

SKATING

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in style

INSIDE

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Championships

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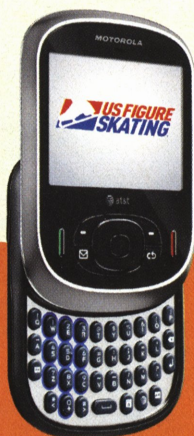
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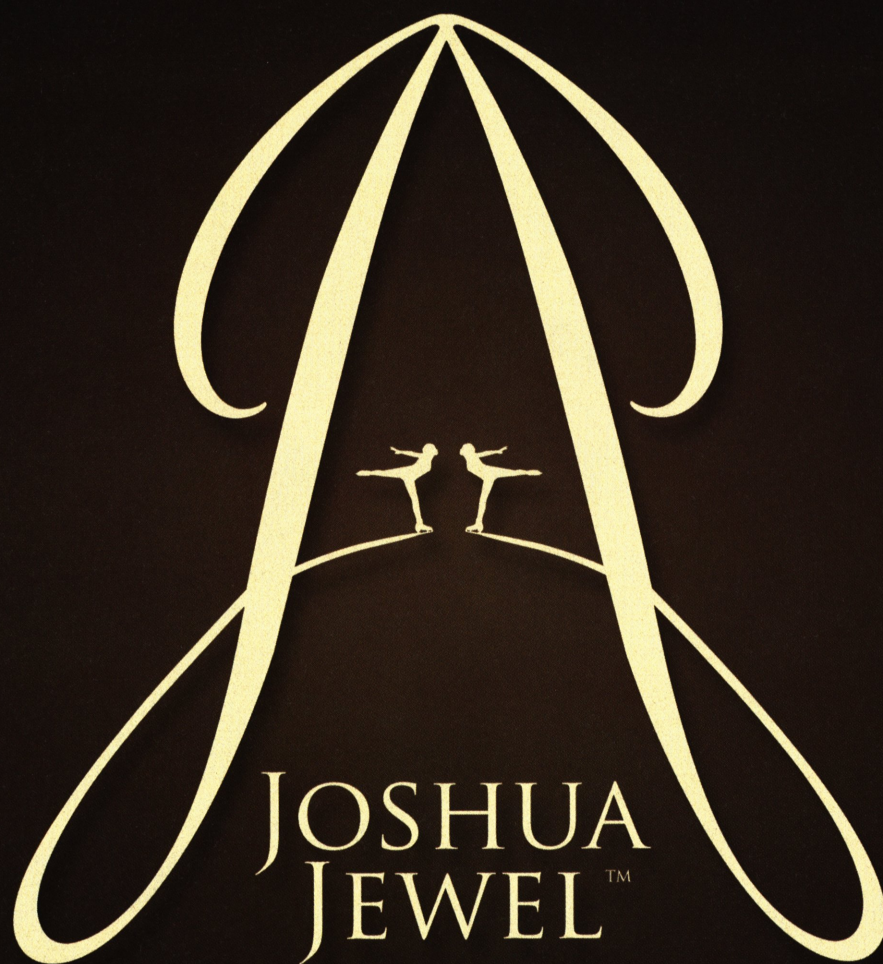
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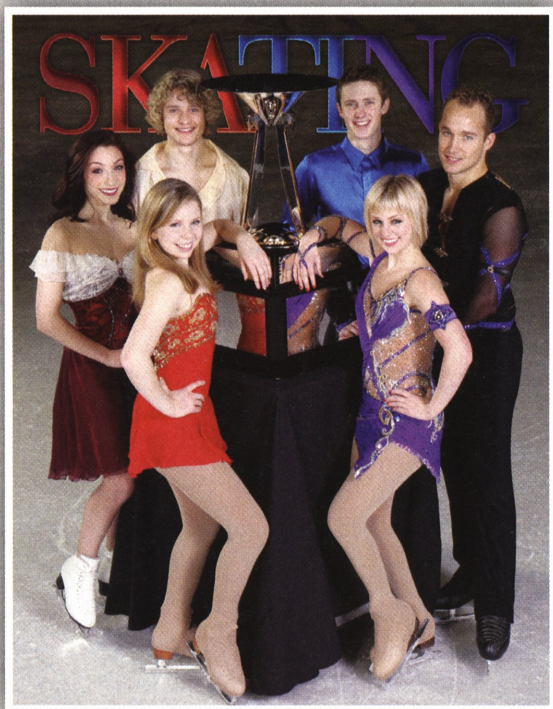
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Rippon leads strong U.S. effort at Four Continents Championships.



Spokane breaks own attendance record at U.S. Championships.



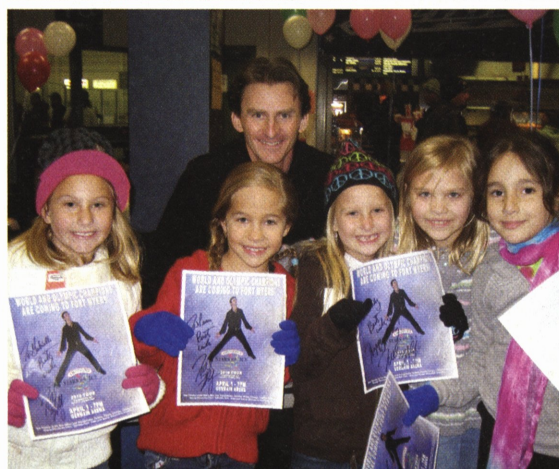
World Synchronized Skating Championships return to United States next month.



On the cover

Photo by Paul Harvath

The 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash., was a tremendous success. Great weather, record attendance and spectacular skating made for an unforgettable pre-Olympic Games competition. Blanket coverage of the U.S. Championships begins on page 12. On the cover are the 2010 U.S. champions surrounding the coveted U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy. Clockwise are Rachael Flatt, Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Jeremy Abbott, Jeremy Barrett and Caydee Denney.



Rinks share stories of success from National Skating Month.

Spokane II tops 2007 original

Event organizers Toby Steward and Barb Beddor's goal for the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships was to send our Olympic athletes to Vancouver, British Columbia, riding a wave of momentum.

"We wanted to create an environment with large crowds and a similar feel that they will experience at the Olympics," Beddor said.

Well, as it did in 2007, Spokane delivered on the goal with spectacular show that is still being talked about two months later.

Record crowds, memorable on-ice performances, a reunion of all 12 U.S. Olympic figure skating champions and a magnificent Olympic Team sendoff celebration made for a magical 10 days in Spokane.

Pairs skater John Coughlin summed up the feelings of skaters and coaches following his successful short program with partner Caitlin Yankowskas.

"This is a special town," he said. "They just feel so warm that as soon as you get on the ice you want to give them something they can get behind, because you know they are going to cheer for you."

Sasha Cohen, who was making her first competitive appearance since the 2006 Olympic campaign, echoed Coughlin's sentiments.

"When I ended my (short) program, seeing everyone stand up, I was just so happy to be out here, to be skating ... it was a special night for me."

The entire competition was special indeed.

Jeremy Abbott's record free skate will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the most electric performances ever. Abbott is a master when it comes to blending athleticism and artistry, and his performance was simply breathtaking. The two-time U.S. titlist started with a booming quad toe loop and ended with a spin that had me shaking my head in awe.

Another favorite moment took place on the event's final day during a break in the Smucker's Skating Spectacular. Like in 2006 in St. Louis, all dozen U.S. Olympic figure skating

champions were introduced and cheered on by a packed house.

Watching this rare occasion unfold backstage sent chills down my spine. I looked over at World champion Evan Lysacek and he, too, was caught up in the emotion. Listening to NBC's Bob Costas introduce each champion and then to watch these greats walk onto the ice created an incredible atmosphere.

Cohen's return to the competition after a nearly four-year absence generated plenty of buzz. How would the 2006 Olympic silver medalist do? was the million dollar question. She answered all the naysayers by putting out a short program that placed her second in the 23-woman field and had the Spokane Arena cheering her on like old times.

Cohen entered the season hoping she could make her third Olympic Team, but offered no regrets after finishing fourth overall.

"To me the accomplishment is being here and skating well," she said.

Another feel-good story came from the pairs event as Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig won a top-three medal for the first time in eight attempts at the U.S. Championships and, in the process, qualified for the Olympic Winter Games.

As they waited to hear if they were going to be named to the Olympic Team, their coach Jim Peterson shared his feelings on this exceptional team.

"I hope Mark and Amanda go," he said.

"They are two of the most caring, kind people in the world. They really live up to the Olympic ideal. They are probably the most fair, sportsmanlike people I've ever met and I'm just happy to be working with them."

On the event's final evening, the U.S. Olympic Team was celebrated during a send-off dinner that had everyone excited about the country's chances in Vancouver.

There were many other great moments from this 91st edition of the U.S. Championships and SKATING magazine has it all in this issue beginning on page 12. Enjoy.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

The 2010 U.S. Olympic Team is feted during a send-off dinner at the U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash.

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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 action and non-skating photographs 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.



World Figure Skating
Museum & Hall of Fame

Sato to be inducted into World Hall of Fame

Nobuo Sato, a 10-time Japanese champion and World and Olympic coach, has been chosen for induction into the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame (WHOF) Class of 2010, WHOF Chair Dr. Lawrence Mondschein announced last month.

Sato is being inducted in the "Outstanding Contributor with a Creative Impact" category. His induction ceremony is tentatively scheduled to take place at the 2011 ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Nagano, Japan.

"I am pleased by Mr. Sato's election to the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame," Mondschein said. "He continues to make significant contributions to figure skating in Japan and around the world as an Olympic and World coach."

Sato grew up in Osaka, Japan, and began skating at age 11. He has dedicated more than 50 years to the sport as an athlete and coach. He won a record-setting 10 Japanese championships, and competed in six World Championships, placing fourth in 1965, and two Olympic Winter Games (1960, 1964).

Following his retirement, Sato began coaching. Among his many students was 1994



Coach Nobuo Sato, right, and skater Fumie Suguri react to scores in the kiss and cry at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. Last month, Sato was chosen for induction into the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

World champion and daughter, Yuka Sato, who was also coached by his wife and two-time Olympian Kumiko Okawa.

The 68-year-old was at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, coaching three-time Japanese champion Takahiko Kozuka.

Czisny parts from longtime coach

Alissa Czisny, the 2009 U.S. champion and two-time U.S. Collegiate champion, announced last month she has ended her 12-year professional relationship with coach Julianne (Julie) Berlin at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

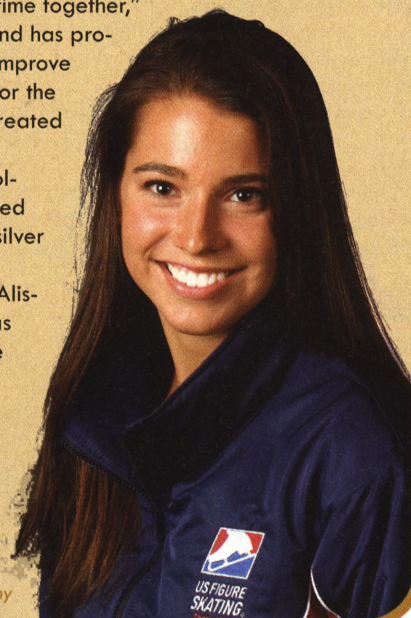
"I have so much respect and appreciation for Julie, and I am extremely grateful for everything she has done for me during our time together," Czisny said. "Julie has always believed in me and has provided me with every opportunity to grow and improve in my skating career. I will always be thankful for the experiences we shared and the memories we created together."

In addition to the one U.S. and two U.S. Collegiate titles she won under Berlin, Czisny claimed the 2007 U.S. bronze medal, 2001 U.S. junior silver medal and 2005 Skate Canada title.

"For 12 years I have enjoyed developing Alissa into a national champion," Berlin said. "It was great to see her reach her goals throughout the years and see her have success in international and national competition, and I wish her continued success as she pursues her skating career."

Czisny has also been mentored the last couple years by Olympic champion Brian Boitano and his former coach, Linda Leaver.

Czisny has not yet announced a new coach.



Alissa Czisny

PHOTO BY GOH CHAI HIN/GETTY IMAGES

RIF, Flatt join forces

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), the oldest and largest children's nonprofit organization in the United States, has partnered with 2010 U.S. champion Rachael Flatt. As part of the partnership, Flatt has taped a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on behalf of RIF and will continue to support RIF's activities to support literacy throughout 2010.

"RIF is extremely excited and honored to align with Rachael Flatt to help spread the joy of reading to children across the nation. Rachael is an international figure who represents the very best of sports," said Carol H. Rasco, president and chief executive officer of RIF.

The PSA was taped in Colorado Springs, Colo., and focuses on Flatt's passion for reading and how important it is for parents to read to their children.

Flatt is a senior at Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Skaters and coaches joined to help the earthquake victims in Haiti. A skate-a-thon planned in less than one week generated more than \$2,000.

Skate-a-thon aids victims in Haiti

Skaters and coaches in Connecticut came together on Jan. 31 to raise money for the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund and write letters of support to children affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

Skate-a-Thon Help Haiti took place at the International Skating Center of Connecticut (ISCC) in Simsbury. Participants ranging from beginners to international competitors took part in the fundraiser. U.S. ice dancer Jennifer Wester organized and participated in the skate-a-thon.

The ISCC donated a 45-minute session for participants to skate laps

around the rink. Prior to the event, skaters gathered pledges for each lap completed. Rachel Gart finished with an event-best 181 laps.

Skaters raised more than \$2,000 that will help send food, water, shelter and first-aid supplies to Haiti.

"I am so proud of the efforts put forth by the skaters that showed up, their families, sponsors and coaches," Wester said, "I really hope other facilities, skaters and clubs will consider putting on their own skate-a-thons."

- Lauren Magliola

Cleveland-area skaters step up to help Haiti

Cleveland area ice rinks have joined forces to help the earthquake victims of Haiti. Ellie Kuivila, a sophomore at Hathaway Brown in Ohio, is spearheading the "Skaters for Haiti" effort.

From March 1 through the first weekend in May, several area rinks will collect essentials such as toothbrushes, Band-Aids, vitamins and soap. Early in the summer, the "Hearts for Haiti" mission team will deliver the donated items to

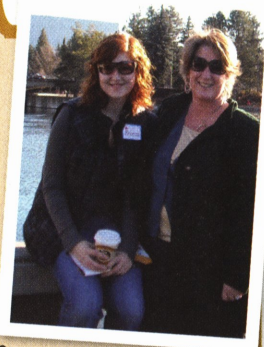
the earthquake victims.

An ice show at the Cleveland Skating Club titled "The Gifts" will be performed in conjunction with the drive. Donations will go toward the relief effort.

"Skaters for Haiti" invite rinks across the nation to participate. Just place a wrapped gift box at your rink. Send an e-mail to skaters4haiti@gmail.com so organizers can keep track of the participating rinks.

HQ profile

Stacey Marsh



Stacey Marsh and daughter Rebecca

As director of development at U.S. Figure Skating, I work with members, fans, family and friends to solicit and facilitate charitable giving in support of athletes and programs. The development department coordinates and works closely with the U.S. Figure Skating Museum and the Memorial Fund, manages the Friends of Figure Skating program, coordinates events and special fundraising initiatives, and administers scholarship programs.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Since I moved to Colorado Springs in September, there hasn't been much spare time, but what I have had I've used to explore the area. I look forward to attending the Aspen Jazz Festival, blues festivals, touring Colorado wine country and camping in the months to come.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I lived in Colorado Springs when I was young and was a downhill skier for many years. I played the accordion from the time I was 6 until I was 14. I was a Girl Scout and spent summers at camp, going on horseback and wagon trips. I spent the summer of 2008 with my husband and a couple friends building a log cabin in the woods of Talkeetna, Alaska. (Yes, I can use a chain saw!) I have 50-yard line seats with my name on them at my alma mater (Eastern Washington University), and own a foot of the football stadium. Go Eagles!

What do you cherish most? My family, friends and my health. If you have those, you don't need anything else.

What is the favorite part of the job? The people I have the pleasure of getting to know and work with across the United States. I believe in the business of building relationships for life. There's nothing more satisfying than helping someone impact someone else's life and getting to play a small part in something that is bigger than any of us. I have the best job in the world and can't imagine doing anything else.

If you could take a trip anywhere, where would you go? I would go to a private island with white sand, blue water, days of endless sunshine, picture-perfect sunsets, where there is no means of outside communication.

Tell us about your family. I met my husband in 2007 during my two-year adventure in Alaska, where we were introduced by friends. He was home on a visit from New Orleans, where he owned a couple restaurants. Needless to say, I married an outstanding chef and I don't step foot into my kitchen. My daughter, Rebecca, is 14 and plays tennis, volleyball, softball and the flute and piano.

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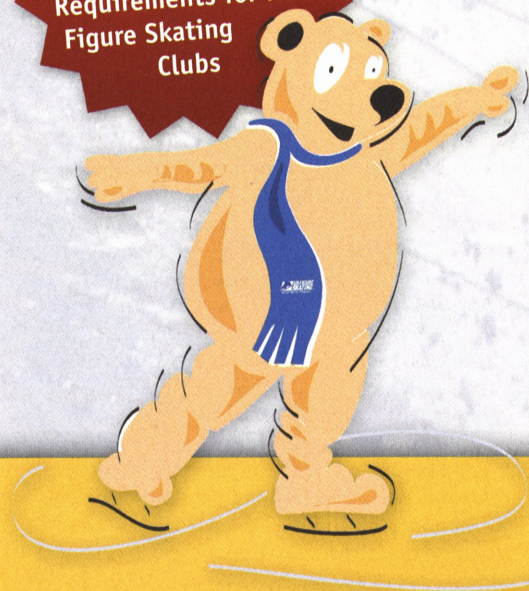
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Carrying through

Ice dancing journey carries lifetime rewards for Witherby

By Lois Elfman

As this interview takes place via telephone, 1992 U.S. ice dancing champion, Olympian, eight-time U.S. senior medalist and six-time World competitor Russ Witherby is in a particularly good mood. It's a Sunday morning, and he is sitting outside his new home in San Diego looking at sunshine and blue skies.

"I don't think I'll ever get used to the natural beauty of the state. It's incredible," he said.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Witherby, 48, moved to Delaware to train at the age of 18 and then relocated to Southern California when he started coaching full-time about 14 years ago. Although he continues to coach at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo two days a week, a few months ago he decided to move south.

"It was very well thought-out, and it had nothing to do with the sport," Witherby said. "It had more to do with personal living and everything else."

At present, Witherby doesn't train any elite competitive skaters on a full-time basis. His students range from grassroots, young skaters to adult competitors.

"I really love the challenge of seeing what the young kids can do when you give them a strong base of skating — how their posture is, how they try to use the ice, what their blades mean to the flow across the ice," he said. "I have adults that just love to know the whole process and the techniques of different dance styles."

"Then I have a nice little crop of young ice dancers," he added. "I get all the moves in the field, the step sequences, choreography. It's quite a plethora of challenges."

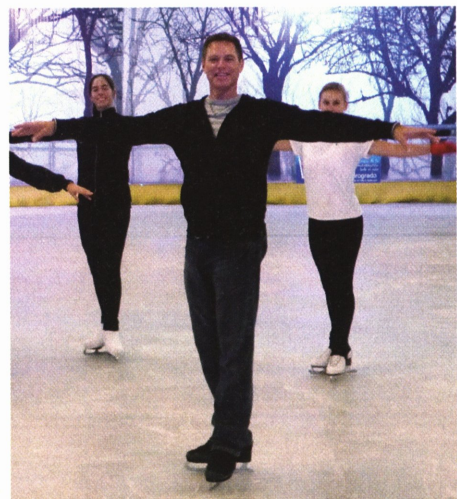
At the rink in Escondido (near San Diego) Witherby knows he's the new guy in town, so he's getting his "feet wet" in a less pressured environment. He knew he wouldn't have the same level of action that he had at a big training center in Los Angeles, so he's taking it slow and becoming acquainted. Some skaters from LA come down to train with him from time to time, so he's fairly well-occupied.

Just like anyone who grew up at a time when U.S. ice dancers struggled for respect internationally, Witherby is thoroughly enjoying the success of American ice dancers on the world scene.

"To watch that gives me chills," he said. "I really admire it and almost feel like I'm sitting in the sunshine instead of sitting under a cloud. I'm so proud of them."

"It's been a long process. It's years and years and years of hard work, growing and becoming what it is today. As with anything, it grows over years. It doesn't just bloom in one season. When you're sitting on the home team's side and they're winning, there's nothing more gratifying."

He's excited that young skaters today are being exposed to a generation of high-level, winning American ice dancers. After a long time as the least prominent of U.S. skating disciplines, ice dancing now has prestige. Young



Russ Witherby teaches students during a professional trip to Chile.

boys who in years past may have shied away from dance now feel comfortable trying it.

Witherby's mother, Marty, was a competitive ice dancer and pairs skater. She was one of the biggest influences in his skating career. All her children tried both skating and swimming, but he was the only one who really took to his mother's passion. She passed away about four years ago, and he inherited all her medals and trophies as well as some oil paintings of her. He's created an area in his house where he displays his medals alongside hers.

His father visits him in California at least once a year, and he goes to visit his father, three older brothers and one older sister, who all still live in Cincinnati, a couple of times a year.

While he may not have stood on the World podium, Witherby is proud of his competitive record, which includes medalizing in senior dance at the U.S. Championships with three different partners: Lois Luciani (1986), April Sargent (1988–92) and Susie Wynne (1993–94). He and Sargent competed in the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, France, which remains one of the most profound experiences of his life.

"It's the ultimate of experiences and the culmination of years of sport," Witherby noted. "You never really forget. You can close your eyes at any time and you can literally flash back to that time. The whole spirit, the energy



Russ Witherby has traveled the world as an amateur skater, a professional performer and a coach. He spent a recent trip to Chile teaching a group of aspiring skaters.

PHOTOS BY PAUL HANVATH

and the camaraderie of all those athletes being in one place for the common good of athletics. Literally a community. Never forgetting how it felt to be around so many people that have dedicated so much time to their passion and their love for a certain sport.

"It is something that carries into my everyday life even now," he continued. "It makes your whole thought process and your passion for what it is you like to do that much more real. To me, it's something that carries you through your life. Those memories and those friendships carry through your life as well, which to me is like a treasure."

He speaks with fondness about each of his partners and said he has great memories of their times together. He also has words of praise for his coaches, especially Ron Ludington and Robbie Kaine, with whom he trained for many years. Witherby said he hopes he's the kind of coach skaters will think positively about years after they've left his tutelage.

Part of the reason for the move to San Diego was to explore new professional opportunities, but it was also personally driven. Witherby's husband, whom he married in October 2008 when same-sex marriage was legal in California, recently completed his education as a doctor of psychology, and this seemed a good time to relocate as he starts his professional career. Both feel this is a place they could be happy for decades.

Lessons learned from skating are brought into their life together, which is to enjoy every day and also be consistent in your commitments.

"The discipline of getting in and doing your job," Witherby said. "Feeling so awesome after a strong workout. Even if it wasn't the best skating you ever did, it was all about being out there doing it. It built such character in me. That's something you can't replace."

Beyond his competitive accomplishments, young students seem most impressed when they hear he and Wynne toured the world with Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's "Face the Music" tour.

Witherby said new skaters often ask him, "When did you skate?"

"They're looking up at you as another coach," he explained. "You try not to take too much of their time, but you say a few things. All of a sudden their eyes get really wide."

When the moms ask about his favorite memories, he tends to give a big picture answer — speaking of his love of the sport right from learn-to-skate classes to the Olympics to his professional performing. The best is seeing his students bright-eyed at the possibilities that are in front of them.

"I say to them, 'You could do anything you want with this. It's up to you how much you want to invest in this through practice and getting your skills perfected,'" Witherby said. "That's the challenge of teaching. What they say their aspirations are as opposed to how they effectively go after them. I try to let them think a little bit more about what they're doing." ▀

April Sargent and Russ Witherby won the 1992 U.S. ice dancing title in Orlando, Fla. They went on to compete at the 1992 Olympic Games in Albertville, France.



April Sargent and Russ Witherby formed one of the top ice dancing teams in the United States from 1987 to 1992.

Finishing strong

U.S. contingent fares well on short turnaround

By Kama Korvela

I think the Four Continents competition during the Olympic year is the hardest of the season."

Rockne Brubaker's sentiments were echoed by many U.S. skaters that had to regroup quickly after the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships and prepare for the Four Continents Championships in Jeonju, Korea. It proved to be a victorious event for the American team, as they brought home four medals.

The 2008 and 2009 World Junior champion, Adam Rippon, collected the men's title, with a personal-best score of 156.22 points in the free skate.

"My goal was to skate my programs better than I had at nationals," Rippon said. "I didn't want to make the silly mistakes I made in Spokane in Korea."

After a disappointing short program, Rippon's coach Brian Orser gave him some advice before he took the ice for his free skate: "Attack."

"I took it to heart and went for every element 100 percent," Rippon said.

He landed seven triple jumps, including two triple Axels and his signature Lutz with both of his arms overhead. He credits his training regimen for his strong performance, especially after a grueling event like the U.S. Championships.

"This competition was very difficult to prepare for with having only five days to get ready," Rippon said. "I knew what I was capable of doing at nationals, and I was given another chance to show it at the Four Continents."

The other American men in the event, Brandon Mroz and Ryan Bradley, finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker had a good performance in Korea as well, winning the silver medal in pairs. China's Dan Zhang and Hao Zhang won the event.

The Americans were especially happy with their short program, finishing less than one point behind the Zhangs. They also earned the best technical score. The score provided some redemption after the team's troubled short program in Spokane, which Brubaker called "the worst we've ever done."

"We wanted to re-prove to everyone what we could do," he added.

The pair began the free skate well, landing double Axels and a throw triple Salchow. However, they struggled at the end of their *Slumdog Millionaire* program, as McLaughlin fell on the side-by-side triple Salchow and the throw triple loop. The team still managed to earn enough points to finish ahead of Canadian team Meagan Duhamel and Craig Buntin.

"We're much happier that we ended the season on a high note," Brubaker said.

Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin barely missed the podium, losing out by 0.53 points to Duhamel and Buntin. Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir also competed in Korea, finishing 10th.

The ladies' competition proved to be an exciting one, as many of the world's top female skaters traded places throughout the event. While 2008 World champion Mao Asada

eventually won, she faltered in the short program, leaving the door open for skaters such as Akiko Suzuki, and Americans Amanda Dobbs and Caroline Zhang.

Zhang was in fourth place after the short program, and rebounded in the free skate to earn a bronze medal. She was pleased with her performance, especially considering the rough outing she had at the U.S. Championships.

"I knew I could skate better than I did at nationals," Zhang said. "I was well-prepared and ready for Four Continents, so I just tried to show that."

Her free skate to *The Nutcracker* featured five clean triples and sturdy spins. Though she was happy with her placement at this championship, Zhang is already looking forward to improving her skating in the off-season.

"My big picture plans for next year are to work on improving my speed, the consistency of my jumps, and my artistry," she said.

Dobbs, who finished ahead of Asada after the short program, fell on her triple flip during the free skate and ended the competition in fourth place. Alexe Gilles finished ninth.

Canadian teams dominated the ice dancing event, with Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje winning the competition and Allie Hann-McCurdy and Michael Coreno earning the silver medal. The American team of Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell completed the podium with their bronze medal.

"We've been working hard for the past few months on improving our performance and skating skills," Madison said. "We were pleased that, despite our technical performance, our hard work showed up in our score."

The compulsory dance proved to be a little trying for the Hubbells.

"Unfortunately we had to compete an untrained compulsory dance," Madison said. "I think we held it together the best we could in those circumstances."

However, they shined in the free dance and earned 77.69 points for their efforts.

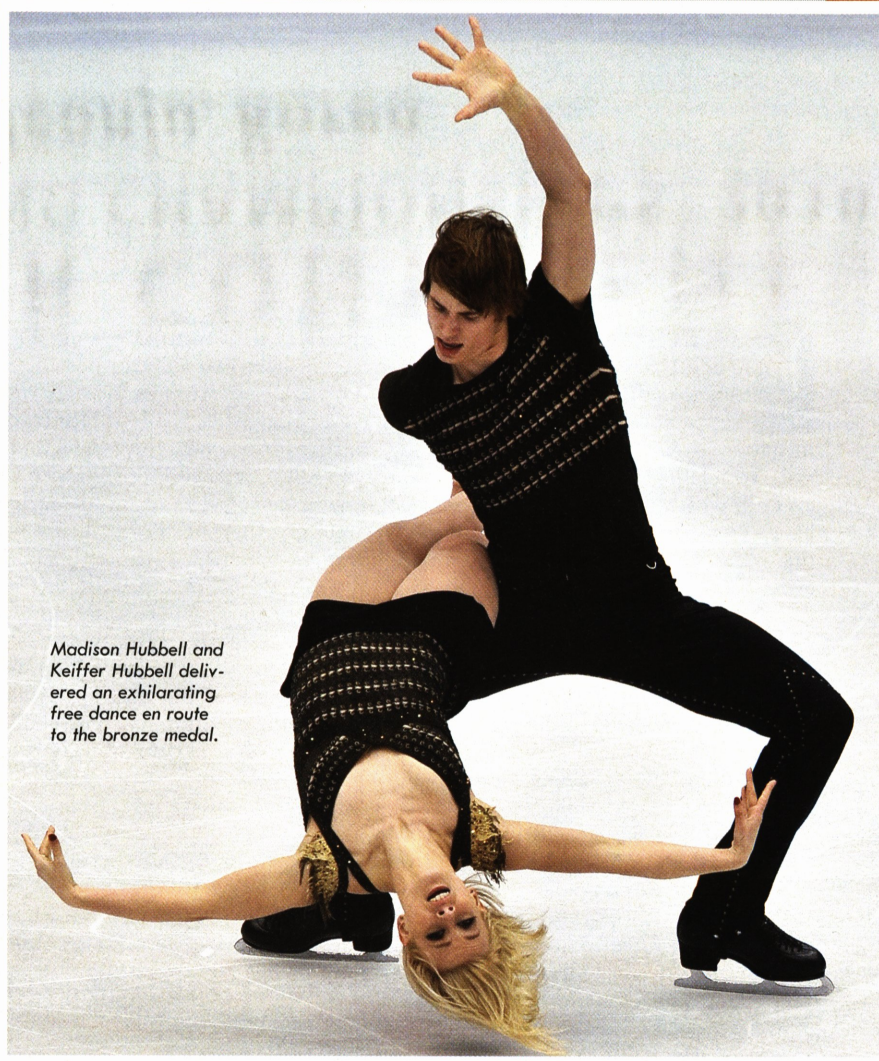
"It's a good way to end our season, and we were thankful for the opportunity to compete," Madison said.

Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein finished fifth, while Jane Summersett and Todd Gilles ended up in seventh. ■

Two-time U.S. champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker finished on a strong note, claiming the silver medal at Four Continents.



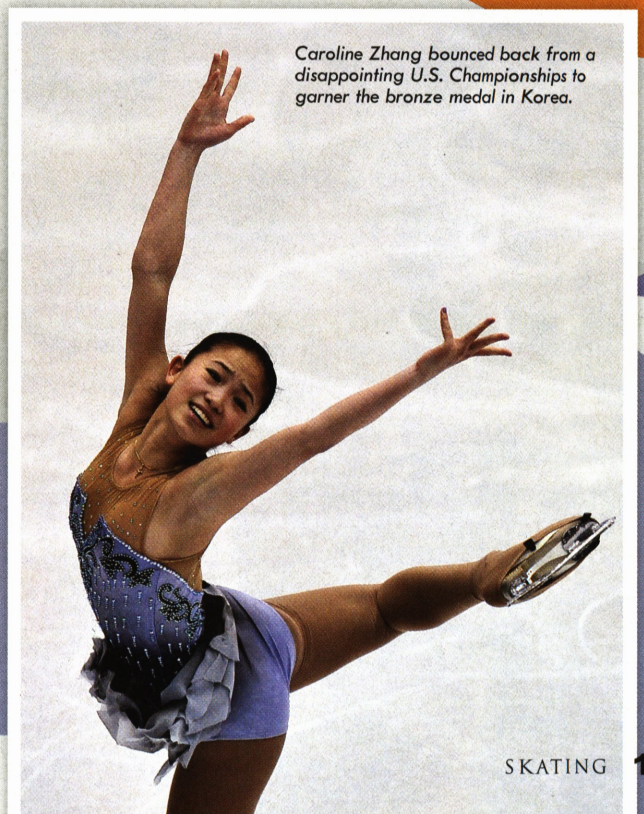
Adam Rippon captured the Four Continents title thanks to an exceptional free skate that featured his signature Lutz, with arms extended.



Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell delivered an exhilarating free dance en route to the bronze medal.



Caroline Zhang bounced back from a disappointing U.S. Championships to garner the bronze medal in Korea.



Spokane proud

Sequel surpasses '07 masterpiece, with record attendance

By Troy Schwandt

Expectations for the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships may have been a bit unfair. After all, memories were still fresh from the attendance-breaking 2007 event in which the city of Spokane, Wash., delivered arguably the greatest championships in the event's storied history.

The sequel, everyone knows, rarely lives up to the original.

But it did this time.

Spokane accepted the challenge, raising the bar even higher. A record 158,170 people skipped through the turnstiles at Spokane Arena January 14-24, while NBC ratings and hits on icenetwork.com soared for this highly anticipated pre-Olympic competition.

Around town, Spokane lived up to its billing as Skate City USA with the excitement of FanFest. This hub of activity at Riverpark Square gave the championships an added edge during its 10-day

engagement. From the courteous doormen at the host Davenport Hotel to the bus drivers who put on a smile every day while transporting fans to and from the arena, the event will be one to remember for years to come.

"We were so proud of Spokane," said event organizer Barb Beddor, who saw the 2007 U.S. Championships garner "Sports Event of the Year" by *Sports Travel* magazine. "Everyone did their part to make our city shine in the national spotlight. Spokane is a magical place with wonderful people, a perfect venue for figure skating and the best figure skating fans anywhere."

Breaking its own attendance record of 154,389 was especially satisfying, Beddor said.

"The success was even sweeter, as a result of having overcome

a number of significant obstacles, not the least of which was the largest recession since the Great Depression," Beddor said. "To achieve success under the circumstances was a wonderful victory for our community and the 700 amazing volunteers."

On the ice, the best skaters in the land routinely served up dynamic and compelling performances that left ardent fans cheering for more.

In the ladies event, reigning two-time U.S. silver medalist Rachael Flatt broke through to capture the coveted title. Her entertaining and steady performances enabled the Colorado high school senior to break the 200-point barrier for the first time. Mirai Nagasu, a high school junior in

California, showed the Spokane faithful the same magic on the ice that she displayed in winning the 2008 U.S. title. Nagasu's package of athleticism and artistry earned her the silver medal and a trip with Flatt to Vancouver for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Ashley Wagner, as she did at the 2009 U.S. Championships, delivered a stellar free skate to secure her second U.S. bronze medal (2008). The hottest story, however, in Spokane focused on the return of Sasha Cohen. The 25-year-old hadn't competed since 2006, when she won the Olympic silver medal. After a glorious short program that landed her second in the 23-woman field, Cohen struggled at times in her free skate and settled for fourth place.

"This was a comeback for myself," Cohen said. "I wanted a challenge this year. I wanted to push myself and compete again. I



"Our goal was to provide the perfect launch pad for our athletes. We wanted to create an environment with large crowds and a similar feel that they will experience at the Olympics, propelling them toward their best performances in Vancouver."

— Barb Beddor, event organizer of the 2010 AT&T U.S. Championships

was so glad to do that and be here."

Jeremy Abbott defended his men's title with a free skate for the ages. He proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that there is room for artistic excellence in the international judging system. Abbott opened with a stellar quad toe loop and ended with a combination spin that had people standing and cheering. Everything in between was equally breathtaking. His U.S. record score of 263.66 points put him about 25 points ahead of World champion Evan Lysacek and 31 points ahead of three-time U.S. titlist Johnny Weir. All three men distanced themselves in the 23-man field with solid short programs, and all three earned a trip to Vancouver.

In pairs, returning U.S. silver medalists Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett put together two outstanding programs to win, proving last year's surprise finish was no fluke.

The Florida team separated itself with a free skate that featured an assortment of high-level tricks and chemistry between them that hadn't been seen before. Their score

of 190.30 points was a personal-best mark and 17 points more than their rinkmates Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig and two-time U.S. titlists Rena Inoue and John Baldwin.

Evora and Ladwig, who hadn't won a top-three medal in eight previous U.S. Championships appearances, edged Inoue and Baldwin by .60 points to earn the silver medal and a trip with Denney and Barrett to Vancouver. Two-time defending champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker struggled in both programs, finishing a disappointing fifth overall.

