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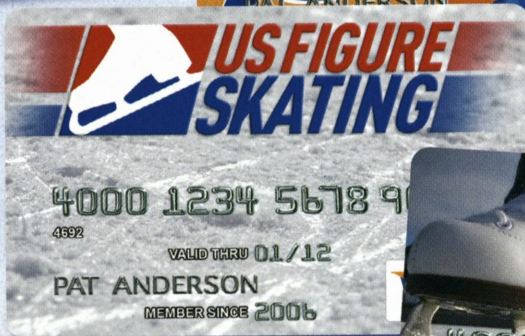
Inside: Complete coverage of the 2008 U.S. Championships

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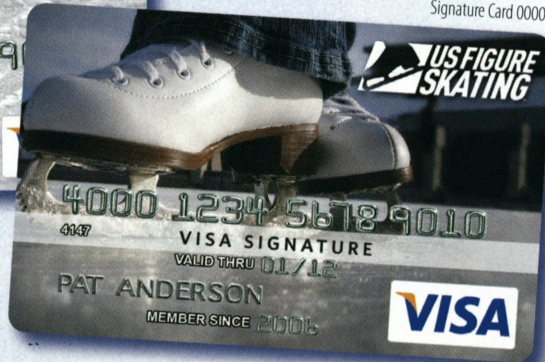


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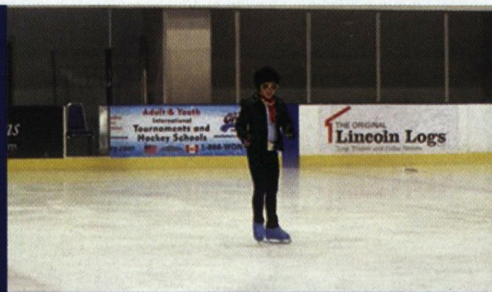


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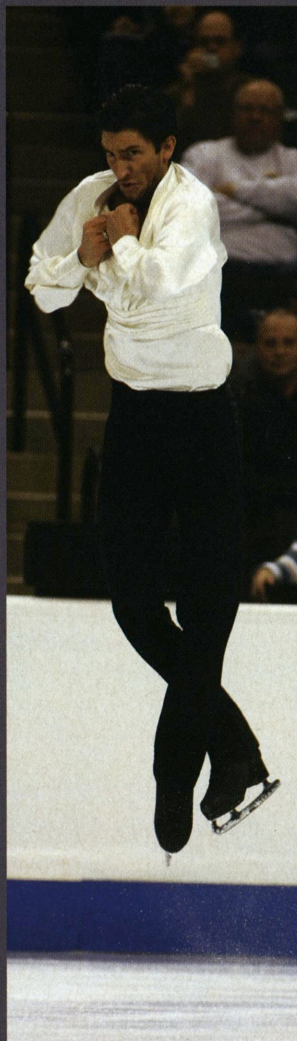
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# In this issue

- 4 Editor's Letter
- 5 Icebreakers
- 8 Where are they now?
- 46 Mr. Edge
- 47 Adult Corner
- 48 Rinkside
- 50 In Synch
- 54 Kids Questions
- 56 Crossword puzzle
- 56 Axel Annie
- 56 Kidz Spotlight
- 64 Classifieds

Two-time U.S. champion Gary Visconti hasn't slowed down one bit. He's coaching, painting and hanging out with his grandchildren.

# 8



# 10

For a solid week, the best skaters in the United States showcased their talents in Saint Paul, Minn. A complete look at these amazing skaters starts here.

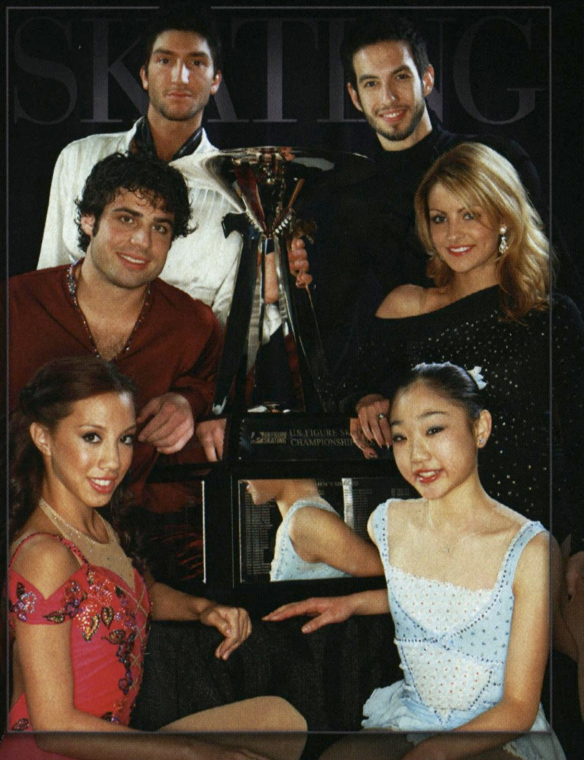
The junior class at the U.S. Championships demonstrated that the future of figure skating is as bright as ever.

# 34



# 40

While it's called the novice class, this year's novice skaters displayed seasoned skills and talent in front of enthusiastic fans at the Xcel Energy Center.



# On the cover

**Photos by Paul Harvath**

Ninety minutes after one of the great finishes in U.S. Championships history, the 2008 U.S. champions gathered for the traditional photo shoot with the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy. Clockwise are: Keauna McLaughlin, Rockne Brubaker, Evan Lysaack, Ben Agosto, Tanith Belbin and Mirai Nagasu. On the back cover is a photograph of the World Team.

# Some extra happenings from Saint Paul

As is standard practice, we at U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters returned home from the 2008 U.S. Championships and sat down for a post-event meeting.

What went right? What went wrong? What can we do better next time?

In making our way around the table, it became obvious that these championships went extremely well. High praise across the board went to the local organizing committee, the folks at the Xcel Energy Center, the volunteers, judges, officials, icenetwork and NBC.

And of course, there were the skaters who delivered memorable performances and plenty of drama. The Johnny-Evan photo finish couldn't have been scripted.

All of those exciting moments are covered in this edition of SKATING, which starts on page 10.

Outside of the competition, there were some fun side notes that I compiled for this column. If you were in Saint Paul, maybe you recall some of these.

- The Xcel Energy Center is regarded as one of the top entertainment venues in the country, playing host to a variety of sports, concerts and expos. Sharing the building during the U.S. Championships were the 2008 National PheasantFest and the World of Wheels car show. Henry Winkler (Fonzie) attended the car show with his Happy Days' pals Erin Moran (Joanie) and Anson Williams (Potsie). After the U.S. Championships left town, the Xcel Center welcomed rodeo.

- The skyway connecting our hotel to the Xcel Energy Center proved to be my best friend. After stepping outside on my first night in Saint Paul, I realized that walking two miles indoors – up and back – beat the punishing cold any day. Of course, a shuttle was provided but I figured I needed the exercise.

- Backstage at the U.S. Championships was also “cool” place to be. NBC's production trucks used for its NFL coverage were parked inside. On the side of the big rigs featured the names of (Bob) Costas, (Al) Michaels, (John) Madden and (Chris) Collinsworth, among other members of this broadcast dream team. Costas was in Saint Paul helping with the skating telecast, and gave our new communications coordinator, Rebecca Staed, a thrill by taking a picture with her. The two are Syracuse University alums – Costas in 1974 and Staed in 2007 (graduate school). 2002 Olympic pairs champions Jamie Sale and David Pelletier of Canada also were part of the NBC coverage team in Saint Paul.

- On my first night in town, I attended a Minnesota Wild hockey game and met Minnesota Twins coach Ron Gardenhire, who was there with his family. He seemed like a really good guy. I wished him luck for the upcoming season, but failed to mention that I wouldn't be rooting for his club. Go Rockies!

- Spotted backstage was an “A” list of former U.S. skating greats such as Todd Eldredge, Brian Boitano, Kristi Yamaguchi, Paul Wylie and Scott Hamilton. Eldredge and Wylie were in town for induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Other skating legends were in Saint Paul for the annual Athlete Alumni Association gathering.

- While I didn't attend, I was told the Tom Collins party was a huge event. The party featured great food, drink and everyone was dressed to the hilt. It sure beats my \$14.95 hamburger from room service.

- One lesson I learned for next year is to write a more succinct script (for the announcer) when it comes to SKATING's Readers' Choice Award. It seemed like my face was on the JumboTron for 15 minutes when presenting the trophy to Miami University's senior synchronized skating team.

- On our final night in Saint Paul, a group of us walked down the street at 2 a.m. to Mickey's Diner. This classic greasy spoon served as a perfect ending to a wonderful week.

*Dog Schwinde*



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

## Figure skating band 'Our Satisfaction' appears in *Sports Illustrated for Kids*

Upon hearing the all-male band Our Satisfaction, one would never guess the musicians behind the Soundgarden-esque tunes are four figure skaters from the University of Delaware Figure Skating Club.

The accomplished band, made up of U.S. senior men's skaters Traighe Rouse and Shaun Rogers, U.S. junior ice dancer Kyle Herring and British ice dancer Evan Roberts, is in its third year together and going strong. It recently appeared in the March 2008 issue of *Sports Illustrated for Kids*.

"It was really cool when they called us and said they were going to do a photo shoot," Rogers, 22, said. "It will be good exposure for the band."

The photo shoot was set up on a Plexiglas floor in Herring's relatives' garage and featured the band in full skating costume, with ice skates to boot.

"It was kind of slippery, but we had our guards," Rogers said.

At this year's U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., Rogers placed eighth, while 18-year-old Herring and partner, Sara Bailey, came in seventh. Roberts, 19, and partner Lindsay Cohen are the 2008 British junior silver medalists, and Rouse, 19, recently placed sixth at the 2008 Eastern Sectional Championships.

The band members live and train together at the University of Delaware and fit in a weekly practice amid school and their busy training schedules. However, all practice ceased while Herring and Rogers prepared for the U.S. Championships, where a few competitors took interest in the band.

"A few other skaters know about our band," Rogers said. "Johnny Weir was asking me a couple questions about it."

Mostly, though, support comes from the band members' training mates at the University of Delaware and from local fans. Their last big show was at a daylong mini festival with other local bands at the Trocadero Theater in Philadelphia.

Rogers cites Pearl Jam, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and similar groups as inspiration for Our Satisfaction's style. And while the band members might warm up to their own stuff, it is too heavy a sound for a typical figure skating program. Yet, making music harmonizes surprisingly well with skating, and vice versa, according to Rogers.

"In both (skating and music), you need to be creative to do well," he said. "I choreograph all my own show programs, and music helps me be more creative with skating."

As for whether fans should expect a skating-inspired song...

"Not yet," Rogers said, emphatically.

Rebecca Staed

(L-R) Shaun Rogers, Traighe Rouse, Evan Roberts and Kyle Herring



## Janet Lynn Solomon to speak at Skaters' Alumni Dinner

Janet Lynn Solomon will be the keynote speaker at the Athlete Advisory Committee's Alumni Dinner during U.S. Figure Skating's annual Governing Council meeting in Denver on May 2.

The five-time U.S. champion (1969-73) will deliver her message, "Skating Through Time," at 7 p.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

"Each day while raising my family for the last 30 years, I have been able to apply lessons and principles that I learned from figure skating," Lynn Solomon said. "My time away from skating has also broadened my life in beneficial ways. This has allowed me to explore the treasured lessons regarding the origins and principles of the joy of figure skating at many levels, as both a skater and an observer."

Lynn Solomon, an Olympic bronze medalist and two-time World medalist, said she looks forward to seeing old and new friends who are involved in U.S. Figure Skating.

"Perhaps we can inspire each other toward a renewed commitment of exploring and promoting the purity, simplicity and joy, along with the excitement, in our sport and art," she said.

Proceeds from the third annual event will go to the Athlete Alumni Association, which keeps athletes involved in the sport in different ways after they retire. This year, the association was instrumental in setting up athlete mentoring opportunities and bringing alumni back to the U.S. Championships.

## U.S. Figure Skating inks TV deal with CN8

U.S. Figure Skating has announced a multi-year partnership with CN8, The Comcast Network. Under the terms of the agreement, CN8 will broadcast selected U.S. Figure Skating events as part of the "Nancy Kerrigan's World of Skating" series.

Included in the partnership will be the junior-level competition at the 2008, 2009 and 2010 U.S. Championships and the 2008, 2009 and 2010 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships. The agreement also allows for additional programming to be added at a later date.

"We're thrilled with the CN8 partnership," said David Raith, executive director of U.S. Figure Skating. "This opportunity will provide additional exposure for our athletes, something figure skating fans truly desire."

A key component of the partnership will be the opportunity for CN8 to syndicate its programming of these events across a national, and international, platform of Comcast-and non-Comcast-owned cable and network television outlets. U.S. Figure Skating and CN8 had a similar partnership in 2005, when that year's U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships were produced by CN8 and made available to nearly 20 million homes via Comcast regional networks across the country.

"We think this partnership speaks volumes to the commitment of both CN8 and U.S. Figure Skating to ensure that we provide every opportunity possible for our skaters and fans to experience our sport," Raith said.

CN8 has been a strong supporter of the sport of figure skating, broadcasting multiple Eastern Sectional Championships over the past five years. The "Nancy Kerrigan World of Skating" series is a partnership between



U.S. Figure Skating alumni Lindsey Weber, center, and Jennifer Don, right, enjoy the evening with U.S. pairs skater Tiffany Vise.

CN8 and StarGames, Inc.

"This is a tremendous example of the kind of unique and exciting programming that CN8 offers its viewers," said Jon Gurevitch, vice president, CN8 sports. "The junior-level competition is a wonderful chance to see the next generation of stars. And synchronized skating is the fastest-growing and most visually breathtaking genre in the sport."

The preliminary CN8 broadcast schedule of the junior-level of the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, including coverage of all four disciplines, and the 2008 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships features more than 10 hours of tape-delayed competition. In addition to airing on CN8, the episodes will be available ondemand for fans who miss the broadcast or want to watch it again at no cost to Comcast Digital Cable customers.

Tentative broadcast schedule at the time of release:

U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships

Sat., March 1, 9:30 p.m.

Sat., March 8, 5 p.m.

Sat., March 15, 5 p.m.

Updates and additions to the broadcast schedule, including additional markets carrying these programs, will be released by U.S. Figure Skating and CN8 as they become available.

## Fleming to headline 'Blades for the Cure'

A star-studded cast, including 1968 Olympic champion Peggy Fleming, is lending its talents and time in a benefit skating show April 12 in Colorado Springs, Colo., to help a skating family that is battling cancer.

The event, titled "Blades for the Cure," will feature the five-time U.S. champion and three-time World titlist Fleming, former three-time U.S. pairs champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand as well as several 2008 U.S. medal winners.

The performance will help benefit the family of skater Austin Kanallakan (Broadmoor SC), whose father, Steve, has multiple myeloma, a type of cancer formed by cancerous plasma cells in the blood.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance at the Sertich Ice Arena are available online at [www.bladesforthecure.org](http://www.bladesforthecure.org). A confirmation e-mail will be sent, and tickets will be available at will call when doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Proceeds will go to Blades for the Cure Foundation, a charitable organization. A portion of the money raised will go to the American Cancer Society Great West Division.

VIP tickets are \$40, which includes on-ice seating and a post-show reception and autograph session. Adult (13 & older) tickets are \$20; senior and active military seats are \$15; children 3-12 are \$10. Children under 3 are free.



Peggy Fleming

PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



## Fauver receives Disbrow Award

Ann Fauver is the 2008 recipient of the sixth annual Jimmy Disbrow Award.

She is a longtime judge, referee, technical controller and volunteer coach, who, at 84 years of age, remains a fixture at U.S. Figure Skating events.

Fauver began skating at the Cleveland Skating Club and culminated her competitive singles career as a novice lady at the U.S. Championships.

She and her husband raised four children, devoting much of their time as volunteers for skating activities.

The couple served as Cleveland Skating Club Ice Show chairs for 20 years. Under their direction, the annual show benefited U.S. Figure Skating's Memorial Fund and raised more than \$160,000.

As one of the sport's national judges and officials, Fauver has worked singles, pairs, ice dancing and synchronized skating competitions. She's also an international ice dancing test judge.

With a passion to help young skaters, she volunteered to coach two Cleveland "precision" teams, both of which qualified for the Midwestern Sectional Championships and U.S. Championships.

In their spare time, Mr. and Mrs. Fauver competed in several Midwestern ice dancing events; she completed her gold dance tests in 1967.

Upon retirement, the family moved to Kennebunk, Maine, where Ann and her daughter, Jane, joined the Hayden Esprit de Corps synchronized team. From 1984-95, they drove to Lexington, Mass., twice a week for practices. The team won three gold medals at the U.S. Championships.

Fauver continues to work as a judge and referee, and most recently chaired the Judges Education and Training Subcommittee and the U.S. Synchronized Skating Committee. In 2007, she was the U.S. team leader at the World Synchronized Skating Championships.

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.



Dede Disbrow, left, presents the annual Jimmy Disbrow Award to Ann Fauver during the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

PHOTO BY MICHELE BROWN

## Attendance record set at Friends of Figure Skating brunch

A record-setting 285 Friends of Figure Skating members attended a brunch in their honor Jan. 27 at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

The brunch is a members-only event that allows all Friends of Figure Skating members the opportunity to meet and visit with U.S. Figure Skating athletes.

More than 30 skaters and the mascot of U.S. Figure Skating, Snowplow Sam, attended the breakfast. The U.S. Championships Trophy was also on display, and members had an opportunity to have their photo taken with the prestigious hardware.

All Friends of Figure Skating members in attendance were eligible for

a variety of raffle prizes, including autographed memorabilia, gift certificates and U.S. Figure Skating paraphernalia.

The grand prize went to Mike Kozol, who won an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Championships.

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



Pictured, left to right, is grand prize winner Mike Kozol and his family and friends, Susie Cabrera, Eleanor Kozol, Edna Bell, Carol Marzullo.

## HQ Profile: Rebecca Staed

I have been with U.S. Figure Skating for two months as communications coordinator. I arrived two weeks before the U.S. Championships, which was an exhilarating experience to have from the get-go. I help handle media relations as well as web content for [icenet.com](http://icenet.com) and the in-house web site, and I am the assistant editor of *SKATING* magazine.



Rebecca Staed, right, with Bob Costas backstage at the 2008 U.S. Championships.

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

I danced for more than 15 years and am a certified Pilates instructor, so I love teaching Pilates and dance classes. In college, I was a member of the cross country and golf teams. I still run six days a week and look forward to warm weather so that I can hit the golf course again. I also enjoy hiking and attempt to look good on skis. Otherwise, my guilty pleasures include shopping and cooking.

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

I grew up in Alabama and moved 1,300 miles for this job. Also, I went to a women's college (Hollins University in Roanoke, Va.). It was the greatest experience of my life.

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

The people I work with. There is never a dull moment. Everyone says this, but it just goes to show that it is true.

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

Peanut butter...no, really, my family, my health and the capacity to help others.

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

Back to Ireland. My dad was born there. I feel a strong connection to the island and the people there.

**Talk about your family.** As mentioned, my dad was born in Ireland. He and his twin sister were adopted by parents of Irish ancestry who lived in the United States. He is the managing editor of a South Carolina newspaper. I got my love for writing from him. My mom was an army brat who grew up all over the world. She teaches special education. She is the most giving and patient woman I know. My sister, Jenny, and her husband, Josh, have two beautiful children – Caleb, 4, and Natalie, 3 months. It is very humbling to watch her love and care for her children. I also have a cat, Macy, who is a diva. She keeps me entertained.

# Visconti sees blessings and guiding angels

BY LOIS ELFMAN

It's impossible to come away from a conversation with Gary Visconti in a bad mood. The two-time U.S. men's champion (1965 and 1967), two-time World bronze medalist (1966-67), Olympian (1968) and member of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame (inducted in 2001) speaks of many joys in his life.

From his coaching to his grandchildren, he is quick to say, "I'm so blessed."

In addition to skating, Visconti, 64, is also an award-winning artist. Several

years ago he won a worldwide competition for Olympians. One of his best-known paintings is titled "The Bewildered Champion." Forty-one different people pop out of the central figure's head in the piece.

"Those are the people who made him the champion that he became," Visconti said.

One of the people Visconti carries in his head and his heart is Doug Ramsay, a member of the 1961 U.S. World Team who died in the tragic plane crash and was Visconti's idol. The two men were only one week apart in age, but Visconti did not start skating until he was almost 12, so Ramsay was much more advanced.

"When I joined the Detroit Skating Club and was doing single jumps as a beginner, he was already a competitor doing double jumps," Visconti said. "He mentored me."

Ramsay finished fourth at the 1961 U.S. Championships but got the spot on the World Team when bronze medalist Tim Brown took ill.

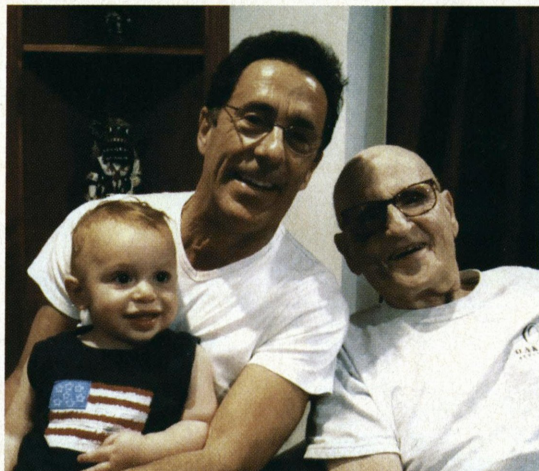
"We had a big send-off party for Doug, which they called 'Bon Voyage,'" Visconti said. "The expression 'bon voyage' has always held a negative connotation for me."

In the mid-1960s, Visconti was part of the rebuilding of U.S. Figure Skating. He admitted there was a lot of pressure, but there were also opportunities to shine. In addition to being a solid competitor, he did his utmost to introduce a new skating style.

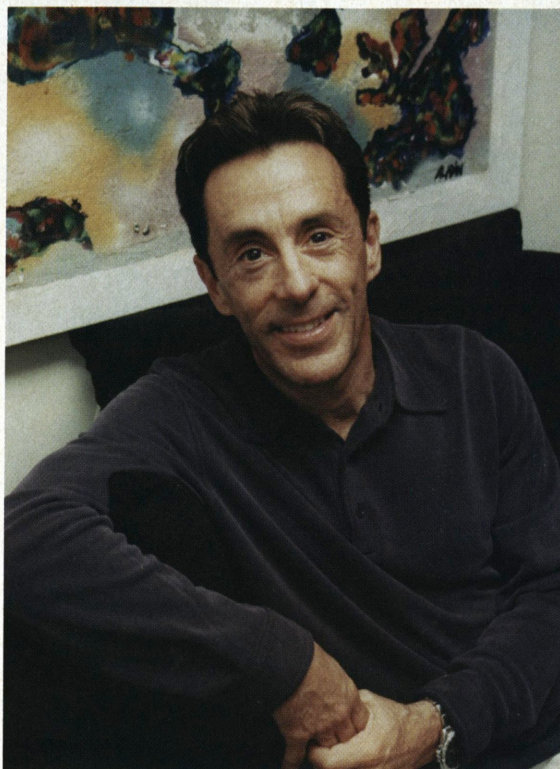
"Before 1963, skating was not extended, stretched and balletic," he said. "Peggy Fleming and I were trying to bring a new style to freestyle."

After the 1969 season, Visconti turned professional, winning the World Professional Championships and then becoming a star with "Holiday on Ice." He toured for several seasons and then returned home to head coach at the Detroit Skating Club. He eventually wed and moved to Phoenix to coach with his former trainer, Don Stewart. Three years later, he moved to Los Angeles, where he currently resides.

"It's been very successful for me. I've been to 29 nationals, 18 Worlds



Family and friends are important parts of Visconti's life. Pictured are Visconti, his 92-year-old father, Chuck, and grandson, Rocco.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARY VISCONTI

Besides skating, Gary Visconti shares a passion for painting. Below, Visconti's "Still" female oil painting that will soon take sculpture form.

and four Olympics with skaters," he said, adding four hockey players that he worked with on power skating have made the NHL.

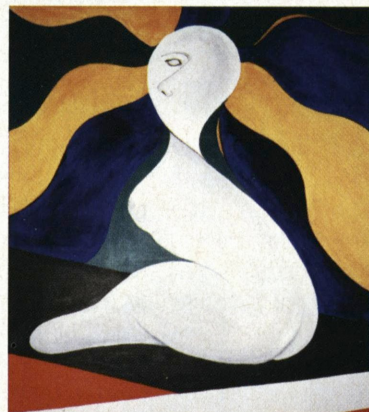
Visconti is presently coach and skating director at the Culver City Ice Arena in Culver City, Calif. He has about 16 serious competitors, ages 5 to 17, as well as eight or nine adult skaters who compete. He also enjoys coaching recreational skaters, which he said helps keep his creative juices flowing.

Among them are celebrities, such as renowned producer Jerry Bruckheimer. One high-profile individual who doesn't take skating lessons but is Visconti's good friend is California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. They served together on the President's Council for Fitness.

At press time, Visconti was about to become a grandfather for the fourth time, as younger daughter Michele was due to give birth to a girl in February. She already has a son, Rocco. Elder daughter Tasha has a daughter, Gianna, and a son, Nicholas. Visconti's mother, Lena Marie, passed away in 1983, but his father, Chuck, is still alive and kicking at 92.

In addition to painting, which he has done all his life, Visconti is working on an inspirational book loosely based on his own life. His energy level is always soaring, about which he noted, "I'm just wired that way."

He weighs about the same as he did when he competed because, in addition to ice time, he hits the gym three or four times a week. He also enjoys time off at his home in San Gabriel, Mexico. Visconti said someday he will retire to his home in Phoenix, but not anytime soon. ■





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Following the U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, U.S. Figure Skating named its international selections for the World Championships (March 17-23 in Gothenburg, Sweden), Four Continents Championships (Feb. 13-16 in Seoul, Korea) and the World Junior Championships (Feb. 25-March 2 in Sofia, Bulgaria).

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS****LADIES**

Bebe Liang  
Kimmie Meissner  
Ashley Wagner

**MEN**

Stephen Carriere  
Evan Lysacek  
Johnny Weir

**PAIRS**

Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski  
Rena Inoue/John Baldwin

**ICE DANCING**

Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto  
Meryl Davis/Charlie White  
Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre

**FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS****LADIES**

Katrina Hacker  
Bebe Liang  
Ashley Wagner

**MEN**

Stephen Carriere  
Evan Lysacek  
Johnny Weir (*replaced by Jeremy Abbott*)

**PAIRS**

Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski  
Rena Inoue/John Baldwin  
Tiffany Vise/Derek Trent

**ICE DANCING**

Meryl Davis/Charlie White  
Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre  
Jennifer Wester/Daniil Barantsev

**WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS****LADIES**

Rachael Flatt  
Mirai Nagasu  
Caroline Zhang

**MEN**

Brandon Mroz  
Adam Rippon  
Tommy Steenberg

**PAIRS**

Bianca Butler/Joseph Jacobsen  
Chelsi Guillen/Danny Curzon  
Jessica Rose Paetsch/Jon Nuss

**ICE DANCING**

Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell  
Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates

# Made for TV

## U.S. Championships deliver drama, excitement

BY TROY SCHWINDT

**W**hile a writers' strike may have impacted some of NBC's prime-time shows, the network couldn't have scripted more dramatic programming than the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

For a solid week – Jan. 20-27 – the top figure skaters in the land put on a show that left fans at the Xcel Energy Center and at home craving more spins, spirals and Axels.

Turnstiles at the "X" experienced a constant flow of both locals and out-of-towners, eager to watch the likes of defending champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, Evan Lysacek, Kimmie Meissner and Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski, as well as future stars in the novice and junior ranks.

While no attendance records were broken, Xcel Energy Center crowds were impressive, knowledgeable and enthusiastic.

NBC, U.S. Figure Skating's new television partner, enjoyed solid ratings for its seven hours of live and prime-time coverage.

Considering the compelling races and thrilling outcomes within each discipline, those superior ratings over last year's U.S. Championships aren't surprising.

In the ladies class, 14-year-old Mirai Nagasu won the hearts of judges and fans alike with her athletic and showy programs. Last year's U.S. junior titlist, the always cheerful Nagasu rebounded after falling early in her free skate to hold off Rachael Flatt and Ashley Wagner.

Flatt and Wagner, 15 and 16, respectively, entrenched themselves as U.S. Figure Skating medal contenders for years to come with their outstanding performances. After a disappointing short program, 14-year-old Caroline Zhang, the 2007 World Junior champion, rallied with a dynamic free skate, landing her

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto



## U.S. Championships

Mirai Nagasu

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



foot injury sustained by Castile over the summer prevented the skaters from training and competing.

Tiffany Vise and Derek Trent, who during the Grand Prix campaign became the first team to execute a throw quadruple Salchow, finished fourth.

Belbin and Agosto continued their stranglehold on U.S. ice dancing by capturing their record-tying fifth title. The 2006 Olympic silver medalists achieved the milestone despite a knee injury sustained by Belbin a couple weeks prior to the competition.

Their training mates, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who have skated together since childhood, secured the silver medal. Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre, in their third year as partners, carted

Evan Lysacek

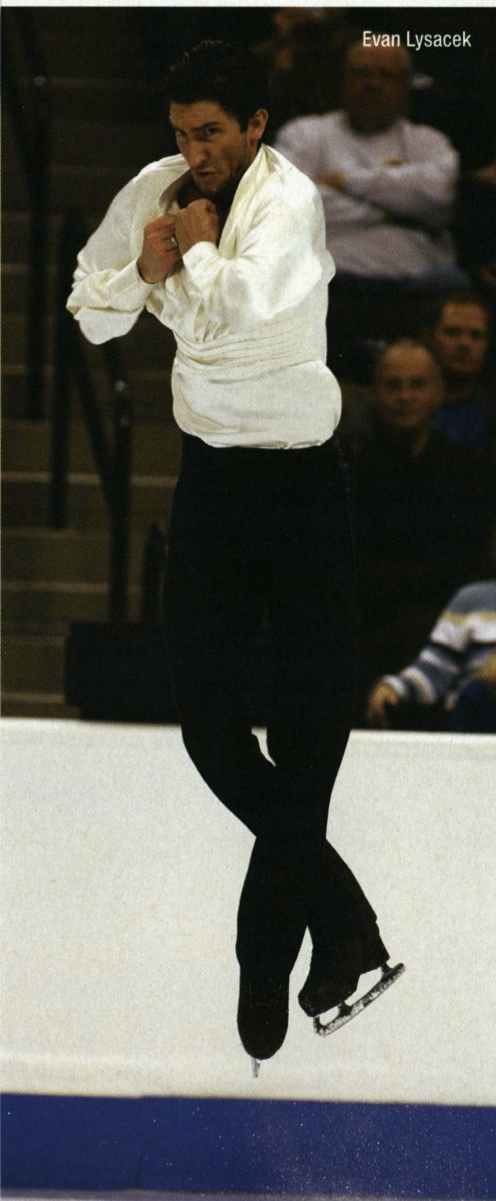


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker



PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

fourth overall.

For the fourth consecutive year, a different U.S. pairs team was crowned champion. Keauna McLaughlin, 15, and Rockne Brubaker, 21, executed two challenging and entertaining programs to secure the gold medal.

The tandem skates out of Colorado Springs, Colo., and in just two years together have put themselves atop the national scene and battling for gold medals internationally.

Two-time U.S. champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin, who spent the last several months touring, put things together at the last minute under coach Philip Mills and grabbed the silver medal. At the end of their free skate, Baldwin sealed his long relationship with Inoue by dropping to a knee and proposing marriage on the ice. She accepted.

Castile and Okolski, the defending champions, earned the bronze medal in their first competition of the season. A

home the bronze medal.

Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates finished fourth in their first year as seniors.

In what was without a doubt the most compelling finish of these championships, defending titlist Evan Lysacek and three-time champion Johnny Weir battled to a tie, both scoring 244.77 points.

Some say there's a better chance of carding a hole-in-one in golf than having a tie for first place under the international judging system, which uses a multitude of numbers to determine scores.

Weir captured the short program by 1.35 points, while Lysacek won the free skate by the same margin. Under U.S. Figure Skating rules, the tie was broken by who had the higher free skate score.

Stephen Carriere captured the bronze medal, while Jeremy Abbott returned to the podium in fourth place.

On the following pages is a complete wrap-up of the competition. Enjoy. ■

# 'Special gift'

## Nagasu blends fun with skating to become champion

BY TROY SCHWINDT

**S**andy Gollihugh vividly remembers the first day she began coaching 7-year-old Mirai Nagasu at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center.

"I knew from day one that this child was going to go all the way," said Gollihugh, who has coached for 47 years. "She had so much focus and so much ability that it was mind boggling. You get a few of those kids, but they don't come around often. Plus, she had her parents' support and you just knew."

Nagasu arrived at Gollihugh's doorstep with a toolbox full of skills.

"I always knew even when I put her in preliminary girls or pre-juvenile that while she may not have won, I knew that this child was going to start winning."

Nagasu also loved to jump, and Gollihugh said she had to frequently remind the young skater that she needed to develop her other elements as well.

Gollihugh coached Nagasu for five years, during which time the two developed a solid personal and working relationship.

"As girls get older, that 11 and 12 age can be kind of hard, and we had our moments," said Gollihugh, "but she always listened to me at competitions. When I put her on, she focused on me and nobody else. She is just a good kid all around, a good listener."

The two remain in contact. In fact, Nagasu called Gollihugh after this season's Pacific Coast Sectional Championships and several days after her gold-medal performance at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

"I think she still is in kind of a state of shock," Gollihugh said. "I just told her to keep focused and that she still had the Olympics to go to. She was so happy, and I was so pleased for her."

While watching the ladies final on NBC, Gollihugh said she knew Nagasu was nervous.

"She was wringing her hands, and I can always tell when Mirai is nervous," Gollihugh said. "I kept saying to myself, 'Listen to me Mirai, calm down, calm down. When she fell on the double Axel, I said, 'Just keep going.' And she did that, she pulled herself together."

