending up and down. If you're not careful, I'm going to put you in the hospital.*

**Ego:** *My shoulder feels fine today. A bit stiff, but fine. All I need to do is get out there and flail those arms around to loosen up that shoulder joint.*

**Body:** *Wouldn't listen to me, would you? Now take that to the doctor. Better yet, take two Aspirin and call him in the morning.*

**Ego:** *My skates fit fine. Let's get up and go!*  
*Fifteen minutes later...*

**Body:** *What is that burning and cramping in my feet? I'm sure it's nothing. It'll go away in a bit.*

*Later that evening...*

**Body:** *Hey, ego, I thought you said my skates fit fine? Now look at me - sitting here soaking them in this hot tub of water. I have better things to do than sit around soaking.*

I think you get the point.

If you are still competing, you have all the more reason to heed the above illustration. Don't feel like you have to push yourself so hard that nothing else matters. Remember, most of us do have to get up the next morning and earn a living. The last thing we need is an injury that would prevent us from doing so.

### Equipment needs

**Q:** How come I no longer fit into my skates? They worked so well for me 10 years ago.

**A:** Well, folks, the sands of time have shifted in more ways than one...deal with it. Adults

who skated when they were young have the worst feet I've seen. Here are some tips on how deal with them.

1. Pay special attention to getting the proper size boot for your feet. You're not going to grow out of them any too soon, so spend a few extra dollars and go custom, if for no other reason than to get some extra bells and whistles that will make the boot easier to break in and a bit more comfortable. Sometimes it helps to have an extra quarter size added to give you just that little bit of extra wiggle room for your toes.
2. Don't get over-booted. I almost always see this with adults, who need their boots to bend much easier. Wearing a nice, soft, supple boot works best.
3. Fit of the boot. Without a proper fit, your dogs will be barking at you every time you're finished skating. Be sure to wear a thin, lightweight sock when being fitted for new boots. Proper fit and support go hand in hand.
4. Blades. No need for those extra large toe picks. Small-to-medium-sized picks will be just fine unless you're still able to pop off a few doubles. Just remember to buy a quality freestyle blade that will make jumping and spinning much easier for you. For some extra added stability, you may want to put on a blade that goes end to end on your boots. Doing this, however, will make your spins a bit more difficult.

If you're new to skating, you may simply just want to buy an entry-level skate, knowing that within a year you'll be upgrading to a much more expensive boot and blade.

Till next time,

**Mr. Edge**

If I can be of any assistance, I expect to be stopping by the U.S. Adult Championships in Bensenville, Ill. Catch me at the Harlick booth.



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### **The 2007 SKATE CANADA GRAND PRIX Tour**

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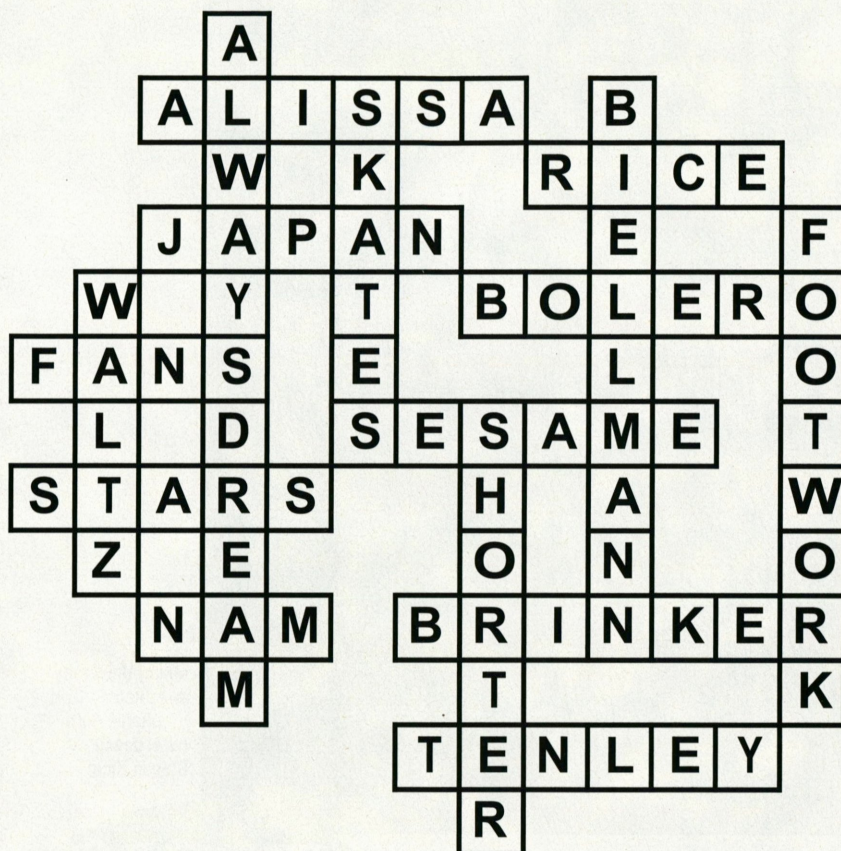
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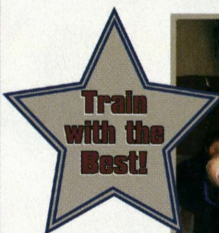
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# 2007 Summer Program

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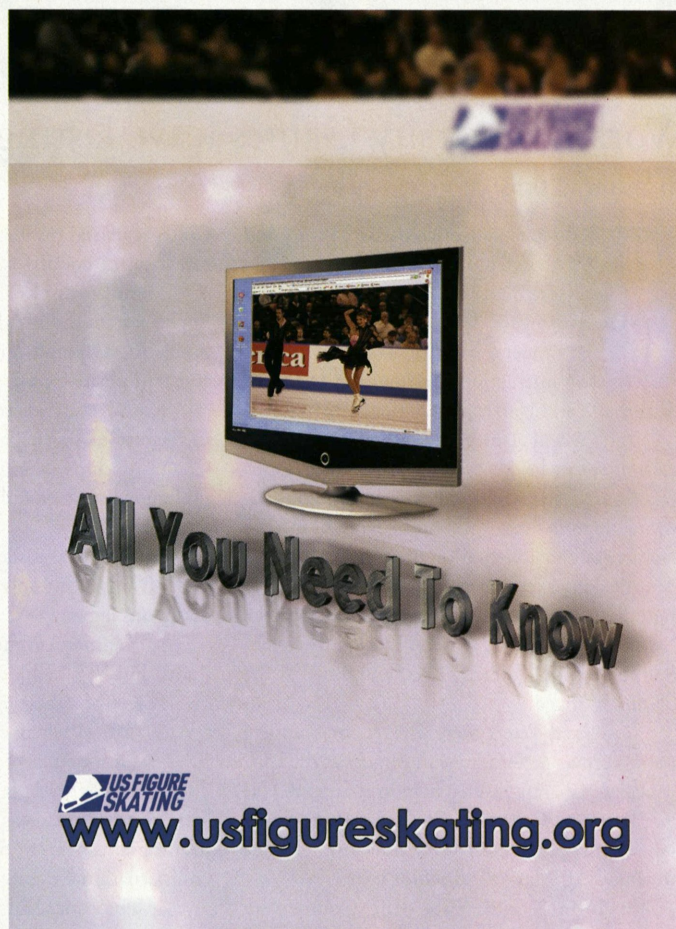


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Miami University and skater Stephanie Roth (with coach Steven Rice)

# Fun abroad

## World University Games leave lasting impression

BY EMILY FELTES

**S**tephanie Roth, Michael Peters and the Miami University synchronized skating team got a taste of Italy in January. They battled fellow college students from all over the world for international recognition and medals at the World University Games in Torino.

The World University Games, a global sporting event held every two years, unifies athletes from a variety of disciplines and nations, allowing them to live together for a week of intense competition and celebration of culture.

All skating events were held at the Palavela, the 8,000-seat arena that was upgraded for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. During the week-long competition, athletes lived and dined at the Olympic Village.

Roth and Peters were chosen to compete based on their performance in August at the U.S. Collegiate Championships held in Anaheim, Calif. The U.S. Collegiate Championships is the only event open exclusively to full-time college students at the junior and senior levels.

In Torino, Roth (Brookdale Community

College) placed ninth out of 31 senior ladies representing 21 countries.

"I don't think I could have expected or hoped for a more fulfilling experience," Roth said. "The Olympic Village was such a comfortable and positive place for an athlete to be."

Roth returned to the competitive arena in August to participate in the U.S. Collegiate Championships. She had suffered a back injury, undergone surgery and had been off the ice since January 2006.

"I was super satisfied with how I skated," Roth said. "It was a triumph for me after having such a disappointing end to last year."

In the men's event, Peters (University of Illinois) finished 12th out of 32 participants.

Peters became eligible for the World University Games when collegiate champion Ryan Bradley declined in order to participate at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash. Peters was excited about performing his programs in front of a supportive audience at an international event.

"Men's short had an almost sell-out crowd,



and the noise level in that building was awesome," Peters said.

"I hate competing in front of an audience that just kind of sits there. These people were cheering everybody on, good skate or bad. All in all, it was just about the most fun I've ever had at any competition, at home or abroad."

Peters won a bronze medal at the 2005 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the junior level.

Miami University was selected to compete based on its gold medal performance at the 2006 U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships.

Miami University skated strongly, placing fourth behind teams from Sweden, Finland and Russia.

## Skaters share thoughts from Torino

BY BECKY SEARCH, SENIOR AT MIAMI

Skating in the 2007 World University Games was one of the best experiences of my life. Every skater dreams of the perfect skate, the one which you take the ice and let your passion and love for skating shine. For me, this moment was our free skate in Torino.

Stepping into the arena, I could feel the excitement and anticipation from the crowd. My teammates and I focused and connected. Our performance was an expression of gratitude, commitment and determination for the future of synchronized skating.

The experience of staying in the Olympic Village is one I will never forget. It was meaningful to know that the world's most outstanding athletes had stayed there. It made me feel connected to a larger organization and know that all the years of practice and sacrifices I have made worthwhile.

BY JAIME HARTMAN, SOPHOMORE AT MIAMI

Representing the United States at the World University Games is an accomplishment that I worked hard to achieve. Staying in the Olympic Village was something that I dreamed about as a little girl, and I feel honored to have had that opportunity. I felt accepted as an international athlete and respected by the other teams. Since we were the only synchronized skating team in the village, everyone was curious about our sport. The U.S. Olympic Committee was so interested that it wanted to shut down its headquarters in the village to watch us skate.

I was awed by the number of spectators who watched synchronized skating event. I remember standing in the opening position and saying to my teammates, "Listen to them!" The crowd cheered us on through each element, and I could feel my own energy explode as we finished.

BY STEPHANIE ROTH, BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The support from Team USA felt awesome, and I met a ton of other U.S. athletes who, like me, are balancing sport and a college education.

I'm still a little bummed about missing the opening triple toe in my short program because I never miss that jump. I was proud that I recovered easily and went on to achieve level 3s and 4s in the rest of the program. I was happy getting a level 3 on my footwork because I put that step together myself.

I didn't know how my skating would compare to the rest of the field, especially with girls who had more international and even Olympic experience. I was relieved to find that I placed in the top 10; that was a feat I never managed at the U.S. Championships, so Steven (Rice, Roth's coach) and I were really pleased.

When I took the ice for my free skate, I thought, "Well, this is it, have fun." And I really did — only making one jump error. I earned my highest technical score. As far as the "whole package" goes, I feel it's the best program I've skated in seven years. I just truly enjoyed every moment and didn't hold back.



The Crystallettes

## Crystallettes make memories in Prague

BY MARCIA ROHRER AND ASHLEY MEYER

U.S. Figure Skating sent synchronized skating teams to four ISU-sponsored international events in January and February. At the Prague Cup in Prague, Czech Republic, the Crystallettes, Haydenettes and Chicago Jazz (junior) took the ice.

Crystallettes members Marcia Rohrer and Ashley Meyer recount their team's exciting journey and accomplishments in the diary below. Despite travel troubles and missed practices, the team from Dearborn, Mich., rise to the occasion by placing third overall and bringing home medals.

At 1:30 Tuesday afternoon, the Crystallettes arrive at the Detroit airport. We are ecstatic to be heading to our competition in Prague. Representing the United States is an honor. We are proud to demonstrate our hard work and preparation at this international competition.

Unfortunately, Prague has been plagued by days of continuous snowfall. We land in Amsterdam for our layover, but don't actually get on the plane until Thursday night. During our seemingly endless wait in Amsterdam, we receive food vouchers, and Holly Teets (coach) schedules an off-ice practice. We begin with our ballet warm-up, perform our hip-hop dance and walk through our programs in the middle of the airport waiting area. Airport staff and travelers gather to watch, wondering whether we are dancers, gymnasts or synchronized swimmers.

Late in the evening, we find that our flight to Prague is canceled. Twenty dejected skaters are shuttled to a hotel to catch up on sleep and dream about skating.

Early Thursday morning, we find out our flight is delayed once again. *Déjà vu.* As a result, we miss our scheduled morning practice. Hoping to catch a flight as soon as possible, our team manager tells us to prepare our hair and makeup

for competition, and to put on our tights and earrings, so we can change quickly once we arrive at the arena for evening practice.