The showdown between veteran ice dancing teams Meryl Davis and Charlie White and Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto lived up to its advance billing. The teams kept the crowds enthralled with their technical skating skills and artistic excellence. In the end, Davis and White narrowly won all three dance segments and repeated as U.S. champions. Belbin and Agosto finished fewer than four points back to claim the silver medal. Both teams earned a trip to Vancouver, as did bronze medalists Evan Bates and Emily Samuelson. ■

By the numbers

NBC Sports' primetime rating for the ladies free skate was 3.4, 26 percent higher than in 2009 (one rating point equals approximately 1.1 million households). The Saturday afternoon airing of the original dance, free dance and ladies short program received a rating of 2.1, 17 percent higher than in 2009, and the primetime broadcast of the Smucker's Skating Spectacular earned a 2.5 rating, 150 percent higher than the 2009 Smucker's Skating Spectacular that aired in a 2:30-4:30 p.m. time slot.

Viewership of icenetwork.com enjoyed similar results. With more than 75 hours of live video coverage available to Season Pass subscribers, icenetwork.com generated more than 160,000 live video streams during the championships, an increase of 71 percent over 2009. Nearly 300,000 unique visitors made more than 615,000 visits to the site, topping the 2009 totals by 110 and 95 percent, respectively. With access to live scoring and results, news stories, photo galleries, athlete information, free video content from the AT&T Ice Desk and more, visitors to icenetwork.com generated 7.3 million page views, an increase of 41 percent over 2009.

U.S. Figure Skating introduced its international judging system (IJS) educational initiative, a multifaceted program designed to help educate fans and the general public about the IJS. The initiative included distribution of "Skate Radio," 2,000 free personal earpieces featuring three channels of audio, including NBC Sports, icenetwork.com and one with expert analysis of the senior-level events; "You Be the Judge," a daily hands-on experience at FanFest that simulated what it's like to sit on the judges and technical panels; a 14-page IJS handbook that was handed out to ticketholders and made available at the U.S. Figure Skating information booth throughout the event; and two educational seminars for U.S. Figure Skating officials.





2010 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash., U.S. Figure Skating nominated its international selections for the Olympic Winter Games (Feb. 12–28 in Vancouver, British Columbia), World Championships (March 22–28 in Torino, Italy), Four Continents Championships (Jan. 25–31 in Jeonju City, Republic of Korea) and World Junior Championships (March 8–14 in The Hague, Netherlands).

2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

LADIES

Rachael Flatt
Mirai Nagasu
Alternate: Ashley Wagner
Alternate: Sasha Cohen
Alternate: Christina Gao
Alternate: Bebe Liang

MEN

Jeremy Abbott
Evan Lysacek
Johnny Weir
Alternate: Ryan Bradley
Alternate: Adam Rippon
Alternate: Brandon Mroz

PAIRS

Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett
Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig
Alternate: Rena Inoue/John Baldwin
Alt: Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker
Alternate: Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski

ICE DANCING

Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto
Meryl Davis/Charlie White
Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates
Alternate: Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre
Alternate: Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein
Alternate: Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell

2010 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Rachael Flatt
Mirai Nagasu
Alternate: Ashley Wagner
Alternate: Sasha Cohen
Alternate: Bebe Liang
Alternate: Alissa Czisny

MEN

Jeremy Abbott
Evan Lysacek
Johnny Weir
Alternate: Ryan Bradley
Alternate: Adam Rippon
Alternate: Brandon Mroz

PAIRS

Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett
Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig
Alt: Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker
Alternate: Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski
Alternate: Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin
Alternate: Amanda Dobbs/Joseph Jacobsen

ICE DANCING

Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto
Meryl Davis/Charlie White
Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates
Alternate: Kim Navarro/Brent Bommentre
Alternate: Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein
Alternate: Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell

2010 FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Amanda Dobbs
Alexe Gilles
Caroline Zhang
Alternate: Melissa Bulanagui
Alternate: Becky Bereswill

MEN

Ryan Bradley
Brandon Mroz
Adam Rippon
Alternate: Armin Mahbanoozadeh
Alternate: Douglas Razzano
Alternate: Alexander Johnson

PAIRS

Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski (WD)
Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker
Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin
Alternate: Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir
Alternate: Andrea Best/Trevor Young

ICE DANCING

Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein
Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell
Jane Summersett/Todd Gilles
Alt: Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Gjuetti-Schmitt
Alternate: Trina Pratt/Chris Obzansky
Alternate: Shannon Wingle/Tim McKernan

2010 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Christina Gao
Ashley Wagner
Agnes Zawadzki
Alternate: Kiri Baga
Alternate: Lindsay Davis
Alternate: Melissa Bulanagui

MEN

Grant Hochstein
Armin Mahbanoozadeh
Ross Miner
Alternate: Keegan Messing
Alternate: Richard Dornbush
Alternate: Jason Brown

PAIRS

Brynn Carman/A.J. Reiss
Britney Simpson/Nathan Miller
Felicia Zhang/Taylor Toth
Alternate: Ashley Cain/Joshua Reagan
Alternate: Tori Vollmer/Zack Sidhu
Alternate: Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton

ICE DANCING

Piper Gilles/Zach Donohue
Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani
Rachel Tibbetts/Collin Brubaker
Alternate: Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Loretto
Alternate: Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan
Alternate: Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager

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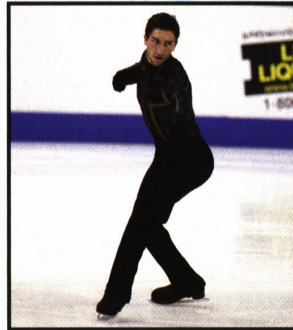
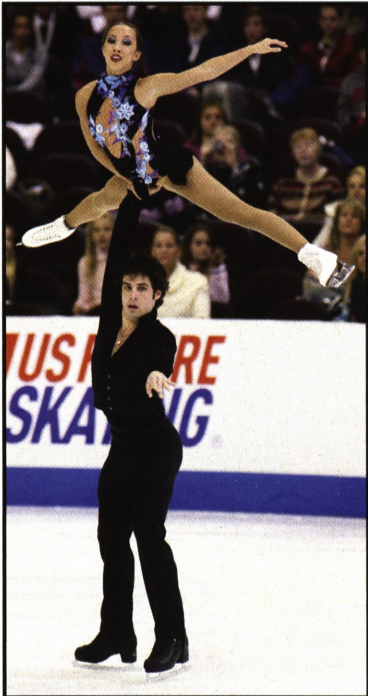
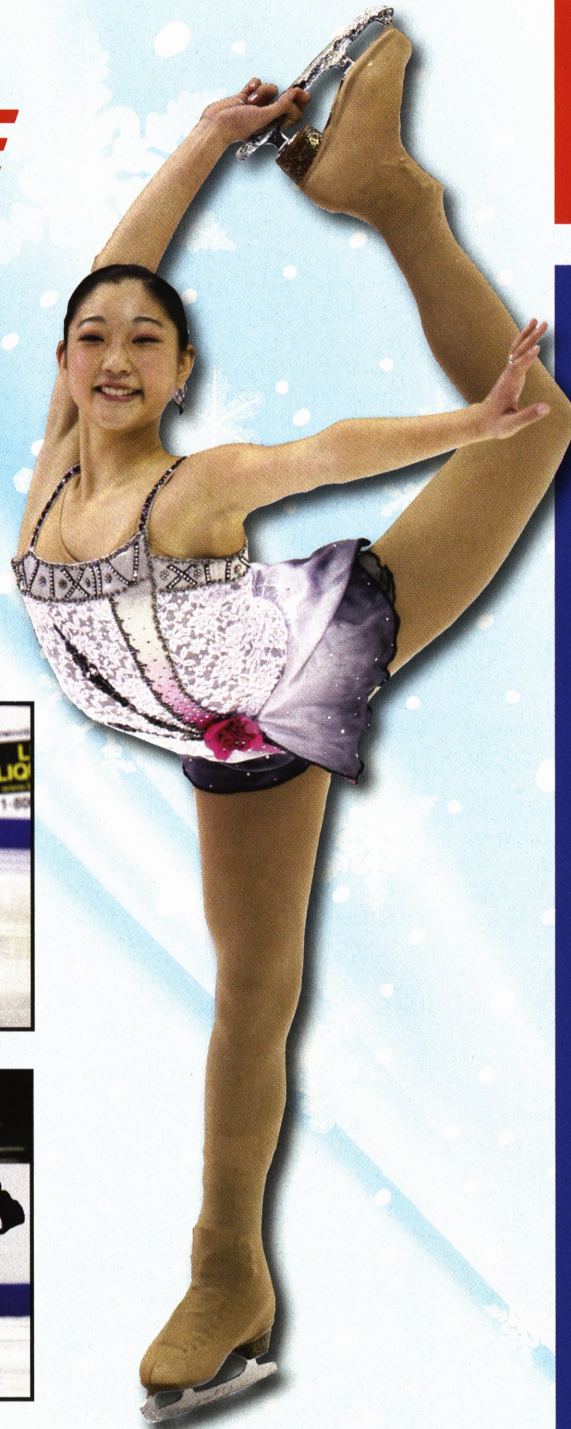
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**U.S. FIGURE SKATING
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Rise to glory

Commitment to excellence paved way for U.S. champion Flatt

By Troy Schwandt

Tom Zakrajsek fondly recalls the first time Rachael Flatt stepped on the practice ice at one of his coaching sessions.

The bubbly 8-year-old had just moved from California to Colorado with a modest set of skating skills that she eagerly wanted to expand.

"Rachael could do an Axel but not really a double Salchow or double toe," Zakrajsek said. "But she skated up to me and I said, 'What would you like to show me?' She said, 'I want to work on a double loop.'"

Zakrajsek gave her some basic things to work on and, although she may have not had the foundation to tackle the double loop, he knew she possessed a strong desire to try.

"She had a huge smile on her face, full of energy," Zakrajsek said. "And by golly, after the lesson was over, I watched her work on everything I taught her about how to do a double loop."

In the days, weeks and months to follow, Zakrajsek realized he had an intelligent athlete with unbridled enthusiasm to work hard and listen.

"This is something special because as coaches we work with a lot of skaters but they don't always work on what they are taught after the lesson by themselves and actually make progress."

Flatt's work ethic and commitment to excellence served her well as she made her way through U.S. Figure Skating's competitive pipeline. In 2005, at the age of 12, she earned the novice title. The next year, she captured the silver medal as a junior.

"I remember meeting with her parents after she had won the national novice title," said Becky Calvin, one of Flatt's coaches at the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo. "We talked about the 2010 Olympics, her parents realizing then that this

could happen. She was on task at that time, and I think her coming in second place her junior year kept her hungry."

In 2007, Flatt made her national senior debut and placed fifth.

Her improvement continued with back-to-back U.S. silver medals in 2008 and 2009. Entering the 2010 AT&T U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash., the 17-year-old high school senior was one of the favorites to win and earn one of the country's two Olympic berths.

And as she had done throughout her career, Flatt stamped her time card and delivered two entertaining and athletic programs that garnered the U.S. title and a ticket to Vancouver for the Olympics. Her event-best free skate featured seven triple jumps, including a triple flip-triple toe combination. Her spins, spirals and step sequences were all rewarded with level threes and fours.

Flatt's record-breaking 200.11-point overall score generated big eyes and smiles in the kiss and cry.

"I had a lot of confidence going into the long (program), which is a stronger program for me," Flatt said. "I finally broke through some barriers, and it was just a great experience."

Flatt's methodical rise to the top of the U.S. ranks, while impressive, is not surprising considering the strong foundation she enjoys at home. Her parents are accomplished, to say the least. Her dad, Jim Flatt, excels in his career as a biochemical engineer, while her mother, Jody Flatt, enjoyed a career as a molecular biologist. Their high educational standards certainly rubbed off on Rachael, who is a straight-A student at Cheyenne Mountain High School and in the process of selecting one of the nation's premier colleges to attend.

As steady as Flatt is on the

ice, she's the same in the classroom and in the community where she lends her name and time to important causes.

"I'm sure she learned that organization from her mother and that allows her to train at a very

Flatt set the bar high with her short program performance to "Sing Sing Sing" from the Broadway production Fosse. Flatt's efforts landed her third, but less than a point behind short-program leader Mirai Nagasu.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Medalists

- GOLD** - Rachael Flatt - 200.11
- SILVER** - Mirai Nagasu - 188.78
- BRONZE** - Ashley Wagner - 184.70
- FOURTH** - Sasha Cohen - 174.28

(l-r) Mirai Nagasu, Rachael Flatt, Ashley Wagner and Sasha Cohen



PHOTO BY PAUL HANVATH



high level in figure skating," Zakrajsek said.

In Spokane, Zakrajsek watched a determined Flatt handle all the expectations and pressure with an ease that's not typically found in a teenager. There wasn't much he needed to say. She had put in the training and her track record of delivering the goods in major competitions was impeccable.

"She was so ready, so there wasn't a lot I had to say," Zakrajsek said. "There were just little reminders. You can tell by the way she practices, she is such a joy to have at a competition. That steadiness allows us to focus in on the little details and not

to have to reconstruct jumps during a practice session."

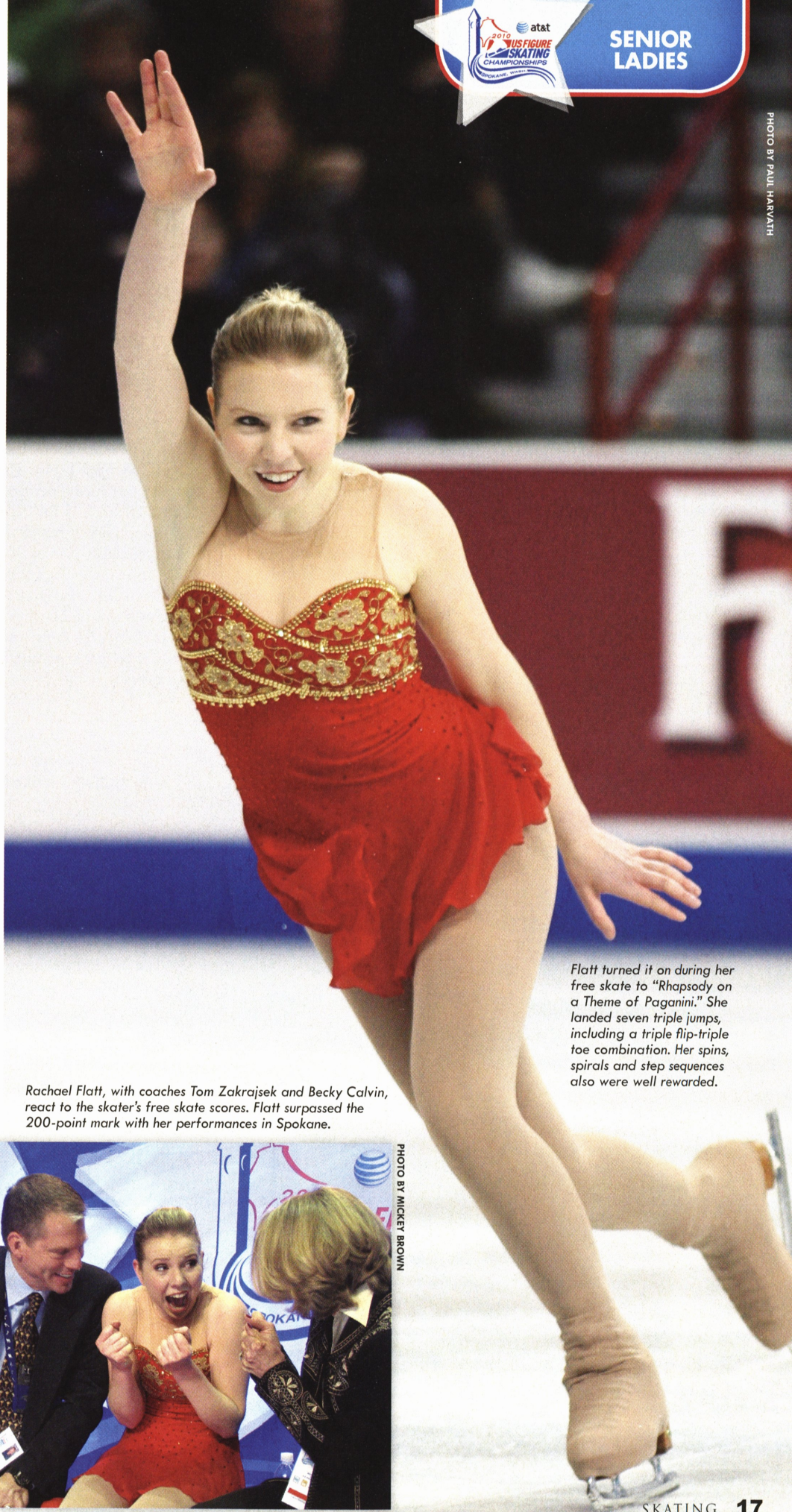
At the press conference following her record free skate, the perfectionist Flatt talked about how pleased she was that she'd skated two great programs but added there was still room for improvement.

"I've been pushing the envelope but I haven't quite been 100 percent happy with all my performances," she said. "I've been on the cusp of doing great performances but never completely satisfied."

"I love hearing her answers here," Zakrajsek said. "She knows where she held back in the programs, and I think that is going to help her at the Olympic Games."

Zakrajsek feels blessed, he said, to have coached Flatt for the past eight years and to play a role in her development as one of the country's top skaters.

"I'm very proud of her," he said. ▢



Rachael Flatt, with coaches Tom Zakrajsek and Becky Calvin, react to the skater's free skate scores. Flatt surpassed the 200-point mark with her performances in Spokane.

Flatt turned it on during her free skate to "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini." She landed seven triple jumps, including a triple flip-triple toe combination. Her spins, spirals and step sequences also were well rewarded.



Ladies' night

Flatt rolls to title; Nagasu recaptures magic

By Troy Schwandt

With only two Olympic berths available, there wasn't much room for error in the ladies' event at the 2010 U.S. Championships in Spokane. Near-perfect execution and a little luck would be necessary to secure a ticket to Vancouver and the 2010 Games.

Rachael Flatt, the two-time reigning U.S. silver medalist, figured to be one of those skaters poised to seize the

opportunity. With an unflappable mind and a thoroughly trained body, Flatt has proven herself time and again in the last three years, including a fifth-place debut at the 2009 World Championships.

In front of a packed Spokane Arena and millions more watching live on NBC, Flatt made her case with a record-breaking performance. Her overall

score of 200.11 points earned the Colorado Springs, Colo., high school senior that elusive gold medal and a trip to Vancouver.

Mirai Nagasu, the 2008 U.S. champion, snared the country's second Olympic berth with her sterling silver-medal performance. Her overall score of 188.78 points was four points better than U.S. bronze medalist Ashley Wagner. Sasha Cohen, the 2006 Olympic silver medalist, also represented herself well in a highly anticipated comeback bid, finishing second in the short program and fourth overall.

For Flatt, it was yet another entertaining and rock-solid effort.

"She's so consistent and beautifully trained that when she steps on the ice I don't get filled with anticipation of 'what if,' because I know she's going to deliver the goods," said Olympic champion and NBC announcer Scott Hamilton of the 17-year-old.

"She knows what her body can do, and she knows her preparation and she trusts it."

Flatt entered the free skate in third place, less than one point behind short-program leader Nagasu and second-place Cohen.

Flatt's short program to "Sing, Sing, Sing" from the Broadway production *Fosse* was delightful and technically sound. She started with a triple flip-triple toe combination and ended with a level-four combination spin. Flatt earned all positive Grades of Execution (GOE) en route to a 69.35-point score.

The bubbly performance was her best this season.



Rachael Flatt

"Pushing 70 points was very exciting for me," Flatt said. "It was a great improvement over Skate America, and I'm very pleased with that."

At the 2009 Cancer.Net Skate America, Flatt posted a short program score of 58.80 points.

In Spokane, Flatt entered the free skate confident, and her performance to "Variations on a Theme by Paganini" proved that.

She landed seven triple jumps, including a triple flip-triple toe combination. Her spins, spirals and step sequences were all rewarded with level threes and fours. Flatt's free skate score of 130.76 was nearly eight points better than Wagner's, who posted the second-best free skate mark.

"I finally competed the way I've been training, and I think I continued to build throughout the entire program," said Flatt, whose previous best overall score was 188.73 points at the 2008 U.S. Championships. "It was a great accomplishment for me to increase my GOEs and get better levels on all elements and just have a great performance."

As is her nature, though, Flatt said there are still things she can improve upon as she makes her final Olympic push.

Nagasu showed the same

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Sasha Cohen

PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

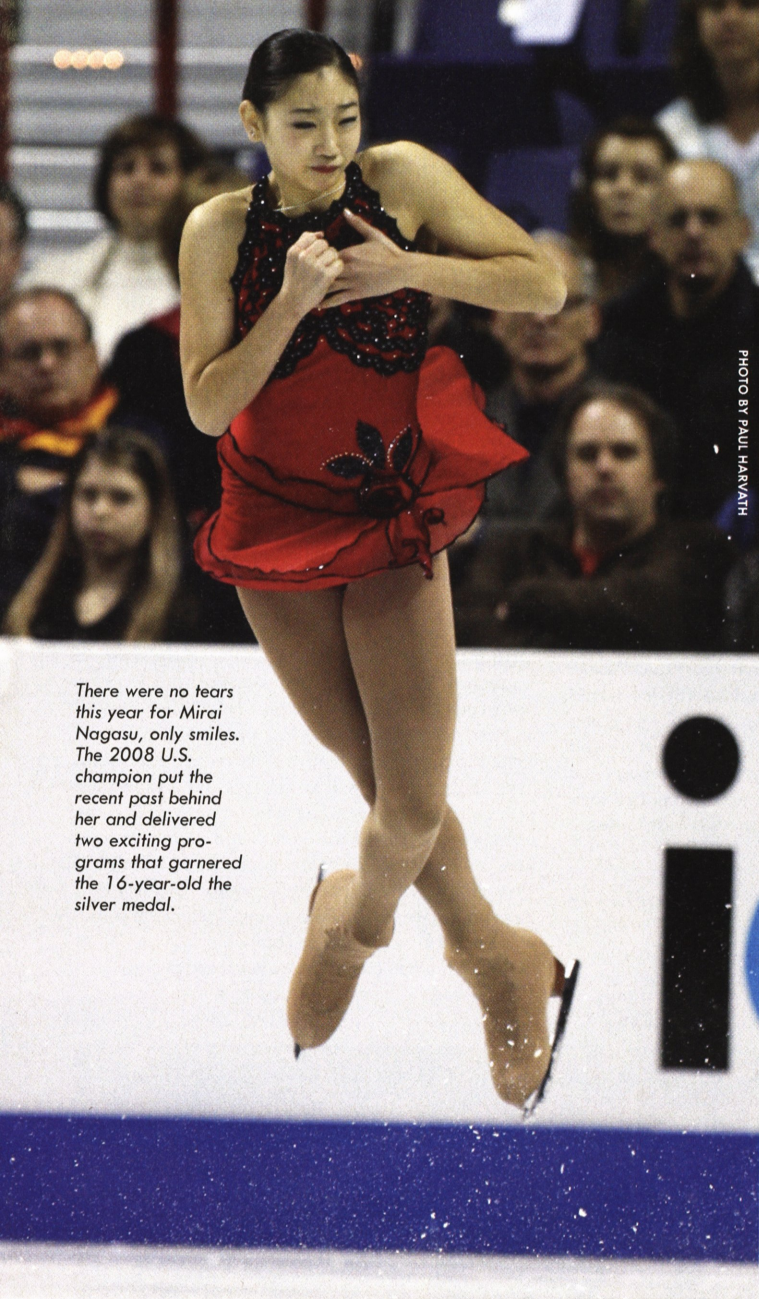


PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH
PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

There were no tears this year for Mirai Nagasu, only smiles. The 2008 U.S. champion put the recent past behind her and delivered two exciting programs that garnered the 16-year-old the silver medal.

magic on the ice as she did in 2008 to win the U.S. title. The 16-year-old's free skate to Bizet's *Carmen* thrilled the audience, but three downgraded jumps prevented her from claiming her second U.S. crown.

"I skated last, and I had a lot of time to think," said the California high school junior, who recorded the third-best free skate. "Sometimes that isn't good for me, because I over-think and get nervous. I'm glad I didn't skate my best because that gives me a lot to work on before the Olympics."

Nagasu's displayed exuberance was in stark contrast to the tears she shed in taking the ice at the 2009 U.S. Championships in Cleveland, Ohio.

"That was all my love of skating because last year it was a little

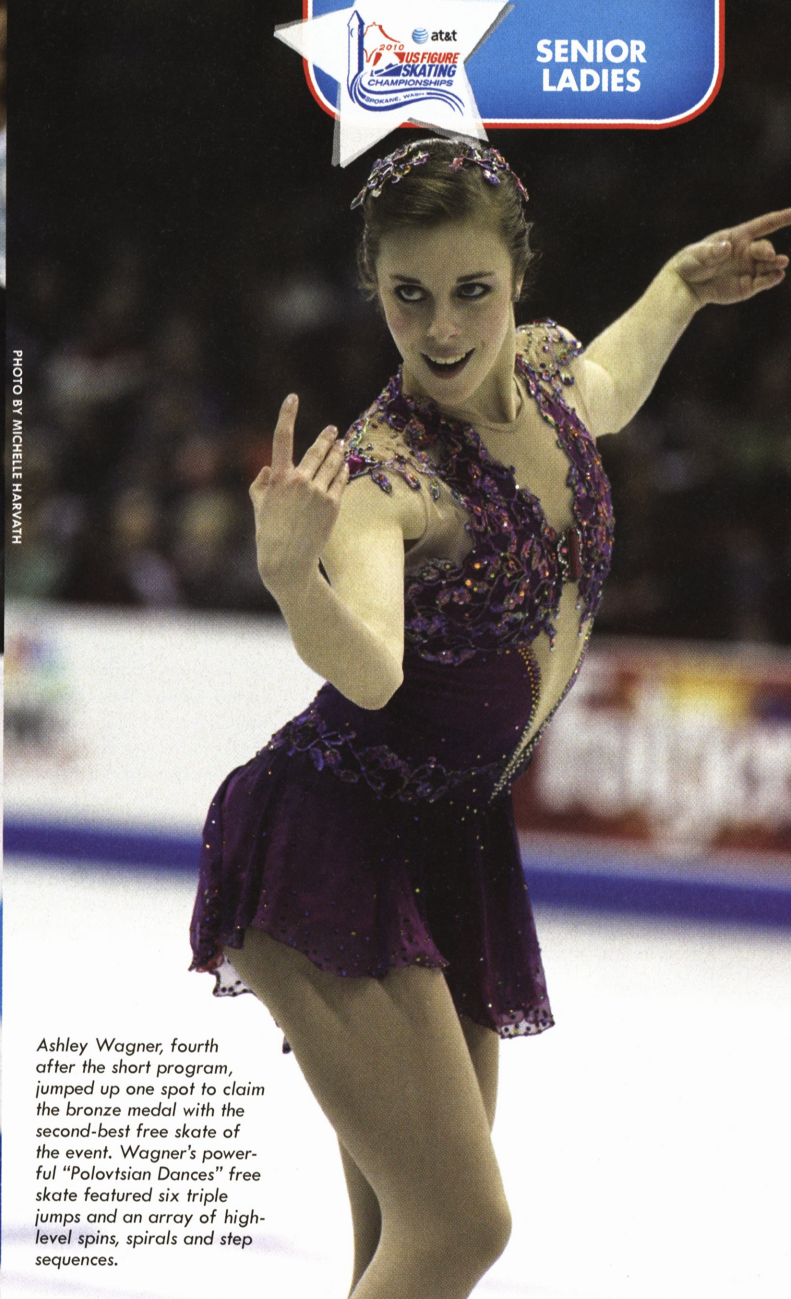
bit difficult for me to skate from the heart," she said.

Ashley Wagner, the 2008 U.S. bronze medalist, entered the free skate within striking distance of the leaders. But despite an exceptional free skate, Wagner wasn't able to climb high enough to secure an Olympic berth.

Still, the 18-year-old was pleased how things came together in Spokane in the face of some personal adversity.

"There's a little bit of bitterness (in not making the Olympic team)," Wagner admitted. "I'm just focusing on how far I've come this year. I've had an incredibly stressful year, and the fact I made it to these nationals and put up what I did, I'm so happy with that."

Wagner moved out of her



Ashley Wagner, fourth after the short program, jumped up one spot to claim the bronze medal with the second-best free skate of the event. Wagner's powerful "Polovtsian Dances" free skate featured six triple jumps and an array of high-level spins, spirals and step sequences.

house last year and in with coach Priscilla Hill and her family in order to focus on skating. It was the first time she'd been on her own; she paid her own way to Spokane.

"She's grown up a lot in the last six months and has taken on a lot," Hill said. "We all didn't know how it would be, but it ended up being the right thing for her."

Cohen's debut, not surprisingly, created the most buzz at the event. Everyone waited in heavy anticipation, wondering how the skating icon would perform after a nearly four-year layoff. Cohen was scheduled to return last fall during the Grand Prix Series, but injuries forced her to withdraw from those events.

Skating her short program to "España Cani," Cohen started conservatively but soon had

the crowd clapping along to her straight line steps. By the time she grasped her foot for a full split in her closing combination spin, all the old fire and energy had returned.

"I am so happy I'm here," she told reporters. "To see everyone standing at the end of my program, knowing all the obstacles I've overcome to be here, made it a special night for me."

Her coach, John Nicks, praised his longtime pupil's toughness.

"She looks like a petite, little china doll, but you have a very tough young lady there because she endured some really bad falls, got up and did it again and fell again and got up. It finally came together about two or three weeks ago."

Cohen's performance earned her 69.63 points and second place entering the free skate. Her free skate, however, started badly with two shaky jump combinations. She then two-footed the landing of a triple loop and fell on a triple flip.

Despite that disappointment, Cohen said she enjoyed the competition and has no regrets.

"I was happy that so many people came up to me and said, 'We are so glad you are here,'" Cohen said. "Being out here on beautiful ice, with a crowd that loves skating, was a lot of fun."

Defending champion Alissa Czisny met disaster on the opening element of her short program, falling on an intended triple Lutz-double toe combination. She went on to finish seventh in the program, 16 points off the lead and out of medal contention.

"I really don't usually miss that jump," she said. "I've had good shorts at all my competitions, so I was a little shocked how it went." ■

No regrets

While Emily Hughes didn't earn a return ticket to the Olympics, she did delight in hearing the roar of the crowd once again. Hughes took time off from her studies at Harvard to compete this Olympic season. She finished 10th overall in Spokane with 140.60 points. "I definitely have no regrets," said the 2006 Olympian. "I've had an amazing career so far." Hughes, a junior, plans to return to Harvard and graduate. She's majoring in political science and doesn't rule out a run for public office someday. "Don't count me out," she said with a smile. As far as skating, she's also leaving the door wide open.

Class act

U.S. champion Rachael Flatt had the thoughts and good wishes of her high school with her in Spokane. Flatt's French teacher allowed all the students in the class to text her "good luck" during class. "They are all excited for me," said the Cheyenne Mountain senior. "I think I'm going to get more stares when I get back." Flatt teased her principal about having a special recognition assembly if she made the Olympic team, like they do for the high school teams who win state titles.

Quote master

During her short career, Mirai Nagasu has proven to be the most anticipated quote among her peers. She never fails to deliver the goods at the microphone. During the U.S. Championships

ladies press conference, she talked about all the "free stuff" that she and her U.S. Olympic teammates will receive in Vancouver. "We get the best seats because we're athletes," she said. "I'm really excited about all the free stuff we'll get. I hope a medal will come, too."

Bright future

When asked what impressed him most about the 2010 U.S. Championships, NBC figure skating announcer Scott Hamilton pointed to Jeremy Abbott's free skate and the emergence of the young talent in the ladies event. "Rachael (Flatt) is very young, but I think as a whole you look at Mirai (Nagasu) at her age and Christina Gao and Amanda Dobbs. It fills you with all kinds of optimism, not only for this year but the next four."

Dorothy's words

Olympic champion Dorothy Hamill rode over to Spokane Arena on the bus with Rachael Flatt on the evening of the free skate. Hamill has served as Flatt's mentor over the last year or so. "We just talked about everything but skating," Flatt said. "We touched on the fact that she just wanted me to have a great time. She was actually telling me once we got out of the van, 'I am so nervous for you.' I think she was more nervous for me than I was. She is just an incredible mentor. She has had incredible life experiences and I can't help but wonder how much she has really helped me. What I value from her experiences is irreplaceable."

**Securing our
future...
Honoring
our past**



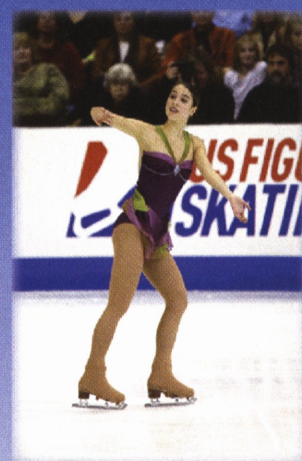
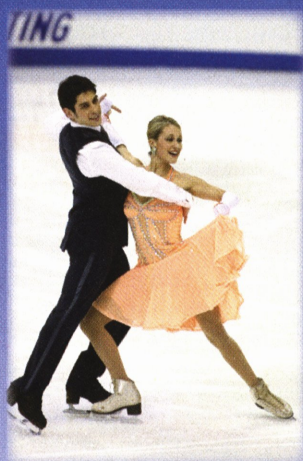
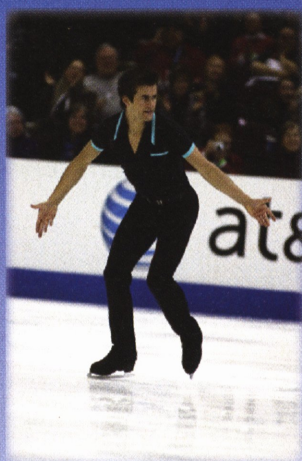
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Two times a champion

Abbott proves untouchable with record free skate

By Becca Staed Bishop

To most, undertaking major changes in an Olympic year would seem in contradiction to the goals of an elite athlete. Not so for 2010 U.S. men's champion Jeremy Abbott. In fact, it was a necessity.

Prior to the 2008-09 season, Abbott was not on anyone's radar, despite having finished fourth in his senior debut at U.S. Championships the previous year. His successful start to last season, in

which he collected the Grand Prix Final and U.S. titles, sent

tongues wagging.

But things

took a turn for

the worse after January—

finishing fifth at the

Four Continents Figure

Skating Championships

and a humbling 11th at the

World Figure Skating Championships—prompting the 24-year-old to end his long-time professional relationship with coach Tom Zakrajsek and begin anew, training with 1994 World champion Yuka Sato and her husband, two-time U.S. pairs champion Jason Dungjen. The change meant uprooting himself from his native Colorado and moving to Detroit, Mich., where he trains at the Detroit Skating Club alongside 2009 U.S. ladies champion Alissa Czizny.

"Whether or not you make huge changes there is always risk involved, but when it came to making the move, deep down in my heart it felt right, and everything just kind of fell into place," Abbott said. "Win or lose, I am very happy with the decision I have made and the lifestyle change I have made, and I have no regrets about that."

Last season was not the first troubled path that Abbott's tread, however.

In 2005, he also experienced sudden success, winning the U.S. junior men's title after finishing no

better than sixth at any national event prior to that. The next year was devastating for Abbott, however, when he placed fifth at sectionals to just miss a trip to the 2006 U.S. Championships.

"That was a huge turning point in my career," Abbott said. "It made me realize how bad I actually wanted it. I went back in the rink and worked five times harder than I ever have. That was kind of a starting point for me and everything that's happened since."

Abbott's record-breaking 263.66-point score in Spokane was 25 points ahead of reigning World champion and silver medalist Evan Lysacek, earning Abbott his second straight U.S. title and a spot on the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team, alongside Lysacek and bronze medalist Johnny Weir.

"I think he really has mentally grown up," said Sato of her new pupil. "Making a hard decision to change and relocate where you live, which is your comfort zone, going into the Olympic season was not an easy choice. That's a gutsy move. By him standing up and self-defining was the first step

in taking responsibility over his career, and I think that is really starting to show in his performance."

