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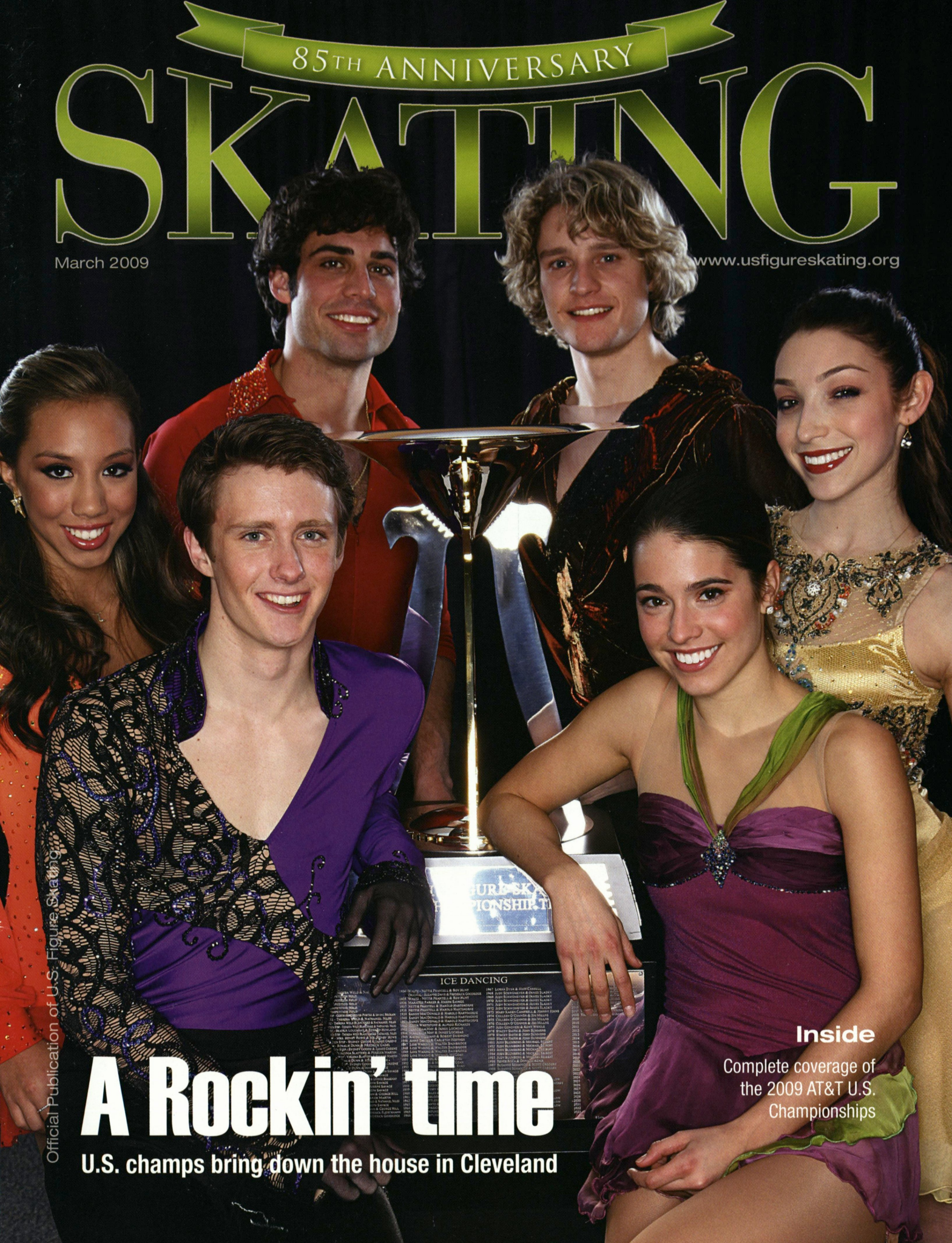

Official Publication of U.S. Figure Skating

A Rockin' time

U.S. champs bring down the house in Cleveland

Inside

Complete coverage of the 2009 AT&T U.S. Championships

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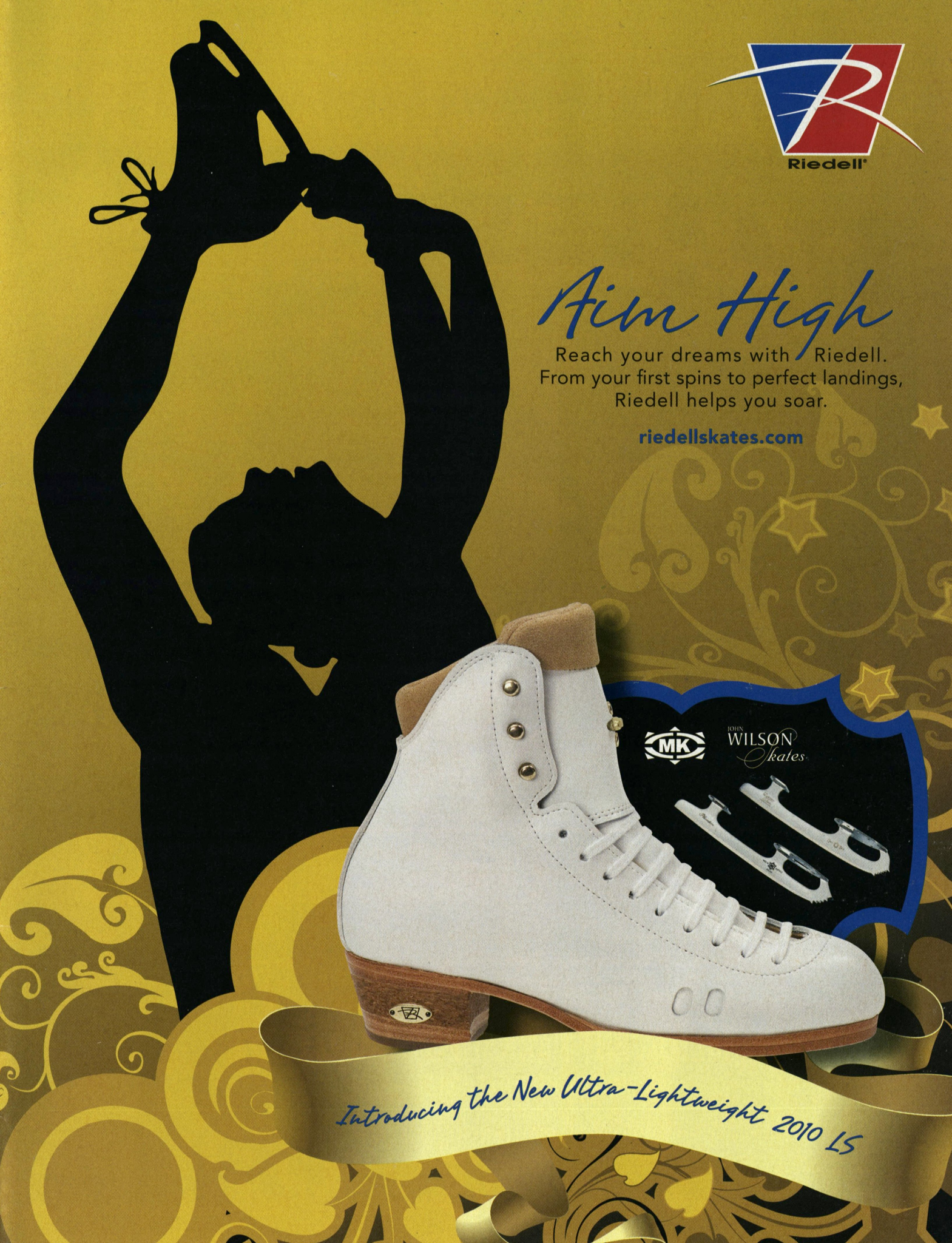
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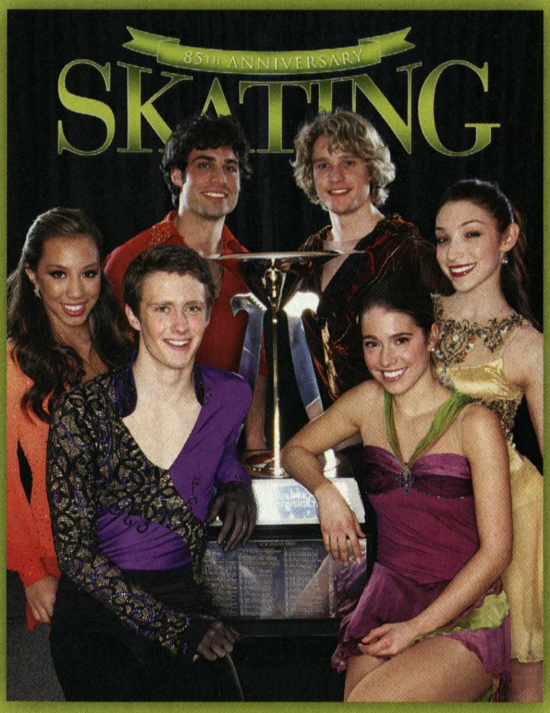
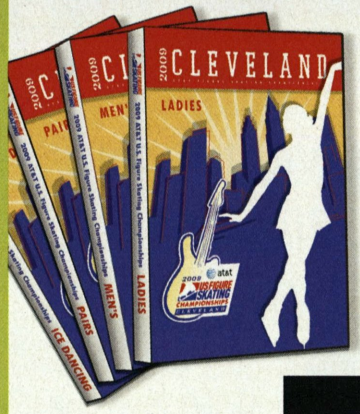
In this issue

5 Editor's letter
5 Icebreakers
8 Where are they now?
11 Adult Corner
55 Kidz Spotlight
55 Axel Annie
55 Crossword puzzle
58 National Skating Month
60 In Synch
61 Rinkside
71 SKATING anniversary
72 Crossword answers
72 Classifieds

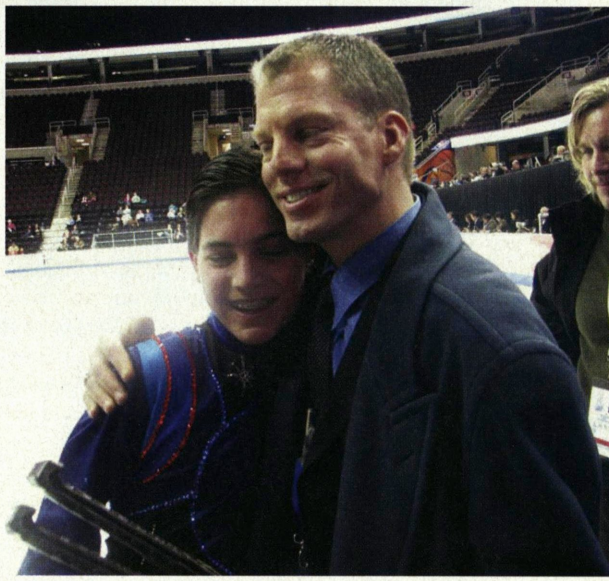


On the cover

Photo by Paul Harvath
As is tradition, the 2009 U.S. champions posed with the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy following competition in Cleveland. Clockwise are Jeremy Abbott, Keauna McLaughlin, Rockne Brubaker, Charlie White, Meryl Davis and Alissa Czisny. On the back cover is a photograph of the U.S. World Team, which competes later this month in Los Angeles.



5 The 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships collection of DVDs is available at the U.S. Figure Skating online store.



42 Tom Zakrajsek returns home for memorable event.

56 The United States captured three medals at the Four Continents Championships in Vancouver.

58 National Skating Month was celebrated at rinks across the nation.

It was home sweet home for Zakrajsek

While the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland offered more than its share of great moments on the ice, one that prevails in my mind occurred while sitting on the bus, waiting to go back to the hotel after the men's event and Smucker's Skating Spectacular around 11 on Sunday night.

I remember being the only one on board until coach Tom Zakrajsek and one of his pupils, U.S. silver medalist Brandon Mroz, jumped on at the last second.

"This is so surreal," said an exhausted but joyous Zakrajsek. "I can't believe it."

Mroz couldn't either as he appraised all the text and voice messages on his phone from family and friends.

I could see and appreciate Zakrajsek's emotions following a long week and undoubtedly the greatest day of his coaching life.

The Cleveland native, who reveres many coaching greats in and out of skating, had returned home to lead his skaters to nearly a sweep of the senior men's medals.

Jeremy Abbott, Mroz and Ryan Bradley of the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., finished first, second and fourth, respectively, on a day that a coach can only dream about.

Zakrajsek also helped guide Rachael Flatt to her second consecutive U.S. silver medal a day earlier, as well as Joshua Farris to the novice men's title a few days before that.

He has surrounded himself with some of the top coaches and choreographers and built one of the most respected programs in the country. To be able to experience such remarkable success in the city that he grew up in is something Zakrajsek will certainly cherish forever. Writer Amy Rosewater caught up with the coach for a story that starts on page 42.

Many other outstanding accomplishments made headlines during U.S. Championships week.

Watching Alissa Czisny win in front of her home-state crowd was heartwarming and testament to what perseverance and hard work can mean. Czisny has always possessed the talent and skill to earn a U.S. title and to see her finally put it all together made the 21-year-old from Bowling Green, Ohio, the feel-good story of the event.

Parker Pennington was another skater who stepped up and delivered in front of the home crowd. Pennington reunited in recent months with coach Carol Heiss Jenkins and the 2001 U.S. junior champion came through with a thrilling short program that brought the crowd to its feet and had the 24 year old talking about the future.

Pairs skater Keauna McLaughlin proved she's as tough as they come. Before taking the ice for the free skate – and all week long for that matter – I watched her battle the flu and a terrible cough that had to have affected her concentration and endurance. But like true champions, she and partner Rockne Brubaker buckled down and did enough to preserve their place on top of U.S. pairs skating.

It was also fitting to see ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White win the gold medal. The University of Michigan students have skated together for 12 years and have steadily climbed the competitive ladder. Their longevity and patience continue to pay huge dividends.

Cleveland sports such a great figure skating history and the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships added yet another wonderful chapter to its storied past.

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

2009 AT&T U.S. Championships available on DVD

Figure skating fans who may have missed the coverage on NBC and icenetwork.com, or those who want to relive the magic of the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships, a collection of DVDs is available exclusively via the U.S. Figure Skating online store at www.shopusfigureskating.com.

The online store is the only place where fans can purchase a DVD featuring the top skaters in their favorite discipline, or the entire box set of all four disciplines. There is also a DVD available that includes the entire Smuckers Skating Spectacular.

As a special bonus feature, all of the DVDs can be viewed with or without commentary. At $24.95 per discipline, or a complete box set at a special price of $79.95, fans can now watch their favorite performances over and over with HD DVD quality.

Cleveland event makes *SI* pages

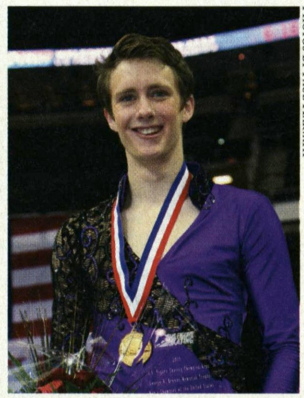
The 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland made headlines across the nation, including a two-page spread in *Sports Illustrated*.

A story about singles champions Alissa Czisny and Jeremy Abbott appeared in the Feb. 2 issue of the magazine, which ironically featured Cleveland's LeBron James on the cover.

E.M. Swift wrote about how two 20something veterans were able to seize the moment following years of frustrating finishes and setbacks. He also mentioned the influence of legends Brian Boitano and Paul Wylie on the champions' rise to glory.

A full-page picture of Czisny taken by photographer Heinz Kluetmeier is also featured as part of the package.

Alissa Czisny



Jeremy Abbott

Photos by Paul Harvath

Nagasu withdraws from World Junior Championships

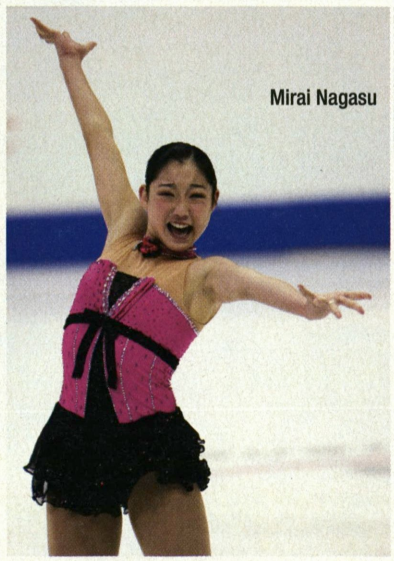
Mirai Nagasu, the 2008 U.S. champion, withdrew prior to the 2009 World Junior Figure Skating Championships.

The event took place Feb. 23-March 1 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Nagasu suffered an ankle injury early in the season and has yet to fully recover.

"After the U.S. Championships, I met with my doctor and was advised to take some time off to heal," Nagasu said. "It was a very hard decision to make, but my doctor and I agreed that it was in my best interest."

Katrina Hacker replaced Nagasu at the competition.



Mirai Nagasu

Photo by Paul Harvath

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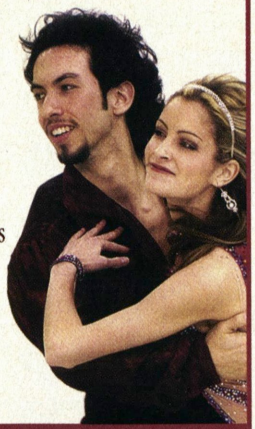

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Kwan makes dream come true for teen

Photo by Andrew H. Walter/Getty Images

Michelle Kwan

Michelle Kwan spent a day in January brightening the life of a heart transplant survivor who has idolized the champion skater for a decade.

In a story by Helene Elliott in the *Los Angeles Times,* Kwan and 17-year-old Leah Smith of Fort Wayne, Ind., finally hooked up at the East West Ice Palace in Artesia, Calif., for a skating session and exchange of gifts and stories.

Smith was born with an underdeveloped left ventricle, and at 11 days old, underwent a heart transplant. The life expectancy then was 10 years in such cases, Leah's mother, Joan Smith, said. Tests have shown her body may be rejecting the heart.

Kwan has served as an inspiration for Leah ever since she watched Kwan perform in a "brilliant blue dress" more than a decade ago.

"Michelle has been her inspiration in order to keep staying physically fit and active," Joan said.

After repeated attempts to unite Kwan and Smith, a Kwan family friend paid for Leah and her mother to fly to California and meet Kwan.

Kwan gave Leah a tour of the rink, which her family owns. They skated for an hour and presented each other with gifts.

"We're trying to decide if we're awake or not," Joan said. "This morning she woke up and told me, 'You know you're living a good life when your real life is better than you dreamed.'"

Leah, a high school senior, was practicing to perform a solo routine for a skating show back home when she made her trip to the West Coast.

HQ Profile: Debra Joslin

Debra Joslin

I am the staff accountant at U.S. Figure Skating. My duties include payroll, month-end journal entries, bank reconciliations, invoicing, museum entries, quarterly account reconciliations and the year-end audit. I also do projects for the chief financial officer and accounting manager.

What do you do in your free time? I bowl on a winter league, hike, belong to the Red Hat Society and enjoy going to the movies and the Supercross when it is in town.

What would people be most surprised to know about you? I am a big NASCAR fan and I root for Dale Earnhardt Jr., and in the day, his father, Dale Earnhardt Sr. I have met Richard Petty, Bill Elliott, David Pearson (The Silver Fox), Kenny Wallace and Jimmy Spencer. I worked at Pikes Peak International Raceway in the summers. My husband was the 1997 street stock champion at the I-25 Speedway.

What is the favorite part of your job? Being part of the skating I have watched on television for years. I am happy to be a part of such a great organization. Our finance department rocks and the people are great.

If you could take a trip anywhere in the world, where would you go? I want to go on a cruise to the Caribbean or Alaska in the summer.

Family: Randy and I have been married 29 years. We have one daughter, Amy, who has four children: Orion, 8; Sierra, 5; Kayla, 3; and Faith, 3 months old. I have two Weimaraners, Mack and Ellie. I have a brother, who lives in Minnesota, and my mom, who I moved here from Saint Paul, Minn., two years ago.

What do you cherish most: Friends, family and life.

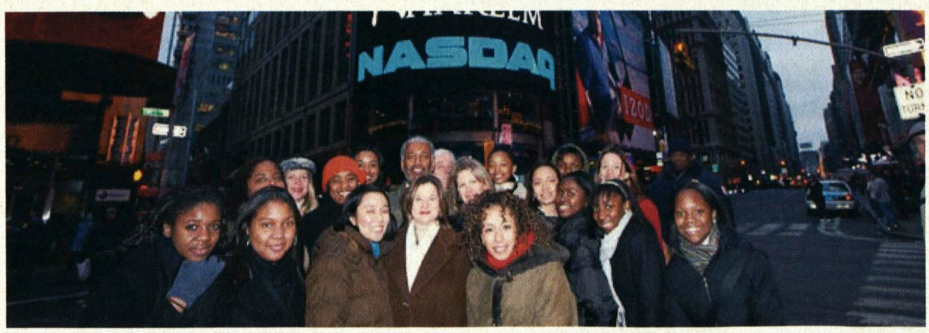


Photo courtesy of Sharon Cohen

Sharon Cohen, founder and executive director of Figure Skating in Harlem (center with brown coat and light scarf), got to ring the NASDAQ closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Jan. 2. Her students and supporters joined Cohen and "Law and Order: SVU" actress Tamara Tunie at the exciting event.

Big skating contingent expected for 2009 State Games of America

Colorado Springs, Colo., will host America's largest Olympic-style multi sport festival for amateur athletes of all ages and skill levels when 10,000 athletes come to the city for the 2009 Skate Games of America, July 30-Aug. 2.

More than 1,000 competitors are expected to participate in the figure skating events, which will take place at the Colorado Springs World Arena.

Online national athlete registration is open at www.stategames.org with complete registration information, lodging and accommodations information and ticket details.

The event was held in Colorado Springs in 2005 and 2007, with a record of 10,803 athletes from 47 states competing in the 2007 Games. World champion Michelle Kwan lit the torch for the opening ceremonies at the 2007 Games.

San Diego will host the Games in 2011.

How to view icenetwork.com on your television

Several figure skating fans have asked, "How did you watch the ISU Grand Prix Series on your TV when it was not televised this year?" The answer is icenetwork.com and a PC to TV converter box.

The equipment required is:

* PC to TV converter (e.g., a Sewell sw-4262 from www.SewellDirect.com)

* Audio cable 6', or long enough to reach between your computer and TV (e.g., Radio Shack 42-2551)

The PC to TV converter is connected to the video output of the computer and then to the video input of the TV. If your TV does not have a video input, most VCRs have a video input (usually color-coded as yellow) and audio inputs (usually color-coded white and red).

Most converters support either regular video or S-video. You can use either option, but S-video provides a better picture. The audio cable is connected to the speaker or headset output of the computer and to the audio input jacks of the TV. The diagram at the bottom of this page shows how the connections are made.

The system is simple to operate. Log into icenetwork.com and select the program you want to view. If using a laptop, select the monitor output with the function (Fn) key and appropriate function key. (Check your operator's manual if the key is not labeled, or Google your computer brand name and "toggle display function.") Usually if it is selected twice, it will display on the TV and the laptop. Set the computer audio to almost full because the TV volume will control the audio. Set the computer for full screen and set the TV volume to a comfortable level. Now sit back and enjoy the skating.

- Information was provided by Dick Rohrer

Wright gala slated March 21

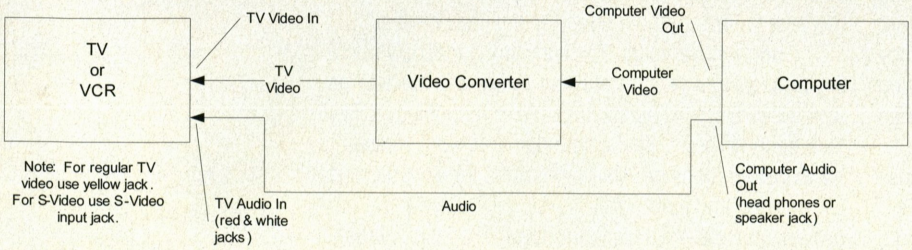
Several of the top skaters in the country are slated to take part in the Mary Louise Wright Memorial Figure Skating Gala on March 21 at the Skating Club of Boston.

A skating exhibition, fashion show and auction are scheduled, with proceeds going to the Mary Louise Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund and U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund in the name of Wright. A $5 donation is being taken at the door.

Featured in the exhibition will be 2008 U.S. bronze medalists Ashley Wagner and Stephen Carriere, 2009 U.S. junior champion Ross Miner, 2009 U.S. novice pairs bronze medalists Olivia Gibbons and Tyler Harris and other prominent skaters such as Katrina Hacker, Curran Oi and Brittney Rizo.

Wright devoted her life to the support and growth of the sport as a competitor; U.S., Olympic and World judge; and mentor to countless skaters. She was posthumously honored at the 2005 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Portland, Ore., and inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

For further information about the gala and fashion show, contact Jim McManus at 617.782.5900.



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Elegant impressions

'84 Olympians made most of ice dancing careers

BY LOIS ELFMAN

Many fans consider recent years the golden age of American ice dancing. With Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto earning the highest placement ever for a U.S. team at the Olympic Winter Games and three teams routinely qualifying for the World Figure Skating Championships, it's easy to see where that sentiment comes from.

Those who remember the early 1980s may see things a little differently. While Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert were winning five U.S. titles (1981–85), fighting for a spot on World and Olympic podiums and part of the reinvention of ice dancing, there was another dynamic and expressive team making its mark at home and internationally: Carol Fox and Richard Dalley.

Known for their long lines, challenging choreography and exquisite costumes (designed and sewn by Fox and her mother), Fox and Dalley may never have won that highly coveted U.S. title, but they did garner their fair share of applause and admiration. They also pushed Blumberg and Seibert to never take the U.S. Championships as a given gold.

"We were always sort of the old kids on the block," Dalley said. "We were around longer than most people. One of the redeeming qualities of our career was when we went professional, we won Dick Button's (World Professional Championship) event twice."

After both switching from roller skating in 1974, Fox and Dalley teamed up and quickly found success in ice dancing. In 1978 and 1979, they were runners-up to Stacey Smith and John Summers, but Blumberg and Seibert beat them for a spot on the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team. Unwilling to end their competitive career on a sad note, they left their homes in Michigan and moved to Wilmington, Del., to train under Ron Ludington with the famous "midnight skaters." They earned silver again in 1981, 1982 and 1984 (placing third in 1983 after losing precious training time when Dalley suffered a broken leg).

"Those hours offered us the cheapest ice, because no one else would skate at those hours," Fox said. "We'd get to the rink about 10:30 at night, skate a 1 ¼-hour session. Then the pairs teams had it for 1 ¼ hours. We did off-ice training during that time. Then it was combined pairs and dance until daybreak. It was quite a schedule. Good thing we were young with lots of energy."

During those years, they also worked with ballroom dancers in Washington, D.C., and Fox often went to New York to shop for materials for their costumes.

Fox and Dalley finally got their Olympic shot in 1984, when they placed a strong fifth. Thanks to adverse weather conditions that forced the postponement of some Alpine skiing races, friends and family at home got to see all of their performances. Several months later, they signed a contract with Ice Capades and hit the road for six years.

PHOTO BY LEONARDI

Carol Fox and Richard Dalley compete at the 1977 U.S. Championships in Hartford, Conn.

"My professional years with Ice Capades and IMG events were some of the best years of my life," Dalley said. "I cherish the experiences and memories, and I am thankful to have had the opportunities that we did."

During those years, Fox was simultaneously pursuing professional skating and her interest in fashion design, attending the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York each summer. She'd take day and night classes to try to get as many credits as possible. When a desire to get married and start a family pushed Dalley to end their professional career, Fox found herself at a crossroads.

Photo courtesy of Carol Fox

Carol Fox , with husband Donald Splawn and children, Breanna and Travis

She thought about moving to New York, earning a degree at FIT and trying to make it in the fashion industry, but in the end decided to move Colorado and teach skating.

Dalley drifted away from skating for a while, but got back into the sport when the 1994 U.S. Championships were in Detroit. From there, he became a judge. He has been nominated to be the team leader for U.S. ice dancers at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

"I'm a dance-only person, so it's not as demanding as singles and pairs," Dalley said. "I found a balance in my skating life and my personal life."

His wife, Shelley, is a former singles skater. Their two children, Walter, 17, and Sara, 16, both tried skating, but moved on to other things. Walter is an excellent golfer, which goes well with Dalley's professional life. He owns a golf course.

Fox has two children, Breanna, 14, and Travis, 12. Neither skates.

Richard Dalley, with wife, Shelley, and children, Sara and Walter

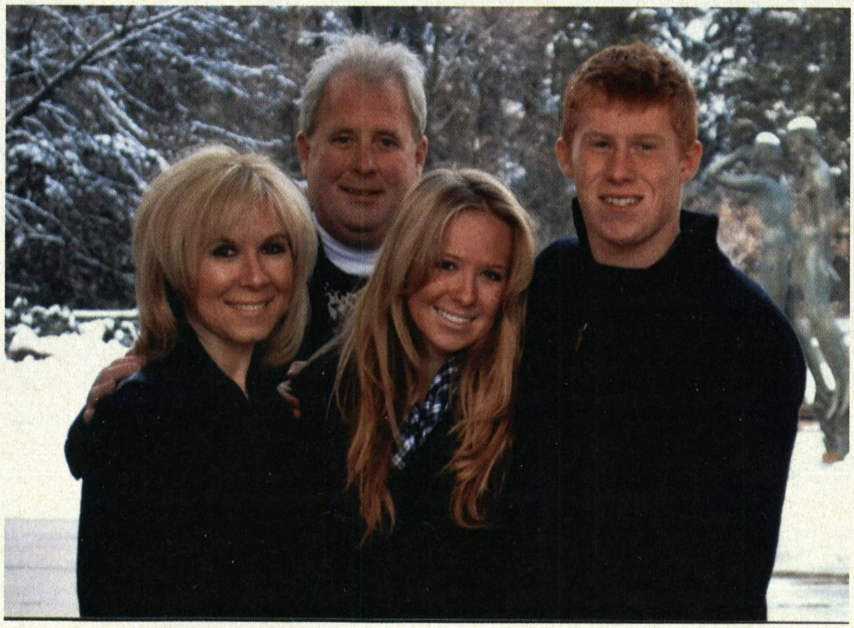


Photo courtesy of Richard Dalley

"They had no interest in skating at all," she said, much to her frustration, because it would have made life simpler if she could have had them at the rink with her.

She still sews and makes costumes for some of her students. One former student recently asked Fox to make her wedding dress. (She hadn't yet agreed at the time of this interview.)

Neither can recall a favorite competition or performance. Dalley said he is terrible about remembering such things, which he considers an asset when judging, because he looks at competitors in the moment. Fox said there are too many memories to choose from, but appreciates whenever someone shares a favorite memory, as it takes her back to a moment in time, not only of the skating but also of how they'd stay in a city for a few days after a competition to sightsee and try local cuisine.

Both remember the 1984 Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo as a wonderful reward for years of hard work. With eight of the 18 members of the U.S. Figure Skating team coming from Wilmington (Fox and Dalley, Kitty and Peter Carruthers, Lea Ann Miller, and Bill Fauver and Elisa Spitz and Scott Gregory), they also enjoyed incredible festivities at home before and after the Games.

When asked about the impact of the international judging system on creativity in ice dancing, Dalley takes a judge's perspective.

"You can always point to the shortcomings, but almost universally the skaters and coaches think it's better," he said. "When it comes to finding places for more freedom, the ISU recognizes … the individuality and uniqueness have been taken out of it. They're trying their best to develop the system to accommodate that. Over time, it will happen."

Fox is eager to see room for more artistry, which helped make the battles between the top three U.S. teams in the early 1980s so dynamic.

"We all were very different, yet we were all stretching ourselves doing different material," she said. "We didn't have that criteria to meet, so it made you stretch more, probably more theatrically."

While Dalley attends the U.S. Championships almost every year, Fox said, "I'll be at nationals when I earn the right to be there again."

She teaches ice dancing, does choreography and works with singles skaters on stroking, posture and power. She looks forward to being at the boards at the U.S. Championships.

Her husband, Donald Splawn, had a stroke two years ago. His health is now much improved, but it has been a challenging time for their family. Faith has been a big factor in meeting the challenge. Fox is a children's leader for a Bible study fellowship.

"That has given me a lot of fulfillment and strength to handle just about anything," she said.

Most important, Fox and Dalley remain friends. "Having known Carol since I was 12 and sharing our lives personally and professionally, this was the best part," Dalley said. "Taking on life as a team and in the end looking back and saying we did pretty darn well." ■

On the edge

Adults find 'figures' still have prominent place in training

BY LEXI ROHNER

Figure skating is named for a series of circular ice tracings called compulsory figures, which were discontinued in competition in 1990. Requiring many hours of practice and a separate pair of skates (with no bottom toe-pick and slightly less ankle support to avoid unnecessary marks on the ice), figures have no age limits and many adult skaters still practice them. Figures teach edge control, body position, turning techniques and contribute to core strength, all applicable to free skating. Figures are practiced slowly and can be less intimidating for beginning adults. A scribe, (large compass), is used to draw practice tracings but is not allowed for competition or tests. The highest figures test is the eighth one. Practice sessions are called "patch," with skaters assigned to divided sections of clean ice to see tracings clearly. Moves in the field incorporate many figures elements.

Below are a number of adult skaters who still find compulsory figures a challenging and productive pastime.

Jack Stearns, 63, preliminary figures
Lexington, Mass. – Skating Club of Lake Placid

Stearns started figures by chance at age 59.

"My coach wanted improved edge quality and I was hooked," he said.

A late 1950s northern New Jersey pond skater, Stearns skated from 1961 to 1968, when he had major knee surgery, and not again until 1998. Now working on first figures, Stearns enjoys the challenge, exercise and friendships associated with skating. A meteorologist, Stearns does not compete but would like to see adult skating and figures integrated again. Skating with the first U.S. Synchronized patch team (the Dueling Scribes), a coed Lake Placid, N.Y., group, Stearns hopes to help form other teams and competitions, noting he spends 75 percent of his time on figures.

"Figures increase body awareness on your blade and achieving maximum glide," Stearns said.

Lisa Hoberg, 54, first figures (1966), adult bronze, silver dance
Portland, Ore. – Skating Club of Oregon

Hoberg began skating at age 6, idolized Olympic champion Carol Heiss, but quit the sport at 14. Hoberg's father possibly enjoyed skating more than she did.

"We quickly joined the Detroit Skating Club and I started lessons," Hoberg said.

Passing preliminary figures at 10, she found the second figures test difficult but knew one day she would give it another shot. A holistic small animal veterinarian, Hoberg's inspirations came from ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's 1984 Olympic "Bolero" performance, and a group of 80-plus ice dancers in Hingham, Mass.

Hoberg began skating again at age 32, this time giving ice dancing a try. She now spends 30 minutes on figures four mornings a week. She competed only once in figures at the Pacific Coast Adult Sectional Championships. Hoberg is a silver judge, and her claim to fame is taking the Willow Waltz test with Olympic silver medalist Tim Wood in 1966.

Brenda Wittman, 36, second figure, adult silver figure, masters intermediate/novice
Tucson, Ariz. – Tucson FSC, Coyotes SC of Arizona

Wittman was not good at softball or soccer, so at age 13, she tried skating.

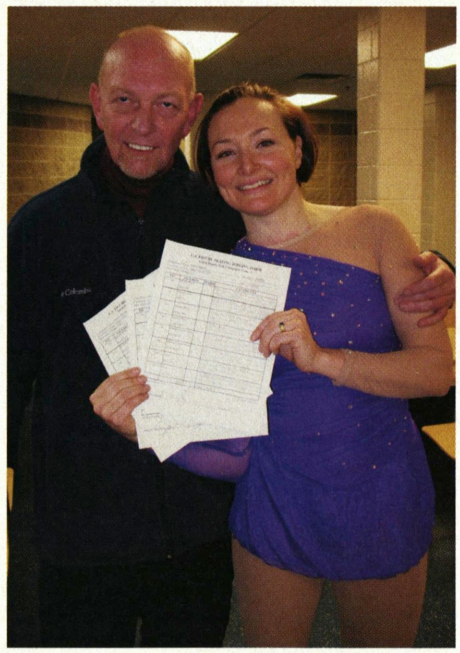
"Skating is stress relief," she said. "It's never perfect. There are always new goals to achieve."

With no permanent ice in Tucson, Wittman, a pediatric hematologist and oncologist at the University of Arizona, travels 234 miles roundtrip twice a week to skate on weeks she is not on call. Wittman tested preliminary figures as a college freshman, took her first figures test in 2002, second figures test in 2003, and then adult bronze and silver figures tests. Wittman practiced 90 minutes weekly training for figures competitions.

Brenda Wittman

"Much of that time was spent explaining my scribe and why people shouldn't skate through the clean patch of ice," Wittman said.

She finds figures relaxing and free skating easier after a figures warm-up. Her greatest achievement, Wittman said, is when her patients ask her for skating lessons.



Allison Manley

Allison Manley, 37, third figures (2007), novice ladies
Chicago, Ill. – Wagon Wheel FSC

Manley's childhood hip disorder left her pediatrician to suggest strengthening through sports. An unsuccessful attempt at ballet led Manley to six years of youth skating, and 13 more as an adult. She began figures at age 6. Manley claims skating means sanity.

"Seriously, it's my therapy," said Manley, owner of a successful design and marketing firm. "Figures are a terrific challenge. It's beautiful to have done a figure really well."

Prior to the birth of her son in 2008, Manley spent three hours a week on figures, but is happy now to find any time to skate. Plans include a consistent double flip and passing fourth figures.

"There are still coaches wanting to teach figures and rinks willing to provide ice time. Just ask" Manley said. "I'd love to see figures make a comeback as adult skating grows."

Julie Gidlow, 40, eighth figures, masters novice free skate, silver solo dance
Beverly Hills, Calif. – All Year FSC

Gidlow devoted half her training time to figures as a child and as an adult, and it paid off. Beginning figures at age 11, she passed preliminary in 1980 and was the last person to pass the eighth figures test in 2004, at age 35. She tested eighth figures in halves, failing the first half the first time, but completed the test two years later. Her friends had champagne waiting afterward.

At age 8, Gidlow clung to the wall the first time skating, hating it, and later feigned enjoyment at a friend's skating party to fit in. She ended up taking lessons, crediting Donna Atwood for her basics, but quit at age 16 after passing the fifth figures test and novice free skate test. She returned at 25 feeling skating was unfinished, becoming a gold test and sectional competition judge (singles and pairs) an adult skater and Pacific Coast vice-chair of the Adult Skating Committee.

"Now I can't imagine life without skating," Gidlow said.

A news editor at Radio & Records magazine, Gidlow at 31 competed in junior figures at the 1998 Pacific Coast Sectional Championships (the last competitive figures event), placing third out of 14 skaters on the second figure. One of eight skaters who have competed at every U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships, she is goal-oriented and a self-described "major ham." She knows at 40 that flexibility can be difficult for higher levels on spins and step sequences, and appreciates the international judging system rewarding easier elements done well over harder elements done poorly. Gidlow is preparing for solo dance at the 2009 U.S. Adult Championships, and is excited to see figure elements proposed for moves in the field. She wonders if skaters today check for "bunny ears" at the top of their brackets.

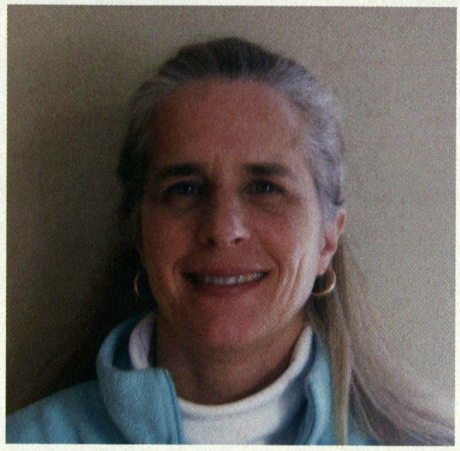
Carrie Keil, 47, sixth figures, junior free skate
Ann Arbor, Mich. – Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club

The youngest of five children, Keil skated with her family from age 3. Keil's ice dancing parents coached winter weekends at local outdoor rinks, and Keil began figures at 5, coached by her sisters. She later commuted to East Lansing, Mich., to work with Gene Heffron, practicing figures nearly 24 hours a week in the summer and 10 hours week in the winter.