Sadly, we miss this opportunity to warm up and run through our programs, as we don't arrive in Prague until around midnight. While it is unfortunate that we miss our second practice, we are grateful to finally be here.

We wake up Friday morning feeling tired from days of traveling and head to the practice arena. Even though the arena is freezing, it feels good to be on the ice.

We compete our short program late Saturday night, giving an entertaining performance. Our scores improve from previous competitions, and we place fourth with roughly 51 points, while the Haydenettes are first with 56 points.

Later, we find out that the scores were not added correctly. The scores are eventually adjusted, which changes the placement of a few teams. We stay in the same position, but we now have 56 points.

Our free skate starts around 7 p.m. on Sunday. Everyone is anxious to see how the crowd will react to our Hawaiian-themed program. Gratefully, the audience loves it. We end up with roughly 107 points, which, at the time put us in second place, with the Haydenettes and the Rockettes still to skate.

After what seems like eternity, our team manager comes running in shouting, "You got third." We are all jumping up and down, screaming and embracing one another. The awards ceremony is surreal; it is such an honor to represent the U.S. on the podium. One of the goals we set for the season was to medal at our international competition, and we did that. The Prague Cup is a success.

*Emily Feltes contributed to this story*

# Synchronized Spotlight

Team Name: National Blades



**Club/Level:** Washington Figure Skating/Juvenile

**Coach:** Teresa Yuengert and Marina Khaltourina

**Team members:** Front row, from left: Briana O'Hanlon, Hope Lehman, Melissa Madison, Hayley Lawrence, Paulina Dam, Danielle Mazer, Stephanie Payne, Christine Tin, Andrea Petak. Back row, from left: Sara Sawyers, Kimberly Shifflett, Erica Campbell, Eliza Kulick, Mercedes Kothe, Vicky Litman, Sam Petrone, Kara Stephan, Maria Barzegar

**Team rituals:** Our team colors are red and blue. Before we go on the ice for competitions or shows, we sing our team song in the locker room. We took the best part of the following three songs to make up our own team song: Lilo and Stitch, Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride and Hawaii VC.

**What makes your club special:** Representing our nation's capital, Washington D.C., where our club members reside.

**Team goals:** We want to have fun, skate our best this season and advance to nationals.

**What's the best part of being on a synchronized team:**

Learning the routines and having a bunch of friends to hang out with while skating. Traveling to competitions is always fun, too. The best part of the traveling is to celebrate in the hotel swimming pool after the competition. Most of the team members have been skating as a team for the last five years. Each year we welcome new members and say goodbye to members who have to move away. We love our coaches.

**What are some of your favorite memories:** We won the pre-juvenile level at the Eastern Championships last season. Our bus broke down at one of our overnight competitions last season and we had to stay for an extra night at the hotel swimming pool. We also love to trade pins with other teams at competitions. Last New Year's Day, we performed our competition routines during the intermission of a hockey game in Washington D.C.. ■



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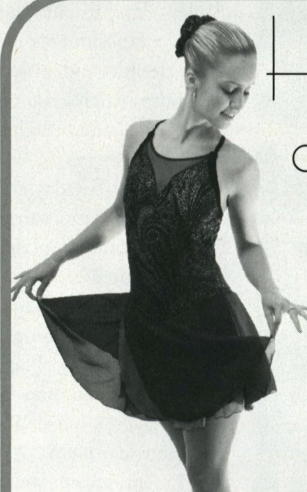
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First Coast SC members Linsey Boivin and Kaelah Scheff flank new coaches Evy Scotvold and Mary Scotvold.

## Scotvolds join First Coast SC

World and Olympic coaches Evy Scotvold and Mary Scotvold have joined The First Coast Skating Club of Jacksonville, Fla.

They are best known for their work with Olympic medalists Paul Wylie, Nancy Kerrigan and Scott Hamilton. The Scotvolds will work in various capacities with Director of Skating Vikki Lampros-Weigel and the

rest of the staff at First Coast.

The Scotvolds started on Feb. 17, when they helped kick off the "New Club Ice Format" with a special clinic.

## 'ICE!' exhibit a big hit in Florida

Winter in Florida usually consists of perfect 80-degree, mostly sunny days...not this year. Orlando received a special treat this winter with the "ICE!" exhibit at the Gaylord Palms Resort.

The exhibit included a winter wonderland of ice creations, hand carved from nearly two million pounds of ice, and the first outdoor public ice skating rink in the state. Skaters from the Glacier Ice and Snow Arena and Florida Gold Coast Figure Skating Club performed at this unique attraction.

Skaters Courtney Biederman, Grace Warren, Kaitlyn Sheehan, Camilla Parra, Rachel Warren, Carmen Garcia, Emily Stevenson, Alyssa Stevenson and Franchesca Chiera performed several shows the opening weekend of the exhibit, Nov. 18-19.

The show, "Holiday Traditions on Ice at ICE!" at Gaylord Palms, was organized and directed by coach Emanuela Marino.

"I just thought this was a great opportunity to

introduce and inspire more people to figure skate here in Florida, as well as a fun, unique and exciting experience for my skaters to perform," Marino said.

Spectators of all ages filled the 60x 80 arena, and after the show, the skaters received a standing ovation and were asked to take photos and skate with their new fans. After the show, the skaters were given a complementary tour of the "ICE" exhibit, which included more than 18,000 total square feet of various ice sculptures kept at a chilling 9 degrees.

The unique structure housing "ICE!" is also known as the "Florida Fridge" and it is believed to be the first of its kind in North America.



Area skaters take part in the 'ICE!' exhibit.

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# 2007 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships

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## CHAMPIONSHIP LADIES

JUDGES-Short Program: 1. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 2. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; 3. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 4. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 5. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 6. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 7. Kitty DeLio, Denver, CO; 8. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 9. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; Referee: Jessica Gaynor, San Francisco, CA; Technical Controller: Steve Winkler, Palm Springs, CA; Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo, Hamburg, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Scott Davis, Calgary, AB

JUDGES-Free Skate: 1. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 2. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; 3. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 4. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 5. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 6. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 7. Kitty DeLio, Denver, CO; 8. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 9. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; Referee: Jessica Gaynor, San Francisco, CA; Technical Controller: Steve Winkler, Palm Springs, CA; Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo, Hamburg, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Scott Davis, Calgary, AB

## NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Kimberly Meissner, 1-3-181.68
2. Emily Hughes, 3-2-180.86
3. Alissa Cizny, 5-1-177.74
4. Beatrice Liang, 2-4-167.15
5. Rachael Platt, 6-5-159.75
6. Danielle Kahle, 10-6-143.82
7. Juliana Cannarozzo, 9-7-143.66
8. Katy Taylor, 4-12-139.78
9. Michelle Boulos, 11-8-139.75
10. Christine Zukowski, 7-15-131.06
11. Megan Oster, 12-9-130.98
12. Melissa Bulanagui, 8-14-130.42
13. Megan Williams-Stewart, 17-10-128.14
14. Taylor Firth, 19-11-125.09
15. Kylie Gleason, 15-13-123.94
16. Erin Reed, 14-18-120.98
17. Margaret Wang, 16-17-120.65
18. Becky Hughes, 13-20-119.41
19. Megan Hyatt, 20-16-119.09
20. Angie Lien, 18-21-115.44
21. Ambar Kaiser, 21-19-112.29

## CHAMPIONSHIP MEN

JUDGES-Short Program: 1. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 2. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; 3. Joyce Burden, San Carlos, CA; 4. Ann Greenthal, New York, NY; 5. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; 6. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 7. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; 8. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; 8. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; Referee: Todd Bromley, Carrollton, TX; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger, Wauwatosa, WI; Technical Specialist: Scott Davis, Calgary, AB; Assistant Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA

JUDGES-Free Skate: 1. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 2. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; 3. Joyce Burden, San Carlos, CA; 4. Ann Greenthal, New York, NY; 5. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; 6. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 7. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; 8. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; 9. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; Referee: Todd Bromley, Carrollton, TX; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger, Wauwatosa, WI; Technical Specialist: Scott Davis, Calgary, AB; Assistant Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA

## NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Evan Lysacek, 1-1-248.88

2. Ryan Bradley, 3-2-219.21
3. Johnny Weir, 2-4-213.20
4. Jeremy Abbott, 9-3-200.95
5. Scott Smith, 7-6-196.59
6. Derrick Delmore, 11-5-195.09
7. Parker Pennington, 4-8-192.79
8. Shaun Rogers, 5-9-190.15
9. Stephen Carriere, 10-7-189.04
10. Braden Overett, 8-10-188.47
11. Nicholas LaRoche, 6-12-179.27
12. Jordan Miller, 13-11-171.17
13. Dennis Phan, 12-13-169.59
14. Tommy Steenberg, 16-14-158.83
15. Daisuke Murakami, 17-15-157.17
16. Craig Ratterree, 14-17-151.69
17. Geoffrey Varner, 18-16-158.85

## CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

JUDGES-Short Program: 1. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; 2. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; 3. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 4. Roger Glenn, Appleton, WI; 5. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 6. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; 7. Kitty DeLio, Denver, CO; 8. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 9. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; Referee: Anne Cammett, Rush, NY; Technical Controller: Deveny Deck, Reston, VA; Technical Specialist: David Kirby, Dallas, TX; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kenneth Shelley, New York, NY

JUDGES-Free Skate: 1. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; 2. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; 3. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 4. Roger Glenn, Appleton, WI; 5. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 6. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; 7. Kitty DeLio, Denver, CO; 8. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 9. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; Referee: Anne Cammett, Rush, NY; Technical Controller: Deveny Deck, Reston, VA; Technical Specialist: David Kirby, Dallas, TX; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kenneth Shelley, New York, NY

## NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Brooke Castile/Benjamin Okolski, 3-1-178.40
2. Rena Inoue/John Baldwin, 1-2-178.15
3. Naomi Nari Nam/Themi Lefthris, 2-3-168.49
4. Amanda Evara/Mark Ladwig, 6-4-158.66
5. Tiffany Vise/Derek Trent, 4-6-155.46
6. Kendra Moyle/Andy Seitz, 5-9-148.70
7. Julia Vlassov/Drew Meekins, 9-5-147.93
8. Rhea Sy/Cole Davis, 8-7-147.10
9. Bridget Namiotka/John Coughlin, 7-8-146.88
10. Chloe Katz/Joseph Lynch, 10-10-133.68
11. MeeRan Trombley/Laureano Ibarra, 12-11-130.74
12. Marisa Sharma/Ethan Burgess, 11-13-126.52
13. Katie Beriau/Alexander Merritt, 15-12-119.20
14. Stephanie Kuban/Steven Pottenger, 13-14-114.54
15. Shantel Jordan/Steven Elefante, 14-15-110.48
16. Amber Wehrle/Nicholas Kole, 16-16-99.07

## CHAMPIONSHIP DANCE

JUDGES-Compulsory Dance: 1. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; 2. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 3. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 4. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 5. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 6. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 7. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 8. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 9. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

JUDGES-Original Dance: 1. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; 2. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 3. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 4. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 5. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 6. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 7. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 8. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 9. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

JUDGES-Free Dance: 1. Diana Wisner, Wilmington,

DE; 2. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 3. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 4. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 5. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 6. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 7. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 8. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 9. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

## NAME, PLACES CD-OD-FD-Points

1. Tanith Belbin/Benjamin Agosto, 1-1-1-202.88
2. Melissa Gregory/Denis Petukhov, 3-2-2-187.64
3. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 2-4-3-184.11
4. Kim Navarro/Brent Bonmentre, 4-3-4-175.68
5. Morgan Matthews/Maxim Zavozin, 5-5-5-160.92
6. Jennifer Wester/Daniil Barantsev, 6-6-7-153.34
7. Caitlin Mallory/Brent Holdburg, 7-7-6-151.76
8. Charlotte Maxwell/Nick Traxler, 10-8-8-147.03
9. Elizabeth Miosi/Dmitry Ponomarev, 9-9-9-141.39
10. Mimi Whetstone/Chris Obzansky, 8-10-10-138.46
11. Kate Slattery/C.G. Lee, 11-11-11-134.14
12. Isabel Elliman/Dmitriy Serebrenik, 12-12-12-123.81

## JUNIOR LADIES

JUDGES-Short Program: 1. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; 2. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 3. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; 4. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 5. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 6. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 7. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; 8. Kitty DeLio, Denver, CO; 9. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; Referee: Anne Cammett, Rush, NY; Technical Controller: Steve Winkler, Palm Springs, CA; Technical Specialist: William Schneider, Lone Tree, CO; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo, Hamburg, NY

JUDGES-Free Skate: 1. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; 2. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 3. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; 4. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 5. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 6. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 7. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; 8. Kitty DeLio, Denver, CO; 9. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; Referee: Anne Cammett, Rush, NY; Technical Controller: Steve Winkler, Palm Springs, CA; Technical Specialist: William Schneider, Lone Tree, CO; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo, Hamburg, NY

## NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Mirai Nagasu, 1-1-155.46
2. Caroline Zhang, 2-2-151.88
3. Ashley Wagner, 4-3-145.86
4. Blake Rosenthal, 3-8-130.99
5. Alexe Gilles, 6-5-129.37
6. Chrissy Hughes, 8-4-129.21
7. Sherry Barnes, 9-7-124.37
8. Victoria Rackohn, 7-9-122.79
9. Kirsten Olson, 14-6-120.96
10. Michaelae Scaricino, 5-11-118.53
11. Chaochih Liu, 13-10-114.00
12. Brittney Rizo, 11-12-111.54
13. Brittney Westdorp, 10-13-103.67
14. Kelcie Lee, 12-14-97.50