Abbott's major feats

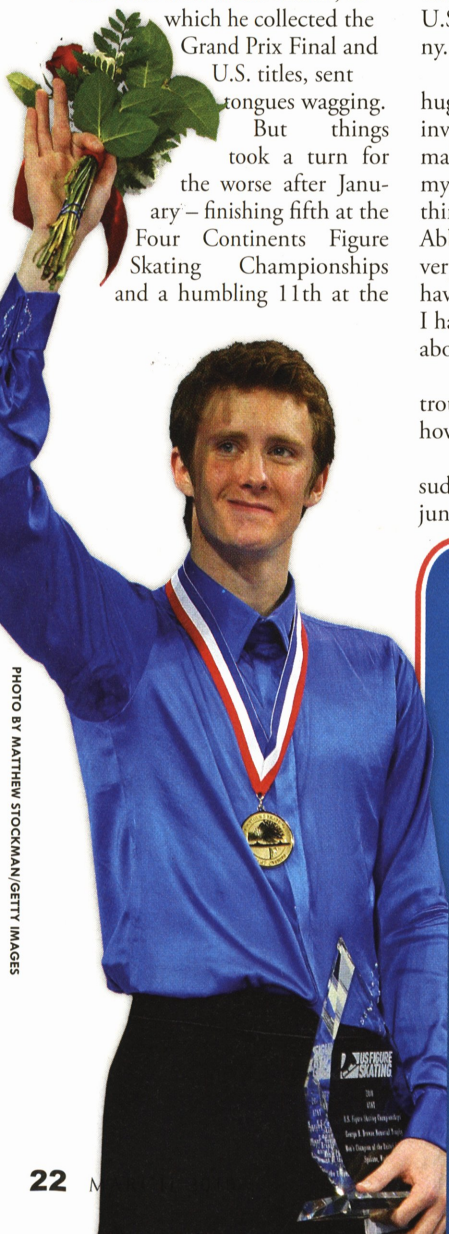
in 2008-09 were only an indication of an untapped ability. His 233.44-point total at the 2008 Grand Prix Final in Beijing was the highest international score ever recorded by a U.S. skater, but his crushing victory at this year's U.S. Championships set a new national record.

After the short program, Abbott led by more than four points, having landing four perfect triples, including an opening triple flip-triple toe followed by a triple Axel, displaying two level-four spins and receiving not a single negative Grade of Execution (GOE).

He skated last in the free skate, performing a routine to Saint-Saens' "Symphony No. 3 in C minor," to which he changed in September, just two months before his first competition of the season, the NHK Trophy, from the program his former choreographer, Tom Dickson, had set.

"It was hard because I loved the programs Tom has given me, but it was too hard to be so far away," Abbott explained. "After discussing it with my coaches we decided there was enough time to make these changes and do it comfortably. Everything was extremely well thought out and nothing was done on a whim."

Abbott opened with a stunning quad toe then reeled off nine triples, including a huge triple



Medalists

GOLD – Jeremy Abbott – 263.66

SILVER – Evan Lysacek – 238.63

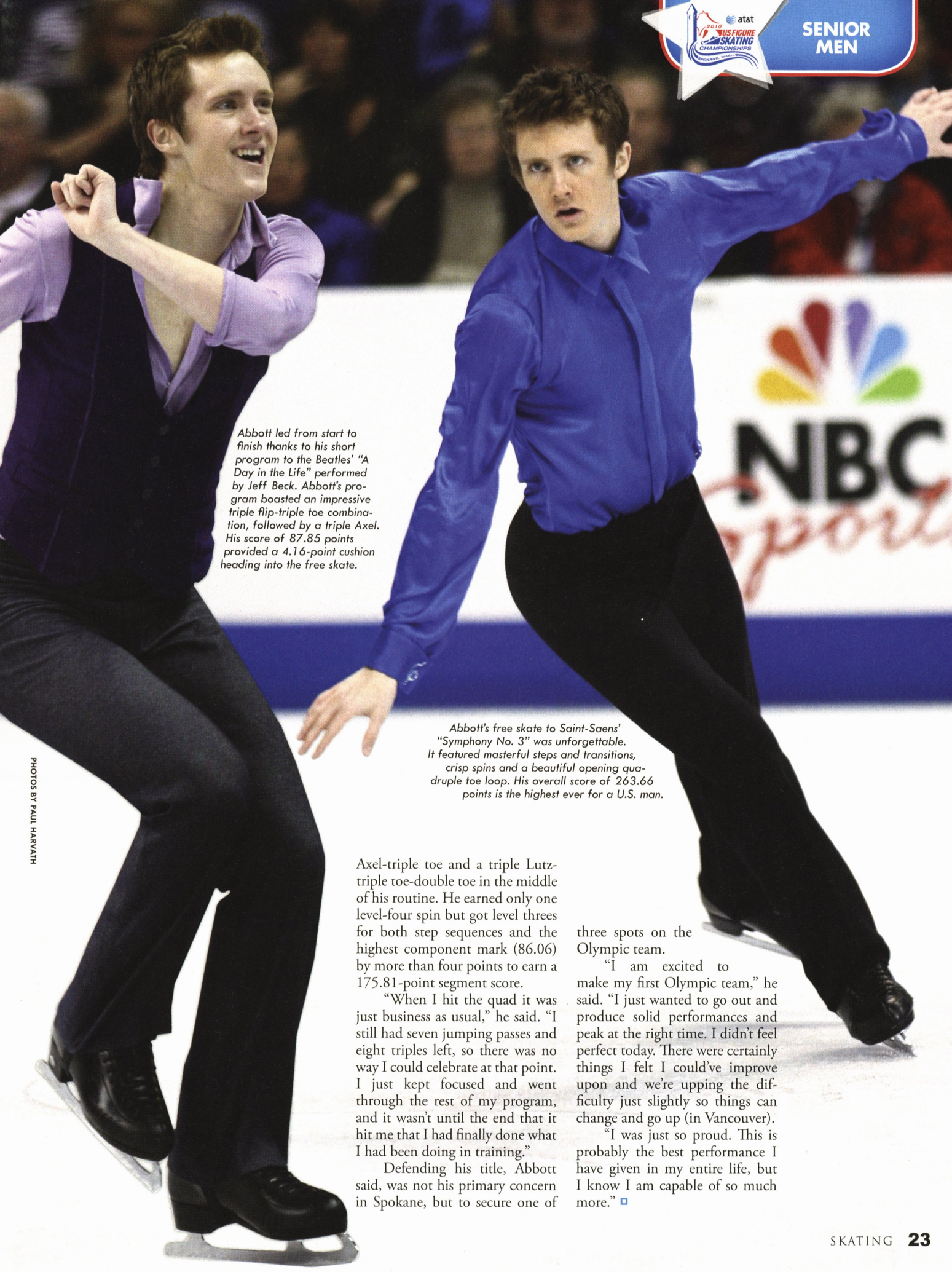
BRONZE – Johnny Weir – 232.09

FOURTH – Ryan Bradley – 225.97

(l-r) Evan Lysacek, Jeremy Abbott, Johnny Weir and Ryan Bradley



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Abbott led from start to finish thanks to his short program to the Beatles' "A Day in the Life" performed by Jeff Beck. Abbott's program boasted an impressive triple flip-triple toe combination, followed by a triple Axel. His score of 87.85 points provided a 4.16-point cushion heading into the free skate.

Abbott's free skate to Saint-Saens' "Symphony No. 3" was unforgettable. It featured masterful steps and transitions, crisp spins and a beautiful opening quadruple toe loop. His overall score of 263.66 points is the highest ever for a U.S. man.

Axel-triple toe and a triple Lutz-triple toe-double toe in the middle of his routine. He earned only one level-four spin but got level threes for both step sequences and the highest component mark (86.06) by more than four points to earn a 175.81-point segment score.

"When I hit the quad it was just business as usual," he said. "I still had seven jumping passes and eight triples left, so there was no way I could celebrate at that point. I just kept focused and went through the rest of my program, and it wasn't until the end that it hit me that I had finally done what I had been doing in training."

Defending his title, Abbott said, was not his primary concern in Spokane, but to secure one of

three spots on the Olympic team.

"I am excited to make my first Olympic team," he said. "I just wanted to go out and produce solid performances and peak at the right time. I didn't feel perfect today. There were certainly things I felt I could've improve upon and we're upping the difficulty just slightly so things can change and go up (in Vancouver)."

"I was just so proud. This is probably the best performance I have given in my entire life, but I know I am capable of so much more." ▣

Laying it on the line

Change proves golden for Abbott; Lysacek, Weir deliver

By Becca Staed Bishop

Ch-ch-ch changes. That was the milieu surrounding the men's event at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash., January 14-24.

Jeremy Abbott, the 2009 U.S. champion, took a gamble in an Olympic year, moving away from his native Colorado and longtime coach Tom Zakrajsek, who led him to last year's U.S. and Grand Prix Final titles, to Detroit, Mich., where he began training with 1994 World champion Yuka Sato in May.

Reigning World champion Evan Lysacek reworked both of his programs in the month and a half between the 2009 Grand Prix Final and U.S. Championships to squeeze more points out of the international judging system. And three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir appeared fresh and energetic, an entirely new skater from the one last seen weathering a rough 2008-09 season in which he bottomed out with a fifth-place finish at last year's event and, consequently, was not named to U.S. World Team for the first time since 2003.

Changes, it seems, are certainly not a bad thing. Especially for Abbott, Lysacek and Weir,



Jeremy Abbott reacts to his record-breaking scores, as his coaches Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen look on.

who came out with the gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, as well as the three coveted men's spots on the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team.

Abbott, 24, earned a record-breaking 263.66-point competition mark, successfully defending his title by a staggering 25 points.

"Last year I was coming in as the Grand Prix Final champion, and I felt so confident that I was going to win," Abbott said. "This season I had to build and prove

myself. I was not worried about defending my title. My goal was to be one of the top three men to represent the United States at the Olympics."

Abbott had a more than a four-point lead after his "A Day in the Life" short program, in which he landed four textbook triples, including an opening triple flip-triple toe followed by a triple Axel. He executed spot-on spins and a level-three circular step sequence that received an impressive 1.29

Grade of Execution.

Skating last in the free skate to Saint-Saens' "Symphony No. 3 in C minor," Abbott hit a stunning quad toe at the start and then ticked off nine clean triples. His spins were average, earning level four on only one, but both step sequences earned a level three, and his 86.06-point

component mark was the highest by more than four points. He earned a 175.81-point free skate score.

"I feel I have to prove myself every time I go out on the ice," Abbott said. "It's always a new panel and a new audience. As people you grow and evolve, so each time I go out is a different experience, and I have to create something new and different. I know what I can do and what I am capable of. It's just allowing myself to do that and share that with everyone else."

Lysacek earned 238.63 points, much lower than the winning 249.45-point score he posted at the Grand Prix Final in December, a reflection of the experimental changes to his programs.

"This is actually a pretty bad score for me, but I think that reflects experience," said the two-time U.S. champion. "You have to make changes and adapt to figure out what works with the scoring system. Knowing the most up-to-date interpretation of the rules and some unwritten rules, those are things you take to heart and make changes and enhancements



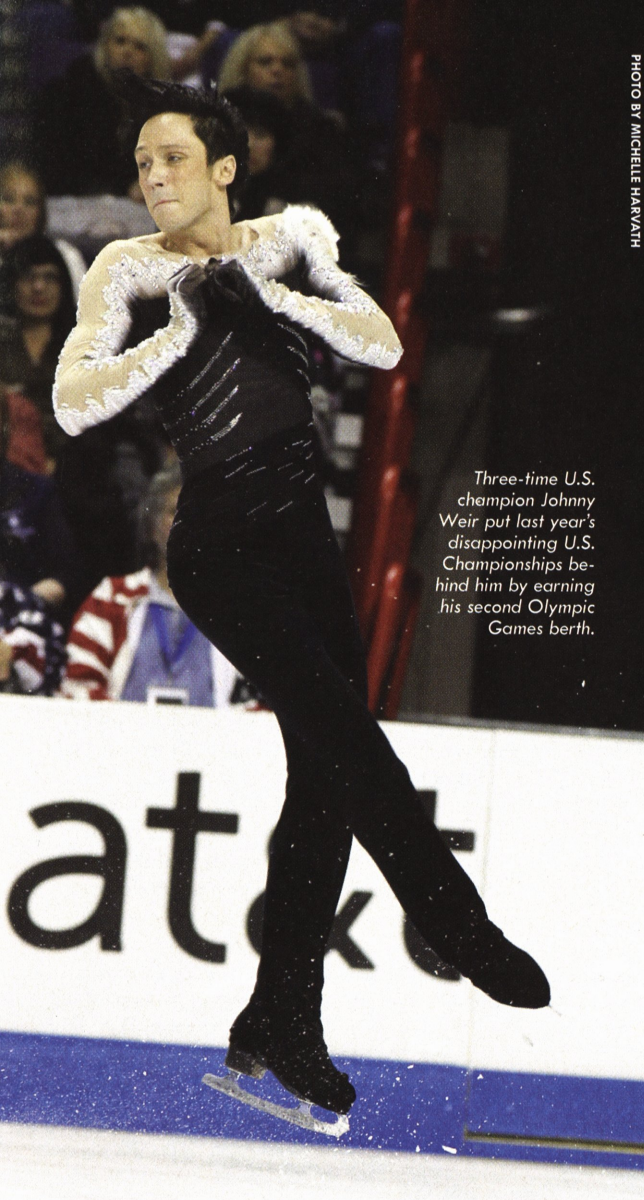
Abbott shows his patriotic side after winning the men's title. He, with Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir, earned the right to represent the United States at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

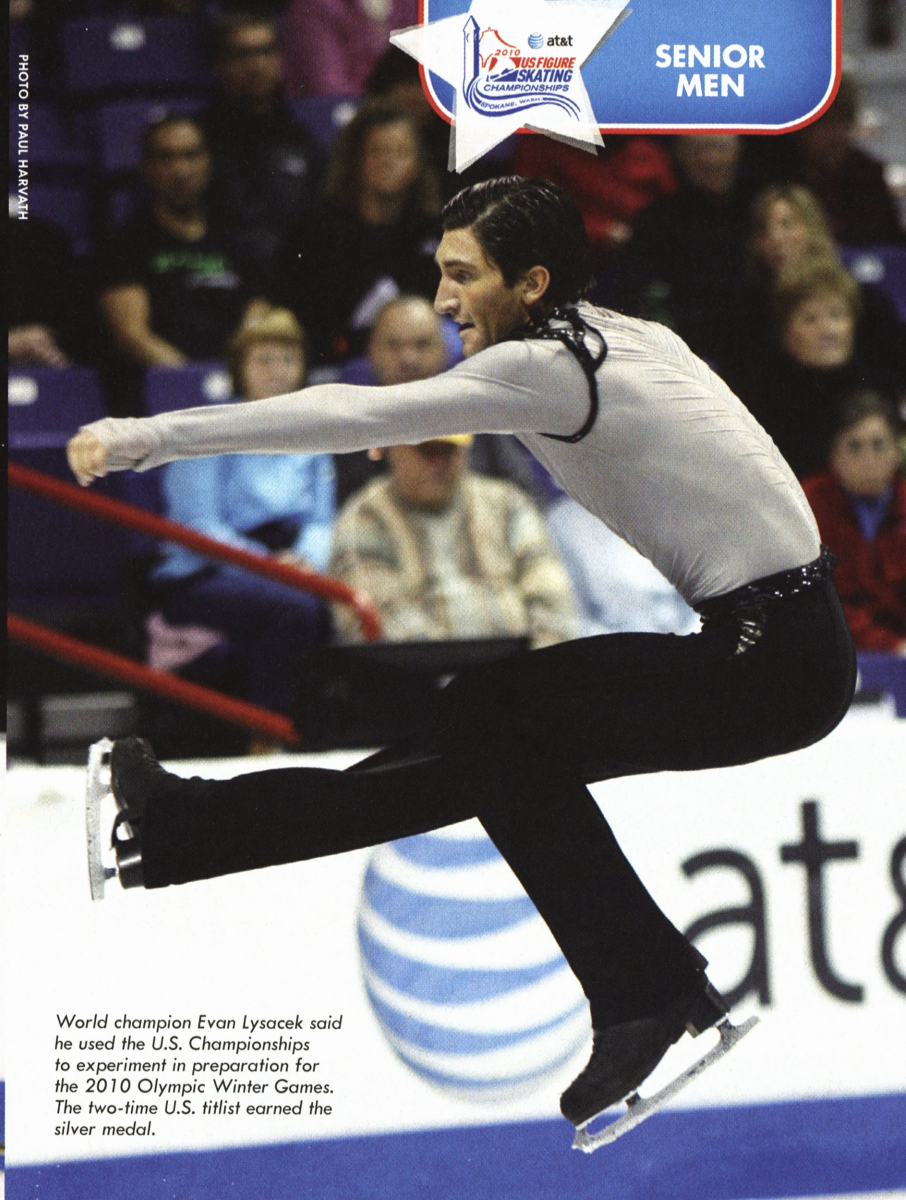
PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH
PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



Three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir put last year's disappointing U.S. Championships behind him by earning his second Olympic Games berth.



World champion Evan Lysacek said he used the U.S. Championships to experiment in preparation for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The two-time U.S. titlist earned the silver medal.

to the programs to try and accommodate that."

Lysacek earned 83.69 points for his second-place short program, seven points below his personal best. Nearly three of those points were lost for stepping out of his opening triple Axel. He skated the rest of his "Firebird" program clean — landing a triple Lutz-triple toe and displaying excellent spins and step sequences — but did not accrue as many GOE points as anticipated.

In his "Scheherazade" free skate, the 24-year-old attempted an opening quad toe but fell, losing four points. He also doubled an intended triple loop and lost a point on his triple Axel-double toe. He was credited for six clean triples, earned level fours on all his spins and threes on his step sequences as well as the second-highest component mark of 81.66 points, finishing third in the seg-

ment with 154.95 points.

"It's not about winning," Lysacek said. "I don't feel the need to constantly prove myself over and over again anymore. It's about me experimenting. I made a lot of changes. I have a proven equation, a program that's gone really well this year that I can fall back on, but I really want to try some new stuff."

"For all of us, this is a great practice run and our last step before Vancouver, so we are going to use it as a tool."

Despite last year's flop, Weir's showing in Spokane proved to any critics or cynics that he is a mainstay in the top U.S. men's ranks. His 232.09-point, bronze-medal performance earned him a second trip to the Olympic Winter Games.

"The world was falling down on me last year," Weir said. "Comparing tonight with last year — there is no comparison other than the fact that I was on the ice in a

sparkly costume. I am in a completely different place mentally and physically. I feel that I can go to the Olympics and challenge the top skaters in the world and bring home a medal for my country."

Weir, 25, finished third in the short program with 83.51 points. Skating to "I Love You, I Hate You," by Raul DiBlasio, the 2008 World bronze medalist landed four triples, losing points for a bad takeoff on his triple flip. Still, all of his spins and step sequences earned level fours and threes, respectively, including a well-executed straight line step sequence that earned a one-point GOE.

He finished fifth in the free skate with 148.58 points but prevailed on the strength of his short program. Skating to "Fallen Angels," Weir opened with three clean triples but popped a planned triple Axel and received only a level three on his flying sit spin. He struggled on the second

jump of his triple Lutz-triple toe, losing two points. However, he landed two more clean triples and three doubles. He garnered the third-highest component mark of 77.34 points.

"I have very mixed feelings about my performance tonight," Weir said. "There are lots of things that I can be proud of and, of course, there were mistakes that I wish hadn't happened. But I am saving that perfect, clean, amazing performance for (the Olympics)."

The 2007 U.S. silver medalist, Ryan Bradley, finished fourth. A disappointing short program put him sixth going into the free skate, too far back to catch up to the top three. Yet, he went on to deliver possibly the strongest free skate of his career, finishing second in the segment with 155.34 points and setting a new personal best of 225.97 points, which earned him his second-straight pewter medal. ▣

Broadmoor buddies

As pewter medalist Ryan Bradley stepped out on the ice for his free skate, a familiar face flanked the boards — that of U.S. pairs skater John Coughlin.

Coughlin, who also trains at the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., is a 21-year companion of Bradley, ever since the two moved from the Kansas City, Mo., area to train in Colorado.

As Bradley's second-place free skate built, Coughlin was seen enthusiastically cheering from the sidelines and, afterward, even got a little teary-eyed for his friend.

"John and I have a really unique relationship," Bradley, 26, said. "I have been through everything he's gone through, all the ups and downs, and he has been there right by my side, too. We see the sweat and the tears that go into day-to-day stuff. So it's really awesome to have those people with you. They are invaluable."

Quad is king

The quad, which is setting new horizons in men's figure skating, can make or break a competitor's chances, causing mixed reviews on whether or go quad or play it safe. The 2010 U.S. bronze medalist and member of this year's Olympic Team Johnny Weir is among those who remains opposed to attempting the jump.

"I would rather show a beautiful character, style and great program and not have a

struggle," he said.

There were four quad attempts in the short program, including Ryan Bradley, Brandon Mroz, Douglas Razzano and Shaun Rogers, which only pewter medalist Bradley was able to pull off, earning the highest score for a single element of the night with 14.51 points for his quad toe-triple toe.

"I am in a unique position where the quad is one of my easier jumps. I know it's the hardest jump score-wise and difficulty-wise, but it's a jump I feel pretty confident with. As long as I am competing, I will be doing as many quads as they will legally allow me."

In the free skate, seven skaters made the quad attempt, including 2010 U.S. silver medalist Evan Lysacek, with only three successes — that of Bradley, Rogers and U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott.

Abbott hit his opening quad toe, and after that, "It was just business as usual. I still had seven jumping passes and eight triples left. So there was no way I could celebrate at that point."

Mroz, an outspoken quad advocate, lost two-and-a-half points on the opening quad toe in his free skate, but that didn't change his opinion of the jump.

"I have been doing great quads and to have step-outs on them in the short and the long is not like me," he said. "Normally I am like a cat. It was kind of a pain to see that happen, but at least I am doing it. For the future it will be something I won't have to question."

Props to Spokane

Spokane, Wash., which has hosted the two most successful U.S. Figure Skating Championships to date, really knows how to host the U.S. skaters, who took notice.


"I really like the crowd here in Spokane so I wanted to do a good performance for them regardless of what happens technically," silver medalist Evan Lysacek said. "The crowd here is not just supportive but also knowledgeable, so we all had a heightened sense of responsibility here to give them a good show."

"They just kept cheering me and pushing me to keep performing and having fun," two-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott said. "The joy of the audience is what makes us all keep going day in and day out. When you have that moment, it's worth it."

Ever the crowd-favorite, Ryan Bradley did not fail to deliver in Spokane with his comical Baroque-themed routine, bringing the crowd to its feet at the end.

"There are thousands of people out there that are a part of what I am doing, and it gives me so much confidence and makes everything so much more special because I am not just doing it for me. I know this is a solo sport but everyone out there has something to say, and I wanted them to be there with me. They were awesome. They were everything I needed and then some."

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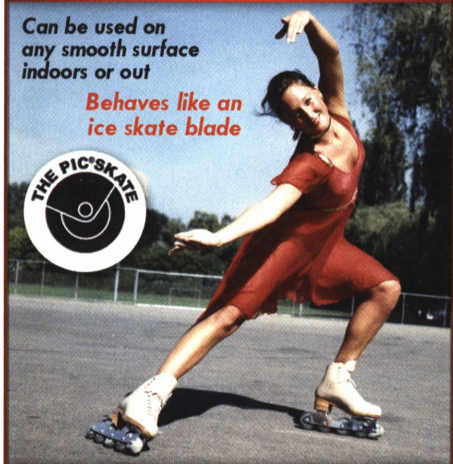
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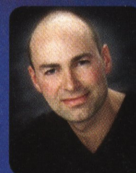
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Top guns

Program adjustments prove key for Denney and Barrett

By Troy Schwindt

Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett entered last fall's ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series excited and prepared, they thought, to compete against the best pairs teams in the world.

And while the 2009 U.S. silver medalists held their own at the NHK Trophy in Japan and Skate Canada – finishing fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores in the 150-point range – the two competitions served as a wake-up call of sorts.

They realized at the end of November that changes in their programs would be necessary if they were to repeat as U.S. medalists and possibly qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team.

"It's been a long road and a long year," coach Jim Peterson said. "They had an average Grand Prix season but we learned a lot from that season. We knew we had to bring our A-game to this competition, and I think they did."

After Skate Canada, Peterson and his coaching staff took a hard look at the team's technical package and decided there were some things they could do to pick up significant points.

"We noticed that many teams were putting a lot of stuff on the back end (of their programs)," said Peterson, who earned the 2009 Professional Skater's Association's Developmental Coach of the Year Award. "We put all three lifts and a throw loop in the second half so we would get the extra bonus (points)."

In an effort to up the ante in regards to the team's artistic score, Peterson sought the expertise of former U.S. Olympic ice dancer Judy Blumberg. Blumberg worked with Denney and Barrett to bring out their characters and relationship on the ice.

"I think it paid off," Peterson said.

Anxious to show the fruits of their labor, Denney and Barrett jumped on the ice at Spokane Arena and delivered a short program that was even arguably better than the one that put them on the figure skating map at the 2009 U.S. Championships in Cleveland.

Skating to "Variations" from the *Song and Dance* soundtrack by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Denney and Barrett dazzled the crowd with a nearly flawless routine that generated an event-best score of 63.01 points. In Cleveland, they also won the short program with 61.51 points.

"Overall, this is the best they've skated the short program," Peterson said.

When asked if there was added pressure coming into this pre-Olympic competition, Barrett said not at all.

"It's important for us to skate well at every competition we go to," said Barrett, who with Denney competed last year at the World Championships and Four Continents Championships. "I don't think coming in here was any more pressure than at the Grand Prix or anywhere else. Actually, I felt more relaxed out there today than I have all year."

Denney agreed.

"We just let our training take over when we are out there," she said.

The team's free skate to Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* put an exclamation point on the competition and sent the crowd into a frenzy. Their free skate score of 127.29 points is a U.S.-best, and their overall score of 190.30

points ranks second only to Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker's 2008 U.S. Championships score of 190.74 points.

"Our free skate today was one of the best programs we've ever done," Denney said. "It was just so much fun, and I will remember that forever."

Hard work and instant chemistry is what they credit for their success since becoming a team less

than two years ago.

"Ever since the first day Caydee and I skated together, things just felt great," Barrett said. "We knew we had the possibility (to succeed), but we still had to put the hard work in."

Following the free skate, Denney and Barrett were officially notified that they would represent the United States at the Olympic Winter Games. They also found out that their training mates, Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig, silver medalists at the U.S. Championships, would join them on their trip to Vancouver.

This was fantastic news for Barrett, who has dated Evora for the past five years.

"The last time we were in Spokane (in 2007), Jeremy wasn't even competing," Evora said. "I remember us walking around beautiful Riverfront Park. This year, we again took a walk in Riverfront Park and thought back to that time. Who could have known then that he'd be the national champion and we'd be going to the Olympics?" ■

Medalists

GOLD – Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett – 190.30

SILVER – Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig – 173.78

BRONZE – Rena Inoue/John Baldwin – 173.18

FOURTH – Brooke Castile/Ben Okolski – 169.95

(l-r) Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig, Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett, Rena Inoue and John Baldwin and Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



SENIOR
PAIRS

PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Denney and Barrett bask in the moment following their event-best free skate.

Denney and Barrett proved that last year's surprise silver-medal finish was no fluke by winning the gold medal in pairs.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Florida sunshine

Barrett/Denney, Evora/Ladwig make it happen

By Troy Schwindt

Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett put themselves on the figure skating map at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, winning the short program and silver medal in dynamic fashion.

But could this relatively new, high-energy pairs team do it again in Spokane, Wash., with a berth to the Olympic Winter Games on the line?

No doubt about it.

Denney, 16, and Barrett, 25, blew the field away with their high-flying "Scheherazade" free skate, chalking up 127.29 points for an overall score of 190.30 points. Their Florida rinkmates, Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig, claimed the silver medal with 173.78 points, securing the second of two U.S. Olympic Team berths. Two-time U.S. champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin earned the bronze medal with 173.18 points.

"I don't think anybody thought two teams from Florida would be going to the winter Olympics," Barrett said.

Two-time defending U.S.



Coaches Lyndon Johnston and Jim Peterson shake hands after hearing the free skate scores of their pairs champion team of Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett.

champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker struggled in both of their programs, settling for fifth place with 165.73 points.

"It felt like we were on autopilot out there," Denney said after the free skate. "It was so much fun. I can't even describe how awesome it felt out there."

"We've trained these programs so much, and once we got out there, we let our bodies take over. It was just a great experience," Barrett said.

Denney and Barrett led by less than one point over Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin after the short program - 63.01-62.09. Up second in the final warm-up group, Denney and Barrett produced one of the most memorable performances of the entire competition.

They set the tone with a triple Lutz twist and triple toe loops. The rest of the program featured spectacular, crisp spins, lifts and spirals, which were rewarded with level threes and level fours. Denney showed her tenacity by landing a pair of demanding throws.

The team knew, Barrett said, it

had something special going entering the final stages of the free skate.

"After each element we were trying really hard to stay calm, which was not easy, especially toward the end," Barrett said. "After that last throw we had two lifts and a spin, which are easy elements, but we had to make sure we stayed calm and executed them. And then, at the end, we just let it all go."

Evora and Ladwig, who were looking for their first top-three medal in eight appearances at the U.S. Championships, delivered a clutch free skate to "Piano Concerto No. 2" by Rachmaninoff.

After experiencing a shaky start with their triple toe-double toe combination and a fall by Evora on the subsequent throw triple Lutz, the team settled in and brilliantly executed their spins, spirals and lifts, which all were rewarded level fours.

Their best point-getter was a reverse lasso lift, which earned them 9.15 points.

"There aren't many elements in pairs that you can get nine

points on," Ladwig said. "It's like breaking the 100-point mark the first time in a free skate. For me, that's a personal achievement."

At the end of last season, Evora and Ladwig evaluated their skating and determined that she needed to be a stronger jumper, while Ladwig's skating skills needed to improve.

"Amanda put down a list for her, and she attacked it," Ladwig said. "I took extra freestyle classes and spent extra time on the ice working on knee bends."

Their free skate score of 115.02 points lifted them from third after the short program to second overall, with Inoue and Baldwin and Yankowskas and Coughlin left to skate.

Inoue and Baldwin came into the free skate in fourth place, more than five points off the lead. They experienced problems in their short program, Baldwin said, with some rough ice.

"We hit some ruts tonight," Baldwin said. "Skating eighth, some weird things happen. On my spin, I couldn't even keep going."



Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett

PHOTO BY MICKY BROWN

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig



Rena Inoue and John Baldwin

FLORIDA, from page 30

Even going into our lift, I tripped a bit. A victim of skating eighth, but that's competition. You have to deal with it."

Their free skate went much better, although Baldwin doubled an intended triple toe loop to start the program. They received level fours for their spins, lifts and spirals, and even landed their signature throw triple Axel. That difficult element, however, received a -0.43 grade of execution, which didn't make sense to Baldwin and his coach Todd Sand.

"In Paris, we achieved the highest score that's ever been given out for an individual element of 9.86," Baldwin said.

The base mark for a throw triple Axel is 8.25.

"I think the thing that's difficult to understand is they are doing an element that no one has ever done before," Sand said. "Just completing the element would

require at least a zero. How can you give minuses when no one else in the world does that element? It's a little bit of a mystery."

Inoue and Baldwin finished with the second-best free skate score of 115.41 points, but just missed placing second by .060 points.

Yankowskas and Coughlin hit a major snag in their free skate to finish sixth overall.

For event favorites McLaughlin and Brubaker, it was a disappointing finish to such a promising campaign. The team fell twice in its short program and could only muster a lukewarm free skate.

"It feels like a sucker punch in the stomach," McLaughlin said of the disappointing outcome, but promised they would be back. ▣

Words from the heart

Amanda Evora entered the free skate with an angel on her shoulder. Evora cried a few tears when talking about a Facebook message she received from Anna Nicosia, one of the young skaters at her home rink. "She said, 'I look up to you not only in skating but in that you taught me that no matter what you put your mind to, you can succeed,'" Evora told reporters. "She said, 'No matter what happens tomorrow, you are always going to be an Olympic champion.' To know that I've shown that to another person made me cry but inspired me to go back out there today like I do every day."

Saying good-bye

Rena Inoue tearfully announced that the U.S. Championships in Spokane was her last amateur event. She and partner John Baldwin placed second in the free skate, finishing .60 points out of second place. The veteran team won a medal at every U.S. Championships dating back to 2003, including gold in 2004 and 2006. "At the beginning of the week, I said we are very comfortable if we go to the Olympics or not," Baldwin said. "We are still happy; we've got great lives. We are very lucky people, and we have each other. I'm lucky to skate with the best pairs girl in the entire world. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be skating."

Love story

Jeremy Barrett and Amanda Evora's off-ice relationship came to light during a press conference following the free skate. The two have been together for nearly five years and, with their two cats, live about 20 minutes from the rink. When asked how they are able to separate

skating from their personal lives, Evora offered a simple explanation: "We've learned our boundaries for each other, when to be there for each other, when not to be. I've always believed personal is personal, business is business and never to mix the two."

Mind games

Keauna McLaughlin didn't hide her unhappiness following her and partner Rockne Brubaker's disappointing short program. "It's just frustrating because I think I let my mind take advantage of the whole program instead of keeping myself positive. I was thinking, 'I hope I don't mess up', and that's not what you think."

Salt Lake volunteer

Mark Ladwig shared his experience of being a volunteer at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ladwig, who wore a yellow staff jacket, was a guide/security screener at the Olympic Square. "My highlights included directing (NFL quarterback) Steve Young, who was the official 2002 celebrity ambassador, and seeing Kristi Yamaguchi. I watched the infamous pairs free skate on the Delta Center Jumbotron without sound."

We'll be back

Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin, second after the short program, may have been disappointed about not staying there in the free skate but vowed they'd be back. "Those guys standing on the podium have had the door slammed in their face with one partner or another. We'll be on the good end of this before you know it," Coughlin said. ▣



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'Drilling' for gold

Being prepared key to victory for Davis and White

By Lynn Rutherford

Sometimes, in the midst of analyzing element levels, grades of execution and program components, we forget what makes Meryl Davis and Charlie White so special.

They're just a lot of fun to watch.

From the dazzling playfulness of a Bollywood-inspired Indian folk dance, to the passion and drama of *Phantom of the Opera* and a chill-inducing exhibition to David Cook's cover of "Billie Jean," the young team makes the impossible look easy and keeps audiences at the edge of their seats.

"Everyone is telling us what great material we gave Meryl and Charlie this season," said Marina Zoueva, one of their coaches and choreographers. "But the material we have to work with in these skaters is absolutely amazing."

So far, it's been a golden season for Davis and White. Since debuting their new programs at the 2009 Nebelhorn Trophy in September, they've racked up accolades and set new personal-bests, winning all five events they've entered while defeating training mates and two-time Canadian World medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir at the Grand Prix Final and former training partners Tanith Belbin and Benjamin Agosto at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash.

"Coming into nationals, we just felt completely comfortable with all of the programs," Davis, 23, said. "Starting the season early [at Nebelhorn] gave us a boost of confidence. By mid-season, we felt more confident than ever and really prepared."

"The thing is to do all the difficult tricks, but make it all neat, smooth, so nothing stands out and it all blends in, and we keep in character," White, 22, added. "All those months of experience with

the programs really help."

There's no secret to their success.

"We've just been drilling, drilling these programs," White said. "We're at the point now where the hardest moves, the most complicated lifts, are coming almost automatic."

The skaters, both juniors at the University of Michigan – Davis is studying cultural anthropology and romance languages, while White is interested in political science and law – lightened their class loads this Olympic season and plan to catch up with some tougher courses this summer. That left more time to develop acrobatic new lifts and perfect their on-ice looks, right down to accessories, including the heavy ornamental earrings Davis wears in their now-famous original dance, which has racked up 250,000 views and

counting on YouTube.

"I had to practice, but I guess my ears are really strong," Davis laughed. "They are really heavy; it's part of Indian tradition. They're not just hanging by the lobes, there's a piece that fits over my ears."

By the time they got to Spokane, Shpilband was comparing both their Bollywood original dance and Phantom free dance to works of art.

"We didn't make any changes after the Grand Prix Final [in December]," he said. "Why change something that is perfect? Did you ever see *Amadeus*? When [the Emperor] tells Mozart there are too many notes, Mozart says no – it is perfect as it is."

After the Grand Prix Final, the team focused on its weakest competitive point: compulsory dances, in this case, the Golden

Waltz, a notoriously difficult dance that has troubled them in the past. The Tango Romantica was competed at the Vancouver Olympics.)

"Now you can see their compulsory dance is equal to their original dance and free dance," Zoueva said after Davis and White won the compulsory event in Spokane.

"That is exactly what we were working on. For four weeks after the Grand Prix Final it was the compulsory. That was strategic; at all of the competitions before, that was their lowest score. At the Olympics it has to be equal. They cannot win gold starting from a lower place."

From the start, the stars aligned in this partnership. Born in nearby Michigan towns just nine months apart, the youngsters were teamed by former coach Seth Chafetz at the Detroit Skating Club (DSC) in 1997. While both also pursued singles, they skated together at DSC from 1997 to 2005 before moving to Canton, Mich., to train under Shpilband and Zoueva.

"Luck is a big part of it," Davis said. "Charlie and I grew up 10 minutes down the road from each other, and our parents are best friends. Our personalities, the way we act, mesh well together. We never butt heads. So it's luck, hard work and respect."

"In a way, things were a little easy for us as kids," White added. "We never had to make that big move across country or anything like that. A lot of times it doesn't happen like that."

The experience of a lifetime together has helped them shrug off any pressure their popular programs, ever-increasing scores and victories might bring.