"Figures were the basis of the sport at the time," said Keil, who has coached figures for 27 years. "Skating is a way to experience the joy of effortless movement, and figures are an in-depth study of how edges work and are controlled."

Keil wants adult skaters to know figures are a wonderful way to become a great skater.

"I love coaching and can't imagine life without skating," she said. "Watching a 70 year old land their first Salchow is just as thrilling as coaching a teenager to nationals," she said.



Carrie Keil

Figures rising in Portland

Several Portland, Ore., adult skaters practice figures and are involved with the Oregon Skating Council's (OSC) efforts to include the discipline. Two Portland rinks offer figures classes, and the OSC's youth development program aims to improve skaters' test performance through off-ice strength training, ballet and figures. OSC will sponsor a figures competition in July, with a figures clinic featuring coach and boot specialists to identify boot and blade problems. Contact Bill Cloran at CloranWF@aol.com ■

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2009 CLEVELAND
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2009
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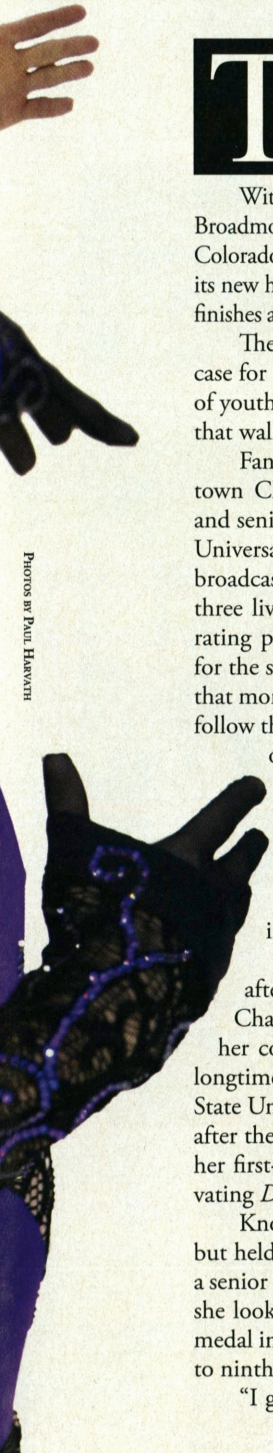
Keauna McLaughlin & Rockne Brubaker
Alissa Czisny
Jeremy Abbott

Cleveland rules!

Three new champions crowned in drama-filled event

BY TROY SCHWINDT



PHOTOS BY PAUL HARVATH

The NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers love the Quicken Loans Arena, having won 23 straight games there this season, but when the Cavs moved out of town for the week in late January, a new "home team" claimed the building as its own.

With a dominating performance at the senior level, the Broadmoor Skating Club closed the 1,400-mile gap between Colorado Springs, Colo., and Cleveland, adopting the "Q" as its new home on the way to claiming five medals and 10 top-10 finishes at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The U.S. Championships, held Jan. 19-25, was a showcase for the top figure skaters in the country, mixing a blend of youth and experience to entertain the enthusiastic crowds that walked through the turnstiles.

Fans from all over the country made the trip to downtown Cleveland to catch the action in the novice, junior and senior divisions, with millions more watching on NBC, Universal Sports, icenetwork.com and a host of international broadcasts around the world. With solid ratings during its three live broadcasts on NBC, including a 2.7 rating (one rating point equals approximately 1.1 million households) for the senior ladies free skate Saturday night, it is estimated that more than 10 million fans around the world tuned in to follow the action from the 90th edition of the U.S. Championships.

There were plenty of compelling storylines, performances and finishes in each discipline both on the ice, and in the stands, as 10 of the 12 U.S. Olympic champions attended the competition, including Brian Boitano, who had more than a rooting interest in the outcome of the ladies event.

Alissa Czisny, who contemplated leaving the sport after a disappointing performance at the 2008 U.S. Championships, spent the past two years working on her confidence on and off the ice with Boitano and his longtime coach Linda Leaver. The senior at Bowling Green State University put it all together to build a 5.56-point lead after the short program and overcome the nerves of holding her first-ever lead at the U.S. Championships with a captivating *Dr. Zhivago* free skate to claim the title.

Known for years for her mesmerizing spins and spirals but held back by her inconsistent jumps, Czisny debuted as a senior lady in 2002. After four middle-of-the-pack finishes, she looked to be on track when she took home the bronze medal in 2007 with a winning free skate. Last season, she fell to ninth place, and her confidence was dashed.

"I guess I needed to learn from all those years," Czisny said. "I guess it wasn't my time until now."

Rachael Flatt (Broadmoor SC) repeated as the U.S. silver medalist, while Caroline Zhang, fourth in 2008, jumped up one spot to claim the bronze medal. Ashley Wagner, who endured a rough short program, rallied from 12th place to win the free skate and finish fourth. The 2008 U.S. champion, Mirai Nagasu, who suffered an ankle injury earlier this year and continues to retool her technique after a growth spurt last summer, ended up fifth.

Leading into the event, the men's competition drew the most attention. The anticipated showdown between Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir, who between them had won the last five U.S. titles, never materialized. Instead, Jeremy Abbott and his fellow Broadmoor training partner Brandon Mroz stole the show. Weir, coming off a serious illness, struggled in both his programs to finish fifth, while two-time defending champion Lysacek fell on his opening quad toe loop in the free skate and couldn't muster enough points to challenge Abbott.

Abbott, the ISU Grand Prix Final of Figure Skating champion, led from start to finish, showcasing his remarkable blend of artistry and athleticism. Mroz, 18, surprised everyone by capturing the silver medal in his senior debut. Lysacek settled for the bronze, while a third member of the powerful Broadmoor Skating Club, Ryan Bradley, entertained the crowd and grabbed fourth place.

"Overall, the U.S. is probably the strongest country in the world for men's skating," Lysacek said. "A lot of that has to do with Johnny and me, with that rivalry being so publicized the last few years. It's pushed not just him and me but a lot of other competitors to come up and try to steal one of the top spots."

The pairs event came down to a battle between 2008 champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker and surprise short program leaders Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett.

Denney and Barrett followed a strong technical program by McLaughlin and Brubaker with a clean free skate, but the component scores of the defending champions proved too much to overcome, and the upstarts from Florida settled for a silver medal.

The title was the second straight for McLaughlin and Brubaker, adding to the impressive list of podium finishes for the Broadmoor camp.

McLaughlin, who entered the competition battling the flu and struggled all week with a bad cough, was relieved when the final scores were posted.

"There were moments in my program when I thought, 'I can't do this,'" McLaughlin said. "I thought, 'Just let me stop, let me have a breather, let me have a trash can.' But I just kept going. I don't know how I did it, but I got through it, and I'm really happy it's over with."

Two-time U.S. champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin earned the bronze medal.

For the first time since 2003, new U.S. ice dancing champions were crowned. With five-time reigning champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto out of the competition due to an injury to Agosto, Meryl Davis and Charlie White turned in a compelling free dance en route to a 20-point victory over silver medalists and Michigan neighbors Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates.

"I think we really went out there and left it all on the ice," White said of their free dance to selections from Camille Saint-Saens.

Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre repeated as bronze medalists, with Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell finishing in fourth place. ■

Kudos to Cleveland

2009 event earns high praise from skaters, fans

BY AMY ROSEWATER

For the second time in less than a decade, the city of Cleveland played host to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. And once again, organizers Terry Kollar and Bill Coyle made sure that the skaters, coaches, officials and fans enjoyed the week-long event.

One of the notes Coyle is saving from the event is this one: "From the skaters of the Southwest Florida FSC, we would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication to this competition as we chase our dreams." Among the signatures on the letter are those of Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett, the pairs team that earned a silver medal and qualified for the World Figure Skating Championships in its U.S. Championships debut.

"All week long I was receiving compliments and congratulations from the officials, coaches and skaters on how the event was managed," Kollar said. "They especially appreciated the hospitality, some saying it was more than they expected.

"Clevelanders stepped up and made it a great event for everyone."

Coyle said extra efforts were made to accommodate skaters by arranging unofficial practice sessions for fair rates. Some coaches had to arrange these sessions to accommodate schedules for all their skaters. Coyle even got a thumbs up from men's fourth-place finisher Ryan Bradley, who enjoyed playing ping-pong, foosball and air hockey in the athletes' lounge at the hotel. Most everyone enjoyed the fact that they could walk to the Quicken Loans Arena from some of the hotels through an enclosed walkway so they wouldn't have to weather the sub-freezing temperatures outside.

Making the event even more special to the organizers was the fact that an Ohio native, Alissa Czisny, who expects to graduate from Bowling Green State University in May, won the ladies title. Parker Pennington, who trains with Carol Heiss Jenkins and Roberta Mitchell at the Winterhurst Ice Rink in the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood, was also a hometown favorite. He skated brilliantly with a third-place showing in the short program and placed eighth overall. In addition, many former U.S. champions made a point of coming to Cleveland to support their sport. Olympic gold medalist (and "Dancing with the Stars" champion) Kristi Yamaguchi was a fan favorite who stopped and signed autographs as she walked through the arena concourses.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Figure skating fans from across the country enjoyed the competition and hospitality of Cleveland as well as the local organizing committee.

Others in attendance were Brian Boitano, Dorothy Hamill, Scott Hamilton, Nancy Kerrigan and Elaine Zayak, who coached senior competitor Joelle Forte.

The 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships also paid off for the city, as an estimated 8,500 hotel room nights were booked downtown and an economic boost of between $15 million and $18 million was pumped into Cleveland's economy.

"While we didn't hit the (attendance) numbers we had in 2000, we were very satisfied with our attendance and felt that it was very good considering the economic times," Kollar said. ■

Following the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S. Figure Skating named its international selections for the World Figure Skating Championships (March 22-29 in Los Angeles, Calif.), Four Continents Figure Skating Championships (Feb. 4-9 in Vancouver, British Columbia) and the World Junior Figure Skating Championships (Feb. 23-March 1 in Sofia, Bulgaria).

2009 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Alissa Czisny
Rachael Flatt
Alternate 1 – Caroline Zhang
Alternate 2 – Ashley Wagner
Alternate 3 – Mirai Nagasu

MEN

Jeremy Abbott
Evan Lysacek
Brandon Mroz
Alternate 1 – Johnny Weir
Alternate 2 – Ryan Bradley
Alternate 3 – Stephen Carriere

PAIRS

Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett
Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker
Alternate 1 – Rena Inoue/John Baldwin
Alternate 2 – Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig
Alternate 3 – Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski

ICE DANCING

Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto
Meryl Davis/Charlie White
Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates
Alternate 1 – Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre
Alternate 2 – Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell
Alternate 3 – Jane Summersett/Todd Gilles
Alternate 4 – Trina Pratt/Chris Obzansky

2009 FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Alissa Czisny
Rachael Flatt
Caroline Zhang
Alternate 1 – Ashley Wagner
Alternate 2 – Mirai Nagasu
Alternate 3 – Katrina Hacker

MEN

Jeremy Abbott
Evan Lysacek
Brandon Mroz
Alternate 1 – Ryan Bradley
Alternate 2 – Johnny Weir
Alternate 3 – Curran Oi

PAIRS

Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett
Rena Inoue/John Baldwin
Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker
Alternate 1 – Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig
Alternate 2 – Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski
Alternate 3 – Chloe Katz/Joseph Lynch

ICE DANCING

Meryl Davis/Charlie White
Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre
Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates
Alternate 1 – Jane Summersett/Todd Gilles
Alternate 2 – Trina Pratt/Chris Obzansky
Alternate 3 – Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt

2009 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Mirai Nagasu
Ashley Wagner
Caroline Zhang
Alternate 1 – Katrina Hacker
Alternate 2 – Alexe Gilles
Alternate 3 – Brittney Rizo

MEN

Ross Miner
Curran Oi
Adam Rippon
Alternate 1 – Armin Mahbanoozadeh
Alternate 2 – Alexander Johnson
Alternate 3 – Richard Dornbush

PAIRS

Brynn Carman/Chris Knierim
Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir
Alternate 1 – Molly Aaron/Daniyel Cohen
Alternate 2 – Brittany Chase/Andrew Speroff
Alternate 3 – Kloe Bautista/Galvani Hopson

ICE DANCING

Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein
Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell
Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani
Alternate 1 – Piper Gilles/Zachary Donohue
Alternate 2 – Shannon Wingle/Timothy McKernan
Alternate 3 – Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello

Photo by Paul Harvath

Classic finish

Czisny puts it all together to win gold medal

BY MICKEY BROWN

Good things come to those who wait.

Patience is a virtue.

Better late than never.

The number of proverbs that can sum up Alissa Czisny's journey through skating is as plentiful as the number of fans who stood in applause after her mesmerizing short program at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Czisny possesses all the qualities of a classic skater. Her long, thin arms and legs move gracefully through open space, her smile – replete with gleaming, impossibly white teeth – radiates a joy and warmth rarely seen among today's participants, and her positions on her spins and spirals are simply textbook.

It had become almost cliché for coaches, commentators and critics alike to look at this specimen, this ethereal, wondrous example of everything a skater should be, and remark, "If only she could put it all together, the sky's the limit."

Don't kid yourself – she heard the whispers, too. Heck, she was the source of a lot of them. It's one thing for others to doubt you, but when that uncertainty comes from

MEDALISTS

GOLD
Alissa Czisny – 178.06

SILVER
Rachael Flatt – 173.78

BRONZE
Caroline Zhang – 171.08

FOURTH
Ashley Wagner – 165.33

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Ashley Wagner, Caroline Zhang, Alissa Czisny and Rachael Flatt

inside you, the efforts can be debilitating.

It was not until she hit bottom, at the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., that the answers started coming to her, and when they did, her fortunes changed quickly.

For brevity purposes, Czisny's story starts back in 2001, when, in her first trip to the U.S. Championships, she won the silver at the junior level.

The next season she moved up to senior, and it would take her six more years to again finish on the podium. A bronze medal in 2007, when she won the free skate with one of those performances that left people uttering that familiar "If only…" statement, earned her a spot on the U.S. World Team.

With her star on the rise, Czisny entered the 2007-08 season with hopes of building on what she had accomplished the previous year. In her season debut, at the Cup of China, she fell on four of her first five jump elements in the free skate and finished ninth.

Her next competition, the NHK Trophy, didn't go much better, as three of her jumps in the free skate were downgraded, dropping her from fourth to sixth.

It got worse. A fall and a time violation in her short program at the 2008 U.S. Championships left her in ninth after the segment, and she was unable to pull up after a mistake-filled free skate.

Czisny decided it was time to step away from the sport, at least for a while.

"I always knew I wanted to continue skating, but I realized that my motive for skating should change," Czisny said. "I decided I wanted to (keep skating), but I didn't want to worry about the outcome. I wanted to focus on my own enjoyment of it and all the things it brings."

What made Czisny's lackluster results that much more bewildering was that, since the summer of 2007, she had one of the United States' greatest champions – Brian Boitano – and his longtime coach – Linda Leaver – in her corner.

The approach they, along with Czisny's coach, Julie Berlin, took to remaking Czisny's skating is similar to what Butch Harmon did with Tiger Woods' golf swing. They deconstructed everything, from her technique to her attitude to her equipment, and just as Woods suffered for a time while adjusting to the changes in his game, so did Czisny experience a period of trials that tested her mettle.

But also like Tiger, Czisny became a better skater for the long term.

"I train smarter," Czisny said. "I've always worked hard in the past, but I've made some choices that make my training more efficient."

Her first event of the 2008-09 season was the U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships, an event she won in 2004 as a freshman at Bowling Green State University and had not competed in since. Though no one else in the field stood a chance against her (she won by nearly 30 points), what was important was that Czisny experience the feel of competition early in the season and that she stand on top of a podium, with a gold medal around her neck, to remind her what it felt like to win.

She continued her winning ways at the Nebelhorn Trophy, a victory made all the more impressive considering she defeated eventual European champion Laura Lepisto by 14 points and the resurgent Akiko Suzuki of Japan by 22.

Photo by Paul Harvath

Alissa Czisny emerged as the feel-good story of the 2009 U.S. Championships.

A bronze at Skate Canada, where she placed ahead of reigning World silver medalist Carolina Kostner of Italy, represented her first Grand Prix Series medal since the gold she won at that same event three years prior. She wrapped up the fall season with a respectable fourth-place finish at the Cup of Russia.

Then came the performance that she, her coaches, fans, media and pretty much, oh, the whole skating world was waiting for from her, the one that brought tears to the eyes of fellow competitors, the one that made her the feel-good story of the 2009 U.S. Championships.

And it only could have happened after Alissa Czisny remembered why she started skating in the first place.

"I enjoy skating more. I enjoy the challenge of it," Czisny said. "Before, I'd get more nervous. Now, I try to enjoy the whole process." ■

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Alissa Czisny

Czisny delivers

Flatt, Zhang claim medals

BY MICKEY BROWN

Two of the ladies medalists at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, Ohio, came as little surprise. Rachael Flatt and Caroline Zhang, who were among a handful of favorites coming into the week, both finished on the podium.

But neither Flatt nor Zhang was the person standing on top of the medal stand at the end of the event. That honor went to a skater who was considered somewhat of an afterthought leading up to the competition.

Alissa Czisny, whose career has been marked more with inconsistency than excellence, put together a dazzling short program and a workmanlike free skate to win her first U.S. title. Her previous best finish was third, two years ago in Spokane, Wash.

"When I saw (first place) come up, I felt a little bit of relief," Czisny said. "Persevering through it all, that's helped me come out on top."

Czisny gave herself a comfortable five-point cushion in the short program. Skating to Camille Saint-Saens' "The Swan," Czisny cleanly landed her triple Lutz-double toe combination, triple flip and double Axel and displayed her usual beautiful spins, steps and spirals en route to a segment score of 65.75.

A native of Bowling Green, Ohio, about a two-hour drive from Cleveland, Czisny electrified the Quicken Loans Arena, bringing some in attendance to tears with her rousing performance.

"I could tell the crowd was behind me. It almost fell like it was a hometown crowd," said, Czisny, a senior at Bowling Green State University, after the short program. "I'm so happy they're so supportive."

Flatt and Zhang were second (60.19 points) and third (58.91), respectively, after the short program.

With a practice day in between the short program and the free skate, Czisny had a lot of time to think about her position and what was at stake, but she started her *Dr. Zhivago* program as if she didn't have a care in the world, effortlessly landing her first four jump elements

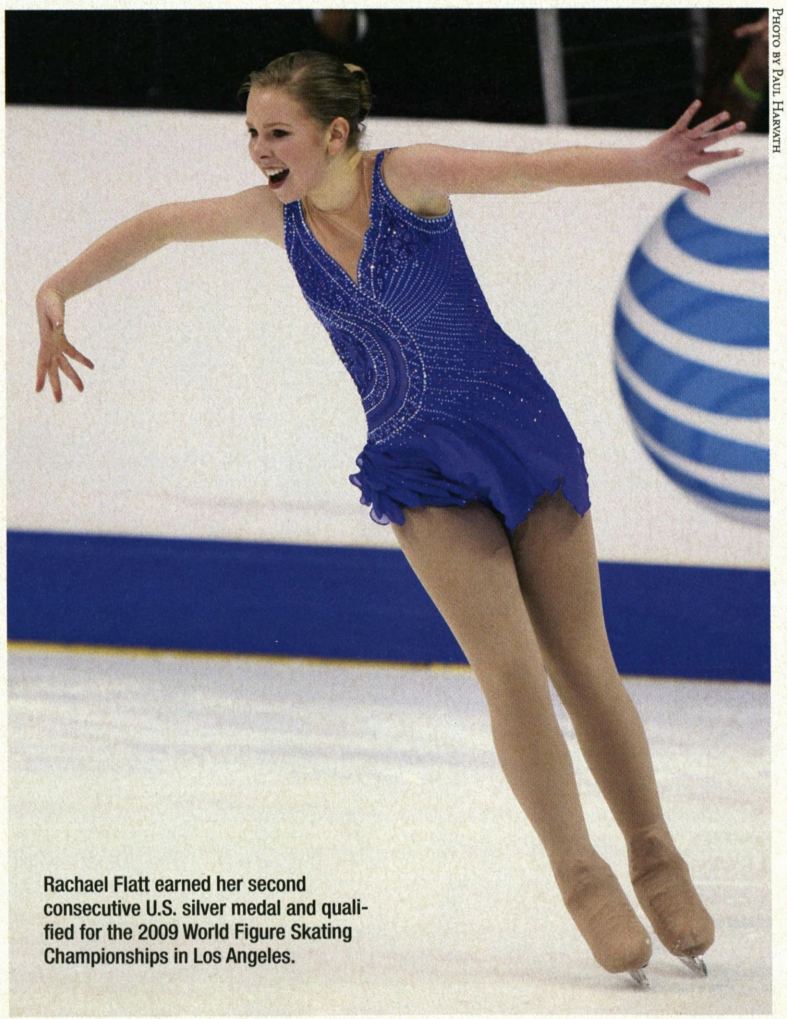


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Rachael Flatt earned her second consecutive U.S. silver medal and qualified for the 2009 World Figure Skating Championships in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Caroline Zhang jumped up one spot from last year to claim the bronze medal.

(triple Lutz-double toe, triple flip, triple loop, double Axel-double toe).

Her first hiccup came when she fell on her triple Lutz, and she followed that mistake by doubling the first part of her planned triple toe-double toe combination.

"I felt a little bit of pressure. Rarely have I gone into the long in first – usually my long is much better (than my short)," Czisny said. "I've been training so well, and I trusted that that was enough."

Though her technical elements score (52.68) was just the sixth highest in the segment, Czisny's program components mark (60.63) was easily the best of the night, and it was that which carried her to that ever elusive summit.

Photo by Mickey Brown

Rachael Flatt, middle, waits for the outcome of the ladies event in the AT&T Athletes Lounge.

"Throughout the years there have been a lot of disappointments and hard times," said Czisny, who was skating in her eighth U.S. Championships and coming off a ninth-place finish the previous year. "I can take them all and learn from them. They made me a better person, and they made me a better skater."

Flatt placed second in the free skate to win the silver for the second year in a row. She faltered on a few of her ordinarily rock-solid jumps, and she lacked the artistry of her main rivals.

Zhang's season-long Achilles heel reappeared in her "Ave Maria" free skate, as she received warnings for wrong-edge takeoffs on three of her jumps. Her score of 171.08 was good for third place, securing the first U.S. senior medal for the 15-year-old from Brea, Calif.

Ashley Wagner rallied from a 12th-place finish in the short program to win the free skate with a score of 115.05 points. ■

Ladies Notebook

Molly Oberstar

A model skater

Molly Oberstar's showing at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships may not have gone as well as she would have liked (she placed 15th in both segments to finish 15th overall), but she did find success in another competition. On a whim, Oberstar entered herself in *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine's* "Do You Want to Be a Real Model?" contest and, after four rounds of voting, was informed Feb. 18 that she was the grand-prize winner.

Oberstar will be featured in the magazine and online at www.mspmag.com.

"I was really excited when they told me I had won – I wasn't expecting it!" Oberstar said. "I'm so thankful for everyone who spent time voting for me. I hope this contest will give me a start in the right direction in the modeling world."

Oberstar has no previous modeling experience, but when she heard the contest advertised on local radio, she thought she'd give it a shot.

"I'm just tall enough to be a runway model – you have to be 5'8", Oberstar said. "People have asked me if I've tried modeling, and they've suggested it to me, but I just haven't met the right person."

A part-time freshman at the University of Minnesota, Oberstar made her modeling debut in February at the senior show put on by design majors at her school.

In the bio she submitted to the magazine, she wrote, "Figure skating has trained my body to move in myriad ways — from graceful to athletic — and my face to portray a wide range of emotions."

She also gets her confidence and self-assurance from the sport to which she has dedicated herself for the last 15 years.

"I feel like I could model because I really enjoy performing on the ice," Oberstar said. "When you're walking down the runway or posing for photos, you have to have an aura about you, and a certain attitude."

Fallen stars

The ladies competition at the 2009 U.S. Championships was missing some star power.

On the same day, Monday, Jan. 19, both Kimmie Meissner and Emily Hughes, who between them own five U.S. senior medals, withdrew from the competition citing injuries.

Meissner, the 2007 U.S. champion, aggravated her hip flexor about a week before the event, while Hughes hurt her ankle during a training session.

Hughes was also forced to pull out of the 2008 U.S. Championships, because of a hip injury.

"This was one of the most distressing decisions I have had to make," Hughes said. "It is the second year that I suffered an injury during my final preparation for the U.S. Championships."

Meissner sustained her injury while landing jumps on the ice in her training town of Coral Gables, Fla. She returned to her hometown of Bel Air, Md., to receive treatment from a physical therapist.

"I plan to get stronger and overcome my injury so that I can compete at the 2010 U.S. Championships," Meissner said.

Musademba watches history on television

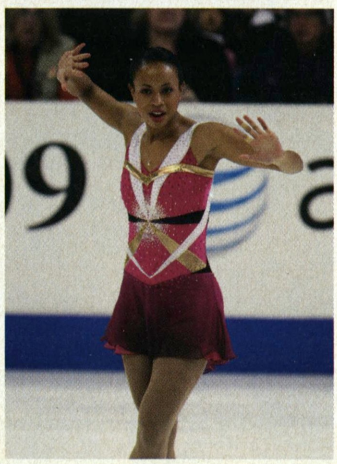
Kristine Musademba lives and trains in the Washington, D.C., area, and were it not for her having to compete at the U.S. Championships, she would have been a witness to history.

She left for the competition Jan. 20, the day Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, so instead of going to the National Mall with her friends, Musademba watched the proceedings on television.

"It was a good parting message for me to come out here with," said Musademba, whose mother is Philippino and whose father is Zimbabwean.

As the only senior ladies competitor in Cleveland who is African American, Musademba naturally stands out ... kind of like the new commander in chief.

"I hope I can inspire a lot of other people who come from different backgrounds," Musademba said. "If they work hard, they can make it up here, too."


Kristine Musademba

CER

"Advice for anybody - enjoy what you are doing, enjoy the process of learning and don't be impatient." ~ ROBIN COUSINS

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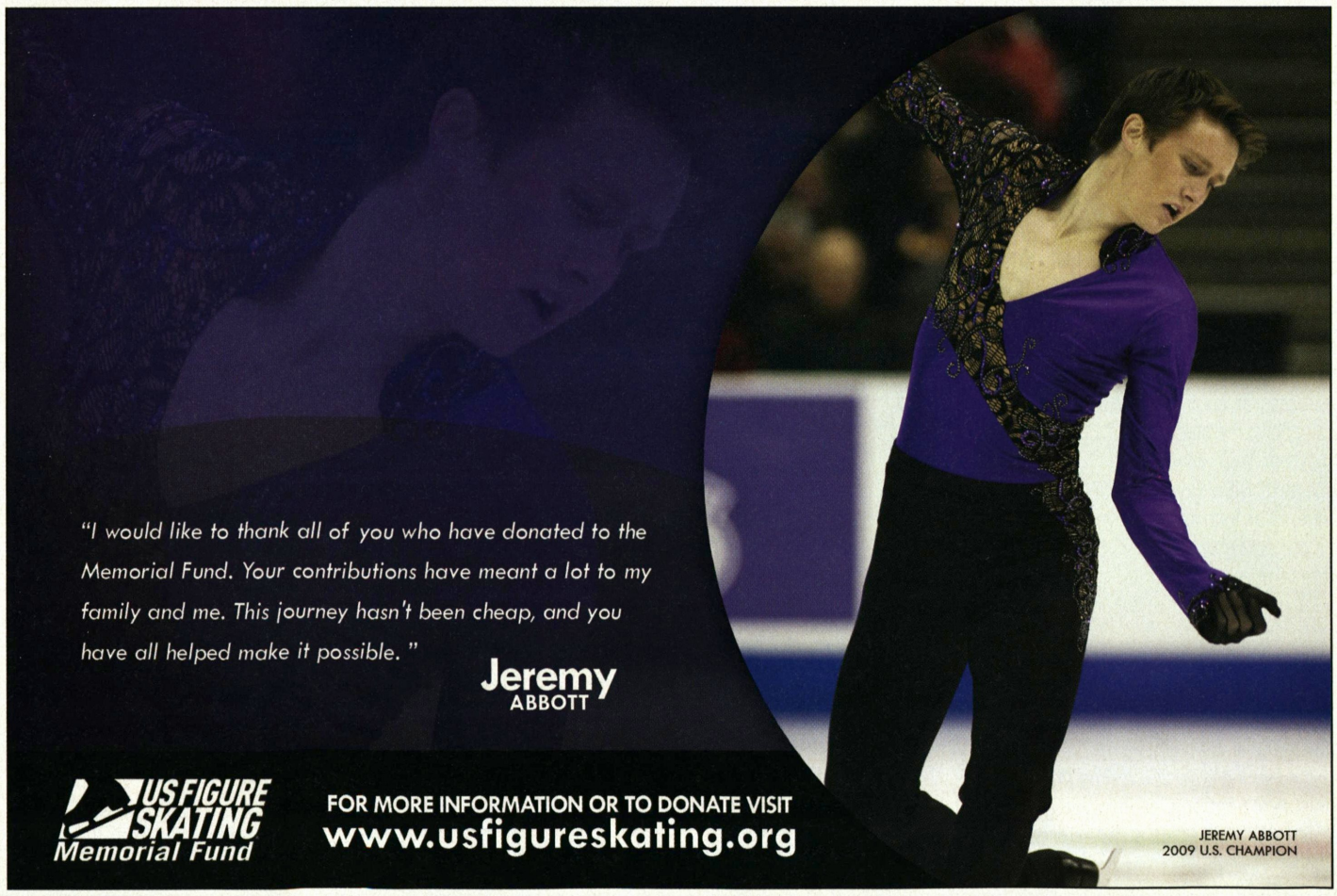

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Distinct advantage

Individuality pushes Abbott to top of U.S. ranks

BY TROY SCHWINDT

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Jeremy Abbott is nearing the end of his best season on the ice, having won major competitions both internationally and, in late January, at home, where he captured the 2009 U.S. men's title in Cleveland.

Since early November, Abbott has gone from being known as an artistic skater on the fringe of national acclaim to becoming a complete skater and a force to be reckoned with internationally.

With the 2010 Olympic Winter Games right around the corner, the 23-year-old Colorado native has helped make the U.S. men arguably the most talented and deepest group of skaters in the world.

"I see myself in my own category," said Abbott when asked who he feels he resembles most in terms of his skating style. "I don't think I skate like anybody else. I try and do what I can as well as I possibly can."

That individualism is something Abbott has encouraged and promoted for years at his childhood rink in Aspen, Colo. It was there that a 4-year-old Abbott watched Robin Cousins perform and became passionate about figure skating.

After winning the U.S. junior title in 2005, Abbott started the Jeremy Abbott Training Fund, which supports competitive-track boys at the Aspen Figure Skating Club.

"When Jeremy was growing up, there were only a few boys figure skating, and for the latter part of his Aspen career, he was the only one in a town full of hockey players," said Abbott's mother, Allison Scott. "He endured a lot to stay in the sport, and when the opportunity arose to help a couple boys, we jumped on it."

The fund has grown, Scott said, from $3,000 to enough money to help the boys and start another fund to help young competitive skaters attend regional championships in both qualifying and nonqualifying competitions.

"You cannot know where you are going without remembering where you started, and without appreciating everyone along the way that helped you get there," Scott said. "That's why Jeremy continues to help raise funds and, hopefully, inspire young Aspen Skating

MEDALISTS

GOLD
Jeremy Abbott – 241.89
SILVER
Brandon Mroz – 229.70
BRONZE
Evan Lysacek – 229.10
FOURTH
Ryan Bradley – 221.40

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

(l-r) Brandon Mroz, Jeremy Abbott, Evan Lysacek and Ryan Bradley

PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

Jeremy Abbott celebrates his U.S. men's title in the kiss and cry with choreographer Tom Dickson, left, and coach Tom Zakrajsek.

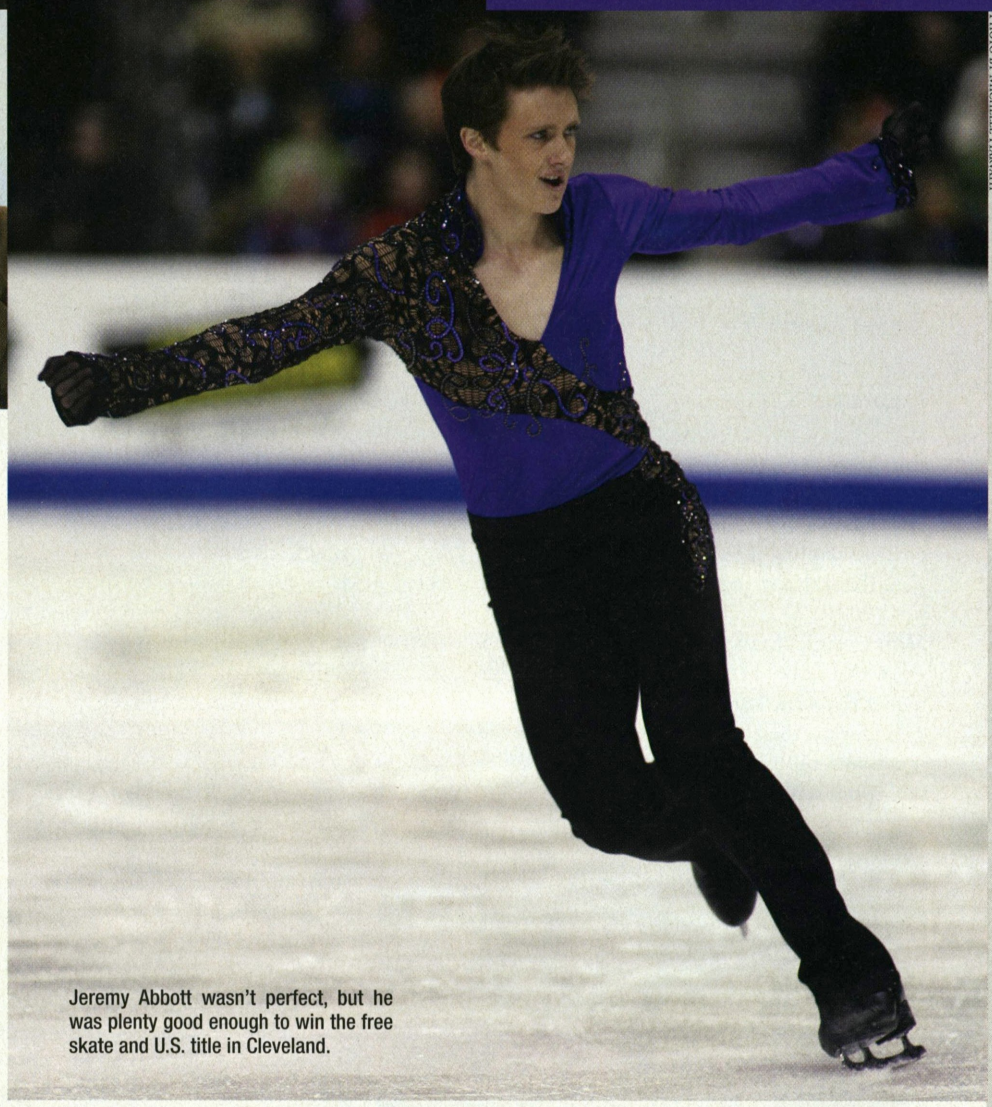


PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARNATH

Jeremy Abbott wasn't perfect, but he was plenty good enough to win the free skate and U.S. title in Cleveland.

Club members to follow their dreams, no matter who they are."

Since he was 14, Abbott has cultivated his talents and craft at the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., under the watchful eye of his coach, Tom Zakrajsek, and his entourage of prominent coaches and choreographers.

Abbott has worked long and hard to perfect his artistry as well as his athleticism. He's shown remarkable resilience and patience despite injuries and disappointing finishes, including a stress fracture in his back and fourth-place efforts at the 2007 and 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

"It's been amusing to see some people dub him as an overnight sensation, especially since this has been a long time in the making," said his stepfather, Allen Scott.

The international judging system (IJS), which has drawn its share of criticism for limiting the artistic side of the sport, has been embraced by Abbott and his camp during his rise up the ranks.

"I think I have always been an artistic skater," Abbott said. "I think I can do various things and don't feel like I have one style. I like to evolve my skating. I don't think the new system is a hindrance at all; I think you have to find what drives you as your art and be true to that."

Zakrajsek considers Abbott one of those skaters who can do it all and offers a combination of abilities that is "lethal" in the IJS.

Another key to Abbott's development is his training environment. He shares the ice with some of the country's top skaters, including U.S. silver medalist Brandon Mroz and 2007 U.S. silver medalist and 2009 U.S. fourth-place finisher Ryan Bradley. There are also two-time U.S. ladies silver medalist Rachael Flatt and two-time U.S. pairs champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker from whom to draw inspiration.

"I think it creates a positive atmosphere, but we are all friends, and we root for each other," Abbott said. "We do, however, try to best each other while training. I think it has helped all three of us to be on the podium."

Mroz agrees.

"(Jeremy and Ryan) are such great athletes, and we are all pushing each other to the next level," Mroz said.

The trio places friendly side wagers during practice on who can skate a clean program or land a quad.

Two-time U.S. champion Evan Lysacek, who earned the bronze medal in Cleveland, credited the Broadmoor men for their success.

"To have three of the top four men, they must be doing something right," Lysacek said. "They appear to have great camaraderie."

Abbott's performance in Cleveland mirrored those earlier in the season at the Cup of China and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, events he won handily. But despite his 12-point margin of victory in Cleveland, Abbott said he didn't have his best stuff.

"I was not extremely pleased with how I did today," Abbott said following the free skate. "I had a big mistake on the triple loop, and I really had to fight for some landings. Nothing felt smooth and easy. It wasn't quite up to par with my personal best; it wasn't even close."

Still, Abbott was all smiles after the competition, with all his goals and aspirations still in tact.

"I dream big and imagine my future as big as I possibly can," Abbott told reporters after the short program. "If it puts me in the likes of Olympic champions, then that's what I'm aiming for." ■

Abbott breaks 'streak'

Mroz, Lysacek secure silver, bronze

BY TROY SCHWINDT

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH
Jeremy Abbott

For five seasons, it was the "Johnny and Evan" show at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Johnny Weir ran the table from 2004-06, while Evan Lysacek commanded the top spot in 2007 and 2008.

Their rivalry reached a fevered pitch at the 2008 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., where they finished in a 244.77-244.77 tie, with Lysacek earning the title based on his higher free skate score.

During their journeys to the top of the mountain, both men admitted that defending their titles was the single hardest thing they experienced as champions.

Weir and Lysacek won't be carrying that heavy burden into the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash.

Jeremy Abbott will.

Abbott, 23, defeated one of the most talented fields in recent history en route to the gold medal. At least seven men entered the competition with a concrete shot at earning the title or a medal.

It was a fact not lost on Lysacek.

"We have a lot of depth in the men, straight down to the very last skater," Lysacek said. "It's something to be proud of. I think we are going to contend in Vancouver (Olympics), not just for one medal but multiple. Looking forward to Worlds, I think we are going to go in with a really strong team."

For Abbott, the U.S. title was the latest triumph in a season full of accomplishments. He won the Cup of China and then shocked the world by becoming the first U.S. man in history to win the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Abbott, who lives and trains in Colorado Springs, Colo., set the pace with his "Adagio" short program that featured an opening triple flip-triple toe combination and a triple Axel. Those elements alone earned Abbott 21 points. He went on to secure level threes and fours on his spins and footwork en route to a score of 86.40 points, three points more than Lysacek.