## JUNIOR MEN

JUDGES-Short Program: 1. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 2. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; 3. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 4. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; 5. Joyce Burden, San Carlos, CA; 6. Ann Greenthal, New York, NY; 7. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 8. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 9. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; Referee: Todd Bromley, Carrollton, TX; Technical Controller: Jan Serafine, Lake Forest, IL; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Aren Nielsen, Duluth, GA

JUDGES-Free Skate: 1. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 2. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; 3. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 4. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; 5. Joyce Burden, San Carlos, CA; 6. Ann Greenthal, New York, NY; 7. Jaclyn Ward,

Brooklyn, NY; 8. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 9. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; Referee: Todd Bromley, Carrollton, TX; Technical Controller: Jan Serafine, Lake Forest, IL; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Aren Nielsen, Duluth, GA

## NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Eliot Halverson, 1-2-187.79
2. Brandon Mroz, 2-3-178.56
3. Austin Kanallakan, 6-1-177.94
4. Curran Oi, 4-5-170.50
5. Douglas Razzano, 3-6-168.26
6. Adam Rippon, 7-7-158.50
7. Princeton Kwong, 5-8-157.97
8. Richard Dornbush, 13-4-156.72
9. Jonathan Cassar, 9-9-150.83
10. Daniel Raad, 8-10-147.72
11. Andrew Gonzales, 10-12-141.59
12. Grant Hochstein, 11-11-140.51
13. William Brewster, 14-13-132.75
14. Q. Kelvin Vu, 12-14-129.03
15. Schuyler Eldridge, 15-15-114.83

## JUNIOR PAIRS

JUDGES-Short Program: 1. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 2. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 3. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 4. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; 5. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; 6. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 7. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 8. Roger Glenn, Appleton, WI; 9. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; Referee: Samuel Auxier, Glen Ellyn, IL; Technical Controller: Steve Winkler, Palm Springs, CA; Technical Specialist: Kenneth Shelley, New York, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Steven Moore, Hartford, CT

JUDGES-Free Skate: 1. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 2. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 3. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 4. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; 5. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; 6. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 7. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 8. Roger Glenn, Appleton, WI; 9. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; Referee: Samuel Auxier, Glen Ellyn, IL; Technical Controller: Steve Winkler, Palm Springs, CA; Technical Specialist: Kenneth Shelley, New York, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Steven Moore, Hartford, CT

## NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker, 1-1-162.23
2. Bianca Butler/Joseph Jacobsen, 2-2-146.83
3. Jessica Rose Paetsch/Jon Nuss, 3-4-143.27
4. Kaela Pflumm/Christopher Pottenger, 4-3-143.07
5. Andrea Best/Trevor Young, 5-5-134.86
6. Meg Byrne/Nathan Bartholomay, 6-7-129.19
7. Lisa Moore/Justin Gaumond, 8-6-125.05
8. Chelsi Guillen/Danny Curzon, 7-8-122.25
9. Janyce Okamoto/Ryan Berning, 9-9-107.41
10. Ashlee Brown/Nathan Miller, 12-10-101.62
11. Kelsey Syme/John Pfoh, 10-11-100.47
12. Lara Shelton/Neill Shelton, 11-13-97.54
13. Claire Davis/Brendyn Hatfield, 13-12-94.51

## JUNIOR DANCE

JUDGES-CD1: 1. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 2. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 3. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 4. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 5. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 6. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 7. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 8. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 9. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; Referee: Jenny Mast, Blue Bell, PA; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

JUDGES-CD2: 1. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 2. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 3. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 4. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 5. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 6. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 7. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 8. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 9. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; Referee: Jenny Mast, Blue Bell, PA; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent

Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

**JUDGES-Original Dance:** 1. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 2. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 3. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 4. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 5. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 6. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 7. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 8. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 9. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; Referee: Jenny Mast, Blue Bell, PA; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

**JUDGES-Free Dance:** 1. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 2. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 3. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 4. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; 5. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 6. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 7. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 8. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 8. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; Referee: Jenny Mast, Blue Bell, PA; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: April Sargent Silverstein, Penn Valley, PA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY

#### NAME, PLACES D1-D2-OD-FD-Points

1. Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates, 1-1-2-1-167.65
2. Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell, 2-2-1-2-167.48
3. Lynn Kriengkairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, 7-6-3-1-142.92
4. Piper Gilles/Timothy McKernan, 4-5-4-3-142.77
5. Shannon Wingle/Ryan Devereaux, 5-3-5-5-142.38
6. Pilar Bosley/John Corona, 3-4-7-7-138.38
7. Brooke Huber/Karl Edelmann, 6-7-6-6-137.93
8. Samantha Tomarchio/Nicholas Sinchak, 8-8-8-9-131.50
9. Brienne Oswald/Buckley Withrow, 9-9-10-8-122.72
10. Clare Farrell/Charles Fishpaw, 10-11-11-11-116.54
11. Lindsay Cohen/Evan Roberts, 11-12-13-10-114.39
12. Jessica Perino/William Avila, 13-10-9-14-109.70
13. Rachel Siegel/Kevin Miller, 14-14-12-13-107.30
14. Amanda Loyd/Ashley Deavers, 12-13-14-12-105.16

#### NOVICE LADIES

**JUDGES-Short Program:** 1. Roger Glenn, Appleton, WI; 2. Ann Greenthal, New York, NY; 3. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; 4. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; 5. Joyce Burden, San Carlos, CA; 6. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 7. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 8. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 9. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; Referee: Todd Bromley, Carrollton, TX; Technical Controller: Jan Serafine, Lake Forest, IL; Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan, Oak Park, IL; Assistant Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA

**JUDGES-Free Skate:** 1. Roger Glenn, Appleton, WI; 2. Ann Greenthal, New York, NY; 3. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; 4. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; 5. Joyce Burden, San Carlos, CA; 6. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 7. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 8. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 9. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; Referee: Todd Bromley, Carrollton, TX; Technical Controller: Jan Serafine, Lake Forest, IL; Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan, Oak Park, IL; Assistant Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA

#### NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Angela Maxwell, 2-2-131.65
2. Kristine Musademba, 5-1-129.25
3. Carolyn-Ann Alba, 1-4-124.75
4. Deedee Leng, 9-3-124.51
5. Ellie Kawamura, 3-5-115.65
6. Caroline Ferris, 4-6-115.39
7. Ksenia Makarova, 7-7-112.59
8. Victoria Hecht, 8-8-109.07
9. Danielle Seitz, 6-9-104.54
10. Emily Young, 10-10-95.59
11. Molly Aaron, 11-11-94.70
12. Masha Leonov, 12-12-86.95

#### NOVICE MEN

**JUDGES-Short Program:** 1. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 2. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 3. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 4. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; 5. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 6. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 7. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; 8. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; 9. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger, Wauwatosa, WI; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan, Oak Park, IL

**JUDGES-Free Skate:** 1. Karen Terry Perreault, New York, NY; 2. Wendy Melland, Kansas City, MO; 3. Dana Graham, Smyrna, GA; 4. Kimberly Heim, Troy, OH; 5. Deborah Hagenauer, Allentown, PA; 6. Linda Chihara, Seattle, WA; 7. Kirsten Novak, Salt Lake City, UT; 8. Sharon Watson, Los Angeles, CA; 9. Dorothy Jamison, Hancock, MI; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger, Wauwatosa, WI; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner, Discovery Bay, CA; Assistant Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan, Oak Park, IL

#### NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Armin Mahbanoozadeh, 1-2-138.77
2. Alexander Johnson, 3-3-135.90
3. Keegan Messing, 7-1-135.01
4. Scott Dyer, 2-4-133.95
5. Max Aaron, 4-5-124.94
6. Alexander Zahradnick, 6-6-121.72
7. Alexander Aiken, 5-7-120.50
8. Daniel O'Shea, 10-8-110.98
9. Victor Travis, 8-10-110.45
10. Jon Felder, 11-9-105.34
11. Will Michael, 9-12-94.90
12. Grisha Fournier, 12-11-93.04

#### NOVICE PAIRS

**JUDGES-Short Program:** 1. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; 2. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; 3. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 4. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; 5. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 6. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; 7. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 8. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 9. Kitty DeLo, Denver, CO; Referee: Samuel Auxier, Glen Ellyn, IL; Technical Controller: Deveny Deck, Reston, VA; Technical Specialist: Steven Moore, Hartford, CT; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kenneth Shelley, New York, NY

**JUDGES-Free Skate:** 1. Doug Williams, Los Angeles, CA; 2. Melissa Kent, Bend, OR; 3. Susan Johnson, Atlanta, GA; 4. Joyce Komperda, Menomonee Falls, WI; 5. Jaclyn Ward, Brooklyn, NY; 6. Dann Krueger, Minneapolis, MN; 7. Dawn Eyerly, Los Angeles, CA; 8. Taffy Holliday, Greenwich, CT; 9. Kitty DeLo, Denver, CO; Referee: Samuel Auxier, Glen Ellyn, IL; Technical Controller: Deveny Deck, Reston, VA; Technical Specialist: Steven Moore, Hartford, CT; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kenneth Shelley, New York, NY

#### NAME, PLACES SP-FS-Points

1. Tracy Tanovich/Michael Chau, 1-1-128.76
2. Caitlin Yankowskas/Daniyel Cohen, 4-2-117.02
3. Jaylyn Kelly/Gabe Woodruff, 2-3-116.96
4. Brynn Carman/Christopher Knierim, 8-4-125.25
5. Amanda Luchau/Andrew Speroif, 6-5-109.80
6. Emily Glassberg/Kurt Weiss, 7-6-107.14
7. Minna Lee/Taylor Toth, 3-9-106.20
8. Tiffany Nahm/Christopher Nahm, 5-10-103.48
9. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapp, 9-7-101.15
10. Kloe Bautista/Galvani Hopson, 10-8-98.93
11. Tori Vollmer/David Sparks, 11-11-81.11
12. Madeline Heritage/Casey Sullivan, 12-12-65.18

#### NOVICE DANCE

**JUDGES-CD1:** 1. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 2. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; 3. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 4. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 5. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 6. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 7. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 8. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 9. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Mathew Gates, Middletown, CT

**JUDGES-CD2:** 1. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 2. Diana

Wisner, Wilmington, DE; 3. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 4. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 5. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 6. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 7. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 8. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 9. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Mathew Gates, Middletown, CT

**JUDGES-Free Dance:** 1. Janis Engel, Valencia, CA; 2. Diana Wisner, Wilmington, DE; 3. Patricia Smith, Highland Park, IL; 4. Holly Cole, Hunt Valley, MD; 5. Kanae Tagawa, Los Altos, CA; 6. Eric Hampton, Marquette, MI; 7. Sam Singer, San Francisco, CA; 8. John Millier, Atlanta, GA; 9. Carol Wooley, Alvord, TX; Referee: Hal Marron, Phoenix, AZ; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver, Salt Lake City, UT; Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt, New York, NY; Assistant Technical Specialist: Mathew Gates, Middletown, CT

#### NAME, PLACES D1-D2-FD-Points

1. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 2-2-1-108.42
2. Sara Bailey/Kyle Herring, 1-1-2-106.36
3. Anastasia Cannuscio/Dean Copely, 3-3-4-101.40
4. Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello, 5-4-3-100.78
5. Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein, 7-5-5-96.44
6. Megan Evans/Nathan Truesdell, 6-8-10-89.53
7. Chloe Wolf/Rhys Ainsworth, 8-9-6-88.80
8. Genevieve Deutch/Alexander Lorello, 9-7-8-85.34
9. Elyse Matsumoto/Andrew Skillington, 4-6-12-85.93
10. Michaela Cook/Jordan Cowan, 10-10-9-85.49
11. Anastasia Olson/Patrick Mays, 11-12-7-85.16
12. Michelle Pennington/Cooper Johnston, 12-11-11-79.12

## 2007 Four Continents Championships

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.  
FEB. 7-10

#### LADIES

##### NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Kimmie Meissner, USA, 52.49-120.26-172.75
2. Emily Hughes, USA, 55.34-111.26-166.60
3. Joannie Rochette, CAN, 56.60-109.30-165.90
4. Aki Sawada, JPN, 55.13-101.75-156.88
5. Alissa Czisny, USA, 54.64-99.39-154.03
6. Yoshie Onda, JPN, 49.38-103.23-152.61
7. Lesley Hawker, CAN, 41.06-97.17-138.23
8. Binsu Xu, CHN, 46.82-86.27-133.09
9. Yan Liu, CHN, 53.34-73.35-126.69
10. Dan Fang, CHN, 48.56-76.64-125.20
11. Yea-Ji Shin, KOR, 43.21-81.23-123.44
12. Anastasia Gimazetdinova, UZB, 46.15-77.24-123.39
13. Na-Young Kim, KOR, 43.28-79.00-122.28
14. Chae-Hwa Kim, KOR, 46.96-74.15-121.11
15. Cynthia Phaneuf, CAN, 42.14-77.87-120.01
16. Joanne Carter, AUS, 38.35-70.05-108.40
17. Ana Cecilia Cantu, MEX, 39.19-61.45-100.64
18. Emilly Naphtal, MEX, 31.66-64.60-96.26
19. Jocelyn Ho, TPE, 33.11-62.45-95.56
20. Ami Parekh, IND, 30.40-64.16-94.56
21. Phoebe Di Tommaso, AUS, 34.05-58.87-92.92
22. Michele Cantu, MEX, 29.66-60.97-90.63
23. Abigail Pietersen, RSA, 25.21-49.09-74.30

WD Fumie SUGURI, JPN,

25. Kristine Y. Lee, HKG, FNR

26. Stephanie GARDNER, BRA, FNR

Referee: Ms. Junko Hiramatsu, ISU; Technical Controller: Mr. Steve Winkler, ISU; Technical Specialist: Mr. Vladimir Petrenko, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Mr. Fernand Fedronic, ISU; Judge No.1: Ms. Deborah Noyes, ISU; Judge No.2: Ms. Margaret Worsfold, ISU; Judge No.3: Ms. Masako Kubota, ISU; Judge No.4: Ms. Breda Marinsek, ISU; Judge No.5: Mr. Osman Sirvan, ISU; Judge No.6: Ms. Guangying Qin, ISU; Judge No.7: Mr. Florin Gafencu, ISU; Judge No.8: Mr. George Dimkov, ISU; Judge No.9:

Ms. Tamie K. Campbell, ISU; Judge No.10: Mr. Evgeni Rokhin, ISU; Judge No.11: Ms. Sally Rehorick, ISU.