Gollihugh said she's certain Nagasu will continue to be successful.

"Her parents are behind her, Charlene (Wong) I'm sure is keeping her level headed, she has her club behind her, and I'm behind her 100 percent," Gollihugh said. "I know Mirai and I think she will forge ahead, and it will be interesting to watch."

Wong, her coach since the summer of 2006, sees many of the same special traits as Gollihugh in this already accomplished teenager.

Wong describes her prize pupil, however, as a "regular 14 year old, who has this

Photo by Paul Haworth



Mirai Nagasu

Photo by Michelle Haworth

## Senior Ladies



Coach Charlene Wong and Mirai Nagasu

special gift."

"She enjoys things other 14 year olds enjoy," Wong said. "She hasn't changed her whole life for ice skating, but that doesn't mean that ice skating isn't really important to her."

During the weeklong competition in Saint Paul, Nagasu (Pasadena FSC) exhibited the "gift" in front of thousands of fans at the Xcel Energy Center and millions more watching live on NBC. In Tiger Woods fashion, she blitzed the 20-skater field with a U.S. short program record of 70.23 points (the old record was 65.69 set by Kimmie Meissner at the 2007 U.S. Championships), which included an opening triple Lutz-triple toe combination and spell-binding level-four spins across the board.

After leaving the ice, the bubbly and free-spirited Nagasu met reporters with the same unbridled enthusiasm and cheerfulness that she displayed moments earlier during her "I Got Rhythm" short program.

"It was just pure fun, and that's what I'm here to do," said Nagasu, who lives with her parents in Arcadia, Calif.

The 2007 U.S. junior champion, Nagasu said she couldn't sleep the night before the short program, which didn't sit well with her mother.

"I got in trouble with my mom because she wanted me to get my rest," Nagasu said. "I kept mentally visualizing it in my head and I think that's the reason I couldn't sleep, because I was so excited."

The next night Nagasu prepared to take the ice with a prime-time audience tuned to NBC. With the crowd fired up following the electric free skates by Rachael Flatt (Broadmoor SC) and Ashley Wagner (Washington FSC), a nervous Nagasu

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROWN

started with a with a level-four spiral sequence. Seconds, later, however, she fell attempting a double Axel.

That mistake took the collective wind out of the arena, but Nagasu jumped up and completed her "Coppelia" free skate without any other major errors.

Her score of 120.18 was third best for the night, but her overall score of 190.41 held up, earning Nagasu the U.S. title.

In the kiss and cry, Nagasu and Wong anxiously awaited the scores on the JumboTron, but it wasn't until Wong told Nagasu she'd won that the skater realized the outcome.

"Charlene had to tell me (that I won) because I didn't have my glasses on," Nagasu said. "She was like, 'Oh, my God.' I was like, 'What?' She was like, 'You won.' I was like, 'What?'"

After doing a quick NBC interview, Nagasu met with reporters who asked what was going through her mind after spilling to the ice.

"The fall on the double Axel was like a kick in the butt," Nagasu said. "After that I just attacked and did the rest."

Wong was asked what she thought was going to happen after Nagasu fell.

"Honestly, I had no idea what she was going to do," Wong said. "But I knew whatever she went for was going to be a defining moment in her career. Either she was going to be a fighter or she was going to buckle."

"Regardless of the quality of that combination (triple Lutz-triple toe), I felt that her intention was to do the best triple-triple she could, which told me she was a fighter. Again, with Mirai, as long as she attacks a performance, she gets off (the ice) feeling good about herself, so I knew the skate would be confidence-boosting."

After back-to-back U.S. titles, confidence is something Nagasu certainly isn't lacking, although she admits she isn't quite ready to compete at the World Championships, for which she will be eligible in 2009.

"I definitely think I'm not ready for anything that high yet, and I just want to get more experience and be more ready when I do get to go," Nagasu said.

As for the World Junior Championships (they took place the end of February), Nagasu responded with that special gift.

"It would be a privilege to go," she said. ■

(L-R) Rachael Flatt, Mirai Nagasu, Ashley Wagner and Caroline Zhang



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

## LADIES

GOLD | Mirai Nagasu – 190.41

SILVER | Rachael Flatt – 188.73

BRONZE | Ashley Wagner – 188.56

FOURTH PLACE | Caroline Zhang – 173.16

## New arrivals

Nagasu, Flatt, Wagner provide great drama in Saint Paul

BY TROY SCHWINDT

At the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash., Kimmie Meissner, Emily Hughes and Alissa Czisny stood atop the podium.

At the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., 14-year-old Mirai Nagasu (Pasadena FSC), 15-year-old Rachael Flatt (Broadmoor FSC) and 16-year-old Ashley Wagner (Washington FSC) graced the winners' stand.

Media types covering the event must have felt they had hit the storyline jackpot.

Of course, Nagasu's brilliant short program and subsequent U.S. title gave everyone plenty to write and talk about.

The seemingly always-bubbly teenager from Arcadia, Calif., ignited the Xcel Energy Center crowd with a memorable and record-breaking short program, a performance that even impressed her coach, Charlene Wong.

"I would have to say that's the best she's skated that program this season," Wong said. "For one, it's the first time she's ever completed the triple-triple and two, this season has been a little rough because that program is very difficult and it's a big step up from last year's program, and each time she did it, although it would be clean, it wasn't to our liking."

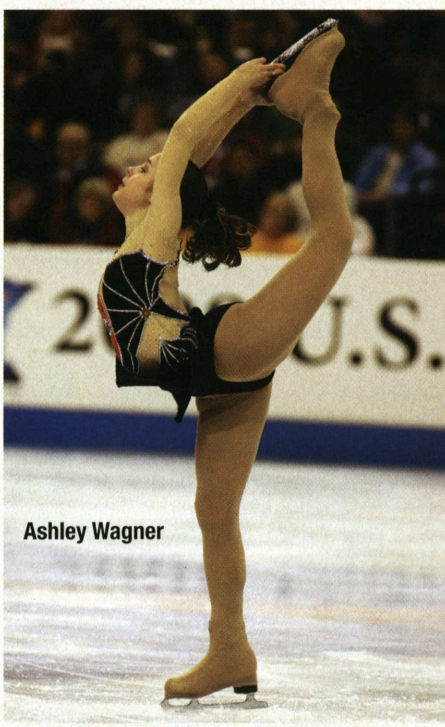
Nagasu generated 70.23 points for her "I

## Senior Ladies



Rachael Flatt

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Ashley Wagner

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

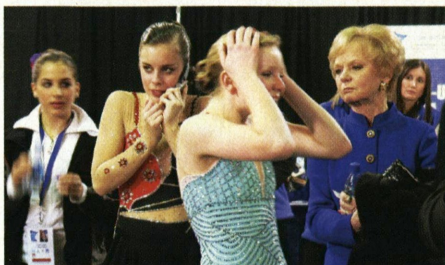


PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

Ashley Wagner makes a call, while Rachael Flatt is in disbelief following the free skate. Sixth-place finisher Katrina Hacker, left, and Wagner's coach Shirley Hughes look on.

Got Rhythm" short program, five more than second-place Wagner and seven more than third-place Flatt.

"It was really exciting, and the crowd got into it," Nagasu said. "I just wanted to land my triple-triple, and to be in first right now is really exciting, but I'm not going to let any of the pressure from first bother me tomorrow."

Meissner (University of Delaware FSC), who entered the competition having finished last at the Grand Prix Final in December, fell on her triple flip and finished the short program 12 points behind Nagasu. She entered the free skate in fourth place.

"My flip, that was such a silly mistake," Meissner said.

2007 World Junior champion Caroline Zhang (All Year FSC) also had a subpar short program which put her seventh, more than 16 points behind Nagasu.

"I just didn't skate well," Zhang said. "It was just a pretty slow performance for me."

Czisny (Detroit SC), the 2007 U.S. bronze medalist, struggled with her jumps and finished ninth overall in the 20-skater field.

"I think I just felt a little bit shaky," Czisny said. "I didn't quite trust my jumps enough."

On the night of the ladies final, the top 10 skaters took the ice for the NBC live telecast.

Zhang rebounded nicely from her disappointing short program and grabbed the early lead with a clean free skate to Shubert's "Ave Maria."

"I was just really glad that I managed to fix the mistakes I made in the short program because that cost me a lot," Zhang said. "Also, this was my first year doing a triple-triple, so I was really excited."

Following a solid skate by Katrina Hacker (SC of Boston), it was Meissner's turn to make some noise, but that didn't happen. The 18-year-old University of Delaware freshman fell three times during her "Nessun Dorma" free skate. She finished seventh in the free skate and seventh overall.

"That's a bummer, that's all I can say," Meissner said. "It's such a shame. I was really skating well, and I was pretty confident going into this but just lost it."

"My flip it seems like I get so uptight about it that it's like a new jump. I trained really hard. I was doing clean programs every day. It was more mental because I just lost it."

Meissner said she didn't really feel pressure returning as U.S. champion.

"I just didn't have a good competition, which is really unfortunate. I'm really upset," she said.

The competition heated up when Flatt delivered the best free skate of the night, a program to Mathieu's "Romantic Rhapsody."

Flatt landed seven triple jumps, including a triple Lutz-triple toe loop and a triple flip-double toe-double loop combination. Judges rewarded her with 125.82 points and an overall mark of 188.73 points.

"Going into the long I felt I had nothing to lose," said Flatt, who placed fifth last year at the U.S. Championships. "I just went out there and really attacked everything and had a lot of fun."

Flatt's coach, Tom Zakrajsek, said that Flatt's performance didn't come as a surprise to him.

"I work with her on a daily basis and I know how she trains," he said. "I know what the goals are for this season, and I can say with each competition she has really worked to get those goals. I wasn't worried and I knew she was ready and that she was trained, and I knew she could be better than last year."

With the crowd cheering loudly, Wagner took the ice for her "Jalousie" free skate and was able to nearly match Flatt's outstanding performance.

She connected on her opening triple Lutz-triple loop, which generated a whopping 11.57 points. The speedy and confident program featured seven triple jumps and level-four spins and spirals. Wagner's score of 123.41 for the free skate placed her second overall for the moment behind Flatt with 188.56 points.

"I was kind of nervous because Rachael just skated and the crowd was going crazy," said Wagner, who last year won the bronze medal in the junior ranks. "I don't think people realize how loud it is. I could not even hear myself think. I came over to Miss (Shirley) Hughes and she was like, 'You can do it, you can do it.' And I did it. I'm really happy with my perfor-



mance.”

Wagner said, “I’m 16 and I just made the World Team. I think that’s kind of crazy.”

Up last, Nagasu nicely executed her opening spiral element but fell moments later on her double Axel. She regrouped immediately however and finished the program without any other major mistakes.

Her “Coppelia” free skate score of 120.18 was third best for the night, and her overall score of 190.41 topped the field.

With the win, Nagasu became only the second woman in history to win the U.S. junior title and senior title in back to back years.

“I was really nervous going into the program because I heard all the crowd going wild for Rachael and Ashley and all the other skaters,” Nagasu said. “When I fell on the double Axel, I was like, ‘What am I doing? I have to get myself back under control.’ After that, it was a lot easier for me because I just started attacking out there.”

## Ladies NOTEBOOK

### Hughes withdraws

There was one familiar face missing from the 2008 U.S. Championships. 2007 U.S. silver medalist Emily Hughes withdrew weeks before the competition due to a hip injury that prevented her from training and competing.

“This injury is just really bad timing,” said Hughes, who attends Harvard University and trains at the Skating Club of Boston.

Hughes placed seventh at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games and has finished in the top 10 at each of the last two World Championships. In her two Grand Prix assignments this season, Hughes placed fourth at both Skate America and Skate Canada.

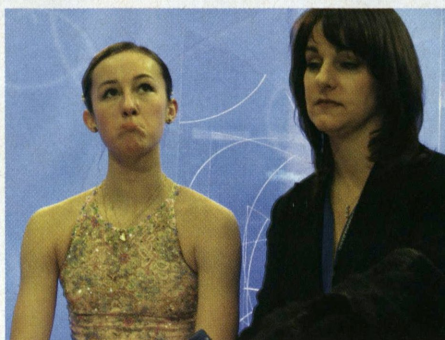
### Meissner changes camps

A week after returning home from a disappointing seventh-place finish at the U.S. Championships, Kimmie Meissner announced she would spend the next six weeks training in Florida for the World Championships with coach Richard Callaghan.

Meissner, the 2006 World champion and 2007 U.S. titlist, finished last at the Grand Prix Final in December and struggled in Saint Paul.

The 18-year-old University of Delaware student has been coached by Pam Gregory for most of her career.

“I’m just really trying to put all my focus and energy into training for Worlds,” Meissner said. “I’m grateful to Pam Gregory for everything she



A disappointed Kimmie Meissner and her coach Pam Gregory await scores in the kiss and cry.

has done, but I needed to make some changes in order to regain my focus and confidence.

“I know I’m capable of making the podium at Worlds; that’s my main goal right now.”

Callaghan is best known for coaching Todd Eldredge, a six-time U.S. champion and the 1996 World champion. Eldredge will also assist Meissner in her training. Callaghan has also worked with 2004 World champion Shizuka Arakawa, 1998 Olympic champion Tara Lipinski and 1995 U.S. champion Nicole Bobek.



Caroline Zhang waves to the crowd at the Xcel Energy Center as her coach Ming Zhu Li looks on.

### Weight watchers

Caroline Zhang had her family by her side during the U.S. Championships with the exception of her new Pomeranian named Toffee Lutz Zhang. Toffee, Zhang said, is on a diet. “She’s big,” Zhang said, “She’s supposed to be tiny and she’s...” Zhang also toted a load of books out to the U.S. Championships, including favorites: *A tale of Two Cities* and *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*.

### Just the fax

U.S. champion Mirai Nagasu received a good luck fax from Japanese champion Mao Asada while competing in Saint Paul. The two met when Nagasu traveled to Lake Arrowhead, Calif., last summer to train with her. “It was really exciting because she had a lot of speed and

her jumps are incredibly high, and I was just wowed,” Nagasu said. Nagasu said they talked in Japanese during their conversations.

### Cast of one

Alissa Czisny, known for her elegant lay-back spins and spirals, competed with a cast on her left hand. “My thumb had been bothering me since early fall, but on Jan. 10 I must have had a bad fall that really bothered it because the next day I wasn’t able to use my thumb for anything,” she said. The thumb began to swell and the pain escalated. Czisny said the cast hasn’t interfered too much with her skating, although she had to have a Velcro insert put into her free skate competition dress so she could wear that costume.



Coach Julianne Berlin comforts skater Alissa Czisny. Czisny injured her thumb prior to the U.S. Championships and competed with a cast on her left hand.

### Sleeping in

Katrina Hacker (Skating Club of Boston) enjoyed a breakthrough U.S. Championships, finishing sixth overall. After the short program, Hacker sat fifth and was taken from the ice to the media zone for interviews. One reporter asked what her expectations were entering the competition. “I just want to do two good programs and see what happens after that,” she said. Her coach, Mark Mitchell, standing nearby, jumped in by saying, “We wanted to be able to skate at night and not in the morning; that was our goal.” The top 10 skaters after Friday night’s short program performed live on NBC on Saturday night, while skaters finishing 11-20 performed their free skates at 8:45 on Saturday morning.

### Quoteworthy

All week long, an energetic and happy Mirai Nagasu provided the media with some great quotes. After her free skate, one reporter asked Nagasu how she felt. “I’m very excited and speechless for words,” she said. Another reporter asked her about what was going on in her mind after falling early in her free skate. “The fall on the double Axel was like a kick in the butt, and after that I just attacked and did the rest.” ■

# Gritting it out

## Lysacek demonstrates will to win

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

**I**f there's one word that fits Evan Lysacek to a tee, it's determined.

A native Midwesterner who now makes his home near Hollywood, the 22-year-old brings both practicality and flair to the ice. Keenly aware of his greatest strength, a commanding on-ice presence, he is equally attuned to how he can improve his performances.

And at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., he made no secret of his biggest obstacle: nerves.

"It was much more difficult coming in here as the reigning champion and trying to win again than I anticipated," admitted the now two-time U.S. champ after his short program.

"I wanted to have the attitude the whole week of not worrying about the result, but somewhere along the line, it crept in. I think it freaked me out a little bit. I've never been shaking when I've started out in my beginning pose before. I was thinking, 'What is in my head? What is going on?' But I got through it."

Getting through it could be Lysacek's motto. While he didn't skate his best, he found a way to win.

In his free skate to Puccini's "Tosca," the skater held the landings of several jumps by sheer willpower before uncoiling his remaining energy in his flamboyant step sequences. By winning the free by 1.35 points, he broke a historic tie with three-time champion Weir and took home his second national title.

"To have not one person, but two, [earn] more than 244 points in the same event means we can compete with anyone in the world right now," Lysacek said.

"All I can control is attacking every element, thinking about points, points, points because that's sort of the name of the game. ["Tosca"] is a program I'm really proud of. I've worked on having difficult entrances and exits to all of the jumps. It's actually a good thing the sport is about (that) and it's not just recital. You have to go out and fight."

Fighting clearly suits the competitive Lysacek, who moved from his native Illinois in 2003 to train in El Segundo, Calif. with Frank Carroll, former coach of Michelle Kwan, Linda Fratianne and other champions. The skater has since formed a rare bond with the exacting coach, and was quick to credit him in

Saint Paul.

"One thing I've found is to trust Frank because he knows and he's been around so many times," Lysacek said. "He's always said, 'Don't back away the week of the competition, don't lose stamina.'"

Carroll's wisdom extended to advice on how to handle media questions concerning his obvious rivalry with Weir, highlighted as a key

Evan Lysacek



Photos by Michelle Haworth

## Senior Men

storyline in virtually every television broadcast and major news story.

"Frank just told me, 'Mind your own business,' in every respect," Lysacek recalled. "Don't spend a lot of energy worrying about what someone else is going to do. The less energy I spend thinking about somebody else, the more I can put into my own skating, and that's where I want my energy to be."

Lysacek had only praise for Weir, who won the U.S. title 2004-2006.

"I give him amazing props; I don't know how he did this three times," he said. "It's much more difficult coming in as the champ than as the challenger. Obviously this was my first [title defense] and I was shaking."

Despite his nerves and the magnitude of the occasion, the two-time World bronze medalist (2005 and 2006) refused to play it safe in either of his programs. Since nailing a quadruple toe loop-triple toe loop combination in his winning "Carmen" free skate at the 2007 U.S. Championships, Lysacek has tried the difficult combination in all of his competitions.

"I feel that by the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, I will need the quad in both programs to be on the medal stand. I'm training the quad along with the other elements, to make my programs stronger," the skater reasoned, adding that 2007 World champion Brian Joubert; two-time World

champ Stephane Lambiel; and 2007 World silver medalist Daisuke Takahashi all execute quads.

"[The quad combination] is a difficult thing to do under pressure," agreed Carroll. "But if you don't start doing it now, what are you going to do in Vancouver? If you want to play with the big boys, they have to do them. As I've said before, if you don't want to do the tough stuff, you should get out of the business."

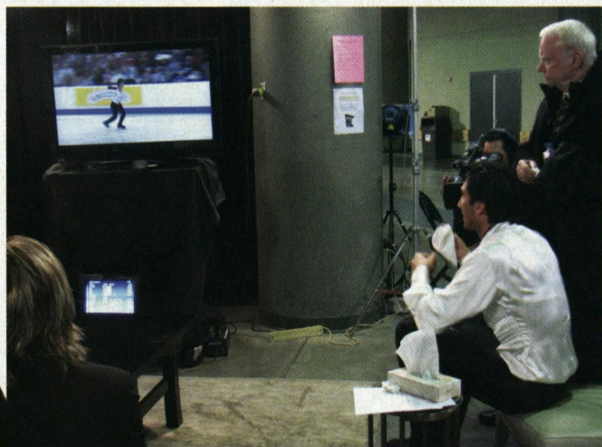
A few weeks after his hard-fought victory in Saint Paul, Lysacek traveled to Goyang City in the Republic of Korea to represent the U.S. at the 2008 Four Continents Championships. Although he fell on the quad in his free skate, he landed a clean quad combination in his short program, gaining 81.55 points, a new ISU personal best. He ended the event with 233.11 points, another new ISU high.

While Japan's Takahashi claimed the title by a whopping 30 points and Canadian Jeff Buttle edged out the silver medal, the American did claim the bronze, his fourth Four Continents' medal.

"I've made a lot of improvements since nationals. I went home and trained in a more relaxed environment," Lysacek said in Korea. "I've been training pretty well, and [my free skate] was much below what I've been doing in training."

His eye remains on the 2008 World Championships and Vancouver.

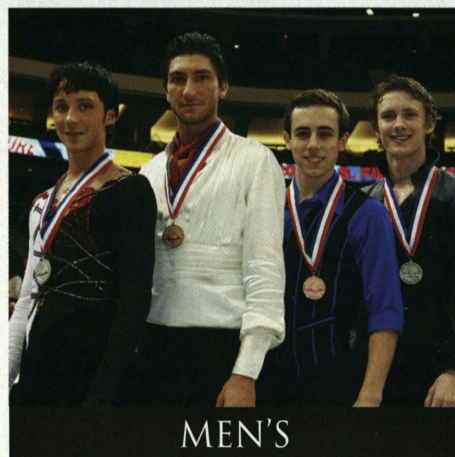
"It's full speed ahead for me; I'm not going to look back," he said. "Last year's Worlds was the first when I was not on the podium. (He placed fifth.) I didn't like that. This year I want to be on the podium, and I also want to medal at the Olympics. I think I'm very capable of that." ■



Above, Evan Lysacek and coach Frank Carroll watch Johnny Weir perform his free skate. Right, NBC's Andrea Joyce interviews Lysacek after his free skate.



(L-R) Johnny Weir, Evan Lysacek, Stephen Carriere and Jeremy Abbott.



**GOLD** | Evan Lysacek – 244.77

**SILVER** | Johnny Weir – 244.77

**BRONZE** | Stephen Carriere – 228.06

FOURTH PLACE | Jeremy Abbott – 221.85

## Lysacek claims second consecutive title in tie-breaker

LYNN RUTHERFORD

How evenly matched are Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir?

So much so, that after all of the quads, triple Axels and triple combinations the two could muster in Saint Paul, the result hinged on the simplest of double jumps, a rotation in a change-of-edge spin or an extra plus in a grade of execution.

With their total scores tied at 244.77 points, Lysacek won his second consecutive U.S. title by edging three-time champion Weir by 1.35 points in the free skate, which is used as the tiebreaker in these situations.

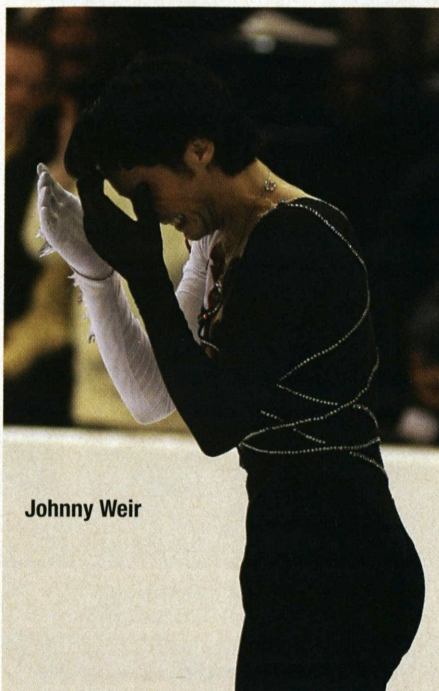
"If you were scripting this whole deal, you couldn't have done a better job," the 22-year-old Lysacek said. "If this result doesn't show the depth of men's skating in the U.S., I don't know what does."

Lysacek two-footed the landing of a quadruple toe loop-triple toe loop combination in his short to music from the "Zorro" movies, and entered the free skate 1.35 points behind Weir, who hit a solid triple Lutz-triple toe combination in his near-flawless short.

The free skate competition was even closer.

Performing to Puccini's "Tosca," Lysacek

## Senior Men

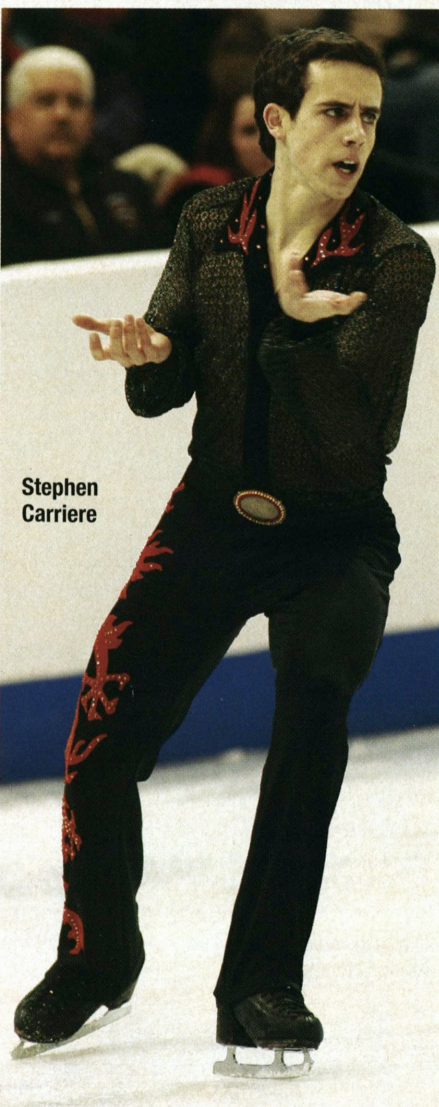


Johnny Weir

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Stephen Carriere

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

had an extra three-turn in his quad toe-triple toe combo and hesitated slightly on the landings of both of his triple Axels. His sizzling performance quality, especially during his trademark dramatic step sequences, helped him mightily with the audience and judges.

"I had to fight for almost all of my jumps," Lysacek said. "It was not my best; I had a few nerves. I'm going to go home, work a lot harder and come out fighting for the next round."

Although naturally disappointed, Weir was happy with his elegant free skate to Yoav Goren's "Love is War."

"I feel fantastic, whether it's first place, second place or last place," the 23-year-old skater said. "There was so much pressure on me to come back strong this season."

Weir – who left his coach of a decade, Priscilla Hill, to train under Galina Zmievskaya in Wayne, N.J. last summer – opened strong with a slightly flawed quad toe loop, solid triple Axel-triple toe combination and second triple Axel.

Later, on an intended triple flip-double toe combination, Weir two-footed the landing

on the flip and left off the double toe, losing valuable points. Although he won the program components score, with 79.14 points to 78.72, he lost on the technical elements, 82.23 to 84.

"I've worked hard, put in the hours, got a new coach, a new life," Weir said. "I wanted desperately for all that to show, and I think it did."

2007 World Junior champion Stephen Carriere won the bronze medal and the third spot on the U.S. men's World Team with two clean, entertaining programs worth 228.06 points.

"I felt pretty confident," the 18-year-old skater said. "My training at home has been consistently good. I'm so happy I did the [triple flip-triple toe] in my short; it's been a triple-double all season, and I've been kicking myself."

Jeremy Abbott had two fine programs, but mistakes on his quadruple toe loops and triple Axel kept him in fourth place with 221.85 points.

"It's kind of bittersweet," Abbott said. "I

## Senior Men



Photo by Mickey Brown

Jeremy Abbott is all smiles with coaches Becky Calvin and Tom Zakrajsek looking on. Abbott finished fourth.

stood up on the quad, which was a big hurdle for me, but I didn't give that little bit extra I needed to make the World Team."

Last season's silver medalist Ryan Bradley placed fifth with 221.85 points.

"I'm definitely disappointed," Bradley said. "I did a lot of good things, but there were a few things I could have done a lot better."



Photo by Mickey Brown

Ryan Bradley wonders what's up in the kiss and cry.

## Men's NOTEBOOK

### Stars and stripes

Johnny Weir is known for wearing his heart on his sleeve, both on the ice and during his press conferences. But during practices in Saint Paul, the skater also sported the American flag in a rhinestone patch on his right shoulder.

"I am an American, and I'm tired about people [criticizing] me for not being patriotic enough," Weir said. "I'm proud to wear the stars and stripes."

Weir is thinking back to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, when a legion of internet bloggers, as well as some in the mainstream press, questioned his wearing of a CCCP (Soviet Union)

warm-up jacket gifted to him by Russian pair skater Tatiana Totmianina.

"At the Olympics, maybe I got the average person angry; maybe they thought I was supporting another country," he admitted. "That wasn't what it was. It's not that I don't support my own country; it's just that the Olympics is about appreciating the world."

Still, in a nod to what he called his "second country," Weir added gold lettering underneath the flag on his black practice costume.

"It says USA, in Cyrillic (Russian)," he said. "It's a tribute to my coach, Galina (Zmievska-ya)."



Photo by Mickey Brown

Coach Galina Zmievska greets Johnny Weir as he comes off the ice after his emotion-packed free skate.

### Jump start

Scott Smith, who finished sixth in Saint Paul, made some big changes en route to the U.S. Championships.

The 26 year-old skater, who had trained in Boston under Mark Mitchell and Peter Johanson for several years, moved to Salt Lake City to work with Stephanie Grosscup just three weeks before the event.

"My Grand Prix season was disappointing," Smith, who placed ninth at both Skate Canada and Trophee Eric Bompard, said. "I knew that I had to do something drastic to pull this season together in a short amount of time. It was a really difficult decision, but it worked out well."

Grosscup, a longtime professional skater well remembered for skating on a two-foot square of plastic on the David Letterman Show back in 1984, choreographed eight-time British champion Steven Cousins' 1998 Olympic programs.

"Scott called me up and said, 'I need some advice, I need to show up with product I feel better about,'" Grosscup said. "When he first came here, he was not totally on his music; when you're performing your programs, you have to have a character and a story, and he didn't."

Although Smith slipped one placement from last year, when he was fifth at the U.S. Championships, he and Grosscup were thrilled with his free skate to Celtic music from Asturias, Spain. His effort earned 144.21 points, a new U.S. qualifying and ISU best.

"I did everything about as well I could," Smith said about a program that included two triple Axels (one in combination with a double toe and double loop), as well as three double Axels.

"I love doing Axels," he laughed. "It was the hardest jump for me to get, but ever since I got it, it's been my favorite."

"I was so impressed he had that insight, passion and desire to go to nationals and present himself as more than just the great technician he's been in the past," Grosscup said. "Skating is about so much more than being on the podium. If you're into your 20s and still doing it, you have to live it and love it."



Photo by Mickey Brown

Scott Smith and Stephanie Grosscup await scores in the kiss and cry.

### Making strides

Although Shaun Rogers managed to stay on his feet in Saint Paul, he fell a bit short of his desired top-six finish, placing eighth in the tough field despite landing a quad toe; triple Axel-triple toe; and five other triples in his free skate.

"I definitely have to work on my consistency, so I don't have to focus so much on the jumps," he said. "I have to concentrate more on the performance and get into the music I'm skating to."

### Double duty

Local Rohene Ward did double duty at the U.S. Championships. The skater from Minneapolis, Minn., competed in front of the hometown fans. He also put Savage, Minn., junior skater Kirsten Olson on the ice for her short program and free skate. Eliot Halverson, a Saint Paul native, also competed in the men's senior ranks. ■

# Staying grounded

## McLaughlin and Brubaker return to work

BY REBECCA STAED

**T**hree weeks after being crowned U.S. pairs champion in Saint Paul, Minn., Keauna McLaughlin faced an even greater challenge – getting her tonsils removed.

After contracting strep throat seven times in one year, the procedure seemed crucial for the 15 year old, who insists on keeping things real despite her recent claim to fame.

“I am still the same person, national title or not,” McLaughlin said. “I am not going to change because of what’s around my neck. That is the big thing for me, being a better person and then a better skater.”

Her skating partner, Rockne Brubaker, 21, shares her grounded outlook.

“In the moment, it felt great, like we were on top of the world,” he said. “But the minute we came home, we kind of went back to doing our everyday thing. We unpacked. We did our laundry. We got ready for the next day to go to school.”

Before thousands of fans at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, the 2007 U.S. junior champions skated a poignant short program, giving them an advantage of 1.30 points over two-time U.S. champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin.

In their *Romeo & Juliet* free skate, McLaughlin and Brubaker left everything on the ice to finish with an overall score of 190.74 points, more than seven points better than silver medalists Baldwin and Inoue.

“Everyone says the hardest thing to do is to repeat, especially that next year,” Brubaker said. “But just this year and a half we were thrown into the (international) circuit right off the bat, with one expectation after another. It really forced us to grow, maybe a lot faster than any other teams have had an opportunity to do.”

After the U.S. Championships, the pair took some much-needed R&R time to reload. McLaughlin flew home to L.A. with her mom, sister and grandmother to visit her dad and friends, while Brubaker remained in their training town of Colorado Springs, Colo.

However, two weeks was more than enough rest for the couple that has blazed a golden trail through U.S. pairs skating in just two years, becoming the youngest senior pairs champions since 1989 and the first pairs skaters in more than a half century to win consecutive U.S. titles on the junior and then senior levels.

Before beginning training for next season, McLaughlin and Brubaker appeared in Denver Feb. 13 to perform their entertaining “Play that Funky Music” program at Smucker’s Stars on Ice production.

Unlike many of this year’s U.S. champions, McLaughlin and Brubaker will take a hiatus from international competition. Due to minimum age requirements, the newly crowned couple could not compete at the World Championships or Four Continents Championships because McLaughlin is too young, and Brubaker is too old for World Juniors.

Both maintain that the break will not affect their signature ultra-competitive edge, however.

“I still feel like it is a blessing that we cannot go to Worlds,” McLaughlin said. “It just gives us more time to work on the little things. We are still going to do competitions, like at the Broadmoor and another new pairs competition in Colorado. I’m still a very competitive person even when I am not competing.”

McLaughlin and Brubaker ascribe much of their aggressive approach at the U.S. Championships to the book *Mind Gym*, which was passed along to Brubaker by Laureano Ibarra, another

Keauna McLaughlin  
and Rockne Brubaker



## Senior Pairs

senior pairs skater and the son of the champions' primary coach Dalilah Sappenfield.