"Coming in here as the Grand Prix champion, I felt like I put a lot of pressure on myself to almost be perfect, and I struggled a bit with my training," Abbott said. "I just really put all that aside, and I focused on myself and relaxing and letting my performance just come out."

The biggest surprise after the short program was Parker Pennington, who returned to Cleveland last year to reunite with coach Carol Heiss Jenkins. Pennington, the 2001 U.S. junior champion, delivered a stunning short program that garnered 76.17 points and a rousing ovation.

"This was incredible, to give my best performance in front of my home crowd," Pennington said.

Abbott's training mates, first-year senior Brandon Mroz and veteran Ryan Bradley, positioned themselves nicely for the free skate by placing fourth and fifth, respectively, in the short program. Weir, however, struggled and

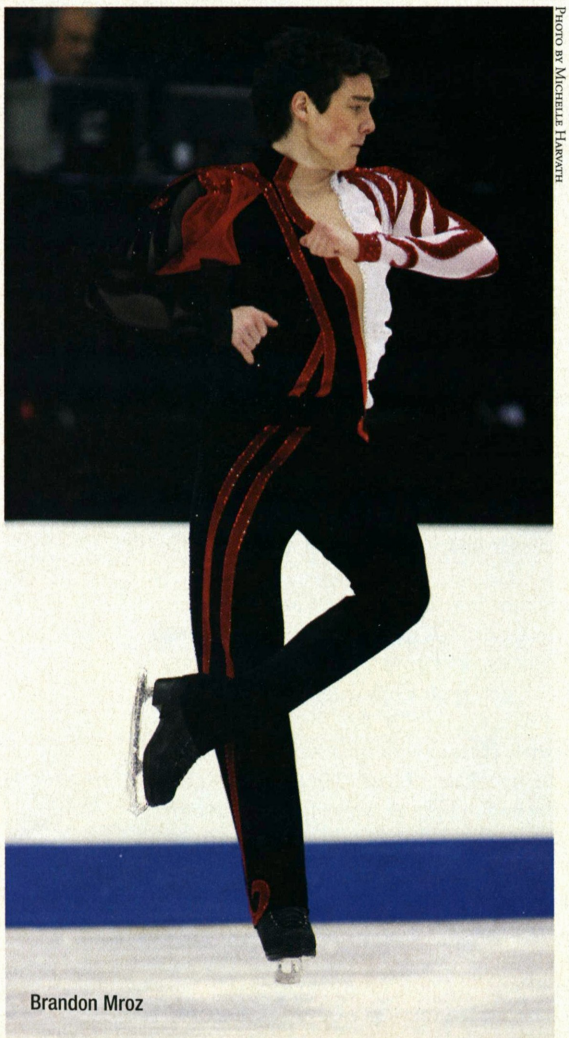


PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH
Brandon Mroz

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH
Evan Lysacek

ended up seventh.

Weir divulged that his training was hampered by a serious illness around the holidays, and that he didn't have enough time to get his strength back for his demanding programs. He did not fare much better in his free skate, placing fifth overall.

The final group in the free skate provided great drama during Sunday's matinee. Mroz, the 2007 and 2008 U.S. junior silver medalist, started things by nailing a quadruple toe loop and followed with a triple Axel-double toe combination. Mroz's element score of 82.12 was the best of the free skate and helped earn him an overall score of 229.70 and the silver medal.

"Getting that first jump set the tone for that program and made everything else more relaxed," said Mroz, a high school senior. "That quad is such a big point-getter, and I knew in this kind of field I had to get past that and the other big jumps ahead."

Bradley, the 2007 U.S. silver medalist, followed Mroz with his own opening quadruple toe loop and an ensuing triple Axel-triple toe combination. He popped a triple Salchow, however, and settled for third in the free skate and fourth overall with 221.40 points.

"It's bittersweet," said Bradley, who in 2000 made his senior U.S. Championships debut in Cleveland. "I only have one (U.S. senior) medal. This isn't the medal I wanted. I'm not there yet. I'm not ready to be a champion. I have one more year left to get ready."

Lysacek's hopes for a three-peat took a drastic turn when he fell on his opening quadruple toe loop, a slip-up that cost him a chance to challenge for the title.

"I think I definitely went for it all out," Lysacek said. "While it wasn't my finest, I've been training really well, and I felt very prepared going in. I had a great warm-up."

Lysacek did admit the strawberry balls that fans threw onto the ice after Bradley's performance threw him off a bit.

"I got a little bit out of my rhythm and felt like I was fighting to get it back throughout the program."

At the time, Lysacek's score of 229.10 left him second behind Mroz, with Pennington and Abbott left to go.

Pennington's aspirations for a medal were dashed in the free skate warm-up, when he fell on a triple jump and rolled his right ankle. He fell twice in his free skate and settled for eighth place overall.

Skating last, Abbott overcame nerves to deliver the best free skate of the event and emerge as the U.S. champion with 241.89 points.

His free skate to Piazzolla's "Eight Seasons" wasn't perfect by any means – he popped an intended triple loop and failed to complete a triple-triple combination – but his artistry shone through, as he received the highest component marks of the competition.

"I felt awful leading up to this event," Abbott said. "I felt awful today. I felt awful on the ice. I was able to control myself and do what I had to do. I wasn't happy with my performance, but I'm learning to compete and keep mistakes to a minimum." ■

Men's Notebook

Photos by Mickey Brown

Scott Smith exits the ice, unable to compete in Cleveland due to injury.

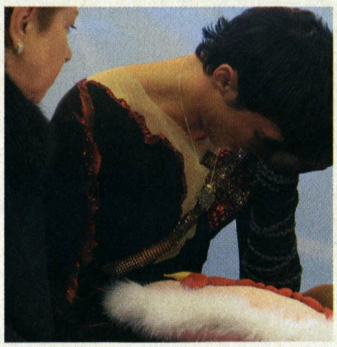
Stepping back

Two veteran skaters withdrew from the competition for different reasons. Scott Smith (Salt Lake FSC) withdrew as his name was called to perform his short program.

Smith, who was competing in his 10th U.S. Figure Skating Championships as a senior, aggravated a chronic back injury in practice and experienced back spasms prior to his skate. "My plan is to train all spring and summer and come back strong next season," Smith said. Nicholas LaRoche (All Year FSC) withdrew following his short program for personal reasons. LaRoche experienced a family tragedy last year when he lost both parents. Instead of giving up his passion for skating, he responded with an outstanding free skate at the Pacific Coast Sectional Figure Skating Championships and another solid short program performance in Cleveland. "I decided to withdraw from the free program because it wasn't about numbers or placement, it was about being satisfied," LaRoche said. "And I was more than satisfied."

Mixing it up

Following his free skate, three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir talked about how a serious illness around the holidays affected his training and preparation for the U.S. Championships. One reporter responded by telling Weir that former NBA great Michael Jordan played when he could barely stand up and was sick with the flu. "It seems like you are making an excuse for yourself," the reporter said. Weir promptly responded, "It may sound like an excuse but you have to imagine that Michael Jordan has an entire team around him. I'm a single, skinny, sparkly boy standing in the middle of the ice by myself." He added that it's hard for people who are not high- level figure skaters to understand the "torture" training takes on the body and how detrimental missing practice time can be entering a major competition.



Coach Galina Zmievskaya consoles a disappointed Johnny Weir.

Bring it on

While Brandon Mroz might have been one of the youngest skaters in the men's senior division, he wasn't intimidated by its high-caliber roster. Besides training alongside champion Jeremy Abbott and 2007 U.S. silver medalist Ryan Bradley, Mroz faced top competition all fall during the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series. "Skating against the best proved I'm one of the best," he said. "I just need to keep my head on straight and push everything out and trust myself."

New home

Adam Rippon

Adam Rippon overcame a disappointing 12th-place effort in the short program by finishing sixth in the free skate and seventh overall. Rippon recently switched coaches and is now under the watchful eye of two-time Olympic silver medalist Brian Orser in Toronto, Canada. Rippon won't have to worry about finding inspiration at his new training site. He is sharing the ice with two-time World bronze medalist Yu-Na Kim. "She's incredibly focused and one of the best lady skaters," Rippon said.

Photo by Paul Harvath

'Thinking like the Germans'

A more mature McLaughlin and Brubaker refocus to hang with world's best

BY BECCA STAED

Defending pairs champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker knew reclaiming their title would be tough.

They didn't expect, however, to face a serious illness and talented newcomers who appeared from nowhere on top of that challenge. Their 178.76-point finish topped newly formed runners-up Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett by only 2.49 points.

But their competitive edge and resilience brought them full circle, standing atop the pairs podium with gold medals dangling from their necks.

"This U.S. Championships is probably the hardest competition we have had to do," Brubaker said. "It was a stepping stone for us. Everyone has been telling me that you can win five times in a row, but the second one is always the hardest.

"We owe it to our competitors because we would not have been able to go out and fight as hard as we did had we not had such worthy opponents."

McLaughlin and Brubaker were well aware of the hype surrounding their second straight attempt at gold, but described it as "exciting" rather than worrisome, illustrating the young optimism that sustains them.

"You definitely realize the expectation," Brubaker said. "Everyone is looking at you, watching to see what you are going to do."

Add to it McLaughlin's case of the flu, which hit exactly a week before

MEDALISTS

GOLD
Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker – 178.76

SILVER
Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett – 176.27

BRONZE
Rena Inoue/John Baldwin – 171.08

FOURTH
Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig – 159.95

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett, Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker, Rena Inoue and John Baldwin and Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig

the free skate, sapping her of energy and general well-being, nearly causing them to withdraw.

"No competition will ever compare to this as far as getting through adversity and overcoming what she had to," coach Dalilah Sappenfield said. "She wanted to compete and fight through it, and that is something they have to learn to do."

However unwell McLaughlin felt, her willpower prevailed.

"My illness was definitely on my mind," McLaughlin said after the free skate. "I was coughing a ton during the warm-up and trying to keep what I had in my stomach in my stomach and not on the ice. It was a little harder to breathe, but adrenaline kicked in and helped me get through it."

In the short program, the couple received a quick jab from Denney and Barrett, who took the lead by less than half a point. But McLaughlin and Brubaker aren't the same bright-eyed, bushy-tailed team they were in 2008, when, after two years together, they became the youngest senior pairs titlists since 1989 and the first in more than half a century to win successive U.S. titles on the junior and senior levels, leaving many to wonder if they would sink or float.

Their growth as a team was evident at both the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships and in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series, where they earned bronze at Skate America and silver at Skate Canada. In a tie-breaker, they missed advancing to the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final because of a botched combination spin at Skate Canada.

"That was hard to swallow," Brubaker said, "and then coming here with the hype of, 'Are they going to do it again?' and getting to Worlds in L.A. You realize in those moments how much you love being at the top."

Last season, the team concentrated on skating clean. But this season, with the guidance of Sappenfield, they are "trying to think like the Germans" (World champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy), who won the 2008 World Figure Skating Championships by separating themselves in the component marks despite two major mistakes in their free skate. By focusing their energy on performance, the golden pair hope to join or beat the world's best.

"The component mark is an area where we have to grow," Sappenfield said. "You are not always going to have clean programs, and we need to develop that part to compete with the best in the world."

Their hard work showed at the U.S. Championships, where, despite the higher element score posted by Denney and Barrett, McLaughlin and Brubaker locked in the win with their 59.48-point component mark that bested the silver and bronze medalists by 3.87 and 4.57, respectively.

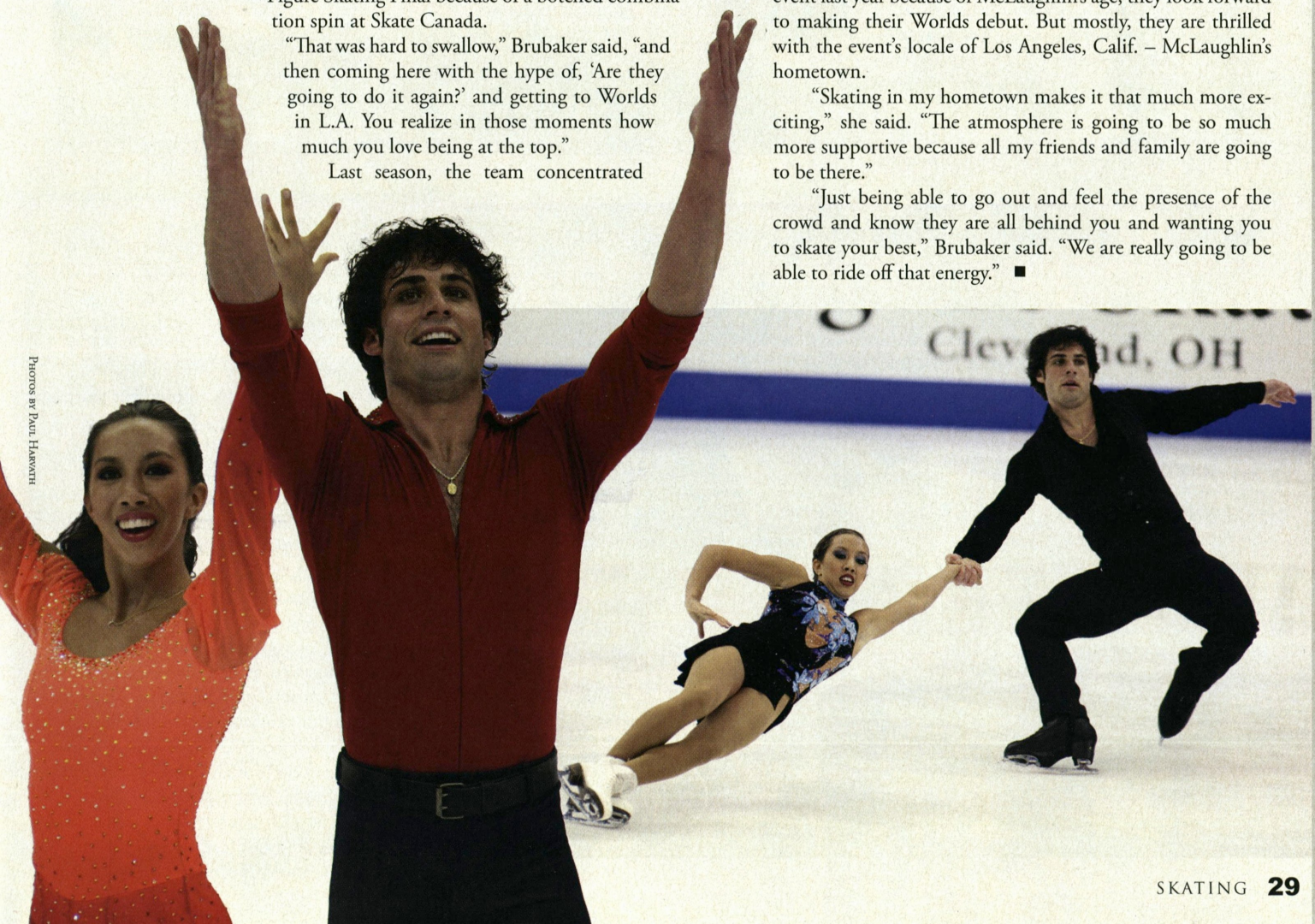
"So far, we have kind of seen the result, but we know we still have a long way to go," Brubaker said. "We know we are headed in the right direction, and that plays a part in the way judges see a team as far as your whole package goes."

In February, the pair finished fifth at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships – 30 points behind champions Qing Pang and Jian Tong of China – but will regroup and begin preparing for the World Championships in March.

After qualifying but not being able to compete at the event last year because of McLaughlin's age, they look forward to making their Worlds debut. But mostly, they are thrilled with the event's locale of Los Angeles, Calif. – McLaughlin's hometown.

"Skating in my hometown makes it that much more exciting," she said. "The atmosphere is going to be so much more supportive because all my friends and family are going to be there."

"Just being able to go out and feel the presence of the crowd and know they are all behind you and wanting you to skate your best," Brubaker said. "We are really going to be able to ride off that energy." ■



PHOTOS BY PAUL HARVATH

A flu's gold

Champions pushed to limit by new team

BY BECCA STAED

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker

Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker claimed the U.S. pairs title by a 2.49-point margin over newcomers Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett, becoming the only repeat winners at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships, as defending champions were uprooted in ladies, men's and ice dancing. Rena Inoue and John Baldwin returned for their ninth straight U.S. Championships, landing on the podium for the seventh time, with a bronze medal.

But as senior pairs commenced at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, the event did not play out so predictably.

After a couple bad landings and an erratic side-by-side combination spin in their "Malaguena" short program, the heavy favorites took a backseat to the fresher Denney and Barrett, whose near-flawless *James Bond* program earned a 61.51-point segment score to put them in the lead by .39.

There was also the added pressure of a flu-ridden McLaughlin, whose condition affected the team's ability to compete.

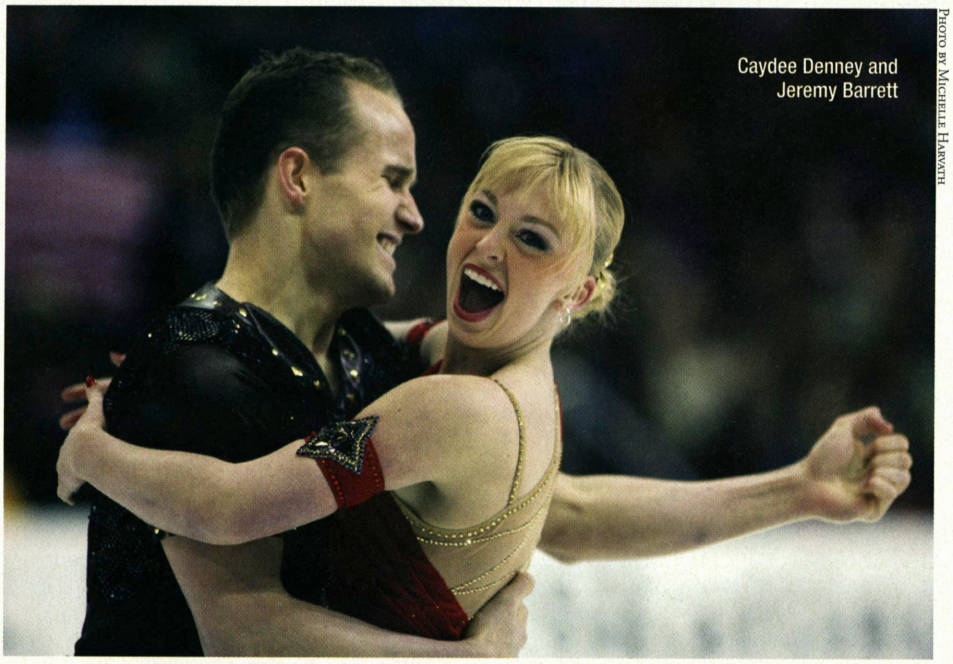


PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Rena Inoue and John Baldwin

"There were definitely moments in my program when I thought, 'I can't do this. Just let me stop, just let me have a breather, just let me have a trash can,' " McLaughlin said. "But I just kept going."

The team has noticeably matured since last year, particularly in its component marks, which ultimately bolstered it to the top. In their *West Side Story* free skate, McLaughlin's and Brubaker's element score trailed that of Denney and Barrett by .69 points, but their 59.48-point component mark led them by more than five points. They finished with 178.76 points.

Strong component marks will be an advantage, too, when they face the world's best pairs teams in March at the World Figure Skating Championships in Los Angeles, alongside Denney and Barrett, who paired up just nine months ago but proved they are a force to be reckoned with both by their national showing and their fourth-place finish at the 2008 Nebelhorn Trophy, where they skated against reigning World champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany.

The 24-year-old Barrett's last appearance

at the U.S. Championships, in 2006, ended in an 11th-place finish in senior pairs with Shantal Jordan. Before Barrett, the 15-year-old Denney, who is a former national roller skating champion, had never skated pairs on ice before.

"Some teams just click," coach Jim Peterson said. "They are very competitive and have an extremely good work ethic. They will try to figure out what went wrong in the process. It's not just throwing themselves wildly in the air; they go through the mechanics of it."

It showed, and though the duo did not retain its slim short-program lead, it put out a spotless ballet-inspired free skate to *Spartacus* that received the highest element score of the night (59.85), for 114.76 points in the segment and 176.27 points overall.

"We just wanted to make sure that we took one element at a time," Barrett said. "We fought for every element, and it just kind of clicked along."

Inoue and Baldwin remained steady in third place throughout the event, earning their second U.S. bronze medal with a 171.08-point total. The couple, which commanded the stage last year after Baldwin's on-ice proposal to Inoue, sidelined wedding plans this year to focus on training.

"When it came to hunkering down and training for the Grand Prix and this event, we focused more on that because we wanted to have a good showing whereas, last year, it was just for fun," Baldwin said.

Inoue and Baldwin, the two oldest U.S. competitors at 32 and 35, respectively, have no plans to retire from competition, despite pressure from some that they should make way for younger hopefuls.

"You don't shoot the horse if he can still run," Baldwin said. "There's no reason why we wouldn't be doing the next Olympics."

More than anything, though, the duo delights in performing for its fans.

"We know our economy is really bad, but people still buy tickets to come see us," Inoue said. "So we take this as our responsibility to make people happy and, that when they leave, say it was worth it."

Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig moved up from sixth after the short program to fourth place overall following an exquisite free skate to Tchaikovsky's "Pas de Deux" that brought the crowd to its feet. ■

Pairs Notebook

Mark Ladwig is expecting his first child this fall.

Expecting

Pairs skater Mark Ladwig is expecting his first child in September with his wife of two years, Janet, who will graduate soon with a degree in interior design from the International Academy of Design & Technology in Tampa, Fla.

"Janet and I only recently started trying to have a baby, and both of us didn't expect it to happen so soon," the 28-year-old Ladwig said. "It was easy to become a father, now I have to learn to be a good one."

McLaughlin fights through illness

Hit by the flu a week before the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Keauna McLaughlin was battling uncontrollable coughing fits, a fever and bouts of vomiting in the days prior to and during competition. As a result, the pairs skater spent hours with the on-site medical staff being treated and debating her capacity to compete.

It was up to the medical staff to make sure that the medicine McLaughlin received was permitted by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). She was given heavy doses of cough medicine with codeine to ease her nagging cough.

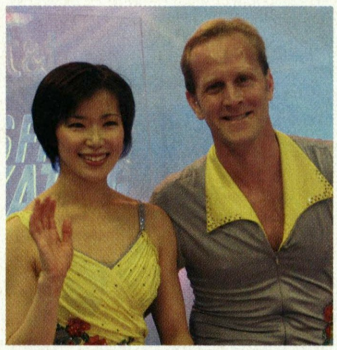
"It was a virus that had to take its course," coach Dalilah Sappenfield said. "I am so proud of her that she fought through, and as a team, they did it together."

Still going strong

The 35-year-old John Baldwin made his 23rd appearance at the U.S. Championships this year and says he has no plans of stopping.

"That's what competition is about," he said. "You can't tell someone to stop. If you think you are better than them, put it out there in competition. The reason Rena and I are still here is that we enjoy the competition and the crowd."

Baldwin's first showing was as a novice man in 1986, when he placed ninth. In 1988, he missed qualifying for the event as a junior man, which would have chalked up his total U.S. Championships appearances to 24. In those years, he's accumulated 13 top-three finishes in pairs and men's and had approximately four pairs coaches, six total coaches and two pairs partners, including current partner and fiancé Rena Inoue.



Rena Inoue and John Baldwin kept their medal charge going in Cleveland.

Rollergirl

Before turning to the ice rink, 15-year-old Caydee Denney, U.S. silver medalist with partner Jeremy Barrett, strutted her stuff around the roller skating rink. At age 9, she won her first national title in roller skating as a juvenile lady and followed that with a win in elementary pairs, which is akin to intermediate pairs by U.S. Figure Skating standards.

"Roller skating was something I did when I was little," Denney said. "And it sure did help me when I switched over to ice to pick up things a little bit quicker and easier, but the level I was skating at in roller is not what I am doing now."

The native Floridian's parents are former World champion roller skaters, and her sister, Haven, 13, won the silver medal in novice pairs with partner Daniel Raad earlier in the week at the U.S. Championships.

"It's great for Caydee because her parents actually understand the challenges and what needs to take place to make a champion athlete," coach Jim Peterson said.

Birthday surprise

Pairs skater Rockne Brubaker wanted to wish his mom, whose birthday coincided with the day of the free skate, a happy birthday in a unique way, so he donned a hand-crafted T-shirt with "Happy Birthday, Mom" written in black Sharpie in the kiss and cry following his and partner Keauna McLaughlin's free skate.

"My brother (junior ice dancer Collin Brubaker) and I are always very creative and always make my mom laugh," said the 22-year-old. "I know she didn't expect it, but she always expects us to do things that are outrageous, and I said, 'What better way to wish her a happy birthday than on national television.'"

Keeping their balance

Davis and White accomplishing everything along the way

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

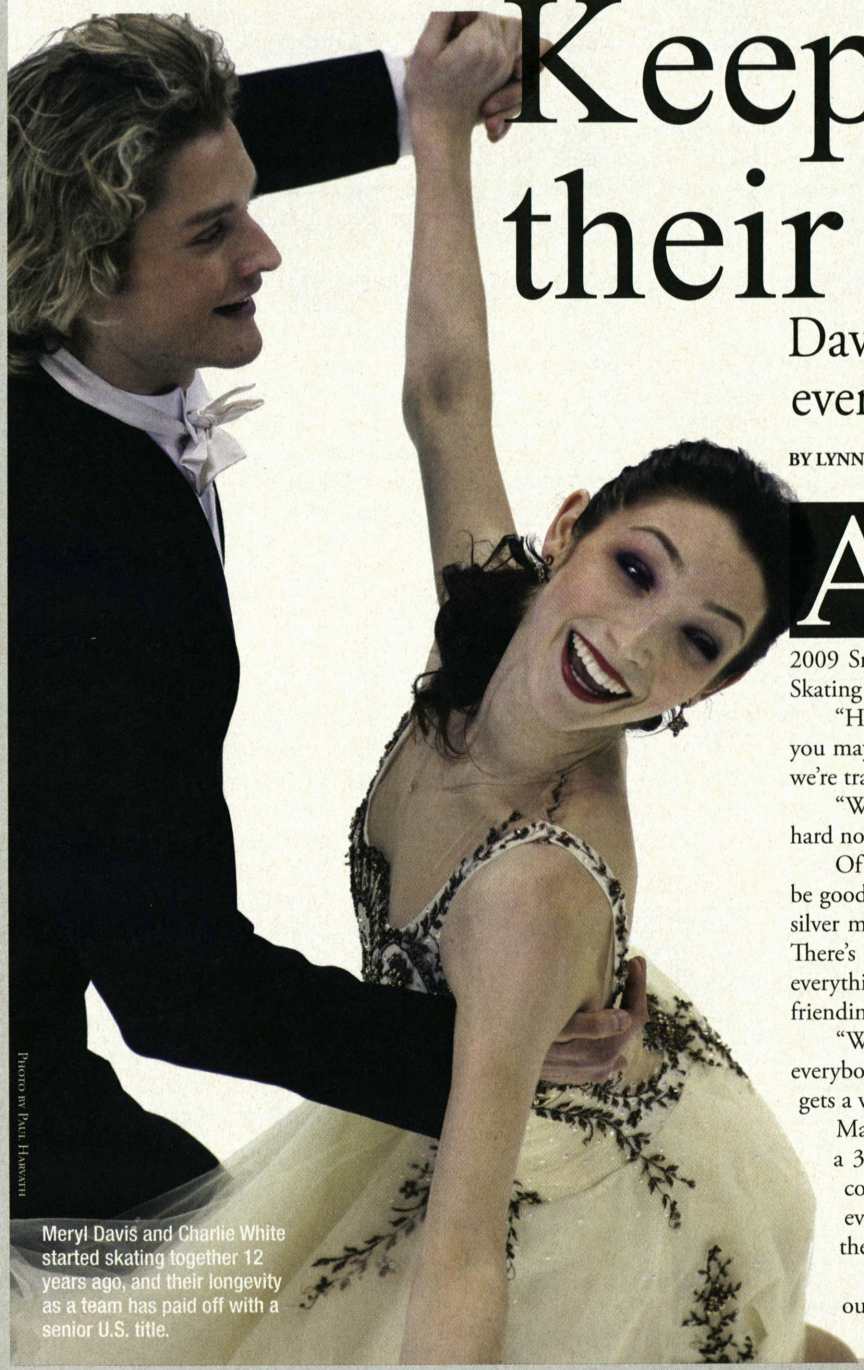


Photo by Paul Harvath

Meryl Davis and Charlie White started skating together 12 years ago, and their longevity as a team has paid off with a senior U.S. title.

As far as Meryl Davis and Charlie White are concerned, just because you're competing for the same medal, that doesn't mean you can't share a few laughs.

So when Evan Bates did an unlikely John Travolta, circa *Saturday Night Fever,* impersonation during the 2009 Smuckers Skating Spectacular at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January, they led the laughter backstage.

"Here we are at nationals and people would sometimes think that you may not like your closest competitor, but we're in the same spot, we're training day in and day out," Davis said.

"We've grown up together and Evan is just a really funny guy. It's hard not to be friends with him," White said.

Of course, Davis and White, 22 and 21 respectively, can afford to be good sports. They won their first U.S. senior ice dancing title over silver medalists Bates and Emily Samuelson by more than 20 points. There's little doubt they bring the same blend of focus and grace to everything they do, from collecting medals to hitting the books to befriending virtually everyone on the skating circuit.

"We're pretty friendly at competitions," White said. "We say hi to everybody and generally we're very approachable. I don't think anyone gets a vibe that we're out to get them."

Maybe that's because there's more to their lives than gliding on a 3/16-inch blade. Despite an unquestioned will to win – their coach, Igor Shpilband, calls them "the hardest-working team I've ever known" – and four hours a day on the ice in Canton, Mich., the two make time for other pursuits.

"Charlie and I have always tried to have a life in skating and out of skating," Davis said. "I think it's balancing our lives quite

MEDALISTS

GOLD

Meryl Davis/Charlie White – 201.68

SILVER

Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates – 181.64

BRONZE

Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre – 176.30

FOURTH

Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell – 171.51

Photos by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre and Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Meryl Davis and Charlie White took an early lead with their elegant Viennese Waltz.

a bit. I don't know if one is necessarily better than the other, but it's just nice to have that kind of escape and it's definitely necessary for our sanity."

For Davis and White, that means studying at the University of Michigan, about 12 miles from their rink. So far, the fast-rising duo is taking the competing demands in stride. Aided by their school's flexible scheduling policies, the two sophomores are making the most of every opportunity that comes their way.

PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

Meryl Davis and Charlie White react to their scores in the kiss and cry.

"It's really not as demanding as our schedules used to be in high school, when we were going to school full time and then skating in the afternoon," Davis said. "I feel like I have a lot more free time now."

An anthropology major, Davis' love is romance languages. She's studying French and Italian and eagerly converses with her international competitors, especially Italians Federica Faiella and Massimo Scali.

White is taking his time declaring a major.

"I'm undecided right now," White said. "Later on I'd like to go to law school. We'll see how that goes."

The ice dancer shares an apartment with fellow Wolverines Bates and Detroit-based pairs skater Trevor Young. Come this fall, Alex Shibutani, who recently won the U.S. junior ice dancing silver medal with sister Maia, will move in as well.

"It's not an Animal House atmosphere," White said. "We're athletes; we take care of ourselves. And we're not football players, we're figure skaters.

"We all understand what the other person is going through. If you're in a dorm, everyone else is on a completely different schedule from you. We're all on very similar schedules. We have to do everything in a certain amount of time; we only have so much time for school. We understand that, and it's been working out really well."

Davis expanded her social circle by pledging University of Michigan's Delta Delta Delta chapter and lives in the campus' sorority house.

"I love it; I have so much fun all the time," she said.

For now, their thoughts revolve around skating, especially the 2009 ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Los Angeles.

"They already competed with the top teams in the world and proved they could (beat them) when they placed in the top three at the Grand Prix Final," said Shpilband, who also coaches Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Canada's World silver medalists. "I think they are one of the best teams in the world."

Teamed by former coach Seth Chafetz in 1997, Davis and White have competed together longer than any other U.S. ice dancing or pairs team. Often, they're so simpatico they don't have to think too much about where the other will be on the ice.

"I would say we have the same commitment," White said. "A lot of times it doesn't happen like that. To be able to come in and have the same work ethic as your partner and not have to bicker about little things you shouldn't have to is a real privilege."

At this stage, Shpilband says they are almost entirely self-motivated.

"They are so ready they can't wait to go on to the ice," he said. "I don't really need to motivate them. I just say, 'Use the music, look right at the audience, and take your time.'"

The couple may comply with their coach's first two requests but not the third. In their first two years as seniors, they placed seventh and sixth at the World Championships. Less than two weeks after winning their first U.S. title, they won the Four Continents crown, defeating longtime rivals and good friends Virtue and Moir for the first time as seniors.

Shpilband, who coached five-time U.S. ice dancing champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto for 10 years, thinks his new top American team can ascend to the podium in Los Angeles and at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

"I don't have a magic wand," he said, "but they've proven themselves." ■

'Same commitment'

Davis, White breeze to first U.S. title

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

Photo by Paul Harvath

Meryl Davis and Charlie White

Meryl Davis (Arctic FSC) and Charlie White (Detroit SC) breezed to their first U.S. senior ice dancing title with a score of 201.68 points, more than 20 points ahead of the field.

The couple, who train in Canton, Mich., under Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva, led from start to finish. They began the event with an effervescent Viennese Waltz compulsory, and then added to their lead with a sprightly tap-inspired original dance to "Happy Feet."

Finally, they entranced the audience with an elegant and intricate free dance, choreographed by Shpilband, to selections from Camille Saint-Saens.

"I think we really went out there and left it all on the ice," Davis said. "It was nice to nail both the elements and the character of the dance."

The couple gained level fours for seven out of nine elements, including their combination lift. They faltered slightly on a difficult twizzle sequence, dropping it to a level two, but had positive grades of execution for every move.

"It's a challenging program, and this was the best performance (of it) so far this year," said Shpilband, who has coached the couple since 2005.

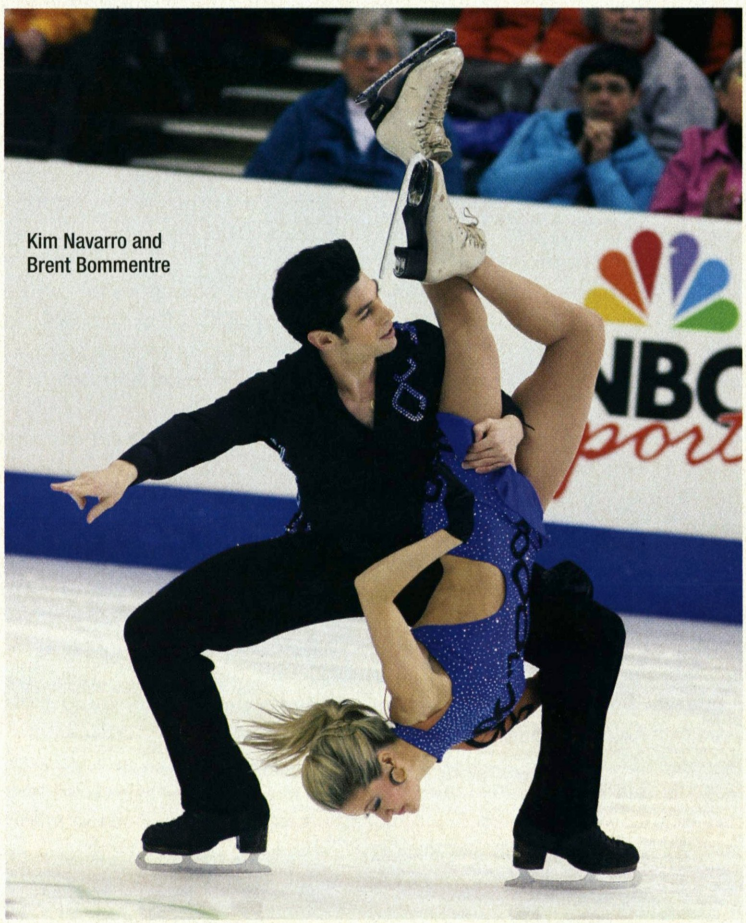
Much of the discussion in Cleveland centered on the absence of five-time U.S. ice dancing champions Tanith Belbin and Benjamin Agosto, who withdrew from the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships due to Agosto's back injury. Shpilband coached the team for more than a decade until they left Canton last spring to train under Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov in Aston, Pa.

"I don't think it would change anything if Tanith and Ben were here; I wish they could have come," Shpilband said. "Meryl and Charlie were ready to go and compete."

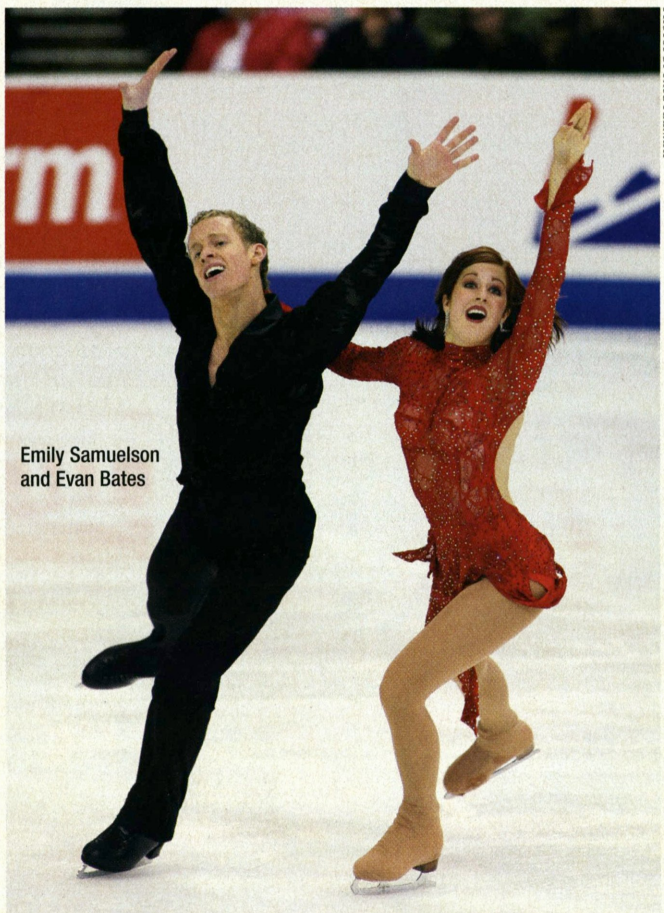
Davis and White, 22 and 21 respectively, have skated together since 1997, making them the longest-running eligible dance or pairs team in the United States.

"Luck is a big part of it," Davis said. "Charlie and I grew up 10 minutes down the road from each other, we still live in the houses we were born in, and our parents are best friends."

"We have the same commitment," White added. "A lot of times it doesn't happen like that. To be able to come in and have the same work ethic as your partner and not have to bicker about little things you shouldn't have to, is a real privilege."



Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre



Photos by Paul Harvath

Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates

The 2008 World Junior champions Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates (Ann Arbor FSC), second throughout the competition, claimed the silver medal with a solid free dance to music from Maksim Mrvica. They ended the competition with 181.64 points, qualifying them for their first U.S. World Team.

"We're really happy with the free dance; we had one mistake on one element but the rest was really good," Bates, 19, said. "The dance spin got screwed up and it won't happen again."

"We're going to go home and improve ourselves and keep working, because there's always room for improvement," Samuelson, 18, added. "Going to worlds is awesome. I don't think it's sunk in yet."

Kimberly Navarro (Santa Rosa FSC) and Brent Bommentre (Philadelphia SC & HS) repeated as bronze medalists, recovering from a sixth-place finish in the original dance to take third in the free dance with an entertaining routine to music from Fatboy Slim.

"This free dance we're doing, I think, is pretty tough," Bommentre, 24, said. "Up until nationals, since NHK (Trophy), we had seven weeks and we changed a whole bunch of stuff – both of the step sequences, lots of transitions and the spin. We really took a hard look at the program."