"It's enjoyable to have this great exposure," White said. "We've had 13 years of experience

Medalists

GOLD – Meryl Davis/Charlie White – 222.29

SILVER – Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto – 218.51

BRONZE – Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates – 190.69

FOURTH – Kim Navarro/Brent Bommembre – 186.42

(l-r) Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates, and Kim Navarro and Brent Bommembre



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

on how to get mentally ready. The main thing is to be focused. We just go out there and skate for ourselves and the judges have been rewarding us."

"I think the goal is to get people to talk about you," Davis said. "There's more pressure when no one wants to pay attention. You're like, 'Why isn't anyone looking at us?'"

Almost miraculously, the skaters maintain a positive, motivating training environment while sharing coaches and ice time with their biggest rivals – although Belbin and Agosto departed for Aston, Pa., in the spring of 2008, Virtue and Moir remain in Canton.

"They are great people, great training partners, all of them," White said. "For us, ice dancing isn't something where you compete against someone else and then you don't like them anymore. We're close to Tessa and Scott, and we've stayed friends with Tanith and Ben."

That doesn't mean there's no competitive fire. In Spokane, both Shpilband and White spoke of how important it was to arrive in Vancouver with the U.S. title in hand.

"Everyone was looking at U.S. nationals," Shpilband said. "It had two of the strongest teams in the world, probably two out of the top three teams in the world. Tanith and Ben skated well, and Meryl and Charlie won. I think the judges here were very open minded; they waited to see the skating."

"It was very important to finish first," White said. "Now we're going into the Olympics as one of the top dogs. We're going to give it our all." ■

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Davis and White wowed the crowd with their Bollywood-style original dance.

Davis and White got off to a good start with a victory in the Golden Waltz compulsory dance.

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Davis and White's "Phantom of the Opera" free dance sealed their second consecutive U.S. ice dancing title.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Musical choice hits right chord

Davis and White lead exceptionally strong field

By Lynn Rutherford

To hear Marina Zoueva tell it, Meryl Davis and Charlie White's free dance to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* almost didn't happen.

"I knew it would be best for Meryl and Charlie just for this Olympic season," said Zoueva, who coaches the couple in Canton, Mich., with Igor Shpilband. "I just knew I was right, but Igor was not on board."

"I love that piece of music, it is one of the best ever, but we had just done it last season," Shpilband said. "Madison [Chock] and Greg [Zuerlein] won junior worlds with it."

The strong-willed Zoueva prevailed, and the rest is history.

The team used the soon-to-be iconic program, which Dick Button compared to Torvill and Dean's "Bolero," to cement a 3.78-point victory over five-time U.S. champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, the first time they have defeated their former training mates in competition.

"It's important in your home country to come out on top going into the Olympics," White, 22, said. "Internationally, the reputation that comes along with it is very important. What we're trying to do at the Olympics is win."

Davis and White began with a victory in the Golden Waltz, the first time they competed the difficult compulsory dance this season.

"We've worked on this dance harder than we've ever worked on any compulsory," Davis, 23, said.

Belbin and Agosto also performed a superb Waltz, placing just .40 points behind. The reigning Olympic and World silver medalists, who did not compete at the U.S. Championships last season due to Agosto's back injury, were in the unusual position of underdogs.

"Having [Davis and White] really come into their own is really exciting," Agosto, 28, said. "It's also very motivating; it pushes us to work equally hard."

Davis and White's Bollywood-style original dance increased their lead to 1.62 points and nearly

brought the house down. The routine is another of Zoueva's brainstorms: shopping in Spain early last spring, she was inspired by a vibrant Indian-inspired silk scarf.

"We went to a couple of specialists who helped us understand what to do," Davis said. "They broke it down, we worked off the ice, and they helped us explore all the areas of Indian dance."

Belbin and Agosto performed a Moldavian folk dance with energy and speed, scoring just a shade lower on both the judges' grades of execution and program components.

"We know what we are doing is good, is strong, and we will hold our own with the top contenders at the Olympics regardless of the outcome here," Belbin, 25, said.

Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates, fourth after the Golden Waltz, stepped up to third with a speedy rendition of their country-western original dance to a Dixie Chicks medley. The 2008 World junior champions earned 59.60 points for 96.96 overall.



Meryl Davis and Charlie White



Meryl Davis, Charlie White and coach Marina Zoueva receive the scores from the team's original dance.



U.S. silver medalists Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto perform their free dance.

Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates secured the bronze medal and a trip to Vancouver with their free dance performance.

Kimberly Navarro and Brent Bommentre performed a spirited program to Afro-Brazilian rhythms, capturing the crowd and gaining some of their highest program component scores ever, and were just 1.76 points out of third going in to the final.

In the free dance, Davis and White's *Phantom* won the night with risky lifts and choreography that built excitement over the routine's four minutes.

"As soon as we finished, all we could say was wow," Davis said. "It was an amazing program for us. We really felt we were able to put together the technical elements with all of the emotion. It was exactly what we wanted to do."

The couple outpaced their scores on the Grand Prix, earning 108.76 points for their free dance and 222.29 overall, a new personal high.

Belbin and Agosto's elegant free dance to "Ave Maria" and Rossini's "Amen" matched Davis and White's in difficulty, gaining five level fours for elements, but their program components were scored more than two points lower. Still, the team earned 106.60 points, outstripping their fall Grand Prix scores, and finished with 218.51 points overall.

While they stopped short of a formal announcement, they indicated this was most likely their final U.S. Championships.

"We've had so much time to grow in this sport, and we've really given our whole lives to it, there's still a lot out there in the world we'd like to experience," Agosto said. "Luckily we're still at a young age relatively, where we can look at other projects and explore other avenues."

Samuelson and Bates grabbed the bronze medal and the final Olympic slot with a romantic program to Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli's version of "Canto Della Terra." They earned 93.73 points for the free dance and 190.69 points overall.

"Watching the Olympics four years ago we didn't think 2010 was within the realm of possibility, but we progressed quicker than we thought we might have," Bates said.

"It's overwhelming," added Samuelson, 19. "Now that the dream is real, it's a cliché to say



you're speechless, but it's hard to think of right adjectives."

Skating to Bono and Mary J. Blige's version of "One," Kimberly Navarro and Brent Bommembre captured the crowd, but could not move into the top three. The two-time U.S. bronze medalists finished with 186.42 points, some 4.27 points out of third place.

"I'm really happy with how we skated," Bommembre, 25, said. "I think we're going to look back on that and say that we left everything out there. As competitors, that's all you can ask."

"I feel satisfied; I feel full," Navarro, 28, added. "I feel like the performances we've had this year have told our story and I can't think of a better way to close that chapter."

Chock and Zuerlein performed three solid programs to finish fifth. Siblings Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell were sixth. ▣

Crowded at the top

Jeremy Abbott, who moved to the Detroit Skating Club (DSC) to train under Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen last summer, had one of the best lines in Spokane.

"I used to train on the same session with the ice dancers, but then it got too crowded," he said. "They've been splitting and multiplying like amoebas."

Abbott exaggerated, but only just. Top-10 seniors Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell, and Jane Summersett and Todd Gilles, as well as U.S. junior bronze medalists Piper Gilles and Zachary Donahue, made the move to DSC mid-season.

The teams were attracted by a coaching staff that includes five-time U.S. ice dancing champion (with Jerod Swallow) Elizabeth Punsalan; two-time World ice dancing champion Angelika Krylova; former Italian ice dancing competitor Pasquale Camerlengo, who choreographs for many top skaters, Abbott included; and 1988 Russian Olympian Natalia Annenko Deller. Swallow is DSC's skating director.

"We felt it was time for a change of environment and a fresh passion," Keiffer Hubbell said. "We cherish the foundation of skating [former coaches] Yuri [Chesnichenko] and Yassa [Nechaeva] gave us; those skills took us to junior worlds."

"We love it at DSC. Everything is right there. We live five minutes away; there is massage and conditioning at the rink. I'm getting nine hours sleep every night, instead of driving around."

Asked why the move was made mid-season, Madison Hubbell said, "We weighed our options; we figured since we were not one of the teams fighting for an Olympic spot, we might as well get a head start and move to Detroit early."

The siblings, who placed sixth in Spokane, are pleased with their progress so far.

"Our big goal here was to look more mature, more powerful, like a true senior team," Keiffer Hubbell said. "I think we accomplished that."

Surprise message

Tim McKernan, who placed 10th with his partner, Shannon Wingle, had a big surprise after the duo performed their Irish folk original dance, set to music from "Riverdance": a taped greeting played on the Jumbotron from his father, Col. Timothy McKernan, who has been deployed in Baghdad since June.

McKernan sent good luck wishes to both Tim and Shannon, as well as Tim's younger sister, Lauren, who competed in novice dance with Adam Munday.

The skaters' mother, Lt. Col. Vicky McKernan, an activated Army reservist stationed at Fort Hood, was on hand in Spokane.

"I try to provide them with encouragement and motivation," Col. McKernan told the *Fort Hood Herald*. "Although they don't like me being away and at war all of the time, they understand it is my job and passion, just like skating is their passion."

"It was awesome to see," Tim said. ▣

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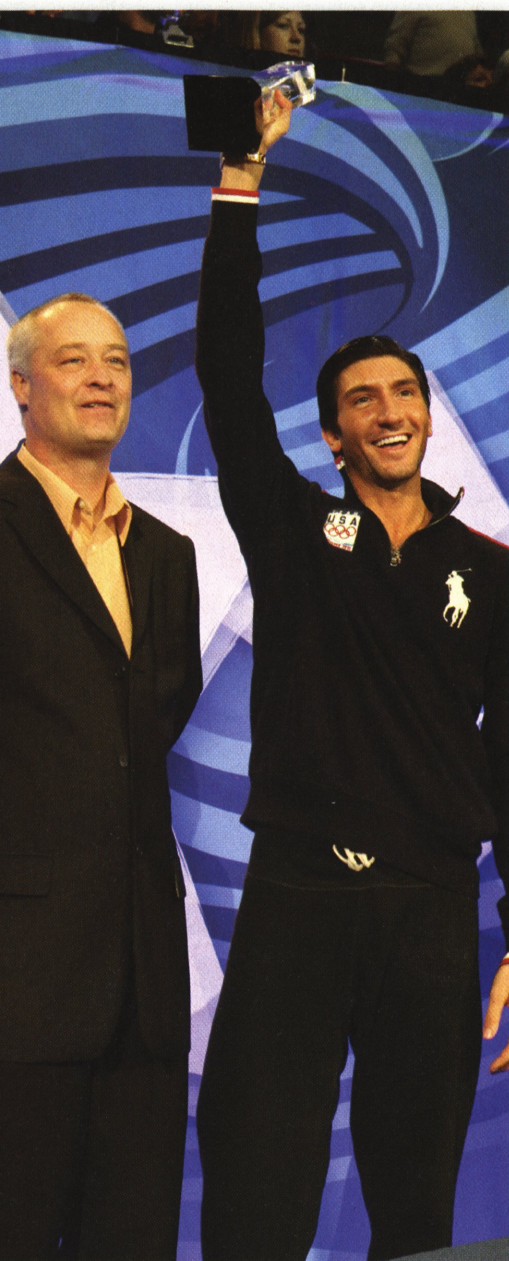


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At the Olympic Team photo shoot following the 2010 AT&T U.S. Championships, U.S. Figure Skating photographer Paul Harvath had the skaters collectively pose their starting free skate positions. Here's how the unique shot came together.







SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presented the 2008-09 Readers' Choice Award for Skater of the Year (Michelle Kwan Trophy) to World champion Evan Lysacek during a break in action at the Smucker's Skating Spectacular. Lysacek's remarkable season included bronze medal-finishes at his two Grand Prix events and at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Championships in Cleveland. He rallied to win the silver medal at the Four Continents Championships before claiming the World title in his adopted hometown of Los Angeles.



Area children and adults hit the Riverfront Park rink for some fun at SkateFest.

SkateFest hailed as major success

More than 350 children and adults took part in SkateFest during the AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash. Skaters of all levels gathered for the event at The Ice Palace at Riverfront Park, recognized as one of the 10 best outdoor rinks in the country.

The free, two-hour experience featured a pair of 30-minute instructional classes by area figure skating coaches and junior coaches. The U.S. Championships' junior men put on a demon-

stration, and an open skating session followed.

SkateFest provided the ideal opportunity for area clubs to display information, and the local media did a great job with blanket coverage of the event.

Logo merchandise giveaways, skating celebrity autograph sessions and appearances by U.S. Figure Skating's mascot Snowplow Sam, as well as mascots from local sports teams, rounded out the festivities.



Members of U.S. Figure Skating's Scholastic Honors Team were honored during an on-ice ceremony at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Championships. The 10 outstanding student-athletes were recognized for their efforts in the classroom, in their communities and as competitive skaters. Scholastic Honors Team recipients received scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Honors Team letter jackets. The Scholastic Honors Team is funded through U.S. Figure Skating's Pioneer Fund, which also made possible a \$1,000 donation to each team member's charity of choice. Pictured are, from left, Rebecca Stern, Rachael Naphtal, Alexa Komnick, Rachael Flatt, Scott Dyer and Lauri Bonacorsi. Pictured in the inset is Priscella Chan. Not pictured are Kevin Sun, Marimo Shioda and Valerie Ludorf.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

Michael Weiss received the Jimmy Disbrow Award in Spokane.

Weiss garners Disbrow Award

Michael Weiss is the 2010 recipient of the eighth annual Jimmy Disbrow Award. Dede Disbrow presented Weiss with the award during an on-ice ceremony at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Championships.

The Jimmy and Dede Disbrow Foundation sponsors the award each year, which recognizes the person who embodies a passionate love for skating and an infectious zest for life. Jimmy Disbrow, who passed away in 2002 following a courageous battle with brain cancer, was a U.S. junior medalist in singles and pairs, a coach, an official and president of U.S. Figure Skating from 1998-2000.

Weiss, a three-time U.S. champion, continues to be one of figure skating's premier ambassadors. In 2004, he started the Michael Weiss Foundation to raise money to support Olympic hopefuls. To date, the Foundation has raised more than \$215,000 for scholarships, which help student-athletes pay for such skating-related items as coaching, choreography, costumes and tuition.

Each year, Weiss raises money through an ice show that attracts many of the sport's biggest stars.

In addition to a cash award for Weiss, the Disbrow Foundation also granted a \$1,000 award in Weiss' name to benefit the Memorial Fund.



PHOTO BY STACEY MARSH

More than 250 guests and 30 U.S. Figure Skating athletes attended the annual Friends of Figure Skating (FOFS) breakfast in Spokane. The breakfast provides a chance for FOFS members to meet the athletes that they support through their annual membership. Guests were able to get autographs and pictures taken with their favorite skaters. All Friends of Figure Skating members in attendance were eligible for a variety of raffle prizes. A dinner engagement with skater Ryan Bradley brought in \$1,900 for FOFS.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

An elite cast of former skating greats met in Spokane, Wash., as part of the annual Athlete Alumni Association gathering. About 20 members of the association shared old times and visited about new opportunities at U.S. Figure Skating. Olympic champion Brian Boitano addressed the distinguished group, updating them on the burgeoning mentorship program that's taken root in U.S. Figure Skating. The Athlete Alumni Association, founded by Danielle Hartsell-Minnis, is a product of the 50-member Athletes Advisory Committee, headed by Justin Dillon. Members of the Athlete Advisory Committee hold fundraisers, in which the money raised is used to keep former champions in the sport and create sponsorship opportunities for future champions.



Team 2014 enjoyed a full day of activities following competition in Spokane. Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie addressed the young athletes during the welcome breakfast.

PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

Wylie addresses Team 2014

Paul Wylie, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, was the guest speaker at the Team 2014 welcome breakfast in Spokane, Wash. Wylie, a graduate of Harvard University, shared his experience and wisdom with the U.S. novice- and junior-level skaters as they embark on their journey toward the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

The four-time U.S. medalist talked about the commitment needed to balance the athlete's educational goals with their training objectives, and the importance of having a good support team.

Following the breakfast and keynote address, athletes, parents and coaches attended presentations pertaining specifically to them. The athletes took in seminars on how to better execute their elements, media training, competition readiness and doping control.

Coaches learned more about the international judging system.

Kelly Rippon, mother of two-time World Junior champion Adam Rippon, led a discussion with parents about the expectations and stresses that come with having a potential Olympic-bound skater.

Class of 2010 inducted into Hall of Fame

Three Olympians, Ice Capades' legend honored



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

This year's inductees into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame were honored during an on-ice ceremony in Spokane. Pictured are, from left, Sarah Hughes, Todd Sand, Jenni Meno and Robert Turk.

Olympic champion Sarah Hughes, three-time World pairs medalists Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, and Ice Capades' legend Robert Turk were inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame during the AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash.

The elite four were recognized during an on-ice ceremony, and again during a formal reception the next night at the Davenport Hotel.

Hughes, who shocked the world by winning gold at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, read a heartfelt poem that recounted her journey to the top of the Olympic podium.

In Salt Lake, the 16-year-old became the first skater to rally from fourth place after the short program to win the Olympic gold medal; her free skate consisted of two triple-triple combinations. She went on to enjoy a professional career as a headliner with Champions on Ice and Smucker's Stars on Ice before enrolling at Yale University, where she recently graduated.

Meno and Sand began a skating partnership after the 1992 World Championships. They went on to enjoy a successful career together on the ice, while becoming husband and wife in 1995.

Their career accomplishments under coach John Nicks included three U.S. titles (1994-96), three World medals (1995-96, 98) and two Olympic appearances together (1994 and 1998). They competed with other partners at the 1992 Olympics.

They credited Nicks for much of their success on and off the ice.

"Mr. Nicks has taught us so much about skating, teaching and about life," Meno told the audience. "He is an amazing man and we are very fortunate to have his influence in our lives."

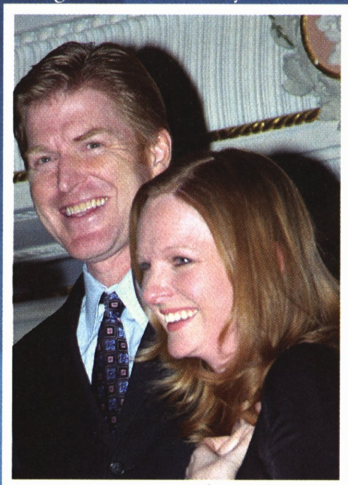
The couple, which now coaches at the Aliso Viejo Ice Palace in California, said skating means the world to them.

"Through skating we have met our best friends, we met each other, we traveled the world together, and we represented our country in three Olympics," Meno said. "It has been an amazing journey and, together with our two beautiful boys, it continues to be an amazing journey."

For 22 years, Turk was a director, producer and choreographer for Ice Capades. He was also the choreographer for many skating specials including, "Highlights of Ice Capades in the '60s," Ice Palace TV shows and various Ice Capades specials.

His background in combining figure skating and dance set him apart from other choreographers. He worked with many World and Olympic champions. Ice Capades will host a 70th reunion this year, and Turk is expected to attend.

His induction into the hall of fame, he said, "Is the highlight of my life thus far." ▀



Todd Sand and Jenni Meno enjoy the induction ceremony at the Davenport Hotel.

PHOTO BY LEAH ADAMS

Editor's note: The following is the poem that 2002 Olympic champion Sarah Hughes read during a reception for the 2010 inductees into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

By Sarah Hughes

In 2002, with dreams of gold, I headed to Salt Lake
Home of saltwater taffy and my big break
Four minutes of glory seemed to happen fast
Because only few knew about the journey of my past

It all began in '88
After watching Scott and Brian and their great skates
Amy said to John, let's put little Sarah in that
And John said OK, as long as she does it with Matt
So off in my little snowsuit I went, soon skating in shows around the world
I started with the Flintstones in Ice Capades at six
And spent a summer touring through Albertville and Switzerland doing my tricks

My first medal was silver, an okay start some say
It was fun, wild, and fearless, child's play
I made friends and worked hard and moved forward
Any time I got to skate was the best day

You can't imagine my joy when I tested out of patch
Jumping, spinning and spirals were more my match
From Riedells to Klingbeils, and figures to free
I was on the fast track in learning how to be the best I could be

Soon champions were helping me out
JoJo taught me to shimmy and gave me some clout
The wee little one was progressing — and how
But not enough time to tell all now

So I'll skip ahead to that night in '02
And as if right on cue
Scott appeared and said, "Your life will never be the same"
But before I could respond, I was whisked away, the moment gone

What I wanted to say was:
From that day in '88
The first time those skates were laced
And I sped across the ice with all my might
My life was forever changed and that was alright

From Germany to Vienna, and Japan
From Budapest to Paris and now Spokane
I know I can never be grateful enough for my good fortune
Some say I am lucky and that is true
To have passion and be able to pursue
But it is not because of gold medals or a skating program or two
It is for having the great privilege of knowing each and every one of you
From inner most part of my soul and the bottom of my heart
Thank you for sharing your very best with me from the start

It's the most any one person can do
To inspire a kid through greatness and kindness
And be there all along the way
Who knew the things I would learn from a cold rink
And the journey from my dreams that began all dressed in pink

From the day in '88
On the ever challenging journey of being the best I can be
I hope to inspire others
The way you inspired me
To include me in the Hall of Fame
I think Scott will say, "Your life will never be the same."





(1) Johnny Weir receives last-second instructions from coach Galina Zmievskaya. *Photo by Michelle Harvath* **(2)** Rachael Flatt, with coaches Tom Zakrajsek and Becky Calvin, react to the free skate score that lifted her past the 200-point mark. *Photo by Mickey Brown* **(3)** Sasha Cohen answers questions following her exquisite short program. Cohen hadn't competed since the 2006 Olympic year. She finished fourth overall. *Photo by Mickey Brown* **(4)** Peggy Fleming holds up an Olympic banner with the signatures of all 12 U.S. Olympic champions. Fleming brought the flag to Spokane and collected the signatures for auction during the Olympic Team send-off dinner. Proceeds from the banner sale went to the Memorial Fund. Jimmie Santee, executive director of the Professional Skaters Association, purchased the banner for \$3,200. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(5)** Spokane broke its own attendance record, with 158,170 fans walking through the turnstiles at Spokane Arena. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(6)** Figure skating fans were provided a rare treat at the Smucker's Skating Spectacular. All 12 U.S. Olympic champions were honored during an on-ice ceremony. The occasion marked the first time this elite group had all been together since a reunion at the 2006 U.S. Championships in St. Louis. NBC Sports' Bob Costas introduced each champion. Pictured, from left, are Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, David Jenkins, Tenley Albright, Dick Button, Carol Heiss Jenkins, Hayes Jenkins, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Brian Boitano and Sarah Hughes. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(7)** The 2010 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team was honored with a send-off dinner on their final night in Spokane. Olympic champions, Olympians and avid figure skating supporters enjoyed a magical evening. U.S. Olympic Team members (l-r) are Rachael Flatt, Mirai Nagasu, Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Tanith Belbin, Ben Agosto, Emily Samuelson, Evan Bates, Jeremy Abbott, Evan Lysacek, Johnny Weir, Caydee Denney, Jeremy Barrett, Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(8)** Pairs champions Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett enjoy the moment during the on-ice photo shoot with the U.S. Championships Trophy. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(9)** Two-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott gives a hug to the prestigious hardware that bears his name. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(10)** Meryl Davis and Charlie White are all smiles after winning their second consecutive U.S. ice dancing title. *Photo by Paul Harvath* **(11)** U.S. ladies champion Rachael Flatt does her best Vanna White impression with the U.S. Championships Trophy. *Photo by Paul Harvath*

MEDALISTS

LADIES

GOLD

Agnes Zawadzki – 171.87

SILVER

Yasmin Siraj – 151.05

BRONZE

Lindsay Davis – 133.97

FOURTH

Kiri Baga – 127.35

MEN

GOLD

Jason Brown – 195.22

SILVER

Joshua Farris – 195.03

BRONZE

Max Aaron – 191.86

FOURTH

Scott Dyer – 178.49

PAIRS

GOLD

Felicia Zhang/Taylor Toth
153.80

SILVER

Britney Simpson/Nathan Miller
147.29

BRONZE

Erika Smith/Nathan Bartholomay
133.54

FOURTH

Carolyn-Ann Alba/
Christopher Knierim 133.19

ICE DANCING

GOLD

Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani
180.69

SILVER

Rachel Tibbetts/Collin Brubaker
160.61

BRONZE

Piper Gilles/Zachary Donohue
160.21

FOURTH

Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello
151.88

Can't-miss class

Juniors give fans glimpse of great things to come

U.S. Figure Skating's competitive pipeline continues to flourish, with a group of juniors whose performances in Spokane hold great promise. At the 2010 AT&T U.S. Championships, this talented collection of athletes gave everyone a glimpse of what's to come, turning in programs that rivaled those of their senior counterparts. Agnes Zawadzki and Jason Brown, the champions in singles, did a marvelous job of blending artistry and athleticism. Pairs champions Felicia Zhang and Taylor Toth and ice dancing titlists Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani demonstrated seasoned and mature efforts that had the packed crowds buzzing.

Zawadzki returns to show with big results

By Troy Schwindt

A couple of years ago, Agnes Zawadzki, with her mother and grandparents, packed up and moved from Chicago to Colorado Springs, Colo., to pursue the teenager's skating dreams.

And while early returns didn't produce success on the medal stand, Zawadzki kept toiling away under coach Tom Zakrajsek, building a foundation she could take into major competitions.

Her hard work and perseverance paid off in Spokane, Wash., as the 15-year-old from the Broadmoor Skating Club turned in two dynamic programs en route to the U.S. junior ladies title. Zawadzki, the short program leader by nearly eight points, clinched the crown with a senior-like free skate to music from the *Chicago* soundtrack.

Zawadzki, a sophomore at Cheyenne Mountain High School, finished with a U.S. junior record of 171.87 points. To put that score into perspective, Alissa Czisny won the 2009 senior title with 178.06 points,

and last year's junior champion, DeeDee Leng, emerged with a score of 132.49 points.

Yasmin Siraj of the Skating Club of Boston earned the silver medal in Spokane with 151.05 points, while Lindsay Davis of the All Year FSC collected the bronze medal with 133.97 points.

"This means so much," said Zawadzki, who trains on the same ice as U.S. champion Rachael Flatt and 2008 U.S. junior champion Alexe Gilles. "I've trained so hard for this. It's everyone's dream to be an Olympic champion, and being a junior champion is a step toward that goal."

Making Zawadzki's rise to the top even more impressive was that she had failed to qualify for the 2009 AT&T U.S. Championships, finishing a disappointing fifth at the Midwestern Sectional

perfect blend of artistry and athleticism. Her repertoire included five triple jumps, three jump combinations and three level-four spins. One of those jump combinations — a triple Lutz-double toe — was improvised after she abandoned that combination earlier in the program.

Siraj also turned in a crowd-pleasing free skate that elevated her from fourth after the short program to second overall. Skating to Rimsky-Korsakov's "Song of India," she cruised along until doubling her triple toe late in the program.

Siraj finished fifth last year at the U.S. Championships, while competing with a fractured wrist.

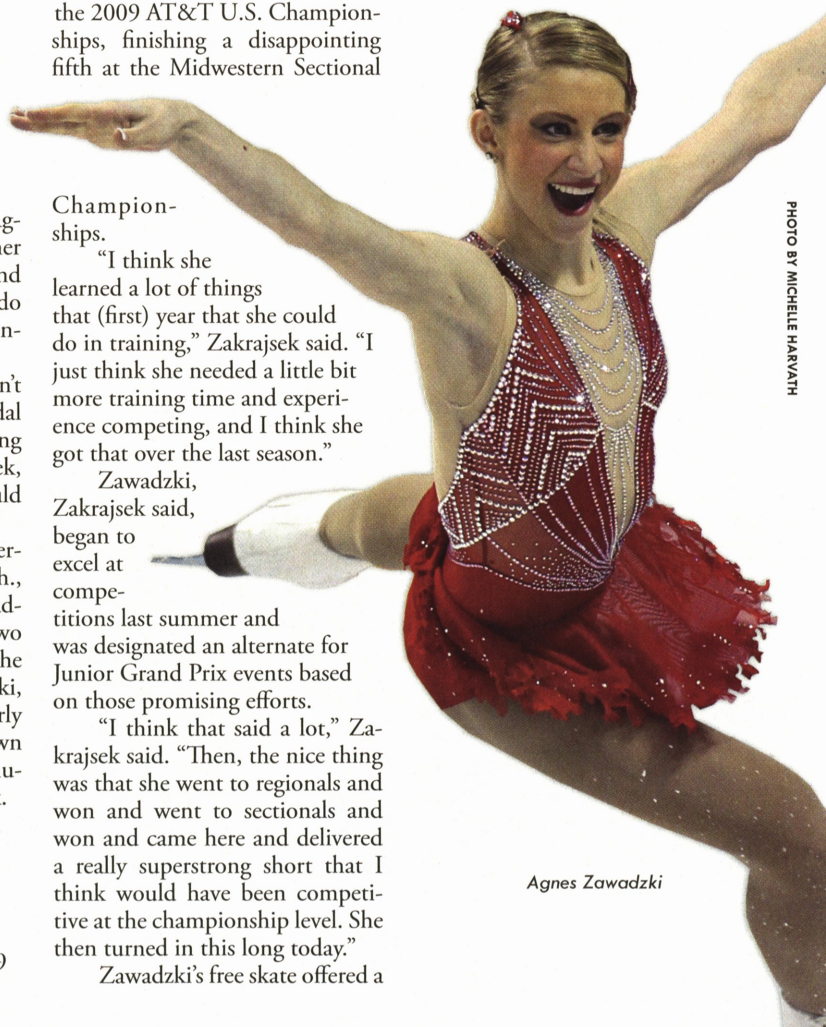
Championships.

"I think she learned a lot of things that (first) year that she could do in training," Zakrajsek said. "I just think she needed a little bit more training time and experience competing, and I think she got that over the last season."

Zawadzki, Zakrajsek said, began to excel at competitions last summer and was designated an alternate for Junior Grand Prix events based on those promising efforts.

"I think that said a lot," Zakrajsek said. "Then, the nice thing was that she went to regionals and won and went to sectionals and won and came here and delivered a really superstrong short that I think would have been competitive at the championship level. She then turned in this long today."

Zawadzki's free skate offered a



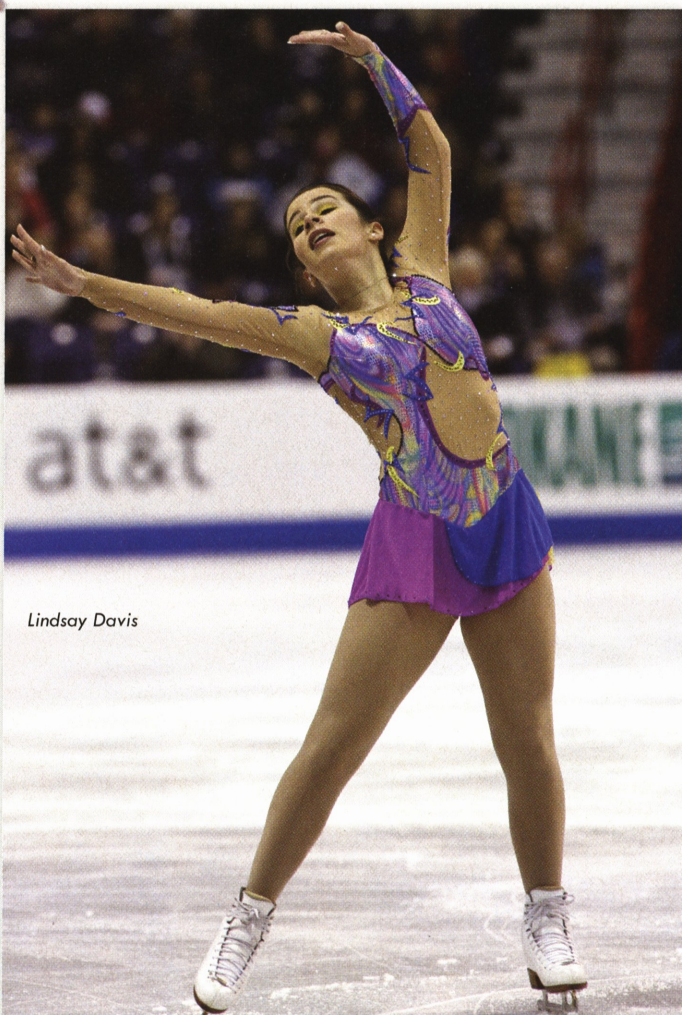
Agnes Zawadzki

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



(l-r) Yasmin Siraj, Agnes Zawadzki, Lindsay Davis, Kiri Baga

Yasmin Siraj



Lindsay Davis



"The best thing she did today was hit the triple Lutz," coach Mark Mitchell said. "She does these all the time at home so the mistake yesterday was a bit of a surprise. I'm glad she came back and showed she's a good competitor."

Mitchell has been coaching the 13-year-old for all of her career.

"She's special because she listens to everything we say," Mitchell said. "She takes everything in and puts it to good use. Talent, good personality, good listener, all the ingredients we need."

Davis, 17, entered the competition without any expectations, having finished ninth last year in novice ladies and 12th in senior pairs with Alex Merritt.

"My goal was to go out there and have fun and do what I was capable of," said Davis, who performed her free skate to music from "Cirque du Soleil."

She credited her experience skating senior pairs with being able to compete well on a big stage.

"I honestly can't believe it," she said of winning the bronze.

Kiri Baga, the 2009 U.S. novice champion, sat in second after the short program but fell three times during her free skate to finish fourth overall.

Brown crowned champion

By Becca Staed Bishop

Standing just 5 feet 1 inch tall with a mouth full of braces and long, shaggy hair pulled into a low ponytail, 2010 U.S. junior men's champion Jason Brown resembles more teen boy band than world-class figure skater, but don't let that fool you.

The 15-year-old Chicagoan edged 2009 U.S. novice champion Joshua Farris for gold and his second national victory since winning the 2007 U.S. juvenile title. His 195.22-point competition mark was the second-highest junior men's score ever recorded at the event after 2008 U.S. junior champion Adam Rippon's 213.76-point total.

Colorado Springs-native Far-

ris finished second with 195.03 points, while his training mate, Max Aaron, collected bronze after earning 191.86 points in his first appearance at the U.S. Championships since 2008, when he finished a disappointing 13th.

"I am still in shock," Brown said. "I haven't quite gotten the feeling yet. I love being with (coach) Kori (Ade) and always try to make her proud. It's nice to have a coach who has been there with me all the way through."

Brown represents the first generation of Ade's students at Skokie Valley SC, which include 2010 U.S. intermediate men's champion Jordan Moeller. Ade, whose figure skating career was cut short at age 10 when her family moved to New Mexico where there were no ice rinks, returned to her childhood pastime as a coach after working with seven-time Australian champion Anthony Liu in 2002.

"That put a bug in me to keep going and continue to produce skaters," Ade said. "I started with a group of little ones and have just basically grown them."

Sitting just 0.07 points behind Aaron after the short program, Brown opened his free skate to Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* with a double Axel and triple Lutz-triple toe followed by five more triples and a flawless double Axel-double Axel sequence. His sharp skating skills and showmanship surpassed his competitors in both programs, earning him the highest component marks in each.

"My coach runs TAPS – Total Athlete Performance Seminar," Brown said. "We really work on how to put on a game face and get the full package."

Farris was surprised to see Aaron's final marks that put Farris ahead, especially after a rocky short program placed the 15-year-old fourth going into the free skate. But Farris recouped to finish first in the final segment with 136.79 points.

"I was nervous going into this, but my (sports) psychologist helped me realize it's just juniors, and I need to focus on myself," Farris said. "I went out and had the best time of my life and one of the greatest skates of my life, so I am really happy."

(l-r) Joshua Farris, Jason Brown, Max Aaron and Scott Dyer

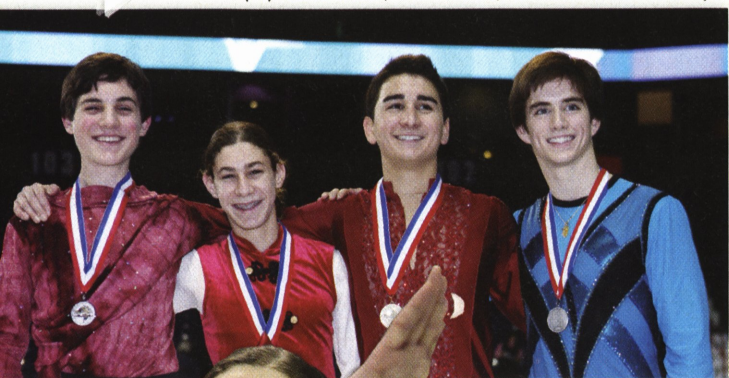


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

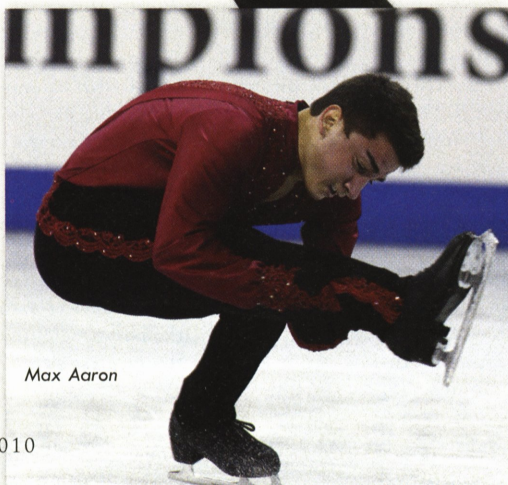


Joshua Farris

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Jason Brown



Max Aaron

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

It was an emotional season for Farris, coached by Tom Zakrajsek and Becky Calvin at the Broadmoor SC, after a girl spiked his upper calf during a practice session in March, keeping him off the ice for two months and from jumping for three. He was still gaining back strength earlier this season on the Junior Grand Prix Series, where he finished fourth in Lake Placid, N.Y., and fifth in Turkey.