"The book works a lot with visualization, being able to visualize the performance before you do it," Brubaker said. "So when you go to perform, it's like you've already done it 100 or 1,000 times. It made it a lot easier to relax."

With their students at ease, it also was a lot easier for coaches Sappenfield and Lei'lna McLaughlin (Keauna's mother) to relax as well. Having already watched 12 of her students compete at the novice, junior and senior levels, Sappenfield was more relieved than anxious when McLaughlin and Brubaker took the ice.

"I cried more for the novice and juniors," Sappenfield said. "I was so relieved and happy when (Keauna and Rockne) were done. I just wanted them to be comfortable and skate well."

Despite their six-year age difference, the pair knew they had something good from their first tryout together.

"Keauna and I have a good connection on the ice," Brubaker said. "Sometimes you can see, though a team skates very well together, there is a break between them in the way they relate. When two people are skating, they are out there telling a story. Whether it is a love

story or not, people relate to how a guy and a girl interact.

"Just the thought of being able to tell a story through skating, and have people compare our performance with things that they felt or something in life, is exciting," he continued.

Off the ice, Brubaker makes it his job to look after his younger partner and scare off any boys that chase after her.

"One time, this boy gave me a hug at an international competition, and Rockne looked at him and said, 'Where are your hands?'" Keauna laughed. "But it's OK. It's all in good fun."

After Stars on Ice, the pair began training for next season. Both talk about a desire to make it to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. Precluding the Games, the Germans and Chinese will certainly have an eye on these two.

"We will just take each season one by one," Brubaker said. "Just getting to the Olympics is an amazing accomplishment. Keauna and I both feel strong about it. We want to win and put the U.S. back on top of pairs."

Meanwhile, McLaughlin and Brubaker have returned to school and their daily lives outside the rink. Brubaker, a junior at Pikes

Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, enjoys being a role model and recently signed up for the Big Brothers-Big Sisters program. McLaughlin, who attends Cheyenne Mountain High School, will resume the typical teenage life – hanging out with friends, going to the movies and hitting the gym for the occasional hip-hop class.

"Sometimes people think that once we get to a certain level, especially U.S. champions, that we are some extraordinary people," McLaughlin said. "Sometimes they forget that we are just average people. We get up and go through our daily routines. We have our errands to run and things to do. We are the same as everybody else."

The same – but with two gold medals and many more to likely claim. ■

(L-R) Rena Inoue/John Baldwin, Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker, Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski and Tiffany Vise/Derek Trent.



PAIRS

GOLD

Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker – 190.74

SILVER

Rena Inoue/John Baldwin – 183.17

BRONZE

Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski – 175.07

FOURTH PLACE

Tiffany Vise/Derek Trent – 161.20

## Mind games

McLaughlin, Brubaker see it, win gold medal

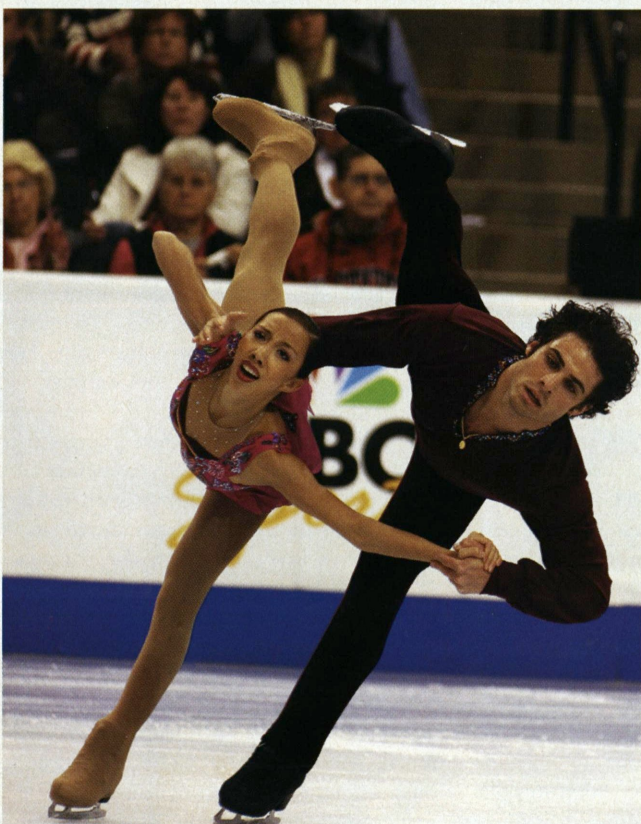
BY REBECCA STAED

Three teams battled to the finish line with huge throws, lofty lifts and synchronized spins that often elicited gasps from the audience. Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker (Los Angeles FSC/Broadmoor SC), Rena Inoue and John Baldwin (All Year FSC), and Brooke Castile and Benjamin Okolski went 1-2-3, respectively, in both the short program and free skate.

Baldwin surprised the entire arena with an on-ice marriage proposal to Inoue, his long-time girlfriend and skating partner of eight years. However, his surprise could not upstage McLaughlin and Brubaker, the 2007 U.S. junior and World Junior pairs champions, who seized gold in their first year at the senior level.

The two-year-old pair credits their compatibility and success as juniors for their stratosphere rise to the top of the senior division, in which only a handful of couples managed to skate a clean performance.

"We've put in a lot of hard work," Brubaker said. "You can never rely on just talent. We got together and things clicked really well."



Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker captured the gold medal in their senior debut at the U.S. Championships.

## Senior Pairs



Rena Inoue and John Baldwin

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

The right combination of talent and hard work provided a golden chance for the couple, who train with coaches Dalilah Sappenfield and Lei'lna McLaughlin (Keauna's mother) at the Broadmoor SC in Colorado Springs, Colo.

McLaughlin, 15, and Brubaker, 21, delivered an inspired "Moonlight Sonata" short program, in which they finished first by 1.30 points. They forged ahead in their free skate, despite McLaughlin's tumble on a side-by-side triple Salchow, earning a standing ovation from the crowd.

Their free skate, set to *Romeo & Juliet*, began with a level-three triple twist—an early indication that the young wonders would not disappoint. All their lifts earned level fours, and their throws were powerful and well executed.

Inoue and Baldwin's routine was less predictable, not only because of his impromptu proposal but also due to their recent break from the competitive circuit

to tour overseas.

"(Touring) brought the joy back for me," Inoue said. "I was getting really tired of going to the rink every day, trying to always be in shape."

The couple returned from their tour Jan. 9 and immediately called coach and choreographer Philip Mills, who coached U.S. pairs champions Rocky Marval and Calla Urbanski, and Jason Dungjen and Kyoko Ina, and came out of semi-retirement to prepare them for the U.S. Championships in two weeks.

"When we finished choreographing the short (program)," Mills said, "they sat me down and said, 'We want you to be our coach. I said, 'If you do it my way, I can guarantee you will be ready for nationals.'"

So began a rigorous training schedule, three to four hours a day at the rink with Mills. Luckily, the veterans were fit from their tour.

"You couldn't do this with less experienced people," Mills said.

Inoue and Baldwin's short program was reminiscent of an exhibition program, with a few more elements tossed in. Yet the weight of experience shone through and positioned them for a close second.

Three days later, they concluded the event with their free skate to Wagner's "Flying Dutchman."

Things started smoothly, with side-by-side triple toes followed by a double Lutz twist that earned a level four. However, they could not stick their signature throw triple Axel and she touched down on the front end of an intended double Axel-double toe combination.

"You are not going to win all the time," Inoue, 31, said.

"Attending U.S. Championship just caps off a great career for us," Baldwin, 34, said. "We have met all our goals in this sport, so coming here was a huge challenge, and I think it's something we'll always remember."

Defending champions Castile, 21, and Okolski, 24, struggled to regain their title after an unfortunate series of injuries that caused them to miss an entire summer of consistent training.

They took home the bronze medal but not without an effort to return to last year's golden form.

"For our first time out this year, this is probably the best we could have done," Castile said. "We're just proud after a big mistake in the short to go back and fight for everything. That's what's going to help us grow for the rest of the season, for next year and for the rest of our careers."

In their short program, the pair only received points for a side-by-side single Axel after Okolski fell, putting them in third place. They struggled technically throughout the short program and received 58.95 points, more than seven points off the leaders.

They fared better in the free skate, tackling one challenging trick after another with moderate success. They started with a level-two triple Lutz twist and then a throw triple Salchow. All their lifts were level threes and fours, and both spin sequences garnered level fours. Their biggest blunder occurred on the throw triple loop, for which they received a -1.40 Grade of Execution.

Points were not the couples' biggest concern, however.

"We skate because we love it, and that's why we are here," Castile said.

Tiffany Vise and Derek Trent placed fourth with a score of 161.20. They pulled off good levels on their spins, lifts and step sequences; a clean double Lutz twist combo and side-by-side double Lutz-double toe; and a level-four forward inside death spiral.



Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



## Senior Pairs



PHOTO BY MICHELLE HAWKINS

John Baldwin proposes marriage to longtime girlfriend and pairs partner Rena Inoue after their U.S. Championships free skate.

## Pairs NOTEBOOK

### Engaged on ice

Pairs skater John Baldwin surprised his partner/girlfriend, Rena Inoue, and the entire arena, for that matter, with an on-ice marriage proposal. Seconds after the new pairs silver medalists finished their free skate and took their bows, Baldwin dropped to one knee and asked Inoue for her hand.

"I told Rena how important she's been in my career and that she's meant the most to me," Baldwin said. "It's because of her that I'm here, and I want to spend the rest of my life with her."

Baldwin originally planned to propose last year at the World Championships in Japan. However, he said he did not think it was the right time after a mediocre free skate. Inoue admitted she had not expected Baldwin's public proposition.

"I was totally surprised," she said. "I didn't know he was going to do that to me today. At first I thought he was just kidding."

Not surprising, considering Baldwin decided to pop the question only that morning, which left little time to get a ring. Even so, he would have had no where in his velvet unitard to put such a valuable trinket.

"I didn't think about the ring," Baldwin said. "The ring can come later. I just thought about the proposal."

With tears rolling down her face, Inoue said "Yes," and the crowd cheered as Baldwin rose and moved in for a passionate kiss.

Securing another gold medal was not such a priority for the pair at this point. The two-time U.S. champions and three-time U.S. silver med-

alists have skated together for eight years. This year they left with much more significant collateral — each other.

### Wunderkinds

In 1957, Nancy Rouillard and Ron Ludington became the first pair to go from U.S. junior to U.S. senior pairs champions in one year. Twenty-one years later, Keauna McLaughlin, 15, and Rockne Brubaker, 21, became the second.

Last year, in their first season together, McLaughlin and Brubaker captured gold as juniors. This year, as seniors, they won both the short program and the free skate, outskating 2007 U.S. champions Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski, and two-time U.S. champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin.

The pair said they knew from the get-go that their partnership was going to be a good thing, and they were right. They took their competition by storm and left many wondering about the key to their success.

"Any competition we go to, we go with the mentality that we aren't there to skate for second," Brubaker said. "You have to believe you are the best and you can win and be on top, or you already lost. So, we always enter a competition with that mindset."

The golden pair is sidelined for the World and Four Continents championships because McLaughlin is not age eligible for either event, and Brubaker is too old for the World Junior Championships. However, having to wait another year to try their luck against the world's top pairs is not a huge concern to them.

"It's kind of a blessing in disguise that we don't get to go to Worlds," McLaughlin said. "Of course we would love to go, but it just gives us another year to grow and progress as a team."



PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

Pairs coach Dalliah Sappenfield hugs her senior pairs champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker in the kiss and cry.

### Local roots

Seven skaters at the U.S. Championships had Twin Cities ties, including senior pairs skater Mark Ladwig. The native of Moorhead, Minn., moved outside Tampa, Fla., six years ago to train with partner Amanda Evora. Their Twin Cit-

ies appearance attracted plenty of local support — including Ladwig's wife, family and in-laws.

"We have a lot of support here," Ladwig said. "It's nice to have them at nationals."

The pair's goal was to make it to the World Championships this season, and with the usual dangerous lifts and perfect spins in their routines, they were positioned well. It was not to be, however, as last year's fourth-place finishers just missed the podium, finishing fifth after a rocky free skate.

"We definitely did not give up through the whole program," Evora said. "We fought, and sometimes it happens. So, we have to keep positive. You have your good times and your bad times, but it's still all worth it in the end."

The couple was named first alternates to the World Championships and second alternates to the Four Continents championships.

### Fresh faces

This year's senior pairs field featured nearly as many familiar names as it did new ones. Six of the 15 pairs made their U.S. Championships debut, including gold medalists Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker, and sixth-place finishers Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin, who are only four months into their partnership.

"We didn't really care how we placed because it was our first nationals," Coughlin said. "We just wanted to have a strong showing and show that we're going to medal next year."

The four remaining pairs making a first appearance together either at the U.S. Championships or in the senior division included: Bianca Butler and Joseph Jacobsen; Kaela Pflumm and Christopher Pottenger; Laura Lepzinski and Ethan Burgess; and Kendra Moyle and Steven Pottenger.

### A golden mind

Gold medalists Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker gave props to the book *Mind Gym: An Athlete's Guide to Inner Excellence* by Gary Mack for their unbeatable focus throughout the event.

"It's all a mindset," Brubaker said. "*Mind Gym* is a sports psychology book that's all about visualization, being in the moment. You have to believe it and see it before you do it in order to go out there and be able to skate a good program."

The champions were able to break through the pack with two expressive presentations loaded with creative entrances and exits from their lifts.

"You can never rely on just talent," Brubaker said.

Fresh talent, good looks and mental toughness make the pair a triple threat for years to come. ■

# Dynamic duo

## Belbin, Agosto making ice dancing cool

BY MICKEY BROWN

**I**t's good to be the king. Or, rather, the king and queen.

While the gap may be narrowing between Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto and the rest of their American ice dancing counterparts (their winning margin at the last three U.S. Championships has gone from 30 points to 15 to 10), they are still the undisputed champs of the discipline within the confines of the United States borders, and that doesn't look to change anytime soon.

Winning five U.S. titles in a row puts them in rarified company. Only four other teams have won as many overall: Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev (1999-2003), Elizabeth Punsalan and Jared Swallow (1991, '94, 1996-98), Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert (1981-85) and Judy Schwomeyer and James Sladky (1968-72).

But it is their international accomplishments that separate Belbin and Agosto from the members of that elite group. Their silver medal at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games was just the second ever by a U.S. team, and it was one placement better than the bronze won by Colleen O'Connor and Jim Millns at the 1976 Games. Their three medals at the World Championships (silver in 2005, bronze in 2006 and '07) are second only to Schwomeyer and Sladky's four, and they appear to be a safe bet to at least tie, if not surpass, that mark. They are the only U.S. ice dancing team to medal at the Grand Prix Final, something they have done three times (silver in 2004 and '07, bronze in '03).

But despite all their success, their résumé is still missing the one thing that would validate them as one of the sport's true all-time greats: a gold medal against a world-class field.

Before last season, they repeatedly ran into the roadblock known as Tatiana Navka and Roman Kostomarov, the great Russian ice dancers who won the gold in Torino as well as the two World titles leading up to those Olympics. When Navka and Kostomarov retired, Belbin and Agosto were seen as one of a handful of teams that could stake a claim to their throne.

But it didn't work out that way. Their results were far from terrible – they medaled at both their Grand Prix assignments, captured their fourth U.S. title, placed second at the Four Continents Championships and earned the bronze medal at the World Championships – but they weren't skating to their full potential, and they knew it.

So Belbin and Agosto took some time to reflect on where they'd been and, more important, where they wanted to go.

"You're so focused on getting that one gold medal – you want that World medal, you want that Olympic medal – that you lose sight of the accomplishments you have made," Belbin said.

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

"This is the first year we've been able to stop and say, 'Even if I never win a World gold medal or an Olympic gold medal, we're still five-time (U.S.) champions, we're still Olympic silver medalists, we're still so many things you can never take away from us. That thinking has helped me feel more confident and more relaxed.'"

The impact the team has had on ice dancing, not to mention the sport of figure skating overall, goes well past the medals and the records and the awards. It can be seen in the way their contemporaries look and perform ("I'm aware of it when I see replicas of all our costumes, and of a lot of our lifts," Belbin said.) as well as the increased enthusiasm for their particular discipline. ("It's flattering to have lots of kids that say they look up to us and are excited to see us skate," Agosto said.)

Most noticeably, however, their influence can be seen in the giant 40x60 banner featuring a beautiful, beaming Tanith and Ben (as they're universally known, another sign of their popularity and name recognition) adorning the side of the Xcel Energy Center. It was that image that dominated the marketing materials for the event, a clear indication of how far ice dancing has come in such a short time (It only became a medal sport at the Olympics in

1976.), and of how much the Canton, Mich.-based duo has had to do with that growth.

It also doesn't hurt to have someone at the forefront who looks like Belbin, who's been featured in numerous magazines and on countless web sites as one of the most attractive athletes in the world.

"We've got great-looking people, great-looking costumes, exciting performances – (ice dancing) has all the ingredients to be a great marketing tool," Belbin said. "The success of ourselves and (2008 U.S. silver medalists) Meryl (Davis) and Charlie (White) and all the other dancers coming up is going to help drive it in that direction."

While the popularity of ice dancing in this country is at an all-time high, there's no guarantee it'll stay that way. When Tanith and Ben skate off into the sunset – something which will happen in 2010, according to an informal announcement they made in Saint Paul – it'll be up to the next generation to carry on the legacy of these two pacesetters.

"If (other emerging ice dancing teams) can pick out parts of our skating they really like and infuse their own innovations and their own style, that's what's going to produce the great champions when we're passed," Belbin said. ■



Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto perform their "Appalachian Hoedown" original dance.

Photo by Michelle Haworth

## Ludington and the Yankee Polka

BY MICKEY BROWN

The senior ice dancing teams were under a little more scrutiny than usual during the compulsory segment in Saint Paul.

That's because the inventor of the dance, Ron Ludington, was present at the competition...and keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings.

The story goes like this. In the late 1960s and early '70s, Ludington was coaching five-time U.S. ice dancing champions Judy Schwomeyer and James Sladky. Back then, each team developed and performed new dances called OSPs (original set patterns), similar to the modern-day original dances.

In 1970, Ludington put together a polka for his star team, which used it to finish second in the world.

Years later, while touring with "Ice Follies," Ludington got a call from an ISU official saying the federation wanted to use his polka as one of its compulsories. The problem was that Ludington didn't have any diagrams of the dance. Thankfully, Sladky had films of he and Schwomeyer performing it, and they used those to construct the original diagrams.

Over the years, as ice dancers got bigger and more skilled, the shape of the dance changed, so the ISU approached Ludington to re-do the diagram.

"I was like, 'Oh my god, just what I need,' because it's got so many steps," Ludington said.

Ludington was coaching five world-class teams at the time. He took them out on a fresh sheet of ice and had them skate one after the other, in the same direction, and cut out the pattern on the ice. Ludington went up in the lighting booth and drew a picture of the dance, and that's the present incarnation.

The Yankee Polka is regarded as one of the most difficult compulsories.

"If you're not a good skater, you can forget it," Ludington said. "There are so many separations where they're on their own. You have to break away and they're back together again. The skating ability really shows up. When you saw the top group (Belbin and Agosto) do it here, there's no question theirs was so much superior to the rest of the field. It's an easy dance for judges to judge, simply because so much can go wrong."

Ludington had been working with Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre on the dance leading up to the U.S. Championships, and he was pleased with what he saw.

"They're very quiet on the ice, which is important," Ludington said. "There are so many steps, it can become scratchy. They're very soft on the ice."

Navarro and Bommentre scored 35.38 for their Yankee Polka, almost four points more than they did in the compulsory dance at this competition two years ago, when the Yankee Polka was also used.

"Working with Mr. Ludington, it's really helped us understand what we wanted to do with this dance," Bommentre said. "It's easy for it to be hokey. We try to go out there and make it not as hokey." ■



Longtime coach Ron Ludington, left, watches senior ice dancing teams execute his very own "Yankee Polka."

Photo by Mickey Brown

# Senior Ice Dancing

(L-R) Meryl Davis/Charlie White, Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre, Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

## ICE DANCING

### GOLD

Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto – 216.07

### SILVER

Meryl Davis/Charlie White – 206.82

### BRONZE

Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre – 187.94

### FOURTH PLACE

Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates – 175.16

## Five and counting

Belbin and Agosto win again; rest of field coming on strong

BY MICKEY BROWN

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto won their fifth U.S. ice dancing title by their slimmest margin to date under the international judging system. Is that a sign that the venerable duo is starting to come back to the pack?

Hardly.

If anything, Belbin and Agosto's victory showed that while they're still the class of the field, the rest of the teams – especially silver medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White – are catching up.

In fact, Davis and White, who are training mates of Belbin and Agosto in Canton, Mich., received higher technical elements scores in both the compulsory and original dances than did the 2006 Olympic silver medalists.

"It's not like we're so far ahead that anyone can't come up and steal our spot," Belbin said.

Just not this year.

The compulsory dance provided a stiff challenge to all the teams as they tangled with the fast-paced Yankee Polka. Belbin and Agosto were on top of their game, taking a 41.86-40.59 lead over Davis and White after the segment.

"That's the most consistent run-through we've done of this dance," Belbin said. "It's a challenge for us. It's not easy with long limbs to keep that pace going quickly."

Belbin and Agosto's performed their "Appalachian Hoedown" original dance with their trademark exuberance – maybe a little too much as Agosto put his foot down on a twizzle.

"Aside from (the miscue on the twizzle), it was a great performance for us. You just hate to end on that kind of note," Agosto said.

Davis and White's Russian folk dance was equally impressive, as they scored 62.69 for the segment compared to Belbin and Agosto's 64.29. Kimberly Navarro and Brent Bommentre's African Harvest dance was a huge hit with the Xcel Energy Center crowd, not to mention the judges, who awarded them a score of 58.71, putting them comfortably in third place.

Known for their up-tempo, often saucy free dances, Belbin and Agosto have elected to go with a subdued Chopin program this year, and it served them well in Saint Paul as they rode it to the title. Their segment score of 109.92 points and their competition total of 216.07 points are both record highs for a U.S. Championships.

"This year our free dance is such joy to perform," Belbin said. "When we compare it to past years' free dances that've been a lot more upbeat and a little more frantic, it's a nice



Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Meryl Davis and Charlie White

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

## Senior Ice Dancing

feeling to get into the music, to use the emotion that's so prevalent in the music."

The passion exuded by Davis and White in their "Eleanor's Dream"/"Eleanor Rigby" free dance was palpable, and their superior skating ability was on clear display as well. They scored 103.54 for the segment and 206.82 overall, giving them their second straight U.S. medal (they won bronze last season).

Rounding out the podium were Navarro and Bommentre, who performed their free dance to Corinne Bailey Rae's "Still Loving You" as well as they have all season. They will make their first trip to the World Championships, in Gothenburg, Sweden, later this month.

Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates finished fourth in their first season on the senior level.

## Ice Dancing NOTEBOOK

### New addition to Navarro and Bommentre camp

Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre's support team was a man – or, more accurately, woman – short in Saint Paul. One of their coaches, Cheryl Demkowski-Snyder, stayed home to be with her 2-month-old baby girl, Avery Jean, who was born Nov. 28. Demkowski had planned on attending the event, but her doctor advised against it because of the extreme cold in the region.

"We miss her and she said she misses us. She's sad," Navarro said. "It's a smart move for her, and we understand."



Kim Navarro gets a hug from coach Robbie Kaine. One of the coaches for Navarro and ice dancing partner Brent Bommentre, however, was missing from the competition. Cheryl Demkowski-Snyder had a baby two months ago and was unable to attend.

### Belbin fights through injury

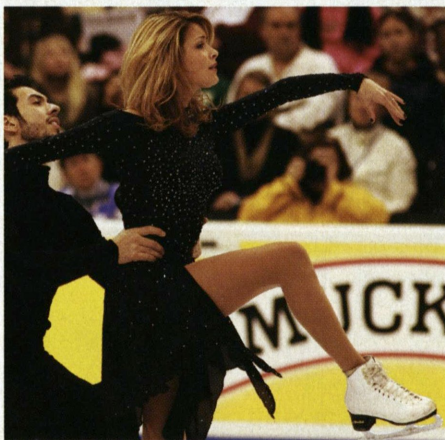
Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto had to overcome more than just the competition in order to defend their U.S. title – they also had to contend

with a lingering injury to Belbin's knee. During rehearsals the day before their "Home for the Holidays" show in Plymouth, Mich., on Dec. 22, Belbin was doing a section with Katia Shpilband, the daughter of her and Agosto's coach, Igor.

"I did a spread eagle and it went, Pop!" Belbin exclaimed.

The result was a partially torn lateral collateral ligament, which runs along the outside of the knee.

"It was freezing cold. I guess I didn't quite get it warmed up enough," Belbin said.



Tanith Belbin overcame a knee injury to capture a fifth consecutive U.S. ice dancing title with Ben Agosto.

### Davis and White hit the books

In between being world-class ice dancers, Meryl Davis and Charlie White find time to each take two classes at the University of Michigan. This semester she's taking anthropology and Italian while he's enrolled in French and argumentative writing. That revelation led to this exchange in the mixed zone:

Reporter: So, you're going to be a lawyer, right?

White: Hopefully.

### Wester and Barantsev hits international circuit

It's been a long wait for Jennifer Wester and Daniil Barantsev, but in September they finally got a chance to put their talents on display for all the world to see.

Since teaming up in 2003, the couple has showed great promise in U.S. qualifying events, but they were never able to take their skating outside U.S. borders. That's because the Figure Skating Federation of Russia refused to give Barantsev, the two-time World Junior champion with Natalia Romaniuta, his release.

That finally happened in January 2007, on the morning of the original dance at the U.S. Championships. Wester and Barantsev, who got married in May 2006, went to the Nebelhorn

Trophy in September and won the gold, defeating the national champs from Germany and the Ukraine as well as the Canadian bronze medalists.

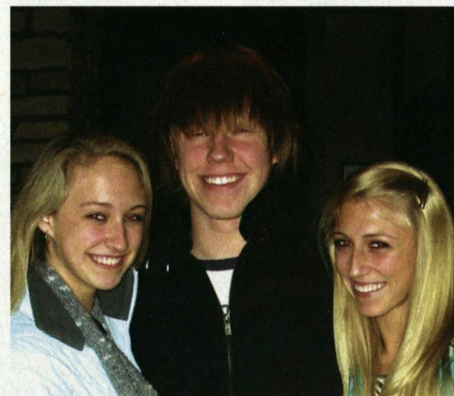
"It's great to have a season where we could show (what we can do) at more than just nationals," Barantsev said.

### All in the family

Todd Gilles' experience at the 2008 U.S. Championships was one of mixed emotions. On the one hand, he and new partner Jane Summersett finished sixth, as they were done in by a 10th-place finish in the compulsory segment. On the other, his younger sister, Alexe, captured the junior ladies crown and her twin sister, Piper, took the silver in junior ice dancing with Timothy McKernan.

Todd is a two-time U.S. champion, having won titles at the novice and junior levels with former partner Trina Pratt.

"It's good to see them coming up and taking (U.S. titles) from me. Not really Alexe – that wasn't mine – but (just having) another national champion," Todd said. "It's always good to have one in the family."



Alexe, Todd and Piper Gilles

### Hats off!

For Meryl Davis and Charlie White's "Kalinka" original dance at Skate America, he wore a traditional black Russian hat as part of the costume. But between that competition and Trophée Eric Bompard, which took place some three weeks later, the decision was made for White to lose the headwear.

Inquiring minds wanted to know why.

"There are a lot of differing opinions on that," White said. "It made me look a little too young. I can't grow out a beard yet. I have to think of little ways to make me look mature."

The follicle freedom White has enjoyed is evident in the results – Davis and White finished with the highest technical element score in the OD in both Paris and Saint Paul. ■

## Pairs greats share experiences with Team 2014

Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, arguably the most recognizable U.S. pairs teams of all time, shared some words of wisdom with this year's novice class – Team 2014 – at a breakfast during the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

Linked together for 40 years, the five-time U.S. champions (1976-80) talked about the importance of longevity in a partnership.

"When things got tough, we didn't change partners," said Babilonia, although she jokingly admitted that it took a bribe to hold Gardner's

hand when they started out at ages 8 and 10, respectively.

In looking back, they credited their coach, John Nicks, for "breaking things down," which accelerated their progression as a team.

Babilonia talked about the importance of the ballet training she received, while Gardner once recalled his days as a singles skater, when he won the silver in the novice division.

The two, who won the U.S. junior pairs title in 1973, revisited several career moments.

At the Olympic Winter Games in 1976 in Innsbruck, Austria, the relatively unknown tandem arrived feeling no pressure and finished fifth. That was the same year Dorothy Hamill became a household name.

In 1979, at the World Championships in Vienna, Austria, the then established duo turned



Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner address Team 2014.

in their best programs ever and won the gold medal.

"It was like an out-of-body performance," Gardner said. "Everything came together."

It was that performance that made them medal favorites at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"The expectations were huge and overwhelming," Gardner said.

Unfortunately for the team, Gardner pulled his groin while attempting a double flip in their preparation leading up to the Olympics. Days before the competition, he re-aggravated the injury which forced them to withdraw.

Despite the setback, they went on to a successful professional career, claiming the World Professional Championships title. They also enjoyed a stint with Ice Capades.

"Our perseverance came from our amateur careers," Babilonia said.

After their speech, Babilonia and Gardner met with members of Team 2014, took pictures, signed autographs and autographed their book titled *Forever Two as One*.



Team 2014 represented themselves well both on and off the ice during the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

## Sports science and medicine meeting a success

The 13th annual Congress on Sports Medicine and Science of Figure Skating was held Jan. 27 in conjunction with the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

Attendees enjoyed presentations by Linda Ross (Yoga Conditioning for Figure Skaters), Bryan Ryndak (Using the Vertimax to Train Quick Rotation; A Skater's Year-long, Off-ice Plan: a framework) and Thomas Johnson, Britt Johnson

and Cathy Johnson (The Long and Short of It).

In addition, presentations were provided by Ralph Bovard (Skating Legally with Exercise-induced Respiratory Problems: inhalers and TUEs), Lisa Sheehan-Smith (Nutrition Practices of Adult Figure Skaters), Steve Goldman (An Unusual Case of Heel Pain in a Senior-Level Skater), Melinda Cough (Lumbopelvic and Dural Tension Dysfunctions Common in Figure Skaters) and Gemmie Devera (Groin Injuries in Figure Skating).

Committee and U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters reports were delivered by Dr. Christine Lawless, chair of the Sports Sciences & Medicine Committee, and Charlene Boudreau, director of

sports sciences & medicine at Headquarters.

One of the highlights of the event was the announcement of the recipient of the 2007 Dr. Scott Nadler Memorial Excellence in Sports Science and Medicine Award, Dr. Roger Kruse.

This award is bestowed annually upon a U.S. Figure Skating member who has demonstrated excellence in the area of sports science and medicine and made a significant contribution in the area(s) of volunteerism, research, publication and/or education. Nominees were athletic trainer Kat Arbour, dietitian Dan Bernardot, Dr. Mahlon Bradley, Dr. Christine Lawless, conditioning specialist Carl Poe, Dr. Hans Schlecht and Dr. Kruse.

## Four individuals inducted into U.S. Hall of Fame

More than 60 years of skating were represented with the induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame of a World champion, an Olympic silver medalist, a former U.S. Figure Skating president and a woman who is in a class by herself.

The on-ice ceremony during the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., followed a reception honoring 2007 inductees Janet Gerhauser Carpenter and Paul Wylie and 2008 inductees Charles DeMore and Todd Eldredge at the Xcel Energy Center on Jan. 25.

The emotional ceremony included a warm welcome followed by a personalized video tribute to each inductee. Jan Serafine, World Figure Skating Museum president, presented an engraved sterling-silver bowl and certificate to each inductee. Dede Disbrow, chair of the U.S. Hall of Fame, honored each new member with a commemorative medal.

Gerhauser Carpenter is best known for her distinction within U.S. Figure Skating of being the only woman to have participated in the Olympic Winter Games as a skater (1952), team leader (1984) and Olympic judge (1988, 2002). She competed at the World Championships in 1951 and 1952 in pairs and won three U.S. fours championships (1947, 1948, 1950).

Wylie, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, talked about his love of skating at the reception. "To me, it comes down to the simplicity of



(L-R) Janet Gerhauser Carpenter, Paul Wylie, Charles DeMore and Todd Eldredge

gliding on the ice while combining artistry and athleticism," he said.

Members of the audience might have been surprised to learn that Wylie's skating career also includes a U.S. junior pairs title in 1980 with Dana Graham. The three-time world team member remains active in skating through the annual "Evening with Champions," commentating for ESPN and working as a guest coach.

DeMore, a three-time F. Ritter Shumway Veteran's Event ice dancing winner, enjoyed watching the JumboTron presentation of himself as a reminder of his more than 50 years in the sport. The former U.S. Figure Skating president, with a dedicated support staff, was instrumental in the move of U.S. Figure Skating's Headquar-

ters from Boston to its Colorado Springs location.

Eldredge, a six-time U.S. champion and 1996 World champion, was the last honored inductee. He described the high and lows in his 20-year career at the reception as a community effort that included his parents, the town of Chatham, Mass., and his longtime coach, Richard Callaghan.

"I had a whole community going out there with me to help me get through the tough times," Eldredge said.

A headliner with "Stars on Ice," Eldredge plans to continue being part of the sport he loves.

*Linda Famula*



The 2008 Scholastic Honors Team was honored prior to the senior ladies short program at the U.S. Championships. Members of this elite group were recognized for their accomplishments inside the classroom, in their communities and for their efforts in the sport of figure skating. They each received scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Honors Team letter jackets. Pictured are, from left, Kyle Gleason, Chrissy Hughes, Alexander Johnson, Curran Oi, Blake Rosenthal, Jeremy Steeger, Rebecca Tran and Chloe Wolf. Not pictured are Katrina Hacker and Emily Samuelson.



The Today Show's Natalie Morales visited with skating greats Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton and Kimmie Meissner during a live interview at the Xcel Energy Center. Morales presented Meissner, the 2007 U.S. champion, with a Today Show jacket, which was made by Mary Meyer of Richfield, Minn.