The 2008 U.S. junior champions Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell (Ann Arbor FSC), competing at the U.S. Championships as seniors for the first time, were fourth in all three phases of the competition.

"Our goal was top five and we accomplished that," Madison, 17, said. "I think we've shown the judges we fit in as a U.S. senior team."

"My lungs hurt at the end of that (four-minute) free dance," Keiffer, 20, added. "I'm excited to go back to the shorter version for junior worlds." ■

Ice Dancing Notebook

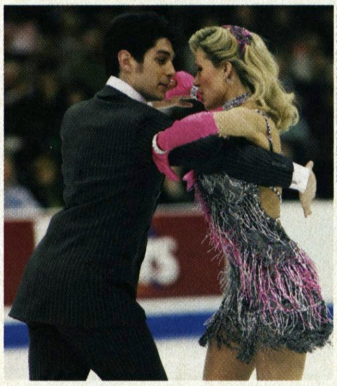


Photo by Michelle Harvath

Two-time U.S. bronze medalists Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre received direction this season for their original dance and free dance from Barry Lather and Louis van Amstel, who are major players on "Dancing With The Stars."

Let's dance

Kristi Yamaguchi isn't the only skater who has worked with choreographers from the hit TV show "Dancing with the Stars." U.S. ice dancing bronze medalists Kimberly Navarro and Brent Bommentre gave it a whirl, too.

The duo teamed with Emmy-nominated Barry Lather, who directed a DWTS live tour, to create their free dance to the music of Fatboy Slim. Then they turned to three-time ballroom world champion Louis van Amstel, who has partnered celebrity contestants in four seasons of DWTS and also choreographed many of the show's group numbers, to create their original dance.

"I love working with ice dancers; it's a change of scene for me," said Van Amstel, who also worked with former World bronze medalists Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovskiof Israel.

"What I love about Kim and Brent is they are really out of the box. They don't care so much about conventional ice dancing; they want to stay within the rules, but they want it to be very interesting."

Van Amstel – a demanding teacher with his DWTS celebrity partners Trista Sutter of "Bachelorette" fame; High School Musical's Monique Coleman; soap opera star Lisa Rinna; and Priscilla Presley – is high on the couple.

"They look great together," he said. "They are both, in my eyes, equally talented and as a couple have a lot of chemistry. For me, ice dance is all about the male-female relationship."

"Louis thinks ice dancers should show more musicality and connection with their partners," Navarro said. "He had great tips, from how to be more expressive to how to be a better partner."

Need a lift?

First-time seniors Madison and Keiffer Hubbell were delighted with their fourth-place finish, but different rules for the junior and senior free dances cost them points. Not only is the senior free dance some 30 seconds longer but it requires four different types of lifts. That meant the siblings had to reconstruct their "Sognami" free dance at the last minute.

"The final section of the program had to change because of the lift," Madison said. "The technical specialist said we had to have a rotational (lift) instead of two straight-line lifts. So we changed it the day before the final."

Keiffer explained that with so little time to work a rotational lift into their program, they didn't want to risk anything above a level one.

"We just did a lift we were comfortable with," he said. "We've had some accidents. We fell (on a lift) in June (2007) and it took us out of the entire Junior Grand Prix Series."

Both Hubbells want to be healthy for their third trip to the World Junior Figure Skating Championships in February.

"This will be the first time we go that neither of us has been sick or injured, or that we haven't competed the whole year," Madison said. "Our true goal is to win."

Photos by Mickey Brown

While ice dancers Charlie White and Evan Bates compete against each other on the biggest stages, they are good friends and college roommates.

Good pals

With best pals Charlie White and Evan Bates around, ice dancing press conferences were less than serious.

"You beat us by 20 points here; at junior worlds (in 2006) you beat us by 30, so we're gaining on you," Bates said.

It's not that Bates doesn't want to win; it's just that they leave their rivalry on the ice.

"My dad is shocked by it. He doesn't understand how you can be competitors and then such good friends off the ice," Bates said.

"We've known Charlie for quite some time, and we've always been close friends, and I don't think skating is important enough to ruin a friendship like that. We're competitive with everything we do, video games are very, very serious, but at the end of the day we're still going to be good friends."

White, Bates and pairs skater Trevor Young even share a house at the University of Michigan, where all are students. In the fall, Alex Shibutani will join them.

"There are a lot of advantages to it," Bates said. "I think when you're an athlete you have a lot of things you need to do to take care of your body, get enough rest and all those things. If you're just living with regular college guys, it's not going to happen as well."

Photo by Lynn Plage

Olympic champions Scott Hamilton and Kristi Yamaguchi did a live "Today Show" interview from the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. Hamilton and Yamaguchi were just two of dozens of U.S. Figure Skating greats who attended the competition.

Boitano addresses Team 2014

Olympic champion Brian Boitano delivered an inspiring message to U.S. Figure Skating's Team 2014 at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland.

The two-time World titlist talked about perseverance and loving what you do as key components for success. Having a solid support system is also important, he said.

Boitano, the 1988 Olympic champion, addressed all the novice skaters, their parents and coaches during a breakfast on Jan. 21. Boitano works in U.S. Figure Skating's mentorship program and helped Alissa Czisny capture a gold medal in Cleveland.

Following the breakfast and keynote address, athletes, parents and coaches each attended presentations pertaining specifically to them.

The athletes sat in on seminars on the international judging system, media training, doping control and a fun activity hosted by the Olympic University. They spent time with a U.S. judge and technical specialist and practiced judging an event in their discipline.

Coaches learned how to maximize points in the international judging system as well as how to communicate with the media and the importance of quad planning and monitoring.

Parents learned from Kelly Rippon, mother of senior competitor Adam Rippon, how to handle the stress of being a skating parent. They also attended round-table discussions with the Professional Skaters Association and the Parents Committee and learned about international competitions, anti-doping and fundraising.

Cleveland-area SkateFests a major hit

More than 1,000 people took part in 14 Cleveland-area SkateFests in conjunction with the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships

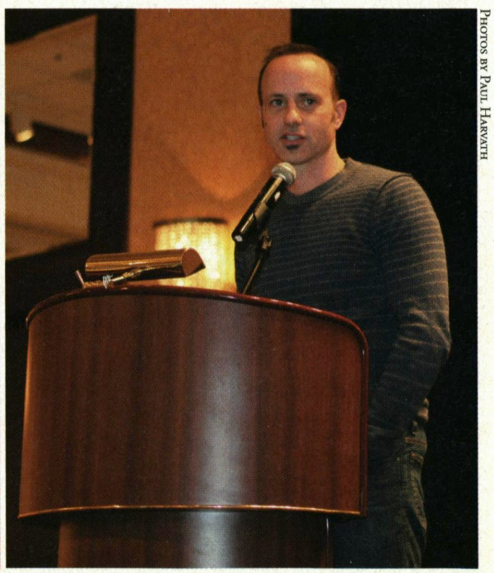
Thirty-five U.S. novice and junior competitors attended the SkateFests, where they met the public and signed autographs in celebration of National Skating Month.

SkateFest organizers were in charge of their own activities, which included open skating, free lessons, mini-exhibitions and skill demonstrations by the guest and local club skaters. Each participant was given information about local programs and souvenirs to take home. Each SkateFest organizer also raffled off exhibition tickets. All activities, including lessons, were free to the public.

Participating programs were Brooklyn Blades on Ice, The Pond Learn to Skate – Chagrin Valley, City of Euclid, City of Mentor, Cleveland Skating Club, Forestwood FSC, Gilmour Academy, Ice Land USA Skating Academy, Kent State University, North Olmstead Recreation Center, Shaker Learn to Skate, IceLand USA Skating Academy – Winterhurst, I-Skate – Wooster Skating Academy and Garfield Heights.

Junior pairs skater Marissa Castelli signs skates at North Olmstead.

Snowplow Sam has a blast at the Strongsville rink.



Photos by Paul Harvath

Team 2014 enjoyed a full day of activities following the novice competition in Cleveland. Olympic champion Brian Boitano provided information and words of wisdom for the group.

Photos by Paul Harvath

Members of the Athlete Alumni Association met in Cleveland and shared old times and visited about new opportunities related to U.S. Figure Skating.

Athlete Alumni Association reunites in Cleveland

An impressive group of former U.S. Figure Skating greats gathered for the fourth consecutive year at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

About 30 members of the Athlete Alumni Association reunited on Saturday night, Jan. 24, inside a reception room at the Quicken Loans Arena. Olympic champion Brian Boitano addressed the elite group and talked about the work the Athlete Alumni Association is involved with, including the athlete mentoring program.

Boitano and several other skating greats have carried the torch for U.S. Figure Skating in recent years in terms of mentoring Olympic-eligible U.S. athletes.

The Athlete Alumni Association, founded by Danielle Hartsell-Minnis, is a product of the 50-member Athletes Advisory Committee (AAC) headed by Justin Dillon.

"The AAC protects and inspires all levels of athletes from beginner to elite," Dillon said. "The athletes have fundraisers, in which all the money raised is used to keep former champions in the sport and create sponsorship programs for future champions.

"This is an exciting group that demonstrates passion and dedication to figure skating."

Photos by Paul Harvath

The 2009 U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team was recognized on ice during a break at the U.S. Championships. Ten outstanding student-athletes were recognized for accomplishments inside the classroom, in their communities and for their efforts in figure skating. They received scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Honors Team jackets. Pictured, from left, are Lee Keller, Jeremy Steeger, Becky Bereswill, Emily Glassberg, Danny O'Shea, Rachael Flatt, Armin Mahbanoozadeh and Hannah Erickson. Not pictured are Rachael Maria Naphtal and Curran Oi.

Photo by Michelle Harvath

SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presented the 2007-08 Readers' Choice Award for Skater of the Year (Michelle Kwan Trophy) to three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir on the final night of the U.S. Championships. Weir's 2007-08 season was his most successful to date. He took home gold from both the Cup of China and Cup of Russia and finished fourth at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Following his silver-medal performance at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., Weir garnered bronze at the 2008 World Figure Skating Championships – his first World medal.

U.S. Hall of Fame welcomes new inductees

U.S. skating greats from all corners gathered at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland to welcome four new inductees into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

"It's a true honor, recognition that your peers know you had an impact on skating," said Scott Hamilton, who was inducted in 1990.

The class of '09 features Sonya Klopfer Dunfield, the 1951 U.S. champion and two-time World medalist who later coached Dorothy Hamill, Elizabeth Manley and many others; national, Olympic and World judge Nancy Meiss; and Vera Wang, the fashion magnate who twice competed in junior pairs at the U.S. Championships and designed costumes for Nancy Kerrigan and Michelle Kwan.

Marjorie Parker Smith and Joseph Savage, winners of the first official U.S. ice dancing championship in 1936, were inducted posthumously into the Golden category. Savage died in 1956. Smith died Jan. 17, just days before she could accept the honor in person.

"It's great to see people who have done a ton of work behind the scenes (get inducted)," Hamilton said.

"Sonya Dunfield, she won the U.S. title and

PHOTOS BY PAUL HARVATH

The U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame honored its Class of 2009 during an on-ice ceremony. Recognized for their many contributions to the sport were, from left, Sonya Klopfer Dunfield, Nancy Meiss and Vera Wang. Honored posthumously were Marjorie Parker Smith and Joseph Savage.

then went on to be a great coach. Vera Wang is so successful, she makes (young skaters) think, 'Wow, we can go out and do something else, too.' Nancy (Meiss), she judged every figure test I ever took. She was very influential in my development."

Klopfer Dunfield lovingly recalled her training days at the Brooklyn Ice Palace, as well as her darkest moment as a coach.

"My biggest heartbreak was losing dance team Pat and Bobby (Dineen) in the (1961) plane crash," she said.

Meiss, who received her 50-year judge award in 2008, brought smiles to many with her remembrances of the Queen City Figure Skating Club of Cincinnati and her early days as a judge.

"I am honored, I am humbled, and I realize there are so many other people who deserve this honor and I thank them for giving it to me," she said, recalling how she took a Greyhound bus to her first judging school.

Wang gave special thanks to Nancy Kerrigan for consenting to wear her designs.

"Forty-five years ago I came to Cleveland to watch my very first national championship," she said. "Like most youngsters, I too had a very big dream to someday represent my country at the Olympics. ...Well, I never got to grace the Olympic ice, but many decades later my designs did."

Before and after the acceptances, old friends and rivals had a chance to reconnect. In one corner, Tenley Albright chatted with Heiss and her husband, Hayes.

"We're getting each other's take on the international judging system," Heiss said.

Hayes, whose brother David won Olympic gold in 1960, reminisced about an exhibition he and Albright did in 1953.

"The Japanese invited us to come and do a show, to help popularize the sport," he said. "The act was a little thin, shall we say, so (in addition to singles) we also did a pairs routine to fill in. Well, we must have done a good job, because look at the Japanese skaters now."

– Lynn Rutherford

PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

U.S. bronze medalist Caroline Zhang signs an autograph at the Friends of Figure Skating brunch in Cleveland. More than 230 guests and 30 U.S. Figure Skating athletes attended the get-together. The brunch is a chance for Friends of Figure Skating members to meet and visit with U.S. Figure Skating athletes. 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.

Mock receives Disbrow Award

Bob Mock is the 2009 recipient of the seventh annual Jimmy Disbrow Award.

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. Disbrow was a U.S. champion, coach, official and president of U.S. Figure Skating.

Mock has contributed in many different ways to the betterment of figure skating. He was a competitor, coach, rink manager and U.S. Figure Skating board member, serving as chair of the Coaches Committee.

His peers elected him president of the Professional Skaters Association, where he served with distinction for three years, earning a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Reaching into his vast network of coaches, judges, volunteers and skaters, Mock has brought the collective wisdom of this diverse group to figure skating's sports organizations and operations.

In addition to a cash award for Mock, the Disbrow Foundation also granted an award of $1,000 to benefit the Memorial Fund.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK VEST

Working hard behind the scenes to make the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships a success was the U.S. Figure Skating accounting team. Pictured (l-r) are Jack Vest, Lee Packman, Al Beard, Kathy Cook, Alan Heinold, Susan Neiman, Michael Kudravetz, Wick Smith, Bill Whalen and Robb Steinheider.

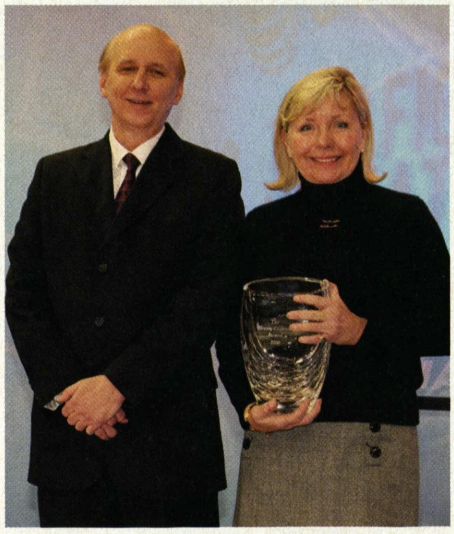


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Dede Disbrow presents the Jimmy Disbrow Award to Bob Mock at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland.

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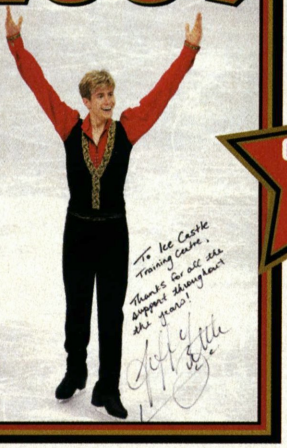

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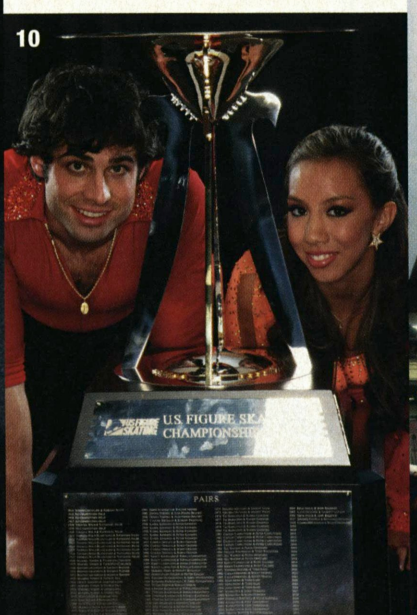
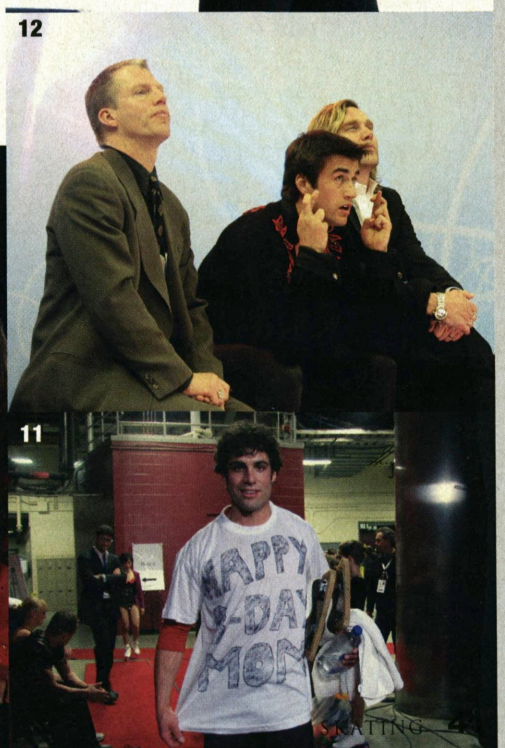
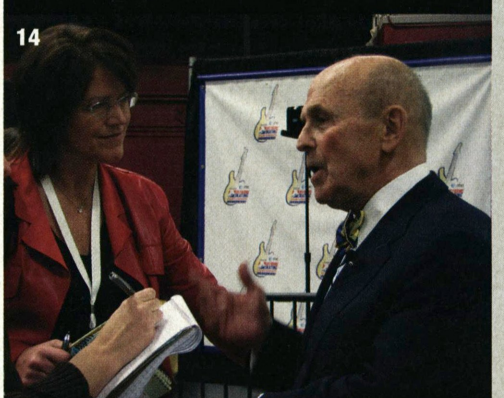
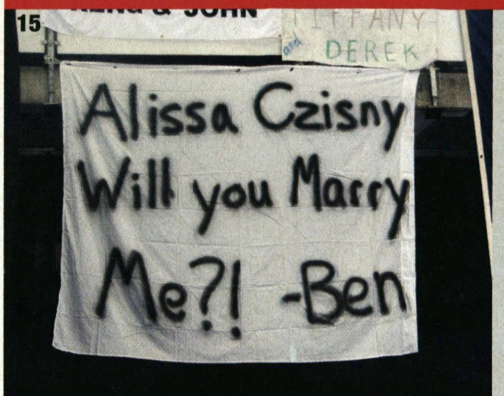
1. Pairs team Mark Ladwig and Amanda Evora enjoy the moment with coach Jim Peterson after their electric free skate. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
2. Timothy McKernan and Dean Copely entertained the crowd during an ice-make with their hilarious *Blades of Glory* routine. *Photo by Michelle Harvath*
3. Brandon Mroz, Jeremy Abbott and Ryan Bradley from the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., celebrate their medal haul with sports psychologist Gayle Davis. *Photo by Becky Calvin*
4. Olympic champions Dorothy Hamill ('76), Tenley Albright ('56) and Sarah Hughes ('02) get reacquainted at the U.S. Championships. *Photo courtesy of Sarah Hughes*
5. The NBC broadcast team, which included Olympic champion Scott Hamilton (second from left), brought the entire country live weekend coverage of the U.S. Championships. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
6. Members of the U.S. World Team let loose before their photo shoot. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
7. Jeremy Abbott celebrates during the U.S. champions photo shoot. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
8. Alissa Czisny takes a peek inside the U.S. Championships Trophy. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
9. Meryl Davis and Charlie White ham it up with the U.S. Championships trophy. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
10. Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker get cozy with the U.S. Championships trophy. *Photo by Paul Harvath*
11. U.S. pairs champion Rockne Brubaker wishes his mother, Monica, happy birthday. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
12. Ryan Bradley crosses his fingers for good luck as he awaits his scores in the kiss and cry. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
13. Shades-wearing Parker Pennington takes in the atmosphere at the "Q." *Photo by Mickey Brown*
14. Legendary Dick Button answers questions from reporters. *Photo by Mickey Brown*
15. U.S. ladies champion Alissa Czisny had plenty of admirers in Cleveland. *Photo by Mickey Brown*









Deep roots

Zakrajsek makes memorable return home to Cleveland

BY AMY ROSEWATER

Tom Zakrajsek didn't look like much of a skater when he first took to the ice.

"I was really bad," said Zakrajsek, recalling his miserable first skating outing when he was 7. "I would have to skate on double runners, and all my friends were making fun of me. I didn't want to skate."

His skating career probably would have ended on that snowy day in the Cleveland suburb of Garfield Heights, Ohio, if he had had his choice. Three years later, when Zakrajsek was 10, he reluctantly found himself back on the ice. Once again, it was a winter day in Cleveland, but his sister had a skating lesson, so together they trudged through the snow and walked about a mile or so to the rink.

"Hardly anyone showed up," Zakrajsek said. "So (coach) Betty Bosell told me to put on a pair of skates. I remember going into the first class and then the next class and it was sort of monkey see, monkey do. Betty Bosell called the house about private lessons, and my dad thought she was calling about my sister, but she was calling for me.

"Miss Betty, as I remember all of the skaters in the classes calling her, really helped me love skating."

Had it not been for the good old Cleveland snow and had it not been for Bosell, the landscape of American skating might have a very different look these days.

The 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, turned out to be a nice homecoming parade for Zakrajsek. One of his skaters, Jeremy Abbott, won the men's title, and two other skaters, Rachael Flatt and Brandon Mroz garnered silvers. Ryan Bradley, who started working with Zakrajsek about 18 years ago back in Missouri, placed fourth. Abbott, Mroz and Flatt all will represent the United States at the World Figure Skating Championships March 22-29 in Los Angeles.

When asked if this was one of the best competitions he has been to as a coach, Zakrajsek, now 45, said, "Definitely, I would say yes. Jeremy is the first national senior champion I've coached, and that's really cool, and to have three skaters on the World team … I'm just now realizing the magnitude of this."

Some of his younger skaters did well at the U.S. Championships, too. Joshua Farris, 14, won the novice men's title and Lauren Dinh, 12, placed sixth in the novice ladies division. The 2008 U.S. novice champion, Marissa Secundy, placed 12th in her debut as a junior. Alexe Gilles, the 2008 U.S. junior champion, placed ninth in her first trip as a senior.

The week was even more special to Zakrajsek because it happened in Cleveland. Throughout the week, Zakrajsek took his students on a tour of his hometown. Some practiced at a rink in the Cleveland suburb of Chagrin Falls, where his sister, Terri Messner, coaches. He drove them by the house in which he grew up and took them by his elementary and high schools.

"I think he walked us all down Tom Zakrajsek memory lane," Mroz said.

Zakrajsek, who is married with a son and daughter, comes from a large family. His dad is one of seven brothers and three sisters, and his mother is one of four children. Zakrajsek has two sisters, Terri and Tricia, and a brother, Tim. Both his sisters skated and his brother played hockey. At least one family member as well as many friends attended each night of the U.S. Championships.

Early on, Zakrajsek worked with Phil Racine, who guided him from the preliminary level through his sixth test. When Racine moved to Canada, Zakrajsek had to search for a new coach. He worked with a handful of coaches at various rinks around Cleveland, and he tried skating in Detroit and Cincinnati. Finding the perfect fit proved to be tough.

At the time, Zakrajsek was a big fan of Charlie Tickner, who won four U.S. titles from 1977 to 1980 and captured the bronze medal at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y. Tickner's coach was Norma Sahlin.

When Zakrajsek was 18 and had reached the junior level, he decided to move to Denver to work with Sahlin. Zakrajsek wound up staying there for about eight years. He competed at the U.S. Championships six times: once as a junior competitor, four times at the senior men's level and once in senior pairs (with partner Sheila Nobles). In addition to skating, he went to college and graduated from the University of Denver.

Zakrajsek really enjoyed living in Denver, but he remained loyal to his Cleveland roots. Growing up, Zakrajsek was a fan of all sports and in addition to skating, he played football, basketball and ran track. He kept tabs on Cleveland sports while in Denver, which was especial-

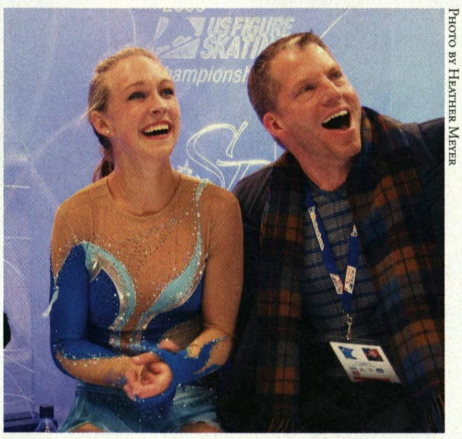


PHOTO BY HEATHER MEYER

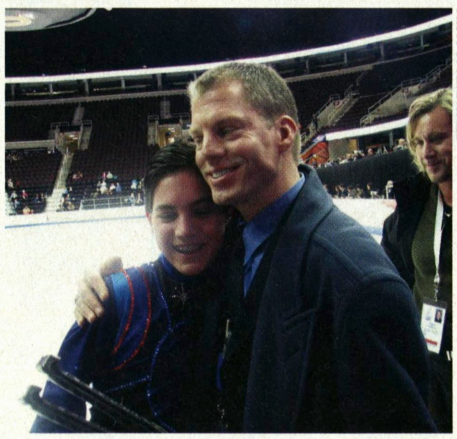


PHOTO BY KENDRA LEE

PHOTO BY KENDRA LEE

Zakrajsek enjoys the moment with Broadmoor pupils Alexe Gilles, Joshua Farris and Jeremy Abbott.

Photo by Mickey Brown

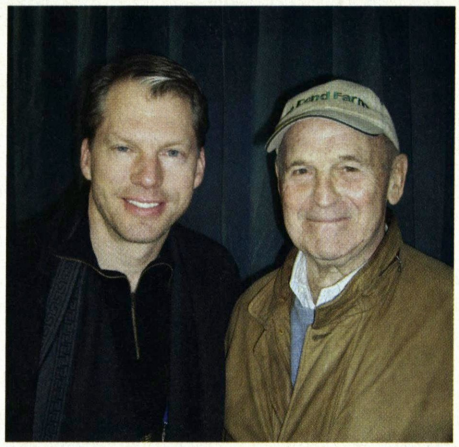


Photo by Lorrie Parker

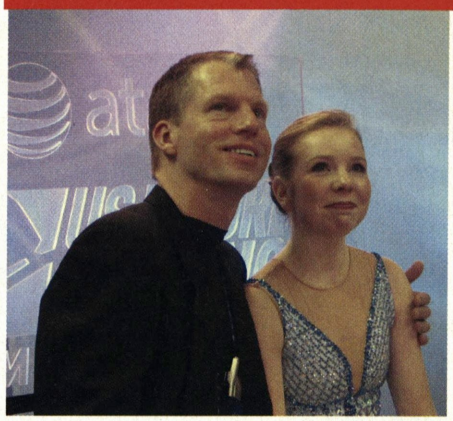


Photo by Kendra Lee

Ryan Bradley, left, and Rachael Flatt, right, are two of Zakrajsek's most accomplished skaters. At the 2007 World Championships, Zakrajsek visited with legend Dick Button.

ly hard since Broncos quarterback John Elway completed his famous Denver drive that killed the Browns' chances of going to the Super Bowl.

After completing his stint with "Disney on Ice" in 1991, Zakrajsek decided to coach and got a job in St. Joseph, Mo. His first two junior U.S. competitors were Russell Sale and Megan Insco. Among the other young skaters to work with Zakrajsek were Becky Bradley and her brother, Ryan.

In 1997, Kathy Casey persuaded Zakrajsek to move to Colorado Springs, Colo., and coach at the Broadmoor Skating Club. Bradley made the move west as well, and in 1999 he won the U.S. junior title in Salt Lake City. Nowadays, with Bradley and Zakrajsek still a team, Zakrajsek has a slew of elite skaters working with him.

"Tom is almost starting to create a monopoly," Bradley said. "He surrounds himself with a great program and that's a huge part of why we've been so good."

Some might think it would be a little too crowded in Colorado. With three of the top men's skaters training alongside each other, sometimes for about two hours a day, and with Zakrajsek working with two top senior ladies in Flatt and Gilles, it can be a challenge. So far, it seems Zakrajsek has been able to juggle the demands well.

The three guys seem to thrive off each other; Mroz and Bradley were even roommates for a time. Sometimes the three guys make bets to challenge each other to land a quad or do a clean program.

"We all have that kind of drive to beat each other," Mroz said. "In practice, we'll make wagers to try to keep things light, but we all support each other, too."

That was evident in Cleveland. During the free skate, Mroz skated brilliantly – especially considering he had just turned 18 a month before the event – landing a huge quad toe loop and skating almost flawlessly the remainder of the program.

As Mroz skated off, Bradley came on the ice to perform his program. And the training mates and former roommates high-fived. Later, when Bradley was in the locker room, he saw Abbott and encouraged him to do well in his free skate. "Hey man," Bradley told him. "It's your turn." Abbott ended up winning the competition.

"We knew that this was very special with this being Tom's hometown," said Bradley, who went to Zakrajsek's wedding in Cleveland in 1999 and competed at the U.S. Championships in Cleveland in 2000. "It's not so much that we wanted to do well for him – we did well because of him."

Having three men's skaters place among the top four certainly was rewarding, but Zakrajsek said he was prouder of what his skaters did off the ice.

"I pulled Jeremy, Ryan and Brandon off the podium, and I told them that I was very proud of their leadership," Zakrajsek said. "When Ryan gave Brandon a high five … that made me so proud. How they conducted themselves made me more proud than what they did to reach the podium. There's just such a great energy there."

The guys are close, and so are Zakrajsek's ladies skaters. Flatt and Gilles are competitors, but they are practically inseparable. Both are juniors at Cheyenne Mountain High School and can often be seen at competitions linked arm in arm, nervously watching other friends compete. When they are not together, they are on the phone with each other or texting.

"Rachael is my best friend," Gilles said. Added Flatt's mother, Jody, "Rach and Alexe have been training mates for years, competed against each other at various times over the years, but are the first ones to be by each other's side through good times and bad."

What seems to work for Zakrajsek is that he doesn't try to fit each skater into a mold. He uses different coaching techniques with each skater, many of whom oftern work with different choreographers. Zakrajsek works closely with another World Arena coach, Becky Calvin, calling her his "right arm."

"We have a unique working relationship that I value," Zakrajsek said of Calvin. "I trust her immensely."

Some of his skaters, including Flatt, Gilles and Abbott, work with support coach Erik Schulz. Jill Trenary, the 1990 World champion, helps all of Zakrajsek's elite skaters when he is at competitions.

If you were a casual fan watching the performances of Abbott, Mroz and Bradley, you probably wouldn't know they had the same coach. Abbott has a stylized elegance about his skating. Mroz is young, but displayed a certain maturity and power, and Bradley showed that he can do the difficult technical moves – a quad toe and a triple Axel – but can be extremely entertaining as well. Flatt, meanwhile, is one of the most consistent skaters, winning back-to-back silver medals by landing triples with regularity.

Like most coaches, Zakrajsek is constantly seeking inspiration and education from other coaches. He credits Frank Carroll and Audrey Weisiger for being coaching mentors to him.

Of course, Zakrajsek is grateful to Casey for having the confidence in him to coach in Colorado Springs. About two years ago, Zakrajsek wrote a letter to the woman who introduced him to the sport, Bosell, to thank her for getting him passionate about skating. After Bosell died, her daughter contacted Zakrajsek and said the family saved the letter.

Zakrajsek is always following athletes and coaches in other sports, and lists Lakers coach Phil Jackson and Olympic gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi as influences. Zakrajsek tries to introduce his skaters to other athletes and coaches. During practices, he constantly quotes former UCLA baskeball coach John Wooden.

"There's no lack of Tom finding inspiration," Bradley said.

Without hesitation, Zakrajsek lists Wooden as his biggest inspiration. Zakrajsek has read every book Wooden has written – all seven of them – and drove through a snowstorm to see Wooden speak at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The highlight was getting to meet Wooden briefly at a meet-and-greet line at a reception after his speech.

"He would never remember me, but I would never forget meeting him," Zakrajsek said. "Beyond what he accomplished, he remained very humble. There's more to sports than just winning. It's beyond being a teacher and a mentor." ■

Rising stars

Juniors make noise with exciting performances

The rising stars of U.S. Figure Skating showed fans in Cleveland why there's reason to be excited about the future of the sport. The juniors, who continued this season to dominate internationally, helped set the table for the senior competition with dynamic individual efforts and electric team performances.

Photo by Paul Harvath

DeeDee Leng

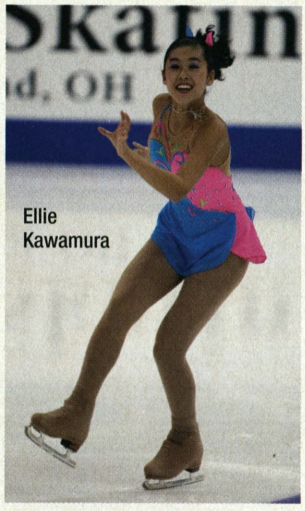


Photo by Michelle Harvath

Ellie Kawamura

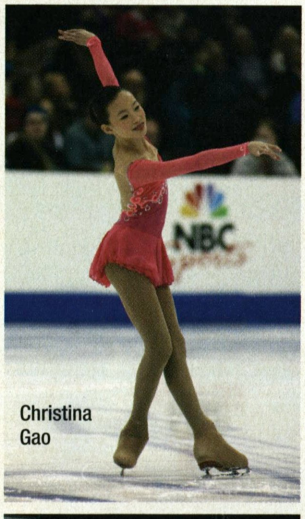


Photo by Paul Harvath

Christina Gao

Photo by Michelle Harvath

(l-r) Ellie Kawamura, Christina Gao, DeeDee Leng and Kristiene Gong

Team USA jacket best prize for Leng

By Mickey Brown

It's not the gold medal or the increased funding she will receive or the elevated stature that has DeeDee Leng most excited about being the 2009 U.S. junior ladies champion.

"She's thrilled she's going to get her team jacket," said Leng's coach, Maria Jezak-Athey. "She couldn't wait for it."

As a reward for her gold medal in Cleveland, Leng was chosen to compete in March at the International Challenge Cup in The Hague, Netherlands, her first international assignment, and with the honor of representing her country comes, yes, a Team USA warm-up.

Leng, skating out of the DuPage FSC, took a two-point lead after the short program and held on for the win following a sloppy free skate in which the top three finishers combined for seven falls. Ellie Kawamura (All Year FSC), Christina Gao (Northern Kentucky SC) and Kristiene Gong (SC of New York) finished second, third and fourth, respectively.

Leng narrowly made it out of the sectional round of qualifying, placing fourth at the Midwestern Sectional Figure Skating Championships, a scant two points ahead of the fifth-place finisher.

Soon after that, she made a coaching switch, from Alexander Ouriashev to Jezak-Athey, who mentored Evan Lysacek from 2000-02. Considering the unexpectedness of this change, as well as the recent growth spurt Leng had undergone (she shot up 3-4 inches and gained at least 15 pounds in the past year),

Jezak-Athey decided it best not to tinker with her new pupil's programs or skating style, instead focusing on Leng's overall endurance, and the timing and rhythm going into her jumps.

"Neither of us expected anything out of this competition," Jezak-Athey said. "I kept her thoughts away from results because I didn't know what to expect from her."

Leng got off on the right foot in Cleveland, as she skated a nearly clean short program to Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnol," one that included a triple Lutz, triple Salchow-double toe combination and a double Axel.

Kawamura and Gao both had trouble with the landings of their double Axels, putting them two and four points behind Leng, respectively.

The free skate was a messy affair. Leng hit the ice on her Lutz and Salchow; Kawamura, who won the segment, fell on her flip and Salchow; and Gao missed her opening combination as well as her Salchow and Axel.

It all added up to a close race at the top of the standings, with Leng edging Kawamura for the top spot, 132.49-131.25.

"It's exciting to win, but being under the radar made it feel like it was anyone's game, so you just do your best without any expectations," Leng said.

Of Tammy Gambill's two skaters in the event, Amanda Dobbs, a qualifier for the 2008 Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, was thought to have the best chance of medaling, but it was Kawamura who wound up on the podium after finishing eighth a year ago.

"The biggest difference I see in (Ellie) is her mental strength," Gambill said. "She's gotten her triples this year, and she is focused on staying on track and keeping her focus when it counts."

Gao made the biggest jump from the season before, when she placed 12th as a novice.

"Mentally, I got a lot stronger, and I was much more prepared this year than I was last year," Gao said.

Miner finds focus for victory

By Becca Staed

A surprise victor topped the junior men's podium – the 2008 U.S. novice men's silver medalist Ross Miner. He was flanked by Keegan Messing in second and Alexander Johnson in third.

Those in Miner's corner – the SC of Boston's dynamic coaching duo of Mark Mitchell and Peter Johansson, and even the skater himself – admit that, despite Miner's gift on the ice, a U.S. title was hardly anticipated this soon.

"Ross has all the makings of what you need to win," Johansson said. "He can jump well, spin well, and he has good flair. But this is far beyond anything we thought would happen here."

Miner's first trip to the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships came in 2005 as an intermediate. That experience ended in an eighth-place finish. He returned the following year to win the event, signaling it was time for him to tackle the U.S. Figure Skating Championships as a novice.

A lack of focus, however, thwarted his efforts, and Miner missed qualifying for the 2007 U.S. Championships altogether. He won the short program at sectionals but dropped to fifth in the free skate.

"When I moved to Boston to train, I was a space cadet and didn't work that hard," Miner admitted.

He resurfaced last year, winning novice silver despite two shaky programs.

"Last year, he could do all the tricks, but it was about learning to focus and get the job done," Johansson said. "That was his goal this year."

A goal accomplished when Miner pulled the rug out from under his competition, amassing a nearly eight-point lead for his "Bonanza"/"Cotton-Eyed Joe" short program.

In his free skate to a Gershwin medley, Miner put a hand down on his opening triple Axel and landed only the flip in a planned triple flip-triple toe. He quickly regained his confidence, landing five more triples and doubles apiece. All his spins earned level fours.

Though unable to top the 119.40 points posted by Johnson, who was seventh after the short, Miner's 117.18-point free skate score gave him a 183.80-point winning mark just a day before his 18th birthday.

"I think I have a good strategy now for keeping my head in check," Miner said. "It's to get off the ice happy, and that is all I can control."

Before his free skate, Messing showed off his yo-yo skills backstage, a talent he picked up "off the street" three years ago at a fair near his hometown of Girdwood, Alaska.

"It keeps my mind calm and focused on something else," he said.

The toy did the trick. Messing earned 117.14 points for his "Gremlins" free skate, giving him a 176.94 total score and a silver medal to celebrate his 17th birthday.

When Messing did not qualify for the Junior Grand Prix Final this season, coach Rory

LADIES
GOLD
DeeDee Leng – 132.49
SILVER
Ellie Kawamura – 131.25
BRONZE
Christina Gao – 128.69
FOURTH
Kristiene Gong – 126.17

MEN
GOLD
Ross Miner – 183.80
SILVER
Keegan Messing – 176.94
BRONZE
Alexander Johnson – 171.08
FOURTH
Grant Hochstein – 162.15

PAIRS
GOLD
Tracy Tanovich/
Michael Chau – 135.50
SILVER
Brynn Carman/
Christopher Knierim – 134.92
BRONZE
Marissa Castelli/
Simon Shnapir –134.58
FOURTH
Brittney Simpson/
Nathan Miller – 122.44

ICE DANCING
GOLD
Madison Chock/
Greg Zuerlein – 167.81
SILVER
Maia Shibutani/
Alex Shibutani – 161.03
BRONZE
Piper Gilles/
Zachary Donohue – 151.10
FOURTH
Shannon Wingle/
Timothy McKernan – 145.05

Burghart "loaded" the skater's free skate. He was the only junior man with two planned triple Axels in the free skate and a knack for pulling them off, but a nagging back injury nearly led to his withdrawal a week before competition.