"The amount I went through this year, I got teary-eyed out there," Farris said. "That was the best free skate I've had."

Aaron also underwent a tumultuous period leading up to this event that made for what seemed a dubious return to the ice.

In March of 2008, the 17-year-old was coping with some back pain.

"I didn't say anything because I didn't want to stop skating," Aaron said. "I put it off, and it got worse to the point where I couldn't walk."

After several X-rays, they discovered Aaron had a fractured back, keeping him off the ice for more than six months. To boot, he made a big decision to move from Arizona to Colorado Springs, Colo., last August, to train with Zakrajsek, Calvin and Tom Dickson at the Broadmoor.

"I am really glad I made the (coaching) change," Aaron said. "I really wished to be in this spot a year ago. I wanted to prove to everyone that I could do it and that anything is possible."

With a 178.49-point competition mark, the pewter medal went to Scott Dyer, who last appeared at this event in 2007, when he also finished fourth. A fractured heel in 2007 kept him off the ice for a year and from competing until now.

Toth, Zhang prove headstrong

By Mickey Brown

If Taylor Toth had followed a doctor's advice, he and Felicia Zhang would have had a very different experience at the 2010 U.S. Championships.

While performing a back press lift during the

practice session before the junior pairs short program, Zhang and Toth collided with competitors Gretchen Donlan and Andrew Speroff. In the ensuing fall, the side of Toth's head violently hit the ice, and Zhang collapsed on Toth's chest.

He was helped off the ice and brought to the medical room, where he was given five stitches and the recommendation that he and Zhang withdraw from the competition.

"When they were doing the stitches, I felt pretty out of it. They asked me a lot of questions I didn't know the answers to — like spelling questions," Toth said with his ever-present wit. "My dad was trying to explain (to them) I couldn't spell, but they didn't believe him."

Toth was not about to let something as small as a potential head injury stand in the way of his first U.S. medal.

"I definitely wanted to skate because if it happened to anybody else, I'd be the first to call them out for not skating," said Toth, who had placed fourth, fifth and seventh in his three previous U.S. Championships appearances, all in novice pairs.

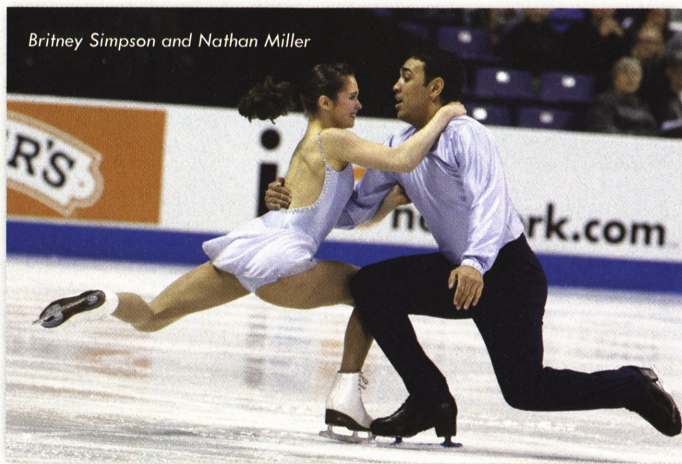
The Delaware-based team then went out and won both phases of the competition to earn the gold, beating silver medalists (and pre-event favorites) Britney Simpson and Nathan Miller by six points and bronze medalists Erika Smith and Nathan Bartholomay by 20. (Later in the week, Zhang turned in a strong showing in the junior ladies competition, finishing sixth.)

Zhang and Toth led Simpson and Miller — the only two teams in the field to compete at two Junior Grand Prix events in the fall — by less than half a point after the short program. Skating to music by the Rondó Veneziano chamber orchestra, Zhang and Toth landed clean side-by-side double

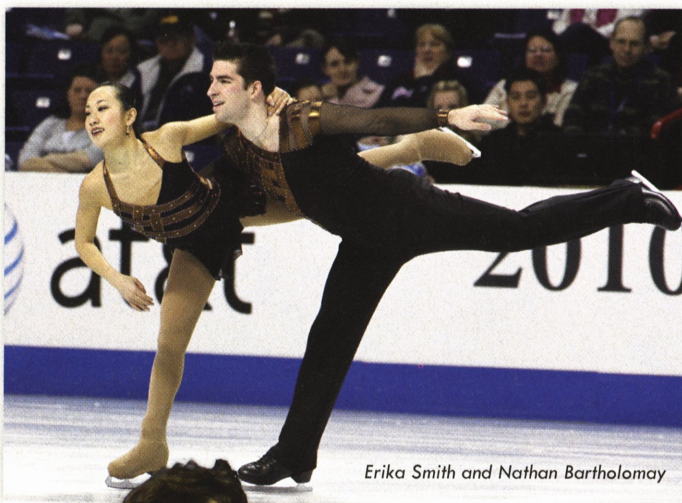




(l-r) Britney Simpson and Nathan Miller, Felicia Zhang and Taylor Toth, Erika Smith and Nathan Bartholomay and Carolyn-Ann Alba and Christopher Knierim



Britney Simpson and Nathan Miller



Erika Smith and Nathan Bartholomay



Felicia Zhang and Taylor Toth



Axels (1.0 grade of execution) and a throw triple Salchow (1.3 GOE).

Simpson and Miller wore black and white bodysuits for their Asian fusion short program, which was filled with power and originality.

"We turned all the nerves we had for competing and being at nationals into energy, and we let that energy help us through the program," Simpson said.

Carolyn-Ann Alba, the 2007 U.S. novice ladies bronze medalist, and Christopher Knierim, the 2009 U.S. junior pairs silver medalist with Brynn Carman, were third after the short, their only mistake being a bobble on the landing of their throw triple Salchow.

Zhang and Toth dazzled in the free skate, in which they were one of only two teams (the other was Haven Denney and Daniel Raad) to land two throw triples, side-by-side triple jumps and a double-double combination.

"This is the best that we have ever skated together," Zhang said. "We just took one element at a time and made sure we didn't rush anything."

Take out the jumps and throws from Simpson and Miller's "Moonlight Sonata" free skate, and they were dazzling, but they made too many mistakes to hang with the champions.

"I thought that throughout the program we stayed in character – that's an improvement that we've made in this performance," Miller said. "We kept ourselves together to try to keep our components as good as they could be."

Smith and Bartholomay overtook Alba and Knierim, who lives

with Miller in Colorado Springs, in the free skate to win the bronze by .35 points. Alba and Knierim earned the pewter, one spot ahead of Carman and her new partner, A.J. Reiss.

Shibutani siblings win ice dancing title

By Lynn Rutherford

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani train alongside U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White and two-time Canadian World medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, but their coaches still put the siblings in a league of their own.

"They're the first ones at the rink at 6 a.m.," said Marina Zoueva, who trains the team in Canton, Mich., with Igor Shpilband. "They're very disciplined kids."

"They're probably improving faster than any of our other teams," Shpilband added.

The two lived up to their billing in Spokane, winning all three segments of the event and taking home the gold medal, stepping up from silver last season.

"Our first nationals was in Spokane, and we won novice [in 2007], so there's a lot of nice memories and sentiment here," Alex, 18, said.

The siblings started with a solid Argentine Tango. Rachel Tibbetts and Collin Brubaker, who train in Colorado Springs, Colo., were close behind.

"We've had competitions where we've made one big mistake," Brubaker, 21, said. "We've tried to learn from that, and we feel stronger mentally and physically for this competition."

Going into the original dance, just 2.23 points separated the third through eighth-place teams.

The Shibutanis took command of the event with an exciting, fast-paced performance to Japanese Kodo drums that brought many in the crowd to their feet.

The difficult routine, which featured a midline step sequence largely done on one foot, opened an 8.89-point lead over the field, but Alex wasn't sat-

ified.

"For me, there were a couple of errors," he said. "It's not what we normally do in practice. We didn't get our level four on the swizzles, because I didn't grab my foot. But we didn't hold back."

Tibbetts and Brubaker's country waltz put them third in the original dance but second overall.

"It was a good performance," Brubaker said. "I think we missed a couple levels. Overall I thought our expression and performance were good."

Piper Gilles and Zachary Donohue placed second in the original dance and climbed to third overall with a country-western style original dance to music from John Denver and the Charlie Daniels Band.

It was just their second time performing the original dance.

"The judges didn't like our flamenco original dance; it was a modern version, and they preferred the classic flamenco," Donohue, 19, said. "They said, 'You can change it, or you can change it' and so we changed it."

The Shibutani siblings truly came into their own with their free dance to Luis Enrique Bacalov's "Tango Rhapsody," interpreting the choreography with sophistication and flair.

"We were calm tonight; we knew exactly what we want to do, tell a story and skate to the best of our ability," Alex said.

The routine opened with lightning-fast twizzles and included a superb combination lift and spin. The judges awarded the team positive grades of execution across the board, and they took first place in the free, bringing home gold with 180.69 points.

"The idea this year was to make them look a little more mature," Shpilband said. "They are a young team, and I think they've grown a lot with this program."

Heading into the 2010 World Junior Championships, where they won silver last season, Maia emphasized their training will be more of the same.

"We're going to continue to practice hard and work at the elements," the 15-year-old said.

Performing a romantic program to Sarah Brightman and An-

drea Bocelli's "En Aranjuez Con Tu Amor," Tibbetts and Brubaker were third in the free and second overall with 160.61 points.

"I was having trouble with the spin this week, so I'm really happy that I nailed that," Tibbetts said. "There is still room for improvement in the footwork. We lost a level on the combination lift, because I put my arm on Collin too soon."

Gilles and Donohue took the bronze medal with a unique program set to music from Alfred Hitchcock movies. They were second in the free and finished with 160.21 points.

"We lost a level on the mid-line steps," Gilles, 19, said. "It's a little disappointing to lose a silver medal by .4; you think, maybe we could have pushed a little harder."

Isabella Cannuscio and Ian Lorello, who were third in the compulsory and fourth in the original dance, were fourth overall after performing an entertaining Broadway-style tango to "Hernando's Hideaway."

Like the Shibutani siblings, Tibbetts and Brubaker and Gilles and Donohue were nominated for the World Junior Championships. ■



(l-r) Rachel Tibbetts and Collin Brubaker, Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, Piper Gilles and Zachary Donohue and Isabella Cannuscio and Ian Lorello



Rachel Tibbetts and Collin Brubaker



Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani



Piper Gilles and Zachary Donohue

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

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MEDALISTS

LADIES GOLD

Leah Keiser – 136.66

SILVER

Ashley Cain – 133.95

BRONZE

Katarina Kulgeyko – 133.48

FOURTH

Gracie Gold – 123.61

MEN GOLD

Nathan Chen – 137.04

SILVER

Emmanuel Savary – 133.65

BRONZE

Timothy Dolensky – 133.17

FOURTH

Philip Warren – 126.48

PAIRS GOLD

Ashley Cain/
Joshua Reagan – 121.78

SILVER

Tori Vollmer/
Zack Sidhu – 113.23

BRONZE

Mandy Garza/
Brandon Frazier – 112.69

FOURTH

Kylie Duarte/
Colin Grafton – 106.01

ICE DANCING GOLD

Alexandra Aldridge/
Daniel Eaton – 112.22

SILVER

Danvi Pham/
Vu Pham – 110.65

BRONZE

Joylyn Yang/
Jean-Luc Baker – 110.06

FOURTH

Kristina Rexford/
Michael Parsons – 105.56

Noise makers

Novice skaters display their mettle on biggest stage

The novice events at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships were filled with intrigue and historical significance.

Three of the four gold medalists – Leah Keiser, pairs team Ashley Cain and Joshua Reagan and ice dancing duo Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton – trailed after the first phase (or, in the case of ice dancing, phases) of the competition only to see their fortunes ultimately rise.

Cain accomplished something that had only been done by a handful of skaters, the last being Shelby Lyons in 1996: winning medals in two disciplines at the same U.S. Championships. A day after winning the pairs title, Cain took second in the ladies competition.

Nathan Chen joined Cain in the record books, as he became the youngest singles skater to win a medal at a U.S. Championships. (Tracy Tanovich is the youngest skater in any discipline to stand on a U.S. Championships podium; she was 10 years, four months old when she and Michael Chau won the 2007 novice title in Spokane.) At just 10 years, eight months old, Chen was one of the breakout stars of the competition, winning the novice gold medal and the adoration of the Spokane Arena fans.

Keiser takes Carmen to top of podium

By Mickey Brown

Leah Keiser showed her youth when she was asked which *Carmen* program she liked best of the ones she watched in preparation for this season.

"My favorite was probably Katrina Witt," Keiser said, leaving out the second *a* in the two-time Olympic champion's name.

Despite being the second-youngest competitor in the novice

ladies competition, Keiser displayed a maturity and athleticism that carried her to the top of the podium.

Keiser was less than a half point out of the lead after the short program, in which she skated into the boards after landing her opening triple Lutz-double toe combination. (Her coach, Peter Oppegard, referred to the sheet at the Spokane Arena as "good ice.")

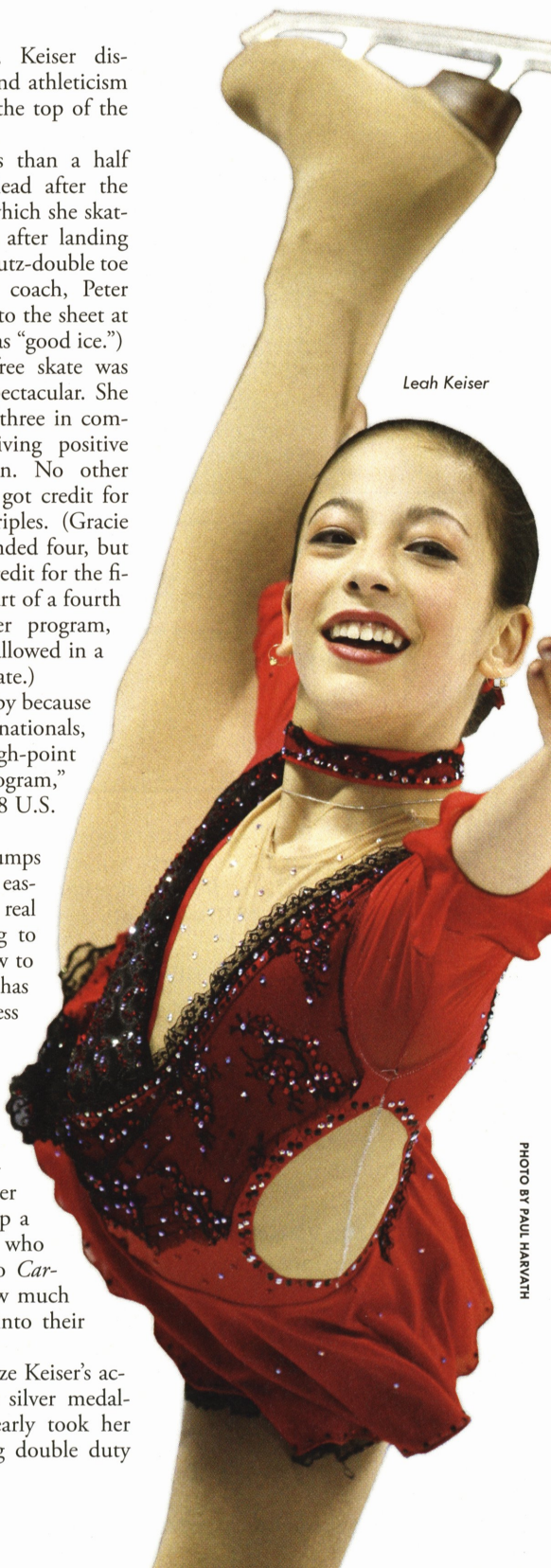
Her *Carmen* free skate was nothing short of spectacular. She landed five triples (three in combination), all receiving positive grades of execution. No other skater in the event got credit for more than three triples. (Gracie Gold technically landed four, but she was not given credit for the final one, as it was part of a fourth combination in her program, and only three are allowed in a novice ladies free skate.)

"I am very happy because this was my goal at nationals, to get all of these high-point jumps in my program," said Keiser, the 2008 U.S. juvenile champion.

While the jumps appeared to come easily to Keiser, the real challenge was trying to bring something new to a piece of music that has been used by countless other skaters.

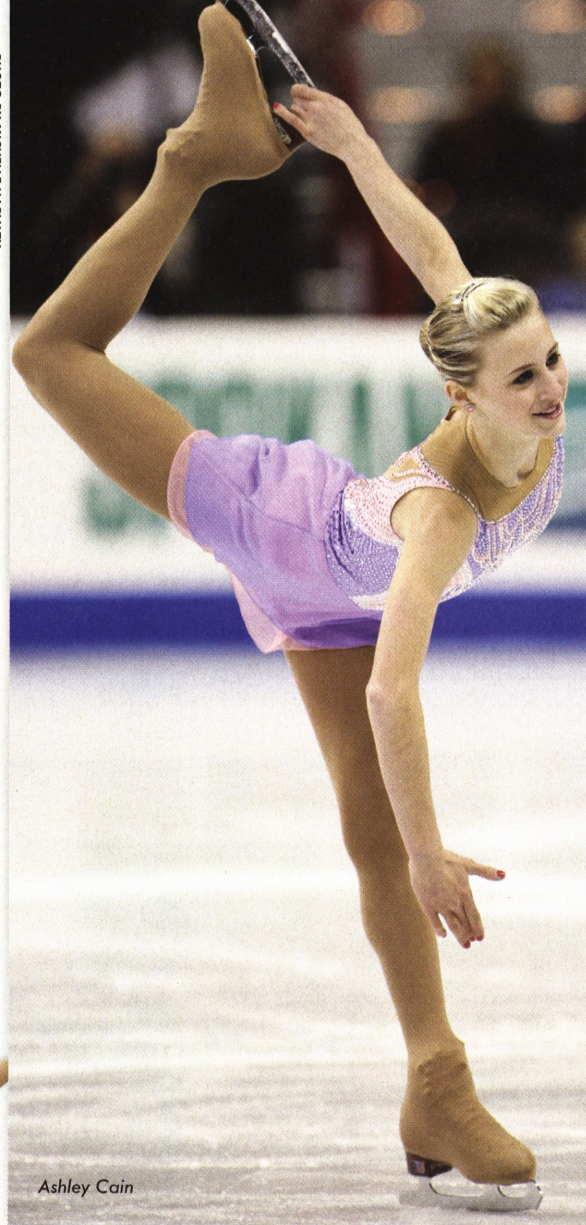
"I worked really hard on the character of the program, and I feel like I mastered that," Keiser said. "We looked up a lot of other skaters who previously skated to *Carmen*, and I saw how much emotion they put into their skating."

Not to minimize Keiser's accomplishment, but silver medalist Ashley Cain nearly took her down while pulling double duty

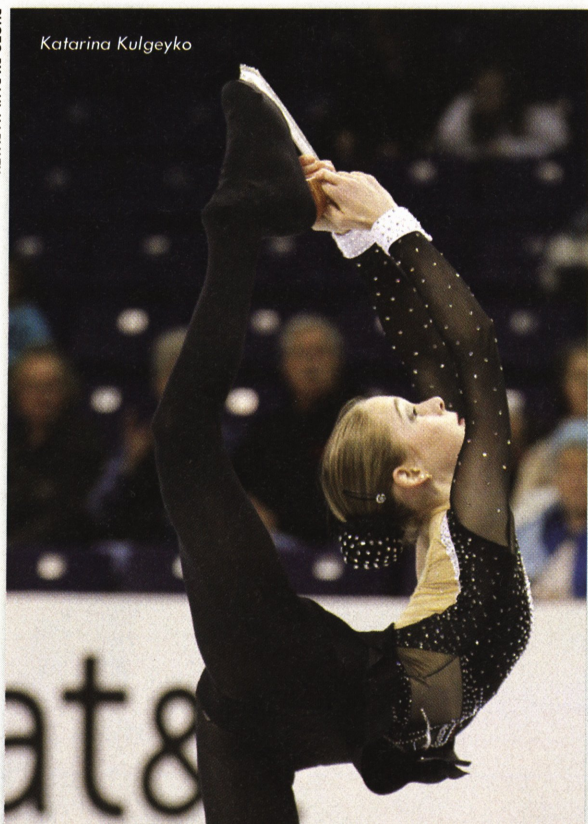


Leah Keiser

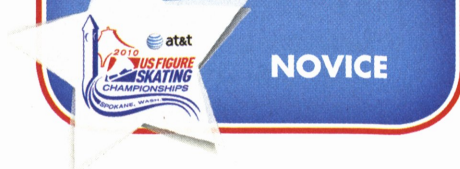
PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



Ashley Cain



Katarina Kulgeyko



in singles and pairs. In the span of four days, Cain took part in four practices, four warm-ups and four competition sessions.

"My parents are my coaches, so they tell me, 'I have to be here at this time,'" said Cain, who competed in novice pairs at each of the last two U.S. Championships with Sergei Sidorov. "They keep me in line."

Cain's graceful "Claire de Lune" short program contained three clean jump elements (triple Salchow-double toe, double Axel, double Lutz) and the best spins and spiral sequence in the field. Her "Ratatouille" free skate program was mistake-free, but it lacked the technical firepower of Keiser's.

"I haven't done a clean long in my last two competitions," Cain said. "It was great to do it here at nationals."

Katarina Kulgeyko took the bronze, finishing less than half a point behind Cain. The past year was filled with change for Kulgeyko, who won the U.S. intermediate title in 2009. She switched coaches last January, going from Faye Kitariev to Anna Baram, and over the summer she went to Moscow for three weeks to train with Victor Kudriavtsev, who modified her jumping technique.

"Deep inside, (switching coaches) felt like the right thing to do," Kulgeyko said. "This year was shaky because of the technique change, but it's getting better."

Fourth place went to Gold. Sitting sixth after the short program, Gold landed three triples in her *Romeo and Juliet* free skate, including a triple Lutz-double toe combo that brought in 8.46 points, the most of any element in the segment.

(l-r) Ashley Cain, Leah Keiser, Katarina Kulgeyko and Gracie Gold

Chen silences competition

By Mickey Brown

Nathan Chen is a boy of few words, but once he enters the competitive arena, he lets his skating do the talking.

Chen, a quiet 10-year-old from Salt Lake City, jumped out to a big lead in the short program and held off eventual silver medalist Emmanuel Savary and bronze medalist Timothy Dolensky in the free skate to capture the novice men's title at the 2010 U.S. Championships.

Skating last, Chen landed a triple toe-double toe combination, triple Salchow and double Axel in his "Kung Fu Panda" short program, which was animated with a series of kicks, punches and chops. The combination spin with which he ended his program received a +2 grade of execution from all nine judges, helping him build a 4.39-point advantage over his next closest competitor.

That competitor was Savary, who skated his short program to music that's rarely – if ever – heard in a figure skating rink: the immediately recognizable theme from the video game *Super Mario Bros.* (He also used the music last year to capture the U.S. intermediate title.)

Right when the first note was played, a roar of laughter erupted from the crowd.

"That pumps me up a lot, hearing them cheer for me. It makes me excited," Savary said. "It's my first nationals, and I want to have as much fun as I can have."



Philip Warren rode his playful routine to music from "The Mask," during which he blew kisses to the judges, slicked back his hair and gyrated his body in countless ways, to a third-place finish in the short program.

Chen was not as sharp in his "Peter and the Wolf" free skate, falling on his Salchow and his toe, but his skating skills shone through, as his component score (48.34) was the best in the seg-

ment by more than four points.

Chen's age, stature (he stands 4 feet, 5 inches tall), soft-spoken nature (good luck getting anything resembling a verbal "pat on the back" out of him) and skating style (he doesn't so much glide as zip over the ice) helped endear him to the fans at Spokane Arena.

"He's very down to earth for such an amazing talent," said his coach, Evgeniya Chernyshova. "[Despite his age], I think he un-

derstands what this really means."

Savary performed his free skate to selections from the TV show, "The Simpsons." He landed four clean triples (two in combination) to finish second in the free skate and second overall.

"I picked the music that suits me best," Savary said. "It's young but mature, because I'm at a high level."

After a short program in which he had a forward landing on the first part of his triple toe-double toe combination and a two-footed landing on his double Axel, Dolensky found himself way back in ninth, an afterthought going into the free skate.

An afterthought to everyone but himself, that is.

"My mindset was I wasn't that many points away from medaling," said Dolensky, who was seven points out of third after the short program. "I really like my long, and I train it very hard."

Skating to the "Warsaw Concerto," Dolensky landed four clean triples (two in combination), plus a double Axel-double toe-double toe combo, and exhibited text-

book spins en route to a first-place segment score of 93.50 points, bringing him up to third place overall.

Warren had a tougher time in the free skate, falling on his flip and earning negative GOEs on four other jump elements. He placed sixth in the segment and fourth overall.

Austin Wagner, the younger brother of senior ladies bronze medalist Ashley, finished fifth.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

(l-r) Emmanuel Savary, Nathan Chen, Timothy Dolensky and Philip Warren

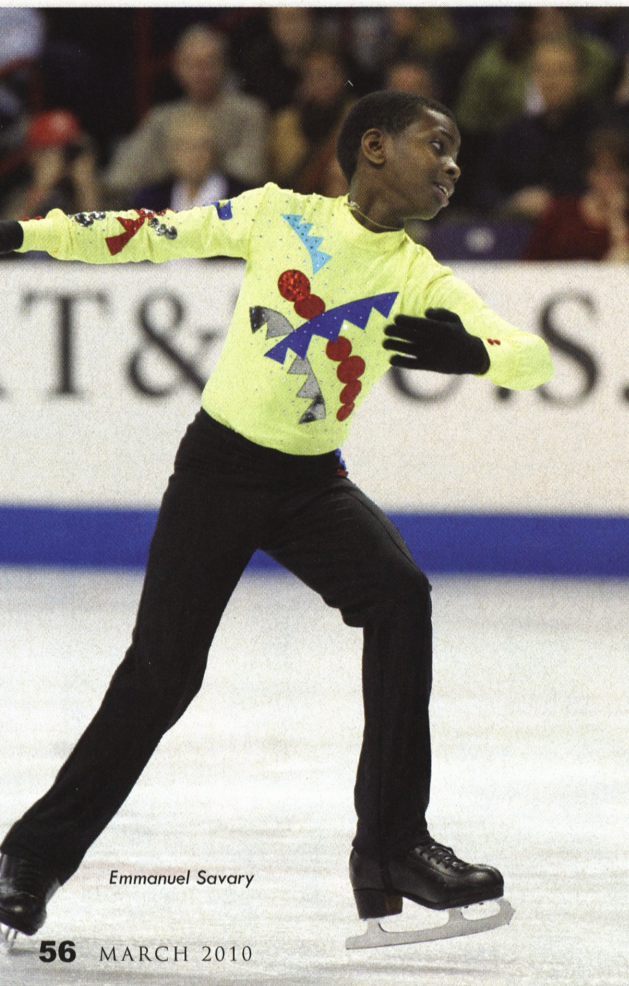


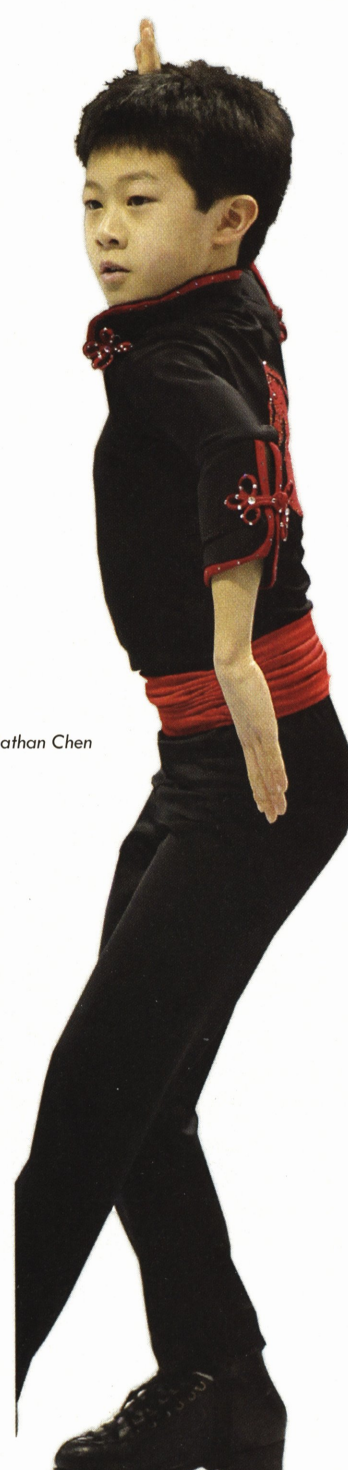
PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Emmanuel Savary



PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

Timothy Dolensky



Nathan Chen

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH



(l-r) Tori Vollmer and Zack Sidhu, Ashley Cain and Joshua Reagan, Mandy Garza and Brandon Frazier, Kylie Duarte and Colin Grafton

Cain/Reagan execute finer points to capture pairs title

By Mickey Brown

Having surrounded themselves with a championship-caliber coaching team, Ashley Cain and Joshua Reagan went out and performed like, well, champions.

The first-year pairs team from Dallas used superior skating – and some sly manipulation of the international judging system (IJS) – to take the novice title in Spokane. Tori Vollmer and Zack Sidhu won the silver, while Mandy Garza and Brandon Frazier claimed the bronze.

In Cain and Reagan's corner are a couple ISU technical specialists, David Kirby and Ashley's father, Peter. (Ashley's mother, Darlene, also helps coach the pair.) Kirby is viewed as an IJS guru of sorts; he is the chairman of U.S. Figure Skating's Technical Panel Committee, has presented at a number of ISU seminars and acted as a commentator on the "skate bug" earpieces handed out to fans at Spokane Arena.

For Cain and Reagan, having so much expert knowledge at their disposal can be a double-edged sword.

"It's hard sometimes because our programs in practice get picked apart pretty good," Reagan said.

Cain added, "(coach Kirby) reviews tapes. (He always tell us,) 'You could have done this a little better.' 'This was really good.'"

Sitting half a point behind Vollmer and Sidhu after the short program, Cain and Reagan used their purposely back-loaded "Scheherazade" free skate to win the segment by more than seven points. The highlight of the pro-

gram were the consecutive throw elements – a throw double flip followed by a throw double Salchow – just before their ending spiral sequence.

"Peter and David put them there. They're really consistent, and we get the bonus since they're at end," Reagan said. "It's a nice thing to finish with."

Cain and Reagan also were one of only two teams in the free skate to land side-by-side double Axels and a clean double Lutz-double toe combination. (The other was 10th-place finishers Lauren Gifford and Timothy LeDuc.)

Cain also has a burgeoning singles career, having won the novice ladies silver medal in Spokane, and before becoming coaches, both Peter and Darlene were successful amateur and professional skaters.

The Cains are one serious skating family, and Reagan knows it.

"Sometimes it's hard because

they always want the best, and that's what they expect in practice," Reagan said. "That's what makes us excel."

The influence of coaches Todd Sand and Jenni Meno was evident in Vollmer and Sidhu's "A Day in the Life" and "West Side Story" programs. They were the only team to perform two level-four elements in the short program and four level-four elements in the free skate, a segment in which no other team executed more than two.

"The things we wanted them to improve (this year) were their speed and quality of skating, and they absolutely did that," Meno said.

Garza and Frazier posted the second-highest components score in the short program but found themselves in fourth after she fell on her double flip.

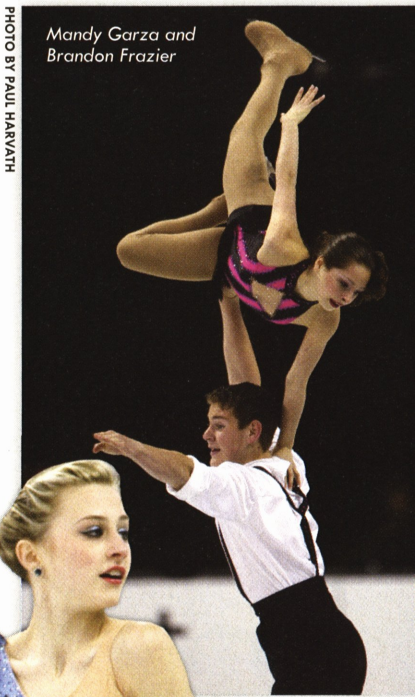
The first nine elements of their "Sing, Sing, Sing" free skate were clean – including a throw double loop, side-by-side double Lutzes and throw double Salchow – until that darn double flip again reared its ugly head at Garza. Despite the miscue, the team placed second in the segment to pull up to third overall.

"It's our first time in novice, our first time to nationals – we're relieved," said Frazier, who won the 2007 U.S. intermediate bronze medal

with Haven Denney. "For a very new pair, we did very well."

Kylie Duarte and Colin Grafton – easily the longest-tenured team in the field, having competed together since 2004 – added a novice pewter medal to their intermediate gold (2008) and juvenile silver (2007).

Mandy Garza and Brandon Frazier



Ashley Cain and Joshua Reagan



Tori Vollmer and Zack Sidhu

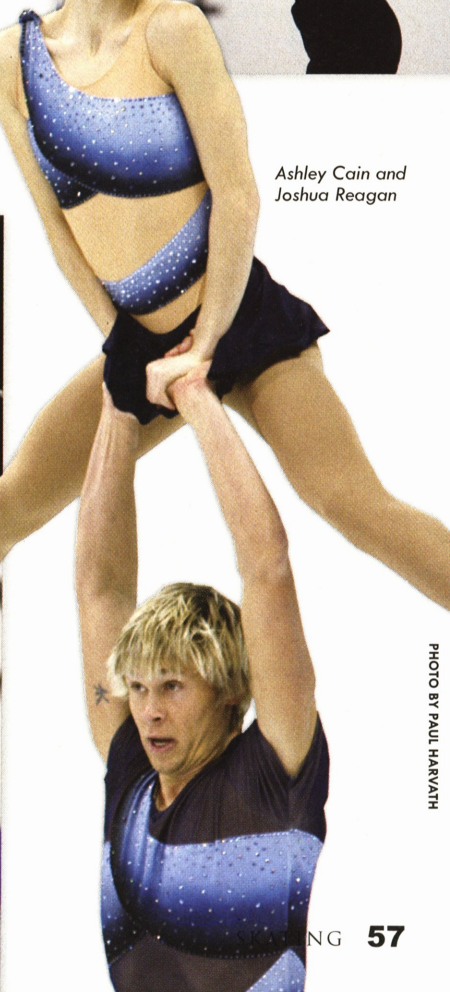


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH



(l-r) Danvi Pham and Vu Pham, Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton, Joylyn Yang and Jean-Luc Baker, Kristina Rexford and Michael Parsons

Aldridge/Eaton rally to win first U.S. title

By Becca Staed Bishop

Novice ice dancing team Alexandra Aldridge, 15, and Daniel Eaton, 15, turned heads at sectionals with their flawless compulsories after only one season together. So they found themselves in an unfamiliar position at the 2010 U.S. Championships after a few bobbles in the second compulsory event, the Kilian, sent them into

sixth place after winning the first compulsory, the Starlight Waltz.

"It wasn't our best," Eaton said. "We've never had a competition where we weren't first after the compulsories and had to catch up."

That didn't thwart the Detroit-based team, however, as only 1.85 points separated them from first place going into the free dance, in which they rallied to come in first with 64.47 points for a 112.22-point competition mark.

The couple received level fours on five elements in their "Man in the Iron Mask" free dance, including their straight line lift-curve lift combination. Their level-three synchronized twizzles lost 0.57 grade of execution points, and their circular step sequence garnered only a level two but received the second-highest element score of

7.26 points.

Their 28.59-point component mark outshone the field.

Silver medalists Danvi Pham, 11, and Vu Pham, 12, finished second and first in the compulsories, respectively, which anchored their third-place finish in the free dance, performed to "Ghosts," that raked in 61.05 points – just 0.79 points behind bronze medalists Joylyn Yang and Jean-Luc Baker.

The brother-sister team trains at the Wheaton Skating Acad-



Danvi Pham and Vu Pham

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HARVATH

emy in Maryland under the tutelage of Alexei Kiliakov, Elena Novak and Dmytri Ilin.