#### MEN

##### NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Evan Lysacek, USA, 67.04-159.23-226.27
2. Jeffrey Buttle, CAN, 77.72-146.24-223.96
3. Jeremy Abbott, USA, 74.34-128.88-203.22
4. Ryan Bradley, USA, 68.83-127.46-196.29
5. Christopher Mabee, CAN, 58.58-129.83-188.41
6. Jialiang Wu, CHN, 63.52-121.17-184.69
7. Noriaki Kanazaki, JPN, 62.34-119.24-181.58
8. Kensuke Nakaniwa, JPN, 55.34-121.69-177.03
9. Emanuel Sandhu, CAN, 64.98-108.69-173.67
10. Ming Xu, CHN, 55.00-112.71-167.71
11. Zhixue Yang, CHN, 52.98-101.59-154.57
12. Yasuharu Nanri, JPN, 54.16-98.95-153.11
13. Sean Carroll, AUS, 42.69-84.39-127.08
14. Joel Watson, NZL, 40.56-71.48-112.04
15. Tristan Thode, NZL, 39.10-67.51-106.61
16. Nicholas Fernandez, AUS, 39.07-64.36-103.43
17. Luis Hernandez, MEX, 34.76-66.59-101.35
18. Mathieu Wilson, NZL, 28.44-66.15-94.59
19. Justin Pietersen, RSA, 34.89-59.23-94.12
20. Dean Timmins, AUS, 31.56-62.18-93.74
21. Adrian Alvarado, MEX, 35.44-55.82-91.26

Referee: Mr. William S. Smith, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Rita Zonnekeyn, ISU; Technical Specialist: Mr. Shin Amano, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Ms. Yuzana Zackova, ISU; Judge No.1: Ms. Tomiko Yamada, ISU; Judge No.2: Ms. Leena Kurri, ISU; Judge No.3: Ms. Kveta Matejova, ISU; Judge No.4: Ms. Jozica Podbevsek, ISU; Judge No.5: Mr. Gunther Teichmann, ISU; Judge No.6: Ms. Raffaella Locatelli, ISU; Judge No.7: Mr. Yumin Yang, ISU; Judge No.8: Mr. Alexander Penchev, ISU; Judge No.9: Ms. Anne Cammett, ISU; Judge No.10: Ms. Beth Crane, ISU; Judge No.11: Ms. Catherine L. Taylor, ISU; Judge No.12: Ms. Karin Ehrhardt, ISU.

#### PAIRS

##### NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Xue Shen/Hongbo Zhao, CHN, 69.29-133.76-203.05
  2. Qing Pang/Jian Tong, CHN, 65.80-119.53-185.33
  3. Rena Inoue/John Baldwin, USA, 61.73-113.75-175.48
  4. Valerie Marcoux/Craig Buntin, CAN, 60.43-102.36-162.79
  5. Brooke Castile/Benjamin Okolski, USA, 55.12-104.92-160.04
  6. Naomi Nari Nam/Themi Leftheris, USA, 56.08-97.31-153.39
  7. Anabelle Langlois/Cody Hay, CAN, 56.15-96.11-152.26
  8. Marina Aganina/Artem Knyazev, UZB, 36.08-65.33-101.41
- WD Jessica Dube/Bryce Davison, CAN
- Referee: Mr. Jiazheng Yang, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Karen Archer, ISU; Technical Specialist: Mr. Todd Sand, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Mr. Peter Cain, ISU; Judge No.1: Ms. Christiane Muth, ISU; Judge No.2: Ms. Tamie K. Campbell, ISU; Judge No.3: Ms. Hanna Then, ISU; Judge No.4: Ms. Jozica Podbevsek, ISU; Judge No.5: Mr. Francis Betsch, ISU; Judge No.6: Ms. Guangying Qin, ISU; Judge No.7: Ms. Sally Rehorick, ISU; Judge No.8: Ms. Masako Kubota, ISU; Judge No.9: Mr. Evgeni Rokhin, ISU; Judge No.10: Mr. Florin Gafencu, ISU; Judge No.11: Ms. Diana Stevens, ISU; Judge No.12: Ms. Susan Lynch, ISU.

#### ICE DANCING

##### NAME, COUNTRY, CD-OD-FD-TS

1. Marie-France Dubreuil/Patrice Lauzon, CAN, 38.58-59.32-100.73-198.59
2. Tanith Belbin/Benjamin Agosto, USA, 37.72-60.45-98.81-196.98
3. Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, CAN, 33.41-57.49-93.99-184.89
4. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, USA, 33.68-54.66-91.35-179.69
5. Kimberly Navarro/Brent Bommembre, USA, 29.37-48.44-80.01-157.82
6. Lauren Senft/Leif Gislason, CAN, 29.70-46.34-73.35-149.39

7. Cathy Reed/Chris Reed, JPN, 27.42-40.88-75.87-144.17
  8. Xintong Huang/Xun Zheng, CHN, 24.61-41.71-70.75-137.07
  9. Xiaoyang Yu/Chen Wang, CHN, 22.47-41.56-67.25-131.28
  10. Olga Akimova/Alexander Shakalov, UZB, 22.91-37.44-66.36-126.71
  11. Laura Munana/Luke Munana, MEX, 21.07-36.35-58.04-115.46
  12. Maria Borounov/Evgeni Borounov, AUS, 12.95-24.15-46.42-83.52
- Referee: Ms. Ludmila Mikhailovskaya, ISU; Technical Controller: Mr. Robert J. Horen, ISU; Technical Specialist: Ms. Marie Bowness, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Ms. Katerina Mrazova, ISU; Judge No.1: Ms. Mayumi Kato, ISU; Judge No.2: Mr. Peeter Laur, ISU; Judge No.3: Ms. Leslie Keen, ISU; Judge No.4: Mr. Yury Kliushnikov, ISU; Judge No.5: Ms. Malgorzata Sobkow, ISU; Judge No.6: Ms. Verena Diener, ISU; Judge No.7: Mr. John Millier, ISU; Judge No.8: Mr. Mark Storton, ISU; Judge No.9: Ms. Elena Buriak, ISU; Judge No.10: Ms. Ubavka Novakovic-Kutinou, ISU; Judge No.11: Ms. Hilary Selby, ISU.

## 2007 Eastern Synchronized Skating Championships

**WARWICK FIGURE SKATERS  
PROVIDENCE, RI.  
JAN. 25-27**

### JUNIOR

Judges-Short Program: 1 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 2 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 3 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; 4 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 5 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 6 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; Referee: Susan Haugh, Livonia, MI; Assist Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge, Troy, MI; Assist Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado, Battle Ground, WA

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 2 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 3 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 4 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 5 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 6 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; Referee: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; Assist Referee: Susan Haugh, Livonia, MI; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge, Troy, MI; Assist Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado, Battle Ground, WA

### Team, Club Name, Points

1. Lexettes, Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, 50.35
2. Skyliners, SC of New York, 49.24
3. Team Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 40.18
4. Team Boston, SC of Boston, 36.83
5. Tour de Force, US Figure Skating, 32.89
6. Team Millennium, New England FSC, 29.93

### NOVICE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 2 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 3 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 4 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; 5 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 6 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; Assist Referee: Susan Haugh, Livonia, MI; Technical Controller: Colette Nygren, Sudbury, MA; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller, Dearborn, MI; Assist Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci, North Kingstown, RI

### Team, Club Name, Points

1. Ice Mates, Hayden Rec Centre FSC, 54.61
2. Skyliners, SC of New York, 45.81
3. Team Boston, SC of Boston, 34.88

### INTERMEDIATE

Judges: Free-Skate: 1 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 2 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY;

3 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; 4 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 5 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 6 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; Referee: Leonard Colarusso, Quincy, MA; Assist Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado, Battle Ground, WA; Assist Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge, Troy, MI

### Team, Club Name, Points

1. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 44.79
2. Team Reflections, Twin Ponds FSC, 39.00
3. Team Image, Yonkers FSC, 36.75
4. Precisely Right, SC of Morris, 35.32
5. Carolina Ice Sensations, Central Carolina SC, 32.61
6. Superettes, Warwick Figure Skaters, 31.98
7. The Sharper Edge, Great Bay FSC, 30.84
8. Clinton Silver Blades, Clinton FSC, 27.97
9. Steel City Blades, Pittsburgh FSC, 23.62

### JUVENILE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 2 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 3 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 4 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 5 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; 6 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; 7 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; Referee: Susan Haugh, Livonia, NY; Assist Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI

### Team, Club Name, Majority

1. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 4/1
2. Synchroettes, Essex SC, 4/3 (TOM 8)
3. Ice Cubes, Babson SC, 4/3 (TOM 21)
4. Team Image, Springdale FSC, 4/3 (TOM 25)
5. Skyliners, Windy Hill SC, 4/4
6. Team Esprit, Hamden FSA, 7/6
7. Team Millennium, New England FSC, 4/7
8. National Blades, Washington FSC, 6/8
9. Steel City Blades, Pittsburgh FSC, 7/9

### PRELIMINARY

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 2 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; 3 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; 4 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 5 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 6 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 7 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; Assist Referee: Leonard Colarusso, Quincy, MA

### Team, Club Name, Majority

1. Team Image, Yonkers FSC, 4/2 (T016)
2. Synchroettes, Essex SC, 4/2 (T0 18)
3. Skyliners, Windy Hills SC, 5/3
4. Ice Angels, St. Lawrence FSC, 4/4
5. Precisely Right, SC of Morris, 4/5
6. The Storm, North Shore SC, 4/6
7. Team Carolinas, Carolinas FSC, 4/7 (T0 48)
8. Sparklers, Frederick FSC, 4/7 (T0 49)
9. Metroliners, Bowie FSC, 4/9
10. Team Delaware Dazzle, Univ of Delaware FC, 7/10

### COLLEGIATE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 2 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 3 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 4 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; 5 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 6 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; Referee: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; Assist Referee: Leonard Colarusso, Quincy, MA; Technical Controller: Colette Nygren, Sudbury, MA; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci, North Kingstown, RI; Assist Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller, Dearborn, MI

### Team, Club Name, Points

1. Univ of Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 94.59
2. Boston College, Boston College, 79.96
3. Univ of New Hampshire, Univ of New Hampshire, 71.44
4. Boston Univ. Terrierettes, Boston Univ. 63.19
5. MassachusETTES, Univ of Mass Amherst, 62.79
6. Cornell Univ SST, Cornell Univ. 47.86
7. Syracuse Univ Orange Express, Syracuse Univ, 47.09

### ADULT

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 2 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 3 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 4 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 5 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 6 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; Referee: Leonard Colarusso, Quincy, MA; Assist Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; Technical Controller: Ann Fau-

ver, Kennebunk, MA; Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado, Battle Ground, WA; Assist Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge, Troy, MI

### Team, Club Name, Points

1. Esprit de Corps, Hayden Rec Centre FSC, 48.11
2. Team Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 34.42
3. Philly Spirit, Philadelphia SC & HS, 22.75

### MASTERS

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 2 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 3 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 4 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; 5 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 6 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 7 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; Referee: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; Assist Referee: Susan Haugh, Livonia, MI

### Team, Club Name, Majority

1. Ice Force One, Washington FSC, 4/1
2. Esprit de Corps, Hayden Rec Centre FSC, 4/2
3. Team Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 6/3
4. Ice Magic, Hickory Hill FSC, 5/4
5. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 7/5

### OPEN JUNIOR

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; 2 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 3 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 4 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; 5 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; 6 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; Referee: Leonard Colarusso, Quincy, MA; Assist Referee: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; Technical Controller: Colette Nygren, Sudbury, MA; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller, Dearborn, MI; Assist Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci, North Kingstown, RI