Messing fell on his first triple Axel but nailed the second, tacking on a double toe to make up for an earlier missed combination.

"I was a little disappointed when I fell on my first triple Axel, but I pulled through. I felt really proud of myself," Messing said.

All told, he landed six triples and four doubles, making his second appearance on a U.S. podium since 2007.

Bronze medalist Johnson used his frustration with a disastrous short program to deliver a first-place free skate and insert himself back into medal contention.

"I was really angry with myself after the short program, and I used that as motivation for the long," said Johnson, who finished seventh last year.

The 18-year-old delivered clean short programs and subpar free skates during this season's JGP circuit, accruing two podium finishes and advancing to the JGP Final, where he took sixth after a so-so free skate. In turn, he focused all his training efforts on the free skate.

"Coming here, I was really motivated to show I can put out a clean free skate," Johnson said. "I don't know what happened in the short, but winning the free skate means a lot to me and shows my efforts came through."

The Minnesota native attempted six doubles and six triples, including three in combination, and executed three level-four spins en route to a 171.08-point total score for a top-three finish, his goal before moving up to senior next year.

Grant Hochstein also made an exceptional recovery. Sitting ninth after the short program, Hochstein's 110.91-point free skate score gave him 162.15 points overall, good for fourth place.

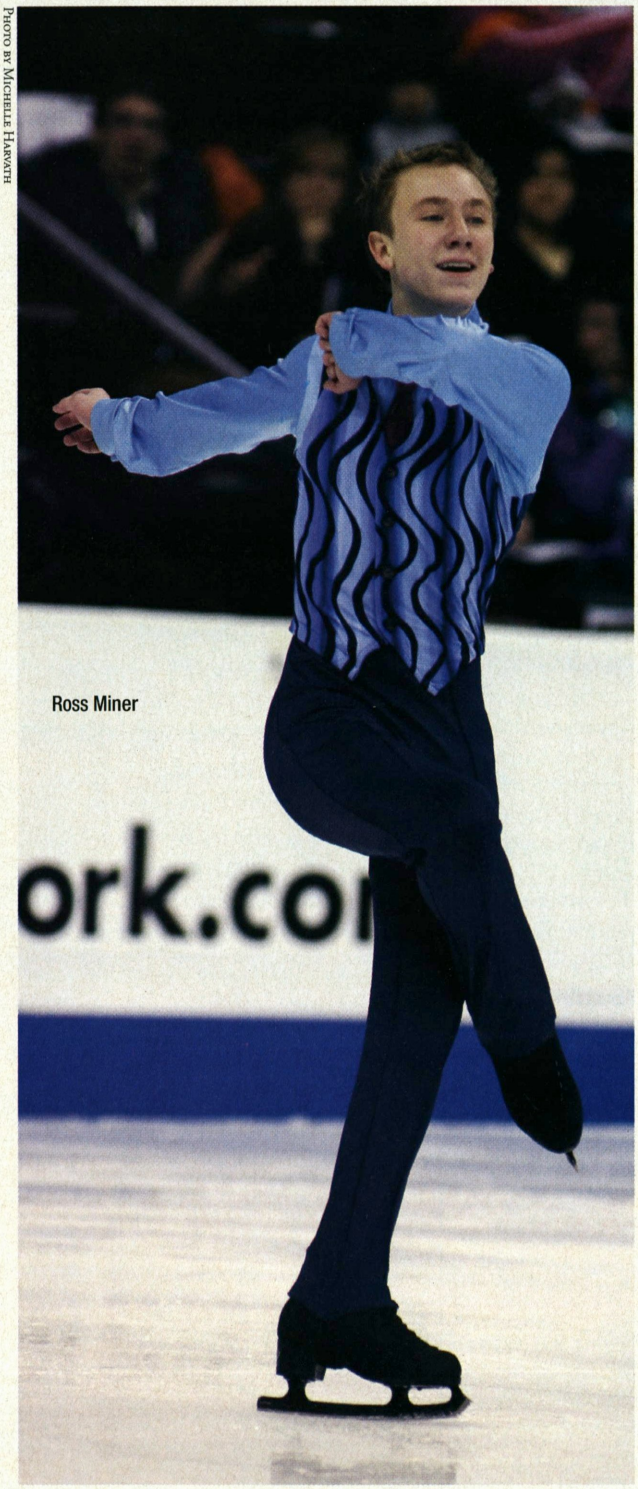
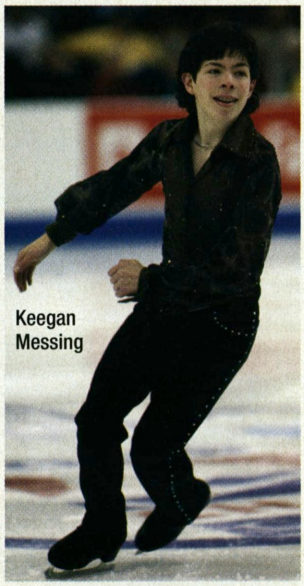


Photo by Michelle Harvath



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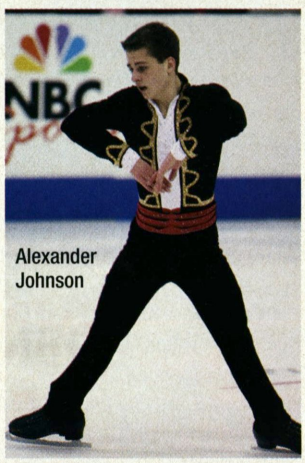


Photo by Paul Harvath

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Keegan Messing, Alexander Johnson, Ross Miner and Grant Hochstein

Tanovich, Chau rally for gold medal

By Troy Schwindt

Getting to showcase their talents in front of an international audience for the first time is something the junior pairs team of Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau (Southwest Florida FSC) dream about.

But for now, Tanovich, 12, and Chau, 18, are perfectly content entertaining U.S. audiences and winning gold medals.

After a stunning fall on the death spiral toward the end of their third-place short program, Tanovich and Chau rebounded with a near-flawless rendition of their *Swan Lake* free skate to capture the title.

Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim (Broadmoor SC), the 2008 U.S. novice champions, finished second, while Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir (SC of Boston/Colonial FSC) placed third.

Tanovich and Chau's free skate them amass an overall score of 135.50 points and a standing ovation, a first for the dynamic duo.

"I think we might have received a baby ovation before," Chau said.

Winners of the 2007 U.S. novice title, Tanovich and Chau were rock-solid in their free skate; only a bobble on the throw triple Salchow hurt their cause.

"But we recovered from that," Tanovich

Photo by Paul Harvath

Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau

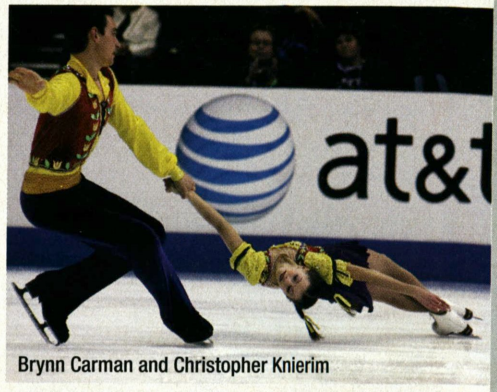


Photo by Michelle Harvath

Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim

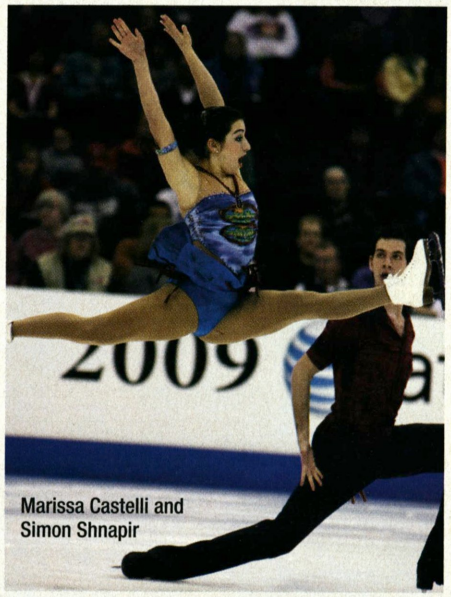


Photo by Michelle Harvath

Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Brynn Carman and Christopher Knierim, Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir, Tracy Tanovich and Michael Chau and Brittney Simpson and Nathan Miller

said. "Our side-by-side jumps were smooth and easy. I was a little nervous in the beginning but overcame that."

Chau, who turned in a sterling performance in the junior men's free skate two hours earlier, called it their best free skate of the season.

"The death spiral was a fluke, and I think that's the first time I'd ever seen them fall on that element since maybe juvenile," said their coach, Jim Peterson. "So, today I think they were a little more aware of their surroundings and sort of woke up, but each element deserves its own respect, and they didn't take anything for granted – they took it step by step."

For Tanovich and Chau, who began skating together in 2005, their plan is to jump to the senior level next year. They will be age-eligible for international competition in 2010.

"We are ready to go to senior and show them how it's done," Chau said with a grin.

Chau admits it's tough not being age-eligible to compete internationally, but he said it will be worth the wait.

"I have patience," he said. "I realized what we had right from the beginning. If the first few years we just gain experience, so be it."

Carman, 14, and Knierim, 21, leaders after the short program, rolled through their *City Slickers* free skate until Knierim popped a double flip late in the routine.

"I rushed my flip just a titch and definitely popped it," he said. "Other than that little mistake, I'm happy with it. I thought we performed well, and it was fun."

The miscue proved costly as the Colorado duo finished with 134.92 points, less than one point behind the champions.

"I'm not disappointed," Knierim said. "I just wanted to skate better than last year and have a higher score."

Castelli, 18, and Shnapir, 21, 2008 U.S. novice bronze medalists, finished second in the short program but experienced a few glitches in their *Gladiator* free skate en route to a score of 129.87 points and a bronze medal.

Castelli fell on the back end of a double Salchow-double toe combination and on the team's throw triple Salchow.

"Today wasn't my best day," Castelli said. "I had a few minor mistakes on elements that I never have problems with, like a double toe. I felt a little nervous after that and I think it got to me a little bit. We need to work a little more on our technical side."

Castelli and Shnapir fared better with their *Survivor* short program, finishing a close second to Carman and Knierim.

The program's choreographer is Sheryl

Franks, but Castelli lends some of her creative ideas to the process.

"I help Sheryl (Franks) a lot," Castelli said. "I do a lot of my thinking from watching older skaters perform, so I take some of their moves and some of this, and I put it together."

Chock, Zuerlein glide to ice dancing title

By Lynn Rutherford

Reigning Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final champions Madison Chock (All Year FSC) and Greg Zuerlein (Arctic FSC) added the U.S. junior ice dancing title to their medal cabinet by winning all three phases of the competition.

"Everything felt good," Chock, 16, said after the team's sensitive, romantic free dance to selections from *Phantom of the Opera*. "I really thought we had a connection to each other and the audience."

Chock and Zuerlein, who train under Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva in Canton, Mich., ended the event with 167.81 points, some 6.78 ahead of the field, to score their fourth major victory of the season.

"Every competition is good, to gain more experience," Zuerlein, 20, said. "You make mistakes and then you learn how to fix them."

The next step was the World Junior Figure Skating Championships, held in late February in Sofia, Bulgaria.

"Our goal is to place in the top three," Chock said. "But mainly, we just want to enjoy our performances. If we do, it usually shows in the marks."

Chock and Zuerlein's training mates in Canton, siblings Maia Shibutani (SC of New York) and Alex Shibutani (Broadmoor SC), took the silver medal with second-place performances in all three segments. Their elegant free dance to music from *Cinema Paradiso* was marred only by Maia's fall on a twizzle sequence, and they ended the competition with 161.03 points.

"I'm happy with the overall skate," Maia, 16, said. "This is a sport; everyone has an off day or an off moment. I just slipped out of it. It was a fluke sort of thing."

"Every competition is a new experience and a way to grow as a team," Alex, 17, added. "This being our first year (in the Junior Grand Prix Series), there have been a lot of those."

The Colorado Springs-based team of Piper Gilles and Zachary Donohue (Broadmoor SC) prevented a Canton sweep by winning the bronze medal. They placed third in all three phases of the event.

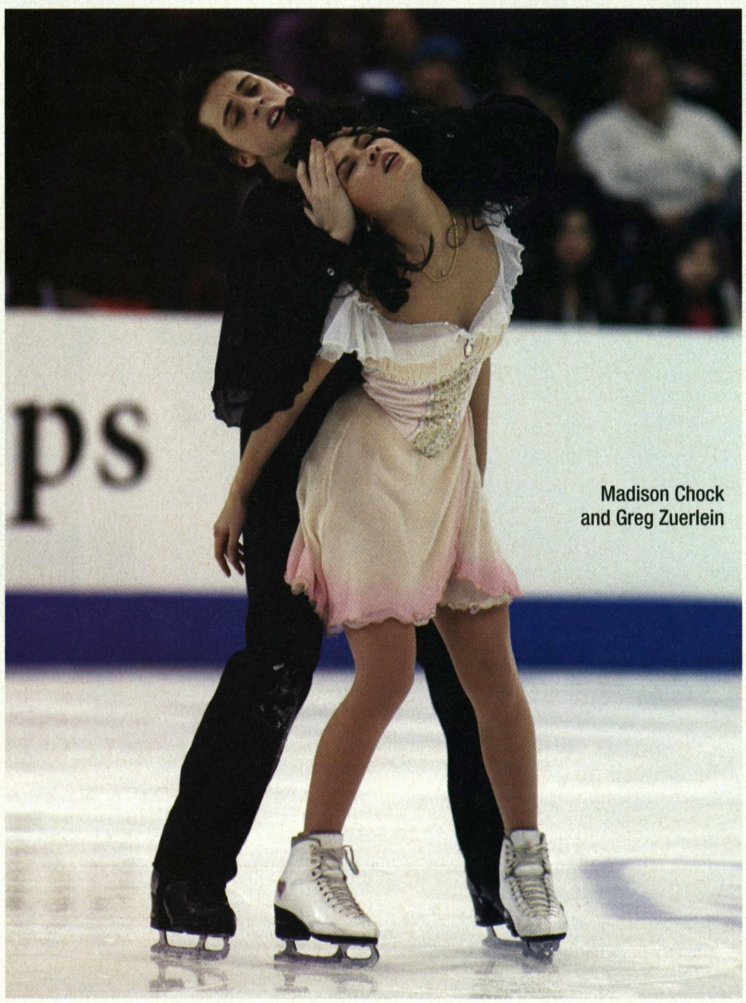
The 17-year-old Gilles battled an injured adductor tendon, which forced the team to withdraw from the Junior Grand Prix Final. She treated the injury with massage and physical therapy all week but admitted it troubled her on some moves.

"This week has been a little bit nerve-wracking; it's like, 'Is my leg going to hold up?'" she said.

Donohue, 18, who moved to Colorado Springs to skate with Gilles just eight months ago, was more than satisfied with his first trip to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

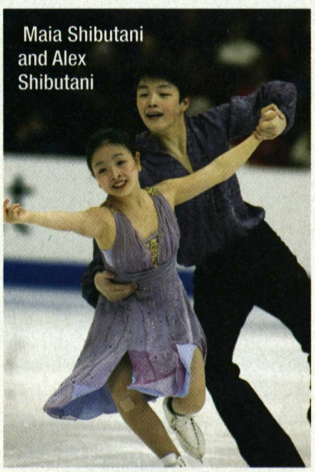
"There are a lot of new things to get myself into, a lot going on, between the (Quicken Loans Arena) here and the practices at Hoover Arena," Donohue said. "It's been blessed. I'll take a bronze medal at my first nationals – I can't complain."

Shannon Wingle (Arctic FSC) and Timothy McKernan (Broadmoor SC), who also train in Canton, were fourth with 145.05 points. ■



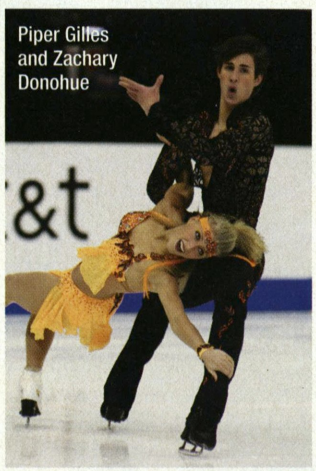
Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein

Photo by Michelle Harvath



Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani

Photo by Michelle Harvath



Piper Gilles and Zachary Donohue

Photo by Michelle Harvath

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, Piper Gilles and Zachary Donohue, Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein and Shannon Wingle and Timothy McKernan

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Grand opening

Novice skaters set tone for memorable event

U.S. Figure Skating's future looks bright and on track for great things to come based on the performance of its novice skaters at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland.

Men's champion Joshua Farris nailed a triple-triple combination in his free skate en route to his third U.S. title, and the pairs team of Cassie Andrews and Nicholas Anderson captured their third U.S. title with a seasoned repertoire of style and elements. Those are just two examples of the high level of talent that was displayed Jan. 19-20 at the Quicken Loans Arena.

After the competition, the novice class was treated to a full schedule of Team 2014 events, including breakfast with 1988 Olympic champion Brian Boitano, who delivered the keynote address.

Team 2014 members also attended seminars to learn about the expectations of being an elite athlete as they make their way toward the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Parents and coaches also attended the seminars.

Kiri Baga

Photo by Paul Harvath

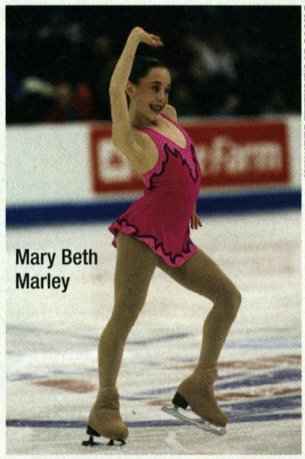
Mary Beth Marley

Photo by Michelle Harvath

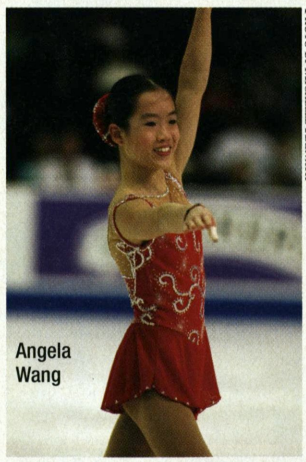
Angela Wang

Photo by Michelle Harvath

(l-r) Nina Jiang, Mary Beth Marley, Kiri Baga and Angela Wang

Photo by Paul Harvath

Baga overcomes popped jump to claim gold

By Troy Schwindt

Leading by 1.12 points after the short program, Kiri Baga (FSC of Bloomington) entered the free skate feeling pretty good about her chances for a medal.

That optimism didn't fade after popping her opening double Axel.

"It really spooked me," the 13-year-old said. "I was like, 'I have to focus.' After that, I really had to get my head in the game but I think all the training has paid off so much. I like to take one thing at a time because if I think too far ahead, I get too distracted."

Baga, who placed fifth at the 2008 Upper Great Lakes Regional Figure Skating Championships, regrouped with a flawless finish that included four triple jumps — three in combination — and level threes and fours on her spirals and spins. Skating to selections from the *Chaplin* soundtrack, Baga rolled to a total score of 120.16 points.

"After regionals last year, I just had to move on and focus on the year ahead," Baga said. "I was really sad because I hadn't made it, but after I rethought everything, I thought, 'You can't think about the past; you just have to move on' and that's what I did."

Baga's free skate score of 77.00 points was

second only to that of bronze medalist Angela Wang (Salt Lake FS), who rallied from fifth place after the short program with a free skate score of 79.97. Mary Beth Marley (DuPage FSC) earned the silver medal, finishing second in the short program and third in the free skate.

"(Being the U.S. champion) is so amazing to think about," Baga said. "Last year if I'd heard that, I would have been like, 'Yeah, right.'"

Marley, who hails from the same club as two-time U.S. champion Evan Lysacek, was also rock-solid in her free skate, finishing with level fours on her spirals and spins. Skating last, Marley's only miscue in her "Leyenda" program came on her triple Salchow-double toe combination. She finished with an overall mark of 116.53.

"I didn't mind going last," Marley, 13, said. "It gave me time to collect myself."

Marley, who finished 10th last year at the intermediate level, featured five triple jumps in her two programs.

"I worked hard to get the triples and to compete against well-experienced girls who have been doing the triples longer," Marley said. "So, this is rewarding."

For the second year in a row, Wang started slow and finished strong. In 2008 as an intermediate competitor, she sat eighth after the short program before finishing fourth overall. This season, she was fifth after the short program before rallying for the bronze medal.

"I was pretty disappointed after my short, and I was just like, 'This is the last program you are going to do all season, so make it good,'" Wang said. "I usually use the short to learn from and the long to improve on and make it better. I need to change that and do well in the short *and* well in the long."

Wang, 12, performed her "New World Concerto" program with athleticism and grace. Her combination spin earned a level four, and she hit her three triple jumps, two in combination.

"I was really confident during the long program," Wang said.

Fifth-place finisher Yasmin Siraj (Skating Club of Boston) competed with a fractured wrist and didn't even know it until after the competition.

Siraj, 12, fell coming off the ice in a recent practice at home. After going to see the doctor and undergoing an MRI, she was cleared to compete.

However, after she arrived in Cleveland, her doctors re-examined the X-rays and determined she had broken her wrist. Siraj's parents found out about her new diagnosis after the short program, but they didn't tell their daughter until after the free skate, as they didn't want it to weigh on her mind.

After she finished competing, doctors from the Cleveland Clinic put a full cast on her arm.

Farris runs successful campaign

By Troy Schwindt

As Joshua Farris (Broadmoor SC) laced up his skates to compete in Cleveland, his coach Tom Zakrajsek and choreographer, Tom Dickson, found themselves watching history in the making on television with the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

But when it was time to make that walk to the ice for the free skate, the trio turned their focus to the business at hand.

"I told him he was more important than the president-elect," Zakrajsek said with a smile.

Farris, who turned 14 on Jan. 6, proceeded to campaign for the novice title by delivering a program that featured seven triples, including a triple Lutz-triple toe combination. His only real hiccup occurred when he stumbled out of a triple Lutz midway through his "Mars" program. His score of 161.05 was 28 points better than that of silver medalist Steven Evans (Dallas FSC) and bronze medalist Jason Brown (Skokie Valley SC).

The victory gives Farris a hat trick of sorts, as he also owns gold medals in juvenile (2006) and intermediate (2008).

"How he won it was very impressive, especially with the score and doing the triple-triple," Zakrajsek said. "I was saying to someone earlier that part of me sometimes wrestled with the fact that I was expecting and demanding a lot of him during training, because obviously there were some days when he couldn't do the program like that, but I knew he could do the program like that. So it was kind of pushing him to push himself, to reach for higher goals."

Farris, who also won the short program, drew inspiration all week from quotations by famous coaches and athletes displayed on the walls outside the locker rooms.

One from legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden hit home for Farris: "Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

"That just kind of inspired me to get ready and to be determined to do my best," said Farris, who will advance to the junior level next season. "I thought, 'I can do this.'"

Evans, 17, enjoyed the best competition of his career with a third-place effort in the short program and the second-best free skate.

His finish helped ease the pain of last sea-

LADIES

GOLD
Kiri Baga – 120.16
SILVER
Mary Beth Marley – 116.53
BRONZE
Angela Wang – 114.55
FOURTH
Nina Jiang – 112.81

MEN

GOLD
Joshua Farris – 161.05
SILVER
Steven Evans – 133.60
BRONZE
Jason Brown – 132.84
FOURTH
Jay Yostanto – 124.16

PAIRS

GOLD
Cassie Andrews/
Nicholas Anderson – 116.20
SILVER
Haven Denney/
Daniel Raad – 115.09
BRONZE
Olivia Gibbons/
Tyler Harris – 110.35
FOURTH
Lauren Gifford/
Carson Bodnarek – 106.67

ICE DANCING

GOLD
Lauri Bonacorsi/
Travis Mager – 105.80
SILVER
Anastasia Olson/
Jordan Cowan – 101.78
BRONZE
Moriah Tabon/
Matt Kleffman – 96.76
FOURTH
Gabrielle Friedenberg/
Benjamin Nykiel – 94.19

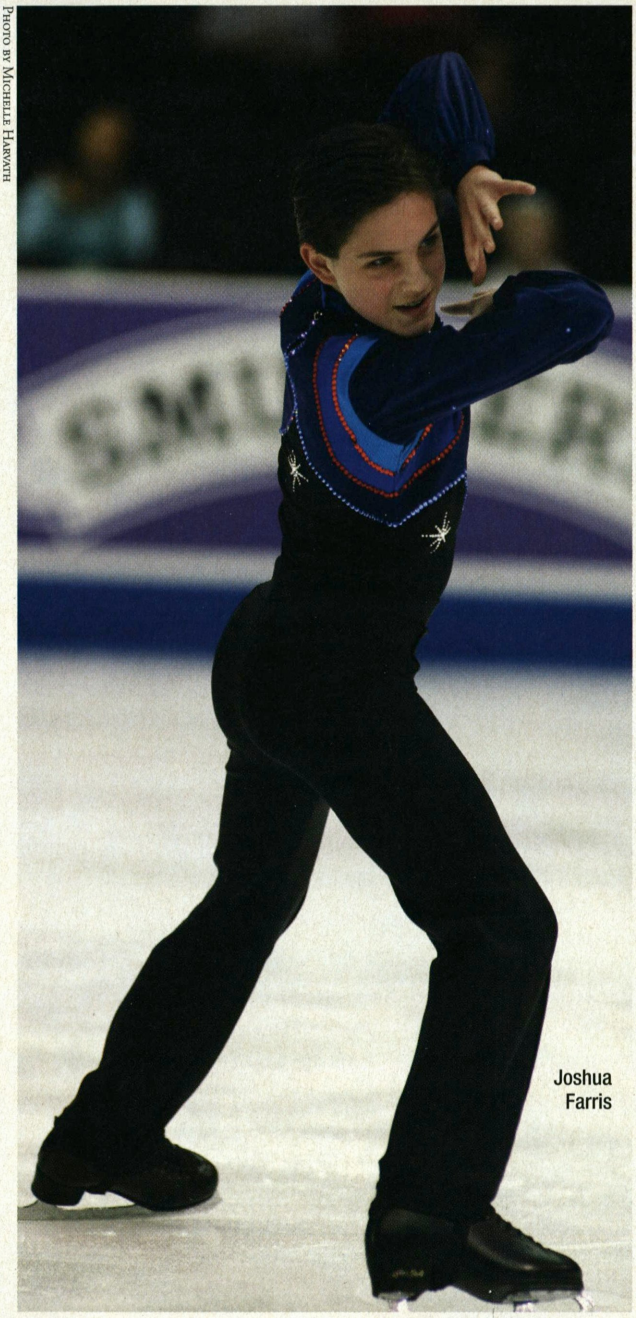
Photo by Michelle Harvath

Joshua Farris

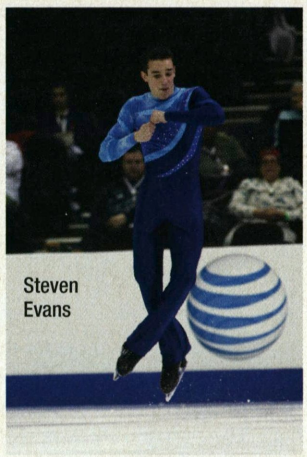
Photo by Michelle Harvath

Steven Evans

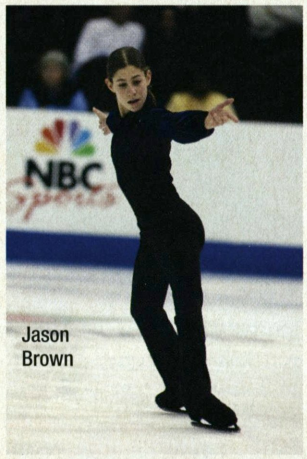
Photo by Michelle Harvath

Jason Brown

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Steven Evans, Jason Brown, Jay Yostanto and Joshua Farris

son, when he failed to advance out of the sectional championships.

"Sectionals last year was a bit of a wake-up call," Evans said. "I forgot my program. I was in third after the short and thought, 'If I can do a decent long, I'll go (to nationals).' I did a triple Lutz-double toe-double loop and just totally blanked after that because I hadn't run my program enough times to get it into pure muscle memory. The difference this year was that I ran my program over and over every day."

His coach, 1992 Olympic pairs champion Natalia Mishkutenok, described Evans' progression like going to school.

"Every competition, you learn something," she said.

Evans, performing his "Morning Passages" free skate, stayed solid until falling on a triple Salchow late in the program.

Brown, 14, proved to be a crowd favorite with his upbeat presence and smooth-as-silk skating skills. He placed second in the short program and third in the free skate.

The 2007 U.S. juvenile champion executed level threes and fours on his spins, and delivered on five of six triple jumps in his two programs.

The competition proved to be a wonderful experience for Brown.

"The arena is amazing," Brown said. "The JumboTron is really cool and you see your name (on big arena screens). It is just breathtaking."

His coach, Kori Ade, credited Brown on keeping a "really cool head" all week.

"He's done a great job maintaining his composure, and I think he's had so much fun being here that I think that took over emotionally, and he never let the nerves get to him," Ade said.

Ade, who has coached Brown since he was 5, said they have taken small steps during the skater's journey through the national ranks.

"We want to make the process count," she said, "and not make it about results, results."

Brown is the club mate of last year's U.S. novice champion Danny O'Shea.

Andrews, Anderson capture third U.S. title

By Troy Schwindt

Cassie Andrews and Nicholas Anderson (Indiana/World Skating Academy FSC) admit the 2014 Olympic Winter Games are in the back of their minds.

But for their week in Cleveland, it was all about taking care of business.

The pair, which has been together for five years, captured its third U.S. pairs title in four years with an overall score of 116.20.

"We had a good skate and did what we were supposed to do," Anderson said.

Andrews, 15, and Anderson, 17, secured the juvenile title in 2006 and the intermediate crown in 2007.

In Cleveland, they built a nearly four-point advantage with their "Jalouse Andalouse" short program, and then staved off a charge from Haven Denney and Daniel Raad (Southwest Florida FSC/Park FSC), who won the free skate with 79.34 points and grabbed the silver medal with a total score of 115.09 points. Olivia Gibbons and Tyler Harris (Skating Club of Boston) earned the bronze medal with 110.35 points.

Andrews and Anderson each singled one of the planned double jumps in their "Scorchio" free skate to finish second in that segment.

"We had a mental lapse; we each decided to take turns," Anderson said with a grin.

The rest of their free skate, which went off without a hitch, included a Group 5 Axel lasso lift that earned a 1.29 Grade of Execution and a level-four pairs combination spin.

"This year, they were maturing and growing, which affected their balance on the jumps," their coach, Serguei Zaitsev, said. "But the kids

are very well managed, and they focused under pressure. Five years together, and it shows to me."

Denney, 13, and Raad, 21, made things interesting with their "Hernando's Hideaway" free skate despite both of them falling between elements while doing back crossovers.

"I don't know how we managed to fall at the same time," said Raad, who teamed with Denney just eight months ago. "It was a little rough. I just think it was a lot of adrenalin, just a silly mistake.

"Overall, though, we should be very proud of ourselves because we came here not expecting to win a medal. There's no disappointment."

Outside of the falls, the team's free skate boasted plenty of highlights, including lifts that received level threes and fours. Their double Axel-double loop sequence was also rewarded.

The pair, which finished second in the short program, came together on the recommendation of Raad's best friend, Jeremy Barrett, who won the senior pairs silver medal with Denney's sister, Caydee.

"I've known Haven since she was very little," Raad said. "She came back (to Florida) from Colorado, and we were at the rink one day. I never really thought about skating pairs, and Jeremy said, 'Why don't you skate with Haven?' Our coach also suggested it, and I approached Dee Dee, their mom, and asked if they wanted to try out. We skated one day and then decided to compete."

Like the silver medalists, Gibbons, 15, and Harris, 21, enjoyed success despite only being together for six months.

Third after the short program, they placed fourth in the free skate en route to the bronze medal.

Their two performances left Gibbons gushing about the experience.

"I love shows and big competitions, and selling the program the way it goes is my favorite part," said Gibbons, whom Harris describes as a "fireball."

Their free skate to "Cleopatra" featured a Group 5 Axel lift that received a level three and a pair of level-four spins. Harris fought to stay on his feet on a double flip toward the end of the program.

The two hooked up on the recommendation of their coaches, and the partnership is thriving.

"I've been doing pairs for 10 years, and Olivia is the best partner I've ever had," Harris said. "She's gung-ho, likes to go at everything. Although we started skating just six months ago, we are doing lasso lifts, split double twists. She has a great attitude and work ethic."

One of their coaches, Bobby Martin, said the team has come a long way fast and has a high ceiling for the future.

"They are exciting, and she's quite the showgirl," Martin said. "She puts on a good show, brings some energy to the building, and Tyler is just solid. They get along great and are very professional."

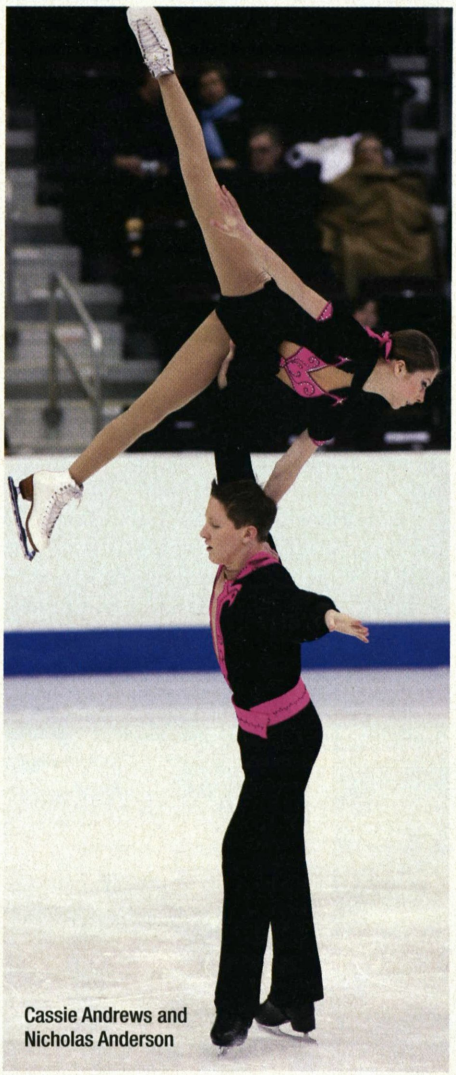

Photo by Paul Harvath

Cassie Andrews and Nicholas Anderson

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Haven Denney and Daniel Raad, Cassie Andrews and Nicholas Anderson, Olivia Gibbons and Tyler Harris and Lauren Gifford and Carson Bodnarek

Bonacorsi, Mager surprise themselves with novice win

By Lynn Rutherford

Just 10 months after starting their partnership, Lauri Bonacorsi (Peninsula SC) and Travis Mager (Columbia FSC) are the U.S.

Photo by Paul Harvath

Haven Denney and Daniel Raad

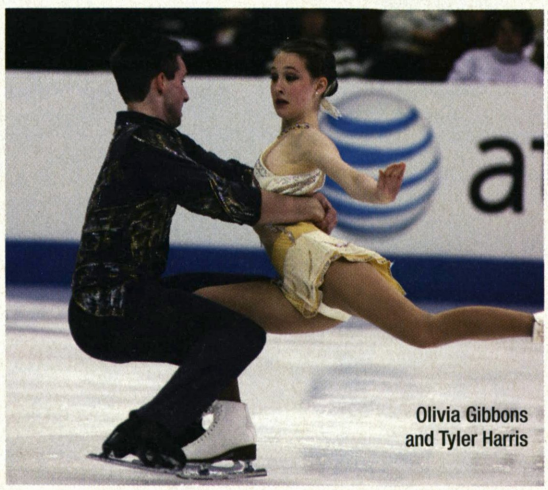

Photo by Michelle Harvath

Olivia Gibbons and Tyler Harris

novice ice dancing champions.

"We were just happy being at nationals," the 19-year-old Mager said. "To be first is such a huge surprise."

It was no shock to their coach. After the couple won the 2009 Pacific Coast Sectional Figure Skating Championships, he had a feeling they might prevail in Cleveland.

"They just looked fabulous after the first two hours on the ice," said Greg Maddalone, who trains the team in Mt. Laurel, Md. "I knew it was a partnership that could work. I really think their potential is unlimited."

The couple won the compulsory dance, placing first in the Blues and second in the Paso Doble, and brought a slim .96-point lead into the free dance. As it turned out, they didn't need much of a cushion; their elegant routine to selections from the "Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence" and "The Last Emperor" soundtracks gained five level-four elements, including a combination lift and earned 58.58 points. They ended the competition with 105.80 points, more than four points ahead of the field.

"In this program, I'm (playing the part of) his muse, so we tried to show that," said the 16-year-old Bonacorsi, a high school honors student. "We wanted to have fun and enjoy ourselves."

"The step sequence went really well," added Mager, who attends the University of Maryland. "We definitely made eye contact with the judges, and our final (combination) lift was really in time with the music."

Last season, Mager skated with Lauren Ely, while Bonacorsi spent an entire year looking for a new partner. Mager saw her profile on icepartnersearch.com, and the two tried out in February 2008 and again in April 2008. They officially began training together late last May.

Once a week, they travel to the IceWorks Skating Complex in Aston, Pa., to work with Robbie Kaine, coach of two-time U.S. ice dancing bronze medalists Kimberly Navarro and Brent Bommentre.

"This season was all about making a splash, showing what we can do," Mager said.

"We couldn't come to Cleveland with any expectations because we had no track record," Bonacorsi said.

Anastasia Olson (Ann Arbor FSC) and Jordan Cowan (All Year FSC) captured the silver medal with 101.78 points. They train in Ann Arbor, Mich. (under Yuri Chesnichenko and Yaroslava Nechaeva), where they share the ice with U.S. silver medalists Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates and 2008 U.S. junior champions Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell.

"We love training there," Olson, 16, said. "We really look up to Emily and Evan, and the Hubbells. Practicing with them is a great way to improve ourselves."

Entering the final event just a hair off the lead, they lost their chance for the title when Cowan fell on a difficult twizzle sequence. Still, they placed second in the free dance.

"I was really happy, even though we made one mistake," Olson said. "I was satisfied with the program."

"I think I just over-thought it," Cowan, 18, added. "The past two weeks, it's been very consistent."

Moriah Tabon and Matt Kleffman (Broadmoor SC) won bronze with 96.76 points. The Colorado Springs-based couple, who are coached by Patti Gottwein, overcame an eighth-place finish in the Blues compulsory with a lively free dance to the classic Russian folk dance "Dark Eyes." They took third place in that segment.

"I was really happy we were able to express ourselves, and were able to skate the way we wanted to skate," the 17-year-old Kleffman said.

"This was all about the experience; just being here at nationals is a big personal victory itself," Tabon, 16, added.