"At times it can be hard to cooperate with each other, but most of the time it's really helpful because we can easily find times to skate and it's helpful to know that you have a sister there to help you," Vu said.

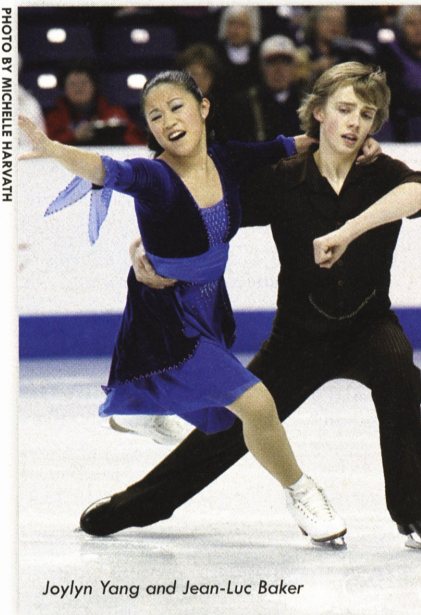
Their free dance featured four level-four lifts and sharp level-four synchronized twizzles that earned the highest GOE of 0.50 points. They took a hit on their opening circular step sequence that was only a level one as well as their level-two spin that lost 0.21 points in GOEs.

"We were really happy about the compulsories since they were the best we had ever done, but I was a bit disappointed on the free dance since we had messed up some the technical elements," Vu said.

The duo finished with 110.65 points overall. They intend to move up to juniors next year.

Yang, 14, and Baker, 16, were third in the Starlight Waltz and second in both the Kilian and free dance to earn the bronze medal. The Seattle-based team is coached by Baker's parents, Steve Baker and Sharon Jones Baker, a four-time British ice dancing champion and British Olympian.

They delivered a flawless free dance to the *Titanic* theme, receiving level fours on their first four elements, level twos on their circular step sequence that garnered the second-highest element mark of 6.69, and only a level one on their



Joylyn Yang and Jean-Luc Baker

rotational lift. Their 28.16-point component mark trailed champions Aldridge and Eaton by only 0.43 points and bested the other teams by one point.

"We gave it all that we had," Baker said. "It was a good performance."

Yang and Baker are also the 2008 intermediate ice dancing champions and 2007 juvenile ice dancing champions.

Fourth place went to the Phams' training mates Kristina Rexford, 12, and Michael Parsons, 14, who collected 105.56 points in all after finishing fourth and third in the Starlight Waltz and Kilian, respectively, and fourth in the free dance. ■



Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton

PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

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The many motivations of skating

By Lexi Rohner

Rochelle Revor, 24
Indianapolis, Ind.
Indiana/World Skating Academy FSC
Adult gold, pre-silver dance, senior MIF

When Rochelle Revor passed her senior moves-in-the-field test in 2009, she credited coach Patty Hagen's encouraging words for her continuing to skate through college. Revor hopes more teens will realize opportunities in adult skating.



"Teens think competitive skating is non-existent after high school unless pursuing collegiate or synchronized skating," Revor said. "There are many nationwide adult competitions with a good balance of events and levels."

Revor's never-ending energy is apparent in her goals: complete the gold dance test, improve her competition scores and become a gold test judge. She serves as club secretary and webmaster, has coached Basic Skills classes for six years, chairs competitions and will chair the 2010 Midwestern Adult Sectional Championships while competing at the gold level for the first time. In 13 years of skating, she considers herself a strong competitor, finding the challenge appealing.

"I watch all my competitors skate unless I'm tying my skates 3,830,583 times," she said.

Skating is her passion and biggest hobby, even influencing her post-graduation job hunt for rink proximity. National medals earned in bronze and silver free skate have whetted Revor's appetite to medal in gold.

"I'm patient," Revor said. "I know it will take time."

Her coach, Pieter Kollen, passed away in 2007. Though Revor hasn't taken lessons since 2003, she continues to improve, and recently starting couples ice dancing.

An emarketing specialist, Revor said it a hard to find the time, energy and money to pursue her passion but she meets the challenge head on. Legendary for her eBay skating dress purchases, she once bought a Sharene dress for \$12.

"Without competitions or tests, practice loses focus and discipline," Revor said.

"I'm grateful for the foundation many

dedicated adult skaters have built," said Revor, who is encouraged by solo dance opportunities, skating quality and increased awareness of adult skating with Facebook and the Internet.

"There's always something new to learn and something old to improve," Revor said.

Toshawa Andrews, 35
Los Angeles, Calif., All Year FSC
Adult bronze ladies

Toshawa Andrews loved watching skating on television as a child. At 25 years old, she decided to try it and immediately fell in love with the sport.



"Skating is my passion, freedom to be me," Andrews said. "Skating fulfills the desires of my heart's expression."

A survivor of 10 heart attacks, Andrews takes her health seriously since a 2007 diagnosis of microvascular heart disease. Andrews thought she would never skate again.

"My heart was broken thinking about not skating," Andrews said. "I am determined not to allow heart disease to dictate my life experience. Despite what the doctors say, I am claiming my piece of thin ice."

Andrews loves skating to music that tells a love story, but has been unable to compete since 2006. Recently, though, she took to the ice in an inspired performance at her club's winter recital, performing happily for family and friends. Prior to giving birth in 2007, Andrews ran a successful home daycare business. She now spends more time with her family and advocates for Women's Heart, the only national coalition educating women on heart disease and risk factors.

She is emphatic that skating has increased her desire to achieve despite seemingly impossible obstacles. Volunteering with her club when she can, she is also active in 8-year-old daughter Starr's skating. When she can, Andrews skates three to five days in a week, with specific goals of mastering the basics, testing, competing, learning harder jumps and becoming involved in judging.

"Skating has been a journey of healing, a view of the soul within me," Andrews said.

"Skating has been my friend. Skating has saved my life."

Erin Westphal, 34
Chicago, Ill., Wagon Wheel FSC
Adult silver, bronze dance

Growing up, Erin Westphal was results-oriented. She graduated third in her high school class and then attended a private college. She began skating in college to relieve stress, joining an online skating group where she discovered adult skating.



"I realized I could experience part of what elite skaters experience," Westphal said. "When I graduated, I immediately registered for lessons."

Twelve years later, she has competed at six U.S. Adult Championships. Coached primarily by Sue Schmitt for more than 10 years, Westphal has also taken lessons from various other coaches during her travels. Schmitt, a talented seamstress, also makes Westphal's dresses. Skating has become Westphal's constant while traveling 75 percent of the year.

Nerves are Westphal's biggest challenge.

"Skating has taught me so much about performing under pressure, perseverance, patience and life in general," Westphal said. Perseverance was particularly important when Westphal took the solo swing dance test five times before passing it. She sees adult skating at a crossroads, with room to create a structure to entice recreational skaters. Skating all over the country, she has seen how important the social aspect of adult skating is, meeting many friendly skaters, including her boyfriend.

"Skating has been the first thing I ever did to experience the process over the results," Westphal said. "I've learned the process is more fun."

As a validation engineer, Westphal keeps pharmaceutical/medical device companies compliant with FDA regulations. She tries to squeeze in 10 hours of training time weekly, on and off the ice. Her goal is to earn four gold medals in moves in the field, free skate, dance and solo dance. ■



Ask Mr. Edge

Product review

Minor changes prevail in boot, blade marketplace

As everyone knows, nearly every industry in the world has fallen on hard economic times, and figure skating is no exception. There has been little innovation in technology and design this past year by most boot and blade manufacturers.

Nonetheless, here's a look at what these companies have in store for 2010.

SP-Teri

SP-Teri has made minor changes to its boots. It now offers an extensive array of personal designs for the sides of its boots.

SP-Teri's Zero Gravity boot is still one of its best-selling models; I recommend it for those skating up to the intermediate level. Keep in mind that at that level of skating, any skater weighing more than 75 pounds might find this particular model breaking down sooner rather than later.

Harlick

Harlick, like SP-Teri, has no new models but has made minor changes to its existing inventory. In particular, Harlick has taken out some of the support in its Competitor model. To get the same support as before, you'll need to order the Competitor Plus model. Harlick has also increased its offering of personal designs for the outside of its boots.

If you haven't heard, the Harlick X-line boot is capable of fitting a much broader, rounded foot at the ball area and beyond to the tips of the toes. Combined with its offering of a split last (wider in the front and narrower in the heel), all Harlick models now fit a broader range of feet. If you do not want to spend the money for a custom boot, Harlick offers custom options for an additional charge on any of its stock boots. Prices vary depending on the boot model and options selected. Expect to spend \$600–\$675 for a special makeup on adult sizes; junior

sizing is less. This option can be as much as \$100–\$150 less than a custom boot, depending on the options selected.

Klingbeil

The Klingbeil lightweight design is one of the finest lightweight boots on the market. The company has no new boot designs.

Edea

Edea has the lightest skating boot on the market. Combined with a lightweight Paramount or Matrix 2 blade, Edea boot models offer the ultimate in lightweight design. Unfortunately, Edea boots only come in one width. If you happen to need a boot with split sizing or some other major customization, the Edea boot may not work for you.

I tried on a pair at last year's regional competition in Chicago and must admit that it felt different but comfortable. For those with the proper shape foot, the Edea may be a good choice.

Riedell

Last year, Riedell made extensive changes to its entire boot line. This year, only minor changes have been made to its boots and no new models are offered.

These minor changes include:

- New, more comfortable linings to its 255TS and 910LS model boots
- Higher toe box design that increases toe clearance
- New back seam that provides greater heel support while enhancing comfort
- New tongue pad stitch design to allow for greater fit and comfort along the instep

Graf

Graf has made no changes to its boots.

Mr. Edge is a qualified skate technician with years of experience. He answers questions on boots, blades and foot problems related to your equipment. The opinions of Mr. Edge are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of U.S. Figure Skating or SKATING magazine. Remember, if you have problems with your feet, check with a doctor — the problem may well be with your boot, but it could be more serious. Check with your local pro shop for more information about boots and blades.

Jackson Ultima

Jackson has made some changes to its boot and blade line; let's first take a look at its boots.

The 2500 Premiere is a new ladies model. At last, somebody has taken my advice!

This model features:

- Slightly lower-cut back for greater flexibility when pointing toes
- Roll-top collar for added comfort at the top of the boot, where it wraps around leg
- Softer, more flexible upper making it easier to bend in the boot
- Split sizing and a more heavily padded inside for added comfort and better fit around ankle and heel
- A microfiber contoured tongue with soft memory foam padding, making it more comfortable along the instep
- Availability as a special makeup, which allows for an even greater fit

This boot is much easier to break in.

The 3405 Coaches model is similar to the 2500 Premiere but is a bit more comfortable and warmer. This model features:

- Exceptionally soft roll-top collar to reduce leg irritation
- Fully padded Thinsulate breathable lining to provide warmth
- Orthopedic foam padding for greater comfort
- The right amount of strength to demonstrate skills

This boot model would also be a great choice for an adult skater looking for a good fit with extra comfort.

With the exception of the Freestyle model, the men's lineup matches the ladies models in style and comfort.

In its entry level freestyle lineup, the Classique model now comes with the Mirage blade instead of the Mark IV, making it more affordable.

There have also been changes to the Jackson Ultima lineup of blades, starting with the new Matrix 2:

The Jackson Ultima lineup of blades features several toe pick and radius designs comparable to the Wilson Gold Seal, Pattern 99 and Super Dance models.

Comparing them to the MK lineup, you have the Gold Star, Phantom and Vision.

The Matrix lightweight Legacy model is on a par with the Wilson Coronation Ace and MK Professional models, although the toe pick designs are slightly different. They come in light pink, light blue and chrome.

Rounding out its lineup of new blades is its Aspire XP, which is similar to the MK Double Star and the Aspire. It's also comparable to the Wilson Majestic and Jubilee.

What I like about these blades are the prices. They are affordable and, by far, the best buy for the money when considering performance.

Wilson and MK

Nothing new to report except that the prices of both lines have come down. If you're still looking for quality and reliability, look no further.

Paramount

Being the first and still world leader in lightweight design and enhanced performance, Paramount Skates now offer:

- Toe pick design and rocker radius similar to the Wilson Gold Seal and MK Phantom. CNC computer technology allows for a more accurate and consistent profiling (rocker radius) of the blades, making spins, take-offs and landings easier.
- Both 420 and 440 stainless steel runners, which are more resistant to nicks, dulling and especially breakage, making them ideal for long hours of practice, even under the most strenuous conditions.
- Two new lightweight intermediate designs, which are comparable to the Wilson Coronation Ace and MK Professional in both their toe picks and profiling. These models are also made of the same lightweight, one-piece aluminum design as the others, along with the enhanced profiling features.

Lastly, I'm in the process of preparing something fun and exciting for adult skaters, skating parents, grandparents, coaches and judges. Stay tuned for further information.

See you next time,

Mr. Edge

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Jenna Longo is a member of U.S. Figure Skating's DREAM program, a four-time member of Team USA with the Haydenettes and a freshman at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass. The DREAM program was created to give Team USA athletes a chance to share their experiences and passion for synchronized skating with teammates, younger skaters, parents and fans. Longo and the Haydenettes recently traveled to Berlin, Germany, where they earned a bronze medal at the Cup of Berlin. In this article, the fourth in a series of 10 by DREAM athletes, Longo reflects on her experiences as a member of Team USA.

Beyond the borders

Skating for Team USA offers chance to make new friends

By Jenna Longo

When I walk down the streets of Boston, or even through the mall in my Connecticut town, not a soul that passes me is aware I skate for the United States. Skating on Team USA isn't about wearing the apparel or being noticed; it's something much larger.

I realized this four seasons ago when I became a Haydenette. During these four years I have traveled to six countries to represent the United States, and it's been an honor to represent my team and my country. Through skating, special memories are created by meeting and befriending skaters from other countries, being inspired in representing the United States and immersing myself in a community that shares a passion for skating.

Walking into the arena at an international competition sends chills down my spine.



The Haydenettes display the American flag and their third-place trophy at the 2009 French Cup. Longo is pictured in the back row, right.



The Haydenettes' Jenna Longo and Erika Hoffman display the third-place trophy at the 2010 Cup of Berlin.



Jenna Longo, front right, and her Haydenettes teammates begin their free skate at the 2009 French Cup.



Jenna Longo and her Haydenette teammates wait for the draw ceremony to begin at the 2009 World Synchronized Skating Championships in Zagreb, Croatia.

Standing in my USA warm-up suit, the realization strikes my team and me that we are no longer representing ourselves or our team but rather our country and culture. Traveling outside the borders can be shocking. Something as simple as missing cold milk lets us know we are thousands of miles away from home.

Last year at the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships, I attended the skaters' meeting, where we discussed the challenges that all synchronized skaters face and how best to cope with them. It was surprising how similar we are despite being scattered across the globe. Four years of international skating has given me the unique opportunity to meet new skaters. Seeing familiar faces each year connects our countries, which is apparent at the World Championships where countries cheer for each other. A bond is formed that connects synchronized skaters throughout the world, and friendships are forged that keep us in touch all year.

Skating as an international skater comes with a lot of pressure. I overcame that pressure once I realized the honor and inspiration skating internationally gives me to become a better skater each day. At times when I feel stressed from college classes and Haydenettes practice, I watch a DVD or YouTube video of skating. Whether it is my team or a montage, this reminds me how much I love what I do. It reminds me that each time I take the ice I should work harder than I have ever worked before. Skating for Team USA inspires me to be the best skater I can be.

In high school I chose to travel to Lexington, Mass., four days a week to skate with the Haydenettes. I missed out on much of my high school life but if I had to do it again I wouldn't change a thing. My teachers never understood

why I couldn't come in for review sessions or join clubs. My friends never understood why I couldn't hang out after school, why I couldn't play school sports or help manage the athletic teams. In my heart, I know of the extraordinary experience I am part of and hold my head high. It's inspired me to sacrifice more and work even harder because I represent the United States.

There is a different mindset when competing overseas. Friendships are formed rather than rivalries. There is interest and curiosity in how other teams work, speak and practice. Despite the many different languages, teams learn to say good luck and hello to each other. Beyond the language and culture barriers, a bond is formed as each skater shares the same passion for the sport of synchronized skating; this bond seems to push each team and country to become better and better.

While competing in Germany at the Cup of Berlin, my teammate Sarah told me, "Although this is my second year as a Haydenette, I was still in awe that the Rockettes (a Finnish team) cheered us on throughout our official practice." This phenomenon shows the passion each skater has, and the fire inside each one of us that creates our work discipline. I have worked for a long time to get to where I am, and I strive to work harder each day to represent my country well.

In the legendary Hayden circle, right before performing our free skate in Berlin, Haydenettes coach Saga Krantz asked us what it meant to us to skate for Team USA. I responded, "It means representing each little girl who sits in the stands and watches the Haydenettes skate, because I was once one of them." Being a part of Team USA is absolutely incredible; dream big and believe. ▣



World Synchronized Skating Championships near

By Lauren Magliola

More than 450 of the world's best synchronized skaters will descend on the Colorado Springs World Arena next month to compete for the sport's top honors at the 2010 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships.

The skaters will be joined by coaches, team leaders and several thousand fans for the competition, which runs April 9-10. The championships return to the United States for the first time since the inaugural event in Minneapolis, Minn., in 2000.

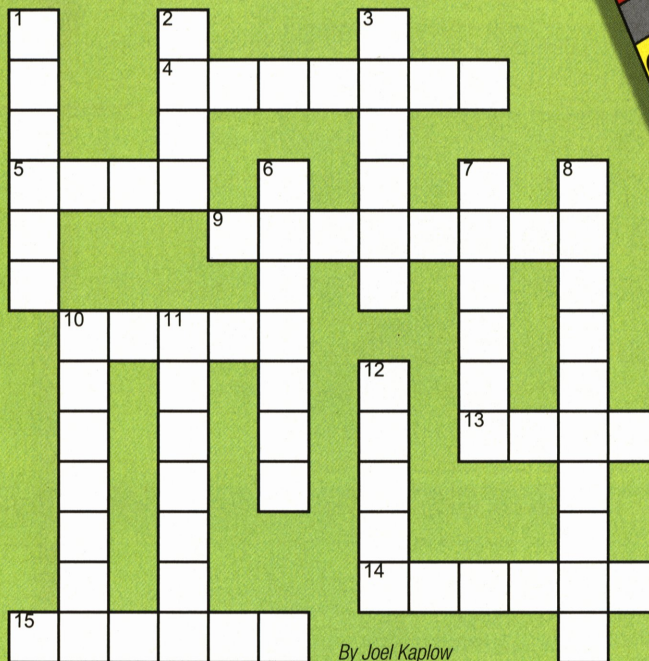
Colorado Springs, Colo., has hosted two U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, as well as several ISU events, including Skate America, the Four Continents Championships and the ISU Grand Prix Final.

Canada's Nexxice became the first North American team to win a World title with its performance in 2009. Canada looks to defend its title against many strong challengers, including the 2008 World champions from Finland, the Rockettes, who return after failing to qualify in 2009. Five-time World champions Team Surprise from Sweden also hope to rebound from a disappointing 2009 season; the team finished lower than second at the World Synchronized Championships for the first time, taking home a bronze medal. Three-time World champion Marigold Ice Unity from Finland looks to return to the podium for the first time since 2006.

U.S. contenders also hope to repeat past successes at the World competition. Team USA enjoyed a breakthrough year in 2007, when Miami University brought home the country's first-ever World medal – a silver. In the past two years, the United States has just missed winning a medal. In 2009, the Haydenettes earned the top U.S. finish, placing fourth at the event, just 1.9 points away from a bronze medal.

ACROSS

- 4 The U.S. men have medaled every time, and the ladies have missed the podium only once in the history of Skate ____
- 5 Pairs skaters Rena Inoue and John Baldwin have won everything from pewter to gold at the last ____ U.S. Championships
- 9 Biomechanics is the study of ____ through body physics and human anatomy
- 10 Dancers Meryl and Charlie bested Tanith and Ben for the ____ time last January in Spokane
- 13 NBC commentator ____ Button referred to the young lady skaters as "tootle bumps" during the last U.S. Championships
- 14 Jeremy Abbott grabbed his ____ consecutive gold at the 2010 U.S. Championships
- 15 Although this is called a jump, it's scored as a transitional element



By Joel Kaplow

DOWN

- 1 John Baldwin and Rena Inoue along with Ashley Wagner made off with this medal in Spokane
- 2 Displaying his kitchen craft on Food Network, the '88 Olympic champ hosts "What would Brian Boitano ____?"
- 3 Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig, Mirai Nagasu and Evan Lysacek merited this medal in Spokane
- 6 Tanith and Ben don't need an acrobatics coach — they look at ____ for ideas
- 7 "____ Johnny Weir," a show about the 2010 U.S. bronze medalist, is on the Sundance Channel (2 wds.)
- 8 "Classy" ice dancers Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates attend college, ballet, ballroom dancing and ____ classes!
- 10 You'll never hear Caydee Denney or Jeremy Barrett talk about skating on grandma's frozen pond as kids — they're from ____!
- 11 2010 U.S. Champion ____ Flatt joined the "200 Club" by scoring a golden 200.11 points in Spokane
- 12 Ryan Bradley nailed two ____ in his free skate and plucked the pewter in Spokane

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle and Word Find appear at www.usfigureskating.org. Click on SKATING magazine, go to "Check out what's inside."

kidz zone

S D C O R L A O N A R N S A E
I N S I D E E D G E R A E R B
S I U G T E R B R I P R Y D H
B Y R N P S A R E O E P S K O
K R I S T I Y A M A G U C H I
G H E N N B R N Z G G P E G U
O Y W R E Y C D A B Y A G A I
E M Y W S M D O I P F G M S F
P M N I P S N N A M L E I B W
B R N R S E A M I R E D T S A
J R H G W B S R I C M G N I R
E G O A A F S O H R I K R O G
U A J U I R I Z G S N E H S N
L E E K I P K N N O G I O E S
O R W O L P W O N S I A I D J

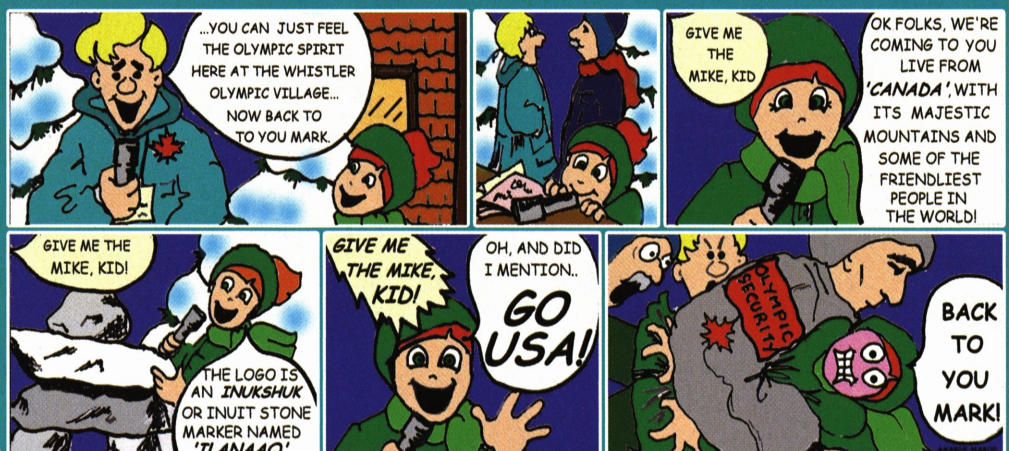
WORDS ON ICE - Hi skaters! Try to find and circle the words listed below hidden in the "rink" full of letters. The words will appear in a straight line in any direction (up, down, forward, backward or diagonally) and some words may overlap and share letters. Find them all and you'll be on top of the medals podium!

PEGGY FLEMING
KISS AND CRY AREA
INA BAUER
JOHNNY WEIR
INSIDE EDGE
SNOWFLOW
KRISTI YAMAGUCHI
BRANDON MROZ
BIELMANN SPIN

By Joel Kaplow

AXEL ANNIE

By Andrea Nason • Check out www.axelannie.com



Kidz spotlight

Ashelen Lund Course

Editor's note: Because of the popularity of our Kidz Spotlight segment, we've expanded it to include more photographs and fun information. If you want to have the chance to be featured in the Kidz Spotlight, please submit an action photo as well as an off-ice photograph. Also, please answer all the questions in order.

Age: 7

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nev.

Home Club: All Year FSC

Level: Pre-preliminary

How often I skate: Six days a week

Coaches: Sandra Course, Ron Green, Derek James

Favorite skaters: Mao Asada, Surya Bonaly, Tai Babilonia and Amber Corwin

Favorite jumps/moves: Axel, double loop, sit spin and spread eagle

How I got started: My parents took me to the ice when I was 2 years old and now skating is my life!

Goal: To go to the Olympics

What else you should know about me: I am bilingual; I speak English and Spanish. My father is British, my mother is Argentinean and her parents (my grandparents) are Danish. I am a second grader, and I love my school and my teachers.

Memorable moments: Performing for three months with my mother and father, and having my own solo in Circus on Ice, the ice show at the Silver Dollar Theme Park in Branson, Mo., when I was 5 years old. Also, being interviewed for the "Kids Connection" TV program and getting a special award for most outstanding skating performance at the age of 6.

Hobbies: Ballet and painting

More favorites

Food: Indian curry and Danish hamburgers

Singers: Hannah Montana (I wish she would come see me skate!)

TV shows: Hannah Montana

Book: *Fairies and Fairy Tales* from Hans Christian Andersen

Movie: "Ice Castles" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian"





RECORD YEAR

Success stories abound at rinks around the country

Centennial Ice Arena in Highland Park, Ill., was hopping during its National Skating Month event. More than 400 people took part in the festivities, which included free skating lessons, hockey instruction provided by the Northwestern University team and rides on the Zamboni.

The 2010 National Skating Month celebration, titled "Destination Vancouver," was a tremendous success, with a record-breaking 366 member clubs, Basic Skills programs and STAR rinks participating across the country.

Many signed up for multiple events throughout January and February to take advantage of this opportunity. The goal of National Skating Month is to increase awareness and participation in ice skating sports. During the celebration, clubs, programs and rinks hosted open houses, offered free skate sessions, introductory lessons, exhibitions by local talent, skating demonstrations, pond hockey games, fun and games on ice, parents' meetings, equipment re-sales, fundraising activities and parties at the rink.

In March of 2002, U.S. Figure Skating unveiled National Skating Month with 110 registered events. Since then, participation has steadily increased to this year's record-breaking numbers.

2003 - 211	2007 - 337
2004 - 245	2008 - 287
2005 - 233	2009 - 300
2006 - 298	2010 - 366

The following are a few of the many success stories from 2010 National Skating Month.

North Olmstead, Ohio

North Olmstead, Ohio, had a huge hit with its National Skating Month celebration on Jan. 2, with more than 450 participants. A disc jockey hosted the skating session on the main rink, and demonstrations and free skating lessons were provided on the studio rink. The recreation department, Cleveland Edges Skating Club and North Olmsted Hockey Club all had information booths. U.S. Figure Skating souvenirs were handed out and a raffle was held. Disney on Ice supplied four tickets to any of its shows in town that weekend. The Lake Erie Monsters also supplied four tickets to one of their games. Snowplow Sam was a hit but was upstaged by Sully the Sea Gull, the mascot for the Lake Erie Monsters.

Space Coast IcePlex, Rockledge, Fla.

The Space Coast IcePlex Figure Skating Club in Rockledge, Fla., had outstanding attendance for its National Skating Month celebration. Brevard Community College and Florida Today newspapers jointly produce a weekly television show, which is simulcast via the Internet and

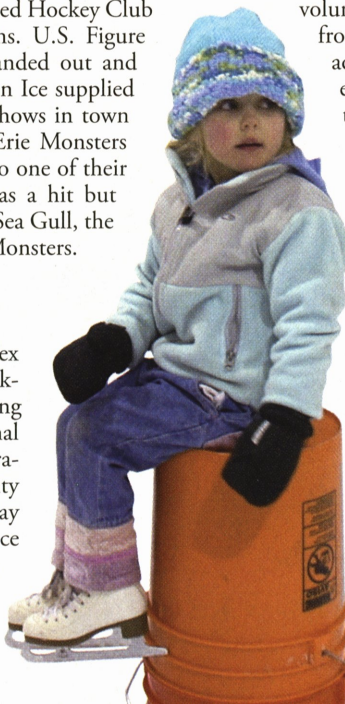
a local cable channel. A few days prior to the "It's Great to Skate" clinic, the show was taped on location at the IcePlex. The journalists put on skates and received an on-camera mini-lesson from coach Sharon Martens.

Almost 200 participants showed up on Jan. 16 to take advantage of the free one-hour clinic.

More than 30 club members and coaches volunteered to help with everything, from skate-lacing to hand-holding. In addition to mini-lessons geared to each participant's experience level, the event included an exhibition by club members TJ Nyman, Andrew Lavender and Haley McGee. The inclusion of door prizes and punch and cookies helped attract guests as well. Participants ranged in age from 3 to 65, and from complete beginners to those who knew skating basics.

Centennial Ice Arena, Highland Park, Ill.

More than 400 people attended Centennial Ice Arena's



A youngster takes a break from the fun during Blazin' Blades Skating Academy's annual Great Skate event at Honnen Arena in Colorado Springs, Colo.

National Skating Month event, titled "Ice Fest," on Saturday, Jan. 16. The event was held in conjunction with gymnastics and hockey programs and also included a cookout. A Theatre On Ice group performed before the public skate. The Northwestern University men's hockey team and the arena's hockey instructors held a hockey clinic. Instructors gave free skating lessons during the public skate. Free T-shirts were given to the first 100 patrons. Prizes, such as a free private lesson, a free learn-to-skate or gymnastics session and a Zamboni ride, were given out via raffle. The Highland Park Figure Skating Club hosted a dress and skate sale. A balloon artist and arts & crafts were part of the festivities. Goodie bags filled with Basic Skills promotional materials were given out to those who signed up for a skating or gymnastic session or a private lesson.

Salt Lake Figure Skating, Salt Lake City, Utah

Salt Lake Figure Skating had much to celebrate at its National Skating Month festivities on Jan. 19–20. During the two evenings, the club offered free gifts to more than 200 skaters. Basic Skills participants were greeted with the annual ice show and an invitation to participate in Basic Skills groups in the upcoming ice show. After the skaters picked up their badges, they received a free gift from one of the board members. The club had a table displaying dresses, medals, trophies, photos and the news of club member Nathan Chen winning the 2010 U.S. novice men's gold medal. (Nathan started in the Basic Skills Program!) Salt Lake Figure Skating also held a sale of used skates and dresses.

Blazin' Blades Skating Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Blazin' Blades Skating Academy hosted its annual Great Skate on Jan. 9, with more than 230 skaters in attendance. Representatives from the club, a skate dressmaker, skate retailer and skate sharpener, and Chick-Fil-A attended. (The Chick-Fil-A cow even joined everyone on the ice!) There was a table set up where people could sign up for the next series of Basic Skills lessons. Instructors provided skating lessons at one end of the rink, and they played games, including the limbo. Upon arrival, participants received a ticket for a raffle; once the lessons were done, tickets were drawn for the prizes the club received from U.S. Figure Skating as well as a session of classes and a private lesson. Face painting and refreshments were available.

Germain Arena, Estero, Fla.

Germain Arena held an open house on Jan. 9. The cost of admission was \$1, and about 220 people came out that day to skate, while many more watched. World champion Todd Eldredge signed autographs for the public. Basic Skills instructors gave free 20-minute group lessons during public skate. The facility also offered a two-for-one deal for new customers on all of its programs.



World champion Todd Eldredge thrilled all those who participated in the National Skating Month activities at the Germain Arena in Estero, Fla. Eldredge visited with the young skaters and signed autographs.

Syracuse Figure Skating Club, Baldwinsville, N.Y.

On Jan. 30, the Syracuse Figure Skating Club celebrated National Skating Month. Ninety-six skaters came to "Skate Night" and ranged in age from 4 to 62. This free skating event was held on a Saturday night for 90 minutes and was open to all Basic Skills students, club members and their families. This fun-filled event gave families an opportunity to come out and skate to the tunes of a professional disc jockey, play games and win prizes. It was great to watch the smiles on the faces of the participants while line dancing and doing the limbo. Feedback was wonderful: "Thank you so much for organizing such a great family night activity. We had a lot of fun and it was a great way to spend a Saturday night with the family and friends." "It was a great way to have fun and all family members could participate." Every child who attended received a goody bag filled with souvenirs. This was the club's best turnout in celebrating National Skating Month.

National Skating Month is an opportunity for rinks and local programs to celebrate skating, alert local media and invite members to perform and host activities that will attract new families to the wonderful world of skating. Through a series of organized on- and off-ice activities, ev-



The Salt Lake Figure Skating Club, home of novice champion Nathan Chen, sets up a table at its National Skating Month event that displayed dresses, medals, trophies, photos and the news of Chen's victory in Spokane, Wash.

everyone enjoys a fun-filled day at the rink. 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. If you want to join in the fun next year, remember to sign up early as promotional supplies are limited. Registration forms will be available beginning in August.

For complete coverage of the events held across the country, go to <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=427>

CONFIDENCE

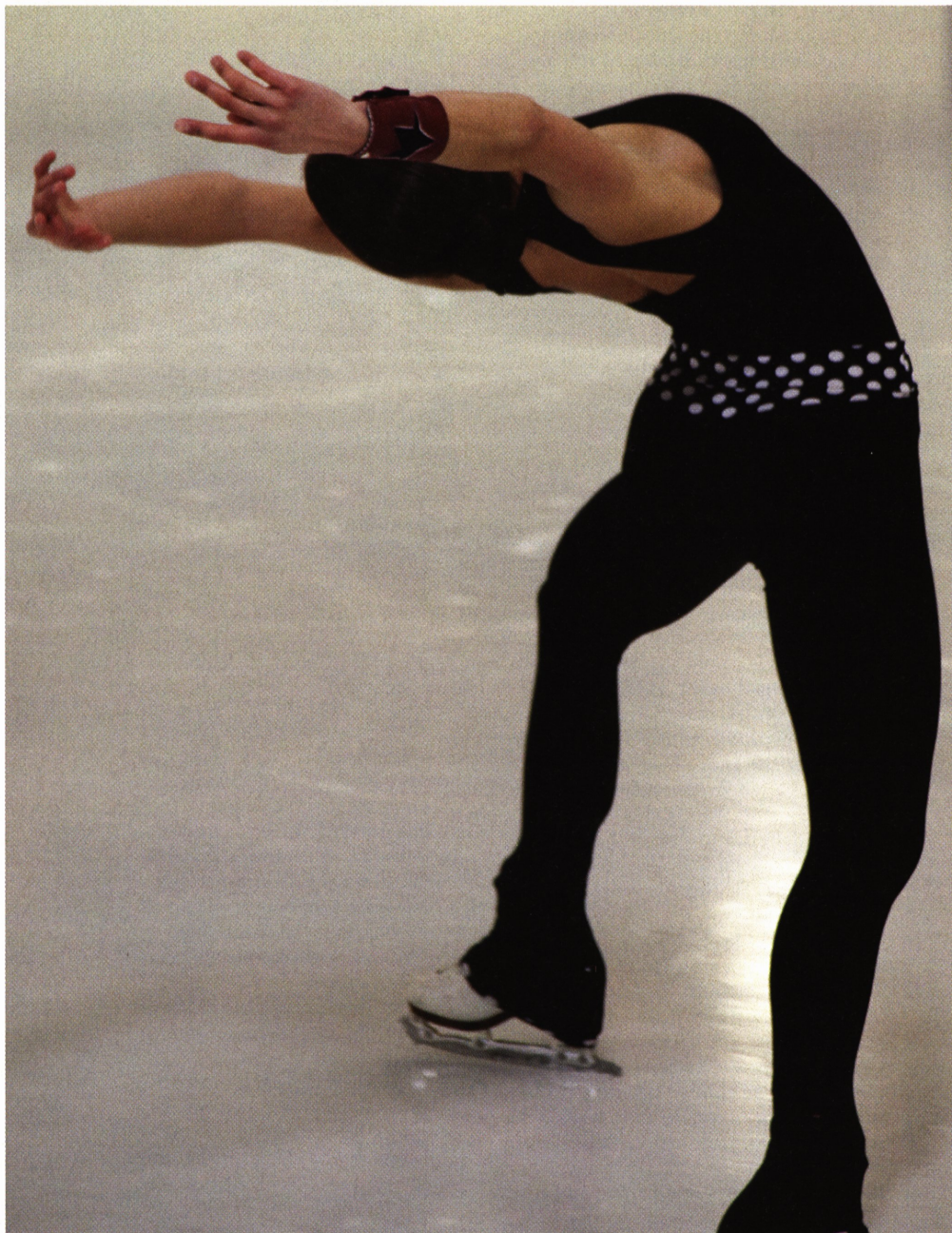
IS CONTAGIOUS



INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED DESIGNER, Marlaina Stone, is a natural for the ice. Her creativity is inventive and fresh. Her movements are precise. Her attention to detail is meticulous. And that fiery fearlessness she exudes — downright infectious.