Photo by Paul Haworth

More than 40 members of the Athlete Alumni Association enjoyed a reception during a break at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

## The Athlete Alumni Association reunites in Saint Paul

U.S. Figure Skating's Athlete Alumni Association gathered for the third consecutive year, reuniting former U.S. champions at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn.

Hosted by Olympic champion Brian Boitano, the event, which took place Saturday, Jan. 26, between the senior pairs and senior free dance, attracted about 40 champions, who mingled amid cocktails and appetizers. Boitano delivered a short speech, mentioning details of the alumni

association and several of its projects, including the skating mentoring program.

Justin Dillon, chair of the Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC), put the event together with the help of other AAC members.

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

The Athlete Alumni Association will meet again next year at the 2009 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information, contact Minnis at [drminnis@comcast.net](mailto:drminnis@comcast.net).

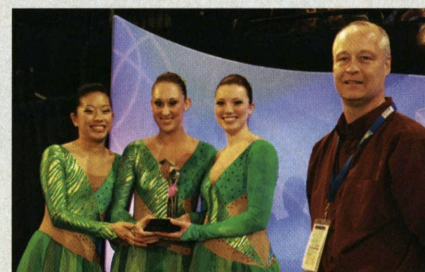


Photo by Paul Haworth

SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presented the 2006-07 Readers' Choice Award for Skater(s) of the Year (Michele Kwan Trophy) to Miami University's senior synchronized skating team on the final night of the U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn. Miami captured the first ever U.S. medal – a silver – at the World Synchronized Skating Championships in London, Ontario. After the award presentation, Miami performed an exhibition program for the crowd.

U.S. Figure Skating celebrated National Skating Month in style at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn. Two free skating events were held Jan. 21 and Jan. 27 at the Wells Fargo WinterSkate at the Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul. "We were very fortunate to work with a group of approximately 75 children from the Boys and Girls Club," said organizer and U.S. Figure Skating Senior Director of Membership Susi Wehrli-McLaughlin. Snowplow Sam made a special appearance on both days and Miami University's synchronized skating team performed an exhibition. "We had approximately 150 individuals who took advantage of the free skating lessons taught by local instructors and learned how to get involved in the sport," Wehrli said. "It was a great experience for all and we are looking forward to doing it again next year in Cleveland."



Photos by Susi Wehrli-McLaughlin









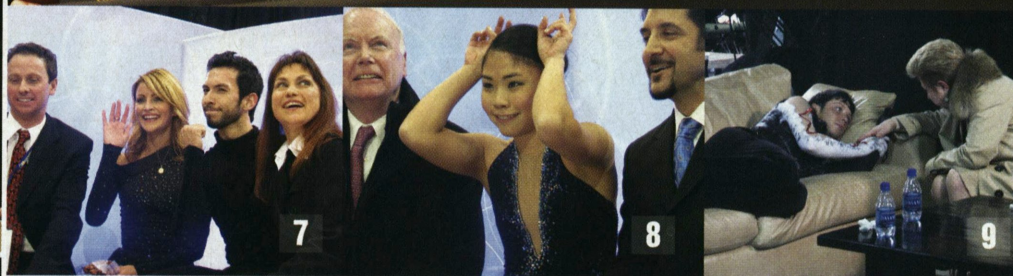
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1. Mirai Nagasu has some fun during the U.S. champions photo shoot. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
2. Senior pairs titlists Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker take a peek inside the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
3. Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto made it five consecutive photo ops with the U.S. Championships Trophy after claiming the senior ice dancing event. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
4. Reporters converge on Evan Lysacek after the dramatic ending to the senior men's free skate. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
5. Bob Costas, left, and Dick Button provided for an entertaining and insightful live telecast of the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
6. The U.S. pairs champions are greeted by their coach Dalilah Sappenfield after their free skate. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
7. Five-time U.S. champion ice dancers Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto have some fun with their coaches, Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
8. Bebe Liang hams it up in the kiss and cry and with coaches Frank Carroll and Ken Congemi. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
9. Coach Galina Zmievskaya comforts Johnny Weir after his emotion-packed free skate and dramatic finish with Evan Lysacek. *Photo by Heather Meyer*
10. NBC's Andrea Joyce interviews Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir after the short program. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
11. Icenetwork color analyst Nancy Kerrigan answers questions in Saint Paul. *Photo by Heather Meyer*
12. The kids were out in force, anxiously waiting for autographs from their favorite skaters. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
13. An all-star NBC crew brought the action live to millions of households. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
14. Evan Lysacek was all smiles after claiming his second consecutive U.S. title in dramatic fashion. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
15. Coach Shirley Hughes looks out on the Xcel Energy Center ice, while skater, Derrick Delmore performs. *Photo by Mickey Brown*



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# Here they come

Juniors provide glimpse into the future

The United States proved during the international season that it has the best group of junior skaters in the world, nearly sweeping all the singles medals at the Ju-

nior Grand Prix Final. In Saint Paul, this talented bunch entertained figure skating fans with their remarkable skill and talent.

Pictured, from left, Angela Maxwell, Alexe Gilles, Brittney Rizo and Kristine Musadamba.

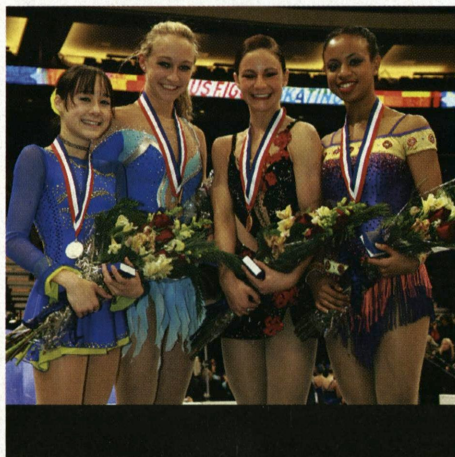


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

**GOLD** | Alexe Gilles – 156.17

**SILVER** | Angela Maxwell – 150.11

**BRONZE** | Brittney Rizo – 149.60

**FOURTH PLACE** | Kristine Musadamba – 143.86

## Family ties

Gilles completes hat trick with come-from-behind victory

BY REBECCA STAED

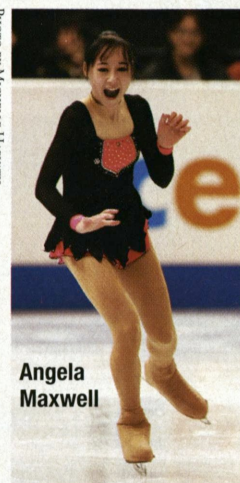
Alexe Gilles (Broadmoor SC) rallied past 2007 U.S. novice champion Angela Maxwell (Dallas FSC) with five triple jumps and three level-four spins in a personal-best free skate to secure the U.S. junior ladies title.

The victory helped complete the hat trick for the Gilles family of Colorado Springs, Colo. In 2005, Todd Gilles and partner Trina Pratt won the junior ice dancing crown. Two days after Alexe's triumph, twin sister Piper Gilles and ice dancing partner Tim McKernan claimed the U.S. junior silver medal.

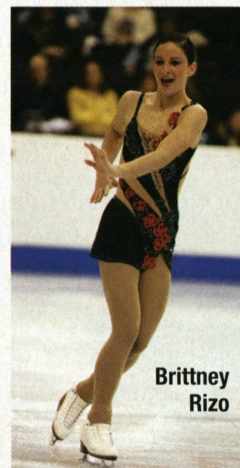
"We try and support each other and go



Alexe Gilles



Angela Maxwell



Brittney Rizo

to most practices (together)," Gilles, 16, said of her siblings. "My brother called me before I went out. We talked for, like, two minutes, which was really nice. He said good luck and that he'd be watching."

Fifth last year in her inaugural junior appearance at the U.S. Championships, Gilles turned it on during her free skate that featured a pair of combination jumps.

"I knew I had it in me," Gilles said. "My past nationals haven't been the best, so I just came, tried to commit and get all the points I could possibly get."

She did exactly that, scoring 156.17 points, the best junior ladies score since the international judging system commenced at the U.S. Championships three years ago.

Maxwell finished with a score of 150.11, while bronze medalist Brittney Rizo (SC of Boston) notched 149.60 points.

This season, Gilles competed on the Junior Grand Prix circuit, where she advanced to the Junior Grand Prix Final and finished sixth.

"I think I had a little more experience and maturity this year," she said.

# Juniors

One of Gilles' coaches, three-time U.S. champion and Twin Cities native Jill Trenary, returned to her hometown to mentor Gilles during the U.S. Championships.

"(Jill) is so nice and supportive," Gilles said. "She's really fun to work with, and she stays positive throughout the whole session even though I get down sometimes. It helps me feel good about myself. It's fun learning from a World champion."

Gilles trailed by more than two points entering the free skate but presented a program that earned the highest technical elements score of the night. She reeled off an unwavering routine to Vangelis' "Oceanic" that included a triple Lutz-double toe, a triple loop and a triple toe-double toe-double loop, as well as a triple Lutz and a triple Salchow-double toe toward the end, for which she earned additional points. With the exception of her level-three flying sit spin, Gilles' spins were all level fours.

The perpetually perky Maxwell attacked her free skate, which began with a solid double Axel, but she turned her second double Axel into a single and struggled on a subsequent triple flip and triple loop to finish with 95.20 points, good for third in the free skate behind Gilles and Amanda Dobbs (Peninsula SC).

Having accrued two personal-best scores, Maxwell's upbeat attitude lingered throughout the week.

"I was trying to get two good, clean programs and two new personal bests, which I did," Maxwell said. "Overall, it was pretty good. It was probably not my best. I had a couple stumbles here and there I tried to recover. Other than that, I feel like I achieved my goal."

Rizo brought the crowd to its feet, both with her lyrical short program to Michael W. Smith's "The Giving" and with her sassy free skate to Lecuona's "Malaguena," after which she gave an empathic fist pump.

"My coaches tell me to keep focusing on the goal I have had all year – to have two good performances here," Rizo said. "Before I went out, they told me to focus, be a fighter and just play it up. I pulled it off, so I am really pleased."

Sixteen-year-old Rizo has no problem entertaining a crowd. If she weren't skating, she said she would most likely be in theater guild with her friends at school.

"I love performing," Rizo said. "I love skating in front of people. It's so much fun. The crowd smiles at you and cheers back. It's awesome."

Rizo was second after the short program, in which she scored a personal best of 54.59 points. Her performance was so solid that even her hard-to-please coaches, Mark Mitchell

and Peter Johansson, found little to complain about.

"When (Brittney) got off the ice, I said, "That was the performance we have been looking for all year," Mitchell said. "All year we have been looking forward to that performance here at nationals. I don't usually say it's good. I usually find something. But this time, I had nothing."

Two days later, her free skate was on point, with five triple jumps and level fours on three of four spins that earned her a free skate score of 95.01-points. It wasn't enough to trump her competitors' equally high marks, but her third-place finish made for a dramatic comeback after last year's 12th-place finish at the event.

Last year's novice silver medalist Kristine Musadamba (Washington FSC) secured fourth place with 143.86 points.

(L-R) Brandon Mroz, Adam Rippon, Andrew Gonzales and Richard Dornbush.



<b>GOLD</b>	Adam Rippon – 213.76
<b>SILVER</b>	Brandon Mroz – 203.63
<b>BRONZE</b>	Andrew Gonzales – 182.27

FOURTH PLACE | Richard Dornbush – 179.27

## Leap year New coach helps put Rippon on map

BY REBECCA STAED

It was like musical chairs in the junior men's event, with the exception of one buzz-worthy bastion – 18-year-old Adam Rippon (SC of New York). Fresh off a victory at the 2007 Junior Grand Prix Final, Rippon lived up to pre-event expectations that began following his international success. He wowed the crowd with his short program and free skate, and surged more than 10 points ahead of his competitors with a golden score of 213.76.

In this event, Rippon recorded the highest junior score to date at a U.S. qualifying event. Claiming both the JGP Final and U.S. junior titles, he followed the path set down last year by Stephen Carriere, who also secured successive gold medals at the 2006 JGP Final and in the junior men's division at the 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships.

"Being the champion in anything feels great," Rippon said, "but being the champion of such a strong event is even better. It's wonderful to be part of a strong developing junior team for the upcoming years, for the seniors and for the future of American skating."

Brandon Mroz (Broadmoor SC) notched his second consecutive U.S. silver medal with a score of 203.63. Wild card Andrew Gonzales (All Year FSC) claimed the bronze with two elegant performances that brought in 182.27 points.

This year marks Rippon's third appearance as a junior at U.S. Championships. Last year, he finished a middling sixth place, and he was 11th the year before. Rippon credits his recent success to coach Nikoli Morozov, with whom he has trained for less than a year.

"(Nikoli) really helped me put the pieces of the puzzle together," Rippon said. "I could do the jumps, I could do the spins, but I could never put it all together in a program consistently. Nikoli has shown me how to do that. It's in my blood now."

Against the backdrop of Beethoven's moody "Moonlight Sonata," Rippon opened his free skate with a crisp triple flip-triple toe combination and proceeded to land five more clean triples. As though connecting each ivory note with his feet, Rippon weaved across the ice with harmoniously intricate footwork. But it was the fervor of his performance that separated him from the pack and earned a standing ovation from the crowd.

"When I heard the first note of the music, I told myself, 'Just let go,'" he said.

With both a major international and U.S. title under his belt, Rippon plans to move up to the senior division next year.

Rippon is working on landing a triple Axel consistently. As he enters training for next season, he will take everything he's learned and build upon it to make his spins faster, his footwork more energetic and his jumps higher.

"There is always pressure for a junior coming into the senior division," Rippon said. "But if I train well and keep my skating progressing at the same rate that it has been, I should skate well, and hopefully the results will be OK for my first year as a senior."

The junior men had yet another successful year on the international circuit, garnering 12 medals in the Junior Grand Prix Series, half of them gold. Like Rippon, the international

# Juniors

experience helped Mroz prepare for and thrive at the U.S. Championships.

Reminiscent of last year's free skate, Mroz's only major blunder was putting his hand down on the triple Axel. Otherwise, he aggressively attacked his free skate after delivering a shaky short program.

"It was a little of a disappointment to take silver, but I was more disappointed in the short," Mroz said. "I was pleased with my long. I don't have a problem with getting silver again. I guess it shows I am consistent. I think this year was a step up from last year – artistically and technically."

Mroz will also move up to the senior level next year, where he will once again begin building a reputation for himself.

"Going to the senior level I am really a nobody," Mroz said. "I don't think there will be pressure; it will just be the pressure of going out and trying to do my best out there, which shouldn't be a problem because I train with Ryan (Bradley) and Jeremy (Abbott) on a daily basis. I train as hard as they do and do the same as they are doing. I look forward to being

a senior."

Gonzales, in fourth place after the short program, finally found the answer to competing on the big stage. After years of mediocre performances, including an 11th-place finish at last year's U.S. Championships, he began working with a sports psychologist to exonerate his competition jitters, which always seemed to keep him from skating two solid performances.

After the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships, where he placed fourth, Gonzales realized he needed to step it up and began practicing program after program, sometimes even three times a day.

"I knew that I was going to be competing with some of the best," he said. "I needed to get these programs under my belt to compete at a high level."

Gonzales landed six clean triples in his lyrical free skate set to *Schindler's List*.

Richard Dornbush (All Year FSC) made a meteoric rise from 12th after the short program to fourth overall, with 179.27 points.

(L-R) Tracy Tanovich/Michael Chau, Jessica Rose Patesch/Jon Nuss, Chelsi Guillen/Danny Curzon and Andrea Best/Trevor Young.

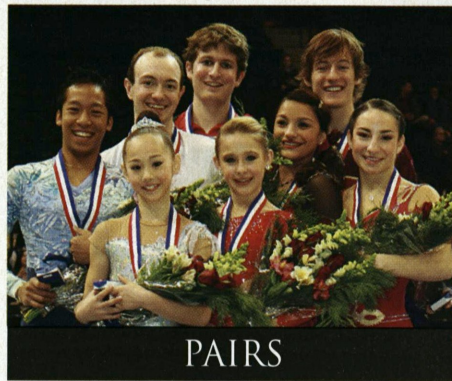


PHOTO BY PAUL HARAVITH

## PAIRS

**GOLD**  
Jessica Rose Paetsch/ Jon Nuss – 143.19

**SILVER**  
Tracy Tanovich/Michael Chau – 137.36

**BRONZE**  
Chelsi Guillen/Danny Curzon – 134.58

**FOURTH PLACE**  
Andrea Best/Trevor Young – 129.75

## 'Great relief'

Paetsch and Nuss deliver second title in three years

BY TROY SCHWINDT

A little more than three years ago, Jon Nuss decided to quit singles and take up pairs. He went to Broadmoor Skating Club coach Dalilah Sappenfield and asked if she could help him find a partner.

"After five or six months, Dalilah came up to me and said, 'I have this great little girl in Denver. I'd like to set up a tryout.' We tried out and from the first day we just clicked," Nuss said.

That 'great little girl' was Jessica Rose Paetsch, and in Saint Paul this now seasoned combination earned their second U.S. title in three years, cruising to the junior pairs crown. In 2006, they captured the novice title in St. Louis.

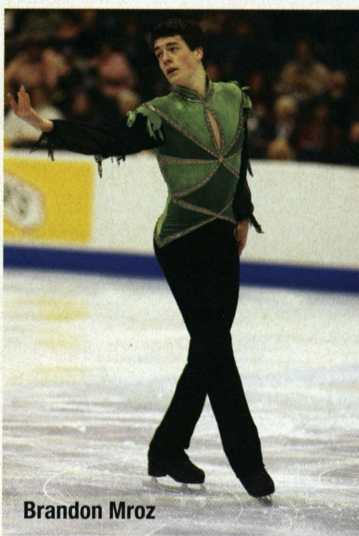
"It feels great, it feels better," Nuss said, comparing the two titles. "It's a little more elite. We had a pretty deep field back then, but now it's even deeper."

Paetsch, 15, and Nuss, 20, trailed short program leaders Chelsi Guillen and Danny Curzon (Coyotes SC of Arizona) by 1.52 points heading into the free skate.

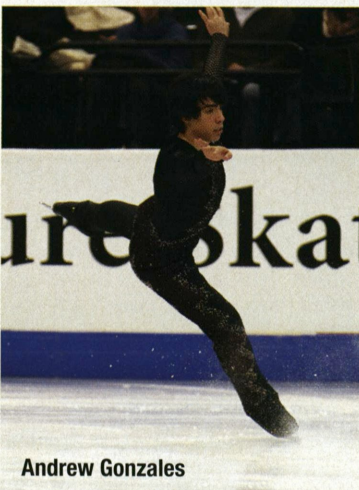
While not perfect, Paetsch and Nuss de-



Adam Rippon



Brandon Mroz



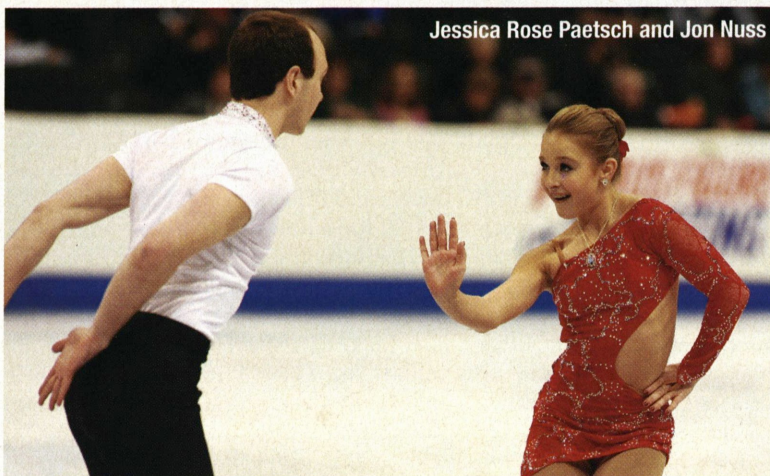
Andrew Gonzales

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARAVITH

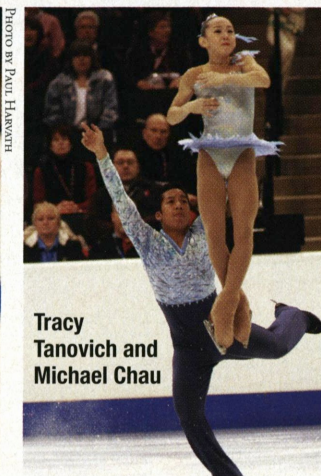
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PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARAVITH

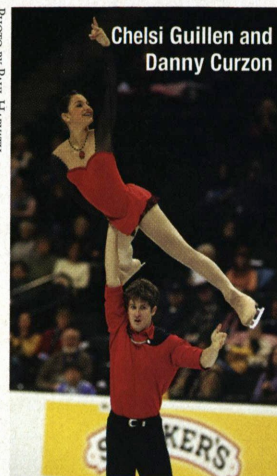
# Juniors



Jessica Rose Paetsch and Jon Nuss



Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau



Chelsi Guillen and Danny Curzon

livered a strong *Capone* free skate that featured a triple twist, throw triple Salchow and a throw double loop. They received level fours on their lifts, their pairs combination spin and spiral sequence. They did experience a few mistakes, including Nuss tripping and falling on his straight line footwork late in the program.

The performance earned them a competition-best free-skate of 91.06 points and an overall score of 143.19. Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau (Southwest Florida FSC) collected the silver medal with 137.36 points, while Guillen and Curzon secured the bronze medal with 134.58 points.

"It's a great relief for us," Nuss said. "We've been working so hard the last couple months. It's nice to have it pay off."

Sappenfield, who this year coached the U.S. novice, junior and senior pairs champions, said the duo's free skate has been their strong suit all season.

"Our goal was to keep them as relaxed as possible," Sappenfield said. "We wanted to make sure the pressure didn't get to them and that they just had a good skate."

For Paetsch and Nuss, the victory was redemption of sorts following a disappointing Junior Grand Prix season and JGP Final, where they finished fourth after winning the bronze the year before.

"That made us work even harder," Paetsch said.

Paetsch and Nuss agreed that training with the Broadmoor crew, including senior champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker, made a difference in their skating.

"We all cheer each other on every day during our programs," Nuss said. "It's a great environment."

Tanovich, 11, and Chau, 17, made a strong statement in their first year as juniors. The 2007 U.S. novice titlists placed third in the short program and second in the free skate.

For Chau, it was exciting to come back home and perform in front of his family and

friends.

"I used to live not too far from here in Oakdale (Minn.)," Chau said. "I moved down to Florida to skate singles when I was 12. My parents haven't seen me skate live since I left, which is almost six years ago."

Chau said, however, that he treated the event like any other competition and steered clear of all potential distractions until he finished skating.

These U.S. Championships marked the third such competition for this tandem, which was matched up for the first time more than four years ago in a holiday ice show in Florida.

Because of Tanovich's age, the duo can't compete on the Junior Grand Prix for a couple more years, and they won't be moving up to the senior ranks any time soon.

"There's nothing that can stop them as long as they put it all together," coach Kerry Leitch said.

Guillen, 14, and Curzon, 20, showed great improvement from last year, when they finished eighth at the U.S. Championships as junior rookies together.

Leaders after the short program, the pair experienced a few glitches in their *The Legend of Zorro* free skate, including a fall on their second triple throw of the program.

Their free skate marked the first time they had attempted two triple throws in one program.

"The second throw has gotten better throughout the year," Curzon said. "The fact that it was good enough to put it in is a good sign for next year."

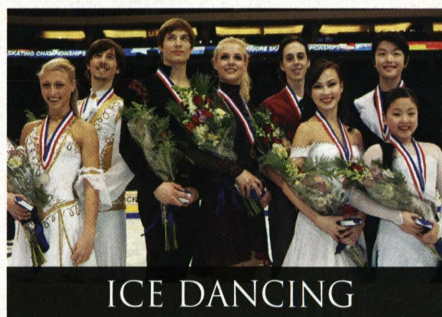
In looking back, Curzon said their 2007-08 season was a productive one. They competed in the Junior Grand Prix Series last fall, finishing ninth in Estonia and 10th in Great Britain, before earning a bronze medal at the U.S. Championships and qualifying for the World Junior Championships.

"We just wanted to come here and do our

job," said Curzon, who has skated pairs for a decade. "We train both programs every day. We wanted to focus on nationals, skate well here, earn a medal and put our name in the discussion for Junior Worlds."

Andrea Best and Trevor Young (Detroit SC) placed fourth, moving up one place from a year ago.

(L-R) Piper Gilles/Tim McKernan, Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell, Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein and Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani.



ICE DANCING	
<b>GOLD</b>	Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell – 167.48
<b>SILVER</b>	Piper Gilles/Tim McKernan – 161.66
<b>BRONZE</b>	Madison Chock/ Greg Zuerlein – 161.40
<b>FOURTH PLACE</b>	Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani – 157.80

## Gut check

Hubbells overcome adversity to claim title

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Leaders after the original dance, Madison Hubbell and older brother Keiffer Hubbell experienced more than the normal case of nerves

# Juniors

prior to the junior free dance on Jan. 24.

"I got food poisoning after the original dance (Tuesday), so I was on an IV the day before the free dance for dehydration," Keiffer said. "I didn't have too much trouble getting through it today (Thursday), but it was still mentally challenging. We were happy with the performance, but we would have liked a little more expression, a little more power."

The Hubbells, second in 2006 at the novice level and second by .17 points last year as juniors, left nothing the chance with their Apocalypto Cult's synthesizer-laden "Hope" free dance. The duo received level fours on their first five elements and cruised to the best free dance of the day and an overall score of 167.48.

Piper Gilles and Timothy McKernan (Broadmoor SC) won the silver medal with a score of 161.66, while Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein (All Year FSC/Arctic FSC) claimed the bronze medal with 161.40 points.

"(The free dance) felt better than at the sectionals because we weren't really fully prepared," Madison said.

Late in June, Keiffer hurt his hip in a fall. The injury forced the team to miss the Junior Grand Prix season. They returned to competition at the Midwestern Sectional Championships in November.

"Basically, I injured muscles in my hip and glute area and it had a ripple effect through back and down my legs," Keiffer said. "It took me off the ice for a little while. They did acupuncture, and I've had successful results with that."

One of the Hubbells' coaches, Yaroslava Netchaeva, said the team overcame a lot of adversity because of a lack of training time due to Keiffer's injury and the high expectations that came with their second-place finish in 2007.

"I think they gave a strong performance in the free dance," she said. "We heard a lot of good comments about their programs. We'll go home and make minor adjustments to the programs to improve them, but overall I think they made a strong impression."

With the win, the Hubbells say they are weighing the benefits of staying in the junior ranks against moving up to the senior level.

"We have two more years of eligibility as junior," Keiffer said. "Maybe we could compete senior nationally and junior internationally."

"There are a lot of great senior teams, and we don't want to make the mistake of moving up when we are not quite ready and plunging to the bottom of the pack," Madison said. "We want to stand out our first year."

Gilles and McKernan put last year's fourth-place finish behind them. The tandem earned all level fours for their *Cinderella* free dance, a first-time accomplishment that brought tears

to Gilles' eyes as she glanced over the judges' marks backstage.

The duo ended .15 points short of the bronze medal at last year's U.S. Championships and, thus, narrowly missed out on a spot on the U.S. World Junior Team.

"There was no way that we were going to stay fourth," Gilles said. "We won't let ourselves stay there; we just had to keep pushing ourselves and we did."

Earlier at the U.S. Championships, Gilles' twin sister, Alexe, captured the junior ladies' title. In 2005, their brother, Todd, won the U.S. junior ice dancing title with Trina Pratt.

"After (Alexe) skated, I just wanted to go out there and do it because she did it," Piper said.

Piper said their victory is dedicated to McKernan's father, Tim, who is a Lt. Colonel serving in Iraq.

McKernan said his Army dad is an icenet-work.com subscriber and that he was watching the competition. Last year, McKernan's father sent a good-luck sign to his son at the U.S. Championships, which was posted on his door the morning before the free dance.

Fifth last year as novice skaters at the U.S.

Championships, Chock and Zuerlein put an exclamation point on their campaign with the bronze medal.

Winners of the original dance, the second-year team turned in a solid free dance to the classic *West Side Story* that included level fours on all their elements.

"I had a little bit of a bobble on my twizzle, but we pulled it together," Chock said.

The team entered the competition having finished first and third, respectively, at their two Junior Grand Prix assignments and fifth at the Junior Grand Prix Final.

"I think we have made a big leap from last year after nationals," Zuerlein said. "We trained hard and picked it up a notch."

"It's been a whirlwind of events," Chock said. "Our goal was to get one international event and then we got another and it snowballed from there."

They credit their training environment in Canton, Mich., for their rise up the ranks.

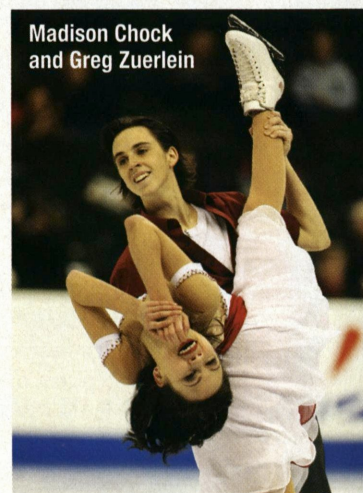
Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani (SC of New York/Broadmoor SC), the 2006 U.S. intermediate champions and 2007 U.S. novice titlists, placed fourth. ■



Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell



Piper Gilles and Tim McKernan



Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein

Photo by Michelle Haworth

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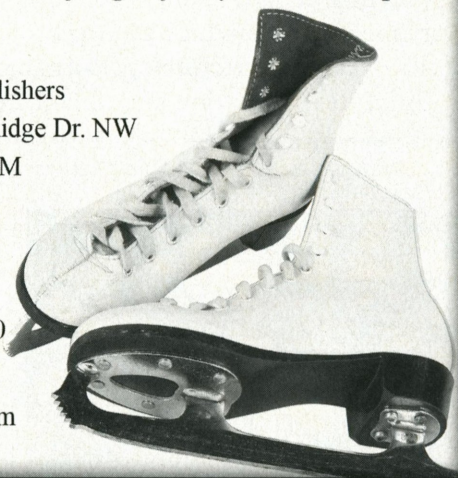
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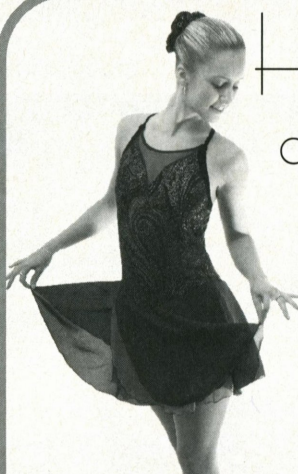
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## Novice

## Act 1

## Novice skaters put on a show in Saint Paul

The novice competition at the 2008 U.S. Championships served as the perfect opening act for the juniors and seniors.

Skating in front of enthusiastic fans at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Minn., the novice skaters got everyone in the mood for the week with their high level of skating and entertaining performances.

After its competition ended Jan. 21, the novice class

was treated to a full schedule of Team 2014 events, including a breakfast with U.S. pairs skating greats Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, who delivered the keynote address. Team 2014 members also attended seminars to learn about nutrition, the importance of athleticism, media training, expectations of being an elite athlete and the international judging system. Parents and coaches also attended the seminars.

(L-R) Sophia Lemay, Agnes Zawadzki, Marissa Secundy and Felicia Zhang.



## LADIES

GOLD | Marissa Secundy – 110.38

SILVER | Sophia Lemay – 108.41

BRONZE | Felicia Zhang – 106.02

FOURTH PLACE | Agnes Zawadzki – 104.18

## Two out of three ain't bad

BY TROY SCHWINDT

For the second time in three years, Marissa Secundy (Broadmoor SC) is a U.S. champion.

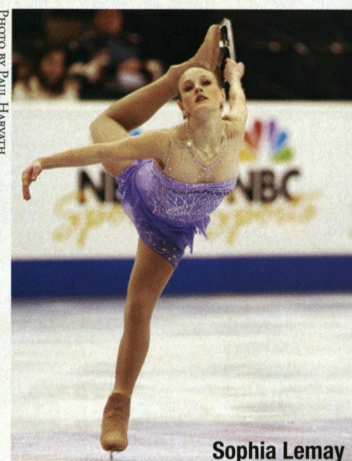
The 14 year old from Colorado Springs, Colo., rallied past short program leader Sophia Lemay (Texas Gulf Coast FSC) with a triple-packed free skate set to "Ice on the Saint Laurence" by Johnathan Elias, "First Impressions" by Edgar Meyer and "The Call to Dance" by Leahy to claim the novice crown.

The victory proved extra sweet for Secundy, who, after winning the 2006 U.S. juvenile title, finished 10th at the 2007 Midwestern Sectional Championships in the novice class and failed to qualify for the U.S. Championships.

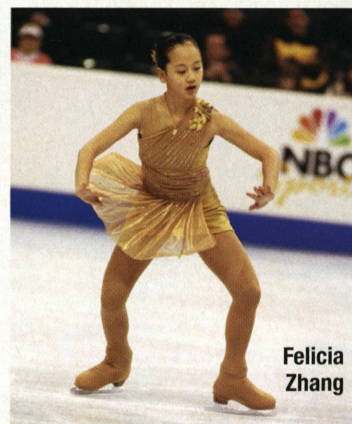
"She trained very hard when she was ju-



Marissa Secundy



Sophia Lemay



Felicia Zhang

venile," coach Becky Calvin said. "It was very clear she was going to be successful that season. As far as the transition to novice, I think she was ready for it technique-wise, but I just think she needed to get a little more experience. She has that this season."

Sitting second and trailing Lemay by 1.6 points after the short program, Secundy executed four of five triples in her free skate, including a pair of combinations that started with triple loops. She fell on a triple Lutz and stumbled on a double Axel en route to winning the free skate and posting an overall score of 110.38.

"I was a little nervous going into it, being my first nationals," Secundy said, "but I was glad I went for everything. I was a little disappointed with the double Axel, because it is pretty easy for me, but what can I do? The Lutz, I think I could have held on to it a little bit but just didn't check out soon enough."

Lamay claimed the silver medal with 108.41 points, while Felicia Zhang (SC of New York) secured the bronze with a score of 106.02. Agnes Zawadzki (DuPage FSC) finished fourth.