### Team, Club Name, Points

1. Capitol Steps, SC of Northern Virginia, 49.29
2. The Starletts of Lower Cape, Lower Cape FSC, 46.70
3. Ice Magic, Hickory Hill FSC, 45.23
4. Saratoga Stars, Saratoga Springs FSC, 42.16
5. The Genesee Express, Genesee FSC, 41.29
6. National Blades, Washington FSC, 33.70
7. Clinton Silverettes, Clinton FSC, 28.16

### PRE-JUVENILE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 2 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 3 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 4 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 5 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 6 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 7 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; REFERENCE: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; ACCOUNTANT: Ann Morton Neale, Farmville, VA

### Name, Club Name, Majority

1. Precisely Right, SC of Morris, 4/1
2. Ice-lantics, Garden State SC, 6/2
3. Team Esprit, Hamden FSA, 4/4
4. Cutting Edge, Camillus FSC, 4/4
5. Saratoga Springs Starlettes, Saratoga Springs FSC, 4/6
6. Shimmers, SC of Southern Connecticut, 4/6
7. Saint Sensations, St. Lawrence FSC, 6/7
8. Carolina Ice Sensations, Central Carolina SC, 4/7
9. Capitol Steps, SC of Northern Virginia, 5/8
10. Bluewater Blades, Skaneateles FSC, 4/10
11. Ashburn Ice Angels, Washington FSC, 4/10
12. Ice Magic, Hickory Hill FSC, 4/11

### PRE-JUVENILE GROUP A

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 2 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 3 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 4 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; 5 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 6 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 7 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; REFERENCE: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; ACCOUNTANT: Deborah Neiman, Stamford, CT

### Name, Club Name, Majority

1. Precisely Right, SC of Morris, 4/1
2. Cutting Edge, Camillus FSC, 5/2
3. Team Esprit, Hamden FSA, 4/2
4. Bluewater Blades, Skaneateles FSC, 4/5
5. Capitol Steps, SC of Northern Virginia, 6/6
6. Ice Magic, Hickory Hill FSC, 4/6
7. Philadelphia Symmetry, Wissahickon SC, 4/6
8. Spitfires, Springdale FSC, 4/7
9. Snowflakes, Warwick Figure Skaters, 6/9
10. WV Synchro Too, Charleston FSC, 7/10

### PRE-JUVENILE GROUP B

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Elizabeth Friedman, New

York, NY; 2 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 3 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 4 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 5 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 6 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 7 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; REFERENCE: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; ACCOUNTANT: Ann Morton Neale, Farmville, VA

### Name, Club Name, Majority

1. Ice-lantics, Garden State SC, 6/1
2. Shimmers, SC of Southern Connecticut, 5/3
3. Saint Sensations, St. Lawrence FSC, 5/4
4. Carolina Ice Sensations, Central Carolina SC, 4/4
5. Saratoga Springs Starlettes, Saratoga Springs FSC, 4/5
6. Ashburn Ice Angels, Washington FSC, 5/6
7. Team Boston, SC of Boston, 4/6
8. The Sharper Edge, Great Bay FSC, 5/8
9. Island Waves, Nantucket SC, 6/9
10. Richmond Twizzlers, Richmond FSC, 4/9
11. Clinton Silver Stars, Clinton FSC, 7/11

### OPEN JUVENILE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 2 Elizabeth Harty, St. Paul, MN; 3 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 4 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 5 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; 6 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 7 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; Referee: Susan Haugh, Livonia, NY

### Name, Club Name, Majority

1. Team Esprit, Hamden FSA, 6/2
2. Bluewater Blades, Skaneateles FSC, 4/4
3. Ice Illusions, Ogdensburg FSC, 7/3
4. Rainbow Connection, Potsdam FSC, 4/4
5. Munchkins, Warwick Figure Skaters, 6/3
6. Lady Ducks, SC of Wilmington, 5/2
7. Wallace Synergy, Wallace FSC, 5/5
8. WV Synchro, Charleston FSC, 4/5
9. Shadows, SC of Southern Connecticut, 7/2
10. The Storm, North Shore SC, 6/6
11. Cutting Edge, Camillus FSC, 4/6
12. Philadelphia Symmetry, Wissahickon SC, 4/5

### OPEN JUVENILE GROUP A

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; 2 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 3 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 4 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 5 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 6 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 7 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; REFERENCE: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; ACCOUNTANT: Michael Kudravetz, Gardner, MA

### Name, Club Name, Majority

1. Shadows, SC of Southern Connecticut, 7/2
2. Lady Ducks, SC of Wilmington, 5/2
3. Ice Illusions, Ogdensburg FSC, 7/3
4. Wallace Synergy, Wallace FSC, 5/5
5. Philadelphia Symmetry, Wissahickon SC, 4/5
6. Cutting Edge, Camillus FSC, 4/6
7. Ashburn Ice Angels, Washington FSC, 4/7
8. Pittsfield Pinwheels, Pittsfield FSC, 6/8
9. Team Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 7/9
- BC Synchronization, BC Winter Club, - withdrew

### OPEN JUVENILE GROUP B

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 2 Jacqueline Addis, Palm Harbor, FL; 3 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 4 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 5 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 6 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY; 7 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; REFERENCE: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; ACCOUNTANT: Deborah Neiman, Stamford, CT

### Name, Club Name, Majority

1. Team Esprit, Hamden FSA, 6/2
2. Munchkins, Warwick Figure Skaters, 6/3
3. Bluewater Blades, Skaneateles FSC, 4/4
4. Rainbow Connection, Potsdam FSC, 4/4
5. WV Synchro, Charleston FSC, 4/5
6. The Storm, North Shore SC, 6/6
7. Spitfires, Springdale FSC, 5/7
8. Metroliners, Bowie FSC, 4/7
9. Chesapeake Sailors Windjammers, US Figure Skating, 4/8
10. Synchroettes, Essex SC, 4/9
11. Richmond Twizzlers, Richmond FSC, 4/9

### OPEN ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 2 Robin Greenleaf, Wayland, MA; 3 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinville, NY; 4 Sara Jayne Stephens, Marietta, GA; 5 Martha Rasmussen, Buffalo, NY;

6 Elizabeth Friedman, New York, NY; 7 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; REFEREE: William Beharrell, Lunenburg, MA; ACCOUNTANT: Ann Morton Neale, Farmville, VA

#### **Name, Club Name, Majority**

1. Team Carolinas, Carolinas FSC, 5/2
2. 2pics, US Figure Skating, 4/2
2. Cutting Edge, Camillus FSC, 4/2
4. Women N Sync, SC of New York, 6/5
5. Free Spirits, Pittsburgh FSC, 5/5
6. The Steel Blades, Penguin FSC, 5/7
7. Team Delaware Dazzle, Univ of Delaware FSC, 5/7
8. Essex Blades, Essex SC, 6/8
9. Carolina Ice Classics, Central Carolina SC, 4/9
10. Frederick Flair, Fredericksburg FSC, 4/10
11. Aged to Perfection, Upper Mountain SA, 7/11

#### **OPEN COLLEGIATE**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Michele Blatt, Brooklyn, NY; 2 Jeanne Matthews, Baldwinsville, NY; 3 Kim Cool, Venice, FL; 4 David Sargent, Lunenburg, MA; 5 Evelyn Minter, Waterbury Center, VT; 6 Marie Pearce, Alpharetta, GA; 7 Shirley Holdsworth, Rindge, NH; REFEREE: Robert Bell, Lincoln, RI; ACCOUNTANT: Deborah Neiman, Stamford, CT

#### **Name, Club Name, Majority**

1. Princeton University SST, Princeton Univ, 6/1
2. Saint Anselm Lady Hawks, St Anselm College, 4/3
3. Bryant University, Warwick Figure Skaters, 4/3
4. Brite Ice, US Figure Skating, 4/4
5. Oswego State Lakers, Oswego State Univ, 5/5
6. Robert Morris Univ SST, Robert Morris Univ, 4/5
7. U-n-syn, US Figure Skating, 4/6
8. Pentagon Inter-Collegiate SST, George Washington Univ, 4/6
9. Connecticut College SST, Connecticut College, 6/9
10. The Liberty Belles, Bryn Mawr/Haverford College, 7/10

## **2007 Midwestern Synchronized Skating Championships**

**THE SKATING COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS**  
**GENEVA, ILL.**  
**JAN. 18-20**

#### **SENIOR**

Judges-Short Program: 1 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 2 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 3 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 4 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 5 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 6 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Technical Controller: Richard Perez, Mountain View, CA; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Branford, CT; Assist Technical Specialist: Karen Wiesmeier, Poway, CA

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 2 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 3 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 4 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 5 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 6 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Technical Controller: Richard Perez, Mountain View, CA; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel, Westfield, IN; Assist Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Branford, CT

#### **Team Name, Club, SP-FS-Points**

1. Western Michigan University, Western Michigan University, 3-1-143.20
2. University of Michigan, University of Michigan, 1-2-141.48
3. Team Elan, Detroit SC, 2-3-137.14

#### **JUNIOR**

Judges-Short Program: 1 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 2 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 3 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 4 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 5 Wayne Hundley,

Riverside, CA; 6 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Assist Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman, Cypress, CA; Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi, Framingham, MA; Assist Technical Specialist: Lauren Benesch, Crofton, MD

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 2 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 3 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 4 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 5 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 6 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Assist Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman, Cypress, CA; Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi, Framingham, MA; Assist Technical Specialist: Lauren Benesch, Crofton, MD

#### **Team Name, Club, SP-FS-Points**

1. Team Braemar, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, 2-1-140.53
2. Hockettes, Ann Arbor FSC, 3-2-135.59
3. Miami University Junior Varsity Team, Miami University, 1-3-135.40
4. Starlights, Skokie Valley SC, 4-4-128.13
5. Gems on Ice, Plymouth FSC, 5-5-94.29
6. Revolution, Northern Illinois FSC, 6-6-80.72

#### **NOVICE**

Panel information not available

#### **Team Name, Club, Points**

1. Starlights, Skokie Valley SC, 59.88
2. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 55.08
3. Crystallettes, Dearborn FSC, 52.74
4. Gems on Ice, Plymouth FSC, 50.43
5. Team Elan, Detroit FSC, 41.94
6. Team Braemar, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, 39.04
7. Hockettes, Ann Arbor FSC, 36.97

#### **INTERMEDIATE**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 2 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 3 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 4 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 5 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 6 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Assist Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman, Cypress, CA; Technical Specialist: Lauren Benesch, Crofton, MD; Assist Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi, Framingham, MA

#### **Team Name, Club, Points**

1. Fond Du Lac Blades, Fond du Lac Blue Line FS, 58.59
2. Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis, 55.48
3. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 49.06
4. Starlights, Skokie Valley FSC, 46.54
5. Chicago Skates, Windy City FSC, 46.19
6. Oxford Ice Crystals, Oxford SC, 44.89
7. Rhythm and Blades, Rochester FSC, 44.66
8. Wisconsin Edge, Wisconsin FSC, 41.87
9. Synchro St. Louis, Metro Edge FSC, 40.13
10. Mentor Ice Diamonds, Mentor FSC, 38.15
11. Fire on Ice, Glenwood FSC, 37.80
12. Team du Coeur, Lakeland SC, 34.58

#### **JUVENILE**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 2 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 3 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 4 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 5 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Accountant: Jim Morris, Dallas, TX

#### **Team Name, Club, Majority**

1. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 7/1
2. Starlights, Skokie Valley FSC, 5/2
3. Crystallettes, Dearborn FSC, 6/3
4. Gems on Ice, Plymouth FSC, 4/4
5. Team Elan, Detroit FSC, 6/5
6. First Mates, Lake Minnetonka FSC, 6/6
7. Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis, 6/7
8. Rhythm and Blades, Rochester FSC, 7/8

#### **PRELIMINARY**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 2 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 3 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 4 Wayne Hundley,

Riverside, CA; 5 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 6 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 7 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Assist Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Accountant: Martha Cogan, Alton, IL

#### **Team Name, Club, Majority**

1. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 4/1
2. Starlights, Skokie Valley FSC, 7/2
3. Teams Elite, Wagon Wheel FSC, 4/4 (TO 30)
4. Mentor Ice Diamonds, Mentor FSC, 4/4 (TO 33)
5. Hockettes, Ann Arbor FSC, 7/5
6. Team Elan, Detroit FSC, 4/5
7. Ice Kicks, Woodbury FSC, 4/7
8. Phoenix Synchronized Skating, Onyx Suburban SA, 5/8
9. Cleveland Edges, Strongsville SC, 7/9

#### **COLLEGIATE**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 2 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 3 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 4 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CA; 5 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 6 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Assist Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Technical Controller: Richard Perez, Mountain View, CA; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Branford, CT; Assist Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel, Westfield, IN

#### **Team Name, Club, Points**

1. Miami University Collegiate Team, Miami University, 89.98
2. Michigan State University SST, Michigan State University, 82.44
3. University of Michigan, University of Michigan, 77.17
4. Western Michigan University, Western Michigan University, 76.76
5. University of Wisconsin SST, University of Wisconsin, 73.53
6. University of Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 63.28
7. Indiana Hoosiers, Indiana University, 61.90
8. Synergy SST, University of Minnesota, 55.92

#### **ADULT**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 2 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 3 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 4 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 5 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Assist Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman, Cypress, CA; Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi, Framingham, MA; Assist Technical Specialist: Lauren Benesch, Crofton, MD