From the radical team of designers in her studio to the radical performers she joins this year on the ice, it's hard not to buy what Marlaina Stone is sellin'. Confidence.

Stone broke out into the fashion scene in 2007 with a couture line of Artwear, a collection of individually hand crafted necklaces, bracelets, and rings that intentionally blur the line between designer jewelry and fine art. Each piece, the only one of its kind in the whole world, is so provocative in make and design, its exclusivity is rivaled only by the feeling it stirs in those it adorns.



"It's time for woman and men to wear their inner daredevil on their sleeve." MARLAINA STONE

As Stone's Artwear gained worldwide recognition, she began looking for more ways to encourage more people to live extraordinarily. A firm believer that budget should not curb one's sense of adventure, she launched Second Verse. A line of accessories and more that make stylish confidence accessible for all.

Second Verse by Marlaina Stone makes its debut with an arresting line of leather cuffs and is sweeping the skating world by storm as athletes look for novel ways to express themselves on the ice.

"Performing is about using movement to capture and express a piece of music, to develop a character

Help support US Figure Skating with the purchase of the Freedom Cuff



"I was attracted to Marlaina's designs because they convey such confidence. They are very unique, and it is so important to be unique on the ice!" ALISSA CZISNY

that the audience can relate to. Marlaina's designs made me feel something. They gave me the confidence to really connect with the character I wanted to portray", says ice dancer Jane Summersett who has been wearing a rock and roll leather cuff from Second Verse during competitions for the past few months.

The 2010 line of leather cuffs has something for every woman and every man. From sweet and edgy to raw and righteous. Each is made in the USA, with three layers of soft, high quality leather, contrast stitched to ensure they endure even the most rigorous routines.

Check out MarlainaStone.com frequently to find out about new collections and inspiring ways she and her team are fueling a movement to celebrate the individual and champion the details that make each and every one of us who we are.

Part of the proceeds from cuff sales will be donated to the US Figure Skating Memorial Fund, because if she's not doing something to empower others, she's not Marlaina Stone. This fund provides financial aid to skaters in need of monetary assistance, so they may pursue their goals both inside and outside the competitive arena.

Cuffs are available for purchase at usfsashop.com.



(second verse)

by *Marlaina Stone*

US FIGURE
SKATING
Memorial Fund

2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships

Spokane FSC, Spokane, Wash., Jan. 14-24

Competition Officials: Alexander Enzmann, Anne Cammett, Carrie Miller, Charles Cyr, David Santee, Dawn Eyerly, Deveny Deck, Doug Williams, Elliot Schwartz, Eric Hampton, Gale Tanger, Hal Marron, Janis Engel, Jenny Mast, Jessica Bussgang, Joan Gruber, John Cole, Joseph Inman, Joyce Komperda, Judy Blumberg, Kathaleen Kelly Cutone, Katherine Conrad, Kathleen Harmon, Kathleen Krieger, Kathy Slack, Kevin Rosenstein, Kim Moore, Kimberly Heim, Kirsten Novak, Kitty DeLo LaForte, Larry Kriwanek, Linda Leaver, Lisa-Marie Allen, Mary Karen Henderson, Melissa Kent, Nancy Ruedebusch, Richard Kern, Richard Perez, Scott Brown, Sharon Rogers, Shawn Rettstatt, Stephanie Segien, Steve Winkler, Taffy Holliday, Terry Kubicka, Todd Bromley, Troy Goldstein, Vicki Merten, Wendy Enzmann, William Fitzpatrick

SENIOR LADIES

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Rachael Flatt, 200.11, 3, 1
2. Mirai Nagasu, 188.78, 1, 3
3. Ashley Wagner, 184.70, 4, 2
4. Sasha Cohen, 174.28, 2, 4
5. Christina Gao, 156.53, 5, 5
6. Amanda Dobbs, 150.72, 6, 7
7. Beatrisa Liang, 147.71, 10, 6
8. Alexe Gilles, 143.31, 9, 8
9. Emily Hughes, 140.60, 8, 10
10. Alissa Czizny, 140.37, 7, 11
11. Caroline Zhang, 138.27, 11, 9
12. Melissa Bulanhagui, 129.21, 14, 12
13. Becky Bereswill, 127.96, 15, 13
14. Samantha Cesario, 119.20, 16, 15
15. Laney Diggs, 114.38, 18, 16
16. Kristiene Gong, 112.92, 12, 21
17. Blake Rosenthal, 112.42, 17, 18
18. Chelsea Morrow, 111.73, 13, 20
19. Christina-Marra Sperduto, 109.89, 23, 14
20. Tatyana Khazova, 108.89, 19, 19
21. Ellie Kawamura, 103.33, 21, 17
22. Rebecca Stern, 97.22, 22, 22

SENIOR MEN

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jeremy Abbott, 263.66, 1, 1
2. Evan Lysacek, 238.63, 2, 3
3. Johnny Weir, 232.09, 3, 5
4. Ryan Bradley, 225.97, 6, 2
5. Adam Rippon, 225.07, 4, 4
6. Brandon Mroz, 201.27, 10, 6
7. Grant Hochstein, 192.73, 8, 7
8. Armin Mahbanozadeh, 190.98, 5, 13
9. Keegan Messing, 190.35, 12, 8
10. Jason Wong, 186.46, 9, 10
11. Richard Domubush, 184.28, 7, 12
12. Jonathan Cassar, 182.23, 20, 9
13. Tommy Steenberg, 179.21, 16, 11
14. Dennis Phan, 175.97, 13, 15
15. Douglas Razzano, 175.04, 11, 17
16. Parker Pennington, 173.03, 15, 16
17. Alexander Johnson, 168.29, 22, 14
18. Andrew Gonzales, 167.25, 14, 19
19. Shaun Rogers, 165.00, 18, 18
20. Michael Solonosi, 150.76, 21, 20
21. Wesley Campbell, 146.96, 19, 21
22. Daniel Raad, 127.38, 23, 22

SENIOR PAIRS

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett, 190.30, 1, 1
2. Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig, 173.78, 3, 3
3. Rena Inoue/John Baldwin, 173.18, 4, 2
4. Brooke Castile/Benjamin Okolski, 169.95, 5, 4
5. Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker, 165.73, 7, 5
6. Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin, 164.83, 2, 6
7. Amanda Dobbs/Joseph Jacobsen, 152.66, 6, 8
8. Tiffany Vise/Don Baldwin, 149.62, 9, 7
9. Molly Aaron/Daniyel Cohen, 146.60, 8, 9
10. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, 142.53, 11, 10
11. Tracy Tanovich/Michael Chau, 134.56, 13, 11
12. Andrea Best/Trevor Young, 130.88, 14, 12
13. Kendra Moyle/Steven Pottenger, 128.64, 12, 14
14. Ameena Sheikh/Aaron VanCleave, 127.73, 10, 15
15. Lisa Moore/Justin Gaumond, 126.25, 15, 13
16. Laura Lepzinski/Ethan Burgess, 119.85, 16, 16

SENIOR ICE DANCING

Pl. Name, TS, CD, OD, FD

1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 222.29, 1, 1, 1
2. Tanith Belbin/Benjamin Agosto, 218.51, 2, 2, 2
3. Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates, 190.69, 4, 3, 3
4. Kimberly Navarro/Brent Bonhomme, 186.42, 3, 4, 4
5. Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein, 177.48, 6, 5, 5
6. Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell, 173.87, 5, 6, 6
7. Jane Summersett/Todd Gilles, 163.08, 7, 7, 8
8. Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, 156.53, 9, 9, 7
9. Trina Pratt/Chris Obzansky, 156.42, 8, 8, 9
10. Shannon Wingle/Timothy McKernan, 132.43, 13, 10, 10
11. Stephanie Zastrow/Michael Lueck, 124.71, 11, 13, 11
12. Katie Wyle/Justin Morrow, 123.94, 10, 12, 12
13. Grace Cho/Dmitry Ponomarev, 115.12, 12, 14, 13
14. Lauren Corry/Alexander Lorelo, 113.46, 14, 11, 14
15. Elizabeth Chan/Jason Develkis, 88.10, 15, 15, 15

JUNIOR LADIES

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Agnes Zawadzki, 171.87, 1, 1
2. Yasmin Siraj, 151.05, 4, 2
3. Lindsay Davis, 133.97, 5, 4
4. Kiri Baga, 127.35, 2, 9
5. Nina Jiang, 126.38, 11, 3
6. Felicia Zhang, 124.21, 8, 5
7. Angela Wang, 123.53, 3, 10
8. Vanessa Lam, 121.79, 6, 8
9. McKinzie Daniels, 119.69, 9, 7
10. Marissa Secundy, 112.71, 13, 6
11. Kendall Wyckoff, 110.86, 7, 11
12. Katlynn McNab, 99.87, 10, 12
13. Haley Dunne, 94.32, 12, 13

JUNIOR MEN

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jason Brown, 195.22, 2, 2
2. Joshua Farris, 195.03, 4, 1
3. Max Aaron, 191.86, 1, 3
4. Scott Dyer, 178.49, 5, 4
5. Alexander Zahradnick, 168.64, 7, 5
6. Austin Kanallakan, 164.98, 3, 7
7. Juran Yang, 154.70, 8, 8
8. Christopher Caluza, 153.87, 9, 9
9. Peter Max Dion, 151.34, 6, 11
10. Alexander Aiken, 150.76, 12, 6
11. Sean Rabbitt, 148.55, 10, 10
12. Grisha Fournier, 142.77, 11, 12

JUNIOR PAIRS

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Felicia Zhang/Taylor Toth, 153.80, 1, 1
2. Britney Simpson/Nathan Miller, 147.29, 2, 2
3. Erika Smith/Nathan Bartholomay, 133.54, 4, 4
4. Carolyn-Ann Alba/Christopher Knierim, 133.19, 3, 5
5. Brynn Carman/AJ Reiss, 130.00, 7, 3
6. Brittany Chase/Grant Marron, 118.31, 6, 7
7. Haven Denney/Daniel Raad, 118.18, 8, 6
8. Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff, 118.10, 5, 9
9. Olivia Gibbons/Tyler Harris, 110.19, 10, 8
10. Megan Gueli/Gabe Woodruff, 99.35, 9, 11
11. Becky Du/Sergey Sidorov, 93.83, 11, 10

JUNIOR ICE DANCING

Pl. Name, TS, CD, OD, FD

1. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 180.69, 1, 1, 1
2. Rachel Tibbetts/Collin Brubaker, 160.61, 2, 3, 3
3. Piper Gilles/Zachary Donohue, 160.21, 4, 2, 2
4. Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello, 151.88, 3, 4, 4
5. Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan, 146.86, 8, 5, 5
6. Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager, 144.90, 5, 7, 6
7. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 143.76, 6, 8, 8
8. Charlotte Lichtman/Dean Copely, 143.43, 7, 6, 7
9. Gabrielle Friedenberg/Benjamin Nkyiel, 130.72, 11, 9, 9
10. Katharine Zeigler/Baxter Burbank, 116.47, 9, 10, 10
11. Natalie Wojton/Michael Soyfer, 112.46, 10, 11, 11
12. Kristin Nardozi/Robert Cuthbertson, 104.14, 13, 12, 13
13. Kristen Halstead/Robert Knopf, 101.46, 14, 13, 12
14. Katie Donaldson/Brock Jacobs, 97.63, 12, 14, 14

NOVICE LADIES

Pl. Name Total Score SP FS

1. Leah Keiser, 136.66, 3, 1
2. Ashley Cain, 133.95, 1, 2
3. Katarina Kulgeyko, 133.48, 2, 3
4. Gracie Gold, 123.61, 6, 4
5. Courtney Hicks, 118.22, 7, 4, 5
6. Polina Edmunds, 117.97, 4, 6
7. Renee Kono, 111.44, 5, 7

8. Jessica Noelle Calalang, 103.73, 8, 9
9. Courtney Taylor, 98.54, 11, 8
10. Abby Kimmelman, 94.89, 9, 10
11. Allison Timlen, 88.23, 10, 12
12. Nicole Rajic, 80.82, 12, 11

NOVICE MEN

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Nathan Chen, 137.04, 1, 3
2. Emmanuel Savary, 133.65, 2, 2
3. Timothy Dolensky, 133.17, 9, 1
4. Philip Warren, 126.48, 3, 6
5. Austin Wagner, 125.14, 4, 5
6. Harrison Choate, 124.08, 5, 4
7. William Littlefield, 121.50, 7, 7
8. Lukas Kaugars, 120.72, 6, 9
9. Shotaro Omori, 113.16, 10, 8
10. Cordero Zuckerman, 107.86, 8, 11
11. Timothy Koletto, 102.16, 12, 10
12. Troy Tomasello, 97.02, 11, 12

NOVICE PAIRS

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Ashley Cain/Joshua Reagan, 121.78, 2, 1
2. Tori Vollmer/Zack Sidhu, 113.23, 1, 3
3. Mandy Garza/Brandon Frazier, 112.69, 4, 2
4. Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton, 106.01, 6, 5
5. Jessica Noelle Calalang/Daniel O'Shea, 105.72, 7, 4
6. Olivia Oltmanns/Joshua Santillan, 103.16, 3, 8
7. Christina Guterres/Justin Schumann, 101.69, 5, 6
8. Morgan Agster/Adam Civiello, 99.54, 8, 7
9. Morgan Sowa/David Leenen, 96.59, 9, 9
10. Lauren Gifford/Timothy LeDuc, 94.01, 10, 11
11. Marissa Spector/Christopher Nolan, 92.03, 11, 10
12. Meredith Pipkin/Brett Dunie Neustadt, 83.38, 12, 12

NOVICE ICE DANCING

Pl. Name, TS, C1, C2, FD

1. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 112.22, 1, 6, 1
2. Danvi Pham/Vu Pham, 110.65, 2, 1, 3
3. Joylyn Yang/Jean-Luc Baker, 110.06, 3, 2, 2
4. Kristina Rexford/Michael Parsons, 105.56, 4, 3, 4
5. Danielle Gamelin/Alexander Gamelin, 100.40, 6, 4, 8
6. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 99.81, 5, 5, 9
7. Heather Buckner/Nicholas Taylor, 98.08, 7, 7, 7
8. Lauren McKernan/Adam Munday, 97.50, 8, 8, 5
9. Madeline Heritage/Pataniel Fast, 93.23, 9, 11, 6
10. Hannah Rosinski/Paul Shapiro, 89.17, 10, 10, 10
11. Amanda Bertsch/Samuel Rashba, 85.88, 11, 9, 11
12. Kassy Kova/Justin Ross, 76.05, 12, 12, 12

Cup of Berlin 2010

Berlin, Germany, January 15-16

SENIORS

Pl-Team-Country-SP-FS-TS

1. Rockettes, FIN, 83.46-134.64-218.10
2. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 76.38-127.81-204.19
3. **Haydenettes, USA, 77.97-124.39-202.39**
4. Team Berlin 1, GER, 69.09-109.11-178.20
5. United Angels, GER, 59.10-105.49-164.59

6. Evolution, USA, 54.34-80.01-134.35

5. Hot Shivers, ITA, 47.10-84.22-131.32
8. Starlight Team, SUI, 49.92-80.22-130.14
9. Magic Diamonds, GER, 45.64-65.77-111.41
10. Skating Graces, GER, 39.03-68.30-107.33
11. Daises, CZE, 41.41-53.20-94.61

Referee, Michael Schallhart; Technical Controller, Philippe Maitrot; Technical Specialist, Helena Johansson; Assistant Technical Specialist, Anna Larro; Assistant Referee Ice, Uta Limpert; Judges: Marielle Sartre, Seppo Kutti, Massimo Orlandini, Petra Kwiet, Dann Krueger; Data Operator, Weiland Lunders; Replay Operator, Michael Waldvogel

JUNIORS

Pl-Team-Country-SP-FS-TS

1. Team Mystique, FIN, 67.56-107.30-174.86
2. Team Fantasic, FIN, 72.26-94.75-167.01
3. **Lexettes, USA, 61.20-101.01-162.21**
4. Sun City Swing, FIN, 55.27-89.07-144.34
5. Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 54.36-80.60-134.96
6. Cool Dreams, SUI, 47.29-63.50-110.79
7. Kometa, CZE, 41.86-67.50-109.36

8. Synchro Energie, FRA, 43.64-63.04-106.68
- 9. Hot Shivers, ITA, 40.33-64.26-104.59
- 10. Saxony Ice Pearls, GER, 32.05-44.68-76.73

Referee, Michael Schallhart; Technical Controller, Philippe Maitrot; Technical Specialist, Helena Johansson; Assistant Technical Specialist, Andrea Sommerfeldt; Assistant Referee Ice, Uta Limpert;

Judges: Petra Kwiet, Dann Krueger, Marielle Sartre, Massimo Orlandini, Tuija Toivakainen; Data Operator, Michael Waldvogel; Replay Operator, Weiland Lunders

Prague Cup 2010

Prague, Czech Republic, January 28-30

SENIORS

Pl-Team-Country-SP-FS-TS

1. Crystallettes, USA, 57.59-93.57-151.16

2. Olympia, CZE, 51.21-86.28-137.49
 3. Team Dancers, SWI, 45.87-71.71-117.58
 4. Daisies, CZE, 43.46-68.51-111.97
 5. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 40.43-66.16-106.59
 6. Balance, CZE, 38.18-60.39-98.57
- Referee, Helen Volgushev; Technical Controller, Phillippe Maitrot; Technical Specialist, Vera Paulusova; Assistant Technical Specialist, Robi Chambers; Assistant Referee Ice, Hana Kuglerova; Judges: Richard Perez, Christine Mebes, Jisip Josko Cеровac, Marketa Horklova, Angelique Clyde Smith; Data Operator, Pavel Losak; Replay Operator, Jaroslav Placek

JUNIORS

Pl-Team-Country-SP-FS-TS

1. Skyliners, USA, 62.26-102.14-164.40

2. Team Spirit, SWE, 61.71-83.10-140.68
 3. Ice Diamonds, FIN, 50.09-78.97-133.19
 4. Kometa, CZE, 49.14-66.87-116.01
 5. Moccuarie Illusions, AUS, 30.17-49.75-79.92
- Referee, Helen Volgushev; Technical Controller, Anna Tarkkala-Hellstrom; Technical Specialist, Valeria Arsa; Assistant Technical Specialist, Danka Djurasevic; Assistant Referee Ice, Iveta Jonasova; Judges: Michaela Cesaro, Leena Kurri, Hana Kuglerova, Angelique Clyde Smith, Richard Perez; Data Operator, Pavel Losak; Replay Operator, Jaroslav Placek

French Cup

Rouen, France, Feb. 4-6

SENIORS

Name Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 77.14-134.78-211.92
2. Team Unique, FIN, 78.66-127.02-205.68
3. Nexice, CAN, 74.58-128.81-202.76
4. Paradise, RUS, 66.84-126.14-192.98
5. Team Surprise, SWE, 68.90-119.08-187.98
6. Les Supremes, CAN, 70.82-114.12-184.94
7. Golden Blades, FIN, 64.08-87.76-151.84
8. Team Boomerang, SWE, 52.64-98.72-151.36
9. Starlights, USA, 52.96-94.24-147.20
10. **California Gold, USA, 50.70-92.16-141.06**
11. Jingu Ice Messengers, JPN, 48.12-92.16-140.28
12. Starlight Team, SUI, 43.60-82.52-126.12
13. Magic Diamonds, GER, 38.06-73.18-111.24
14. Les Atlantides, FRA, 35.80-70.54-106.34
15. Les Zoulous, FRA, 33.70-53.48-87.18

Referee, Philippe Maitrot; Technical Controller, Christopher Buchanan; Technical Specialist, Monica Schneider; Assistant Technical Specialist, Karen Weismeyer; Assistant Referee Ice, Pierre Alain Varisco; Judges, Nicole Bulmer Schallhart, Petra Tyrbo, Susan Morris, Igor Obraztsov, Jeanette Davey, Ludwig Czoczek, Daniel de Paix; Data Operator, Weiland Lunders; Replay Operator, Daniel Wandersleb

JUNIORS

Name Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Musketeers, FIN, 68.32-111.34-179.66
 2. Nexice Junior, CAN, 62.84-103.60-166.44
 3. Ice Steps, FIN, 62.34-96.86-159.20
 4. Les Supremes Junior, CAN, 57.72-92.60-150.32
 5. **Chicago Jazz, USA, 55.98-91.86-147.84**
 6. Team Convivium, SWE, 52.72-93.46-146.18
 7. Stella Polar, FIN, 52.48-81.02-133.50
 8. Fire Blades, FIN, 44.20-69.40-113.60
 9. Team Synchro Energie, FRA, 36.58-68.10-104.68
 10. Black Diam's, FRA, 41.96-59.48-101.44
 11. Duke Town Twinkle Stars, NED, 27.48-33.20-60.68
- Referee, Pierre Alain Varisco; Technical Controller, Dann Krueger; Technical Specialist, Romy Schone; Assistant Technical Specialist, Monica Schneider; Assistant Referee Ice, Phillippe Maitrot; Judges: Jeanette Davey, Petra Tyrbo, Natacha Pontonnier, Aart Blok, Susan Morris, Nicole Bulmer Schallhart, Leena Laaksonen; Data Operator, Daniel Wandersleb; Replay Operator, Weiland Lunders

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Jeonju, Korea, January, 27-30

LADIES

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Mao Asada, JPN, 57.22-126.74-183.96
 2. Akiko Suzuki, JPN, 58.88-114.84-173.72
 3. **Caroline Zhang, USA, 55.10-105.68-160.78**
 4. **Amanda Dobbs, USA, 57.56-100.67-158.23**
 5. Haruka Imai, JPN, 55.06-100.23-155.29
 6. Min-Jung Kwak, KOR, 53.68-101.03-154.71
 7. Amelie Lacoste, CAN, 54.46-97.99-152.45
 8. Myriane Samson, CAN, 51.60-99.30-150.90
 9. **Alexe Gilles, USA, 48.90-91.98-140.88**
 10. Diane Szmidt, CAN, 48.82-91.28-140.10
 11. Anastasia Gimazetdinova, UZB, 46.88-87.27-134.15
 12. Yan Liu, CHN, 46.60-79.51-126.11
 13. Chae-Hwa Kim, KOR, 41.34-82.57-123.91
 14. Cheltzie Lee, AUS, 40.06-79.33-119.39
 15. Na-Young Kim, KOR, 44.94-64.52-109.46
 16. Lejeanne Marais, RSA, 34.32-68.71-103.03
 17. Ana Cecilia Cantu, MEX, 35.62-65.63-101.25
 18. Crystal Kiang, TPE, 36.18-59.98-96.16
 19. Melinda Wang, TPE, 33.82-61.68-95.50
 20. Lauren Ko, PHI, 35.22-55.55-90.77
- Referee, Pierre De Lacroix; Technical Controller, Joseph Inman; Technical Specialist, Jayson Pearce; Assistant Technical Specialist, Christel Borghi; Judges: Guenther Teichmann, Neil Garrard, Sasha Martinez, Eddy Wu, Yukiko Okabe, Janice Hunter, Wei Shi, Peter Rankin; Data Operator, David Santee; Replay Operator, Roumen Jordanov

MEN

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. **Adam Rippon, USA, 69.56-156.22-225.78**
 2. Tatsuki Machida, JPN, 69.60-147.88-217.48
 3. Kevin Reynolds, CAN, 81.60-131.39-212.99
 4. **Brandon Mroz, USA, 70.88-141.80-212.68**
 5. **Ryan Bradley, USA, 66.22-145.97-212.19**
 6. Nan Song, CHN, 72.95-136.73-209.68
 7. Shawn Sawyer, CAN, 62.36-143.98-206.34
 8. Jialiang Wu, CHN, 70.33-133.27-203.57
 9. Jinlin Guan, CHN, 64.60-131.06-195.66
 10. Denis Ten, KAZ, 70.50-102.15-172.65
 11. Joey Russell, CAN, 57.05-114.71-171.44
 12. Yasuharu Nanri, JPN, 61.48-109.88-171.36
 13. Abzal Rakingaliev, KAZ, 55.91-101.00-156.91
 14. Min-Seok Kim, KOR, 49.49-103.60-153.09
 15. Kento Nakamura, JPN, 49.24-103.45-152.69
 16. Stephen Li-Chung Kuo, TPE, 53.80-95.16-148.96
 17. Kevin Alves, BRA, 41.81-88.95-130.76
 18. Mark Webster, AUS, 51.05-78.68-129.73
 19. Matthew Precious, AUS, 47.44-79.65-127.09
 20. Wun-Chang Shih, TPE, 40.53-61.34-101.87
- Referee, Philippe Meriguet; Technical Controller, Beth Crane; Technical Specialist, Shin Amano; Assistant Technical Specialist, Eun-Hee Lee; Judges, Evgeni Rokhin, Guangying Qin, Susan Lynch, Ariadna Morones Negrete, Kenji Amako, Kristina Lundgren, Eddy Wu, Jeroen Prins, Karen Butcher; Data Operator, Roumen Jordanov; Replay Operator, David Santee

PAIRS

Name, Country, SP-FS-TS

1. Dan Zhang/Hao Zhang, CHN, 65.86-126.36-192.22
 2. **Keauna McLaughlin/Rockne Brubaker, USA, 64.56-105.61-170.17**
 3. Meagan Duhamel/Craig Buntin, CAN, 56.90-101.12-158.02
 4. **Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin, USA, 56.10-101.39-157.49**
 5. Narumi Takahashi/Mervin Tran, JPN, 53.74-98.09-151.83
 6. Yue Zhang/Lei Wang, CHN, 53.74-92.44-146.60
 7. Mylene Brodeur/John Mattatall, CAN, 55.94-90.37-146.31
 8. Huibo Dong/Yiming Wu, CHN, 48.02-88.03-136.05
 9. Kirsten Moore-Towers/Dylan Moscovitch, CAN, 48.76-87.00-135.76
 10. **Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, USA, 44.60-84.31-128.91**
 11. Amanda Sunyoto-Yang/Darryll Sulindro-Yang, TPE, 43.42-73.07-116.49
- Referee, Junko Hiramatsu; Technical Controller, Steve Winkler; Technical Specialist, Alexander Kuznetsov;

Assistant Technical Specialist: Peter Cain, Judges: Heinz-Ulrich Walther, Igor Fedchenko, Ekaterina Serova, Laimute Krauziene, Natasha Skok, Tomie Fukudome, Leanna Caron, Robert Rosenbluth, Hailan Jiang, Data Operator: David Santee, Replay Operator: Roumen Jordanov

ICE DANCING

Name, Country, CD-OD-FD-TS

1. Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje, CAN, 32.67-48.42-85.07-166.16
 2. Allie Hann-McCurdy/Michael Coreno, CAN, 29.89-48.21-81.46-159.56
 3. **Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell, USA, 29.76-46.75-77.69-154.20**
 4. Xintong Huang/Xun Zheng, CHN, 30.12-47.21-73.05-150.38
 5. **Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein, USA, 29.14-44.12-75.66-148.92**
 6. Kharis Ralph/Asher Hill, CAN, 26.57-41.80-79.01-147.83
 7. **Jane Summerson/Todd Gilles, USA, 25.26-43.95-75.32-144.53**
 8. Xiaoyang Yu/Chen Wang, CHN, 28.16-42.48-70.91-141.55
 9. Xueting Guan/Meng Wang, CHN, 21.64-40.53-64.89-127.06
 10. Danielle Obrien/Gregory Merriman, AUS, 21.12-33.90-60.71-115.73
 11. Corenne Bruhns/Andrew Lavrik, MEX, 17.71-34.33-54.03-106.07
 12. Maria Borounov/Evgeni Borounov, AUS, 17.22-32.32-56.49-106.03
- Referee, Mieko Fujimori; Technical Controller, Halina Gordon Poltorak; Technical Specialist, April Sargent Silverstein; Assistant Technical Specialist, Thomas Rauer; Judges: John Millier, Tianyi Zhang, Mark Storton, Gilles Vandembroeck, Yoo-Hwa Lee, Patrik Brecht, Evgeni Rokhin, Kaoru Takino, Janice Hunter; Data Operator, Roumen Jordanov; Replay Operator, David Santee

2010 Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Colonial FSC, West Acton, Mass., Jan. 28-30

Competition Officials: Ann Buckley, Ann Fauver, Cathleen Renzi, Colette Nygren, David Sargent, Devon Hensel, Elizabeth Barrow, Jeanne Matthews, Judith Edmunds, Laura Days, Lauren Neidig, Leonard Colarusso, Lisa Marsocci, Marie Pearce, Michele Blatt, Paula Ziegler, Robert Withrow, Robin Greenleaf, Sara Stephens, Shirley Holdsworth, Shirley Kreppel, Susan Haugh, Wendy Enzmann, William Beharrell

SENIOR

PI. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Haydenettes, 196.36, 1, 1
2. Team Excel, 147.06, 1, 2
3. Synchroettes, 126.72, 3, 3
4. Precisely Right, 119.76, 4, 4

NOVICE

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. Ice Mates, 64.94
2. Synchroettes, 57.61
3. Skyliners, 52.47
4. Team Excel, 48.74
5. Team Image, 45.12
6. Team Esprit, 44.14
7. Ice-Lantics, 40.30

INTERMEDIATE

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. Team Image, 58.01
2. Carolina Ice Synchro, 48.74
3. Team Reflections, 48.15
4. Team Delaware, 45.78
5. The Colonials, 45.64
6. Richmond Twizzlers, 43.88
7. Philadelphia Symmetry, 43.46
8. Ashburn Ice Angels, 40.35
9. Total Scoreal Blades, 40.16
10. Capitol Steps, 39.66
11. Team Esprit, 37.74
12. Genesee Express, 36.78
13. Mirror Images, 34.77

14. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 34.65
15. Achilles Edge, 33.36
16. CNY Blizzard, 30.63
17. The Starlets, 26.51
18. Precisely Right, 24.71

JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Synchroettes, 7/1
2. Skyliners, 4/2
3. Team Delaware, 6/4
4. Team Excel, 4/4
5. Capitol Steps, 4/5
6. Mini Mates, 5/6
7. Icing On The Cape, 7/7
8. Team Millennium, 6/8
9. Philadelphia Symmetry, 7/9

Collegiate

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. University of Delaware, 86.34
2. Team Excel, 78.42
3. University of New Hampshire, 73.04
4. BU Terrierettes, 59.24
5. Oswego State Ice Effects, 59.16
6. Cornell University, 56.60
7. Boston College Eagles, 54.64
8. Orange Experience, 53.30
9. Massachusetts, 49.70

ADULT

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. Esprit de Corps, 50.19
2. DC Edge, 48.69
3. Team Delaware, 48.37
4. The Colonials, 45.39
5. Cutting Edge, 29.77

MASTERS

Team, Maj.

1. DC Edge, 4/1
2. Esprit de Corps, 6/2
3. Essex Blades, 7/3
4. Ice Magic, 7/4

OPEN COLLEGIATE

Team, Maj.

1. University of Maryland Terrapins, 6/1
2. University of Delaware, 4/2
3. Bryant University, 4/3
4. Ice Of The Tiger, 5/4
5. NorthUniversity, 4/5
6. Saint Anselm Lady Hawks, 5/6
7. White Ice, 6/7
8. Robert Morris University, 5/8
9. Catamount Blades, 6/9
10. LU Radiance, 7/10
11. Iced Brew, 7/11

OPEN ADULT

Team, Maj.

1. Esprit De Corps, 6/1
2. DC Edge, 4/2
3. IceLine of Richmond, 5/4
4. Chesapeake Admirals, 4/4
5. Philly Spirit, 5/5
6. Aged to Perfection, 5/6
7. Gotham City Synchro, 4/7
8. Perpetual Motion, 6/8
9. The Colonials, 5/9
10. Carolina Ice Synchro, 6/10
11. Team Delaware Dazzle, 5/11
12. Ice Age II, 7/12

OPEN JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Saratoga Stars, 5/2
2. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/2 TO 15
3. Munchkins Black, 4/2 TO 21
4. Wallace Synergy, 4/4
5. Sparklers, 6/5
6. Shadows, 6/7
7. Chesapeake Sailors, 4/7 TOM 22
8. Capitol Steps, 4/7TOM 24
9. National Blades, 4/9
10. WV Synchro, 5/10 TOM 43
11. Island Waves, 5/10 TOM 44
12. The Sharper Edge, 7/12

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP A

Team, Maj.

1. Munchkins Black, 4/1
2. Chesapeake Sailors, 5/2
3. Saratoga Stars, 6/3
4. National Blades, 4/4

5. WV Synchro, 4/6 TOM 16
6. Island Waves, 4/6 TOM 19
7. Metroliners Gold, 4/6 TOM 22
8. Team Carolinas, 4/7
9. Chill & Grace, 5/8
10. CNY Chill, 4/9
11. Steel City Blades, 7/11

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP B

Team, Maj.

1. Sparklers, 5/2
2. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/2
3. Shadows, 5/3
4. Capitol Steps, 4/5 TOM 14
5. Wallace Synergy, 4/5 TOM 18
6. The Sharper Edge, 4/6 TOM 19
7. Metroliners Black, 4/6 TOM 20
8. Munchkins Red, 5/7
9. Ice Magic, 4/8
10. Bluewater Blades, 6/10
11. Team Panache, 5/11
12. Diamond Blades, 7/12

PRE-JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Precisely Right, 7/2
2. Shimmers, 4/2
3. Wallace Synergy, 4/4 TOM 10
4. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/4 TOM 13
5. Achilles Edge, 4/4 TOM 15
6. Saint Sensations, 5/5
7. Team Esprit, 6/8
8. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 6/9
9. National Blades, 5/9
10. Synchroettes, 4/10
11. (tie) CNY Storm, 4/11

Chesapeake Skipjacks, 4/11

PRE-JUVENILE QR GROUP A

Team, Maj.

1. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/1
2. Shimmers, 4/2
3. Team Esprit, 5/4
4. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 4/4
5. Spitfires, 4/5
6. Ice-Lantics, 4/6 TOM 18
7. Ice Magic, 4/6 TOM 21
8. Central Park Ice, 5/7
9. Team Reflections, 5/8

PRE-JUVENILE QR GROUP B

Team, Maj.

1. Achilles Edge, 5/1
2. Saint Sensations, 4/3 TOM 8
3. CNY Storm, 4/3 TOM 10
4. Chesapeake Skipjacks, 4/3 TOM 11
5. Larriettes, 6/5
6. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/6 TOM 19
7. Sparklers, 4/6 TOM 21
8. Snowflakes, 5/7
9. Ice Pops, 7/9

PRE-JUVENILE QR GROUP C

Team, Maj.

1. Precisely Right, 6/2
2. Wallace Synergy, 4/2
3. Synchroettes, 5/3
4. National Blades, 6/4
5. Bluewater Blades, 4/5
6. WV Synchro Too, 7/6
7. Chill And Grace, 6/7
8. Philadelphia Symmetry, 7/8
9. Genesee Express, 7/9

PRELIMINARY

Team, Maj.

1. Synchroettes - Red, 5/1
2. Team Image, 6/2
3. Skyliners, 6/3
4. Ashburn Ice Angels, 5/5
5. Ice Angels, 4/5
6. Team Excel, 7/6
7. Synchroettes - Yellow, 4/6
8. National Blades, 7/8

PRELIMINARY QR GROUP A

Team, Maj.

1. Synchroettes - Yellow, 7/1
2. National Blades, 6/3
3. Team Excel, 4/3 TO 24
4. Ice Angels, 4/3 TO 28
5. Team Delaware, 5/4
6. Spitfires, 5/6
7. Ice Magic, 4/6

RESULTS

PRELIMINARY QR GROUP B

Team, Maj.