Lamay, 14, set the pace with an entertain-

# Novice

ing and clean short program to “Happy Feet” and “42nd Street.” She executed a triple Salchow and double Lutz-double loop combination.

“I did my personal best, skated my hardest and kept smiling,” said Lamay, who is coached by former U.S. pairs champion Kitty Carruthers Conrad, B.L. Wylie and Shanyin Vallon. “It felt so good to have such a big accomplishment like that.”

Lamay said she loves jazzy music.

“It comes from me and makes me perkier,” said Lamay, who finished 11th at each of the last two U.S. Junior Championships.

In her free skate to “Polovtsian Dances” by Borodin, Lamay landed one triple jump and seven doubles but fell on her triple Salchow-double toe combination.

“That one jump, just Grrr,” she said. “I’ve been working on it so hard, and it just annoys me. It’s so hard, if you don’t do one thing right or if it’s just a little measurement off, the whole thing is wrong.”

Although she placed fourth in the free skate, Lamay’s program components score (36.45) was the highest in the 12-woman field. She credited Wylie with helping elevate her skating skills.

Zhang, fourth after the short program, produced the second-best free skate of the competition to “Scheherazade, Op. 35 II & IV” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

The 14 year old placed 18th last year at the U.S. Junior Championships in the intermediate class.

Her program featured a package of nicely executed double jumps as well as level-three and-four spins.

“I guess that’s what I do, and I guess I do it very well,” Zhang said of her program.

She said she didn’t plan on placing as high as she did due to the fact that her fellow skaters feature triple jumps in their repertoires.

“I just did my best and had fun,” she said.

Watching other skaters and paying attention to detail, Zhang said, helped her climb the ranks at the U.S. Championships.

“I just learned from the past,” she said. “I just kept on watching other people skate, learned what they do and what I didn’t have and just build upon myself and keep on improving.”

Zawadzki, the 2007 U.S. intermediate silver medalist, finished third in the free skate and fourth overall.

(L-R) Daniel O’Shea, Ross Miner, David Wang and Alexander Zahradnicek.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

<b>MEN</b>
<b>GOLD   Daniel O’Shea – 145.92</b>
<b>SILVER   Ross Miner – 135.81</b>
<b>BRONZE   David Wang – 133.70</b>

FOURTH PLACE | Alexander Zahradnicek – 133.24

## O’Shea earns some ‘puppy love’

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Daniel O’Shea (Skokie Valley SC) will have a new pal to hang out with after claiming the men’s title at the 2008 U.S. Championships.

O’Shea, eighth last year in the novice class, turned in two clean and captivating programs en route to victory.

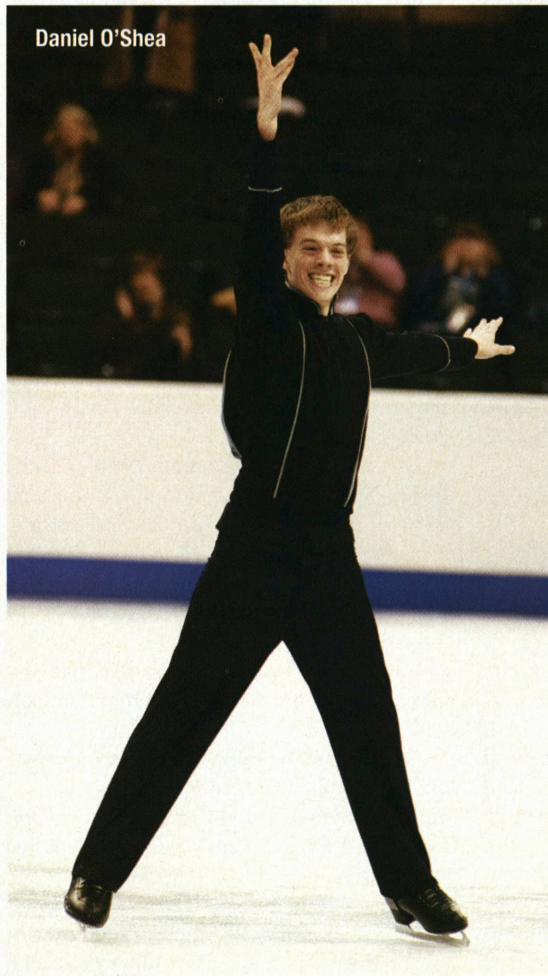
Ross Miner (SC of Boston) rallied from fourth after the short program to place second, while David Wang (All Year FSC), last year’s U.S. intermediate champion, finished third.

“My dad and I were joking around last year after nationals and, without any expectations, he said, ‘Win nationals next year and I’ll get you get a puppy.’ I reminded him about it yesterday after the short program.”

O’Shea, who turned 17 on Feb. 13, hoped to adopt a Golden Retriever upon returning home to Gurnee, Ill., located 35 miles northwest of Chicago.

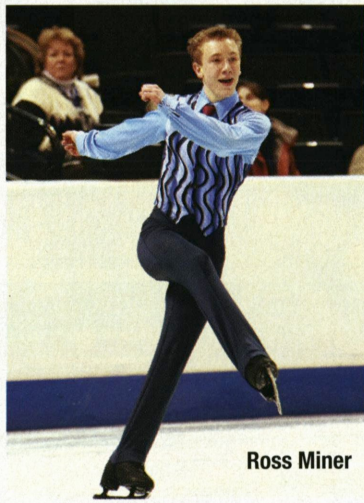
Coached by Sandra Delfs, O’Shea, got off the mark in the 12-man field as he landed all the jumps in his “Spanish Caravan” short program, including a triple toe-double toe combination. His score of 46.89 points was the best of the night.

Skating last in the free skate, O’Shea clinched the title with an awe-inspiring performance to music from the JFK soundtrack and Olympic-themed “Summon the Heroes” by John Williams.



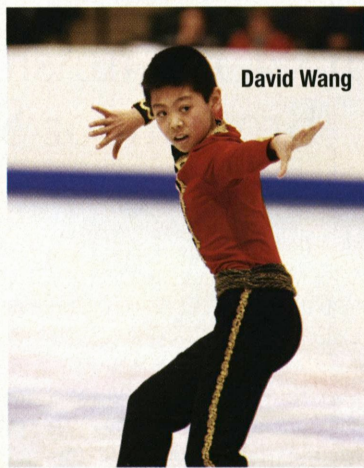
Daniel O’Shea

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Ross Miner

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



David Wang

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

# Novice

Wearing a Midshipman-style navy blue uniform, O'Shea turned up the intensity as he landed a triple Lutz, triple flip and two combinations, including a triple Salchow-double toe-double loop, to secure the free skate and overall title with a score of 145.92.

"It was one of my best performances and the closest to skating clean that I've done this year," O'Shea said.

Cleanly landing the triple Lutz in a program was a first this season for O'Shea.

"The flip is the newest jump for me, and I just managed to do it with the hand down, so I'm pretty happy with that," he said.

After the free skate, O'Shea's dad, Donald, tossed his son a football, which he caught in stride en route to the kiss and cry. He also picked up two stuffed frogs off the ice.

"F.R.O.G. is my life theme," he said. "F.R.O.G. stands for 'Fully Rely on God,' and it's something that's always been important to me."

For Delfs, O'Shea took major strides in the past year.

"He's a lot more confident as far as the way he interacts with the audience and just in general," Delfs said. "He's just grown as far as his overall confidence and strength on his jumps."

Miner, who was the 2006 U.S. intermediate champion but failed to make it out of the Eastern Sectional Championships last year, seized the moment during his Gershwin medley free skate with six triple jumps, including a rocket-launching triple flip-triple toe combination.

"I like going fast because that means I have to do less work on the take off," said Miner, who turned 17 on Jan. 24. "I'm really happy with how that ended up."

Miner's success didn't seem likely as he tumbled to the ice while taking his starting position for the free skate.

"Actually, I think that was almost good for me," Miner said. "It woke me up a little bit. I'm full of stupid mistakes like that."

Miner finished with the third-best free skate behind O'Shea and Alexander Aiken (Atlanta FSC) and was second overall with 135.81 points.

Wang, third in the short program, once again displayed the showmanship and consistency that has made him one of the country's top young prospects.

His *Remember the Titans/Dragonheart* free skate started with a triple toe-double toe combination; it also featured several other triple jumps, including a flip.

"I was excited to land the triple flip because we just started putting it in the program a few weeks after sectionals," said Wang, who turned 14 on Feb. 10. "It was the first time

that I landed it in competition."

Wang's overall score of 133.70 earned him the bronze medal.

After Wang's short program, his coach, Tammy Gambill, commented on her young skater's love of performing.

"When he's on, he's really fun to watch skate," Gambill said. "He's gotten stronger. His overall skating has gotten stronger, his skating skills and spins and jumps stronger."

After answering questions posed by the media, Wang darted to the locker room and came back with a Rubik's Cube. Always the performer, Wang solved the puzzle in a few minutes.

(L-R) Brittany Chase/Andrew Speroff, Brynn Carman/Christopher Knierim, Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir and Kloe Bautista/Galvan Hopson.

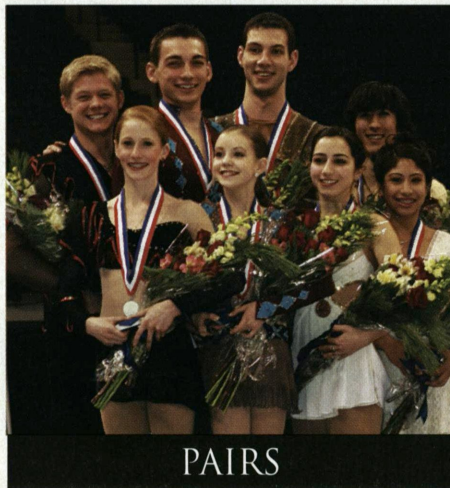


PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN

## PAIRS

### GOLD

Brynn Carman/Christopher Knierim - 120.53

### SILVER

Brittany Chase/Andrew Speroff - 116.99

### BRONZE

Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir - 116.42

### FOURTH PLACE

Kloe Bautista/Galvani Hopson - 113.80

## It's a 1-2 finish for Broadmoor SC

BY TROY SCHWINDT

She is 13. He is 20. She is a student at West Middle School in Centennial, Colo., and he is a mechanic at Sears in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Together, Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim are the 2008 U.S. novice pairs champions after rallying past Broadmoor Skating Club mates and short program leaders

Brittany Chase and Andrew Speroff.

Up first in the final group, Carman and Knierim executed their fast-paced *City Slickers* free skate to the tune of 83.52 points, finishing with an overall score of 120.53 points.

"We chose the theme because it plays to our strengths," Carman said. "We are a very fun team, and it is fun to have an interesting program that plays to the audience. It worked out well."

Carman was having so much fun that she blew a kiss to photographers after the couple landed its opening double Lutz twist and throw double Salchow.

Their only miscues came when Knierim popped a couple jumps. In the short program, Carman fell twice.

Fourth in the novice class in 2007, Knierim said the team's goal for the competition was simply to work on their component marks, and that winning a medal wasn't a major priority.

"We just wanted to skate our best and take it up a level from yesterday," Knierim said after the free skate.

The couple began skating together two years ago and has found a home at the Broadmoor SC, a hotbed for pairs skating. U.S. senior champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker as well as U.S. junior champions Jessica Rose Paetsch and Jon Nuss train there.

"It's a great environment," Knierim said. "We all push each other and support each other."

That feeling of team spilled over when Chase, 14, and Speroff, 19, took the ice for their free skate to the *Addams Family* soundtrack.

Chase and Speroff, who joined forces last August, started well with their inside death spiral that received a level four. Moments later, though, Chase crashed into the rink boards during their throw double loop.

"Our side-by-side jumps were a little shaky," Speroff said, "but the fall was the main thing. It made us push even harder afterward. It made us more determined to show off everything else."

Staying in the present, Chase said, is the only way to skate.

"Once you make a mistake like that, you have to stay in the moment and move on," she said.

Chase and Speroff did finish strong, placing third in the free skate behind the champions and Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir (Smithfield FSC/Colonial FSC). They posted an overall score of 116.99. Castelli and Shnapir scored 116.42 points to claim the bronze.

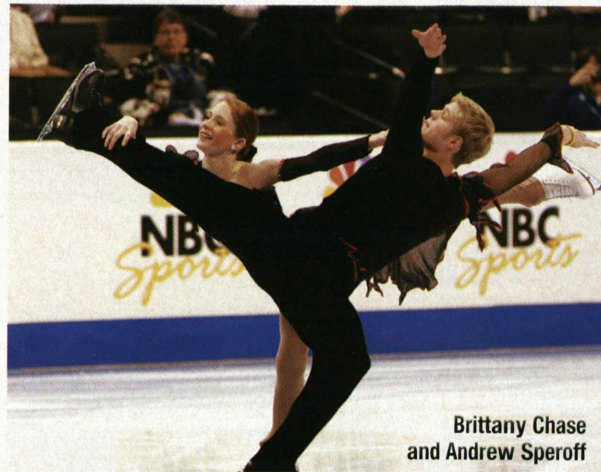
Their silver medal accomplishment wasn't lost on Speroff, who credited his partner with

# Novice



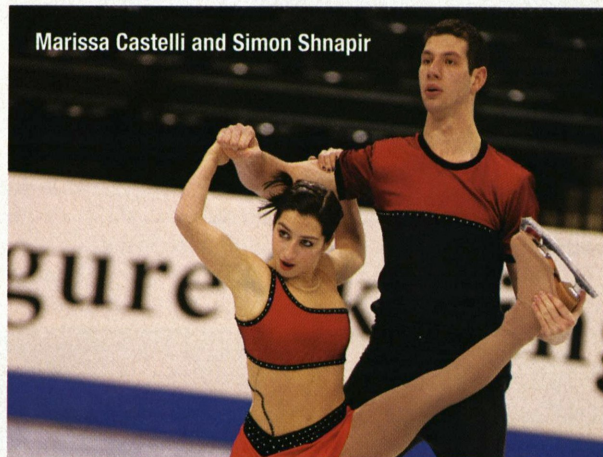
Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Brittany Chase and Andrew Speroff

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

some fast learning on the job. Chase just recently began skating pairs.

"We are so new and we wanted her to enjoy her first nationals," Speroff said. "We achieved our goal 100 percent."

Chase said it's been a whirlwind season.

"It's just happened so fast," she said. "When I had my first tryout with him, they were talking about nationals and I was so star-struck."

Chase, a student at Cheyenne Mountain High School, and Speroff, a college student and lifeguard at the Olympic Training Center, said the plan is to jump up to juniors next season. Last season, Speroff placed fifth in the novice class with partner Amanda Luchau.

Castelli, 17, and Shnapir, 20, rallied from fourth after the short program to place second in the free skate and third overall.

Skating to a *Gladiator* number, the 6'4 Shnapir and the 5-foot Castelli executed a flawless Group 5 Axel lasso lift as their opening element.

"This was one of our stronger performances," Shnapir said. "Sheryl Franks did our program, mixing some old school stuff with new school stuff."

Last year the couple finished ninth in the novice class.

(L-R) Megan Evans/Nathan Truesdell, Chloe Wolf/Rhys Ainsworth, Una Donegan/Andrew Korda and Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

## ICE DANCING

### GOLD

Chloe Wolf/Rhys Ainsworth – 110.69

### SILVER

Megan Evans/Nathan Truesdell – 106.27

### BRONZE

Una Donegan/Andrew Korda – 103.85

### FOURTH PLACE

Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan – 103.15

## Champs receive 'A' in chemistry

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Seven years together as ice dancing partners paid off for Chloe Wolf and Rhys Ainsworth (University of Delaware FSC/North Atlantic FSC).

The 18 year olds from Maine won one of the compulsory dances, free dance and, consequently, the novice title against a talented 11-team field. Megan Evans and Nathan Truesdell (Washington FSC/Arctic FSC) collected the silver medal, with Una Donegan and Andrew Korda (SC of Boston) securing the bronze.

"I know that she is going to be there," Ainsworth said of the team's chemistry. "If she's on the ice, she's going to get right back up and I know where she's going to be. We are just real comfortable with each other."

"It's nice to have some continuity with your partner," Wolf said. "It's gotten to the point where we know each other really well and we know each other's skating really well, so it definitely helps."

Seventh last year at the U.S. Champion-

## Novice

ships, Wolf and Ainsworth sealed their championship fate with a sparkling rendition of their free dance to music from *Les Misérables*.

Judges awarded level fours on five of their six elements. Unison trouble with their twizzles toward the end of the three-minute program was the only noticeable flaw.

"It was a little bit shaky in places, but overall it was really solid," Ainsworth said.

Wolf and Ainsworth won the free skate with 61.17 points and posted an overall mark of 110.69 points.

Hard work and dedication, their coaches said, have been the key for their improvement over last year.

"I think the most exciting thing they did was that they live in Maine and they train both in Maine and Delaware, so they are flying down (to Delaware) two or three times a month to train," coach Karen Ludington said. "To make that kind of commitment and then reap the rewards was really exciting for them and their families."

Evans, 17, and Truesdell, 19, won the second compulsory dance and placed third in the free dance for a total score of 106.27. They've skated together for two years, finishing sixth

last year in the novice class.

Their free dance to music from *Little Miss Sunshine* was solid except for a couple mistakes near the end of the program.

"It was a rotational lift and I didn't grab my foot in time," Evans said, "so we had to do some extra rotations and it went over the time limit."

On the same lift, Truesdell said he got his hand caught in her skirt.

One reporter compared the couple's look to that of five-time U.S. ice dancing champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, who happen to be their clubmates at Arctic FSC.

"That's very flattering," Evans said.

"I hope we can do as well as them in the future," Truesdell said.

For Truesdell, the silver medal means a lot.

"I guess I made history because I'm only the second African American to ever get a medal in ice dancing at the U.S. nationals," Truesdell said. "I'm really excited because it shows that the diversity of the sport is growing."

Donegan and Korda, the 2007 U.S. intermediate champions, rallied from fifth place

after the compulsory dance to finish second in the free dance and third overall with 103.85 points.

They said their free dance to Sarah Brightman's "Anytime, Anywhere" wasn't as smooth as when they practice the program.

"There was a general sort of feeling of unease throughout the program," Korda, 18, said. "There were a couple of little things here and there that just weren't like every day; it wasn't quite as smooth as when we train it."

"But we made sure we did our elements and tried to make everything else in between as smooth as possible," Donegan, 17, said.

Despite their self evaluation, the tandem was awarded level fours on five of their six elements.

Donegan and Korda, partners for three years, said the depth of the novice class has been most noticeable since moving up from intermediate.

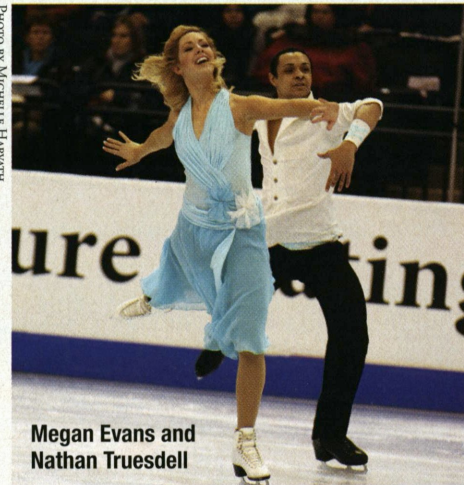
"Even at Lake Placid, we were blown away by the depth of novice. Everyone is really fantastic. It's a lot to take in right now," Korda said.

Together since April, Anastasia Olson and Jordan Cowan (Ann Arbor FSC/All Year FSC) finished fourth. ■

Chloe Wolf and Rhys Ainsworth

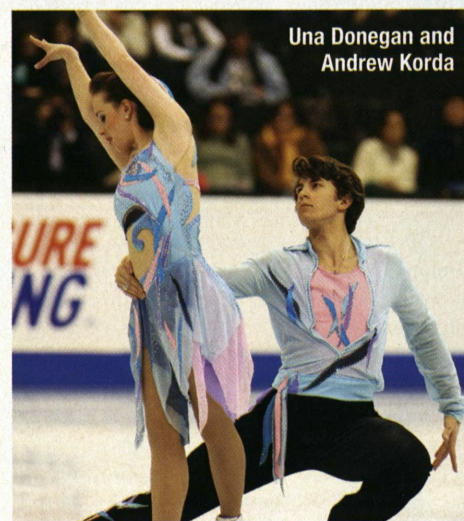


PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Megan Evans and Nathan Truesdell

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Una Donegan and Andrew Korda

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



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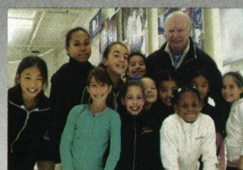
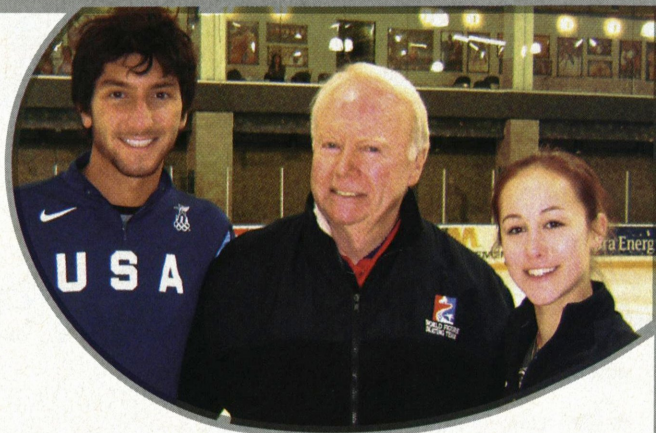
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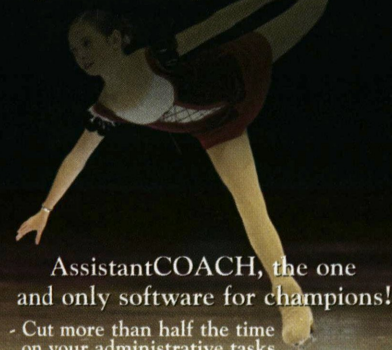
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# Ask Mr. Edge



## Stretch run

Options available to extend life of boots

**I**'d like to offer a few tips on what to look for when it comes to your child's growing feet.

Over the years I've developed an approach that, while not 100 percent reliable, is at least in the 90-percent range in terms of when you can expect your child's feet to grow.

First, take note on which month and date your child changes street shoe size. Also, note the past and current size.

Once you know this, expect another growth spurt about the same time next year. Just how much, no one can predict. However, girls will have a substantial growth spurt between ages 9 and 12, anywhere from a half to 1 1/2 sizes, just about overnight. The good news is that most girls' feet stop growing by age 13 or 14.

One note of particular importance is that if your child fits into his or her skates even after he or she has changed shoe sizes, then their skates were too long to begin with. The question is, why they were long to begin with? (Buyers beware! It's quite common for someone to sell you a skate much longer in length in order to accommodate the width.) If they don't break down, your child may get a few more months out of them. You also need to keep in mind that parents usually buy shoes too big for their child, which is the reason kids almost never grow out of their skates at the same time they do their street shoes. This applies to both girls and boys.

Boys are all over the chart. Their feet can grow as many as three times in one year. On many occasions, I've had boys whose feet have grown twice in one year. I find it quite common for boys' feet to keep growing until age 17 or 18.

No matter if your child is male or female, once you suspect his or her feet are starting to grow, wait at least two weeks before having them measured.

When your child grows out of his or her skating boots, you have three options:

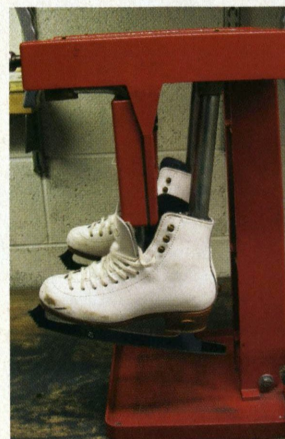
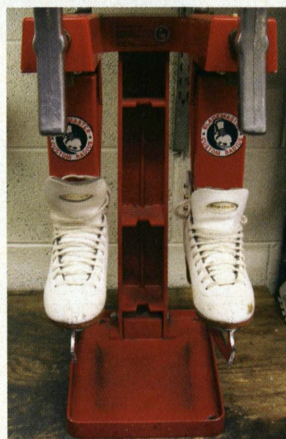
- Buy new boots
- Split and cut the toe seams to create a flap so the big toe can hang out the front
- Stretch the boots

Depending on how tight they are, most people will choose option 1 or 3. Remembering that a majority of parents aren't quite sure how much room their child had in their street shoes, let alone his or her skating boots, that means the skating boots may be able to be stretched far enough to last a few more months or just enough to give some relief until the new boots arrive.

Of course, there is a special device that was developed for the skate industry that can stretch boots out just about a full half size. I've named mine DAS Boot Stretcher.

Depending on the boot, it can take anywhere from about a half hour to overnight to stretch them out enough to where the stretch will hold. The easiest boots to stretch are those that are truly heat moldable. Once heated up for about five minutes at 180 degrees, they can be placed on the stretcher, stretched and, once cooled down, they're done. Full leather boots need to be sprayed with a special boot stretch solution and should remain on the stretcher anywhere from 24-36 hours.

*Mr. Edge*





# Becoming informed key to successful competition

BY LEXI ROHNER

Every January, adult skaters are busy sorting out last-minute details for adult sectionals and the U.S. Adult Championships. Questions arise: "Am I ready?" "Do I have the right music?" "Will my injury heal in time?" Beyond these concerns are competition logistics and procedures that can make or break a Local Organizing Committee (LOC), and a skater's experience at competition.

Navigating through the details of competition can be tricky if a skater is new to the process. At the outset, a skater should know the rules for their particular skating discipline.

"Staying informed is important, as well as having a thorough understanding of the announcement," said John Cole, a judge and referee of several U.S. Adult Championships. "The competitor should know the rules of the sport and not rely solely on their coach to know everything."

The competition announcement lists all detailed event information, and is the final say in rule interpretation, even before the rulebook. This is also the place to look for clarification on refunds and rules for multiple-event scheduling.

"Adult skaters should recognize that every adult skating event is different," Adult Skating Committee Chair Antonio Conte said. "Venues and locations change annually, and flexible, realistic expectations are essential."

## Understanding LOC/event scheduling and rules

Prior to sectional and U.S. Adult Championships, U.S. Figure Skating appoints referees, judges, accountants, music people and announcers. The LOC recruits volunteers through the host club(s) to manage the event (registrar, practice ice coordinator, hospitality, registration desk, etc.).

Understanding basic skating etiquette is essential. Patience is a must when asking questions or attempting to resolve issues. Take time to learn who is responsible for what aspects of organizing the event. Contacting the referee directly is not always the best method of requesting schedule changes. Carolyn Haman, co-chair of the 2006 U.S. Adult Championships, said everything revolves around event scheduling.

"If everything is scheduled well, without last-

minute changes, the organization falls into place."

Having also served as chief referee for the 2007 U.S. Adult Championships in Chicago, and a judge at four other U.S. Adult Championships, Haman knows it is a juggling act for any referee.

"It becomes rather complex when skaters compete in multiple events with unknown elimination and final round results," she said.

Additional event scheduling is based on age categories, ice availability, possible dance and pairs partner time conflicts, warm-ups, and championship event skaters who also compete in open events. Haman's advice to future chairs is to have enough volunteers to run a smooth competition.

Training and practice should be done at your home rink, and skaters must be prepared to have training schedules altered upon arrival.

"If you are accustomed to skating in the afternoon, your event and practice ice may be early in the morning," Conte said. "You may also have to skate multiple events in one day. Adult skaters should be physically and psychologically equipped for practice on one ice surface and competition on another, similar to what elite skaters competing at Olympics and World Championships have to deal with."

## At the competition

Practice ice is an event of its own, and can be limited, especially during "prime time."

"Expecting more than 15 to 20 minutes of practice ice daily means being prepared to skate early or late at night," Conte said.

Skating during practice ice requires skaters to pay attention. No one is out there alone, and good sportsmanship is important. Skaters pay in advance, though some choose to sign up at the competition. Do not try to rent ice that has been set aside for event practice ice. Accommodating all skaters can be difficult, and though it can rattle skaters, flexibility helps if changes occur.

"Skating brings adults together," said Ann Dougherty, who has chaired three U.S. Adult Championships and attended three as national vice chair of Adult Competitions. "They come from all walks of life but they share the passion and the support."

Dougherty has encountered adult skaters who desire exceptions to rules.

"Sometimes the assumption is that with a plausible reason, the rule should bend," she said. "In reality, the rulebook and announcement exist to clarify any problems that arise."

"Suggestions for significant changes are always welcome, and can be made by contacting the Adult Skating Committee," Conte said. "At the competition or e-mailing the referee is not the time to push for those changes."

The registration desk is information central during a competition.

"When you register at a competition," Conte said, "ask where any notices, official results and starting orders will be posted. If you are at a competition where the international judging system is used, ask how you can get a copy of your program protocol."

## On the ice

Smiling is contagious.

"The best thing about hosting adult events is how supportive the sport can be," Dougherty said. "I've heard kids after events say, 'No one ever cheered for me like that.' 'If you look like you're having fun, the judges will have fun with you. End your program by bowing to the judges first.'"

Cole, who skated as a child and as an adult, is an advocate of adult skating. He has participated in adult skating as a competitor, judge, assistant referee and chief referee at the U.S. Adult Championships.

"I think the spirit of adult skating is quite inspiring," Cole said.

Cole also offers advice to competitive adults.

"Become accomplished and consistent with your technical elements," he said. "Do not attempt to perform elements you cannot consistently execute. The international judging system will show you how penal that can become. Concentrate on skating skills, which have always been and will always be the backbone of how good a skater you can become."

## After the competition

Didn't skate your best? It's best to vent in private. Being vocal about "unfair results" is not good sportsmanship for any skater at any level. Similarly, and probably even more important, if you had the skate of your life and/or won the competition, it is acceptable to be excited, with modesty and consideration of other competitors' feelings. If you have an issue or a question about your results, respectfully seek out the referee of your event or a judge. There are always judges willing to share the details of how your score was tabulated, and assist you in understanding how you can improve. ■



Participants in Project Joy are, front row, from left, Nicolina Deschamps, MaKenna Hill, Nadine Orellana, Lauren Mahdi, Megan Mahdi, Ayda Rashtchi, Danika Kong, Katherine VanOrden, Silaine Thordarson, Kendal Pumphrey; back row, from left, Ashley Van Den Bosch, Alex Anderson, Emilee Miller, Morgan Anderson, Natasha Mitchell, Natalie Steel, Danielle Pelletier, Emily Jindra, Shannon Pecca, Austin Pumphrey.

## Project Joy skate-a-thon a major success

On Nov. 27, 2007, Project Joy hosted its second annual skate-a-thon at the Aliso Viejo Palace in Orange County, Calif. The \$27,275 raised exceeded Project Joy founder Megan Mahdi's goal of \$10,000 to help improve the lives of less fortunate children.

Skaters collected pledges from family, friends, neighbors and businesses for each lap they completed during the hour-long skate-a-thon. The funds went to two children's charities – Olive Crest, which provides shelter and services to abused and abandoned children, and The Smile Train that provides cleft palate surgery for children in developing countries.

Mahdi, a member of the Orange County Figure Skating Club, took it upon herself to expand participation in the 2007 event. She called upon businesses to provide or sponsor in-kind prizes for the event's top performers; created a web site, [www.skate4joy.org](http://www.skate4joy.org), to heighten the event's visibility and fundraising opportunities; and added The Smile Train, an international organization that shared Project Joy's theme, as a second beneficiary.

Participants ranged between the ages of 8 and 16 and completed 3,587 laps. The top four fundraisers were MaKenna Hill (Orange County FSC), who raised \$3,060 and skated 148 laps; Ashley Van Den Bosch (Orange County FSC), who raised \$1,490 and skated 200 laps; Shannon Pecca (All Year FSC), who raised \$1,315 and skated 197 laps; and Katherine VanOrden (Orange County FSC), who raised \$978 and skated 174 laps.

"The skaters' worked very hard both off and on the ice to raise money for at-risk kids," Mahdi said. "The success if the event shows that kids can make a big difference."

In its first two years, Project Joy has raised more than \$30,000.

## Westminster FSC to celebrate 50th anniversary

The Westminster Figure Skating Club (WFSC) of Erie, Pa., will celebrate 50 years with its spring ice show "50 Years of Memories," at the Mercyhurst College Ice Arena, April 12-13, 2008.

A group of mothers and other interested skaters formed the club over "coffee hour" in 1958, thereby increasing local interest in the sport and effecting the 1964 construction of a local ice rink, now known as the J.M. Cochran Ice Arena.

The club held its first skating sessions at Dauphin Park in Westminster Heights, where it continued to meet until the ice rink's construction five years later. The WFSC gained full membership into the U.S. Figure Skating Association in 1965. Its first officers included president Dottie Vassar, vice-president Ellie Daily, and secretary and treasurer Mrs. William Henglebrok.

At 88 years old, former president and founding member Vassar remains active on the club's board. She also coaches and runs the club's Skate-With-U.S. Basic Skills program Saturday mornings.

The club is home to 1988 Olympian Caryn Kadavy, who coaches students at the club, as well as U.S.



Dottie Vassar, with skaters Emily and Katie Hetz, in top hat and tails for the 2007 "Swingtime on Ice" spring show.



The Westminster Figure Skating Club of Erie Inc. skates at Dauphin Park Pond (from left): Dottie Vassar, Dick Wilkins, Melrose Boraten, Barbara Vassar, David Martin, Edrye Boraten, Susan Hosford and David Reidel

Figure Skating judges Donna Cerami, Renee Kloecker and Berdy Monahan.

The "50 Years of Memories" ice show will be a celebration of friendships, talent, memories and new beginnings.

For more information, contact Marge Hertz at 814.774.8947.



PHOTO BY THOR SCHEWENITZ

The Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., honored all of its 2008 U.S. Championships skaters and medalists during a reception on Feb. 6 at the World Arena Ice Hall. Among the honorees were the national champions in novice, junior and senior pairs, and their coach Dalilah Sappenfield. Pictured are, from left, novice champs Brynn Carman/Chris Knierim; Brittany Chase (second place novice pairs; not pictured is her partner Andrew Speroff); junior champs Jessica Rose Patesch/Jon Nuss and senior champ Rockne Brubaker (his partner, Keauna McLaughlin was in California).