#### **Team Name, Club, Points**

1. Crystallettes, Dearborn FSC, 49.45
2. Western Michigan Univ. Alumni SST, Western Michigan Univ., 45.98
3. Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis, 41.23
4. Revolution, Northern Illinois FSC, 27.16

#### **MASTERS**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 2 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 3 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 4 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 5 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assist Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Accountant: Dorothy Estey, Wyandotte, MI

#### **Team Name, Club, Majority**

1. Gems on Ice, Plymouth FSC, 6/1
2. Cleveland Edges, Strongsville FSC, 5/2
3. The Turning Points, Midland FSC, 7/3
4. Team Glace, DuPage FSC, 7/4

#### **OPEN JUNIOR**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 2 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 3 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 4 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 5 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 6 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Technical Controller: Richard Perez, Mountain View, CA; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel, Westfield, IN; Assist Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Branford,

CT

#### **Team Name, Club, Points**

1. Dazzlers, DuPage FSC, 22.50
2. Ice Force, South Dayton FSC, 54.02
3. Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC, 53.31
4. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 52.69
5. Synchro St. Louis Diamond Edges, St. Peters FSC, 51.14
6. Sailorettes, Lake Minnetonka FSC, 45.00
7. Team Velocity, Burnsville, MN Valley FSC, 37.45

#### **PRE-JUVENILE**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 2 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 3 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 4 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 5 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Accountant: Jim Morris, Dallas, TX

#### **Team Name, Club, Majority**

1. Cleveland Edges, Strongsville SC, 6/1
2. Ice Kicks, Woodbury FSC, 4/2
3. Dazzlers, DuPage FSC, 4/3
4. Hockettes, Ann Arbor FSC, 4/5
5. Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC, 5/6
6. Wisconsin Edge, Wisconsin FSC, 4/6 (TOM 17)
7. Chicago Skates, Windy City FSC, 4/6 (TOM 19)
8. Icettes, Glenwood FSC, 4/7
9. Team du Coeur, Lakeland FSC, 5/9
10. Phoenix Synchronized Skating, Onyx-Suburban SA, 6/10
11. Go Figure, Line Creek FSC, 6/11
12. Fond Du Lac Blades, Fond du Lac Blue Line FS, 7/12

#### **PRE-JUVENILE - GROUP A (QR)**

Judges: 1 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 2 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 3 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; 4 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 5 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Assist Referee: Mary Lou Rothman, Cypress, CA; Accountant: Martha Cogan, Alton, IL

#### **Team Name, Club, Majority**

1. Dazzlers, DuPage FSC, 5/1
2. Wisconsin Edge, Wisconsin FSC, 4/2
3. Ice Kicks, Woodbury FSC, 5/3
4. Fond Du Lac Blades, Fond du Lac Blue Line FS, 6/4
5. Team du Coeur, Lakeland FSC, 5/4
6. Go Figure, Line Creek FSC, 5/6
7. Starfire, Northern Ice FSC, 5/7
8. Eastern Iowa Blue Diamonds, Eastern Iowa FSC, 6/9
9. Southern Silhouettes, Nashville FSC, 4/9 (TOM 30)
10. Ice Fusion, Ice House SA, 4/9 (TOM 33)

#### **PRE-JUVENILE - GROUP B (QR)**

Judges: 1 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 2 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 3 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 4 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 5 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 6 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 7 Laura Kudravetz-Days, Brighton, MA; Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Accountant: Dorothy Estey, Wyandotte, MI

#### **Team Name, Club, Majority**

1. Cleveland Edges, Strongsville SC, 5/1
2. Icettes, Glenwood FSC, 5/3
3. Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC, 7/4
4. Hockettes, Ann Arbor FSC, 5/4
5. Phoenix Synchronized Skating, Onyx-Suburban SA, 4/4
6. Chicago Skates, Windy City FSC, 4/6
7. Crystallettes, Dearborn FSC, 4/7
8. River's Edge, FSC of the Quad Cities, 5/8
9. St. Louis Fleur De Lis-Cristal, St. Louis FSC, 4/8
10. Louisville River Blades, Louisville SA, 4/10
11. Birmingham Blazing Blades, FSC of Birmingham, 7/11

#### **OPEN JUVENILE**

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 2 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 3 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 4 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 5 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 6

Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 7 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Accountant: Martha Cogan, Alton, IL

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Dazzlers, DuPage FSC, 5/1
2. Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC, 4/3
3. Northern Ice, Copper Country SA, 4/4
4. Cleveland Edges, Strongsville SC, 4/4
5. Ice Innovation, Northern Ice SC, 5/6
6. Ice Kicks, Woodbury FSC, 5/7
7. Northern Lights, Twin Bays SC, 4/7
8. Wisconsin Edge, Wisconsin FSC, 4/8
9. Windjammers, Lake Minnetonka FSC, 4/9
10. The Golden Edge, Eau Claire FSC, 6/10
11. Team Expression-black, Roseville FSC, 4/10
12. St. Louis Fleur De Lis, St. Louis SC, 4/11

#### OPEN JUVENILE - GROUP A (QR)

Judges - Free Skate: 1 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 2 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 3 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 4 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 5 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 6 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 7 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Accountant: Jim Morris, Dallas, TX

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Dazzlers, DuPage FSC, 4/1
2. Northern Ice, Copper Country SA, 4/2
3. Wisconsin Edge, Wisconsin FSC, 5/3
4. Ice Kicks, Woodbury FSC, 6/5
5. St. Louis Fleur De Lis, St. Louis SC, 4/6
6. The Golden Edge, Eau Claire FSC, 5/7
7. Madison Energy, Us Figure Skating, 4/8
8. Cleveland SC Ice Reflections (A), Cleveland SC, 5/9
9. Synchro St. Louis, Metro Edge FSC, 4/9
10. Team Velocity, Burnsville-MN Valley FSC, 4/9
11. Emerald Blades, Border Blades FSC, 5/10
12. Go Figure, Line Creek FSC, 4/11

#### OPEN JUVENILE - GROUP B (QR)

Judges - Free Skate: 1 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 2 Laura Kudravez-Days, Brighton, MA; 3 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 4 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 5 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 6 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 7 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Assist Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Accountant: Martha Cogan, Alton, IL

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Cleveland Edges, Strongsville SC, 4/1
2. Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC, 5/3
3. Ice Innovation, Northern Ice SC, 5/4
4. Windjammers, Lake Minnetonka FSC, 4/4
5. Team Expression-black, Roseville FSC, 6/5
6. Northern Lights, Twin Bays SC, 6/6
7. Swansyncransion, Swan City Ice Skaters, 4/7
8. Icetties, Glenwood FSC, 4/8
9. Kicks, Greater Green Bay FSC, 4/9
10. Cincinnati Style, FSC of Cincinnati, 4/9
11. Revolution, Northern Illinois SC, 5/11
12. Starfire, Northern Ice SC, 7/12

#### OPEN ADULT

Judges - Free Skate: 1 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 2 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 3 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 4 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 5 Laura Kudravez-Days, Brighton, MA; 6 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Assist Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Accountant: Jim Morris, Dallas, TX

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. North Coast Line, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights, 6/2
2. Icy Hots, Louisville Skating Academy, 4/2
3. Texas Chilly Peppers, Stars FSC of Texas, 4/3
4. Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis, 4/3
5. Fraser Eclipse, Fraser FSC, 5/5
6. Cincinnati Style, FSC of Cincinnati, 4/6
7. Kalamazoo Ice Kraze, Southwest Michigan SC, 4/8
8. The Flurries, Lake Effect FSC, 4/8
9. Elites, Bowling Green SC, 5/10
10. Debonaires, Ann Arbor FSC, 5/10

11. Northern Lights, Twin Bays SC, 4/10
12. Revolution, Northern Illinois SC, 5/12
13. Radiance on Ice, Glenwood FSC, 5/13
14. Eble Elite Edgers, Wisconsin FSC, 7/14

#### OPEN COLLEGIATE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Laura Kudravez-Days, Brighton, MA; 2 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 3 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 4 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 5 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 6 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 7 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assistant Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Accountant: Dorothy Estey, Wyandotte, MI

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Northwestern Univ SST, Northwestern Univ, 7/1
2. Univ of Notre Dame SST, Univ of Notre Dame, 4/2
3. Grand Valley State Univ, Grand Valley State Univ, 7/3

## 2007 Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Championships

### THE SKATING COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS GENEVA, ILL. JAN. 18-20

#### NOVICE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 2 Glennace Cohen, Castle Rock, CO; 3 Rose Mary Santee, Park Ridge, IL; 4 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 5 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 6 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Assist Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Technical Controller: Richard Perez, Mountain View, CA; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Branford, CT; Assist Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel, Westfield, IN

#### Team Name, Club, Points

1. Team Del Sol, San Diego FSC, 43.80
2. ICE\*Kateers, Glacier Falls FSC, 35.57

#### INTERMEDIATE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 2 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 3 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 4 Laura Kudravez-Days, Brighton, MA; 5 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 6 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Assist Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman, Cypress, CA; Technical Specialist: Lauren Benesch, Crofton, MD; Assist Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi, Framingham, MA

#### Team Name, Club, Points

1. La Furia, Rocky Mountain FSC, 33.65
2. California Northstars, Vaca Valley FSC, 33.46
3. Illusions, Inland Empire FSC, 30.70
4. South Bay Sunsets, South Bay FSC, 28.98

#### JUVENILE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Laura Kudravez-Days, Brighton, MA; 2 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 3 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 4 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 5 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Rose Mary Santee, Park ridge, IL; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Accountant: Dorothy Estey, Wyandotte, MI

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Team Del Sol, San Diego FSC, 6/1
2. South Bay Sunsets, South Bay FSC, 7/2
3. Columbine Wildflowers, Columbine FSC, 7/3

#### MASTERS

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Wayne Hundley, Riverside, CA; 2 Laura Kudravez-Days, Brighton, MA; 3 Lynne Robertson, White Lake, MI; 4 Rose Mary Santee, Park ridge, IL; 5 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; Referee: Donald

Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assist Referee: Judith Edmunds, West Yarmouth, MA; Accountant: Martha Cogan, Alton, IL

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Denver Synchronicity, Denver FSC, 7/1
2. Capital Ice, Capital City FSC, 4/2
3. La Furia, Rocky Mountain FSC, 7/3

#### PRE-JUVENILE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Rose Mary Santee, Park ridge, IL; 2 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; 3 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 4 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 5 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 6 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 7 Laura Maki, Ann Arbor, MI; Referee: Donald Mumper, Clarksville, TN; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Accountant: Dorothy Estey, Wyandotte, MI

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Tremors, SC of San Francisco, 6/1
2. Ice Angelz, Cottonwood Heights FSC, 6/2
3. ICE\*Kateers, Glacier Falls FSC, 7/3

#### OPEN-JUVENILE

Judges-Free Skate: 1 Susan McInnes, Denver, CO; 2 Tiffani Shipley, Salt Lake City, UT; 3 Leanne Cluff, Salt Lake City, UT; 4 Charles Cope, Dearborn, MI; 5 Hazel Wecal, Denver, CO; 6 Joanne Butcher, San Juan Capistrano, CA; 7 April Mendlewski, Macomb, MI; Referee: Ann Fauver, Kennebunk, ME; Assist Referee: Robert Bauer, Schiller Park, IL; Accountant: Jim Morris, Dallas, TX

#### Team Name, Club, Majority

1. Ice Angelz, Cottonwood Heights FSC, 5/1
2. Epic Edge, La Jolla FSC, 5/2
3. ICE\*Kateers, Glacier Falls FSC, 6/3
4. Silver Stars, St. Moritz ISC, 4/4
5. Ice Mystique, St. Moritz ISC, 7/5

## 2007 French Cup

### ROUEN, FRANCE FEB. 1-4

#### SENIOR

##### TEAM NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Team Unique, FIN, 68.74-130.02-198.76
2. Rockettes, FIN, 65.76-126.62-192.38
3. Les Supremes, CAN, 62.18-122.02-184.20
4. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 66.02-117.44-183.46
5. Nexice, CAN, 60.48-99.56-160.04
6. Team Eian, USA, 53.14-93.38-146.52
7. University of Michigan, USA, 51.76-87.94-139.70
8. Starlight Team, SUI, 46.26-88.04-134.30
9. Spartak-Leader, RUS, 40.22-78.46-118.68
10. Cool Dreams, SUI, 41.84-65.06-106.90
11. Les Zoulous, FRA, 30.44-61.86-92.30
12. Les Atlantides, FRA, 29.00-51.44-80.44
13. Storm, GBR, 23.08-55.86-78.94
14. Les Jeanne D'Arc, FRA, 21.18-48.54-69.72

Referee: Ms. Nicole Bullmer Schallhart, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Kirsten Tillman, ISU; Technical Specialist: Ms. Karen Wiesmeier, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Ms. Jitka Krcmarova, ISU; Assistant Referee Ice: Mr. Philippe Maitrot, ISU; Judge No. 1: Ms. Rita Tognali, SUI; Judge No. 2: Ms. Cynthia Alepin, GBR; Judge No. 3: Ms. Diane Kamagianis, CAN; Judge No. 4: Ms. Colette Nygren, USA; Judge No. 5: Mr. Daniel de Paix, FRA; Judge No. 6: Ms. Pia Alhonen, FIN; Judge No. 7: Ms. Anna Nylen, SWE.