Gabrielle Friedenberg (Washington FSC) and Benjamin Nykiel (Bowie FSC), who were third after the two compulsory dances, were sixth in the free dance and fourth overall with 94.19 points. ■

Lauri Bonacorsi and Travis Mager

Photo by Michelle Harvath

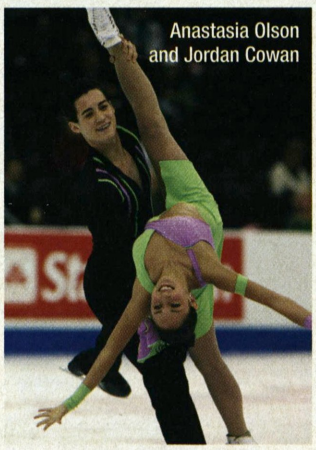
Anastasia Olson and Jordan Cowan

Photo by Michelle Harvath

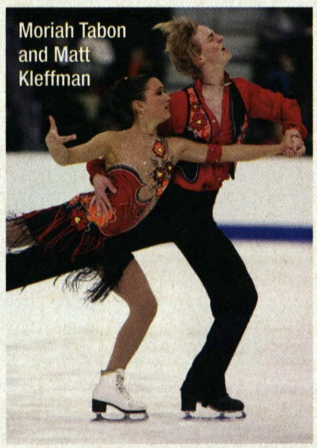
Moriah Tabon and Matt Kleffman

Photo by Michelle Harvath

Photo by Paul Harvath

(l-r) Anastasia Olson and Jordan Cowan, Lauri Bonacorsi and Travis Mager, Moriah Tabon and Matt Kieffman and Gabrielle Friedenberg and Benjamin Nykiel

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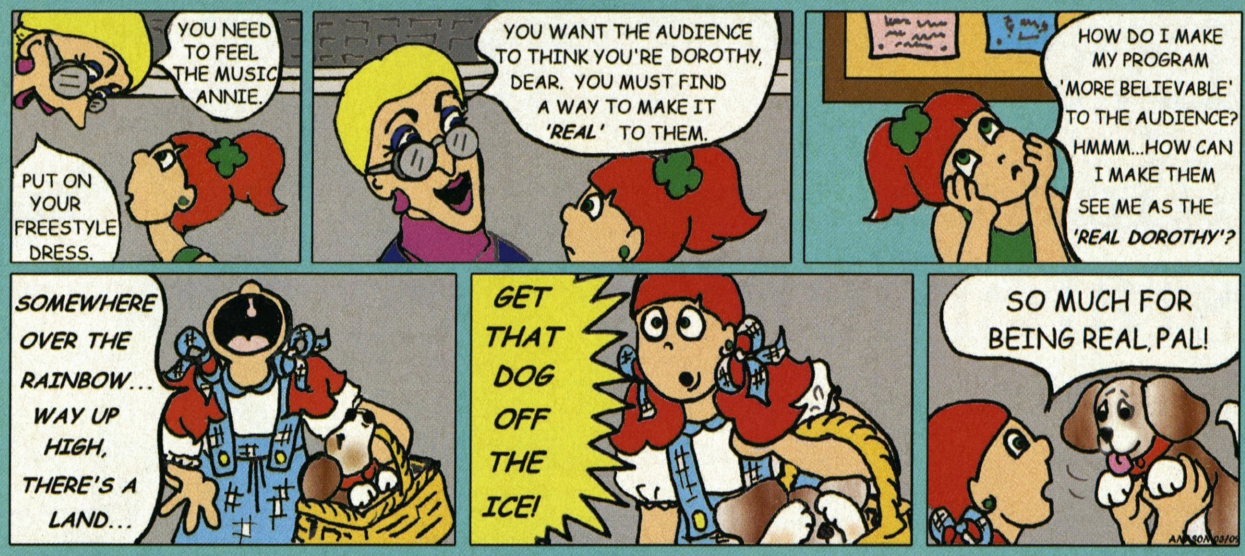
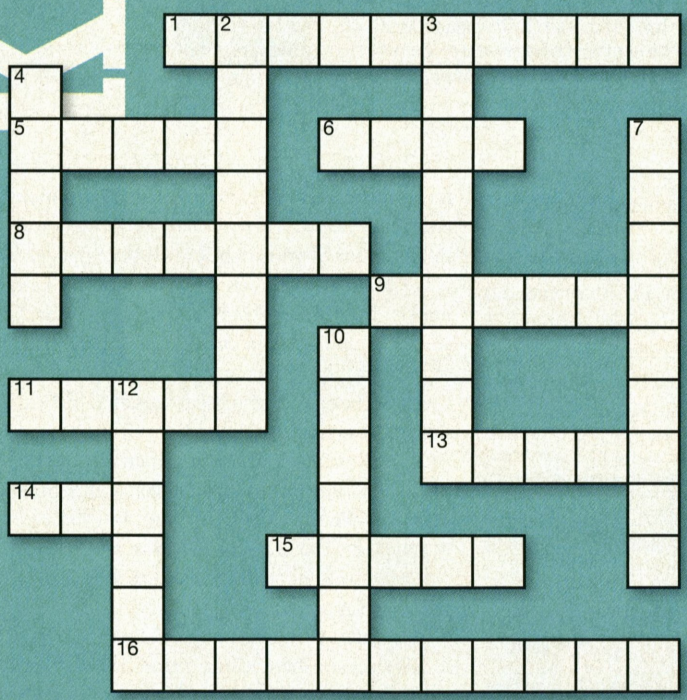
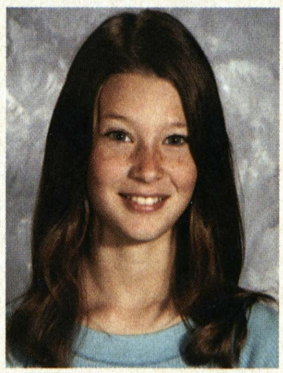


By Joel Kaplow



KIDZ SPOTLIGHT



Name: Maddie Mansour

Age: 11

Hometown: Westlake, Ohio

Club: Strongsville Skating Club

Level: Preliminary

Coach: Crystal Hancy

How often I skate: Five days a week

Favorite skaters: Kimmie Meissner, Mirai Nagasu, Caroline Zhang, Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker

Favorite jumps/moves: Axel, butterfly, pearl and the Y spin

Hobbies: Hanging out with my friends, skating

How I got started: My cousin, Autumn, took me skating in Pennsylvania and I absolutely loved it.

What else you should know about me: I play soccer. I have two brothers who play hockey. I have a supportive mom and dad. I hope to be a gold medalist at the World Championships.

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.

ACROSS

1 During the 9 Across telecast, Brian Boitano skated a rare pairs routine with ___ (2 wds.)

5 At the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final last December, ___ Gilles took the ladies bronze

6 Before George W. Bush left office, he appointed skating legend Michelle ___ to the President's Council on Physical Fitness

8 Last January, NBC aired "Progressive Presents ___ & Gymnastics Spectacular" bringing two very different sports together

9 Last December's "Smucker's Presents ___, Cool Sounds" on NBC featured world-class skaters and the music of Peter Cetera with The Cleveland Pops Orchestra (2 wds.)

11 ___ Mahbanoozadeh of the U.S. earned the men's silver at the 2008 ISU Junior Grand Prix Final

13 Before skating, Caroline Zhang likes to consult the Magic ___ Ball fortune teller on her iPhone

14 The ISU Grand Prix Final senior ladies gold was won by Japan's ___ Asada

15 ___ Bereswill of the U.S. grabbed the ladies gold at the Junior Grand Prix Final in Korea

16 During the 8 Across telecast, Tanith Belbin temporarily replaced her ice dancing partner Ben Agosto and paired up with her boyfriend - who is he? (2 wds.)

DOWN

2 When Jeremy Abbott garnered the gold at the 2008 ISU Grand Prix Final, he became the first ___ man to do so

3 What's another name for the difficult candlestick spiral?

4 During the 8 Across telecast, Tanith Belbin caught Olympic gymnast Jonathan Horton with a ___ and dragged him across the ice!

7 Reading is Fundamental, the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit children's literacy organization, named Rachael Flatt as January's Reading ___ for 2009

10 Ice dancing siblings Madison and Keiffer ___ scored silver at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final

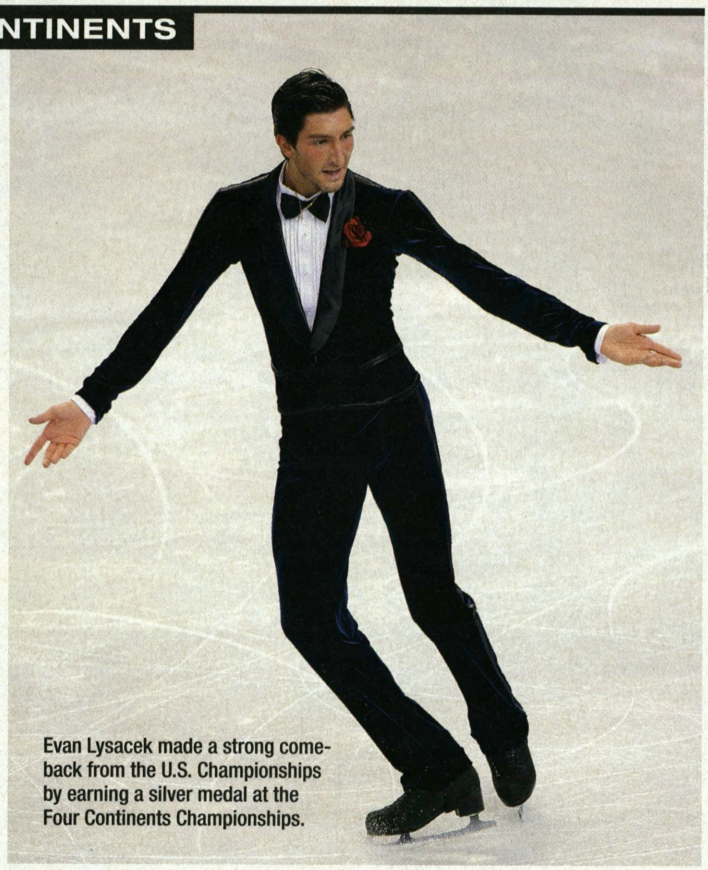
12 Senior ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White took this medal at the ISU Grand Prix Final

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 71

Lysacek makes statement

Davis, White rally to win gold medal

BY LAURIE NEALIN



Photos by Matthew Stockman/Getty Images

Evan Lysacek made a strong comeback from the U.S. Championships by earning a silver medal at the Four Continents Championships.

Elvis Stojko recognizes that look – the one that fellow Canadian Patrick Chan gets on his face when he steps onto the ice to compete. It is a look of being zoned in, focused on the job at hand. It is the look that lifted Stojko to the top of the World podium three times and propelled Chan to new heights at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Vancouver on what will be Olympic ice in 2010.

"Chan is very good at being able to compete when he needs to compete, which is what you need in this sport," Stojko said.

Chan, on the rebound from a lackluster performance at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, outdistanced the stellar field by more than 12 points in his first appearance at Four Continents. The Toronto teen, coached by Don Laws in Florida, led from start to finish, committing only one major error in two performances to finish with 249.19 points. Only two other men have ever scored more points since the international judging system was introduced in the wake of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games judging scandal.

"It was actually very intense," the 18-year-old upstart said of the early February competition featuring many of the top contenders for the World podium. "Looking back a few weeks ago, I don't think I really knew who was coming here. Still, I came in having fun.

"Worlds is really the time where I have to focus more and concentrate on every element and every detail," added Chan, who was ninth in his senior Worlds debut in 2008.

Chan's win in Vancouver makes him the man to beat in Los Angeles, but Evan Lysacek, who stormed back from his U.S Figure Skating Championships disappointment to claim silver at Four Continents, suggested no one should be counting "the old guys" out.

Lysacek, the U.S. bronze medalist, posted 237.15 points and snagged silver with a gutsy performance that left him spent, but definitely relieved. The 23-year-old was one of only two men in Vancouver to execute a quadruple jump without flaw.

Lysacek admitted it was difficult for him to rally to compete a little more than a week after the U.S. Championships, but he was definitely glad he came.

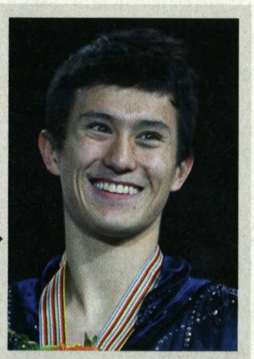
"Not to be rude, but I wanted to beat those other guys that were ahead of me at nationals because I wanted to prove the old guys aren't going out," Lysacek said. "I know a lot of my peers have been on the way out, but some of us are still here, still training, and we're adapting to the rules because we've gone through so many judging systems."

Japan's Takahiko Kozuka, 19, finished with 221.76 points and the bronze medal.

The "other guys" Lysacek referred to include Jeremy Abbott, 23. The Grand Prix Final and U.S. champion had a tough go of it in Vancouver. He ranked sixth in the free skate

LADIES

◀ Gold	Yu-Na Kim, KOR	189.07
Silver	Joannie Rochette, CAN	183.91
Bronze	Mao Asada, JPN	176.52
Fourth	Caroline Zhang, USA	171.22



MEN

Gold	Patrick Chan, CAN	249.19 ▶
Silver	Evan Lysacek, USA	237.15
Bronze	Takahiko Kozuka, JPN	221.76
Fourth	Nobunari Oda, JPN	220.26

PAIRS

◀ Gold	Qing Pang/Jian Tong, CHN	194.94
Silver	Jessica Dube/Bryce Davison, CAN	185.62
Bronze	Dan Zhang/Hao Zhang, CHN	174.98
Fourth	Meagan Duhamel/Craig Buntin, CAN	168.43

ICE DANCING

Gold	Meryl Davis/Charlie White, USA	192.39 ▶
Silver	Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, CAN	191.81
Bronze	Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates, USA	180.79
Fourth	Vanessa Crone/Paul Poirier, CAN	176.82

and settled for fifth overall with 216.94 points. U.S. silver medalist, Brandon Mroz, 18, had big problems with his triple Axels in the free skate and dropped from fifth to eighth overall. (196.78 points)

The competition staged in Pacific Coliseum – the 2010 Olympic figure skating venue – proved to be a great motivator for the competitors determined to return to live their Olympic dreams.

"I would be thrilled to make the Olympic team," said U.S. bronze medalist Caroline Zhang. "I think it's been just great to be able to skate on this ice before the Olympics."

Zhang finished fourth (171.22 points) at Four Continents behind three women who confirmed their status as the podium favorites for the World Championships in Los Angeles.

In the ongoing rivalry between Japan and Korea, Korea prevailed with Yu-Na Kim claiming gold (189.07 pints), much to the delight of the thousands of fans of Korean heritage who flocked to the Coliseum to cheer their sports idol. Kim soared in the opening round, posting a record-high score for women – 72.24 points.

Mao Asada faltered in the short and had to claw her way back from sixth place. A picture-perfect triple Axel helped her win the free skate, but the Japanese star settled for bronze (176.52 points).

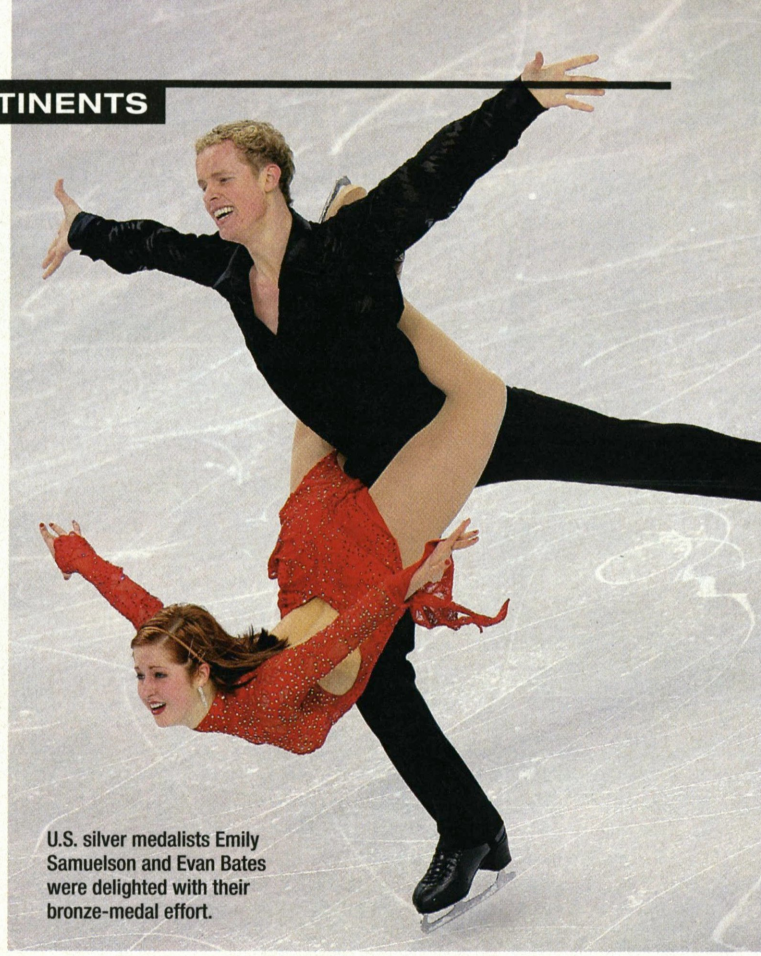
Canada's Joannie Rochette won the silver (183.91 points) and proved she, too, will be a serious medal threat in Los Angeles.

Newly crowned U.S. champion Alissa Czisny ended up in the ninth spot. Her teammate Rachael Flatt was seventh. They get their chance for a do-over at the World Championships.

For Team USA, the ice dancing event proved to be the most successful, with U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White winning gold in an upset over Canadian World silver medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates earned the bronze medal.

Virtue and Moir, still returning to championship form following her leg surgery last fall, led after two rounds, but Davis and White overtook their Michigan training mates with a superbly executed, dramatic interpretation of their "Samson and Delilah" free dance. They clinched the gold by a hair – 192.39 to 191.81.

"We've been dreaming pretty big since we were little," Davis said. "Things have really come together for us. I don't think we're necessarily dreaming any bigger this year than we have in the past. We saw ourselves on podiums representing the U.S. all over the world."



U.S. silver medalists Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates were delighted with their bronze-medal effort.

Bates, who won the 2008 World Junior title with Samuelson and tallied 180.79 points in their Four Continents debut, was pumped throughout the competition.

"With the Olympics being here next year, I don't think there's a better way to motivate yourself for the Olympic season than to be in this arena, see the Canadian fans that love skating, and being in a city this beautiful – it's amazing."

The third American couple, Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre, finished sixth.

In the pairs competition, it was the Chinese who came away with two medals – gold to Qing Pang and Jian Tong (194.94 points) and bronze to Dan Zhang and Hao Zhang (174.98 points). Canada's Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison were sandwiched in between with 185.62 points.

The three U.S. pairs – Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker, Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett, Rena Inoue and John Baldwin – finished fifth, sixth, and seventh, respectively.

Canada mined the most hardware – one gold and three silvers – at the Four Continents Championships, which served as the official test event for the 2010 Olympic Games. Team USA won a trio of medals — gold, silver and bronze. ■

Laurie Nealin is a sports journalist who has covered figure skating since 1988 for newspapers, magazines, newswires and web sites. She is the Canadian correspondent for icenetwork.com.

U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White continued their breakthrough campaign with a gold-medal performance in Vancouver.

Michael Quadrino, Devon Leib and Anastasia Gromova work the check-in area for National Skating Month activities at the Newbridge Arena Skating School in Bellmore, N.Y.

Open house

Rinks across the country show why it's great to skate

BY SUSI WEHRLI-MCLAUGHLIN

The 2009 National Skating Month celebration was a tremendous success, with more than 300 clubs, programs and rinks hosting open houses across the country in January. With the cooperative efforts of USA Hockey, US Speedskating and STAR (Serving the American Rinks), the National Skating Month promotional kits sold out for the first time in the eight-year history of the program.

The goal of National Skating Month is to increase awareness and participation in ice skating sports. During the month-long celebration, activities at participating rinks included free skating, free lessons and clinics, exhibitions, skating demonstrations, hockey games, speedskating races, parent education, equipment resales, fundraising activities and parties.

Below are some of the many success stories from 2009 National Skating Month.

Chilly leads students in a round of the hokey-pokey during a National Skating Month kick-off party at the Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex in Houston.

A full house took part in free activities at the Gold Coast Arena in New Jersey.

Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex, Houston, Texas

We hosted a great National Skate Day open house, with 437 skaters attending the public session and free lessons available. Aeros mascot, Chilly, skated and led games with the kids during the public skating session. U.S. Team member Becky Bereswill, Special Olympian Marissa Castillon and our U.S. champion Theatre on Ice junior team and introductory team performed exhibitions. We had a "Chuck a Puck" fundraiser, which provides skating programs for special-needs skaters. The Starz of Houston FSC held a used dress and skate sale that was a huge success.

Richmond Ice Zone, Richmond, Va.

The Richmond Skating Stars and the Richmond Ice Zone hosted two free beginner classes. More than 400 skaters attended (a record for us)! Each person received a goody bag with information about lessons and other programs. Skaters spent time off ice learning the basics of falling and marching. They were then treated to exhibitions by figure skaters, hockey players, speed skaters and a synchronized team. After the exhibitions, skaters headed to the ice for a 30-minute lesson. Members of the Central Virginia Skating Club answered questions and helped on the ice. After the lesson, free group lessons and public session passes were given away during the free skate.

The Mt. Pleasant FSC had a great time hosting its annual Family Skate Night with more than 230 people from as young as 18 months to adult.

Spokane and Lilac City Figure Skating Clubs, Spokane, Wash.

Spokane Figure Skating Club partnered with neighboring Lilac City Figure Skating Club to host the 2009 National Skating Month event at Spokane's Riverfront Park Ice Palace. Our event was highlighted by skating exhibitions from beginners through our local junior ladies Pacific Coast Sectional competitor Heidi Nelson. Two TV stations covered the event, with interviews from club skaters and NSM participants. Residents took to the ice during the public skating session, including Spokane's mayor, Mary Verner, who took advantage of free lessons offered by club members. Parents and spectators inside the warm concession area were treated to information and free skating goodies, which let them know more about programs offered through the local figure skating clubs and U.S. Figure Skating.

John Rose Oval, Roseville, Minn.

The John Rose Oval held its first National Skating Month celebration, titled the "Ice Jam." This event was held in conjunction with the figure skating club, hockey association, bandy, and curling clubs in the Twin Cities as well as the Friends of the Oval group. The speedskating portion was organized by the Midway Speedskating Club but represented all of the clubs that are members of Greater Minnesota Speedskating Association. The event was advertised on the outdoor sign for the arena as well as on the web site for the Roseville Visitors Association.

Each group had one or two designated chefs, who made chili for our "Chili Cook Off." For $5, attendees could purchase a bowl, sample as many of the chilies as they wanted and vote for their favorite. It was a fun and friendly competitive event between user groups. The Oval staff and all of the participants felt it was a good way to get information out about the winter ice sports, and everyone is enthused to build off of this event and do something again next year.

Garden State Skating Club and Gold Coast Arena, New Jersey

More than 700 people participated in the Garden State Skating Club and Gold Coast Arena's full day of free activities to kick off National Skating Month. Club members Lauren Lechner and Faryn Pearl organized the event as the culmination of their work for the Girl Scout Gold Award, a prestigious award for Girl Scouts who epitomize leadership, morality and dedication. Local Girl and Boy Scout troops came out for lessons and earned their ice skating badges. Many decided to sign up for future Basic Skills classes. The event was covered by local newspapers and on the local New Jersey television station. Lauren and Faryn chose this event as their project with the intent of promoting the sport of figure skating and an active lifestyle.

Many programs attracted new families who may never have tried ice skating, but having an open house and offering free lessons in a fun and friendly environment enticed them to tie up some skates and give it a try.

For complete coverage of the events held across the country, go to usfigureskating.org and click on Clubs then National Skating Month. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Senior Lauren Magliola and freshman Sarah Arnold of the Miami University Redhawks and members of U.S. Figure Skating's D.R.E.A.M. program offer their unique perspectives from their experiences at the 2009 Prague Cup in Prague, Czech Republic, Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Magliola competes on the Redhawks' senior team, while Arnold is a member of Miami's junior varsity team. Both Miami teams finished fifth in the international competition, with the Colonials from West Acton, Mass, placing seventh in the 19-team junior event.

International assignment

Miami skaters share experiences from 2009 Prague Cup

I traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, for my first World Championships in 2006 as a freshman. I was unsure what to expect from the trip. Although I tried to hide it, I was in awe of the fact that I was actually at a World Championships. We placed fourth, which was almost unreal to me, as I had never placed higher than 10th at the U.S. Championships before coming to Miami. We also had a full day to tour the city and experience the culture, which also was unreal to me as I had never traveled outside of North America before coming to Miami.

My experience in Prague this time around was incredibly rewarding. It seemed like the trip might never start after our original flight was cancelled due to the foot of snow that was dumped on Ohio the night before our departure, but thanks to a little luck (and a lot of hard work behind the scenes) we got in with an hour to get ready for our first practice. I know the stress of almost not making it and fatigue from traveling had our group feeling a little physically and emotionally drained, but everyone rose to the occasion as both teams had strong and productive practices.

The rest of the week went smoothly, with a bit of a challenge presented by an unofficial practice in a frigid rink, and it ended with two great performances during competition. Going out in front of an audience and having fun with my incredible teammates was amazing. Feeling my own excitement for a good performance while seeing the excitement on my teammates' faces was an indescribable feeling. Moments like those are why I have devoted such a large part of my life to the sport.

Much about my destination was the same when I returned to Prague as a senior, but I came into the event a different person. I had a much better idea of what to expect (though our traveling experience proved that there are some things you can never predict) and I was less in awe of everything going on around me. At the same time, I had just as much, if not more, appreciation for how incredible it is to represent Miami and the United States in competition.

As I move closer toward graduation, I find myself increasingly aware of how rare these kinds of opportunities are. Many of the skaters on our junior team were experiencing their first international competition with Miami as I had three years ago. I was reminded of myself when I saw their excitement. They reminded me of how much I have learned about myself, and the world, through the experiences I've had as a part of this team. It's this knowledge, and the great memories I've made with my teammates and family while representing my country, that I will take with me as I move into the world, long after my competitive skating career has ended.

By Lauren Magliola

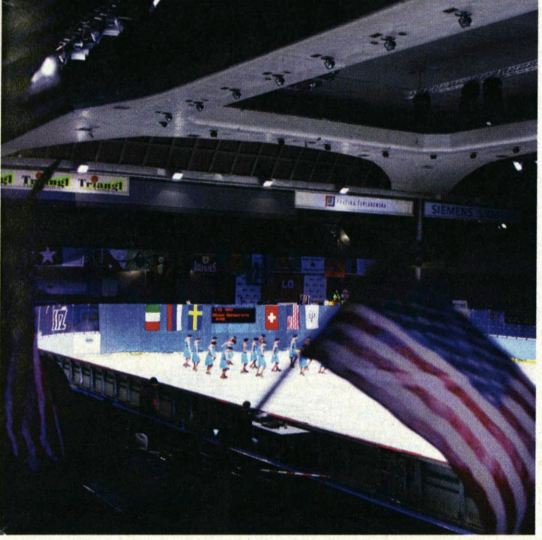
PHOTOS BY SARAH ARNOLD

Team USA displays its patriotism at the 2009 Prague Cup. Two teams from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and the Colonials from West Acton, Mass, competed at the two-day event.

With roughly 15 hours of traveling under our belt, 39 skaters representing Miami University finally landed in Prague, Czech Republic.

We gathered our luggage, exchanged U.S. money for Koruns and departed for the Parkhotel Praha. When we arrived at the hotel, we had little time to spare before our unofficial practice. After a brief team meeting, we made our way to our rooms to prepare for practice. As one of my teammates and I unzipped our suitcases, we gently pulled out our Team USA warm-ups. We sat in our hotel room silent for a few moments, both of us staring at the logo. We had never been to an international competition. The Prague Cup would be our first experience. With a hotel filled with Finnish, Swedish and French skaters, we knew this would not be an ordinary competition. We were in the Czech Republic to represent more than just Miami University, but the United States.

As my team and I walked along the cobblestone streets toward the arena, we were anxious to skate, as well as see how the rink would



Some of the best teams in the world competed at the Prague Cup.

This artistic photograph taken by Sarah Arnold displays the Miami University senior free skate in Prague.

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differ from our rink back home. We entered the double doors and I took a look at our surroundings, noticing advertisements in different languages, and realizing the boards around the ice were higher than in the United States. Rather than vending machines filled with Aquafina water or Gatorade, they were filled with the best cups of hot cocoa and cafe', or so my teammates said.

With a day in between our arrival and the short program , we had a little time to sightsee. I saw most of the city of Prague through the lens of my camera. I am an avid photographer and normally don't go anywhere, particularly skating competitions, without my camera strapped around my neck. I enjoyed seeing the famous medieval Prague Astronomical Clock, the 9th Century Prague Castle and the detailed architecture of the buildings as they were originally designed.

Even though we weren't able to see the entire city, much of the international experience took place within the arena. On the evening of the short program, we walked into the arena, lined up our Redhawk skating bags against the wall, and found a designated area to warm up. Although I was supposed to pay attention to my team leaders, it was hard not to people watch. From the cheers being yelled in different languages, the other teams' warm-up routines, and even the way they style their hair and apply makeup, there was a lot to be distracted by. As my team recited "We are Miami! USA!" I couldn't help but smile and feel a sense of pride and joy in representing my country and school. The atmosphere was something I will never forget and an experience I certainly cannot have at home.

Each time I stand in line, waiting to step onto the ice to compete, I remind myself of what a unique sport figure skating is. So many people play soccer, basketball and tennis, but not everyone can skate. Our sport is extraordinary and I try to never forget that or take it for granted. Listening to the announcer say, "Please welcome to the ice Miami University, representing the United States of America" and looking into the stands, to see the flags brimming with stars and stripes waving from side to side, I could not have felt more fortunate for this incredible opportunity.

By Sarah Arnold

RINKSIDE

Legacy of Zamboni machine lives on at new arena

By Kama Korvela

When "The Monster" came rolling down the ice at the Daytona Arena, it was hard not to notice it. If the bold "B" painted on the side of the gigantic machine didn't capture a person's attention, perhaps the sounds of cracking walnut shells did.

At Bowdoin College, located in picturesque Brunswick, Maine, the Zamboni machine known to locals as "The Monster" has been a fixture since the mid-1950s. Though it's no longer used to resurface the ice, it's a part of the college's sports history.

"The Monster was, in its day, a strange behemoth of a vehicle," said Doug Boxer-Cook, director of mews and media relations for Bowdoin College. "It was this big, slow-moving thing with crushed walnut shells in its tires. People must have wondered what was coming down the ice."

Bowdoin College purchased the ice resurfacer from Frank J. Zamboni (inventor of the machine) for $8,476 in 1956 and become the fourth college in the United States to own a machine.

The same year, the college opened Daytona Arena, a facility used for ice hockey. It became home to "The Monster" for many years. Daytona Arena, which provided ice for hockey players and recreational skaters, closed in January to make way for the state-of-the-art, energy-efficient Sidney J. Watson Arena.

When visitors enter the new Watson Arena, "The Monster" is waiting to greet them. It's prominently displayed in the facility's lobby.

While "The Monster" resurfaced the ice at Daytona Arena until the 1980s, it served more than just that purpose. The Zamboni Company studied the feedback that Bowdoin College provided them to improve future models of the ice surfacing machine.

But there were a few problems caused by "The Monster," according to Doug Boxer-Cook.

"Construction of (Daytona) arena was actually held up by The Monster, as construction crews needed the Zamboni's performance dimensions – its turning radius and the like," Boxer-Cook said.

Bowdoin College is not only well-known for "The Monster," but also its winter sports legacy. Both its men's and women's ice hockey teams are top-ranked.

The Zamboni was created in 1949. Three-time Olympic champion Sonja Henie discovered the resurfacer and bought a machine for herself the next year. In the years that followed, Zamboni continued to construct and sell the machines to rinks around the country. A vital figure in the sport of figure skating, Frank Zamboni was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Association Hall of Fame in 2000.

Photos courtesy of the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College

"The Monster" served its role admirably from the 1950s until the 1980s. It's now on display at the new Sidney J. Watson Arena.

85TH ANNIVERSARY SKATING

EDITOR'S NOTE: SKATING, the official magazine of U.S. Figure Skating, celebrates the 85th consecutive year of publication in 2008-09. This is the sixth in a series of 10 stories produced by U.S. Figure Skating historian Ben Wright, who is using his complete history of SKATING magazines to give you a glimpse into U.S. Figure Skating's glorious past.

The Fifth Decade (1960-1969)

Never Forgotten

Plane crash deals devastating blow to figure skating community

BY BENJAMIN T. WRIGHT, SENIOR PAST PRESIDENT, USFSA

Any recollections of the fifth decade (1960–1969) inherently focus on several high points and one extreme low point.

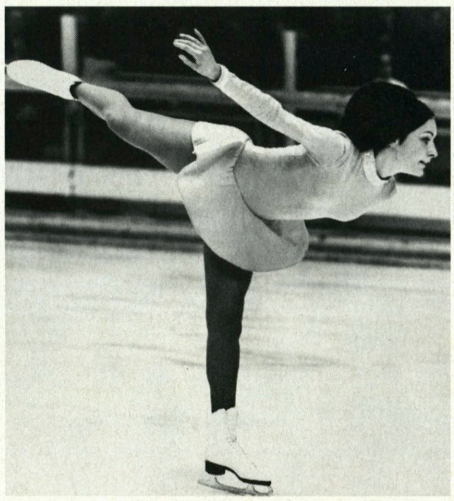
The 1959–1960 season, which marked the end of the "Golden Age" of American skating, was one of those high points. The 1960 Olympic Winter Games were held in Squaw Valley, Calif., a most unlikely site. The competition marked the first time the Olympics had taken place in North America since being held in Lake Placid, N.Y., in 1932.

In Squaw Valley, the rink for figure skating was covered but open at one end; it was the last time figure skating was held outdoors at the Olympics.

In the three events (men, ladies and pairs), North Americans fared well. For the men, David Jenkins of the United States succeeded his brother, Hayes, as the Olympic champion. Canada's Donald Jackson earned the bronze medal. In ladies, Carol Heiss, the 1956 Olympic silver medalist, emerged with the gold medal. Her U.S. teammate, Barbara Roles, secured the bronze. In pairs, Canada's Barbara Wagner and Robert Paul claimed gold, with Nancy Ludington and Ron Ludington of the U.S. winning the bronze medal.

A changing of the guard could already be seen at the 1960 World Figure Skating Championships, which were held in Vancouver, British Columbia, following the Olympics. The competition marked the first time Canada had hosted Worlds since 1932 in Montreal. The men's title went to Alain Giletti of France, the first non-American to win since Hans Gerschwiler of Switzerland in 1947. Jackson took the silver medal for Canada, and France's Alain Calmat was third. Calmat went on to become champion at the 1965 World Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo.

In ladies, Heiss won her fifth and final World title, with Roles again third. In pairs, Maria Jelinek and Otto Jelinek of Canada gained the silver medal; there were no Americans on the podium.



PHOTOS BY STAFF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Peggy Fleming performs her free skate at the 1968 Olympics. Fleming played a major role in the return of U.S. Figure Skating following the tragic plane crash of 1961, which killed the entire team, coaches and family members.

The 1961 North American Championships were held in Philadelphia just before the U.S. Team left for the World Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia. In what was regarded as a significant upset, Laurence Owen of the United States won the ladies title, preventing a Canadian sweep of the gold medals. Jackson, the Jelineks and the ice dancing team of Virginia Thompson and William McLachlan all won gold medals for Canada.

Timothy Wood of the United States, left, waves to the crowd from the podium at the 1968 Olympic Winter Games. Wood claimed the silver medal. Wolfgang Schwarz of Austria, center, won the gold medal and Patrick Pera of France earned the silver.

The low point of the decade, and perhaps for all time, in the sport in the United States, was the crash of Sabena Flight 584 from New York to Brussels, Belgium, on February 15, 1961. There were no survivors. Seventy-two passengers, including the entire U.S. 1961 World Team, their accompanying officials, coaches and family members — a total of 34 people — plus the flight crew, lost their lives.

The International Skating Union subsequently canceled the 1961 World Championships. The 1962 Worlds were held in Prague the following year and are remembered for the remarkable win of Canada's Jackson, who performed the first triple Lutz in World competition in his free skate.

The ISU granted U.S. Figure Skating a waiver for 1963 and 1964 from the requirements in regard to qualifying for World entries in subsequent years, so the U.S. enjoyed a full team (of 18) both years. The qualifying number of entries for 1962 was based on placements at the 1960 Worlds, with a team of 12 participating.

In March 1961, a memorial exhibition was held at the Boston Garden, in which members of the Canadian World Team participated, along with several U.S. champions from the junior and novice levels. U.S. President John F. Kennedy recognized the event and sent his younger brother, Edward M. Kennedy, to convey his regrets and sympathy. As a result of the funds raised, the U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund was created as a living memorial to the 1961 Team. The fund exists today and continues to support worthy competitive skaters, based on both competitive and academic records.

As it turned out, the recovery of U.S. skating from the crash was much faster than

expected, especially in view of the many leading coaches lost in the tragedy. In 1964, Scott Allen earned a bronze medal at the Olympic Winter Games. In 1966, Peggy Fleming became the World Ladies champion, and she was the Olympic gold medalist in the Games of Grenoble, France, in 1968, with Tim Wood claiming the silver medal.

Behind the scenes, the first efforts were made by the ISU to modernize the principal disciplines included in the ISU championships. The 1963 Congress adopted what became the short program for pairs, which was first included at the World Championships in 1964, with a value of one third of the total score.

In 1967, an original set pattern (OSP) dance was added as the fourth compulsory dance, with the following values: compulsory dances 45 percent, OSP 15 percent and free dance 40 percent. At the same time, the traditional 60–40 percent split in singles between compulsory figures and free skating was changed to 50–50.

A major event in the decade for SKATING magazine was the retirement in 1963 of editor of Theresa Weld Blanchard. Tee Blanchard served 40 years as the unpaid volunteer editor of SKATING. She was elected an honorary member of U.S. Figure Skating in the fall of 1962, the first woman so honored. Tee continued to serve actively as editor emeritus until her death in March 1978 at age 84. She was succeeded as editor by Robert Ellis, who came on board as the business manager of the Central Office in 1962. Ellis served as editor until 1966, when he was replaced by Marjorie Martin. Not only did Mrs. Blanchard retire as editor in 1963, but Edith Ray, the longtime managing editor, departed after long service, both during and after World War II (1941–1944 and 1946–1963).

The Central Office and the magazine moved in the fall of 1961 from their longtime but separate quarters at 30 Huntington Ave., in Boston, to larger, combined offices at 575 Boylston St. The office moved again in 1966 to 178 Tremont St. There was one more move in Boston before the transfer to Colorado Springs in 1979.

The 40th anniversary of the magazine was observed in 1963. An article in the magazine recorded its progress over the years, noting the annual subscription rate for eight issues was only $4, while in the beginning it had been $1 for three issues. The magazine's subscription count of 9,100 was reported to the Executive Committee, as was its advertising revenue, which had doubled from the prior year.

From 1964 to 1967, the detailed results of all the major qualifying competitions were published in full-sized competition annuals, which were sold separately. The cost, however, proved prohibitive and the annuals were discontinued, with the results remaining in the magazine.

In 1966, the magazine expanded from its longtime 6 x 9-inch size to 8 ½ x 11. The change to a standard size allowed for more advertising and provided more editorial space for the recreational skater. During this period, competition results and other official information, such as tests passed, were included in a separate insert in the middle of each issue called "USFSA and CFSA Data." The full-sized format lasted three years before the magazine reverted to its traditional size because of cost. It remained that size until 1993.

In the fall of 1968, the Canadian Figure Skating Association withdrew its recognition of the magazine as its official publication after 27 years. ■

1961 PLANE CRASH VICTIMS

Competitors

Roger Campbell, Dona Lee Carrier, Patricia Dineen, Robert Dineen, Ila Hadley, Ray Hadley, Laurie Hickox, William Hickox, Gregory Kelley, Bradley Lord, Rhode Lee Michelson, Laurence Rochon Owen, Maribel Yerxa Owen, Dallas "Larry" Pierce, Douglas Ramsay, Dudley Shaw Richards, Diane Carol Sherbloom, Stephanie Westerfeld

Coaches

Ann Campbell, William Kipp, Maribel Vinson Owen, Daniel Ryan, Edi Scholdan, William Swallender

Judges, officials

Harold Hartshorne, Deane McMinn, Walter S. Powell, (spectator) Edward LeMaire

Family members

Alvah "Linda" Hadley, Louise Hartshorne, Nathalie Kelley, Richard "Dickie" LeMaire, James Scholdan, Sharon Westerfeld

A Look Back at the 1960s

The Sixties were the decade of civil rights, free love and war protests. More than 70 million baby boomers became teenagers, their sheer numbers influencing everything from fashions and fads to music and politics. Skateboards, Wham-O hula hoops, Barbie Dolls and GI Joes were popular toys. A British band from Liverpool appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show in 1964, causing screaming teenage hysteria across the nation and bewildering millions of parents.