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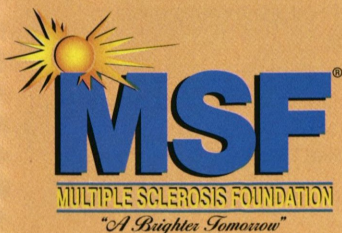
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*This March, let's take our exploits to epic proportions!*



# Picture this

U.S. Synchronized Skating teams test the rest



Members of Chicago Jazz show off the *Seventeen* magazine "hair spray" feature on the team while in Milan, Italy, for the Spring Cup. The Jazz captured the gold medal in the junior division.



The Crystallettes demonstrate their patriotism at the Prague Cup. The team from Dearborn, Mich., captured the bronze medal in the 10-team field.



The Colonials Brittany Bressler, Katie Kiely, Meghann Ronan, Alli Bayko, Kimberly Swanson, Lauren Salter enjoy themselves at the Cup of France. The junior team from West Acton, Mass., placed fourth in Rouen, France.



The Hockettes receive a history lesson at Check Point Charlie in Berlin, Germany.



The Haydenettes, the 2007 U.S. champions, hang out with Dr. Schlecht before competition at Cup of Berlin. The Haydenettes of Lexington, Mass., placed fourth, while California Gold of Culver City ended up seventh in the 10-team field. The Hockettes of Ann Arbor, Mich., finished sixth in the junior division.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year, nearly 300 athletes around the country are named to the U.S. Synchronized Skating Team. Though familiar with the teams that represent the country, skating fans oftentimes don't know much about the individual athletes. Starting with the November 2007 issue of SKATING magazine, a different member of "Team USA" will be featured.*

## Team USA Spotlight: Jamie Hartman MIAMI UNIVERSITY

**Birthdate:** Dec. 30, 1986

**Hometown:** Saline, Mich.

**School:** I'm a junior at Miami University

**Family:** My parents are Al and Lisa Hartman, and I have a brother, Jordan and a sister, Taryn.

**How long have you been skating?** 16 years. My dad plays hockey and signed me up for Basic Skills when I was 4.

**What are the highest tests you've passed:** Senior moves in the field, senior free skating and one gold dance. I'm working on the others.

**Do you have a previous team:** I skated with the Hockettes before coming to Miami.

**What do you like best about synchronized skating?** I like the atmo-

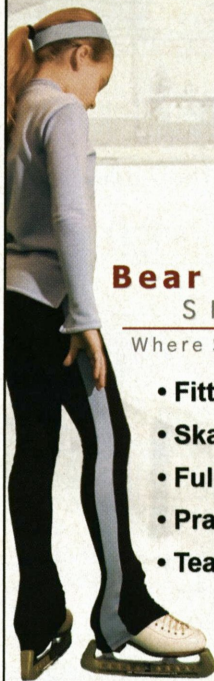
sphere of being on a team. Synchronized skating is a unique sport and as a skater, it has been an amazing experience to achieve so many "firsts" individually as well as in U.S. Figure Skating history.

**What do you do outside of skating?** I am on the executive committee for Miami University's chapter of Ambassadors for Children. I traveled to Malawi, Africa, and volunteered in an orphan village for two weeks this past summer. I am studying Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Education. I hope to teach first grade.

**What is your favorite competition memory?** Performing the free skate last year at the World Synchronized Skating Championships. The crowd was so responsive and added to the energy of the program. Another memory from the same competition was seeing the American flag raised and receiving a World silver medal.



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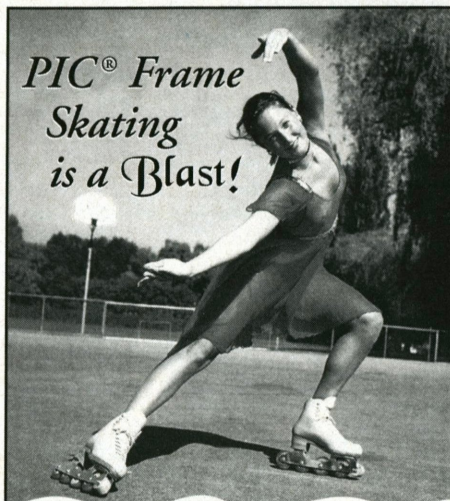
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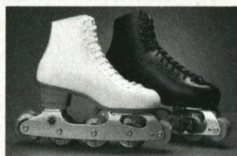
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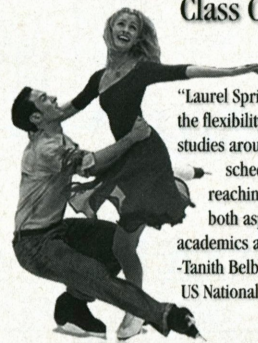
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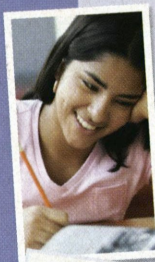
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PHOTO BY MICHELE BROWN

Keauna's mother, Lei'Ina, hugs her daughter, as Rockne and coach Dalilah Sappenfield look on.

not only do you have to think about you, you have to think about your partner.

**Rockne:** Many of us also work out on our own throughout the week. Skating takes a lot of work. We usually dedicate four to six hours a day to skating.

*You guys are so much fun to watch because you really look like you are having a lot of fun. Keauna, how is it being coached by your mom? Also, what advice do you have for someone who wants to start pairs skating?*

*Amber Ruiz, 14  
Colorado Springs, Colo.*

**Keauna:** I'm glad it shows because we really do have a lot of fun skating together. I love being coached by my mom and I wouldn't have it any other way. She helps me with the mental aspect of this sport and helps me put it into perspective. However, Dalilah is the wonderful driving force behind this team and we wouldn't have accomplished this much without her strength. My advice is to be passionate and love pairs skating because it is a lot of hard work, especially for someone who is just getting into pairs because it is difficult to learn all these new elements and it takes a lot of time and perseverance. Most importantly, keep a positive attitude and don't let mistakes get in the way of enjoying yourself.

**Rockne:** My advice is to start with the basics. Make sure that you have strong skating skills. If you are a strong skater then you will be able to learn pairs more easily.

*What is it like knowing that you are the new champions and can not compete at Worlds.*

*Susie Serneholt, 10  
Coventry*

**Keauna:** I'm just happy we have a national title and I'm not even focusing on the fact that we can't go to Worlds. Even though we both would love the opportunity to go to the World Championships, it's kind of a blessing in disguise because not going just gives us another year to grow and mature as a team. And besides, there is an age limit for a reason; I need more time to develop and mature as a person and as a skater.

**Rockne:** We would have loved to have gone

and competed at Worlds, but there isn't anything we can do to change the fact that we can't. We are, however, going to use it to our advantage. We are going to rest up, get a head start on new programs for this next season, and basically take the extra time to be comfortable and ready to compete this next season. We are looking to have a big year.

*In the future, is there a piece of music you would love to skate to?*

*Kate Manzagol, 15  
Clarkston, Mich.*

**Keauna:** Definitely Swan Lake. I think it's a beautiful and powerful piece of music that tells an amazing love story.

**Rockne:** There is a lot of great music out there. I have always wanted to skate to a very authentic Spanish piece. We are looking to skate to something like that for our short this year, so maybe I will get my wish.

*Rockne, do you have a girlfriend? And Keauna, what's your favorite store to shop in?*

*Breanna Rix, 14  
Beaumont, Texas*

**Keauna:** Hmm...It's a toss up between Target, Bebe and Sephora. Sorry, I can't pick.

**Rockne:** No, I don't have a girlfriend. I am currently single.

*What will you guys have to do to beat the Chinese and Germans when it comes to Worlds and the Olympics?*

*Taylor Heath, 16  
Houston, Texas*

**Keauna:** Our focus this year is to increase our technical mark by doing triple Salchows and triple toes in the free skate, but our biggest focus is to increase our component mark. For us, that's our biggest weakness. We are working hard on trying to get the command and presence on the ice that the Germans and Chinese have.

**Rockne:** I think that the biggest gap between us and them are our components. We are working with a very good choreographer this year which I am excited about. I think that it's going to help us out a lot.

*Do you guys watch tapes of other pairs skaters to get ideas or information for your programs?*

*Alissa Ireland, 15  
Detroit, Mich.*

**Keauna:** No, not really. Sometimes I watch old skating videos of amazing pairs performances such as, Gordeeva and Grinkov and Shen and Zhou to get inspiration but not so much to get info or ideas for our programs.

**Rockne:** I watch a lot of videos. I don't watch them to copy other teams, but I watch them to help me with my skating. If there is an element that I am struggling with or want to see how to make something easier then a lot of times I will watch older videos. A good athlete will always try to learn more. ■



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



## KIDZ SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Tony Lu

**Age:** 8

**Club:** The Skating Club of Bucks County (Warminster, Pa.)

**Level:** Preliminary

**Coach:** Alexey Beletsky

**Favorite jumps/moves:** Axel, double loop, double Salchow, camel spin, combination and spread eagle

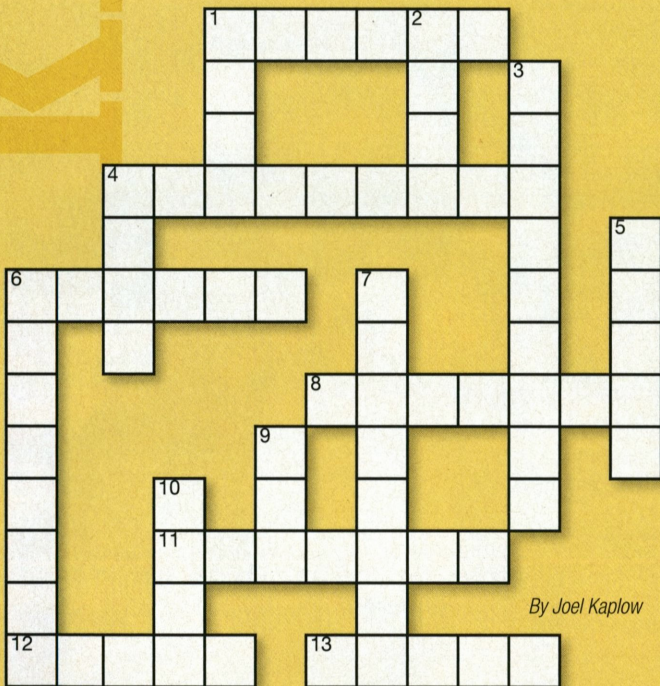
**Goals:** To land a quad Axel at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games

**Favorite skaters:** Evgeny Plushenko, Johnny Weir and Evan Lysacek

**What else you should know about me:** I like soccer, ballroom dancing and gymnastics. I play piano and I'm a straight-A student. I won the South Atlantic Regional pre-preliminary competition in October 2007.



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.



By Joel Kaplow

### ACROSS

- 14-year-old Mirai Nagasu's first name means "\_\_\_" in Japanese
- The 2009 U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be held in \_\_\_, Ohio
- Caroline Zhang's signature pearl spin is called such because her head resembles a pearl with her arms and leg forming an \_\_\_ shell
- Skaters got to show off both their skills and costumes on NBC's Progressive \_\_\_ on Ice telecast in January
- The \_\_\_ pairs skaters claimed a 12 Across of the gold, silver and bronze at the World Junior Championships in Gdansk, Poland
- The U.S. men also earned a medals \_\_\_ at the World Junior Championships last December

- True or False: commentator Dick Button is very shy and reserved and never expresses opinions or criticisms

### DOWN

- Ice dancers Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto made it \_\_\_ golds in a row at the U.S. Championships in Saint Paul
- After their free skate at the U.S. Championships, John Baldwin put one knee down on the ice and asked longtime pairs partner \_\_\_ Inoue to marry him
- Washington D.C.'s only indoor ice rink just celebrated the 10th anniversary of its \_\_\_ program (3 wds.)
- Allissa Czisny has no idea how she broke her thumb

but competed at the U.S. Championships with a \_\_\_ on her left hand

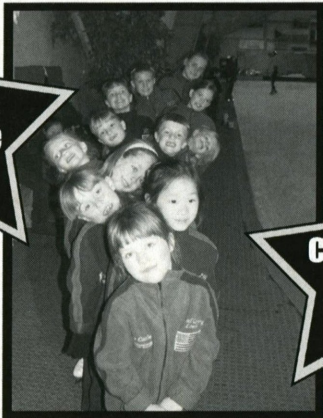
- The 2008 U.S. ladies gold and silver medalists Mirai Nagasu and Rachael Flatt will not be competing at the Worlds championships this year – they're too \_\_\_!
- Cozy couple Tanith Belbin and Evan Lysacek have one rule: they never offer \_\_\_ on each other's skating!
- What is Bebe Liang's real first name?
- What was 2 Down's answer?
- True or False: in a YouTube clip, 6-1 Evan Lysacek says his coach Frank Carroll is taller than he is

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 65

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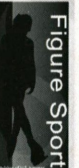


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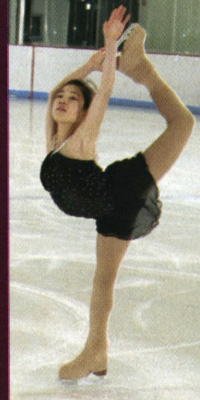
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Free skate – Judges: 1. Beth Graham; 2. Paula Naughton; 3. Sara Kastner; 4. Wayne Hundley; 5. Kevin Rosenstein; 6. Samuel Auxier; 7. Lawrence Mondschain; 8. Gretchen Wilson; 8. Gregory Cannon; Referee: Hal Marron; Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: Terry Kubicka; Assistant Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan

#### Name, Club, Points, SP, FS

- Mirai Nagasu, Pasadena FSC, 190.41, 1, 3
- Rachael Flatt, Broadmoor SC, 188.73, 3, 1
- Ashley Wagner, Washington FSC, 188.56, 2, 2
- Caroline Zhang, All Year FSC, 173.16, 7, 4
- Bebe Liang, All Year FSC, 164.87, 6, 5
- Katrina Hacker, SC of Boston, 158.28, 5, 6
- Kimberly Meissner, Univ of Delaware FSC, 157.56, 4, 7
- Melissa Bulanhagui, Univ of Delaware FSC, 149.22, 8, 8
- Alissa Czisny, Detroit SC, 146.38, 9, 9
- Becky Bereswill, Houston FSC, 137.65, 14, 10
- Tenille Vitorcson, All Year FSC, 132.80, 15, 11
- Danielle Kahle, All Year FSC, 132.22, 10, 13
- Megan Williams-Stewart, Univ of Delaware FSC, 130.40, 12, 14
- Chrissy Hughes, Highland SC, 126.84, 16, 12
- Molly Oberstar, Duluth FSC, 125.13, 11, 15
- Karen Zhou, All Year FSC, 116.30, 17, 16
- Angie Lien, Duluth FSC, 112.25, 13, 20
- Megan Hyatt, Wagon Wheel FSC, 108.69, 19, 17
- Stephanie Roth, SC of New York, 107.49, 18, 18
- Laney Diggs, All Year FSC, 99.20, 20, 19

#### SENIOR MEN

Short program – Judges: 1. William Smith; 2. Brett Drury; 3. Nancy Bizzano; 4. Kathleen Harmon; 5. Linda Leaver; 6. Wendy Enzmann; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Lorrie Parker; 9. Deveny Deck; Referee: Kimberly Heim; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: David Santee; Assistant Technical Specialist: William Schneider

Free Skate – Judges: 1. William Smith; 2. Brett Drury; 3. Nancy Bizzano; 4. Kathleen Harmon; 5. Linda Leaver; 6. Wendy Enzmann; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Lorrie Parker; 9. Deveny Deck; Referee: Kimberly Heim; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: David Santee; Assistant Technical Specialist: William Schneider

#### Name, Club, Points, SP, FS

- Evan Lysacek, DuPage FSC, 244.77, 2, 1
- Johnny Weir, SC of New York, 244.77, 1, 2
- Stephen Carriere, SC of Boston, 228.06, 3, 3
- Jeremy Abbott, Broadmoor SC, 221.85, 5, 4
- Ryan Bradley, Broadmoor SC, 221.31, 4, 5

- Scott Smith, SC of Boston, 210.55, 6, 6
- Wesley Campbell, Nashville FSC, 200.10, 8, 7
- Shaun Rogers, Univ of Delaware FSC, 195.96, 13, 9
- Tommy Steenberg, SC of Northern Virginia, 195.32, 12, 10
- Dennis Phan, All Year FSC, 193.75, 15, 8
- Parker Pennington, Washington FSC, 188.82, 10, 13
- Geoffry Varner, Peninsula SC, 184.52, 9, 14
- Eliot Halverson, St. Paul FSC, 183.67, 17, 11
- Braden Overett, Denver FSC, 182.86, 16, 12
- Derrick Delmore, Washington FSC, 180.83, 7, 16
- Douglas Razzano, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 180.21, 11, 15
- Michael Villarreal, All Year FSC, 164.35, 14, 18
- Rohene Ward, Starlight Ice Dance Club, 160.45, 18, 17

#### SENIOR PAIRS

Short Program – Judges: 1. Joan Burns; 2. Brett Drury; 3. Deborah Weidman; 4. Deveny Deck; 5. Stefanie Mathewson; 6. Lorrie Parker; 7. David Hamula; 8. Wendy Enzmann; 9. William Smith; Referee: Todd Bromley; Technical Controller: Dana Graham; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: Jason Dunjien

Free Skate – Judges: 1. Joan Burns; 2. Brett Drury; 3. Deborah Weidman; 4. Deveny Deck; 5. Stefanie Mathewson; 6. Lorrie Parker; 7. David Hamula; 8. Wendy Enzmann; 9. William Smith; Referee: Todd Bromley; Technical Controller: Dana Graham; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: Jason Dunjien

#### Name, Club/Name, Club, Points, SP, FS

- Keauna McLaughlin, Los Angeles FSC/Rockne Brubaker, Broadmoor SC, 190.74, 1, 1
- Rena Inoue, All Year FSC/John Baldwin, All Year FSC, 183.17, 2, 2
- Brooke Castile, Arctic FSC/Ben Okolski, Arctic FSC, 175.07, 3, 3
- Tiffany Vise, Broadmoor SC/Derek Trent, Broadmoor SC, 161.20, 5, 4
- Amanda Evora, Southwest Florida FSC/Mark Ladwig, Red River Valley FSC, 158.94, 4, 5
- Caitlin Yankowskas, Colonial FSC/John Coughlin, Kansas City FSC, 153.80, 6, 6
- Naomi Nari Nam, All Year FSC/Themistocles Letheris, Los Angeles FSC, 145.89, 8, 7
- Chloe Katz, SC of New York/Joseph Lynch, SC of New York, 142.29, 7, 8
- Bianca Butler, All Year FSC/Joseph Jacobson, All Year FSC, 136.65, 11, 9
- MeeRan Trombley, Broadmoor SC/Laureano Ibarra, All Year FSC, 130.29, 12, 10
- Kaela Pflumm, Univ of Delaware FSC/Christopher Pottenger, Dallas FSC, 127.27, 10, 12
- Katie Beriau, Charter Oak FSC/Alexander Merritt, Los Angeles FSC, 125.52, 9, 14
- Amber Wehrle, Broadmoor SC/Nicholas Kole, Broadmoor SC, 125.17, 13, 11
- Laura Lepzinski, Detroit SC/Ethan Burgess, All Year FSC, 119.40, 14, 15
- Kendra Moyle, Ann Arbor FSC/Steven Pottenger, Dallas FSC, 117.98, 15, 13

#### SENIOR DANCE

Compulsory Dance – Judges: 1. Susan Keogh; 2. Anthony Bardin; 3. Sharon Rogers; 4. Kathleen Harmon; 5. John Lefevre; 6. Glenn Cummings; 7. Richard Dalley; 8. Richard Kern; 9. Cynthia Drayton; Referee: John

Cole; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt

Original Dance – Judges: 1. Susan Keogh; 2. Anthony Bardin; 3. Sharon Rogers; 4. Kathleen Harmon; 5. John Lefevre; 6. Glenn Cummings; 7. Richard Dalley; 8. Richard Kern; 9. Cynthia Drayton; Referee: John Cole; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt

Free Dance – Judges: 1. Susan Keogh; 2. Anthony Bardin; 3. Sharon Rogers; 4. Kathleen Harmon; 5. John Lefevre; 6. Glenn Cummings; 7. Richard Dalley; 8. Richard Kern; 9. Cynthia Drayton; Referee: John Cole; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt

#### Name, Club/Name, Club, Points, CD, OD, FD

- Tanith Belbin, Arctic FSC/Ben Agosto, Arctic FSC, 216.07, 1, 1, 1
- Meryl Davis, Arctic FSC/Charlie White, Detroit SC, 206.82, 2, 2, 2
- Kimberly Navarro, Santa Rosa FSC/Brent Bommentre, Philadelphia SC & HS, 187.94, 3, 3, 3
- Emily Samuelson, Ann Arbor FSC/Evan Bates, Ann Arbor FSC, 175.16, 4, 4, 6
- Jennifer Wester, Dallas FSC/Daniil Barantsev, Detroit SC, 169.37, 5, 6, 5
- Jane Summersett, Broadmoor SC/Todd Gilles, Broadmoor SC, 166.86, 10, 5, 4
- Charlotte Maxwell, Stars FSC of Texas/Nick Traxler, Stars FSC of Texas, 161.17, 7, 7, 7
- Mimi Whetstone, Okla. City FSC/Chris Obzansky, Salt Lake Figure Skating, 157.10, 6, 8, 8
- L. Kriengkairut, All Year FSC/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, Stars FSC of Texas, 151.50, 8, 9, 9
- Mauri Gustafson, All Year FSC/Joel Dear, Stars FSC of Texas, 138.20, 9, 10, 10
- Clare Farrell, St. Louis SC/Charles Fishpaw, Univ of Delaware FSC, 130.90, 11, 11, 11
- Marsha Snyder, Pittsburgh FSC/Peter Fischl, Pittsburgh FSC, 120.51, 12, 12, 12
- Stacy Kim, Stars FSC of Texas/Jonathan Harris, Stars FSC of Texas, 105.71, 13, 13, 13

#### JUNIOR LADIES

Short Program – Judges: 1. Paula Naughton; 2. Beth Graham; 3. Anthony Bardin; 4. Deveny Deck; 5. Deborah Weidman; 6. Brett Drury; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Lorrie Parker; 9. Gretchen Wilson; Referee: Larry Kriwanek; Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan; Assistant Technical Specialist: Terry Kubicka

Free Skate – Judges: 1. Paula Naughton; 2. Beth Graham; 3. Anthony Bardin; 4. Deveny Deck; 5. Deborah Weidman; 6. Brett Drury; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Lorrie Parker; 9. Gretchen Wilson; Referee: Larry Kriwanek; Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan; Assistant Technical Specialist: Terry Kubicka

#### Name, Club, Points, SP, FS

- Alexe Gilles, Broadmoor SC, 156.17, 3, 1
- Angela Maxwell, Dallas FSC, 150.11, 1, 3
- Brittney Rizo, SC of Boston, 149.60, 2, 4
- Kristine Musademba, Washington FSC, 143.86, 5, 5
- Amanda Dobbs, Peninsula SC, 142.76, 6, 2
- Victoria Rackohn, All Year FSC, 137.70, 4, 6
- Kirsten Olson, Starlight Ice Dance Club, 130.21, 7, 7
- Ellie Kawamura, All Year FSC, 122.74, 8, 8
- Rebecca Stern, Univ of Delaware FSC, 110.76, 11, 9
- Jane Ruan, SC of New York, 110.72, 9, 11
- Carolyn-Ann Alba, All Year FSC, 108.68,

- 12, 10
- Alexa Scimeca, DuPage FSC, 104.20, 10, 12
- Masha Leonov, Tampa Bay SC, 97.54, 13, 13
- Victoria Fairchild, Broadmoor SC, 91.40, 14, 14

#### JUNIOR MEN

Short Program – Judges: 1. Kevin Rosenstein; 2. Gregory Cannon; 3. David Hamula; 4. Lawrence Mondschain; 5. Brett Drury; 6. Stefanie Mathewson; 7. Samuel Auxier; 8. Sara Kastner; 9. Nancy Bizzano; Referee: Hal Marron; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: William Schneider; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa-Marie Allen

Free Skate – Judges: 1. Kevin Rosenstein; 2. Gregory Cannon; 3. David Hamula; 4. Lawrence Mondschain; 5. Brett Drury; 6. Stefanie Mathewson; 7. Samuel Auxier; 8. Sara Kastner; 9. Nancy Bizzano; Referee: Hal Marron; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: William Schneider; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa-Marie Allen

#### Name, Club, Points, SP, FS

- Adam Rippon, SC of New York, 213.76, 1, 1
- Brandon Mroz, Broadmoor SC, 203.63, 3, 2
- Andrew Gonzales, All Year FSC, 182.27, 4, 4
- Richard Dornbush, All Year FSC, 179.27, 12, 3
- Keegan Messing, Anchorage FSC, 176.63, 6, 5
- Curran Oi, SC of Boston, 176.44, 2, 10
- Alexander Johnson, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, 169.19, 5, 9
- Armin Mahbanozadeh, Washington FSC, 167.76, 9, 6
- William Brewster, Detroit SC, 167.70, 7, 8
- Austin Kanallakan, Broadmoor SC, 165.06, 10, 7
- Grant Hochstein, St. Clair Shores FSC, 162.12, 8, 11
- Zachary DeWulf, Univ of Delaware FSC, 152.68, 11, 13
- Max Aaron, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 146.98, 13, 14
- Daniel Raad, Park FSC, 145.30, 16, 12
- Osadolo Irowa, DuPage FSC, 141.46, 14, 15
- Theron James, New Haven SC, 116.52, 15, 16

#### JUNIOR PAIRS

Short Program – Judges: 1. Joan Burns; 2. William Smith; 3. Paula Naughton; 4. Deveny Deck; 5. Gretchen Wilson; 6. Wendy Enzmann; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Wayne Hundley; 9. Samuel Auxier; Referee: Larry Kriwanek; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: Dana Graham

Free Skate – Judges: 1. Joan Burns; 2. William Smith; 3. Paula Naughton; 4. Deveny Deck; 5. Gretchen Wilson; 6. Wendy Enzmann; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Wayne Hundley; 9. Samuel Auxier; Referee: Larry Kriwanek; Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: Dana Graham

#### Name, Club/Name, Club, Points, SP, FS

- Jessica Rose Paetsch, Broadmoor SC/Jon Nuss, Broadmoor SC, 143.19, 2, 1
- Tracy Tanovich, Southwest Florida FSC/Michael Chau, Southwest Florida FSC, 137.36, 3, 2
- Chelsi Guillen, Coyotes SC of Arizona/Danny Curzon, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 134.58, 1, 4
- Andrea Best, Detroit SC/Trevor Young, Detroit SC, 129.75, 5, 3
- Meg Byrne, Univ of Delaware FSC/Nathan

Bartholomay, Univ of Delaware FSC, 124.71, 6, 5

6. Lisa Moore, ISC of Fort Collins/Justin Gaumont, All Year FSC, 123.69, 4, 6
7. Jaylyn Kelly, Lansing SC/Gabe Woodruff, Detroit SC, 113.9, 10, 7
8. Janyce Okamoto, Nashville FSC/Ryan Bering, Nashville FSC, 113.42, 9, 8
9. Megan Gueli, Detroit SC/Grant Marron, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 107.41, 8, 10
10. Arielle Trujillo, Los Angeles FSC/Daniyel Cohen, Elite Training Academy, 104.02, 12, 9
11. Rachel DeRita, U. of Delaware FSC/Brandon Accardi, U. of Delaware FSC, 101.5, 11, 11
12. Claire Davis, Broadmoor SC/Nathan Miller, Broadmoor SC, 100.7, 7, 13
13. Molly Schleicher, SC of Boston/Christopher Schleicher, SC of Boston, 95.64, 13, 12

**JUNIOR DANCE**

Compulsory Dance - Judges: 1. Richard Kern; 2. Cynthia Drayton; 3. John LeFevre; 4. Susan Keogh; 5. Sharon Rogers; 6. Richard Dalley; 7. Glenn Cummings; 8. Charles Cyr; 9. Kathleen Harmon; Referee: Janis Engel; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt

Original Dance - Judges: 1. Richard Kern; 2. Cynthia Drayton; 3. John LeFevre; 4. Susan Keogh; 5. Sharon Rogers; 6. Richard Dalley; 7. Glenn Cummings; 8. Charles Cyr; 9. Kathleen Harmon; Referee: Janis Engel; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt

Free Dance - Judges: 1. Richard Kern; 2. Cynthia Drayton; 3. John LeFevre; 4. Susan Keogh; 5. Sharon Rogers; 6. Richard Dalley; 7. Glenn Cummings; 8. Charles Cyr; 9. Kathleen Harmon; Referee: Janis Engel; Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt

**Name, Club/Name, Club, Points, CD, OD, FD**

1. Madison Hubbell, Ann Arbor FSC/Keiffer Hubbell, Ann Arbor FSC, 167.48, 1, 3, 1
2. Piper Gilles, Broadmoor SC/Timothy McKernan, Broadmoor SC, 161.66, 2, 4, 2
3. Madison Chock, All Year FSC/Greg Zuerlein, Arctic FSC, 161.40, 4, 1, 3
4. Maia Shibutani, SC of New York/Alex Shibutani, Broadmoor SC, 157.80, 7, 2, 4
5. Shannon Wingle, Arctic FSC/Ryan Devereaux, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 154.09, 8, 5, 5
6. Pilar Bosley, Peninsula SC/John Corona, Philadelphia SC & HS, 144.37, 3, 6, 9
7. Sara Bailey, Charter Oak FSC/Kyle Herring, Univ of Delaware FSC, 141.62, 5, 11, 6
8. Anastasia Cannuscio, Univ of Delaware FSC/Dean Copely, SC of New York, 140.14, 6, 7, 8
9. Isabella Cannuscio, Univ of Delaware FSC/Ian Lorello, Univ of Delaware FSC, 139.14, 9, 8, 7
10. Rachel Tibbetts, Broadmoor SC/Collin Brubaker, All Year FSC, 131.72, 11, 9, 10
11. Rachael Richardson, Detroit SC/Brad Coulter, Spokane FSC, 127.62, 12, 10, 12
12. Kaylyn Patitucci, St. Moritz ISC/Karl Edelman, Ann Arbor FSC, 127.12, 13, 12, 11
13. Michelle Pennington, All Year FSC/Andrew Skillington, Broadmoor SC, 124.74, 10, 13, 13

**NOVICE LADIES**

Short Program - Judges: 1. Stefanie Mathewson; 2. William Smith; 3. Sara Kastner; 4. Lawrence Mondschein; 5. Samuel Auxier; 6. Paula Naughton; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Joan Burns; 9. Beth Graham; Referee: Kimberly Heim; Technical Controller: Gale

Tanger; Technical Specialist: Lisa-Marie Allen; Assistant Technical Specialist: Justin Dillon

Free Skate - Judges: 1. Stefanie Mathewson; 2. William Smith; 3. Sara Kastner; 4. Lawrence Mondschein; 5. Samuel Auxier; 6. Paula Naughton; 7. Anne Cammett; 8. Joan Burns; 9. Beth Graham; Referee: Kimberly Heim; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Lisa-Marie Allen; Assistant Technical Specialist: Justin Dillon

**Name, Club, Points, SP, FS**

1. Marissa Secundy, Broadmoor SC, 110.38, 2, 1
2. Sophia Lamay, Texas Gulf Coast FSC, 108.41, 1, 4
3. Felicia Zhang, SC of New York, 106.02, 4, 2
4. Agnes Zawadzki, DuPage FSC, 104.18, 6, 3
5. Song King, All Year FSC, 103.01, 5, 6
6. Kendall Wyckoff, Vermont SC, 98.51, 10, 5
7. Gretchen Donlan, SC of Boston, 95.56, 3, 9
8. Holly Alexander, Univ of Delaware FSC, 95.49, 8, 7
9. Victoria Hecht, Los Angeles FSC, 88.54, 9, 10
10. Samiera Abou-Nasr, Yellowstone Valley FSC, 87.60, 12, 8
11. Stephanie Rigley, All Year FSC, 86.40, 7, 12
12. Christina Gao, Northern Kentucky SC, 83.75, 11, 11

**NOVICE MEN**

Short Program - Judges: 1. David Hamula; 2. Nancy Bizzano; 3. Lorrie Parker; 4. Gregory Cannon; 5. Kevin Rosenstein; 6. Lawrence Mondschein; 7. Wayne Hundley; 8. Stefanie Mathewson; 9. Sara Kastner; Referee: Todd Bromley; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Santee

Free Skate - Judges: 1. David Hamula; 2. Nancy Bizzano; 3. Lorrie Parker; 4. Gregory Cannon; 5. Kevin Rosenstein; 6. Lawrence Mondschein; 7. Wayne Hundley; 8. Stefanie Mathewson; 9. Sara Kastner; Referee: Todd Bromley; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Santee

**Name, Club, Points, SP, FS**

1. Daniel O'Shea, Skokie Valley SC, 145.92, 1, 1
2. Ross Miner, SC of Boston, 135.81, 4, 3
3. David Wang, All Year FSC, 133.70, 3, 4
4. Alexander Zahradnick, Georgia FSC, 133.24, 2, 5
5. Alexander Aiken, Atlanta FSC, 132.31, 6, 2
6. Victor Travis, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Hgts, 121.64, 5, 6
7. Timothy LeDuc, Eastern Iowa FSC, 104.93, 7, 8
8. Peter Max Dion, Jamestown SC, 103.89, 8, 7
9. William Knop, All Year FSC, 100.85, 9, 9
10. Ryan Hartley, Queen City FSC, 89.65, 10, 10
11. Sam Koch, Peninsula SC, 84.69, 12, 11
12. Michael Helgren, Santa Rosa FSC, 83.36, 11, 12