#### JUNIOR

##### TEAM NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Team Fantastic, FIN, 60.60-97.54-158.14
2. Les Miracles, FIN, 62.00-94.58-156.58
3. Les Supremes, CAN, 55.80-96.62-152.42
4. The Colonials, USA, 55.50-89.14-144.64
5. Spartak-Unost, RUS, 36.96-62.92-99.88
6. Black Diamonds, FRA, 36.86-59.74-96.60
7. Team Rhapsody, SWE, 33.84-58.72-92.56
8. Starlight, SUI, 34.92-55.88-90.80
9. Nika, RUS, 30.20-52.46-82.66
10. Les Alouettes, FRA, 28.12-48.88-77.00
11. Icicles, GBR, 30.24-45.18-75.42

Referee: Ms. Karen Wolanchuk, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Kirsten Tillman, ISU; Technical Specialist: Ms. Jitka Krcmarova, ISU; Assistant

Technical Specialist: Ms. Karen Wiesmeier, ISU; Assistant Referee Ice: Mr. Philippe Maitrot, ISU; Judge No. 1: Ms. Cynthia Alepin, GBR; Judge No. 2: Ms. Rita Tognali, SUI; Judge No. 3: Ms. Anna Nylen, SWE; Judge No. 4: Mr. Christopher Jailliet, FRA; Judge No. 5: Ms. Tuula Toivakainen, FIN; Judge No. 6: Ms. Diane Kamagianis, CAN; Judge No. 7: Ms. Colette Nygren, USA.

## 2007 Prague Open

### PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC JAN. 27-28

#### SENIOR

##### TEAM NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Rockettes, FIN, 62.94-120.62-178.74
2. Team Unique, FIN, 61.42-112.96-174.38
3. Crystallettes, USA, 56.60-107.22-163.82
4. Haydenettes, USA, 62.94-97.54-160.48
5. Energetics, FIN, 54.96-98.38-153.34
6. Team Berlin, GER, 54.58-92.10-146.68
7. Gold Ice, CAN, 50.50-95.32-145.82
8. Olympia, CZE, 52.90-91.34-144.24
9. Hot Shivers, ITA, 49.72-80.42-130.14
10. Spartak-Leader, RUS, 48.22-80.70-128.92
11. Orion, CZE, 44.84-83.08-127.92
12. Tatarstan, RUS, 46.00-79.90-125.90
13. Skating Mystery, GER, 41.54-72.42-113.96
14. Shooting Stars, GER, 39.52-68.40-107.92

Referee: Ms. Helen Volgushev, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Sanna Kohli, ISU; Technical Specialist: Mr. Alan-Daniel Hostage, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Ms. Jitka Krcmarova, ISU; Assistant Referee Ice: Ms. Eva Ludvikova, ISU; Judge No. 1: Mr. Walter Tiogo, ITA; Judge No. 2: Mr. Peter Fuchs, GER; Judge No. 3: Ms. Hana Kuglerova, CZE; Judge No. 4: Ms. Odile Barranco, FRA; Judge No. 5: Mr. Richard Perez, USA; Judge No. 6: Ms. Leena Laaksonen, FIN; Judge No. 7: Ms. Diane Kamagianis, CAN.

#### JUNIOR

##### TEAM NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Ice Steps, FIN, 63.10-99.14-162.24
2. Gold Ice, CAN, 58.68-94.12-152.80
3. Chicago Jazz, USA, 60.18-87.98-148.16
4. Stella Polaris, FIN, 55.70-86.18-141.88
5. Reflection, FIN, 49.06-90.78-139.84
6. Berlin Juniors, GER, 46.14-85.00-131.14
7. Team Esreija, FIN, 51.64-79.10-130.74
8. Sun City Swing, FIN, 50.84-76.28-127.12
9. Magic Diamonds, GER, 43.18-74.56-117.74
10. Hot Shivers, ITA, 46.18-66.76-112.94
11. Skating Grace, GER, 41.20-68.72-109.92
12. Unost, RUS, 41.42-68.44-109.86
13. Black Diamonds, FRA, 41.28-67.70-108.98
14. Balance, CZE, 39.46-57.30-96.76
15. Les Alouettes, FRA, 35.24-59.50-94.74
16. IDEL, RUS, 32.66-60.34-93.00
17. Frost Work, HUN, 33.30-45.66-78.96
18. Daisies, CZE, 27.10-49.94-77.04
19. Johanka, CZE, 31.94-42.56-74.50

#### WD NIKKA, RUS

Referee: Ms. Helen Volgushev, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Sanna Kohli, ISU; Technical Specialist: Ms. Vera Paulusova, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Mr. Alan-Daniel Hostage, ISU; Assistant Referee Ice: Ms. Eva Ludvikova, ISU; Judge No. 1: Mr. Richard Perez, USA; Judge No. 2: Ms. Leena Laaksonen, FIN; Judge No. 3: Ms. Diane Kamagianis, CAN; Judge No. 4: Ms. Odile Barranco, FRA; Judge No. 5: Mr. Walter Tiogo, ITA; Judge No. 6: Mr. Peter Fuchs, GER; Judge No. 7: Ms. Marketa Horklova, CZE.

## 2007 Spring Cup

### MILAN, ITALY FEB. 10-11

#### SENIOR

##### TEAM NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Surprise, SWE, 70.23-121.06-191.29
2. Miami University, USA, 67.43-122.16-189.59
3. Marigold, FIN, 62.83-116.09-178.92
4. Hot Shivers, ITA, 47.90-90.95-138.85

5. Sweet Mozart, AUT, 41.17-68.48-109.65  
 6. Ice on Fire, ITA, 31.18-62.56-93.74  
 Referee: Mr. Massimo Orlandini, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Elisabetta Boschetto, ISU; Technical Specialist: Ms. Monika Schneider, ISU; Assistant Technical Specialist: Ms. Vera Paulusova, ISU; Assistant Referee Ice: Ms. Nicole Roch, ISU; Judge No. 1: Ms. Michela Cesaro, ITA; Judge No. 2: Ms. Anna Nylen-Ralph, SWE; Judge No.

3: Mr. Seppo Kurtti, FIN; Judge No. 4: Ms. Marion Dyke, CAN; Judge No. 5: Mr. Dann Krueger, USA; Judge No. 6: Ms. Ursula Stahl, AUT.

#### JUNIOR

##### TEAM NAME, COUNTRY, SP-FS-TS

1. Team Mystique, FIN, 61.86-98.98-160.84
2. Musketeers, FIN, 51.43-96.09-147.52
3. Hockettes, USA, 56.03-89.70-145.73
4. Ice Fusion, FIN, 51.32-92.92-144.24

5. Nexice, CAN, 51.29-79.65-130.94
  6. Magic Diamonds, GER, 44.13-76.20-120.33
  7. Team Spirit, SWE, 46.28-68.56-114.84
  8. Hot Shivers, ITA, 39.84-66.21-106.05
  9. Ladybirds, ITA, 26.75-47.94-74.69
  10. Macquarie Illusions, AUS, 30.26-40.36-70.62
- Referee: Ms. Nicole Roch, ISU; Technical Controller: Ms. Elisabetta Boschetto, ISU; Technical Specialist: Ms. Vera Paulusova, ISU; Assistant

Technical Specialist: Ms. Monika Schneider, ISU; Assistant Referee Ice: Mr. Massimo Orlandini, ISU; Judge No. 1: Ms. Lisa Jelinek, AUS; Judge No. 2: Ms. Michela Cesaro, ITA; Judge No. 3: Mr. Seppo Kurtti, FIN; Judge No. 4: Mr. Christian Wieland, SWE; Judge No. 5: Ms. Marion Dyke, CAN; Judge No. 6: Mr. Dann Krueger, USA.

## APPOINTMENTS

### BRONZE SINGLES/PAIRS TEST JUDGE

Teresa Bazbaz, Texas Gulf Coast FSC; Jolene Ryan, Skokie Valley SC; Deborah Wychulis, SC of Morris

### SILVER SINGLES/PAIRS TEST JUDGE

Joanna Canny, SC of Lake Placid

### GOLD SINGLES/PAIRS TEST JUDGE

Marcia Chaffee, Queen City FSC; Jennifer Chen, Portland ISC

### GOLD DANCE TEST JUDGE

Kathleen Waite, Central Carolina SC

### JUNIOR COMPETITION JUDGE

Gregory Rouw, St. Paul FSC

### SENIOR COMPETITION JUDGE

Katherine Conrad, Silver Blades FSC; Nancy Iida, Austin FSC

### NOVICE DANCE COMPETITION JUDGE

Laura Murphy, Forestwood FSC; Susan Elvin, Central Carolina SC

### JUNIOR DANCE COMPETITION JUDGE

Michael Ricigliano, St. Moritz ISC

### JUNIOR SYNCHRONIZED SKATING JUDGE

Shelley Danner, Detroit SC

### REGIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Jaak Muur, Cambridge, ON

### SECTIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Gay Ann Louiselle, Coon Rapid, MN

### REGIONAL MUSIC COORDINATOR

Brandon Rabbitt, Yorba Linda, CA; Barbara Leonard, Lutherville, MD

### SECTIONAL MUSIC COORDINATOR

Donald Rabbitt, Yorba Linda, CA; Richard Larsen, Richland, WA

## TESTS PASSED

### SENIOR MOVES IN THE FIELD

Sarah A. Archer - Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, Inc.  
 Libby F. Boscoe - Denver FSC  
 Taryn M Brandt - Individual Member  
 Kristie M. Chepaitis - Atlanta FSC  
 Emily Conforto - Pilgrim SC  
 Jamie Leann Darling - Syracuse FSC, Inc.  
 Chiara Simone Draghi - New England FSC  
 Charlotte C. Duvall - All Year FSC  
 Shannon M Essad - Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy  
 Shantel M Fagerholt - Border Blades FSC  
 Chelsea Rae Firth - Jamestown SC  
 Karly Anne Fraeyman - Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy  
 Samantha N Garay - Stars FSC of Texas  
 Kristen A Gazau - Ann Arbor FSC  
 Kaitlin J Gilliam - FSC of Charleston  
 Colleen Kelly Hollowood - Saratoga Springs FSC  
 Leah Keiser - SC of Mt Lebanon  
 Allison L. Kwan - Palomares FSC  
 Chelsea N Lindblad - Panthers FSC, Inc.  
 Natalie F. Mack - Individual Member  
 Lauren V McKernan - Broadmoor SC, Inc.  
 Katlynn E. McNab - Coyotes SC of Arizona  
 Jessica Morgan - Rye FSC, Inc.  
 Brianna E. Moses - The SC of Wilmington, Inc

Courtney L Mozuch - The Skating Club of Boston  
 Elizabeth A Newell - Jamestown SC  
 Shae Olsen - SC of Phoenix  
 Maggie R Osterholm - Fond du Lac Blue Line FSC  
 Emily D. Patterson - Washington FSC  
 Nicole A. Poletto - San Diego FSC  
 Rebecca M. Pratt - Little Sun Valley SC, Inc.  
 Harmony I Risca - Detroit SC, Inc.  
 Jacqueline E Sharp - Stoneham FSC  
 Christina C Sheehan - All Year FSC  
 Alexandra R Stieber - Timberline SC  
 Michelle Strepka - Glenwood FSC  
 Matthew M. Swinton - New England FSC  
 Jenna L. Tavares - Falmouth FSC  
 Amy A. Thomas - Individual Member  
 Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson - Charter Oak FSC  
 Olivia Swain Tyler - Indiana World Sk Acad FSC, Inc.  
 Brianna E. Versteeg - Oklahoma City FSC, Inc.  
 Brooke A Watson - Seattle SC  
 Brittany S. White - Garden State SC  
 Marissa L White - Broadmoor SC, Inc.  
 Lindsey Wolkin - The Skating Club of San Francisco,

### ADULT GOLD MOVES IN THE FIELD

Eva B Alessandra - Lighthouse FSC Of Cape Cod  
 June Dirienzo Fisher - Philadelphia SC & HS  
 Kara L Mackowiak - Jamestown SC  
 Toni Rogers - University of Denver SC

Patty Textor - University of Denver SC  
 Valerie Zabriskie - DuPage FSC  
 Kristen Shaheen - Louisville FSC

### SENIOR FREE SKATING TEST

Brittany Barrett - Colorado SC  
 Megan E. Lundquist - St. Paul FSC, Inc  
 Brianna Leigh Peterson - Burnsville-MN Valley FSC  
 Lindsey M Wilson - Broadmoor SC, Inc.

### ADULT GOLD FREE SKATING TEST

Kimberly A. Firestone - Seattle SC  
 Jenna K Graciano - All Year FSC  
 Valerie Zabriskie - DuPage FSC

### GOLD/SENIOR PAIR TEST

Joanna Lee Canny - The SC of Lake Placid  
 Daniel Haskins - Penn State FSC

### GOLD DANCE TEST

Ashley Green - Los Angeles FSC  
 Jenna D Kaufman-Ross - Garden State SC  
 Jamie L Lane - Colorado SC  
 Robert J Mauti - SC of Mt Lebanon  
 Kendra D O'Brien - Queen City FSC  
 Alicia A Slusarek - Greater Green Bay FSC

### SENIOR FREE DANCE TEST

Christina E Chitwood - Broadmoor SC, Inc.

## OBITUARY

### VAUGHN

Arthur R. Jr. M.D. "Buddy" Vaughn, the 1943 U.S. men's figure skating champion, died Jan. 17.