Around the nation: The fairy-tale term known as Camelot ended with President John F. Kennedy's assassination; the presidency of Lyndon Johnson — known as the Great Society — attempted to end poverty and racial injustice. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his visionary "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and was assassinated in 1968.

In sports: Babe Ruth's longstanding record for single-season home runs, set in 1927, was shattered when Roger Maris, right fielder for the New York Yankees, hit his 61st home run in 1961, setting a record that would stand for the next 37 years, three years longer than Ruth held his record.

In skating: The 1960 World champions were Carol Heiss of the United States, Alain Giletti of France, Barbara Wagner and Robert Paul of Canada (pairs) and Doreen Denny and Courtney Jones of Great Britain (ice dancing).

At the movies: At the 33rd annual Academy Awards, The Apartment, a romantic comedy directed by Billy Wilder, received 10 Oscar nominations and took home five, including Best Picture and Best Director. Released in 1960, the film starred Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray.

The cost of living: In 1960, a single-family home with three bedrooms cost $25,900; the percentage of households with at least one television increased to 87 percent. The average annual salary was $4,743, and minimum wage was $1 an hour. A new Rambler was $1,845, and a gallon of gas cost 31 cents. Boys wore wash 'n' wear shirts at $3 for two; a girl's party dress cost $3.17.

Cost of skates: In 1960, the Beginner/Recreation model from Riedell Skates cost $13.50, the Professional model was $54.95, and a custom-built pair of skates was $70.

The cost of other items in:

	1960	1970	1980
Daily newspaper	7¢	15¢	25¢
Postage stamp	5¢	8¢	20¢
Hershey Bar	5¢	10¢	25¢
Loaf of bread	23¢	34¢	50¢
Kellogg's Corn Flakes	27¢	38¢	99¢
Theater ticket	$1	$1	$2.50
Pound of coffee	59¢	76¢	$1
Dozen eggs	46¢	39¢	83¢
Pair of skates	$15.95	$11.98	$24.99
Bicycle	$46.88	$40.95	$69.88

2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships

Jan. 18-25

Quicken Loans Arena

Cleveland, Ohio

CHAMPIONSHIP LADIES
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo; Assistant Technical Specialist: Denise Williamson; Referee: Todd Bromley; Judges: Jessica Gaynor, Kathleen McBride, Robert Rosenbluth, Gayle Nichols, Peggy Graham, Deborah Currie, Marilyn Whelan, Lynn Goldman, Lynne Lauer.

CHAMPIONSHIP LADIES
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo; Assistant Technical Specialist: Denise Williamson; Referee: Todd Bromley; Judges: Jessica Gaynor, Kathleen McBride, Robert Rosenbluth, Gayle Nichols, Peggy Graham, Deborah Currie, Marilyn Whelan, Lynn Goldman, Lynne Lauer.

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Alissa Czisny, 178.06, 1, 3
2. Rachael Flatt, 173.78, 2, 2
3. Caroline Zhang, 171.08, 3, 4
4. Ashley Wagner, 165.33, 12, 1
5. Mirai Nagasu, 159.99, 6, 5
6. Katrina Hacker, 156.28, 5, 6
7. Brittney Rizo, 151.23, 4, 9
8. Angela Maxwell, 151.22, 13, 7
9. Alexe Gilles, 151.20, 11, 8
10. Laney Diggs, 147.48, 9, 10
11. Kristine Musademba, 147.48, 7, 11
12. Joelle Forte, 145.33, 8, 13
13. Taylor Firth, 139.49, 16, 12
14. Beatrisa Liang, 135.15, 10, 16
15. Molly Oberstar, 130.71, 15, 15
16. Chrissy Hughes, 128.32, 21, 14
17. Tenile Victorsen, 126.74, 14, 17
18. Becky Bereswill, 124.57, 17, 18
19. Karen Zhou, 120.05, 18, 19
20. Melissa Telecky, 106.96, 20, 20
21. Blake Rosenthal 101.39, 19, 21
22. Brittney Westdorp, 88.70, 23, 22
23. Tatyana Khazova, 86.03, 22, 23

CHAMPIONSHIP MEN
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: William Schneider; Assistant Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner; Referee: Tamie Campbell; Judges: Roger Glenn, Hal Marron, Deborah Currie, Richard Perez, Paula Naughton, Peggy Graham, Coco, Gram Shean, Patricia St. Peter, Kristina Lundgren

CHAMPIONSHIP MEN
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: William Schneider; Assistant Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner; Referee: Tamie Campbell; Judges: Roger Glenn,
Hal Marron, Deborah Currie, Richard Perez, Paula Naughton, Peggy Graham, Coco Gram Shean, Patricia St. Peter, Kristina Lundgren

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Jeremy Abbott, 241.89, 1, 1
2. Brandon Mroz, 229.70, 4, 2
3. Evan Lysacek, 229.10, 2, 4
4. Ryan Bradley, 221.40, 5, 3
5. Johnny Weir, 203.99, 7, 5
6. Curran Oi, 194.03, 6, 8
7. Adam Rippon, 193.76, 12, 6
8. Parker Pennington, 192.48, 3, 10
9. Stephen Carriere, 185.31, 8, 11
10. Tommy Steenberg, 184.99, 14, 7
11. Dennis Phan, 183.25, 9, 12
12. Shaun Rogers, 175.72, 10, 13
13. Eliot Halverson, 171.14, 18, 9
14. Douglas Razzano, 164.14, 16, 14
15. William Brewster, 152.80, 13, 16
16. Jonathan Cassar, 151.10, 17, 15
17. Jason Wong, 140.73, 11, 17

Withdrawn: Nicholas LaRoche, 58.01, 15
Scott Smith

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Joseph Inman; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: Whitney Gaynor; Referee: Wendy Enzmann; Judges: Paula Naughton, Kristina Lundgren, Jennifer Marker Johnson, William Fitzpatrick, Roger Glenn, Coco Gram Shean, Lisa Erle, Laurie Johnson, Richard Perez; Data Operator: Sharon Watson; Replay Operator: Gale Tanger

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Joseph Inman; Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Assistant Technical Specialist: Whitney Gaynor; Referee: Wendy Enzmann; Judges: Paula Naughton, Kristina Lundgren, Jennifer Marker Johnson,William Fitzpatrick, Roger Glenn, Coco Gram Shean, Lisa Erle, Laurie Johnson, Richard Perez

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker, 178.76, 2, 1
2. Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett, 176.27, 1, 2
3. Rena Inoue/John Baldwin, 171.08, 3, 3
4. Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig, 159.95, 6, 4
5. Brooke Castile/Benjamin Okolski, 157.01, 5, 6
6. Chloe Katz/Joseph Lynch, 156.15, 7, 5
7. Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin, 153.67, 4, 8
8. Tiffany Vise/Derek Trent, 148.91, 8, 7
9. Laura Lepzinski / Ethan Burgess, 141.21, 12, 9
10. Jessica Rose Paetsch/Drew Meekins, 130.87, 10, 10
11. MeeRan Trombley/Laureano Ibarra,129.61, 9, 12
12. Lindsay Davis/Alexander Merritt, 125.33, 11, 14
13. Bianca Butler/Joseph Jacobsen, 124.46, 15, 11
14. Stephanie Kuban/Steven Elefante, 123.21, 16, 13
15. Lisa Moore/Justin Gaumond, 112.57, 17, 16
16. Andrea Best/Trevor Young, 112.15, 19, 15
17. Chelsi Guillen/Danny Curzon, 108.06, 13, 18
18. Jennifer Brunn/Don Baldwin, 105.99, 14, 19
19. Kendra Moyle/Steven Pottenger, 105.43, 18, 17

CHAMPIONSHIP DANCE
COMPULSORY DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien; Referee: Kathleen Harmon; Judges: Janice Benoit, Hal Marron, Gerald Miele, Shawn Rettstatt, Kanae Tagawa, Mary Karen Henderson, Frederick Hagedorn, John Millier, Jenny Mast

CHAMPIONSHIP DANCE
ORIGINAL DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien; Referee: Kathleen Harmon; Judges: Janice Benoit, Hal Marron, Gerald Miele, Shawn Rettstatt, Kanae Tagawa, Mary Karen Henderson, Frederick Hagedorn, John Millier, Jenny Mast.

CHAMPIONSHIP DANCE
FREE DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien; Referee: Kathleen Harmon; Judges: Janice Benoit, Hal Marron, Gerald Miele, Shawn Rettstatt, Kanae Tagawa, Mary Karen Henderson, Frederick Hagedorn, John Millier, Jenny Mast

Pl. Name, Points, CD, OD, FD

1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 201.68, 1, 1, 1
2. Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates, 181.64, 2, 2, 2
3 Kimberly Navarro/Brent Bommentre, 176.30, 3, 6, 3
4. Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell, 171.51, 4, 4, 4
5. Morgan Matthews/Leif Gislason, 169.62, 6, 3, 5
6. Jane Summersett/Todd Gilles, 169.35, 5, 5, 6
7. Trina Pratt/Chris Obzansky, 165.71, 7, 7, 7
8. Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, 151.59, 9, 8, 8
9. Charlotte Maxwell/Nick Traxler 143.60, 11, 10, 9
10. Clare Farrell/Charles Fishpaw 135.30, 12, 11, 10
11. Jessica Perino/William Avila, 127.35, 10, 13, 11
12. Lauren Corry/Alexander Lorello, 121.62, 14, 12, 12
13. Kellene Ratko/Jonathan Harris, 107.58, 13, 15, 13
14. Emma Cyders/Ievgenii Krasniak, 107.29, 15, 14, 14

Withdrawn: Jennifer Wester/Daniil Barantsev, 77.31, 8, 9

JUNIOR LADIES
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner; Assistant Technical Specialist: Denise Williamson; Referee: Wendy Enzmann; Judges: Shawn Rettstatt, Peggy Graham, Richard Perez, Deborah Currie, William Fitzpatrick, Roger Glenn, Laurie Johnson, Gayle Nichols, Jessica Gaynor

JUNIOR LADIES
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Charles Cyr; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner; Assistant Technical Specialist: Denise Williamson; Referee: Wendy Enzmann; Judges: Shawn Rettstatt, Peggy Graham, Richard Perez, Deborah Currie, William Fitzpatrick, Roger Glenn, Laurie Johnson, Gayle Nichols, Jessica Gaynor.

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. DeeDee Leng, 132.49, 1, 3
2. Ellie Kawamura, 131.25, 2, 1
3. Christina Gao, 128.69, 3, 2
4. Kristiene Gong, 126.17, 4, 5
5. Kendall Wyckoff, 123.88, 5, 6
6. Samantha Cesario, 120.90, 6, 4
7. Amanda Dobbs, 116.52, 7, 8
8. Carolyn-Ann Alba, 112.35, 12, 7
9. Vanessa Lam, 111.68, 11, 9
10. Keli Zhou, 110.87, 8, 10
11. Gretchen Donlan, 106.60, 10, 11
12. Marissa Secundy, 105.16, 9, 12
13. Kirsten Olson, 95.57, 13, 13

JUNIOR MEN
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Joseph Inman; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner; Assistant Technical Specialist: William Schneider; Referee: Wendy Enzmann; Judges: Jennifer Marker Johnson, Patricia St. Peter, Marilyn Whelan, William Fitzpatrick, Jessica Gaynor, Lisa Erle, Kristina Lundgren, Deborah Currie, Roger Glenn

JUNIOR MEN
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Joseph Inman; Technical Specialist: Charles Tickner; Assistant Technical Specialist: William Schneider; Referee: Wendy Enzmann; Judges: Jennifer Marker Johnson, Patricia St. Peter, Marilyn Whelan, William Fitzpatrick, Jessica Gaynor, Lisa Erle, Kristina Lundgren, Deborah Currie, Roger Glenn

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Ross Miner, 183.80, 1, 2
2. Keegan Messing, 176.94, 2, 3
3. Alexander Johnson, 171.08, 7, 1
4. Grant Hochstein, 162.15, 9, 4
5. Austin Kanallakan 160.30 8 5
6 Armin Mahbanoozadeh 159.12, 3, 8
7. Alexander Aiken, 157.99, 10, 6
8. Andrew Gonzales, 153.19, 4, 10
9. Michael Chau, 145.78, 12, 7
10. Daniel O'Shea, 145.04, 11, 9
11. Juran Yang, 142.75, 5, 12
12. Peter Max Dion, 141.22, 6, 11
13. David Wang, 117.34, 13, 13
14. Pine Kopka-Ross, 99.98, 14, 14

Withdrawn: Richard Dornbush

JUNIOR PAIRS
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Doug Williams; Technical Specialist: Whitney Gaynor; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby; eferee: Kathleen Krieger; Judges: Lynne Lauer, Laurie Johnson, Peggy Graham, Coco Gram Shean, Kathleen McBride, Gayle Nichols, Robert Rosenbluth, Paula Naughton, Lynn Goldman

JUNIOR PAIRS
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Doug Williams; Technical Specialist: Whitney Gaynor; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Referee: Kathleen Krieger; Judges: Lynne Lauer, Laurie Johnson, Peggy Graham, Coco Gram Shean, Kathleen McBride, Gayle Nichols, Robert Rosenbluth, Paula Naughton, Lynn Goldman

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Tracy Tanovich/Michael Chau, 135.50, 3, 1
2. Brynn Carman/Christopher Knierim, 134.92, 1, 2
3. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, 129.87, 2, 3
4. Britney Simpson/Nathan Miller, 122.44, 4, 5
5. Molly Aaron/Daniyel Cohen, 118.16, 7, 4
6. Brittany Chase/Andrew Speroff, 115.82, 8, 6
7. Lauren Farr/Mac Kern, 115.79, 5, 7
8. Ameena Sheikh/Aaron VanCleave, 113.44, 9, 8
9. Kloe Bautista/Galvani Hopson, 109.70, 6, 10
10. Megan Gueli/Grant Marron, 108.42, 10, 9
11. Erika Smith/Nathan Bartholomay, 101.00, 12, 11
12. Rachel DeRita/Brandon Accardi, 97.98, 11, 12
13. Emily Glassberg/Gabe Woodruff, 89.05, 13, 13

JUNIOR DANCE
COMPULSORY DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien;
Assistant Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Referee: Holly Cole;
Judges: Frederick Hagedorn, Jenny Mast, John Millier, Mary Karen Henderson,
Hal Marron, Kanae Tagawa, Marilyn Whelan, Gerald Miele, Janice Benoit

JUNIOR DANCE
ORIGINAL DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien;
Assistant Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Referee: Holly Cole;
Judges: Frederick Hagedorn, Jenny Mast, John Millier, Mary Karen Henderson,
Hal Marron, Kanae Tagawa, Marilyn Whelan, Gerald Miele, Janice Benoit

JUNIOR DANCE
FREE DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien;
Assistant Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Referee: Holly Cole;
Judges: Frederick Hagedorn, Jenny Mast, John Millier, Mary Karen Henderson,
Hal Marron, Kanae Tagawa, Marilyn Whelan, Gerald Miele, Janice Benoit

Pl. Name, Points, CD, OD, FD

1. Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein, 167.81, 1, 1, 1
2. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 161.03, 2, 2, 2
3. Piper Gilles/Zachary Donohue, 151.10, 3, 3, 3
4. Shannon Wingle/Timothy McKernan, 145.05, 4, 6, 5
5. Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello, 144.80, 8, 5, 4
6. Rachel Tibbetts/Collin Brubaker, 143.20, 5, 4, 7
7. Sara Bailey/Kyle Herring, 136.18, 12, 9, 6
8. Chloe Wolf/Rhys Ainsworth, 134.19, 7, 11, 8
9. Charlotte Lichtman/Dean Copely, 133.27, 10, 8, 10
10. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 132.52, 11, 10, 9
11. Elyse Matsumoto/Patrick Mays, 128.74, 9, 7, 11
12. Katie Wyble/Justin Morrow, 116.82, 6, 12, 12
13. Alison Carey/Daniel Donigan, 102.58, 14, 13, 13

Withdrawn: Brittany Marshall/Ashley Deavers, 52.75, 13, 14

NOVICE LADIES
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Joseph Inman;Technical Specialist: Denise Williamson; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo; Referee: Todd Bromley; Judges: Coco Gram Shean, Laurie Johnson, William Fitzpatrick, Paula Naughton, Roger Glenn, Jessica Gaynor, Kristina Lundgren, Gayle Nichols, Patricia St. Peter

NOVICE LADIES
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Joseph Inman; Technical Specialist: Denise Williamson; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Ervin-Baudo; Referee: Todd Bromley; Judges: Coco Gram Shean, Laurie Johnson, William Fitzpatrick, Paula Naughton, Roger Glenn, Jessica Gaynor, Kristina Lundgren, Gayle Nichols, Patricia St. Peter

Pl. Name, SP, FS

1. Kiri Baga, 120.16, 1, 2
2. Mary Beth Marley, 116.53, 2, 3
3. Angela Wang, 114.55, 5, 1
4. Nina Jiang, 112.81, 3, 4
5. Yasmin Siraj, 109.42, 4, 5
6. Lauren Dinh, 101.09, 7, 6
7. Katlynn McNab, 100.37, 8, 7
8. Keilani-Lyn Rudderham, 94.64, 10, 8
9. Lindsay Davis, 90.85, 6, 10
10. Viviana Mathis, 90.26, 9, 9
11. Christine Mozer, 79.80, 11, 11
12. Kelly Nguyen, 72.73, 12, 12

NOVICE MEN
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Referee: Kathleen Krieger, Judges: Kathleen McBride, Jennifer Marker Johnson, Lisa Erle, Shawn Rettstatt, Lynn Goldman, Lynne Lauer, Gayle Nichols, Richard Perez, Robert Rosenbluth; Data Operator: Sharon Watson; Replay Operator: Charles Tickner

NOVICE MEN
FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Libby Scanlan;Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Referee: Kathleen Krieger, Judges: Kathleen McBride, Jennifer Marker Johnson, Lisa Erle, Shawn Rettstatt, Lynn Goldman, Lynne Lauer, Gayle Nichols, Richard Perez, Robert Rosenbluth; Data Operator: Sharon Watson; Replay Operator: Charles Tickner

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Joshua Farris, 161.05, 1, 1
2. Steven Evans, 133.60, 3, 2
3. Jason Brown, 132.84, 2, 3
4. Jay Yostanto, 124.16, 6, 4
5. Austin Wagner, 122.15, 7, 5
6. Jason Thomas, 117.81, 8, 6
7. Christopher Fernandes, 116.89, 5, 8
8. Colin Grafton, 114.21, 10, 7
9. Edward Tea, 111.62, 4, 10
10. Allen Gaghinjian, 102.97, 11, 9
11. Joshua Santillan, 99.85, 9, 11
12. John McKenna, 79.77, 12, 12

NOVICE PAIRS
SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Doug Williams; Assistant Technical Specialist: Whitney Gaynor; Referee: Tamie Campbell; Judges: Kathleen McBride, Deborah Currie, Jennifer Marker Johnson, Lynne Lauer, Robert Rosenbluth, Lisa Erle, Lynn Goldman, Richard Perez, Patricia St. Peter

NOVICE PAIRS
FREE SKATING

Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Doug Williams; Assistant Technical Specialist: Whitney Gaynor; Referee: Tamie Campbell; Judges: Kathleen McBride, Deborah Currie, Jennifer Marker Johnson, Lynne Lauer, Robert Rosenbluth, Lisa Erle, Lynn Goldman, Richard Perez, Patricia St. Peter

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Cassie Andrews/Nicholas Anderson, 116.20, 1, 2
2. Haven Denney/Daniel Raad, 115.09, 2, 1
3. Olivia Gibbons/Tyler Harris, 110.35, 3, 4
4. Lauren Gifford/Carson Bodnarek, 106.67, 6, 3
5. Tori Vollmer/Zack Sidhu, 99.16, 5, 5
6. Ashley Cain/Sergey Sidorov, 98.62, 4, 6
7. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyne, 90.44, 8, 7
8. Meredith Pipkin/Brett Dunie Neustadt, 89.76, 7, 9
9. Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton, 87.01, 11, 8
10. Rachel Cole/Colin Glabinski, 82.32, 9, 11
11. Morgan Agster/Adam Civiello, 80.33, 10, 10
12. Marissa Spector/Christopher Nolan, 71.99, 12, 12

NOVICE DANCE
COMPULSORY DANCE 1

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien; Referee: Holly Cole; Judges: Marilyn Whelan, Hal Marron, Janice Benoit, Kanae Tagawa, Jenny Mast, Gerald Miele, Mary Karen Henderson, Frederick Hagedorn, John Millier

NOVICE DANCE
COMPULSORY DANCE 2

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien; Referee: Holly Cole; Judges: Marilyn Whelan, Hal Marron, Janice Benoit, Kanae Tagawa, Jenny Mast, Gerald Miele, Mary Karen Henderson, Frederick Hagedorn, John Millier

NOVICE DANCE
FREE DANCE

Technical Controller: Linda Leaver; Technical Specialist: Judy Blumberg; Assistant Technical Specialist: Stephanie Segien; Referee: Holly Cole; Judges: Marilyn Whelan, Hal Marron, Janice Benoit, Kanae Tagawa, Jenny Mast, Gerald Miele, Mary Karen Henderson, Frederick Hagedorn, John Millier

Pl. Name, Points, C1, C2, FD

1. Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager, 105.80, 2, 1, 1
2. Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan, 101.78, 1, 2, 2
3. Moriah Tabon/Matt Kleffman, 96.76, 4, 8, 3
4. Gabrielle Friedenberg/Benjamin Nykiel, 94.19, 3, 4, 6
5. Grace Lee Sells/Robert Cuthbertson, 93.42, 10, 3, 5
6. Una Donegan/Andrew Korda, 93.29, 8, 6, 4
7. Joylyn Yang/Jean-Luc Baker, 90.32, 6, 5, 8
8. MacKenzie Reid/Adam Munday, 89.04, 9, 10, 7
9. Katharine Zeigler/Samuel Rashba, 86.76, 5, 7, 10
10. Sameena Sheikh/Daniel Eaton, 86.14, 7, 11, 9
11. Natalie Wojton/Michael Soyfer, 80.28, 11, 9, 11
12. Julia Leix/Thomas Zebrasky, 77.11, 12, 12, 12

2009 Four Continents Championships

Vancouver B.C., Canada

Feb. 2-8

LADIES

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Yu-Na Kim, KOR, 72.24-116.83-189.07
2. Joannie Rochette, CAN, 66.90-117.01-183.91
3. Mao Asada, JPN, 57.86-118.66-176.52
4. Caroline Zhang, USA, 58.16-113.06-171.22
5. Cynthia Phaneuf, CAN, 60.98-108.43-169.41
6. Fumie Suguri, JPN, 60.18-107.56-167.74
7. Rachael Flatt, USA, 55.44-107.39-162.83
8. Akiko Suzuki, JPN, 55.40-104.96-160.36
9. Alissa Czisny, USA, 55.62-104.19-159.81
10. Amelie Lacoste, CAN, 49.78-96.40-146.18
11. LiuYan, CHN, 47.60-91.90-139.50
12. Anastasia Gimazetdinova, UZB, 46.22-79.17-125.39
13. Cheltzie Lee, AUS, 43.96-79.92-123.88
14. Hyeon-Jung Kim, KOR, 41.61-80.00-121.64
15. Binshu Xu, CHN, 48.38-72.62-121.00
16. Na-Young Kim, KOR, 43.94-76.34-120.28
17. Cecilia Cantu Ana, MEX, 44.82-63.93-108.75
18. Tina Wang, AUS, 37.64-70.38-108.02
19. Chaochih Liu, TPE, 37.20-60.31-97.51
20. Tamami Ono, HKG, 33.80-58.09-91.89
21. Michele Cantu, MEX, 37.16-52.92-90.08
22. Loretta Hamui, MEX, 33.84-53.80-90.08
23. Yueren Wang , CHN, 34.38-50.66-85.04
24. Gracielle Jeanne, PHI, 34.02-46.35-80.37

Referee: Junko Hiramatsu; Technical Controller: Gale Tanger; Technical Specialist: Ravi Walia; Assistant Technical Specialist: Vladimir Petrenko; Judges: Chihee Rhee, Mieko Fujimori, Sasha Martinez, Neil Garrard, Jiasheng Yang, Catherine Taylor, Evgeni Rokhin, Leanna Caron, Deborah Currie, Data Operator: David Santee, Replay Operator: Marylin Kreuzinger.

MEN

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Patrick Chan, CAN,88.90-160.29-249.19
2. Evan Lysacek, USA, 81.65-155.50-237.15
3. Takahiko Kozuka, JPN, 76.61-145.15-221.76
4. Nobunari Oda, JPN, 75.04-145.22-220.26
5. Jeremy Abbott, USA, 75.67-141.27-216.94
6. Vaughn Chipeur, CAN, 68.00-144.81-212.81
7. Jeremy Ten, CAN, 66.60-140.67-207.27
8. Brandon Mroz, USA, 75.05-121.73-196.78
9. Denis Ten, KAZ, 61.32-123.50-184.82
10. Jialiang Wu, CHN, 67.75-115.17-182.92
11. Chengjiang Li, CHN, 59.22-119.72-178.94
12. Yasuharu Nanri, JPN, 59.44-98.47-157.91
13. Song Gao, CHN, 58.74-96.71-155.45
14. Abzal Rakimgaliev, KAZ, 53.65-99.02-152.67
15. Mark Webster, AUS, 43.93-79.15-123.08
16. Kevin Alves, BRA, 43.97-78.00-121.97
17. Luis Hernandez, MEX, 44.66-74.04-118.70
18. Robert McNamara, AUS, 41.59-74.88-116.47
19. Min-Seok Kim, KOR, 41.04-67.71-108.75
20. Justin Pietersen, RSA, 34.48-71.78-106.26
21. Nicholas Fernandez, AUS, 37.64-67.90-105.54
22. Charles Shou-San Pao, TPE, 34.45-61.92-96.37
23. Humberto Contreras, MEX, 39.87-56.23-96.10
24. Wun-Chang Shih, TPE, 31.52-64.52-96.04

Referee: Alexander Penchev; Technical Controller: Paolo Pizzocari; Technical Specialist: Wilhelmina Van Veen; Assistant Technical Specialist: Todd Sand; Judges: Karin Ehrhardt, Hailan Jiang, Jozica Podbevsek, Peter Rankin, Berit Aarnes, Leena Laaksonen, Anne Shean, Sakiko Okano, Jean Senft; Data Operator: David Santee, Replay Operator: Marylin Kreuzinger

PAIRS

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Qing Pang/Jian Tong, CHN, 65.60-129.34-194.94
2. Jessica Dube/Bryce Davison, CAN, 64.36-121.26-185.62
3. Dan Zhang/Hao Zhang, CHN, 63.20-111.78-174.98
4. Meagan Duhamel/Craig Buntin, CAN, 62.08-106.35-168.43
5. Keauna Mclaughlin/Rockne Brubaker, USA, 54.16-109.85-164.01
6. Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett, USA, 53.60-108.09-161.69
7. Rena Inoue/John Baldwin, USA, 56.78-100.60-157.38
8. Mylene Brodeur/John Mattatall, CAN, 55.16-94.69-149.85
9. Huibo Dong/Yiming Wu, CHN, 52.40-90.93-143.33
10. Yang Sunyoto/Yang D Sulindro, TPE, 43.38-83.35-126.73
11. Marina Aganina/Dmitri Zobnin, UZB, 36.88-65.64-102.52

Referee: Pierre De Lacroix; Technical Controller: Sissy Krick; Technical Specialist: David Moellenkamp; Assistant Technical Specialist: David Kirby; Judges: Benoit Lavoie, Yumin Wang, Mona Jonsson, Deborah Noyes, Yukiko Okabe, Taffy Holliday, Daniel Delfa, Chihee Rhee, Helle Lyngberg; Data Operator: David Santee, Replay Operator: Marylin Kreuzinger

ICE DANCING

Name, Country, CD-OD-FD-TS

1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, USA, 35.23-60.42-96.74-192.39
2. Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, CAN, 36.40-60.90-94.51-191.81
3. Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates, USA, 31.41-59.48-89.90-180.79
4. Vanessa Crone/Paul Poirier, CAN, 32.43-56.36-88.03-176.82
5. Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje, CAN, 30.62-53.33-84.81-168.76
6. Kimberly Navarro/Brent Bommentre, USA, 30.59-47.59-73.64-151.82
7. Xintong Huang/Xun Zheng, CHN, 27.56-46.95-67.79-142.30
8. Xiaoyang Yu/Chen Wang, CHN, 24.65-42.12-71.13-137.90
9. Jiayue Wang/Chongbo Gao, CHN, 23.31-41.74-67.48-132.53
10. Danielle Obrien/Gregory Merriman, AUS, 19.70-36.13-57.10-112.93
11. Maria Borounov/Evgeni Borounov, AUS, 17.51-31.15-52.69-101.35

Referee: Robert Horen; Technical Controller: Halina Gordon Poltorak; Technical Specialist: Rock Lemay; Assistant Technical Specialist: Eniko Berkes; Judges: Sharon Rogers, Leslie Keen, Robyn Nott, Nicholas Russell, Roberts Krutkramelis, Christl Heidler, Mayumi Kato, Evgeni Rokhin; Data Operator: David Santee; Replay Operator: Marylin Kreuzinger.

Prague Cup 2009

Prague, Czech Republic

Jan. 31-Feb.1

SENIORS

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 74.62-129.46-204.08
2. Team Unique, FIN, 74.44-129.30-203.74
3. Team Surprise, SWE, 76.20-122.60-198.80
4. Paradise, RUS, 73.82-123.84-197.66
5. Miami University, USA, 67.38-116.80-184.18
6. Boomerang, SWE, 62.38-105.24-167.62
7. Team Berlin 1, GER, 52.78-103.70-156.48
8. Hot Shivers, ITA, 54.64-91.92-146.56
9. United Angels, GER, 56.14-88.22-144.36
10. Olympia, CZE, 52.48-74.70-127.18
11. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 40.98-67.38-108.36
12. Balance, CZE, 41.68-64.06-105.74

Referee: Kirsten Tillmann; Technical Controller: Helen Volgushev; Technical Specialist: Alain Daniel Hostache; Assistant Technical Specialist: Jitka Krcmarova; Assistant Referee Ice: Seppo Kurtti; Judges: Marketa Horklova, Tuija Toivakainen, Igor Obraztsov, Massimo Orlandini, Anna Nylen, Josip Josko Cerovac, Paula Ziegler, Data Operator: Radim Opacity, Replay Operator: Jaroslav Placek.

JUNIORS

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Ice Steps, FIN, 67.88-99.44-167.32
2. Gold Ice, CAN, 55.50-103.40-158.90
3. Convivium, SWE, 60.10-96.86-156.96
4. Stella Polaris, FIN, 59.36-86.58-145.94
5. Miami University, USA, 52.96-91.08-144.04
6. Sun City Swing, FIN, 54.56-89.44-144.00
7. Colonials, USA, 53.22-85.48-138.70
8. Ice Diamonds, FIN, 54.64-82.20-136.84
9. Team Berlin Junior, GER, 49.94-86.72-136.66
10. Hot Shivers, ITA, 50.06-81.48-131.54
11. Daisies, CZE, 48.38-72.94-121.32
12. Kometa, CZE, 44.80-71.44-116.24
13. NIKA, RUS, 47.14-66.44-113.58
14. Black Diam´s, FRA, 45.10-67.52-112.62
15. Cool Dreams, SWI, 43.58-67.60-111.18
16. Ladybirds, ITA, 38.28-69.48-107.76
17. Les Jeanne D´ARC-MOZAIKS, FRA, 43.32-65.06-107.38
18. Skating Graces, GER, 43.14-55.28-98.42
19. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 30.02-49.74-79.76

Referee: Seppo Kurtti; Technical Controller: Philippe Maitrot; Technical Specialist: Romy Schone; Assistant Technical Specialist: Vera Paulusova; Assistant Referee Ice: Eva Ludvikova; Judges: Igor Obraztsov, Hana Kuglerova, Anna Nylen, Nicole Roch, Sanna Kohi, Paula Ziegler, Michael

Schallhart, Data Operator: Radim Opacity, Replay Operator: Jaroslav Placek.

FRENCH CUP 2009

Rouen, France, Feb. 6-7

SENIORS

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Team Unique, FIN, 76.32-136.57-121.89
2. Rockettes, FIN, 72.13-132.92-205.05
3. Haydenettes, USA, 72.61-126.74-199.35
4. Nexxice, CAN, 68.40-118.21-186.61
5. Paradise, RUS, 73.21-101.41-174.62
6. Crystallettes, USA, 62.96-110.49-173.45
7. Les Supremes, CAN, 65.90-104.18-170.08
8. Tartastan, RUS, 59.07-110.58-169.65
9. Starlight Team, SUI, 49.11-76.38-125.49
10. Les Atlantides, FRA, 41.51-68.85-110.36
11. Northern Lights, SWE, 39.97-66.07-106.04
12. Duke Town Diamonds, NED, 31.05-54.62-85.67

Referee: Philippe Maitrot; Technical Controller: Dann Krueger; Technical Specialist: Jitka Krcmarova; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alain Daniel Hostache; Assistant Referee Ice: Christopher Buchanan; Judges: Cynthia Alepin, Odile Barranco, Sandra Williamson Leadley, Wendy Enzmann, Aart Blok, Mika Saarelainen, Igor Obraztsov, Nina Bischoff, Petra Tyrbo, Data Operator: Eugen Larasser, Replay Operator: Marianne Haguenauer.

JUNIORS

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Team Mystique, FIN, 63.48-104.36-167.84
2. Team Fintastic, FIN, 61.99-102.74-164.73
3. Chicago Jazz, USA, 59.37-102.88-162.25
4. Les Supremes Junior, CAN, 56.19-95.21-151.40
5. Lexettes, USA, 54.87- 91.80-146.67
6. Les Black Diam's, FRA, 40.40-69.53-109.93
7. Jeannes D'arc Mozaiks, FRA, 38.90-63.40-102.30
8. Team Dancers, SWE, 42.54-55.79-98.33

Referee: Christopher Buchanan; Technical Controller: Christian Wieland; Technical Specialist: Karen Weismeier; Assistant Technical Specialist: Monica Schneider; Assistant Referee Ice: Philippe Maitrot; Judges: Odile Barranco, Nina Bischoff, Petra Tyrbo, Sandra Williamson Leadley, Cynthia Alepin, Aart Blok, Wendy Enzmann, Igor Obraztsov, Pia Alhonen, Data Operator: Eugen Larasser, Replay Operator: Marianne Haguenauer .

2009 Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

SC of Morris NJ, Inc.