**NOVICE PAIRS**

Short Program - Judges: 1. David Hamula; 2. Kevin Rosenstein; 3. Nancy Bizzano; 4. Gregory Cannon; 5. Wendy Enzmann; 6. Gretchen Wilson; 7. Brett Drury; 8. Wayne Hundley; 9. Deborah Weidman; Referee: Hal Marron; Technical Controller: Dana Graham; Assistant Technical Specialist: Jason Dungen; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby

Free Skate - Judges: 1. David Hamula; 2. Kevin Rosenstein; 3. Nancy Bizzano; 4. Gregory Cannon; 5. Wendy Enzmann; 6. Gretchen Wilson; 7. Brett Drury; 8. Wayne Hundley; 9. Deborah Weidman; Referee: Hal Marron; Technical Controller: Dana Graham; Techni-

cal Specialist: Jason Dungen; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby

**Name, Club/Name, Club, Points, SP, FS**

1. Brynn Carman, Broadmoor SC/Christopher Knierim, Broadmoor SC, 120.53, 2, 1
2. Brittany Chase, Broadmoor SC/Andrew Speroff, Broadmoor SC, 116.99, 1, 3
3. Marissa Castelli, Smithfield FSC/Simon Shnapir, Colonial FSC, 116.42, 4, 2
4. Kloe Bautista, All Year FSC/Galvani Hopson, Los Angeles FSC, 113.80, 3, 4
5. Cassie Andrews, Ind. World SA FSC/Nicholas Anderson, Ind. World SA FSC, 102.26, 6, 5
6. Christina Guterres, All Year FSC/Steven Hsu, All Year FSC, 98.41, 5, 6
7. Lauren Farr, Sun Valley FSC/John Kern, SC of Wilmington, 93.65, 7, 7
8. Ashley Cain, Stars FSC of Texas/Sergey Sidorov, Dallas FSC, 92.63, 8, 8
9. Jennifer Sulc, shaker FSC/Steven Aviram, SC of New York, 87.03, 9, 9
10. Tori Vollmer, Inland Empire FSC/David Sparks, Los Angeles FSC, 83.50, 10, 10
11. Molly Moskowitz, Colonial SC of PA/Tyler Harris, Princeton SC, 74.07, 11, 11
12. Cali Fujimoto, Peninsula SC/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyn, Peninsula SC, 67.01, 12, 12

**NOVICE DANCE**

Compulsory Dance 1 - Judges: 1. Richard Dalley; 2. Susan Keogh; 3. Richard Kern; 4. Linda Leaver; 5. Glenn Cummings; 6. Anthony Bardin; 7. John LeFevre; 8. Sharon Rogers; 9. Cynthia Drayton; Referee: John Cole; Technical Controller: Jenny Mast; Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt; Assistant Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg

Compulsory Dance 2 - Judges: 1. Richard Dalley; 2. Susan Keogh; 3. Richard Kern; 4. Linda Leaver; 5. Glenn Cummings; 6. Anthony Bardin; 7. John LeFevre; 8. Sharon Rogers; 9. Cynthia Drayton; Referee: John Cole; Technical Controller: Jenny Mast; Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt; Assistant Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg

Free Dance - Judges: 1. Richard Dalley; 2. Susan Keogh; 3. Richard Kern; 4. Linda Leaver; 5. Glenn Cummings; 6. Anthony Bardin; 7. John LeFevre; 8. Sharon Rogers; 9. Cynthia Drayton; Referee: John Cole; Technical Controller: Jenny Mast; Technical Specialist: Shawn Rettstatt; Assistant Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg

**Name, Club/Name, Club, Points, CD1, CD2, FD**

1. Chloe Wolf, Univ of Delaware FSC/Rhys Ainsworth, North Atlantic FSC, 110.69, 1, 3, 1
2. Megan Evans, Washington FSC/Nathan Truesdell, Arctic FSC, 106.27, 3, 1, 3
3. Una Donegan, SC of Boston/Andrew Korda, SC of Boston, 103.85, 5, 4, 2
4. Anastasia Olson, Ann Arbor FSC/Jordan Cowan, All Year FSC, 103.15, 2, 5, 4
5. Katie Wyble, Center I&B of Western PA/Justin Morrow, SC of New York, 98.83, 4, 2, 7
6. Kate McDermott, SC of Boston/Colin McManus, Brooklyn FSC of Ohio, 95.85, 8, 6, 6
7. Elyse Matsumoto, Peninsula SC/Patrick Mays, Ann Arbor FSC, 95.16, 9, 8, 5
8. Lauren Ely, Palomares FSC/Travis Mager, Columbia FSC, 93.27, 7, 7, 8
9. Liza Branella, Ice Works SC/Benjamin Nykiel, Bowie FSC, 90.63, 6, 9, 9
10. Grace Sells, Stars FSC of Texas/Robert Cuthbertson, Stars FSC of Texas, 82.47, 10, 10, 11
11. Hayley SooHoo, Los Angeles FSC/Brett Ryan, San Diego FSC, 80.85, 11, 11, 10

**2008 Berlin Cup Berlin, Germany Jan. 17-19**

**SENIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

1. Rocketts, FIN, 74.41-136.27-210.68
2. Team Surprise, SWE, 77.79-124.53-202.32
3. Marigold IceUnity, FIN, 71.93-129.83-201.76
4. **Haydenettes, USA, 70.88-126.59-197.47**
5. Team Berlin 1, GER, 66.55-116.76-183.31
6. Energetics, FIN, 59.08-106.79-165.87
7. **California Gold, USA, 55.56-100.28-155.84**
8. Magic Diamonds, GER, 52.83-95.85-148.68
9. United Angles, GER, 49.62-84.62-134.24
10. Passion, HUN, 40.27-85.26-125.53

**JUNIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

1. Team Fantastic, FIN, 64.14-107.62-171.76
2. Reflections, FIN, 55.33-100.83-156.16
3. Gold Ice, CAN, 57.96-95.06-153.16
4. Team Berlin, GER, 59.43-93.28-152.71
5. Musketeers, FIN, 52.88-96.01-148.89
6. **Hocketts, USA, 43.52-82.26-125.78**
7. Skating Graces, GER, 50.76-72.98-123.74
8. Northern Lights, SWE, 41.32-64.94-106.26
9. Black Diam's, FRA, 41.55-61.65-103.20
10. Ladybirds, ITA, 35.84-60.76-96.60
11. Zazous, FRA, 35.82-51.86-87.68

**2008 Prague Cup Czech Republic Jan. 25-27**

**SENIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

1. Rockettes, FIN, 74.44-131.78-206.22
2. Paradise, RUS, 70.34-124.88-195.22
3. **Crystallettes, USA, 68.04-113.82-181.86**
4. Black Ice, CAN, 66.02-103.46-169.48
5. Team Boomerang, SWE, 61.94-96.52-158.46
6. Olympia, CZE, 56.30-87.30-143.60
7. Starlight Team, SWI, 55.18-84.84-140.02
8. Hot Shivers, ITA, 41.32-91.32-132.64
9. Orion, CZE, 41.46-80.44-121.90
10. Balance, CZE, 43.36-63.46-106.82

**JUNIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

1. Les Miracles, FIN, 65.64-104.04-169.68
2. Ice Steps, FIN, 61.06-97.30-158.36
3. Team Convivium, SWE, 60.82-91.42-152.24
4. Nexxice, CAN, 55.70-94.40-150.10
5. Les Supremes, CAN, 59.54-90.22-149.76
6. Golden Blades, FIN, 57.88-82.98-140.86
7. Braemer, USA, 53.48-85.58-139.06
8. Team Berlin, GER, 55.92-77.50-133.42
9. Hot Shivers, ITA, 45.46-69.98-115.44
10. Starlight Juniors, SWI, 32.96-62.52-95.48
11. Daisies, CZE, 33.88-56.70-90.58
12. Rhapsody, SWE, 34.82-53.74-88.56
13. Johanky, CZE, 30.12-49.76-79.88

**2008 Spring Cup Milan, Italy Feb. 8-10**

**SENIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

1. Nexxice, CAN, 68.29-115.33-183.62
2. Les Supreme, CAN, 66.96-111.27-178.23
3. Tatarstan, RUS, 57.63-101.28-158.91

- Hot Shivers, ITA, 55.19-100.97-156.16
- Passion, HUN, 56.64-93.43-150.07
- Magic Diamonds, GER, 58.04-83.33-141.37
- United Angles, GER, 49.36-85.07-134.43
- 8. Evolution, USA, 51.21-80.51-131.72**
- Ice On Fire, ITA, 29.04-31.74-88.05

**JUNIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

- Chicago Jazz, USA, 52.95-101.39-154.34
- Hot Shivers, ITA, 51.79-78.19-129.98
- Team Spirit, SWE, 46.54-73.75-120.29
- Idel, RUS, 42.93-64.82-107.75
- Team Seaside, SWE, 41.26-62.53-103.79
- Ladybirds, ITA, 33.37-55.77-89.14
- Team Rainbow, RSA, 29.48-40.40-69.88

**2008 Cup Of France  
Rouen, France**

**Feb. 1-3  
SENIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

- Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 75.34-137.24-212.58
- Team Unique, FIN, 73.76-135.39-209.15
- 3. Miami University, USA, 70.90-135.39-184.88**
- Paradise, RUS, 66.84-113.98-180.51
- Energetics, 55.00-104.75-159.57
- Jingu Ice Messengers, JPN, 39.73-81.19-120.92
- Les Atlantides, FRA, 44.16-76.09-120.25
- Cool Dreams, SUI, 39.41-72.94-112.35
- Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 34.46-65.57-100.03
- Les Zoulous, FRA, 33.23-54.74-87.97
- Les Axelines, FRA, 31.97-50.90-82.87
- Storm, GBR, 29.37-49.59-78.96

**JUNIOR**

**Team Name, Country, SP-FS-TS**

- Team Mystique, FIN, 61.56-98.43-159.99
- Ice Fusion, FIN, 60.93-93.30-154.23
- Stella Polaris, FIN, 55.27-93.63-148.90
- 4. The Colonials, USA, 56.42-88.77-145.19**
- Les Black Diam's, FRA, 40.47-59.63-100.10
- Hot Dreams, SUI, 36.69-60.65-97.34
- Les Zazous, FRA, 31.67-48.46-80.13
- Team Rainbow, RSA, 30.27-40.30-70.57

**2008 Eastern Sectional  
Synchronized Skating**

**Championships**

**Richmond FSC**

**Richmond, Va., Jan. 24-26**

**SENIOR**

Short program – Judges: 1.Shirley Holdsworth; 2.William Mein; 3.Marie Pearce; 4.Ruth Moser; 5.Leonard Colarusso; 6.Martha Rasmussen; Referee: Susan Haugh; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman; Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Assistant Referee Ice: Judith Edmunds

Free skate – Judges: 1.Robin Greenleaf; 2.Martha Rasmussen; 3.Jacqueline Addis; 4.Ruth Moser; 5.Leonard Colarusso; 6.Marie Pearce; Referee: Karin Sherr; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Assistant Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi; Assistant Referee Ice: Susan Haugh

**TEAM, SP-FS-POINTS**

- Team Delaware, 1-1-152.20
- The Colonials, 2-2-134.18

**JUNIOR**

Short Program – Judges: 1.Robin Greenleaf; 2.Martha Rasmussen; 3.Jacqueline Addis; 4.Marie Pearce; 5.Susan Demeniuk; 6.Shirley Holdsworth; Referee: Susan Haugh; Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge; Assistant Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Referee Ice: Judith Edmunds

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Evelyn Minter; 2.William Mein; 3.Ruth Moser; 4.Marie Pearce; 5.Shirley Holdsworth; 6.Patricia Lynch; Referee: Karin Sherr; Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge; Assistant Referee Ice: Shirley Kreppel

**TEAM, SP-FS-POINTS**

- Lexettes, 1-2-155.81
- Skyliners, 2-1-151.93
- Tour De Force, 3-3-96.12
- Team Boston, 4-4-89.46

**NOVICE**

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Shirley Holdsworth; 2.Sara Jayne Stephens; 3.Jacqueline Addis; 4.Susan Demeniuk; 5.William Mein; 6.Evelyn Minter; Referee: Karin Sherr; Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Erin Bridge; Assistant Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Referee Ice: Robin Greenleaf

**TEAM, POINTS**

- Ice Mates, 70.76
- Skyliners, 55.30
- Synchroettes, 46.85
- Team Boston, 40.40
- Ice Cubes, 35.23

**INTERMEDIATE**

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Shirley Holdsworth; 2.Martha Rasmussen; 3.Susan Demeniuk; 4.Jacqueline Addis; 5.Robin Greenleaf; 6.Marie Pearce; Referee: Judith Edmunds; Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Technical Controller: Erin Bridge; Assistant Referee Ice: Susan Haugh

**TEAM, POINTS**

- Team Image, 53.72
- The Colonials, 50.67
- Team Reflections, 47.87
- Precisely Right, 46.43
- Capitol Steps, 45.84
- Team Delaware, 44.79
- Superettes, 43.51
- Saratoga Stars, 41.57
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 39.30
- Steel City Blades, 35.96
- Team Esprit, 35.27
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 34.57
- Metroliners, 29.32
- National Blades, 28.97

**JUVENILE**

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Shirley Holdsworth; 2.Martha Rasmussen; 3.Jacqueline Addis; 4.Ruth Moser; 5. Leonard Colarusso; 6.William Mein; 7.Marie Pearce; Referee: Shirley Kreppel; Assistant Referee: Karin Sherr

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Synchroettes, 6/2
- Skyliners, 5/2
- The Colonials, 5/3
- Team Image, 5/4
- Mini Mates, 4/5
- Team Boston, 5/6
- Capitol Steps, 4/6

**JUVENILE QR GROUP A**

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Ice-Lantics, 4/1
- Shadows, 6/2
- Ashburn Angels, 4/3
- Rainbow Connection, 4/4

- Munchkins, 5/5
- A-Richmond Twizzlers, 4/5
- Team Esprit, 5/6
- Capitol Steps, 4/6
- Chill & Grace, 7/9
- Metroliners, 7/10

**JUVENILE QR GROUP B**

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Ice Illusions, 4/1
- Wallace Synergy, 4/3 TOM 7
- Spitfires, 4/3 TOM 9
- WV Synchro, 5/4
- Chesapeake Sailors, 4/6 TOM 16
- The Blizzards, 4/6 TOM 24
- Bluewater Blades, 6/7
- Ice Magic, 5/7
- Precisely Right, 4/7
- B-Richmond Twizzlers, 7/10

**PRE JUVENILE**

Free Skate: Judges: 1.Shirley Holdsworth; 2.William Mein; 3.Marie Pearce; 4.Susan Demeniuk; 5.Evelyn Minter; 6.Martha Rasmussen; 7.Sara Jayne Stephens; Referee: Karin Sherr; Assistant Referee: Shirley Kreppel; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Shimmers, 7/1
- Team Esprit, 6/2
- Philadelphia Symmetry 4/3
- The Storm, 4/4
- Saint Sensations 4/5
- Carolina Ice Synchro 4/6
- Team Reflections 4/7
- Bluewater Blades 5/8 TOM 35
- Island Waves, 5/8 TOM 36
- Ashburn Ice Angels, 4/9

**PRE JUVENILE QR GROUP A**

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Team Esprit, 7/1
  - Team Reflections, 4/2
  - Bluewater Blades, 5/3
  - Island Waves, 5/4
  - Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/4
  - Spitfires, 5/6
  - Snowflakes, 4/6
  - Metroliners, 7/8
- PRE JUVENILE QR GROUP A**
- TEAM, MAJ**
- Shimmers, 6/1
  - The Storm, 6/3
  - Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/3
  - Ashburn Ice Angels, 6/4
  - Saint Sensations, 4/5
  - Synchroettes, 4/6
  - Chill & Grace, 6/8
  - Team Carolinas, 4/8 TOM 26
  - Skatequest Toe Picks, 4/8 TOM 31

**PRELIMINARY**

Free Skate: Judges: 1.Robin Greenleaf; 2.Patricia Lynch; 3.Sara Jayne Stephens; 4.Susan Demeniuk; 5.Evelyn Minter; 6.Martha Rasmussen; 7.Jacqueline Addis; Referee: Susan Haugh; Assistant Referee: Judith Edmunds

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Precisely Right, 6/2
- Synchroettes-Pink, 4/2
- Team Delaware, 4/3
- Skyliners, 5/5
- Synchroettes-Purple, 5/6
- Ice Angels, 4/6 TOM 14
- Sparklers, 4/6 TOM 21
- Team Image, 4/7
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 5/9
- WV Synchro Too, 7/10

**COLLEGIATE**

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Leonard Colarusso; 2.Martha Rasmussen; 3.Robin Greenleaf; 4.Sara Jayne Stephens; 5.Patricia Lynch; 6.Susan Demeniuk; Referee: Judith Edmunds; Technical Controller: Mary Lou

Rothman; Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Assistant Referee Ice: Susan Haugh

**TEAM, POINTS**

- U.Of Delaware, 96.09
- B.U.Terrierettes, 73.27
- The Eagles, 71.12
- U.of New Hampshire, 70.05
- Orange Experience, 62.21
- Cornell University, 51.72

**ADULT**

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Evelyn Minter; 2.Patricia Lynch; 3.Ruth Moser; 4.William Mein; 5.Sara Jayne Stephens; 6.Leonard Colarusso; Referee: Shirley Kreppel; Technical Controller: Mary Lou Rothman; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Assistant Technical Specialist: Cathleen Renzi; Assistant Referee Ice: Karin Sherr

**TEAM, POINTS**

- Esprit de Corps, 54.21
- Team Delaware, 45.07
- Team Encore, 35.17
- Pentagon Adult Team, 33.22

**MASTERS**

Free Skate – Judges: 1. Evelyn Minter; 2.Leonard Colarusso; 3.William Mein; 4.Marie Pearce; 5.Ruth Moser; 6.Patricia Lynch; 7.Sara Jayne Stephens; Referee: Karin Sherr; Assistant Referee: Shirley Kreppel

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Ice Force One, 5/1
- Esprit de Corps, 4/2
- Team Delaware, 5/3
- Team Carolinas, 6/4
- Ice Magic, 7/5
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 6/6
- The Colonials, 7/7

**OPEN JUVENILE**

Free Skate – Judges: 1.Robin Greenleaf; 2.Leonard Colarusso; 3.Patricia Lynch; 4.Jacqueline Addis; 5.Ruth Moser; 6.William Mein; 7.Sara Jayne Stephens; Referee: Judith Edmunds; Assistant Referee: Susan Haugh; Assistant Referee Ice: Richard Perez

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Ice Illusions, 7/1
- Ice-Lantics, 5/2
- Wallace Synergy, 4/3
- Shadows, 5/4
- A-Richmond Twizzlers, 5/7
- Rainbow Connection, 4/7 TO 50
- The Blizzards, 4/7 TO 59
- Munchkins, 4/7 TOM 25
- Ashburn Angels, 5/\*
- Spitfires, 5/9
- Chesapeake Sailors, 5/10
- WV Synchro, 7/12

**OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP A**

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Ice-Lantics, 4/1
- Shadows, 6/2
- Ashburn Angels, 4/3
- Rainbow Connection, 4/4
- Munchkins, 5/5
- A-Richmond Twizzlers, 4/5
- Team Esprit, 5/6
- Capitol Steps, 4/6
- Chill & Grace, 7/9
- Metroliners, 7/10

**OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP B**

**TEAM, MAJ**

- Ice Illusions, 4/1
- Wallace Synergy, 4/3 TOM 7
- Spitfires, 4/3 TOM 9
- WV Synchro, 5/4
- Chesapeake Sailors, 4/6 TOM 16
- The Blizzards, 4/6 TOM 24
- Bluewater Blades, 6/7

# RESULTS

8. Ice Magic, 5/7
9. Precisely Right, 4/7
10. B-Richmond Twizzlers, 7/10

## OPEN COLLEGIATE

Free Skate — Judges: 1. Shirley Holdsworth; 2. Evelyn Minter; 3. Martha Rasmussen; 4. Patricia Lynch; 5. Marie Pearce; 6. Susan Demeniuk; 7. Jacqueline Addis; Referee: Shirley Kreppe; Assistant Referee: Karin Sherr; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Ice Effects, 6/1
2. Robert Morris U. ST, 4/3 TO 25
3. Princeton U. ST, 4/3 TO 32
4. Buffalo Blades, 4/4
5. Pentagon SST, 5/5
6. St. Anselm Lady Hawks, 4/5
7. MassachusETTES, 6/6
8. Bryant University, 5/7
9. Carolina Ice Synchro, 5/9 TOM 39
10. Terrapins, 5/9 TOM 41
11. The Liberty Belles, 6/11
12. Flying Camels, 7/12

## OPEN ADULT

Free Skate — Judges: 1. Leonard Colarusso; 2. William Mein; 3. Sara Jayne Stephens; 4. Ruth Moser; 5. Robin Greenleaf; 6. Martha Rasmussen; 7. Marie Pearce; Referee: Susan Haugh; Assistant Referee: Judith Edmunds

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Cutting Edge, 6/1
2. Essex Blades, 6/3
3. Philly Spirit, 6/4
4. Women N Sync, 5/4
5. Free Spirits, 5/4
6. Delaware Dazzle, 6/5
7. Frederick Flair, 5/7
8. Aged to Perfection, 6/8
9. The Steel Blades, 4/8

## 2008 Midwestern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships Nashville FSC — Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 31-Feb. 2 SENIOR

### Short program — Judges: 1. Dorothy Tank;

2. Sharon Wright; 3. Leanne Cluff; 4. Bette Todd; 5. Lauren Whittaker; 6. Robert Bauer; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanчук.

Free skate — Judges: 1. Dorothy Tank; 2. Leanne Cluff; 3. Eleanor Curtis; 4. Beverly Davis; 5. Lauren Whittaker; 6. Robert Bauer; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Referee Ice: Hannelore Murphy

### TEAM, SP-FS-POINTS

1. Univ. of Michigan, 1-1-170.24
2. Western Michigan Univ., 2-2-148.32
3. Southern Silhouettes, 3-3-70.04

## JUNIOR

Short program — Judges: 1. Lauren Whittaker; 2. Leanne Cluff; 3. Eleanor Curtis; 4. Robert Bauer; 5. Beverly Davis; 6. Carla Golubski; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanчук

Free skate — Judges: 1. Robert Bauer; 2. Leanne Cluff; 3. Bette Todd; 4. Lauren Whittaker;

5. Charles Cope; 6. Carla Golubski; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanчук.

### TEAM, SP-FS-POINTS

1. Miami Univ., 1-1-164.59
2. Hockettes, 2-3-137.41
3. Starlights, 3-2-134.43
4. Windjammers, 4-4-81.71
5. Revolution, 5-5-69.52

## NOVICE

Free skate — Judges: 1. Kristy Panos; 2. Mary Ann Wilcox; 3. Lauren Whittaker; 4. Dorothy Tank; 5. Eleanor Curtis; 6. Lauren Zell; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanчук

### TEAM, POINTS

1. Chicago Jazz, 62.83
2. Crystallettes, 58.32
3. Starlights, 55.57
4. Evolution, 55.03
5. Team Braemar, 43.34
6. Hockettes, 39.97

## INTERMEDIATE

Free skate — Judges: 1. Carla Golubski; 2. Eleanor Curtis; 3. Dorothy Tank; 4. Charles Cope; 5. Robert Bauer; 6. Leanne Cluff; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Referee Ice: Hannelore Murphy

### TEAM, POINTS

1. Fond Du Lac Blades, 56.93
2. Chicago Jazz, 55.73
3. Dazzlers, 54.22
4. Maplewood Highsteppers, 46.31
5. St. Louis Fleur De Lis, 45.76
6. Starlights, 45.17
7. Oxford Ice Crystals, 44.65
8. Synchro Panache, 42.73
9. Wisconsin Edge, 40.89
10. Synchro St. Louis, 37.80
11. Capital Ice Chips, 37.47
12. Chicago Skates, 36.47
13. Rhythm and Blades, 36.13
14. Northern Ice, 34.94
15. Windjammers, 34.60
16. Cleveland Ice Reflections A, 31.63

## COLLEGIATE

Free skate — Judges: 1. Sharon Wright; 2. Rita Cerny; 3. Charles Cope; 4. Bette Todd; 5. Robert Bauer; 6. Leanne Cluff; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Referee Ice: William Beharrell

### TEAM, POINTS

1. Miami Univ., 106.37
2. Michigan State Univ. SST, 95.90
3. Western Michigan Univ., 88.29
4. University of MI COLL, 85.44
5. Univ. of Illinois, 81.78
6. Indiana Univ. SST, 77.08
7. Univ. of WI SST, 73.67
8. Synergy SST, 69.05
9. Univ. of Notre Dame SST, 53.69

## ADULT

Free skate — Judges: 1. Charles Cope; 2. Lauren Whittaker; 3. Rita Cerny; 4. Leanne Cluff; 5. Bette Todd; 6. Sharon Wright; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Referee Ice: Robert Bauer

### TEAM, POINTS

1. Crystallettes, 46.13
2. Western MI Univ. Alumni ST, 53.47
3. Chicago Jazz, 42.59
4. Synchro Panache, 34.95

## MASTERS

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Evolution, 7/1
2. The Turning Points, 4/2
3. Cleveland Edges, 6/3
4. Revolution, 4/4
5. Team Glace, 7/5
6. Belles on Ice, 7/6

## JUVENILE

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Chicago Jazz, 7/1
2. Evolution, 7/2
3. Starlights, 6/3
4. Phoenix, 7/4
5. Louisville River Blades, 7/5

## PRE JUVENILE

Free skate — Judges: 1. Carla Golubski; 2. Eleanor Curtis; 3. Dorothy Tank; 4. Mary Ann Wilcox; 5. Bette Todd; 6. Lauren Zell; 7. Lauren Whittaker; Referee: William Beharrell; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Dazzlers, 5/1
2. Wisconsin Edge, 6/3
3. Hockettes, 5/3
4. Team du Coeur, 5/4
5. Chicago Skates, 4/6
6. Ice Innovation, 5/7
7. Magnifi Syncs, 4/7, TOM 24
8. SwanSyncSation, 4/7, TOM 25
9. Maplewood Highsteppers, 4/8
10. Go Figure, 7/10

## PRE JUVENILE QR GROUP A

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Dazzlers, 4/1
2. Hockettes, 4/2
3. SwanSyncSation, 5/3
4. Wisconsin Edge, 4/3
5. Chicago Skates, 4/5
6. Synchro St Louis, 7/6
7. Southern Magic, 7/7
8. Inner Edge, 7/8

## PRE JUVENILE QR GROUP B

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Team du Coeur, 6/2
2. Maplewood Highsteppers, 4/2
3. Magnifi Syncs, 7/3
4. Ice Innovation, 4/4
5. Go Figure, 4/5, TOM 17
6. Icettes, TOM 20
7. Southern Silhouettes, 4/7
8. Fantasia, 7/8
9. Southport SC Extreme, 7/9

## PRELIMINARY

Free skate — judges: 1. Leanne Cluff; 2. Kristy Panos; 3. Beverly Davis; 4. Lauren Zell; 5. Charles Cope; 6. Rita Cerny; 7. Mary Ann Wilcox; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee: Lydia Wolanчук

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Chicago Jazz, 6/1,
2. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
3. Starlights, 7/3
4. Phoenix Synchro Skating, 4/4
5. Wisconsin Edge, 4/5, TOM 17
6. Evolution, 4/5, TOM 19
7. Chicago Skates, 5/6
8. Hockettes, 6/8
9. Derby City Blades, 6/9
10. Synchro Starz, 7/10
11. Southern Magic, 4/11
12. Rivers Edge, 7/12

## OPEN JUNIOR (MW/P)

Free skate — judges: 1. Mary Ann Wilcox; 2. Lauren Whittaker; 3. Lauren Zell; 4. Eleanor Curtis; 5. Rita Cerny; 6. Kristy Panos; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Technical

Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Referee Ice: William Beharrell

## TEAM, POINTS

1. Synchro S.L. Diamond Edges, 54.76 (MW)
2. Ice Force, 49.12 (MW)
3. Cleveland Edges, 46.69 (MW)
4. Sierra Storm, 42.04 (P)

## OPEN ADULT

Free skate — Judges: 1. Beverly Davis; 2. Kristy Panos; 3. Mary Ann Wilcox; 4. Eleanor Curtis; 5. Carla Golubski; 6. Dorothy Tank; 7. Lauren Zell; Referee: Lydia Wolanчук; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Hockettes, 4/1
2. Phoenix, 4/2
3. Icy Hots, 4/3
4. North Coast Line, 4/4
5. Texas Chilly Peppers, 5/5
6. Ladies-n-Sync, 4/5
7. Fraser Eclipse, 5/7
8. Shaved Ice, 7/8

## OPEN COLLEGIATE

Free skate — Judges: 1. Mary Ann Wilcox; 2. Bette Todd; 3. Kristy Panos; 4. Carla Golubski; 5. Lauren Whittaker; 6. Leanne Cluff; 7. Beverly Davis; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee: William Beharrell

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Miami University, 6/1
2. Adrian College, 7/3
3. Northwestern University, 4/3
4. Central Michigan Univ., 4/4
5. Oakland University, 6/5
6. Grand Valley State Univ., 4/5
7. Illinois State Univ., 5/7
8. Univ. of Colorado, 7/8

## OPEN JUVENILE

Free skate — Judges: 1. Dorothy Estey; 2. Lauren Zell; 3. Rita Cerny; 4. Leanne Cluff; 5. Robert Bauer; 6. Carla Golubski; 7. Sharon Wright; Referee: Lydia Wolanчук; Assistant Referee: William Beharrell

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Dazzlers, 7/1
2. Fire On Ice, 4/3, TOM 9
3. Icettes, 4/3, TOM 10
4. Maplewood Highsteppers, 5/4
5. Northern Lights, 5/5
6. Kicks, 5/6
7. SwanSyncSation, 4/6
8. Crystallettes, 4/7
9. The Golden Edge, 5/8
10. Evolution, 5/10
11. Team Du Coeur, 4/11
12. Team Expression, 7/12

## OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP A

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Fire On Ice, 5/2
2. Kicks, 4/2
3. Team Du Coeur, 4/3
4. SwanSyncSation, 4/4
5. Wisconsin Edge, 4/5, TOM 13
6. Cleveland Edges Team 1, 4/5, TOM 14
7. Ice Kicks, 4/6
8. Houston Elite Feet, 4/8
9. River's Edge, 7/9

## OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP B

### TEAM, MAJ

1. Icettes, 6/1
2. Northern Lights, 7/2
3. Evolution, 6/4
4. Team Expression, 4/4
5. Go Figure, 4/5, TOM 16
6. Silver Leafs, TOM 18
7. Cleveland Edges Team 2, 6/7
8. Bluegrass Blades, 6/8
9. St Louis Fleur De Lis, 7/9

## OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP C

### TEAM, MAJ

## RESULTS

- 1, Dazzlers, 6/1
- 2, Maplewood Highsteppers, 6/2
- 3, The Golden Edge, 5/4
- 4, Crystallettes, 5/5
- 5, Rhythm and Blades Red, 5/6
- 6, Ice Force, 4/6
- 7, Synchro St Louis, 7/7
- 8, Fond Du Lac Blades, 6/8
- 9, Starfire, 7/9
- 10, River City, 7/10

## 2008 Pacific Coast Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships Nashville FSC – Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 31-Feb. 2

### SENIOR

Short program – Judges: 1. Dorothy Tank; 2. Sharon Wright; 3. Leanne Cluff; 4. Bette Todd; 5. Lauren Whittaker; 6. Robert Bauer; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanchuk

Free skate – Judges: 1. Dorothy Tank; 2. Leanne Cluff; 3. Eleanor Curtis; 4. Beverly Davis; 5. Lauren Whittaker; 6. Robert Bauer. Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Referee Ice: Hannelore Murphy

### TEAM, SP-FS-POINTS

1. California Gold INT, 1-1-103.80

### JUNIOR

Short program – Judges: 1. Lauren Whittaker; 2. Leanne Cluff; 3. Eleanor Curtis; 4. Robert Bauer; 5. Beverly Davis; 6. Carla Golubski; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanchuk

Free skate – Judges: 1. Robert Bauer; 2. Leanne Cluff; 3. Bette Todd; 4. Lauren Whittaker; 5. Charles Cope; 6. Carla Golubski; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanchuk

### TEAM, SP-FS-POINTS

1. ICE'Kateers, 1-1-93.99

### NOVICE

Free skate – Judges: 1. Kristy Panos; 2. Mary Ann Wilcox; 3. Lauren Whittaker; 4. Dorothy Tank; 5. Eleanor Curtis; 6. Lauren Zell; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Referee Ice: Lydia Wolanchuk

### TEAM, POINTS

1. La Furia, 39.59

### INTERMEDIATE

Free skate – Judges: 1. Carla Golubski; 2. Eleanor Curtis; 3. Dorothy Tank; 4. Charles Cope; 5. Robert Bauer; 6. Leanne Cluff; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Referee Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Referee

Ice: Hannelore Murphy

### TEAM, POINTS

1. Team Del Sol, 58.50
2. California Gold, 44.00
3. Denver Synchronicity, 32.17
4. Rose City Crystals, 31.00
5. Tremors, 30.69
6. South Bay Sunsets, 24.98

### JUVENILE

#### TEAM, MAJ

Team Del Sol 7/1

### PRE JUVENILE

Free Skate – Judges: 1. Carla Golubski; 2. Eleanor Curtis; 3. Dorothy Tank; 4. Mary Ann Wilcox; 5. Bette Todd; 6. Lauren Zell; 7. Lauren Whittaker; Referee: William Beharrell; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

#### TEAM, MAJ

1. Ice'Kateers, 7/1
2. Fire Crystals, 7/2
3. Epic Edge, 7/3
4. Sierra Storm, 6/4
5. Ice Angelz, 5/5
6. La Furia, 7/6

### PRELIMINARY

Free skate – Judges: 1. Leanne Cluff; 2. Kristy Panos; 3. Beverly Davis; 4. Lauren Zell; 5. Charles Cope; 6. Rita Cerny; 7. Mary Ann Wilcox; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee: Lydia Wolanchuk

#### TEAM, MAJ

1. Ice'Kateers, 7/1
2. Sierra Storm, 7/1

### ADULT

Free skate – Judges: 1. Charles Cope; 2. Lauren Whittaker; 3. Rita Cerny; 4. Leanne Cluff;

5. Bette Todd; 6. Sharon Wright; Referee: William Beharrell; Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Jenny Salado; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Referee Ice: Robert Bauer

### TEAM, POINTS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 55.96

### MASTERS

#### TEAM, MAJ

1. Denver Synchronicity, 7/1
2. LaFuria, 7/2

### OPEN JUVENILE

Free skate – Judges: 1. Dorothy Estey; 2. Lauren Zell; 3. Rita Cerny; 4. Leanne Cluff; 5. Robert Bauer; 6. Carla Golubski; 7. Sharon Wright; Referee: Lydia Wolanchuk; Assistant Referee: William Beharrell

#### TEAM, MAJ

1. Epic Edge, 6/1
2. California Crush, 6/2
3. Silver Stars, 6/4
4. La Furia, 6/5
5. Sierra Storm, 7/6
6. Ice'Kateers, 4/6
7. Everett Silver Blades, 7/7

### OPEN ADULT

Free skate – Judges: 1. Beverly Davis; 2. Kristy Panos; 3. Mary Ann Wilcox; 4. Eleanor Curtis; 5. Carla Golubski; 6. Dorothy Tank; 7. Lauren Zell; Referee: Lydia Wolanchuk; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

#### TEAM, MAJ

1. Capital Ice, 6/1
2. La Furia, 7/2

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 7-9** 2008 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 LaNette Flinker at 715.830.1085.
- 7-9** 28th Annual Competition – 2008 sponsored by Garden City FSC at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. For more information call Cynthia Kellar or Dora Rautiola at 734.421.0980.
- 7-9** Seventh Annual Eastern Iowa Invitational sponsored by the Eastern Iowa FSC at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 1100, Rockford Road Southwest, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. For more information call Tammie Hoover at 319.360.1234.
- 7-9** 2008 Green Mountain Open sponsored by Vermont SC at the C. Douglas Cairns Arena, 600 Swift St. Exit, South Burlington, VT 05403. For more information call Brian Candib at 802.859.6847.
- 8** 2008 Diamond Classic sponsored by Mentor FSC at Mentor Civic Arena, 8600 Munson Road, Mentor, OH 44060. For more information call Sue Clemente at 216.978.5072.
- 8-9** 2008 Midwestern Adult Sectional Non-

qualifying Competition Ann Arbor Adult Open sponsored by Ann Arbor FSC at Veterans Memorial Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. For more information call Ann Dougherty at 734.662.3925.