He lived in Ocean City, N.J. and was formerly of Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Dr. Vaughn was a physician and ophthalmologist in Philadelphia for more than 50 years. He's survived by his wife, Charlotte Benkert Vaughn; three children,

Arthur R. Vaughn III of Buckingham, Pa., Cherie Vaughn Miller of Columbia, Md., and Edward Benkert Vaughn of Ocean City, N.J.; sister, Jane Vaughn Sullivan; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Shore Memorial Health Foundation, c/o Stainton Society, One New York Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244. To e-mail condolences, visit [www.godfreyfuneralhome.com](http://www.godfreyfuneralhome.com)

## CORRECTION

The photo credit for the Kimberly Navarro and Brent Bommentre story in the February issue of SKATING belongs to Mark Peirce.

## MEMORIAL FUND

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Margaret Szymanski; Agnese  
Wojdak; Carole Wolf  
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## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 2-5** 2007 Eau Claire Figure Skating Competition sponsored by EAU Claire FSC at Hobbs Ice Arena, 915 Menomonie St., Eau Claire, WI 54701. For more information call Pamela Nix at 715.597.2219.
- 2-3** 2007 Skate in the Park sponsored by Spokane FSC at Spokane Riverfront Park Ice Palace, 507 North Howard, Spokane, WA 99201. For more information call Paula Keller at 509.979.3957.
- 2-4** Sixth annual Eastern Iowa Invitational sponsored by Eastern Iowa FSC at Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 1100 Rockford Road SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.
- 3-4** Kent SC Skating for Skills 2007 sponsored by Kent SC at Kent State University Ice A Arena, Loop Road, Kent, OH 44242. For more information call Kicole Kappenhagen at 330.338.0075.
- 3-4** University of Delaware Intercollegiate Competition at the University of Delaware, Newark. For more information e-mail Kaitlyn DeRoy at icedoll@udel.edu
- 3** 2007 Michigan High School District 1, 2, 3, 5 at Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive, Novi, MI 48375. For more information call Michelle Dittmer at 248.288.5771.
- 3-4** 2007 Colonial Adult Winter Challenge sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Route 111, Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information call Cheryl Milroy at 781.275.4476.
- 7-11** 2007 Skate Aloha sponsored by Hawaii FSC at the Ice Palace Skating Arena, 4510 Salt Lake Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96818. For more information call Lisa Keyser at 808.672.6534.

- 8-11** 2007 Denver Invitational sponsored by Denver FSC at the South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Littleton CO 80121. For more information call Robin Meadows at 303.881.9229.
- 9-11** 2007 Green Mountain Open sponsored by the Vermont SC at C. Douglas Cairns Arena, P.O. Box 9482, 600 Swift St., South Burlington, VT 05407. For more information call Brian Candib at 802.859.6847.
- 9-11** 2007 Winter Classic sponsored by SC of Southern New Jersey at Mount Laurel Igloo, 3033 Fostertown Road, Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054. For more information call Elizabeth Field at 609.847.1050.
- 11** 2007 Wollman Open sponsored by the SC of New York at Wollman Rink, Central Park, 59th Street and 6th Ave., New York, N.Y. For more information call Stephen Schneider at 212.769.2103
- 10-11** 2007 Skate into Spring Competition sponsored by the Beaver County FSC at the Beaver County Ice Arena, Brady's Run Park Road 1, Box 526, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. For more information call Teresa Miller at 412.996.3050.
- 11** 2007 Michigan High School Series at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin, Garden City, MI 48135. For more information call 248.288.5771.
- 18-18** 2007 Cleveland Invitational Championships sponsored by Brooklyn FSC of Ohio at John Coyne Recreation Center, 7600 Memphis Ave., Brooklyn, OH 44144. For more information call Joyce Fijakovich at 216.789.6020.
- 15-18** 2007 Jackson Hole Invitational sponsored by the Jackson Hole FSC at Snow King Center Ice Arena, 150 East Snow King Ave., Jackson, WY 83001. For more information

call Gary Marrell at 307.690.6699.

- 18-18** 15th Biennial Genesee Invitational Competition sponsored by Genesee FSC at Frank Ritter Arena, 51 Lanb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. For more information call Lynn Hayes at 585.972.012.
- 16-18** 2007 Magnolia Open sponsored by the Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 10800 Davis Drive, Alpharetta, GA 20004. For more information call Kim Leftwich at 678.493.3713.
- 17-18** 2007 Skate Cincinnati sponsored by the FSC of Cincinnati at Sports Plus, 10765 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241. For more information call Jessica Eager at 513.934.5754.
- 17** 2007 Midwest Invitational sponsored by Indiana/World Ski Academy FSC at the Indiana/World Skating Academy, 201 South Capitol Ave., Suite 001, Indianapolis, IN 46206. For more information call Donald Adair at 317.753.1883.
- 17-18** 2007 Massena Invitational at the Massena Arena, Route 37, Harte Haven Center, Massena, N.Y. 13662. For more information call James Littlejohn at 315.764.0684.
- 17-18** 2007 Princeton Open Skating Competition sponsored by Princeton University FSC at Princeton University Baker Rink, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540. For more information call Sheila Bonapace at 908.281.6911.
- 22-25** W.I.M. 2007 Competition sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC at Wilson Park Recreation Center, 4001 South 20th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. For more information call Ralph Dahlman at 414.282.3948.
- 23-25** 2007 Philadelphia Area Figure Skating Competition sponsored by Body Zone FSC at Body Zone Sports and Wellness Complex, 3103 Paper Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610. For

more information call Melody Shoemaker at 484.256.0798.

- 23-25** Skate Houston 2007 sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information call Jennifer Simon at 713.408.0416.
- 23-25** 2007 Crystalline Classic sponsored by the Santa Rosa FSC at Snoopy's Home Ice, 1667 West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information call Andrea Ewing at 707.546.7147 ext. 207.
- 29-1** Central Carolina Skating Classic sponsored by Central Carolina SC at the Triangle SportsPlex, 1 Dan Kidd Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278. For more information call Susan Elvin at 919.732.9026.
- 30-31** 2007 Fort Collins Classic sponsored by ISC of Fort Collins at Edora Pool Ice Center, Riverside Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80825. For more information call Linda Hobaugh at 970.219.5111.
- 1-1** 2007 Louisville Skating Academy Invitational sponsored by Louisville Skating Academy at Iceland Sports Complex, 1701 UPS Drive, Louisville, KY 40223. For more information call Rebecca Hatch-Purnell at 502.244.3566.
- 30-1** 2007 Mountain Laurel Competition sponsored by Johnstown FSC at Planet Ice Arena, 195 Jari Drive, Johnstown, PA 15904. For more information call Amy Kreger at 814.443.4802 ext. 5035).
- 31** 2007 Michigan High School Series Championship at Detroit Skating Club, 888 Denison Court, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. For more information call Michelle Dittmer at 248.288.5771.
- 31** Show Skate 2007 sponsored by Stars FSC of Texas at the Dr. Pepper Stars Center, 1700 South Main St., Duncanville, TX 75137. For more information call Patti Mitcham at 972.335.9842.

## APRIL

- 13-15** 2007 Tri-States Memorial Free Skating Competition sponsored by the Kent SC at Kent State University Ice Arena, Loop Road, Kent, OH 44242. For more information call Nicole Kappenhagen.
- 13-15** 22nd Annual Florida Open Championship sponsored by Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summer Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information call Barbara Hayes at 407.889.1028.
- 13-15** 2007 Morris Open Competition sponsored by the SC of Morris NJ at the W.G. Mennen Sports Arena, 161 East Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960.
- 14-15** 10th Annual Stars and Stripes sponsored by the Colonial SC of Pennsylvania at Grundy

Recreation Center, 475 Beaver St., Bristol, PA 19007. For more information call Cheryl Wood at 302.945.9590.

- 14-15** Spring Preview 2007 sponsored by Vaca Valley FSC at the Ice Sports Vacaville, 551 Davis St., Vacaville, CA 95688. For more information call Alicia Adema at 707.446.7226.
- 19-22** 2007 Darien Open sponsored by SC of Southern Connecticut at the Darien Ice Rink, Old Kings Highway North, Darien, CT 06820. For more information call Helanie Walker at 203.762.8838.
- 19-22** 2007 Lady Bug sponsored by the Glenwood FSC at H-F Ice Arena, 777 Kedzie, Homewood, IL 60422. For more information call May Wiza at 708.957.4063.
- 20-22** Sweetwater Invitational 2007 sponsored by the Sweetwater FSC at the Rock Springs Family Recreation Center, 3900 Sweetwater Drive, Rock Springs, WY 82901. For more information call Lisa Lewis at 307.371.3989.
- 20-22** 2007 Springtime Spectacular sponsored by the Fort Wayne ISC at the McMillen Ice Arena, 3901 Abbott St., Fort Wayne, IN 46806. For more information call Penny Lohr at 260.602.7581.
- 22** 10th Annual Colorado High School Team Figure Skating Championships sponsored by the Denver FSC at the South Suburban Ice Arena, 6508 South Vine St., Littleton, CO 80121. For more information call Robin Meadows at 303.881.9229.
- 26-29** 2007 Skate Nashville sponsored by the Nashville FSC at the Southern Ice Arena, 215 Gothic Court, Franklin, TN 37067. For more information call Laura Sanders at 615.646.8263.
- 27-29** Skate Dallas 2007 sponsored by the Dallas FSC at Dr. Pepper StarCenter – Grapevine (Polar Ice), 3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway, Suite 613, Grapevine, TX 76051. For more information call Colleen Newman at 214.418.6408.
- 27-29** 2007 Colonial Open at Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Route 111, Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information call Kathleen Boucher at 978.808.3080.
- 27-29** La Jolla Figure Skating Club's Open Championships sponsored by the La Jolla FSC at Ice Town, 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92122. For more information call Sheri Fowler at 619.667.1108.
- 28-29** 2007 Shall We Dance Pro-Am Competition sponsored by Essex SC of NJ at the Richard Codey Arena at South Mountain, 560 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052. For more information call Michelle Blatt at 718.836.5708.

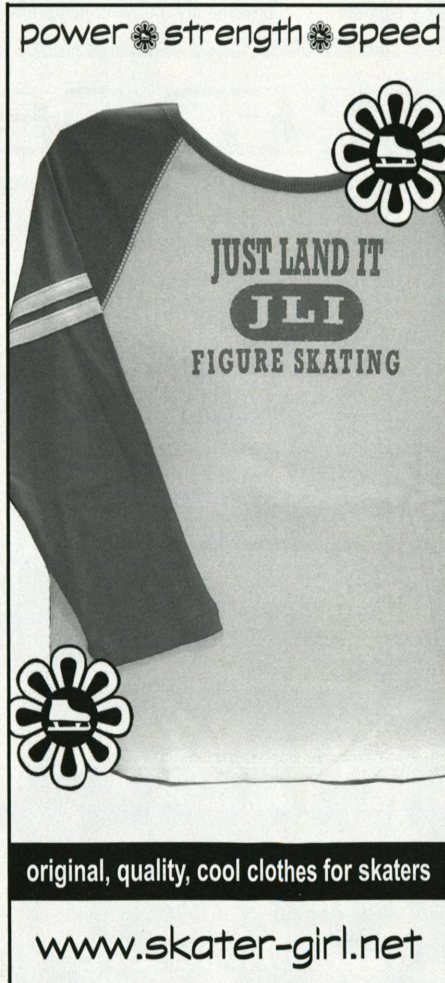
## MAY

- 11-13** 2007 Silver Skate sponsored by the South

Dayton FSC at Kettering Ice Arena, 2900 Glengarry Drive, Kettering, OH 45420. For more information call Gayle Lemoine at 937.433.6388.

- 17-20** 2007 Ann Arbor Springtime Invitational sponsored by the Ann Arbor FSC at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. For more information call Ann Dougherty at 734.662.3925.
- 17-20** Santa Fe Skate Fest/Fun Fest sponsored by the Santa Fe SC at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center, 3221 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87508. For more information call David Lawrence at 505.992.9514.
- 18-20** 2007 Summer Challenge sponsored by the New England FSC at the New England Sports Center, 121 Donald Lynch Blvd., Marlborough, MA 01752. For more information call Julie Graham at 508.229.2700 ext. 212.
- 19-20** 18th Annual Spring Skate Festival sponsored by the SC of Western, NY at the Holiday Twin Rinks, 3465 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. For more information call Kathleen Gregoire at 716.432.0692.
- 31-3** 2007 Skate Austin Bluebonnet Open sponsored by the Austin FSC at Chaparral Ice, 14200 I.H. 35 North, Austin, TX 78758. For more information call Lynn Goldman at 512.507.9986.

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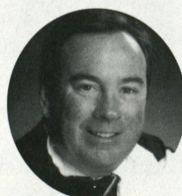
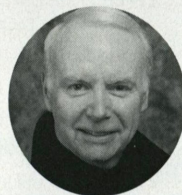
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### **2007 U.S. World Team**

Back row, from left: Johnny Weir, Denis Petukhov, Ben Agosto, Evan Lysacek and Ben Okolski; middle row, from left: Melissa Gregory, Tanith Belbin, Kimmie Meissner, Brooke Castile, Rena Inoue and John Baldwin; front row, from left: Charlie White, Emily Hughes, Meryl Davis, Alissa Czisny and Ryan Bradley.