East Hanover, N.J., Jan. 29-31

SENIOR - SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Referee: Robin Greenleaf; Assistant Referee: Ice Susan Haugh; Judges: Evelyn Minter, William Beharrell, Thomas Sobell, Colette Nygren, Martha Rasmussen, Kim Cool

SENIOR - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Referee: Leonard Colarusso; Assistant Referee Ice: Robin Greenleaf;Judges: Marie Pearce, Martha Rasmussen, Colette Nygren, Shirley Holdsworth, Kim Cool, Judith Edmunds

SENIOR FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. University Of Delaware Synchronized Skating, 138.42, 1, 1

JUNIOR - SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Dann Krueger; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Referee: Robin Greenleaf; Assistant Referee Ice: Susan Haugh; Judges: Laura Days, Colette Nygren, Shelley Danner, Shirley Holdsworth, William Beharrell, Elizabeth Barrow

JUNIOR - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Dann Krueger; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Referee: Leonard Colarusso; Assistant Referee Ice: Susan Haugh; Judges: Shelley Danner, Jacqueline Addis, Colette Nygren, Laura Days, Elizabeth Barrow, William Beharrell

JUNIOR FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Skyliners, SC of New York, 167.54, 1, 1
2. Superettes, Warwick Figure Skaters 109.87, 3, 2
3. Precisely Right, SC of Morris NJ, 108.37, 2, 3
4. Silver Blades of Clinton, Clinton FSC, 78.98, 4, 4

NOVICE - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Dann Krueger; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Referee: Susan Haugh; Assistant Referee Ice: Robin Greenleaf; Judges: Laura Days, William Beharrell, Elizabeth Barrow, Jacqueline Addis, Shelley Danner, Colette Nygren

NOVICE FINAL RESULT

Pl., Name, Points, FS

1. Ice Mates, Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, 69.06, 1
2. Skyliners, SC of New York, 54.68, 2
3. Synchroettes, Essex SC of NJ, 53.43, 3
4. Team Esprit, Hamden Figure Skating Assc., 53.29, 4
5. Munchkins, Warwick Figure Skaters, 50.92, 5
6. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 47.03, 6
7. Team Image, Yonkers FSC, 43.85, 7

INTERMEDIATE - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Assistant Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Referee: Susan Haugh; Assistant Referee Ice: Judith Edmunds; Judges: Colette Nygren, Marie Pearce, Elizabeth Barrow, Shirley Holdsworth, Laura Days, Shelley Danner

INTERMEDIATE FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Team Image, Yonkers FSC, 60.91, 1
2. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 60.58, 2
3. Team Reflections, Twin Ponds FSC, 53.91, 3
4. Carolina Ice Synchro, Central Carolina SC, 52.28, 4
5. Capitol Steps, SC of Northern Virginia, 48.85, 5
6. Philadelphia Symmetry, Wissahickon SC, 47.38, 6
7. Ice Magic, Hickory Hill FSC, 43.67, 7
8. Ashburn Ice Angels, Washington FSC, 42.95, 8
9. Ice-Lantics, Garden State SC, 42.86, 9
10. National Blades, Washington FSC, 41.50, 10
11. Metroliners, Bowie FSC, 40.16, 11
12. Bluewater Blades, Skaneateles FSC, 33.74, 12
13. Genesee Express, Genesee FSC, 31.23, 13
14. Achilles Edge, Albany FSC, 25.49 14
15. CNY Blizzard, SC of Central New York, 23.53 15

ADULT - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Dann Krueger; Technical Specialist: Lisa Marsocci; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Referee: Robin Greenleaf, Assistant Referee Ice: William Beharrell; Judges: Martha Rasmussen, Jacqueline Addis, Judith Edmunds, Evelyn Minter, Shelley Danner, Thomas Sobell

ADULT FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Team Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 58.17, 1
2. DC EDGE, Washington FSC, 55.90, 2
3. Esprit de Corps, Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, 53.06, 3
4. Cutting Edge, Camillus FSC, 34.37, 4

COLLEGIATE - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Ann Fauver; Technical Specialist: Felicia Haining-Miller; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kristin Abbott; Referee: Robin Greenleaf; Assistant Referee Ice: Judith Edmunds, Judges: Marie Pearce, Thomas Sobell, Martha Rasmussen, Kim Cool, Evelyn Minter, Shirley Holdsworth

COLLEGIATE FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Univ Of Delaware, Univ of Delaware FSC, 82.83, 1
2. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 67.56, 2
3. Boston Univ Terrierettes, Boston Univ, 66.95, 3
4. Univ of New Hampshire, Univ of NH, 58.15, 4
5. Ice Effects, Oswego State Univ of New York, 56.42, 5
6. Cornell Univ, Cornell Univ, 55.80, 6
7. Syracuse Univ Orange Experience, Syracuse Univ., 54.46, 7
8. MassachusETTES, Univ of Massachusetts Amherst, 52.65, 8

JUVENILE

Free Skate – Judges: Jacqueline Addis, Elizabeth Barrow, Judith Edmunds, Dann Krueger, Shelley Danner; Evelyn Minter; Thomas Sobell; Referee: William Beharrell; Assistant Referee: Leonard Colarusso

TEAM, MAJ

1. Synchroettes, 5/1
2. The Colonials, 4/2
3. Capitol Steps, 4/4 TOM 12
4. Team Delaware, 4/4 TOM 13
5. Skyliners, 5/5
6. Mini Mates, 4/5
7. Team Image, 4/6
8. Team Esprit, 4/7
9. Precisely Right, 7/9

PRE-JUVENILE

Free Skate – Judges: Kim Cool, Evelyn Minter, Thomas Sobell, Shirley Holdsworth, Judith Edmunds, Marie Pearce, Elizabeth Barrow; Referee: Leonard Colarusso, Assistant Referee: Susan Haugh

TEAM, MAJ

1. Shimmers, 4/2 TOM 5
2. Snowflakes, 4/2 TOM 6
3. Synchroettes, 5/3
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/5
5. Saint Sensations, 6/6
6. Diamond Blades, 4/6
7. Ice Magic, 4/7
8. Team Reflections, 6/8
9. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 6/10
10. Team Carolinas, 5/10
11. Bluewater Blades, 6/11
12. Metroliners, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile QR GROUP A

TEAM, MAJ

1. Shimmers, 5/1
2. Snowflakes, 5/3
3. Synchroettes, 4/3
4. Saint Sensations, 4/4
5. Team Reflections, 7/5
6. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/6
7. Icing On The Cape, 5/8
8. National Blades Blue, 5/9 TOM 34
9. Chill And Grace, 5/9 TOM 39
10. Ashburn Ice Angels, 4/9
11. Richmond Twizzlers, 5/11
12. Crystal Blades, 4/11

Pre-Juvenile QR GROUP B

TEAM, MAJ

1. Diamond Blades, 5/3
2. Ice Magic, 4/3
3. Philadelphia Symmetry, 6/4
4. Metroliners, 4/4
5. Team Carolinas, 4/6
6. Bluewater Blades, 4/7
7. Steel City Blades, 4/8 TOM 16
8. Central Park Ice, 4/8 TOM 18
9. Sparklers, 4/8 TOM 30
10. The Storm, 4/9 TOM 26
11. Island Waves, 4/9 TOM 28
12. National Blades Red, 5/10

Symmetric Ice Crystals, Withdrawn

PRELIMINARY

Free Skate - Judges: Shirley Holdsworth,.Kim Cool, Marie Pearce, Laura Days, Colette Nygren, Ann Fauver, Elizabeth Barrow; Referee: Leonard Colarusso; Assistant Referee: Susan Haugh

TEAM, MAJ

1. Wallace Synergy, 4/2
2. Synchroettes, 5/3
3. Team Millennium, 5/4
4. Team Esprit, 4/4
5. Synchroettes, 4/5 TOM 13
6. Spitfires, 4/5 TOM 14
7. Ice Angels, 4/6
8. Skyliners, 4/7

PRELIMINARY QR GROUP A

TEAM, MAJ

1. Ice Angels, 5/2
2. Synchroettes, 6/3
3. Wallace Synergy, 5/3
4. Team Millennium, 5/5
5. Capitol Steps, 4/5
6. Team Image, 5/6
7. Precisely Right, 4/6

PRELIMINARY QR GROUP B

TEAM, MAJ

1. Synchroettes, 6/1
2. Team Esprit, 4/2
3. Spitfires, 6/3
4. Skyliners, 6/5
5. W VA Synchro Too, 4/5
6. Team Delaware, 5/6
7. Ice Magic, 4/6
8. Chill & Grace, 7/8

MASTERS

Free Skate - Judges: Dann Krueger, Jacqueline Addis, Kim Cool, Thomas Sobell, Evelyn Minter, Marie Pearce; Martha Rasmussen; Referee: Robin Greenleaf; Assistant Referee: Leonard Colarusso

TEAM, MAJ

1. DC EDGE, 5/2 TIE
1. Essex Blades, 5/2 TIE
3. Esprit de Corps, 5/3
4. Ice Magic, 4/3
5. Team Delaware, 4/4

OPEN JUVENILE

Free Skate - Judges: Laura Days; Shelley Danner,. Jacqueline Addis, Thomas Sobell, William Beharrell, Martha Rasmussen, Evelyn Minter; Referee: Susan Haugh; Assistant Referee: Robin Greenleaf

TEAM, MAJ

1. Team Esprit, 4/2
2. Saratoga Stars, 4/3 TOM 7
3. Mirror Images, 4/3 TOM 8
4. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 15/5
5. Shadows, 4/6
6. Chesapeake Sailors, 5/7
7. Steel City Blades, 4/7 TOM 17
8. Rainbow Connection, 4/7 TOM 23
9. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/8
10. Wallace Synergy, 4/9 TOM 29
11. Spitfires, 4/9 TOM 30
12 .Precisely Right, 4/10

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP A

TEAM, MAJ

1. Team Esprit, 5/2
2. Wallace Synergy, 4/2
3. Rainbow Connection, 5/3
4. Saratoga Stars, 4/3
5. Spitfires, 5/6
6. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/6
7. Chill & Grace, 4/7
8. Genesee Express, 4/8 TOM 26
9. Metroliners, 4/8 TOM 28
10. Capitol Steps, 4/8 TOM 29
11. Team Rinx - Island Storm, 7/11

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP B

TEAM, MAJ

1. Steel City Blades, 15/2
2. Mirror Images, 4/2
3. Chesapeake Sailors, 7/4
4. Shadows, 5/4
5. Precisely Right, 4/5
6. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 6/6
7. Richmond Twizzlers, 4/6
8. Sharper Image, 5/7
9. Island Waves, 5/9
10. W VA Syncro, 5/10
11. The Sharper Edge, 7/11
12. Team Liberty, 7/12

OPEN COLLEGIATE

Free Skate - Judges: Martha Rasmussen, Laura Days, William Beharrell, Dann Krueger, Jacqueline Addis, Shelley Danner, Colette Nygren; Referee: Robin Greenleaf; Assistant Referee: Leonard Colarusso

TEAM, MAJ

1. Boston College Eagles, 7/1
2. Univ Of Maryland Terrapins, 4/2
3. Bryant Univ, 4/3
4. Saint Anselm Lady Hawks, 4/5 TOM 15
5. Princeton Univ Synchronized FSC, 4/5 TOM 16
6. Pentagon Inter-Collegiate SST, 4/5 TOM 17
7. Robert Morris Univ Synchronized Skating, 4/6
8. LU Radiance, 6/9
9. The Liberty Belles, 5/9
10. Iced Brew, 7/10

OPEN ADULT

Free Skate - Judges: Marie Pearce, .Judith Edmunds, Kim Cool, Elizabeth Barrow, Thomas Sobell, Evelyn Minter, Shirley Holdsworth; Referee: Leonard Colarusso; Assistant Referee: Susan Haugh

TEAM, MAJ

1. Carolina Ice Synchro, 6/1
2. Gotham City Synchro, 4/3
3. Iceline Of Richmond, 5/4
4. DC EDGE, 4/4
5. Philly Spirit, 4/5 TOM 13
6. Team Delaware Dazzle, 4/5 TOM 19
7. The Colonials, 4/7
8. Ice Age II, 4/8
9. Frederick Flair, 4/9
10. Perpetual Motion, 6/10
11. Aged To Perfection, 5/11
12. The Steel City Blades, 4/11

2009 Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Rocky Mountain FSC

Westminster, Colo., Jan. 29-31

PACIFIC COAST SENIOR - SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee Ice: Caren Kirsch; Judges: Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley, Tiffani Shipley

PACIFIC COAST SENIOR - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman; Judges Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Joyce Burden, Leanne Cluff, Tiffani Shipley

PACIFIC COAST SENIOR FINAL RESULT

Pl. Team, Points, SP, FS

1. California Gold, All Year FSC, 154.50, 1, 1

PACIFIC COAST JUNIOR - SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Karin Sherr; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel, Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman; Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Elizabeth Harty, Jeanette Davey, Rita Cerny, Lauren Whittaker, Tiffani Shipley; Data Operator: James Achtenberg, Replay Operator: Alexandra Mahler-Haug

PACIFIC COAST JUNIOR - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Karin Sherr; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman; Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Shirley Hage, Jeanette Davey, Lauren Whittaker, Leanne Cluff, Wayne Hundley

PACIFIC COAST JUNIOR FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name Points, SP, FS

1. ICE'Kateers, 124.20, 1, 1

PACIFIC COAST INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Referee: Mary Lou Rothman; Assistant Referee Ice: Hannelore Murphy; Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Elizabeth Harty, Rita Cerny, Susan McInnes, Leanne Cluff, Tiffani Shipley

PACIFIC COAST INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Team Del Sol, 64.50, 1
2. California Gold, All Year FSC, 58.99, 2
3. Denver Synchronicity, 52.82, 3
4. Tremors, 45.50, 4
5. Sierra Storm, Capital City FSC, 45.07, 5
6. La Furia, 44.41, 6
7. ICE'Kateers, 40.33, 7
8. Silver Stars, 34.45, 8

PACIFIC COAST ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee Ice: Robert Bauer; Judge: Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Tiffani Shipley

PACIFIC COAST ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 52.88, 1

JUVENILE

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Lauren Whittaker, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee: Mary Lou Rothman

TEAM, MAJ

1. Team Del Sol, 4/1
2. ICE'Kateers, 7/2

PRE JUVENILE

Free Skate - Judges: Elizabeth Harty, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Rita Cerny, Hazel Wecal, Leanne Cluff, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Mary Lou Rothman; Assistant Referee: Robert Bauer

TEAM, MAJ

1. ICE'Kateers, 5/1
2. Epic Edge, 4/2
3. San Diego Shining Blades, 4/3
4. Sierra Storm, 6/4
5. Fire Crystals, 7/5
6. Everett Silver Blades, 4/6
7. La Furia, 7/7

PRELIMINARY

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Susan Demeniuk, Lauren Whittaker, Susan McInnes, .Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Tiffani Tayler; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

TEAM, MAJ

1. South Suburban Stars, 7/1
2. Epic Edge, 5/2
3. La Furia, 7/3

MASTERS

Free Skate - Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Elizabeth Harty, Shirley Hage, Lauren Whittaker, Rita Cerny, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee: Caren Kirsch

TEAM, MAJ

1. La Furia, 4/1
2. Denver Synchronicity, 7/2

OPEN JUVENILE

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Susan Demeniuk, Christine Wenger, Lauren Whittaker, Susan McInnes, Joyce Burden, Tiffani Tayler; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

TEAM, MAJ

1. California Gold, 5/1
2. California Crush, 5/2
3. Epic Edge, 4/3
4. South Suburban Stars, 4/4
5. Fire Crystals, 7/5
6. Denver Synchronicity, 5/6
7. ICE'Kateers, 7/7
8. La Furia, 5/8
9. Ice Angelzz, 7/9

OPEN COLLEGIATE

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Elizabeth Harty, Shirley Hage, Rita Cerny; Hazel Wecal, Leanne Cluff, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Mary Lou Rothman; Assistant Referee: Robert Bauer

TEAM, MAJ

1. U of Colorado SST, 5/1
2. Synchronized Skating Team At CSU, 7/2

OPEN ADULT

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee: Robert Bauer

TEAM, MAJ

1. Capital Ice, 6/1
2. La Furia, 7/2

2009 Midwestern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Rocky Mountain FSC

Westminster, Colo., Jan. 29-31

MIDWESTERN SENIOR - SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist:Kelley Ristau; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee Ice: Caren Kirsch; Judges: Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley, Tiffani Shipley

MIDWESTERN SENIOR - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman; Judges: Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Joyce Burden, Leanne Cluff, Tiffani Shipley

MIDWESTERN SENIOR FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Western Michigan University, Western Michigan Univ., 145.05, 2, 1
2. Evolution, Detroit SC, 139.50, 1, 2
3. University of WI Synchronized Skating Team, 126.04, 3, 3

MIDWESTERN JUNIOR - SHORT PROGRAM

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Karin Sherr; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman; Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Elizabeth Harty, Jeanette Davey, Rita Cerny, Lauren Whittaker, Tiffani Shipley

MIDWESTERN JUNIOR - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Karin Sherr; Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee Ice: Mary Lou Rothman; Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Shirley Hage, Jeanette Davey, Lauren Whittaker, Leanne Cluff, Wayne Hundley

MIDWESTERN JUNIOR FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, SP, FS

1. Team Braemar, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, 184.69, 1, 1
2. Hockettes, Ann Arbor FSC, 152.99, 2, 2
3. Starlights, Skokie Valley FSC,131.00, 3, 3
4. Windjammers, Lake Minnetonka FSC, 82.75, 4, 4

MIDWESTERN NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist: Karin Sherr;

Assistant Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Referee: Mary Lou Rothman; Assistant Referee Ice: Caren Kirsch, Judges: Susan Demeniuk,

Elizabeth Harty, Lauren Whittaker, Hazel Wecal, Leanne Cluff, Wayne Hundley

MIDWESTERN NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Crystallettes, Dearborn FSC, 72.79, 1
2. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 69.50, 2
3. Team Braemar, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, 67.64, 3
4. Allegro!, Plymouth FSC, 59.53, 4
5. Evolution, Detroit SC, 57.75, 5
6. Starlights, Skokie Valley FSC, 50.39, 6
7. Wisconsin Edge, Wisconsin FSC, 46.63, 7
8. Cleveland Edges, Cleveland Edges FSC, 29.94, 8

MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Richard Perez, Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Referee: Mary Lou Rothman; Assistant Referee Ice: Hannelore Murphy; Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Elizabeth Harty, Rita Cerny, Susan McInnes, Leanne Cluff, Tiffani Shipley

MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl.., Name, Points, FS

1. Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC, 60.86, 1
2. Oxford Ice Crystals, Oxford SC, 59.39, 2
3. Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 57.87, 3
4. Rhythm and Blades, Rochester FSC, 54.98, 4
5. Fond Du Lac Blades, Fond Du Lac Blue Line Figure, 52.20, 5
6. Dazzlers, DuPage FSC, 49.51, 6
7. Chicago Skates, Windy City FSC, 48.32, 7
8. Saint Louis Synergy, Metro Edge FSC of Missouri, 48.01, 8
9. Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis, 47.43, 9
10. Windjammers, Lake Minnetonka FSC, 46.64, 10
11. Ice Reflections, Cleveland SC, 46.43, 11
12. Capital Ice Chips, Bismarck FSC, 45.73, 12
13. St. Louis Fleur De Lis, St. Louis FSC, 34.67, 13
14. Evolution, Detroit SC, 34.31, 14

MIDWESTERN ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee Ice: Robert Bauer; Judges: Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Tiffani Shipley

MIDWESTERN ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Crystallettes, Dearborn FSC, 57.88, 1
2. Western Michigan University Alumni Skating Team, 52.18, 2
3 Chicago Jazz, Chicago FSC, 49.17, 3
4. Allegro!, Plymouth FSC, 44.40, 4
5. Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis, 38.89, 5
6. Louisville River Stars, Louisville Skating Academy, 36.79, 6

MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Jeanette Davey; Technical Specialist: Devon Hensel; Assistant Technical Specialist: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee Ice: Caren Kirsch, Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Christine Wenger,

Lauren Whittaker, Rita Cerny, Joyce Burden, Tiffani Shipley

MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Michigan State University Synchronized Skating Team, 88.38, 1
2. Western Michigan University, Western Michigan Univ., 81.16, 2
3. Indiana University Synchronized Skating Team, 80.43, 3
4. University of Illinois, University of Illinois, 78.97, 4
5. University of Michigan, University of Michigan SC, 73.31, 5
6. Adrian College, Adrian College, 69.73, 6

MIDWESTERN OPEN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - FREE SKATE

Technical Controller: Richard Perez; Technical Specialist:Devon Hensel; Assistant Technical Specialist: Kelley Ristau; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee Ice: Robert Bauer; Judges: Charles Cope, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley

MIDWESTERN OPEN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULT

Pl. Name, Points, FS

1. Synchro St Louis Diamond Edges, St. Peters FSA, 55.63, 1

RESULTS

2. Ice Kicks, Woodbury FSC, 54.72, 2
3. Icettes, Glenwood FSC, 54.00, 3

JUVENILE

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Lauren Whittaker, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee: Mary Lou Rothman

TEAM, MAJ

1. Chicago Jazz, 4/1
2. Starlights, 5/2
3. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/3TOM 10
4. Windjammers, 4/3TOM 11
5. Hockettes, 4/5
6. Wisconsin Edge, 5/6
7. Cleveland Edges, 4/6
8. Louisville River Stars, 7/8

PRE JUVENILE

Free Skate - Judges: Elizabeth Harty, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Rita Cerny, Hazel Wecal, Leanne Cluff; Wayne Hundley; Referee: Robert Bauer; Assistant Referee: Mary Lou Rothman

TEAM, MAJ

1. SwanSyncSation, 5/1
2. Dazzlers, 5/3
3. Maplewood Highsteppers, 4/4
4. Go Figure Regal Ice, 6/5
5. Chicago Skates, 5/5
6. Elite Edges, 5/6
7. Phoenix, 7/7
8. Icettes, 4/8
9. Southern Magic, 7/9

PRELIMINARY

Free Skate - Judges:.Charles Cope, Susan Demeniuk, Lauren Whittaker, Susan McInnes, Hazel Wecal, .Joyce Burden, Tiffani Tayler; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

TEAM, MAJ

1. Wisconsin Edge, 6/1
2. Chicago Jazz, 5/2
3. Starlights, 6/3
4. Hockettes, 4/5TOM 18
5. Phoenix Synchronized Skating, 4/5TOM 19
6. Crystallettes, 5/6
7. Silver Leafs, 5/7
8. Evolution, 4/7
9. Chicago Skates, 5/8

MASTERS

Free Skate - Judges: Susan Demeniuk, Elizabeth Harty, Shirley Hage, Lauren Whittaker, Rita Cerny, Joyce Burden, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Hannelore Murphy; Assistant Referee: Caren Kirsch

TEAM, MAJ

1. Allegro!, 6/1
2. Cleveland Edges, 6/2
3. Team Glace, 6/3
4. Louisville River Stars, 7/4

OPEN JUVENILE

Free Skate – Judges: Charles Cope, Susan Demeniuk, Christine Wenger, Lauren Whittaker, Susan McInnes, Joyce Burden, Tiffani Tayler; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee: Hannelore Murphy

TEAM, MAJ

1. Dazzlers, 5/1
2. Rhythm and Blades, 4/2
3. Kicks, 6/4
4. Maplewood Highsteppers, 5/4
5. Northern Ice, 4/5
6. The Golden Edge, 5/7
7. Silver Leafs, 14/7TOM 18
8. SwanSyncSation, 74/7TOM 23
9. Crystallettes, 5/9
10. Hockettes, 4/9
11. Team Velocity, 5/10
12. Sync St Louis Ice Gems, 7/12

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP A

TEAM, MAJ

1. Dazzlers, 4/2TO 16
2. SwanSyncSation, 4/2TO 18
3. Silver Leafs, 4/2TOM 8
4. Northern Ice, 4/4
5. Crystallettes, 6/5
6. Hockettes, 4/5
7. Go Figure, 4/7
8. Revolution, 4/8
9. Chicago Skates, 6/9
10. Starfire, 7/10

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP B

TEAM, MAJ

1. Maplewood Highsteppers, 6/1
2. Team Velocity, 4/3
3. Kicks, 4/4
4. The Golden Edge, 5/5
5. Rhythm and Blades, 4/5
6. Sync St Louis Ice Gems, 5/6
7. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/6
8. Mentor Ice Diamonds, 4/7
9. Cleveland Edges, 4/8
10. Oxford Ice Crystals, 7/10
11. River City, 7/11

OPEN COLLEGIATE

Free Skate - Judges:.Charles Cope, Elizabeth Harty, Shirley Hage, Rita Cerny, Hazel Wecal, Leanne Cluff, Wayne Hundley; Referee: Mary Lou Rothman; Assistant Referee: Robert Bauer

TEAM, MAJ

1. Synergy SST, 7/2
2. Central MI University, 4/2
3. Univ of Notre Dame SST, 5/3
4. Northwestern Univ, 5/5
5. SST of Oakland U, 6/6
6. U of WI Open Synchro, 5/6
7. Grand Valley State U, 4/6
8. University of Illinois, 7/8

OPEN ADULT

Free Skate - Judges: Charles Cope, Shirley Hage, Christine Wenger, Susan McInnes, Hazel Wecal, Joyce Burden; Wayne Hundley; Referee: Caren Kirsch; Assistant Referee: Robert Bauer

TEAM, MAJ

1. Hockettes, 7/1
2. Phoenix, 7/2

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TESTS PASSED

Senior Moves In The Field

Dmitry Artemov – Stars FSC of Texas
Rachel Barr – Oxford SC
Rebecca Brown – Troy Academy of Figure Skating
Kendall Calcaterra – Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy
Rebecca Camilleri – Dearborn FSC
Othniel Chan – Los Angeles FSC
Nicole Cody – Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
Mackenzie Kathleen Conn – DuPage FSC
Madellena Conte Thornton – Skating Club of San Francisco, Inc
Josiah Curley – Tulsa FSC, Inc
William Darvill – Jamestown SC
Rachel DeRita – University of Delaware FSC
Shelby Anne Evans – Vaca Valley FSC, Inc.
Elyse Frenchman – Colonial FSC
Erica Garcia – SC of Morris NJ, Inc.
Ross Guthrie Gudis – Washington FSC
Rachel Hackett – FSC of Charleston
Tara Hall – Washington FSC
Leah Israel – Detroit SC, Inc.
Lija Jardine – Body Zone FSC
Ariya Kaya – Panthers FSC, Inc.
Katie Kelly – FSC of Charleston
Hayley Kidd – All Year FSC
Caitlin Knox – Winterhurst FSC
Danika Kong – Orange County FSC
Erica Lauria – Winchester FSC
Ali Lewin – Chicago FSC
Kay Linker – Escondido FSC
Anna Maravalli – Merrimack Valley SC
Kimberlee Merrill – Connecticut SA At Newington, Inc.
Laura Micciulla – Colonial SC of Pennsylvania
Holly Moore – Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights
Hailey – Mulder - Denver FSC
Laura Nelson – Northern Lights FSC
Karis Nowell – Stars FSC of Texas
Thy-Thy Phan – Dallas FSC, Inc.
Kassandra Lee Riekofski – Tampa Bay SC
Alessandra Sofia Rigamonti – The Gardens FSC of Maryland
Abby Roy – Johnstown FSC
Jennifer Schwartzman – Rye FSC, Inc.
Amy Marie Stehman – The SC of Wilmington, Inc
Jacqueline Rachelle Stoner – Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy
Samantha Tarson – Chicago FSC
Kristy Lynn Tucker – Santa Rosa FSC
Victoria Tugolukova – Salt Lake Figure Skating
Raya Willoughby – Washington FSC
Marnie Wineberg – Skokie Valley SC
Zoe Wood – Hayden Recreation Centre FSC, Inc
Kathleen Wright – Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, Inc.
Melissa Yap – Garden State SC
Sebra Yen – SC of Northern Virginia
Bonnie Yuen – Dallas FSC, Inc.
Jacquelyne Zolynsky – Plymouth FSC
Josephine Zolynsky – Plymouth FSC

Adult Gold Moves In The Field

Carol Dwyer – Individual Member
Jill Emerick – Body Zone FSC
Muriel Labonte – FSC of Charleston
Brandy Lokken – St. Moritz ISC, Inc.

Michael Schlautman – Windy City FSC
Stephen Trzaska – Washington FSC

Senior Free Skate Test

Ivan Dimitrov – Individual Member
Jon Felder II – Broadmoor SC, Inc.
Marrett Hild – Oklahoma City FSC, Inc.
Esther Li – Colonial FSC
Heather McDonald – Southport SC
Jennifer McKay – The Strongsville SC
Aubree Mercure – SC of Amherst, Inc.
Alison Elaine Nagle – Individual Member
Katherine Rosen – Central Carolina SC
Jaclyn Scholtz – The Strongsville SC
Maria Slusarek – Greater Green Bay FSC
Meghan Speranzo – Coyotes SC of Arizona
Jenna Tavares – Falmouth FSC
Chelsea Waldschmidt – The SC of Lake Placid
Emily Young – Vermont SC

Adult Gold Free Skate Test

Linda Kasalko – Orange County FSC
Joanne Markow – Individual Member
James Orlando – The Troy Academy of Figure Skating
Carol Waggy – Southpointe FSC

Gold Dance Test

Sierra Sophia Dickens – Sun Valley FSC, Inc.
Katrina Gumbinner – Washington FSC
Erin Orchard – Cottonwood Heights FSC
Carmeline Mary Panico – University of Delaware FSC
Katherine Marie Worwa – Red River Valley FSC

Adult Gold Dance Test

Tracy Joan Carson – Colonial SC of Pennsylvania

U.S. Figure Skating members and friends respond to annual appeal

The following donors responded to U.S. Figure Skating's inaugural direct mail giving campaign. We are honored to highlight these special donors who expressed their faith in the mission and vision of U.S. Figure Skating. Anyone who would like to make a gift, can mail it to U.S. Figure Skating, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906 or make a secure gift online at www.givetousfigureskating.com

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MEINEL

Lacey Meinel began ice skating when she was 6 years old and was part of the 6.0 Figure Skating Team in Wausau, Wis. She was accomplished in several disciplines of skating. In 2007, Lacey passed her novice moves in the field, her juvenile free skate and two of her pre-silver dances. She competed in numerous competitions in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan and the Quad Cities. In 2006, she joined the Madison Energy Synchronized Skating Team.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, Lacey was returning from the Foot of the Lake Synchronized Skating Classic when she was involved in a crash caused by a drunken driver. Lacey passed away the next day at Theda Clark Hospital in Neehah, Wis., at the age of 14. Her spirit lives on in eight different recipients of her donated organs, which will remain a reflection of her gifted, loving and helpful nature.

Lacey was planning to compete at Badger State Games, Swan Synchro Skate and the Eau Claire Competition this season. She is deeply missed by her Madison Energy teammates, their coaches and parents.

The Madison Energy team thanks the many synchronized skating teams nationwide that have sent their condolences and support.

KATARSKI

Norbert J. Katarski, a longtime member of the Skokie Valley Figure Skating Club, died Jan. 12, 2009, at age 85.

He served as a gold judge for tests and nonqualifying competitions throughout the Upper Great Lakes area. Mr. Katarski was well known for his dedication to figure skating and many other interests.

As a member of the Audubon Society, he spent many hours tracking birds on area nature trails. He loved to cycle, racking up 2,000 miles a year.

Mr. Katarski had special equipment for making his own bullets for target shooting, and was skilled at converting 78 RPM records into CDs.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Northshore Hospice or the Northfield Community Church. For more information dial 847.361.6088.

FELTON

George C. Felton, a former ice dancing competitor with his wife of 26 years, Jerilyn Dadosio Felton, died Dec. 12, 2008. He was 88.

Mr. Felton of Lake Oswego, Ore., skated and competed from coast to coast. He enjoyed skating with Jerilyn at the local rinks in Portland, Ore., and the couple was included in many amateur skating shows held in the Portland area.

For more than 20 years, they would make a yearly summer pilgrimage to Sun Valley, Idaho, for ice dancing training and social dance sessions. Though he never attained the pre-gold proficiency medal, he encouraged Jerilyn, who completed all her proficiency exams in ice dancing. As a couple, they were awarded the gold medal in the Northwest Regional veterans dance event in 1985 and the silver in the Northwest Regional adult dance event in 1989.

He was born in Sunburry, Pa., on March 31, 1920. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. Through a series of life adventures, he ended up in Portland. He was employed by US Bancorp as a construction officer, a position he held until he retired in 1994.

Before that, he worked with various firms in Pennsylvania as an architect, including service with the U.S. Maritime Commission at the beginning of World War II. When drafted in 1944, he served in the European Theatre in the Third Army under the command of General George Patton, receiving a European Theatre Ribbon with Adrennes and Rhineland Stars. While serving in the combat zone, he was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He is survived by Jerilyn; a stepdaughter, Krista Voysest of Beloit, Wis.; and a niece. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Providence Hospice West.

MARCH

12-15 2009 Skate Aloha sponsored by Hawaii FSC at Ice Palace Skating Arena, 4510 Salt Lake Blvd., Honolulu, HI. For more information call Lisa Kayser at 808.672.6534.

12-15 Jackson Hole Invitational 2009 sponsored by Jackson Hole FSC at Snow King Center Ice Rink, 100 East Snow King Ave., Jackson, WY 83001. Click on www.jhfsc.org for more information.

12-15 2009 Denver Invitational and U.S. Figure Skating Colorado Test Track Series sponsored by Denver FSC at South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Centennial, CO. For more information call Alicia Carr at 719.332.0197.

13-15 2009 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 Flunker at 715.830.1085.

13-15 2009 Magnolia Open sponsored by the Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 10800 Davis Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004. For more information call Naoko Yoshioka at 404.502.5004.

13-15 2009 Winter Classic sponsored by SC of Southern New Jersey at Mt. Laurel Igloo, 3033 Fostertown Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. For more information call Elizabeth Field at 609.203.3011.

14-15 2009 Skate Challenge sponsored by SC of Central New York at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Court, Cicero, NY 13039. For more information call Katherina Picciott at 315.952.5866.

14-15 2009 Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of Central New York at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Court, Cicero, NY 13039. For more information call Kathy Picciott at 315.952.5866.

14 2009 St. Patrick's Day Basic Skills Competition sponsored by The Factory Ice House at The Polar Ice House, 1539-200 South Main St., Wake Forest, NC 27587. For more information contact Scott Cudmore at scudmore@ncrr.com

14 34th Annual Capitol Regional Council Figure Skating Competition sponsored by 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.

15 2009 Lake Minnetonka Basic Skills and Test Track Limited Beginner-Juvenile Competition sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC at Minnetonka Ice Arena, 3401 Willston Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. For more information call Nancy Kaufmann at 612.860.7760.

15 2009 Basic Skills Skate With US Competition sponsored by The SC of Andover at Haverhill Valley Forum Arena, Parkridge Rd., Haverhill, MA 01835. For more information call Stacy Crowley at 978.373.3373.

15 2009 U.S. Figure Skating South Florida Basic Skills Series at Kendall Ice Arena, 10355 Hammocks Blvd., Miami, FL 33196. For more information call Kent Johnson at 305.386.8288.

15 2009 Lake Minnetonka Basic Skills sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC at Minnetonka Ice Arena, 3401 Willston Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. For more information call Nancy Kaufmann at 612.860.7760.

20-22 2009 Cleveland Invitational Championships sponsored by The Strongsville SC at Ice Land USA, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. For more information call Echo Burgett at 614.570.9564.

20-22 2009 Crystalline Classic Showcase Competition sponsored by 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.

21-22 2009 Skate Cincinnati sponsored by FSC of Cincinnati at Sports Plus, 10765 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241. For more information call Stacy Brinkman at 513.529.6650.

21-22 2009 Massena Invitational sponsored by Massena FSC at Massena Arena, 37 Hart Haven Shopping Center, Massena, NY 13662. For more information call Tammy Savage at 315.769.3386.

21 2009 Phillips Academy Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Phillips Academy at Phillips Academy Ice Rinks, 254 South Main. St., Andover, MA 01810. For more information call Michaela Maione at 978.273.5482.

21 2009 Garren Invitational sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC at RPI Field House, 110 8th St., Troy, NY 12180. For more information contact Thomasa Palladino at jpalladino2@nycap.rr.com

21 Learn to Skate Skills Competition sponsored by Polar Ice at Polar Ice Gilbert, 2305 East Knox Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85296. For more information call Uyen Nguyen at 480.503.7086.

21 2009 Lee Ann Miele Synchronized Skating Open sponsored by Pawtucket & Providence FSC at Dennis Lynch Arena, 25 Andrew Ferland Way, Pawtucket, RI 02860. For more information call Marie Truppa at 401.353.2153.

21 2009 Skate at the Zoo at 52 Ice Arena, 5076 Sports Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49009. For more information call Amy Bauer at 269.598.9184.

21-22 2009 University of Michigan – Midwestern Intercollegiate Conference Competition at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. For more information contact Annie Kirkpatrick at aekirkpat@gmail.com

26-29 W.I.M. 2009 Competition sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC at Wilson Park Recreation Center, 4001 South 20th St., Milwaukee, WI. For more information call Ralph Dahlman at 414.282.3948.

27-29 2009 Louisville Skating Academy Invitational Competition sponsored by Louisville Skating Academy at Iceland Sports Complex 1701 UPS Drive, Louisville, KY 40223. For more information call Rebecca Hatch-Purnell at 502.415.0962.

27-29 2009 Worcester Open sponsored by SC of Worcester at Buffone Arena, 284 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01609. For more information call Lynne-Ann Frederickson-Bonnici at 508.842.1219.

28 2009 Farmington Spring Festival sponsored by Tri-County FSC at Schmitz-Maki Arena, 411 Spruce St., Farmington, MN 55024. For more information call Judy Martin at 952.461.3352.

28 2009 Challenge Cup at Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd., Burlington, VT 05408. For more information call Kathy Knauer at 802.864.1858.

28 2009 Battle of the Blades at Alexandria FSC at Runestone Community Center, 802 3rd Ave. West, Alexandria, MN 56308. For more information call Kris Juettner at 320.846.3365.

28 2009 Skate into Spring Competition sponsored by Ice House Skating Academy at Hartland Sports Center, 2755 Arena Dr., Hartland, MI 48353. For more information contact Amanda Goetz at goetzie7hotmail.com

28 2009 Spring Fever Basic Skills Competition at Extreme Ice Center, 4705 Indian Trail – Fairview Rd., Indian Trail, NC 28173. For more information call Jenny Wesley at 704.882.1830.

28 2009 Springtime Invitational sponsored by Fishers FSC at The Forum at Fishers Ice Arena, 9022 East 126th St., Fishers, IN 46038. For more information call Devan Heiber at 317.727.6581.

28 Third Annual 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.

28-29 Skate Houston 2009 sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington, Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information call Jennifer Simon at 713.408.0416.

28 2009 Fiesta Skate at Kingsgate Ice Arena, 14326 124th Ave. Ave. Northeast, Kirkland, WA 98034. For more information call Lisa Ware at 425.821.7133, ext. 104.

29 2009 Knoxville Open Classic Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Knoxville FSC at The Icearium, 110 South Watt Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934. For more information call Susan Wagner at 865.654.3880.

29 2009 2nd Annual NESA Spring Fling Basic Skills Competition at Newington Arena, 300 Alumni Rd., Newington, CT 06111. For more information contact sk8moore1@comcast.net.

29 2009 Skate Great Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Holiday Twin Rinks at The Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeview, Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075. For more information call Kristin Hawayek at 716.812.1071.

29 The Rinx 2009 Basic Skills Competition sponsored by The SC of New York at The Rinx, 660 Terry Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788. For more information call Cathryn Schwab at 631.232.3222, ext. 209.

29 6th Annual Spring Fling Skate Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Mount Washington Valley SC at Ham Arena, 87 West Main St., Conway, NH 03818. For more information call Ray Boutin at 603.539.4879.

APRIL

2 Skate Kansas City 2009 sponsored by Kansas City FSC at Ice Sports Kansas City, 19900 Johnson, Dr., Shawnee, KS 66218. For more information call Ilene McKaig at 913.461.4210.

2 2009 Skate La Grande sponsored by San Diego FSC at San Diego Ice Arena, 11048 Ice Skate Palace, San Diego, CA 92126. For more information call Bryan Keller at 858.485.2064.

2 2009 Central Carolina Skating Classic sponsored by Central Carolina SC at Triangle SportsPlex, 1 Dan Kidd Dr., Hillsborough, NC 27278. For more information call Suzie Zeunges at 919.923.6729.

2-5 2009 Basic Skills Open Competition sponsored by San Diego FSC at San Diego Ice Arena, 11048 Ice Skate Place, San Diego, CA 92126. For more information contact Claude Sweet at claudesweet@cox.net

2-5 2009 Philadelphia Areaa Figure Skating Championship sponsored by Colonial SC of Pennsylvania at Grundy Recreation Center, 475 Beaver St., Bristol, PA 19007. For more information call Kathy Campion at 215.352.4714.

3-5 26th Mount Lebanon Invitational sponsored by SC of Mt. Lebanon at Mount Lebanon Recreation Center, 900 Cedar Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228. For more information call Timothy Leavey at 412.835.6333.

3-5 24th Annual Florida Open Championships sponsored by Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information call Barbara Hayes at 386.473.7038.

3-5 2009 Morris Open Competition sponsored by SC of Morris NJ at W.G. Mennen Sports Arena, 161 East Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. For more information call Ann Marie Banta at 973.769.0425.

3-5 16th Biennial Genesee Invitational Competition sponsored by Genesee FSC at Rochester Institute of Technology, 51 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623 For more information call Lynn Hayes at 585.872.0112.

4 2009 Adults for Autism at Taylor SportsPlex, 13333 Telegraph Rd., Taylor MI 48180. For more information call Gail Sombati at 734.374.8900.

4-5 Last Chance Spring Skate Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Helena FSC at Helena Ice Arena, 400 Lola St., Helena, MT. For more information contact Candee Krantz at tjkrantz@bresnan.net

4 2009 Hodag Skate Classic sponsored by Rhinelander FSC at Rhinelander Ice Association, 2021 Timber Dr., Rhinelander WI 53501. For more information call Alison French at 715.362.8889.

4 Ninth Annual Freeport Spring Challenge sponsored by Inc. Village of Freeport at Freeport Recreation Center, 130 East Merrick Rd., Freeport, NY 11520. For more information contact Liz Eldredge at RINKRATZZZ.aol.com

4 Ice World's 10th Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition sponsored by Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, Inc. at Ice World, 1300 Governor Court, Abington, MD 21009. For more information call Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000, ext. 101.

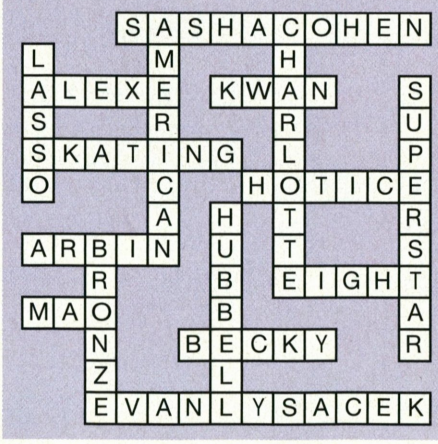
5 Second Annual South Shore Open sponsored by South Shore SC at Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rockland, MA 02370. For more information call Katy Hayden at 781.749.3807.

5 2009 Arctic Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Arctic Edge Ice Arena at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. For more information call Magan Flynn at 248.924.3035.

7 2009 Spring Preview sponsored by Vaca Valley FSC at Vacaville Ice Sports, 551 Davis St., Vacaville, CA 95688. For more information call Deidre Gonzalez at 510.381.2437.

8-9 2009 Silver Skate sponsored by South Dayton FSC at Kettering Ice Arena, 2900 Glengarry Dr., Kettering, OH 45420. For more information call Sandra Rooney at 937.643.4084.

Crossword answers from page 55



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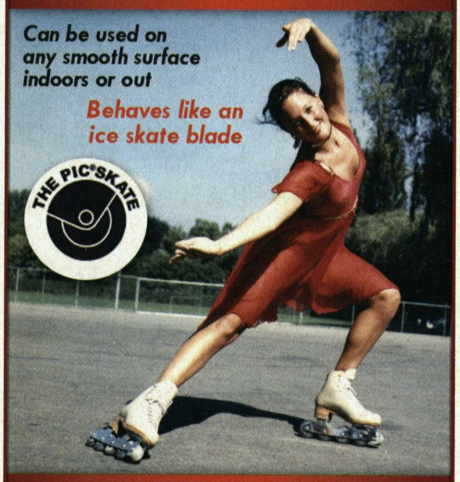

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2009 U.S. World Team: Back row, from left, Evan Bates, Charlie White, Brandon Mroz, Jeremy Abbott, Evan Lysacek, Rockne Brubaker, Jeremy Barrett; front row, from left, Emily Samuelson, Meryl Davis, Rachael Flatt, Alissa Czisny, Keauna McLaughlin and Caydee Denney. Not pictured are Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto.

Photo by Paul Harvath