- 8-9** 2008 North Jersey Adult Championships/Nonqualifying Eastern Sectional sponsored by North Jersey FSC, Inc. at Ice Vault Arena, 10 Nevins Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470. For more information e-mail Rick Breitweiser at rfb skate@optonline.net.
- 8** 2008 Watwick Figure Skaters 22nd Annual Basic Skills Competition at Thayer Arena, Sandy Ln., Watwick RI 02886. For more information contact Cheryl St. George at 401.467.5479.
- 8** 2008 Annual Basic Skills Competition at The Rinks at Shelton, 784 River Rd., Shelton, CT 06484.
- 8** 2008 Rocket City Junior Classic sponsored by The SC of Huntsville at the Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Complex, 3185 Leeman Ferry, Huntsville, AL 35801. For more information call Editha Dotson-Bowser at 256.883.3773.
- 8** 2008 Northern Lights Figure Skating Club Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Northern Lights FSC at VFW

Memorial Arena, 711 3rd St., Southeast, East Grand Forks, MN 56721. For more information call Shelly Sexton at 701.741.6432.

- 8** 2008 Shamrock Invitational at Sheboygan Blue Line, 1202 South Wildwood Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081. For more information call Allison Brown at 920.918.6036.
- 8** 2008 Knoxville Classic Open Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Icearium at Cool Sports: Home of Icearium, 110 South Watt Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934. For more information call Susan Jackson-Wagner at 865.654.3880.
- 8-9** 33rd annual Capital Regional Council Figure Skating Competition sponsored by the Capital Regional Council of Figure Skating Clubs of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia at Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belleview Blvd., Alexandria VA 22307. For more information call Dorothy Dodson at 703.370.5959.
- 9** 2008 Terry Connors Skating School Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the SC of Southern Connecticut at the Terry Connor Ice Rink, Cove Island Park, 1125 Cove Rd., Stamford, CT 06903. For more information contact Helanie Waler at 203.423.9007.



- 9** 2008 Funtastics sponsored by the Bemidji FSC at Neilson Reise Arena, 1230 23rd St., Northwest, Bemidji, MN 56601. For more information call Cathy Schultz at 218.444.8022.
- 9** 2nd annual Winter Classic In-House Basic Skills sponsored by the Atlanta FSC at Atlanta IceForum, 2300 Satellite Blvd., Duluth, GA 30097. For more information call Moe Brooks at 770.813.1010.
- 9** 7th annual Eastern Iowa Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Eastern Iowa FSC at Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 1100 Rockford Rd. Southwest, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. For more information call Tammie Hoover at 319.360.1234.
- 12-16** 2008 Skate Aloha sponsored by Hawaii FSC at the Ice Palace Skating Arena, 4510 Salt Lake Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96818. For more information contact Lisa Kayser at 808.672.6534.
- 13-16** 2008 Denver Invitational and Basic Skills at South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Centennial, CO 80121. For more information call Jamye Gilbertson at 303.768.8866.
- 13-16** Jackson Hole Invitational 2008 sponsored by Jackson Hole FSC at Snow King Ice Arena, 100 East Snow King Ave., Jackson, WY 88001. For more information call Lori Fussell at 307.733.9745.
- 14-16** 2008 Cleveland Invitational Championships sponsored by Kent SC at Kent State University Ice Arena, Loop Rd., Kent, OH 44242. For more information call Nicole Kappenhagen at 330.338.0075.
- 14-16** Sixth annual Winter Classic Competition sponsored by the SC of Southern New Jersey at the Igloo at Mt. Laurel, 3033 Fostertown Rd., Mount Laurel, NJ 08054. For more information contact Tezanne Zeringo at 856.829.4954 or Betty Field at 856.786.1906.
- 14-16** Magnolia Open sponsored by the Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 10800 Davis Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30004. For more information contact Peggy McCarthey at 770.772.9751.
- 15** 2007 Phillips Academy Basic Skills Competition at Phillips Academy Skating Rink, 254 South Main St., Andover, MA 01833. For more information call Michaela Maione at 978.273.5482.
- 15-16** 2008 Skate Cincinnati sponsored by FSC of Cincinnati at Sports Plus, 10765 Reading Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45241. For more information call Jessica Eggar at 513.469.2575.
- 15** 2008 Green Bay Basic Skills Competition In-House Only sponsored by Greater Green Bay FSC at De Pere Ice Arena, 1450 Fort Howard Ave., De Pere, WI 54115. For more information call Amy Beiderwieden at 920.819.6047.
- 15** 10th annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Lansing SC at Suburban Ice – East Lansing, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, MI 48823. For more information contact John Martin at moneyfirst@comcast.net. (Part of the Michigan Basic Skills Series).
- 15** The Rinx Skating School 2008 Basic Skills Competition at The Rinx, 660 Terry Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788. For more information call Cathryn Schwab at 631.232.3222. ext. 209.
- 15** 12th annual McFarland Basic Skills Competition at McFarland Ice Arena, 4812 Marsh Rd., McFarland, WI 53548. For more information call Amy Battista at 608.239.3883.
- 15-16** 2008 Massena Invitational sponsored by the Massena FSC at Massena Arena, Route 37 Harte Haven Shopping Center, Massena NY 13662. For more information call Tammy Savage at 315.769.3386.
- 15** 2008 Siouxland Ice Classic sponsored by Siouxland Silver Blades at All Seasons Center, 770 7th St. Northeast, Sioux Center, IA 51350. For more information call Trudy Oltmanns at 712.943.7633.
- 15** 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Amherst SC, Inc., at Amherst Pepsi Center, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., Amherst, NY 14221. For more information call Coni Majchrowicz at 716.634.3887.
- 16** 2008 Skate State – Michigan State University Intercollegiate Competition – Midwestern Conference sponsored by Michigan State University at Grand Oaks Ice Arena, 970 Grand Oaks Dr., Howell, MI 48843. For more information contact Kacey Dittmer at dittmer5@msu.edu.
- 16** 2008 Riverfront Ice Classic sponsored by Wenatchee FSC at Riverfront Park Ice Arena, 2-5th St., Wenatchee, WA 98801. For more information call Karen Boyce at 509.662.4716.
- 22** Eighth annual ICE HOUSE Basic Skills Competition sponsored by American Academy FSC at ICE HOUSE, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack, NJ 07601. For more information call Donna Rojas at 973.271.6339 or Craig Maurizi at 201.487.8444, ext: 232.
- 24** 2008 Basic Skills and Beyond Spring Competition sponsored by Columbia Ice Rink at The Columbia Ice Rink, 5876 Thunder Hill Rd., Columbia, MD 21045. For more information call Nichole Brown Butler at 410.381.2442.
- 27-30** 2008 WIM Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC at Wilson Park Recreation Center, 4001 South 20th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. For more information call Ralph Dahman at 414.282.3948.
- 27-30** 2008 Skate La Grande San Diego sponsored by the San Diego FSC at San Diego Ice Arena, 11048 Ice Skate Place, San Diego, CA 92126. For more information call Kathie Wilcox at 858.566.9650.
- 28-30** 2008 University of Vermont – Catamount Challenge – Eastern Intercollegiate Conference Competition sponsored by the University of Vermont at Gutterson Fieldhouse, 147 Spear St., Burlington, VT 05405. For more information contact Christine Fitzsimmons at cfitzsim@uvm.edu.
- 28-30** Skate Houston 2008 sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice & Sports Arena, 16225 Lexington, Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information call Jennifer Simon at 713.408.0416.
- 28-30** 2008 Crystalline Classic sponsored by the Santa Rosa FSC at Snoopy's Home Ice, 1667 West Steele Ln., Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information call Andrea Ewing at 707.486.7006.
- 29** 2008 Lee Ann Miele Garden State Synchro Competition sponsored by Essex SX of NJ, Inc. at Richard Codey Arena at South Mountain, 560 Northfield Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052. For more information call Michele Blatt at 718.836.5708.
- 29** 2008 Spring Basic Skills Competition at The Ring @ Lehigh Valley, 3323 7th. St., Whitehall, PA 18052. For more information contact Adam Swift at 610.434.6899.
- 29-30** Skate Houston 2008 Basic Skills sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast at the Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, Texas 77479. For more information contact Jennifer Simon at 713.408.0416.
- 29** 2008 Challenge Cup at Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd., Burlington, VT 05408. For more information contact Kathy Knauer at kknauer@ci.burlington.vt.us.
- 29** 2008 Fiesta Skate at Kingsgate Ice Arena, 14326 124 Ave. Northeast, Kirkland, WA 98034. For more information call Lisa Ware at 425.281.7133, ext. 5.
- 29** 2008 Battle of the Blades Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Alexandria FSC at Runestone Community Cen-

ter, 802 Third Ave. West, Alexandria, MN 56308. For more information call Kris Juettner at 320.846.3365.

**29-30** 2008 Princeton Open Skating Competition sponsored by Princeton SC at Princeton University Baker Rink, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540. For more information call Sheila Bonapace at 908.281.6911.

**29** 25th Garren Invitational sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk FSC at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Houston Field House, Troy, NY 12180. For more information call Thomasa Palladino at 518.783.1275.

**29-30** 2008 Basic Skills Competition Hosted by Darien Skating School sponsored by Darien Ice Rink at Darien Ice Rink, 55 Old Kings Highway West, PO Box 1201, Darien, CT 06820. For more information call Karen Greenwald at 203.655.8251.

**30** 2008 Basic Skills "Skate with U.S." Competition sponsored by The SC of Andover at Haverhill Valley Forum Arena, 7 Parkridge Rd., Haverhill, MA 01835. For more information call Stacy Crowley at 978.373.3373.

**30** 2008 Arctic Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Arctic FSC at Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. For more information call Megan Flynn at 248.924.3035.

**30** 2008 Skating Club of Worcester Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of Worcester at Buffone Skating Arena, 284 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604. For more information call Denise Raskett at 413.436.9687.

**APRIL**

**3-6** Skate Kansas City 2008 sponsored by Kansas City FSC at Ice Sports Kansas City, 19900 Johnson Dr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66218. For more information call Lee Gardner at 816.668.8937.

**3-6** 2008 Central Carolina Skating Classic Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Central Carolina SC at Triangle Sports Plex, 1 Dan Kidd Dr., Hillsborough, SC 27278. For more information call Bonnie Boaz at 919.929.9595.

**4-6** 2008 – 30th Biennial Niagra Invitational & Basic Skills Event sponsored by the Buffalo SC at Buffalo State College Ice Arena, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. For more information contact Ann-Marie Hilton at 716.390.2129.

**4-6** 2008 – 23rd Annual Florida Open Championship sponsored by the Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information contact

Stacey Faulk at 407.731.0916.

**4-6** 2008 Buffalo Skating Club Basic Skills Event sponsored by the Buffalo SC at Buffalo State College Sports Arena, Buffalo, N.Y. For more information contact Ann-Marie Hilton.

**4-6** For Collins Classic 2008 sponsored by the ISC of Fort Collins at Edora Pool Ice Center, 1801 Riverside Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525. For more information call Linda Hobaugh at 303.833.3673.

**4-6** SpringFest 2008 Invitational sponsored by Portland ISC at Mount View Ice Arena, 14313 Southeast Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98662. For more information call Carol Bolton at 503.639.6200 or boltondc7@msn.com

**5** 2008 Farmington Spring Festival at the Schmitz-Maki Arena, 114 Spruce St., Farmington, MN 55024. For more information contact Judy Martin at 952.461.3352.

**5** Ice World's Ninth Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition sponsored by the Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, Inc., at Ice World 1300 Governor Court, Abingdon, MD 21009. For more information contact Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000 ext. 101.

**5** 2008 Onyx-Suburban Basic Skills Challenge sponsored by Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy at Suburban Ice - Macomb, 54755 Broughton, Macomb, MI 48042. For more information call Helene Wolf at 586.992.8600. Part of the Michigan Basic Skills Series.

**5-6** 11th annual Stars and Stripes Skating Competition sponsored by the Colonial SC of Pennsylvania at Grundy Recreation Center, 475 Beaver St., Bristol, PA 19007. For more information call Cheryl Wood at 215.736.0071.

**4-6** Last Chance Spring Skate 2008 sponsored by the Helena FSC at Helena Ice Arena, 400 Lola St., Helena, MT 59601. For more information call 406.454.8266.

**5** 2008 Spring Fever Open Basic Skills/Learn to Skate Competition sponsored by Arcadia Ice Arena at 3853 East Thomas Rd., Arcadia Ice Arena, Phoenix, AZ 85018. For more information call Heather Lorange at 602.349.4993.

**5** 3rd annual Centre Ice Rink – Bay Country Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Bay Country FSC at The Centre Ice Rink, 644 Fairground Rd., Harrington, DE 19952. For more information call Deanna Vokes at 302.398.5967.

**6** 2008 Skate Kansas City Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Kansas City

FSC at Ice Sports Kansas City, 19900 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66221. For more information call Lee Gardner at 816.668.8937.

**6** 2008 South Shore Skating Club Open Competition sponsored by South Shore SC at Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rockland, MA 02370. For more information contact Katy Hayden at Katy@Winterlandskatingschool.com

**10-13** 2008 Tri-State Memorial Free Skating Championships sponsored by the Dearborn FSC at Dearborn Ice Skating Center, 14900 Ford Rd., Dearborn, MI 48128. For more information call JoAnn Eastman at 734.397.3408.

**11-13** 2008 Lady Bug sponsored by the Glenwood FSC at H-F Ice Arena, 777 Kedzie, Homewood, IL 60422. For more information contact May Wiza at 708.957.4063.

**11-13** 2008 Morris Open sponsored by the SC of Morris NJ at W.G. Mennen Sports Arena, 161 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. For more information call Patricia Lynch at 973.429.7042.

**12** Ninth annual Freeport Spring Challenge at Freeport Skating Academy, 130 East Merrick Rd., Freeport, NY 11520. For more information contact Liz Eldredge at 516.428.0304.

**12** Fourth annual Snow Crystal Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Pettit National Center at Pettit National Ice Center, 500 South 84th St., Milwaukee, WI 53214. For more information call Lynn Paulsen at 414.266.0100.

**12** 2008 Island City Basic Skills Challenge sponsored by Lakeland FSC at Lakeland Hawks Ice Arena, 7961 Old Highway 51, Minocqua, WI 54548. For more information call Dean Hodger at 715.272.1812.

**12** Reach for the Peaks 2008 sponsored by Peaks FSC at The Peaks Arena, 100 North Seven Blvd., Provo, Utah, 84606. For more information call Janine Adamson at 801.367.1642.

**13** Hamden Basic Skills Competition 2008 sponsored by the Hamden Figure Skating Association at Louis Astorino Arena, 595 Mix Ave., Hamden, CT 06514. For more information call Cori Guidone at 203.288.0109.

**13** 2008 Champions Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Champions Skating Center at Champions Skating Center, 6 Progress Dr., Cromwell, CT 06457.

**13** 11th annual Colorado High School Team Figure Skating Championships

## CALENDAR

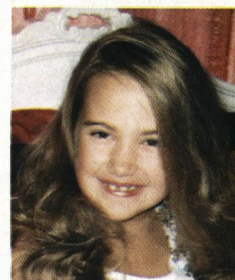
- sponsored by the Denver FSC at South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Centennial, CO 80121. For more information call Leigh Miller at 303.904.1795.
- 13** 2008 Playland Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Rye FSC at Playland Ice Casino, Playland Parkway, Rye, NY 10580. For more information contact Susan Bloch at blochmusic@earthlink.net.
- 13** 2008 Hayden Recreation Centre's Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Hayden Recreation Center FSC at Josiah Hayden Recreation Centre, John Chase Ice Rink, 10 Lincoln St., Lexington, MA 02421. For more information call Sue Lalone at 781.862.5575.
- 17-20** 2008 Fiesta Skate sponsored by SC of Phoenix at Desert Schools Coyotes Center, 15829 North 83rd Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382. For more information contact Andrea Palos at dapalos@cox.net.
- 18-20** 2008 Mt. Lebanon Invitational and Lean to Skate Competition sponsored by the SC of Mt. Lebanon at Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center, 900 Cedar Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228. For more information contact Timothy Leavey at 412.835.8105.
- 18-20** 2008 Skate by the Lake sponsored by McCall FSC at Manchester Ice and Event Centre, 200 East Lake St., McCall, ID 82638. For more information call Cathy Batchelor at 608.634.4213.
- 19-20** 2008 Strongsville Spring Fling at Hoover Arena Ice Land USA, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. For more information contact Echo Burgett at 419.281.9027.
- 19** 2008 Blades in Decatur sponsored by Point Mallard FSC at Point Mallard Ice Complex, 2910 D. Point Mallard Circle Southeast, Decatur, AL 35601. For more information contact Chris Jones at 256.655.6512.
- 19** 2008 Michigan Basic Skills Series Competition sponsored by Mt. Pleasant FSC at The I.C.E. Arena, 5163 East Remus Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858. For more information call Ginni Phillips at 989.773.6188.
- 19** 2008 Glide Into Spring Open Basic Skills Competition at Capital Clubhouse, 3033 Waldorf Marketplace, Waldorf, MD 20603. For more information contact Melissa Newberry at newberm@charlescounty.org.
- 19** 2008 Spring Spectacular at The Steel Ice Center, 320 East First St., Bethlehem, PA 18015. For more information call Angela Roesch at 610.625.4774.
- 19** 2008 Summit Challenge Basic Skills Competition and Beyond sponsored by Creve Coeur FSC at The Summit Center, 16851, North Outer 40 Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63005. For more information call Shirley Sisson at 636.394.4947.
- 19** 2008 Spring Funtastics sponsored by Mile High Figure Skating Association at Apex Ice Arena, 13150 West 72nd Ave., Arvada, CO 80004. For more information call Carol Zeles at 303.979.0802.
- 19** 2008 Spring Fever Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of North Carolina at Extreme Ice Center, 4705 Indian Trail-Fairview Rd., Indian Trail, NC 28173. For more information call Jenny Wesley Gwyn at 704.882.1830.
- 20** 2008 A&S Basic Skills Competition at Raleigh IcePlex, 2601 Raleigh Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604. For more information contact Scott Cudmore at 919.302.6151.
- 20** 19th annual Spring Fling Competition sponsored by Blade & Edge FSC of Omaha at Moylan Ice Plex, 12550 West Maple St., Omaha, NE 68164. For more information contact Sheila Bissell at 402.733.6798.
- 24-26** 2008 30th Annual Cherry Blossom Invitational Competition sponsored by the Capital Regional Council of Figure Skating Clubs of Maryland, D.C., and Virginia at the Mt. Vernon RecCenter, Alexandria, Va. For more information call Dorothy Dodson at 703.370.5959.
- 25-27** 2008 Skate Dallas sponsored by Dallas FSC at Dr. Pepper Starcenter/Polar Ice, 3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway, Grapevine, TX 76051. Mary Pottenger at 940.725.0467.
- 25-27** 18th annual Skate Nashville sponsored by Nashville FSC at Southern Ice Arena, 215 Gothic Court, Franklin, TN 37067. For more information contact Debbie Buckner at dbuckner@comcast.net.
- 25-27** 2008 Colonial Open sponsored by Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Route 11, Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information contact Kathy Boucher at colonialopen@aol.com.
- 25-27** 2008 Blades on Ice sponsored by Highland Ice Arena at Highland Ice Arena, 18005 Aurora Ave., Seattle, WA 98133.
- 26-27** High School Team Open of New Jersey 2008 sponsored by Princeton Day School at the Princeton Day School Lisa McGraw Rink, Great Rd., Princeton, N.J. For more information contact Lynda Dillman at 973.790.9220.
- 26** 2008 Skate the Zoo sponsored by the Kalamazoo FSC at the Twin Star Ice Arena, 5076 Sports Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49009. For more information contact Amy Bauer at 269.598.9184.
- 26** 2008 Midwest Basic Skills Competition at Eagles Nest Ice Arena, 103 Lincoln St., Verona, WI 53593. For more information call Dena Hinline at 608.206.4512.
- 26** 2008 Pear Blossom Classic sponsored by Southern Oregon FSC at The RRRink, 1349 Center Dr., Medford, OR 97501. For more information call Dana McCoy at 541.621.8472.
- 26-27** First Coral Ridge Ice Arena Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Coral Ridge Ice Arena at the Coral Ridge Ice Arena, 1451, Coral Ridge Ave., Coralville, IA 52241. For more information call Sue Reeves at 319.354.7870.
- 27** 2008 Basic Skills Spring Skate sponsored by the Colonial FSC. The event is at Nashoba Valley Olympia Route 111 P.O. Box 517, West Acton, MA 01720. For more information contact Kathy Boucher at cfsbasicskills@aol.com.
- 27** 2008 High School Team Open Competition sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Route 11, Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information call Kathy Boucher at hsteamopen@aol.com.

## CORRECTION

In the February issue of SKATING, we had a few mistakes in the Kidz Spotlight. Below is the corrected version. Sorry Kailyn.

## Kidz Spotlight

**Name:** Kailyn Miller  
**Age:** 9  
**Club:** Bremerton FSC  
**Level:** Preliminary  
**Coaches:** Brenda Peterson and Outi Francis  
**How often I skate:** Four to five days a week



**Favorite jumps/moves:** The Lutz and flip. My favorite spins are the sit spin, back spin and camel spin.

**Favorite skaters:** I like Sasha Cohen for her jumps and footwork. I like Caroline Zhang for her grace, and I like Evan Lysacek for his jumps and spins.

**Goals:** I want to learn my Axel. I also want to qualify for the 2011 U.S. Championships.

**What else you should know about me:** I want to play the flute when I'm older. I'm also an A-B student.

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Kimberly Komarechka

Pamela Brauer

Sharon Malone

Angelique Wahlstedt

Kori Turrubiate

Ann Greenthal

Amy Linner

Lisa-Marie Allen

Vashty Hawkins

Jim Yamaguchi

Ruth Rosenberg

Janet Collins

Sharon Watson

Katie Howell

Barbara Davis

John Baldwin

Patricia Bevier

Stina Rogal

Jan Markham

Atoy Wilson

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Judges

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## U.S. Figure Skating offers educational programs at NARCE, May 12-14, Chicago, Ill.

The Skating Director Program, presented by U.S. Figure Skating, is targeted for figure skating program directors, administrators, and coaches intent on offering the highest level of service and opportunity through their figure skating program. This program teaches participants how to use the full array of U.S. Figure Skating programs to create a successful, and financially viable, figure skating program.

"I had fun and learned a lot at NARCE (North American Rink Conference and Expo)," said Michelle Sibley, skating director at the Farmington Hills (Mich.) Ice Arena. "I enjoyed meeting and networking with directors from around the country, and the instructors are a great source of information."

The instruction team, led by Susi Wehrli, U.S. Figure Skating's senior

director of membership, focus on successful programs from around the country. They provide information and resources that can be implemented to help on the local level.

"NARCE is such an important event for U.S. Figure Skating," Wehrli said. "It allows us to share our resources with those skating directors and rink operators that are out in the rinks growing our sport."

Topics include: Understanding figure skating from Snowplow Sam to elite; franchising the program; customer service issues; parent education; risk management; ethics; coaching programs; synchronized skating; and how to develop an off ice training program.

PSA credit is available.

For more information and to register, go to [www.narce.com](http://www.narce.com)

## JUDGES APPOINTMENTS

### SILVER SINGLES/PAIRS TEST JUDGE

Ellyn Kestnbaum, Bethesda, Md.; Brianne Hoppes, Westminster, Colo.

### GOLD SINGLES/PAIRS TEST JUDGE

Gloria Lewis, Lawrenceville, Ga.

### SILVER DANCE TEST JUDGE

E. Michael Elmaleh, Elkins Park, Pa.

### GOLD DANCE TEST JUDGE

Gregory Rouw, Fergus Falls, Minn.

### REGIONAL SINGLES/PAIRS COMPETITION JUDGE

Helen Stocklin-Enright, Seattle, Wash.; Pamela Pangle, Zeeland, Mich.

### SECTIONAL SINGLES/PAIRS COMPETITION JUDGE

Michelle Zeles-Hahn, Westminster, Colo.; Melissa Dillenbeck, LaGrange, Ill.; Cassy Papajohn, Englewood, Colo.

### REGIONAL DANCE COMPETITION JUDGE

Amy Kim, San Francisco, Calif.

### REGIONAL REFEREE

Carrie Miller, Los Angeles, Calif.

### SECTIONAL REFEREE

Nancy Iida, Irving, Texas

### REGIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Rose Yingling, Red Lion, Pa; Michael Rowland, Raleigh, N.C.; Sandi Phelan, Elburn, Ill.

### REGIONAL ANNOUNCER

Michael Tamres, Frisco, Texas; Terrance Power, Clearwater, Fla; Autumn Allison, Clayton, Calif; Christopher Jones, Fairport, N.Y.

### SECTIONAL ANNOUNCER

Jim McNab, South Bend, Ind.; Bob Davis, Tujunga, Calif.

## TESTS PASSED

### SENIOR MOVES IN THE FIELD

Leah Roth Barsanti - DuPage FSC  
Ingrid Benson - Colonial FSC  
Jillian Bronson - Portland ISC  
Alexandria Carr - Ann Arbor FSC  
Kelsey Chan - All Year FSC  
Rachel Cole - Detroit SC, Inc.  
Lexis Crist - Oklahoma City FSC, Inc.  
Marguerite Cullen - Greater Green Bay FSC  
Kahli Alyssa Dalbow - Pittsburgh FSC, Inc.  
Stephanie Damascus - Windy Hill SC  
Emily Dehmer - Eau Claire FSC  
Brynn Dimino - Salt Lake Figure Skating  
Haley Dunne - SC of North Carolina  
Sarah Eisen - Washington FSC  
Zachary Elliott - Stars FSC of Texas  
Francesca Giglio - Onyx-Suburban Skating Academ  
Shannon Gillespie - The SC of Lake Placid  
Paula Goldman - Wisconsin FSC, Inc.  
Anna Britt Christiana Hall - Wagon Wheel FSC  
Devon Harman - Nashville FSC  
Rachael Ann Hayes - Washington FSC  
Brittany Rene Henry - Oklahoma City FSC, Inc.  
Madeline Heritage - Portland ISC  
Lindsey Hurn - Western Michigan University SC  
Elisabeth Kahanic - Siouxlnd Silver Blades  
Jason Kane - The SC of Florida, Inc.  
Josephine Keifenheim - Northern Lights FSC  
Hannah Kimberly - Shaker FSC  
Timothy Koleto - Broadmoor SC, Inc.  
Ann Marie Kosmoski - Wisconsin Rapids FSC  
Beth Kulyk - Chicago FSC  
Lauren Lapuck - Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, Inc  
Kelly Lindberg - Individual Member  
Aynna Lloyd - Western Michigan University SC  
Jeniece Lisette Madison - Broadmoor SC, Inc.  
Sara Maretti - Vaca Valley FSC, Inc.

Alison Leigh Mayfield - North Star FSC  
Courtney Mills - San Antonio FSC  
Carolyn Mitchell - Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, I  
James Morgan - ISC of Exeter  
Chelsie Mosoff - Chicago FSC  
Haley Mulera - Washington FSC  
Tiffany Nahm - Los Angeles FSC  
Madison Near - Saratoga Springs FSC  
Erin Orchard - Cottonwood Heights FSC  
Austin Owen - Aspen SC  
Megan Phu - All Year FSC  
Ashley Plaven - Colorado SC  
Brittany Plaven - Colorado SC  
Stephanie Pollack - FSC of Minneapolis  
Christie Reneau - Oklahoma City FSC, Inc.  
Gianna Salvaggio - The Skating Club of Boston  
Kali Sarcinella - DuPage FSC  
Janelle Schamaun - Columbine FSC  
Kate Schmoekel - Trenton FSC  
Courtney Schultz - Duluth FSC  
Rosalind Scoular - St. Louis SC  
Tanya Shaby - All Year FSC  
Sean Benjamin Sunyoto - Orange County FSC  
Jamie Teneyck - Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy  
Mariyah Thurston - All Year FSC  
Jennifer Tieche - Columbus FSC  
Salena Vang - Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy  
Alexandra Veremeychik - Washington FSC  
Porter Waung - Starlight Ice Dance Club  
Stephanie Ky Wong - Shaker FSC  
Kathleen Yang - The Skating Club of San Francisco,  
Adult Gold Moves In The Field  
Toby Cohen - Greater Green Bay FSC  
Dawn Michele Miller - Iceland FSC of Houston  
Alexis Victoria Randolph - Escondido FSC  
**SENIOR FREE SKATE TEST**  
Ahtoosa Nicole Amini - Stars FSC of Texas

Allison Best - Peninsula SC  
Brittney Boatman - Eden Prairie FSC  
Alyssa Michelle Boyles - Stars FSC of Texas  
Allie Bulgart - Skokie Valley SC  
Mirielle Chambers - Wichita FSC, Inc.  
Saki Alicia Fumita - All Year FSC  
Alexis Goolkasian - Hayden Recreation Centre FSC,  
Erica Heon - ISC of Exeter  
Jennifer Hunicutt - FSC of Charleston  
Tara Jordan - The SC of New York, Inc.  
Chaochih Liu - Broadmoor SC, Inc.  
Jasmine Lopez - SC Of Southern New Jersey  
Eliza Mackintosh - SC at Dartmouth, Inc.  
Meagan McCowan - North Shore SC  
Jennifer Milewski - FSC of Charleston  
Taylor Moon - Clinton FSC  
Sarah Elizabeth Sidwell - Nashville FSC  
Claire Smyth - Lakeland SC  
Berlin Sohn - Northwoods FSC  
Kelsey Tichenor - Nashville FSC  
Kristen VanLacken - Onyx-Suburban Skating Acade  
Ashley Brooke Walter - The SC of New York, Inc.  
Sarah Elizabeth Wright - Knoxville FSC

### ADULT GOLD FREE SKATE TEST

Wanda Beierle Gelsebach - Los Angeles FSC  
Robyn Griffith - Individual Member  
Mary Jean Huebner - Washington FSC  
Patti McNeill - Coyotes SC of Arizona

### GOLD DANCE TEST

Christina Lee - Essex SC of NJ, Inc.  
Jessica Yen - All Year FSC

### ADULT GOLD DANCE TEST

Gisele Green-Czajka - Southwest Michigan SC  
Kathy Stano - University of Delaware FSC

### SOLO GOLD DANCE TEST

Justin Q Ly - San Antonio FSC

## OBITUARY

### WINDER

Jean C. Winder, widow of former U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director Roy Winder, died Jan. 31.

She is an honorary accountant and, while active in the volunteer ranks, served as chief or assistant accountant at many qualifying competitions including four U.S. Championships.

Mrs. Winder was a member of U.S. Figure Skating for more than 50 years and for a dozen of those years was employed at U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters as the assistant to the executive director.

She retired from active service to the association in 1987 but continued her many skating friendships.

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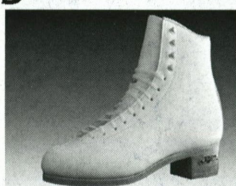
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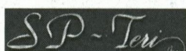
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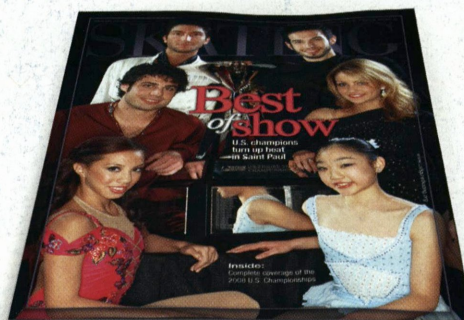
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**2008 U.S. World Team:** Back row, from left: Brent Bommentre, Charlie White, Ben Agosto, Evan Lysacek, Johnny Weir, Stephen Carriere, John Baldwin and Ben Okolski; front row, from left, Kim Navarro, Meryl Davis, Taniith Belbin, Ashley Wagner, Bebe Liang, Rena Inoue and Brooke Castile. Not pictured is Kimmie Meissner