1. Synchroettes - Red, 4/1
2. Team Image, 6/2
3. Skyliners, 5/3
4. Ashburn Ice Angels, 5/4
5. Shooting Stars, 6/5
6. Philadelphia Symmetry, 7/6
7. Team Esprit, 7/7

2010 Midwestern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Eastern Iowa FSC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa January 28-30

Competition Officials: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Bette Todd, Dann Krueger, Daren Patterson, Dorothy Tank, Elliot Schwartz, Felicia Haining-Miller, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Joanne Butcher, Karin Sherr, Kelley Ristau, Kristy Panos, Lauren Whittaker, Marilyn Whelan, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Pamela Pangle, Robert Bauer, Sharon Watson, Shirley Hage, Susan McInnes, Wayne Hundley

SENIOR

PI. Name, SP, FS

1. Miami Univ, 193.43, 1, 1
2. Western Michigan University, 158.04, 3, 2
3. Evolution, 149.61, 2, 3

JUNIOR

PI. Name, SP, FS

1. Team Braemar, 185.91, 1, 1
2. Miami University, 152.70, 2, 2
3. Hockettes, 146.27, 3, 3
4. Windjammers, 116.84, 4, 4

NOVICE

PI. Name, FS

1. Team Braemar, 70.89
2. Crystallettes, 67.69
3. Starlights, 62.85
4. Hockettes, 61.03
5. Evolution, 55.98
6. Chicago Jazz, 53.60
7. Wisconsin Edge, 52.46
8. St Louis Diamond Edges, 45.48
9. Cleveland Edges, 40.39
10. Kicks, 37.70
11. Windjammers, 36.92

INTERMEDIATE

PI. Name, FS

1. Fond Du Lac Blades, 54.57
2. Maplewood Highsteppers, 53.55
3. Dazzlers, 50.70
4. Rhythm and Blades, 50.21
5. Capital Ice Chips, 48.81
6. Synchro Panache, 46.89
7. SwanSyncSation, 45.32
8. Saint Louis Synergy, 43.67
9. Chicago Jazz, 42.99
10. St. Louis Fleur De Lis, 39.93
11. Icettes, 37.92
12. Chicago Skates, 36.73
13. Oxford Ice Crystals, 36.22
14. Ice Kicks, 35.72
15. The Blue Diamonds, 29.47

JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Hockettes, 6/1
2. Chicago Jazz, 4/3 TO 25
3. Crystallettes, 4/3 TO 26
4. Starlights, 4/3 TO 11

5. Saint Louis Synergy, 6/5
6. Phoenix Synchronized Skating, 5/6
7. Wisconsin Edge, 5/8
8. Cleveland Edges, 4/8
9. Dazzlers, 5/9 TO 61
10. Synchro Panache, 5/9 TO 62
11. Kansas City Illusion, 7/11

COLLEGIATE

PI. Name, FS

1. Miami Univ. Collegiate Team, 110.52
2. University of Michigan, 92.21
3. Michigan State Univ., 91.22
4. Univ. of Illinois Collegiate, 88.82
5. Western Michigan University, 84.44
6. University Of Wisconsin, 79.32
7. Adrian College, 55.62

ADULT

PI. Name, FS

1. Crystallettes, 55.30
2. Chicago Jazz, 52.53
3. Western Michigan University Alumni, 45.50
4. Synchro Panache, 42.37
5. Allegro!, 37.72

MASTERS

Team, Maj.

1. Louisville River Stars, 4/1
2. Allegro!, 5/2
3. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
4. Team Glace, 6/4
5. Eble Elite Edgers, 7/5

OPEN COLLEGIATE

Team, Maj.

1. Miami University, 6/1
2. Northwestern University, 4/2
3. Univ. of Notre Dame, 5/5 TOM 17
4. Synergy SST, 5/5 TOM 19
5. Central Michigan Univ., 5/6
6. University of Wisconsin, 4/6
7. University of Illinois, 4/7 TOM 18
8. University of Minnesota - Duluth, 4/7 TOM 21
9. The Ohio University, 4/7 TOM 23
10. Grand Valley State Univ., 7/10
11. Gustie Blades, 7/11

OPEN ADULT

Team, Maj.

1. Hockettes, 7/1
2. Phoenix, 6/2
3. Eble Elite Edgers, 6/3
4. Revolution, 5/5
5. Cleveland Edges, 4/5
6. Louisville River Stars, 6/6
7. Radiance On Ice, 4/7 TOM 23
8. Rivers Edge, 4/7 TOM 25

OPEN JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Team Du Coeur, 5/1
2. Dazzlers, 4/2
3. Crystallettes, 34/3
4. Kansas City Illusion, 4/4 TOM 12
5. Maplewood Highsteppers, 4/4 TOM 14
6. Icettes, 4/5
7. Silver Leafs, 5/7
8. Wisconsin Edge, 5/8
9. Mentor Ice Diamonds, 6/9
10. The Golden Edge, 4/9
11. Rhythm and Blades, 5/10
12. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/10

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP A

Team, Maj.

1. Dazzlers, 7/1
2. Icettes, 4/2
3. Crystallettes, 5/3
4. Team Du Coeur, 4/3

5. Hockettes, 4/4
6. Madison Energy, 6/7
7. Windjammers, 5/7
8. Oxford Ice Crystals, 7/8
9. Southern Magic, 7/9

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP B

Team, Maj.

1. Rhythm And Blades, 5/1
2. Mentor Ice Diamonds, 4/3 TOM 7
3. Silver Leafs, 4/3 TOM 10
4. Wisconsin Edge, 5/4
5. Synchro St. Louis Ice Gems, 6/5
6. Northern Lights, 5/5
7. Chicago Heart And Soul, 7/7
8. Precicettes Elite, 7/8
9. Sparks SST, 7/9

OPEN JUVENILE QR GROUP C

Team, Maj.

1. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/1
2. Maplewood Highsteppers, 5/2
3. Kansas City Illusion, 5/3
4. The Golden Edge, 4/4
5. Shoreline Blaze, 5/5
6. Cleveland Edges, 4/5
7. Extreme, 4/7
8. River City, 7/8

PRE-JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Team du Coeur, 6/2
2. SwanSyncSation, 4/3 TOM 8
3. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/3 TOM 10
4. Louisville River Stars, 6/5
5. Hockettes, 4/5
6. Ice Kicks, 5/6
7. Silver Leafs, 4/6
8. Kicks, 7/8
9. Starfire, 7/9

PRE-JUVENILE QR GROUP A

Team, Maj.

1. Hockettes, 4/2 TOM 5
2. Team du Coeur, 4/2 TOM 6
3. SwanSyncSation, 4/2 TOM 7
4. Silver Leafs, 7/5
5. Starfire, 4/5
6. Cutting Edge IceStars, 6/6
7. Ice Reflections B, 7/7
8. Southern Magic, 7/8

Pre-Juvenile QR Group B

Team, Maj.

1. Louisville River Stars, 7/2
2. Fond Du Lac Blades, 6/3
3. Ice Kicks, 5/3
4. Kicks, 5/4
5. Chicago Skates, 4/4
6. Chicago Heart And Soul, 7/6
7. Phoenix, 6/7
8. Rivers Edge, 7/8

Preliminary

Team, Maj.

1. Chicago Jazz, 4/1
2. Wisconsin Edge, 5/2
3. Cleveland Edges, 6/3
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/4
5. Epic Edge, 7/6
6. SwanSyncSation, 4/6
7. Hockettes, 6/7
8. The Blue Diamonds, 4/8 TOM 31
9. Oxford Ice Crystals, 4/8 TOM 32
10. Extreme, 7/10

2010 Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Eastern Iowa FSC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Competition Officials: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Bette Todd, Dann Krueger, Daren Patterson, Dorothy Tank, Elliot Schwartz, Felicia Haining-Miller, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Joanne Butcher, Karin Sherr, Kelley Ristau, Kristy Panos, Lauren Whittaker, Marilyn Whelan, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Pamela Pangle, Robert Bauer, Sharon Watson, Shirley Hage, Susan McInnes, Wayne Hundley

SENIOR

PI. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. ICE'Kateers, 151.23, 1, 1

NOVICE

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. California Gold, 58.64, 1
2. ICE'Kateers, 56.64, 2
3. Silver Stars, 28.90, 3

INTERMEDIATE

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. Team Del Sol, 59.90
2. Denver Synchronicity, 53.82, 2
3. Epic Edge, 44.92, 3
4. Tremors, 42.99, 4
5. Sierra Storm, 34.47, 5

JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Team Del Sol, 7/1
2. ICE'Kateers, 4/2
3. Rose City Crystals, 7/3

ADULT

PI. Name, TS, FS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 52.62

MASTERS

Team, Maj.

1. Denver Synchronicity, 4/1
2. La Furia, 7/2

OPEN COLLEGIATE

Team, Maj.

1. University Of Colorado, 4/1
2. SST at CSU, 7/2

OPEN ADULT

Team, Maj.

1. Capital Ice, 7/1
2. La Furia, 7/2

OPEN JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. Rose City Crystals, 4/2
2. Denver Synchronicity, 5/3 TOM 11
3. ICE'Kateers, 5/3 TOM 12
4. South Suburban Stars, 4/4
5. La Furia, 5/5
6. Fire Crystals, 4/5
7. Epic Edge, 5/6
8. Tremors, 5/8
9. Everett Silver Blades, 7/9

PRE-JUVENILE

Team, Maj.

1. San Diego Shining Blades, 4/1
2. Tremors, 5/2
3. Fusion, 5/3
4. Sierra Storm, 4/3
5. Silver Stars, 4/5
6. (tie) Dynamic Edge, 4/6
- South Suburban Stars, 4/6

APPOINTMENTS

Bronze Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Flo Abke, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.;
Monica Tischler, Lisle, Ill.

Gold Singles/Pairs Test Judge

John Greenwood, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada; Daren Patterson, Knoxville, Tenn.;
Helen Stocklin-Enright, Seattle, Wash.

Silver Dance Test Judge

Laurie Lind, Livermore, Calif.; Danielle MacFarlane, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Regional Music Coordinator

Ron Binns, Port Washington, Wis.

Gold Dance Test Judge and International

Dance Test Certification

John Greenwood, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario,

Canada

Regional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Wendelyn Jones, Ellicott City, Md.; Daren Patterson, Knoxville, Tenn.

Sectional Dance Competition Judge

Anne Marie Murphy, Sunfish Lake, Minn.;
Laura Murphy, Wooster, Ohio

Regional Accountant

Kathy Anderson, Stillwater, Minn.; Cathy Brinkman, Cincinnati, Ohio; Kelly Ciaramella, Waxhaw, N.C.

Sectional Accountant

Rose Yingling, Red Lion, Pa.

Sectional Announcer

Jason King, Salt Lake City, Utah

TESTS PASSED

Senior Moves In The Field

AnnaLea Albright – Washington FSC
 Brienne Anderson – Dearborn FSC
 Cassie Laree Andrews – Indiana World Sk Acad FSC
 Justin Andrus – Creve Coeur FSC
 Shannon Bell – University of Denver SC
 Meghan Berry – Ann Arbor FSC
 Alannah Binotto – Pittsburgh FSC
 Ashley Kaye Borre – DuPage FSC
 Monica Cheng – ISC of Indianapolis
 Jacquelyn Cruz – Chicago FSC
 Caitlin DeLuca – Detroit SC
 Mallory DeLuca – Arctic FSC
 Hannah Dowell – Oklahoma City FSC
 Nicole Drake – DuPage FSC
 Jade Jin Lai Dube – Colonial FSC
 Scott Dudley – Stars FSC of Texas
 Taylor Federighi – Chicago FSC
 Sonia Feldman – Cleveland SC
 Taylor Fellman – Panthers FSC
 Liza Fiorello – SC of Western New York
 Lindsey Fournet – Houston FSC
 Michaila Giannatti – Desert Ice SC of Arizona
 Abigail Goslin – Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
 Jordan Graham – Individual Member
 Adrianna Henson – Creve Coeur FSC
 Hanna Hoke – Central Carolina SC

Emily Jindra – Orange County FSC
 Megan Kirkpatrick – Pittsburgh FSC
 Katy Klinck – Glissad Academy at Ice Land
 Allison Kohl – Detroit SC
 Hikaru Komiyama – South Bay FSC
 Mercedes Kothe – Washington FSC
 Jordan Lee – Lakewood Winter Club
 Anne Maheux – Champlain Valley SC
 Raelani Mark – Seattle SC
 Margaret McGill – Lake Minnetonka FSC
 Elizabeth Mehlhop – Chicago FSC
 Sonja Mihailovic – Ithaca FSA
 Briana Miller – Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
 Jamie Moschetto – SC of Lake Placid
 Ryder Moses – Windy City FSC
 Hideko Nara – SC of New York
 Annie Nelson – Bismarck FSC
 Lily Ngo – Red Rose FSC
 Alyn O'Brien – SC of Wilmington
 Courtney O'Connor – Individual Member
 Sera Petrillo – Plymouth FSC
 Rachel Prosnitz – North Jersey FSC
 Jessica Reimertz – North Jersey FSC
 Casey Bess Richter – Skokie Valley SC
 Bailey Saebi – Stars FSC of Texas
 Elizabeth Saporito – Dutchess FSC
 Shaun Schaeffer – Body Zone FSC
 Cara Schooley – Detroit SC
 Christina Serva – Strongsville SC

Kaitlyn Shaw – SC of Mt Lebanon
 Sarah Sherman – All Year FSC
 Kayla Sledzinski – Mt. Clemens FSC
 Alexis Stauder – Dutchess FSC
 Shannon Steiner – Southpointe FSC
 Erin Stevens – Carolinas FSC
 Annie Stout – Cleveland SC
 Amelia Strauss – Rye FSC, Inc.
 Erika Torvik – Colorado SC
 Tesslina Trejo – Rochester FSC
 Lauren Umali – Los Angeles FSC
 Emily Walsh – SC of Wilmington
 Madeline Weiner – Detroit SC
 Trudy Wu – Columbus FSC
 Maureen Wu – Detroit SC
Adult Gold Moves In The Field
 Raiford Bonnell – Carolinas FSC
 Heather Metz – Pittsburgh FSC
Senior Free Skate Test
 Zoe Baumgarten – Carolinas FSC
 Kloe Bautista – All Year FSC
 Jenna Beairto – Denver FSC
 Shannon Creedon – SC of Central New York
 Kala Enfield – White Rose FSC
 Elyse Frenchman – Colonial FSC
 Jennifer Gee – SC of San Francisco
 Kyra Hauck – Onyx-Suburban SA
 Brittany Rene Henry – Oklahoma City FSC
 Danielle Honas – Rocky Mountain FSC

Melissa Jagers – Oklahoma City FSC
 Heather Kutz – Coyotes SC of Arizona
 Catherine Lepkowski – Ice House SA
 Yulia Malitskaia – Hickory Hill FSC
 Michelle Kendra Murphy – Highland SC
 Craig Norris – St. Moritz ISC
 Shannon Pecca – All Year FSC
 Alyssa Raimann – SC of New York
 Alexandria Southard – SC of Lake Placid
 Jacqueline Stoner – Onyx-Suburban Skating
 Alana Jane Tao – Highland SC
 Taylor Tran – Lakewood Winter Club
Adult Gold Free Skate Test
 Christine Lasko Cadalzo – Rye FSC
 Yelena Dashevsky – Columbus FSC
 Diego Heminway – All Year FSC
 Dennis Wickline – All Year FSC
Gold Dance Test
 Alison Carey – Skating Club of Boston
 Dana Fenster – FSC of Birmingham, Mich.
 Molly Snyder – Carolinas FSC
Adult Gold Dance Test
 Mary Jo Adams – Carolinas FSC
Solo Gold Dance Test
 Amanda Jagow – Onyx-Suburban SA
Adult Gold Free Dance
 Jill Ramos – Saratoga Springs FSC

MEMORIAL FUND

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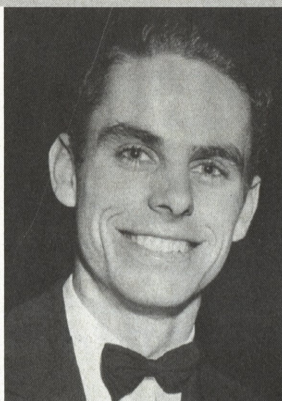
Dr. Elizabeth and Mr. Don Weiner

OBITUARY

TURNER

Eugene Turner, the only skater to medal in three disciplines at the same U.S. Figure Skating Championships and a pairs partner of Sonia Henie in her Hollywood Ice Revue, passed away Jan. 14, 2010. He was 89.

In 1936, Turner won his first Pacific Coast championship, a title he would capture three more times in his career. He was appointed a national judge in 1939 and a national dance judge in 1940; at the time, he was the youngest person in the country to earn the latter distinction.



He won the U.S. junior title in 1938 and claimed his first of two consecutive U.S. senior titles in 1940.

Turner's finest hour occurred at the 1941 U.S. Championships in Boston, where he successfully defended his men's championship, won the pairs crown with Donna Atwood and placed second in ice dancing with Elizabeth Kennedy.

Turning professional after the 1941 season, Turner was one of the featured performers on Henie's famed touring show. He

joined the Army Air Corps in 1943, flying 69 missions over Germany during World War II.

After the war, he got into acting and teaching, counting among his pupils Ice Follies star Richard Dwyer ("Mr. Debonair"), Olympian Catherine Machado, two-time World silver medalist Tim Brown, U.S. pairs champion Dudley Richards, Olympic champion Tenley Albright, and World pairs champions and Olympic silver medalists Karol Kennedy and Peter Kennedy.

Turner stayed involved in the sport even after he stepped away from coaching, writing a column for SKATING magazine called "Turner's Turn."

He was elected to the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 1983.



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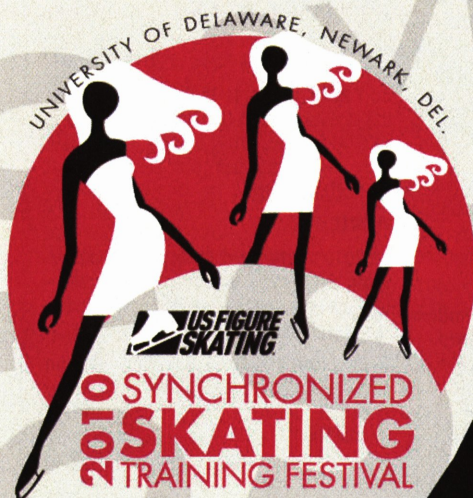
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MARCH

10-14 | 2010 Skate Aloha sponsored by Hawaii FSC at Ice Palace Skating Arena, 4510 Salt Lake Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96818. For more information call Lisa Kayser at 808.672.6534.

11-14 | 2010 Garden City Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Garden City FSC at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. For more information contact Cynthia Keller at cares123@wowway.com

11-14 | 2010 Jackson Hole Invitational sponsored by Jackson Hole FSC at Snow King Center Ice Rink, 100 East Snow King Ave., Jackson, WY 83001. For more information call Mary Merrell at 307.733.7220.

11-14 | 2010 Denver Invitational sponsored by the Denver FSC at South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Centennial, CO 80121. For more information call Alicia Carr at 720.480.3345.

11-14 | 2010 Pacific Coast Adult Sectional Nonqualifying Competition sponsored by Glacier Falls FSC at Paramount Iceland, 8041 Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723. For more information call George Rossano at 310.766.9802.

12-14 | Garden City 30th Annual Competition sponsored by Garden City FSC at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, NJ 48135. For more information call Dora Bautiola at 734.421.0980.

12-13 | 2010 Eau Claire Figure Skating Competition sponsored by the Eau Claire FSC at Hobbs Ice Arena, 915 Menomonee St., Eau Claire, WI 54701. For more information call LaNette Flunker at 715.836.2088.

12-14 | 2010 Magnolia Open sponsored by Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 10800 Davis Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004. For more information call Jeannette Doney at 770.641.8034.

12-14 | 2010 Adult Midwestern Sectional Nonqualifying Championships sponsored by the Indiana World Skating Academy FSC at Indiana World Skating Academy, 201 South Capitol Ave., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46225. For more information call Rochelle Revor at 317.797.0282.

13 | Central Minnesota Basic Skills Competition Series 2010 Battle of the Blades sponsored by Alexandria FSC at Runestone Community Center, 802 Third Avenue West, Alexandria, MN 56308. For more information call Kris Juetner at 320.846.3365.

13-14 | 2010 Colonial Adult Winter Challenge sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719. The event will include adult Theatre on Ice for the first time. For more information contact Cheryl Milroy at winterchallenge@colonialfsc.com

13-14 | 2010 Skate Challenge sponsored by the SC of Central New York at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Ct., Cicero, NY 13039. For more information call Katherine Picciotti at 315.952.5866.

13 | 2010 Wallace Spring Synchro Open sponsored by Wallace FSC at Wallace Civic Center-Gatez Arena, 1000 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420. For more informa-

tion call Tracy Pichnarcik at 978.582.1135.

13 | Spin Into Spring 2010 sponsored by Palouse Hills SC at Rotary Veteran's Memorial Pavilion and Ice Rink, 1021 Harold St., Moscow, ID 83843. For more information call Brenda Tarkinton at 509.332.7311.

13-14 | Skating Club of Central New York 2010 Basic Skills Competition at Cicero Twin Ice Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Ct., Cicero, NY 13039. For more information call Katherine Picciotti at 315.952.5866.

13 | 2010 Lee Ann Miele Garden State Syncho Classic sponsored by Essex SC of NJ at Richard J. Codey Arena at South Mountain, 560 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052. For more information contact Michelle Blatt at nysk8judge@verizon.net.

13 | 2010 Lansing Basic Skills Competition at Suburban Ice East Lansing, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, MI 48823. For more information call Meghan Carmody at 734.417.8967.

13 | 2010 St. Patrick's Day Basic Skills Competition at the Polar Ice House at The Factory, 1839-200 South Main St., Wake Forest, NC 27587. For more information call Scott Cudmore at 919.302.6151.

14 | Fifth Annual Shamrock Open at Carlson Ice Arena, 4150 North Perryville, Loves Park, IL 61111. For more information call Brigitte Carlson Roquet at 815.969.4073.

14 | 2010 Basic Skills In-House Competition sponsored by Martha's Vineyard FSC at Martha's Vineyard Arena, 91 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Rd., Oak Bluffs, MA 02557. For more information call Beth Blankenship-O'Connor at 774.521.9870.

14 | 2010 Sunflower Classic Competition sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC at Minnetonka Ice Arena, 3401 Williston Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. For more information call Nancy Kaufmann at 612.860.7760.

14 | 2010 Michigan High School Figure Skating Team Competition at Garden City Ice Arena, 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. For more information call Dorothy Tank at 313.386.7936.

14 | 11th Annual Wollman Open Competition sponsored by the SC of New York at Wollman Rink in Central Park. For more information call Elise Preston at 917.273.5059.

19-21 | 2010 Louisville Skating Academy Invitational sponsored by Louisville Skating Academy at Iceland Sports Complex, 1701 UPS Dr., Louisville, KY 40223. For more information call Rebecca Hatch-Purnell at 502.415.0962.

19-21 | 2010 Cleveland Invitational Championship sponsored by Center Ice SC at Center Ice Sports Complex, 8319 Port Jackson Ave., Northwest, North Canton, OH 44720. For more information call Michelle Wetzal at 330.575.3040.

19-20 | 2010 Glacier Challenge sponsored by Missoula FSC at Glacier Ice Rink, 1101 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801. For more information call Harvey Herggett at 406.329.3172.

20 | 2010 Skate Green Bay Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Greater Green Bay

FSC at De Pere Ice Arena, 1450 Fort Howard Ave., De Pere, WI 54115. For more information call Amy Biederwieden at 920.819.6047.

20-21 | 2010 Maize and Blue Matchup - University of Michigan Intercollegiate Competition in Ann Arbor, MI. For more information contact Emily Hammond at emilyham@umich.edu.

20-21 | 2010 Skate Cincinnati sponsored by the FSC of Cincinnati at Sports Plus, 10765 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241. For more information call Stacy Brinkman at 513.529.6650.

20-21 | 2010 Massena Invitational sponsored by the Massena FSC at Massena Arena, Route 37, Harte Haven Shopping Center, Massena, NY 13662. For more information call Tammy Savage at 315.769.3386.

20 | Fourth Annual Phillips Academy Basic Skills Competition at South Rink Phillips Academy, 254 South Main St., Andover, MA 01830. For more information call Michaela Maione at 978.273.5482.

20 | The Rinx 2010 Basic Skills Competition at The Rinx, 660 Terry Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788. For more information call Cathryn Schwab at 631.232.3222, ext. 209.

20 | State Games 2010 sponsored by Watertown FSC at George E. Maas Ice Arena, 112 21st St., Southwest, Watertown, SD 57201. For more information call Tracy Ronke at 605.882.0679.

20 | Fourth Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Southern New Hampshire SC at JFK Coliseum, 303 Beech St., Manchester, NH 03103. For more information call Lisa Montanile at 603.882.4306.

20 | Spring Fling 2010 at Cool Sports, 110 South Watt Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934. For more information contact Nikki Copeland-Ronayne at nikkic@coolsportstn.com

21 | 2010 Southern Connecticut Basic Skills Competition at Terry Connors Skating Rink, 1125 Cove Rd., Stamford, CT 06903. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

21 | Third Annual South Shore Open at Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rockland, MA 02370. For more information call Katy Hayden at 781.749.3807.

25-28 | 2010 Skate La Grande San Diego at San Diego Ice Arena, 11048 Ice Skate Place, San Diego, CA 92126. For more information visit www.skatelagrande.org.

26-28 | Skate Houston 2010 sponsored by the Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16229 Lexington, Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information call Jennifer Simon at 713.408.0416.

26-28 | 31st Biennial Niagara Invitational & Basic Skills Event sponsored by the Buffalo SC at Buffalo State College Ice Arena, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. For more information call Ann-Marie Hilton at 716.390.2129.

27 | 2010 Farmington Spring Festival sponsored by Tri-County FSC at Schmitz-Maki Arena, 114 Spruce St., Farmington, MN 55024. For more information call Judy Martin at 952.461.3352.

27-28 | 2010 Michigan High School Figure Skating Team Competition at Midland Civic Arena, 405 Fast Ice, Drive, Midland, MI 48642. For more information call Dorothy Tank at 313.386.7936.

27-28 | Skate Houston 2010 Basic Skills sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information call Rene Bloom at 281.451.0168.

27 | 2010 Boston Synchronized Skating Classic sponsored by the Skating Club of Boston at the Skating Club of Boston, 1240 Soldiers' Field Rd., Boston, MA 02135. For more information contact Deanna Benson at 781.727.2127.

27 | Fiesta Skate 2010 at Kingsgate Ice Arena, 14326 124th Avenue Northeast, Kirkland, WA 98034. For more information call Kim Derickson at 425.821.7133, ext. 104.

27 | Ice World's 11th Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition at Ice World, 1300 Governor Ct., Abingdon, MD 21009. For more information call Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000, ext. 101.

27 | Challenge Cup 2010 at Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd., Burlington, VT 05408. For more information call Kathy Knauer at 802.865.7558.

27 | 2010 Blades in Decatur sponsored by Point Mallard FSC at Point Mallard Ice Complex, 2901D Point Mallard Circle, Decatur, AL 35601. For more information contact Heidi Langham at sk8coach@bellsouth.net.

27 | 27th Garren Invitational Figure Skating Competition sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC at Houston Field House on the RPI Campus, 110 8th St., Troy, NY 12180. For more information call Ann Seman at 518.424.7163.

27-28 | 2010 Morris Open at WG Mennen Sports Arena, 161 East Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. For more information call Wendell Miyaji at 908.443.1398.

27-28 | 2010 Crystalline Classic Showcase 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 707.546.7147.

27 | 2010 Skate the Zoo at S2 Arena, 5076 Sports Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49009. For more information call Amy Bauer at 269.598.9184.

28 | 2010 March to Victory sponsored by the Granite State FSC at Tri-Town Ice Arena, 311 West River Rd., Hooksett, NH 03016. For more information call Jen Hurley at 603.270.1022.

APRIL

3 | 2010 Skate Great Basic Skills Competition at Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeview Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075. For more information call Kristin Hawayek at 716.652.2154.

8-11 | 2010 Central Carolina Skating Classic Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Central Carolina SC at Triangle SportsPlex 1, Dan Kidd Dr., Hillsborough, NC 27278. For more information call Bonnie Boaz at 919.929.9595.

8-11 | Fiesta Skate 2010 sponsored by SC of Phoenix at Polar Ice-Peoria 15829 North 83rd Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382. For more infor-

CALENDAR

mation call Andrea Palos at 602.451.9146.

8-11 | Skate Kansas City 2010 sponsored by the Kansas City FSC at Independence Event Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call Ilene McKaig at 913.461.4210.

8-11 | 2010 Central Carolina Skating Classic sponsored by Central Carolina SC at Triangle SportsPlex, 1 Dan Kidd Dr., Hillsborough, NC 27278. For more information call Bonnie Boaz at 919.489.3400.

9-11 | 2010 Mt. Lebanon Invitational sponsored by SC of Mt. Lebanon at Mt. Lebanon Recreational Center, 900 Cedar Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228. For more information call Timothy Leavey at 412.835.0333.

10 | 2010 Helena Last Chance Spring Skate sponsored by Helena FSC at Helena Ice Arena, 400 Lola St., Helena, MT 59601. For more information call Kathy Lamping at 406.431.4144.

10 | 2010 Silver Skate sponsored by South Dayton FSC at Kettering Ice Arena, 2900 Gleggery Dr., Kettering, OH 45420. For more information call Lori Clark at clarklo50@yahoo.com

10 | 2010 Hodag Skate Classic sponsored by Rhinelander FSC at Rhinelander Ice Association, 2021 Timber Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501. For more information call Alison French at 715.362.8889.

10 | 2010 Bourne Skating Club's Skate Into Spring Basic Skills Competition sponsored by The Bourne SC at John Gallo Arena, 231 Sandwich Rd., Buzzards Bay, MA 02532. For more information call Deborah Dever at 508.759.7321.

10-11 | 2010 Worcester Open sponsored by SC of Worcester at Buffone Arena, 284

Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604. For more information call Lynne Frederickson-Bonnici at 508.845.1331.

10 | 2010 Midwest Basic Skills at Eagles Nest Ice Arena, 103 Lincoln St., Verona, WI 53593. For more information contact Dena Hiline at marieh2001@hotmail.com

11 | 7th Annual 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.

11 | 2010 Arctic Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Arctic FSC at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. For more information contact Diane Keils at dmkeils@aol.com.

11 | Fourth Annual Skating Club of Worcester Basic Skills Competition at Buffone Skating Arena, 284 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604. For more information call Denise Raskett at 508.867.3230.

11 | Skate Kansas City 2010 sponsored by Kansas City FSC at Independence Event Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call Ilene McKaig at 913.461.4210.

11 | 2010 Spring Preview sponsored by Vaca Valley FSC at Vacaville Ice Sports, 551 Davis St., Vacaville, CA 95688. For more information call Alicia Adema at 707.373.5885.

15-18 | 2010 Lady Bug Competition sponsored by Glenwood FSC at Homewood Flossmoor Ice Arena, 777 Kedzie, Homewood, IL 60422. For more information call May Wiza at 708.957.4063.

16 | Skate by the Lake 2010 at Manchester Ice & Events Centre, 200 East Lake St., McCall, ID 83638. For more information call Richele Rapp at 208.315.3140.

16-17 | Butch Cassidy Invitational 2010 at Rock Springs Family Recreation Center, 3900 Sweetwater Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901. For more information contact Kelly Davis, kellyd0869@yahoo.com.

16-18 | 2010 Southern Connecticut Open at Darien Ice Rink, 55 Old King's Highway North, Darien, CT 06820. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

17 | 2010 Snow Crystal at the Pettit National Ice Center, 500 South 84th St., Milwaukee, WI 53214. For more information call Carrie Sinclair at 414.935.4779.

17-18 | 2010 Spring Fling sponsored by the Strongville SC at Hoover Arena, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. For more information contact Scott Zimmerman at springfling2010@ameritech.net.

17 | 2010 Mountain Town Classic at the I.C.E. Arena, 5165 East Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. For more information call Ginni Phillips at 989.560.3871.

17 | 2010 Spring Funtastics at Apex Ice Arena, 13150 West 72nd Ave., Arvada, CO 80005. For more information call Carol Zeles at 303.979.0802.

17 | 2010 Hardee's Iceplex Rising Star "Plus" Competition sponsored by Creve Coeur FSC at Hardee's IcePlex, 16851 North Outer 40 Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63005. For more information call Shirley Sisson at 636.394.4947.

23-25 | 2010 Tri-States Freestyle Competition sponsored by Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights at Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. For more information call Diane Moore at 216.496.1741.

23-25 | 20th Annual Skate Nashville sponsored by the Nashville FSC at A Game Sport-

splex Southern Ice Arena), 215 Gothic Ct., Franklin, TN 37067. For more information call Linda Sanders at 615.260.4541.

24 | 2010 Rings Around Richmond sponsored by Richmond FSC at SkateNation Plus, 4350 Pouncey Tract Rd., Glen Allen, VA 23060. For more information call 804.921.0499.

24 | 2010 Spring Spectacular at the Steel Ice Center, 320 East 1st St., Bethlehem, PA 18018. For more information call Angela M. Roesch-Davis at 610.625.4744, ext. 226.

24-25 | Gold Rush Showcase on Ice sponsored by Capital City FSC at Skatetown Ice Arena, 1009 Orlando Ave., Roseville, CA 95661. For more information call Mheyenne Davison at 916.725.1511.

25 | 2010 Colonial FSC Basic Skills Spring Skate at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Route 11, Boxboro, MA 01719. For more information go online at <http://www.colonialfsc.com>

25 | Sunshine Open 2010 at Hoffman Estates Community Center and Ice Arena, 1685 West Higgins Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. For more information call Liz Miles at 847.529.2935.

25 | 2010 Skate Into Spring Fiesta San Antonio sponsored by Northwoods Ice Center at Ice and Golf Center at Northwoods, 17537 Henderson Pass, San Antonio, TX 78232. For more information call Bernadette Meagher at 210.490.9550, ext. 2226.

30-May 1 | 2010 Break the Ice sponsored by the Greenville FSC at The Pavilion, 400 Scottswood Rd., Taylors, SC 29687. For more information call Kristen Martin at 864.477.9404.

CORRECTIONS

- On page 22 of the February issue of SKATING, we omitted Michelle Kwan's name under the listing of U.S. Olympic medalists. Kwan, of course, won the Olympic silver medal in 1998 and the Olympic bronze medal in 2002. To Michelle and SKATING magazine readers, we are sorry for the omission.

U.S. Olympic medalists Ladies

- 2006 – Sasha Cohen, silver
- 2002 – Sarah Hughes, gold; Michelle Kwan, bronze
- 1998 – Tara Lipinski, gold; Michelle Kwan, silver
- 1994 – Nancy Kerrigan, silver
- 1992 – Kristi Yamaguchi, gold; Nancy Kerrigan, bronze
- 1988 – Debi Thomas, bronze
- 1984 – Rosalynn Sumners, silver
- 1980 – Linda Fratianne, silver
- 1976 – Dorothy Hamill, gold
- 1972 – Janet Lynn, bronze
- 1968 – Peggy Fleming, gold
- 1960 – Carol Heiss, gold; Barbara Ann Roles, bronze
- 1956 – Tenley Albright, gold; Carol Heiss, silver
- 1952 – Tenley Albright, silver
- 1932 – Maribel Vinson, bronze
- 1928 – Beatrix Loughran, bronze
- 1924 – Beatrix Loughran, silver
- 1920 – Teresa Weld, bronze

Men

- 2002 – Timothy Goebel, bronze
- 1992 – Paul Wylie, silver

- 1988 – Brian Boitano, gold
- 1984 – Scott Hamilton, gold
- 1980 – Charles Tickner, bronze
- 1968 – Tim Wood, silver
- 1964 – Scott Allen, bronze
- 1960 – David Jenkins, gold
- 1956 – Hayes Jenkins, gold; Ronald Robertson, silver; David Jenkins, bronze
- 1952 – Dick Button, gold; James Grogran, bronze
- 1948 – Dick Button, gold

Pairs

- 1988 – Jill Watson/Peter Oppegard, bronze
- 1984 – Caitlin Carruthers/Peter Carruthers, silver
- 1960 – Nancy Ludington/Ron Ludington, bronze
- 1952 – Karol Kennedy/Peter Kennedy, silver
- 1932 – Beatrix Loughran/Sherwin Badger, silver

Ice dancing

- 2006 – Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, silver
- 1976 – Colleen O'Connor/Jim Millns, bronze

- Because of recording errors at U.S. Figure Skating, Aileen Kahre Arenson and Barbara Gloeckner were not included on the "Judges Recognition" page in January's issue of SKATING magazine or in the 2010 U.S. Championships program. Arenson received her first appointment on Oct. 1, 1964. 2009 marked her 45th year of service. Gloeckner received her first appointment in 1974 and has served the association for 35 years. Aileen and Barbara, congratulations!

- In the January issue of SKATING magazine, there was a recipe for "Whole Wheat Banana Bread" in the Sports Science column on page 54. Unfortunately, there was an ingredient missing. We apologize for the omission. Here is the complete list of ingredients and the recipe.

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ¼ cup canola oil
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 egg
- 1 cup mashed ripe banana
- 1/3 cup buttermilk

Combine first three ingredients.

Cream oil and honey until well mixed; add egg and mix well.

Combine mashed banana and buttermilk; add to creamed mixture alternately with dry ingredients, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened.

Bake in loaf pan at 350 degrees F for approximately 50 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean.

Makes 16 slices. Each slice has 106 calories, 2.2 grams protein, 16.3 grams carbohydrate, 4.0 grams fat, 1.4 grams fiber. Note: This is a dense and moist bread. It improves upon refrigerating and freezes well.

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The 2010 U.S. Olympic Team, back row (l-r) Mark Ladwig, Jeremy Barrett, Johnny Weir, Jeremy Abbott, Evan Lysacek, Charlie White, Ben Agosto and Evan Bates;
front row (l-r) Amanda Evora, Caydee Denney, Mirai Nagasu, Rachael Flatt, Meryl Davis, Tanith Belbin and Emily Samuelson

