# SKATING

March 2011

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Official Publication of U.S. Figure Skating



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### Inside

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Clubs, rinks celebrate National Skating Month

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World Champion, Olympic & World Coach & Choreographer

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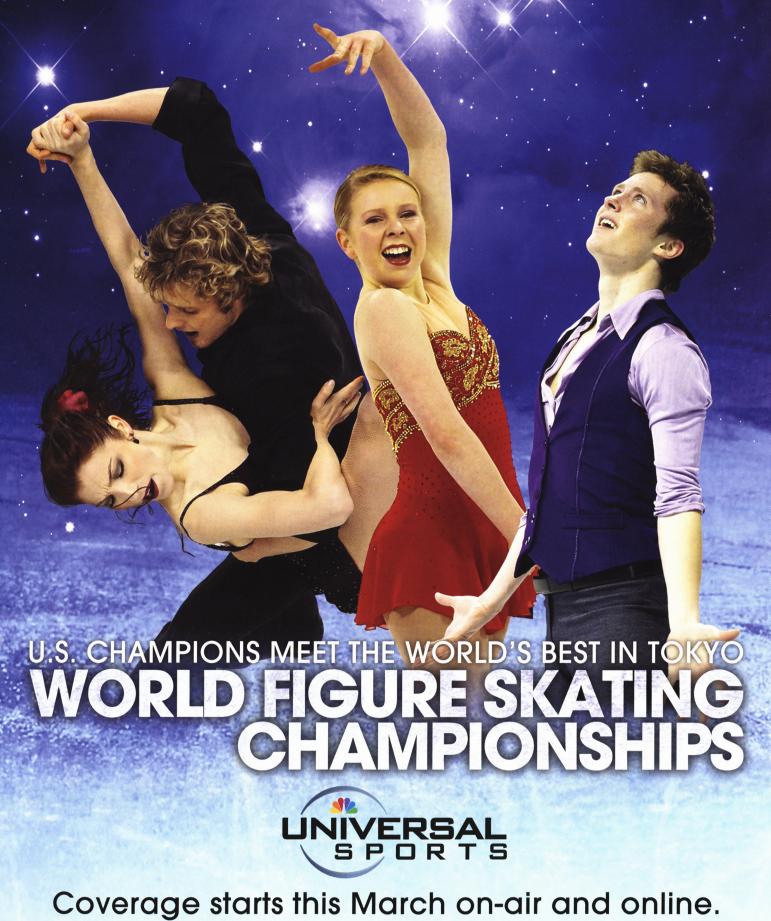
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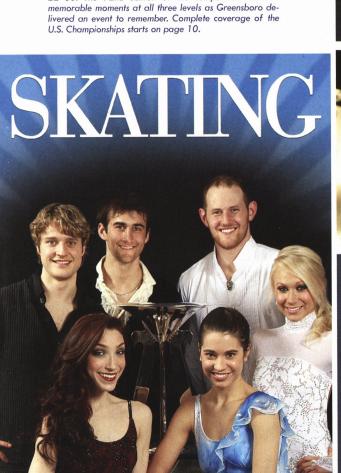
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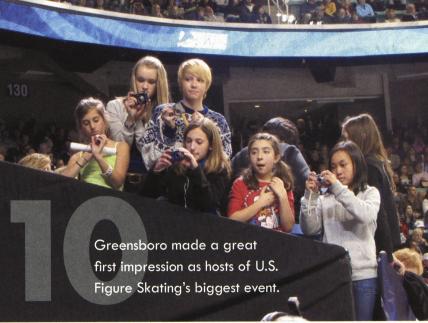
# On the cover

Photo by Paul Harvath

The 2011 U.S. champions (I-r) Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Ryan Bradley, John Coughlin, Caitlin Yankowskas and Alissa Czisny added their names to the prestigious U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy with their performances at the AT&T U.S. Championships in Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 22–30. The 92nd edition of the competition featured memorable moments at all three levels as Greensboro delivered an event to remember. Complete coverage of the U.S. Championships starts on page 10.









1961 U.S. World
Team is inducted into
U.S. Figure Skating
Hall of Fame.

National Skating
Month a big success
from coast to coast



# CONGRATS TO GREENSBORO ON FIRST-CLASS EVENT

ran into Hill Carrow, the chief organizer of the 2011 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships, on the Monday morning following the competition. We were in a store in the host hotel lobby, where I congratulated him and his staff on an exceptional event.

I told him how impressed I was with how smoothly things ran and on how well his volunteers and team performed throughout the nine days at the Greensboro Coliseum. Remember, it was the first time in the event's 97-year history that the U.S. Championships had taken place in North Carolina, and the Greensboro crew performed like our skating champions.

They were helpful, cordial and knowledgeable, and worked seamlessly with U.S. Figure Skating's event staff, volunteers and officials to fashion a first-class event. They seemed to all be in the right places, saying the right things, helping in every way they could. Never did I have to wait more than a few minutes for a shuttle bus, and the host hotel appeared to meet everyone's needs.

One of the most convenient aspects of the event was having the competition, practice ice and FanFest under one roof. Everyone easily moved from one area of the Coliseum to another, without having to get into their vehicles or walk a long way.

"That was one of the best features of this event," said Bob Dunlop, who is U.S. Figure Skating's senior director of events. "Having everything together made all the difference for our skaters, fans and officials."

As I finished my conversation with Hill, I mentioned that it would be great if U.S. Figure Skating returned to North Carolina for a future event.

"We would definitely consider that," he said.

The success of the 2011 U.S. Championships in Greensboro certainly gives U.S. Figure Skating another viable territory to consider when it evaluates future competition sites. The event's success also is certain to increase participation and awareness of skating in the Carolinas.

Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie, who coaches in the Charlotte area, mentioned to me that the event will undoubtedly help area clubs grow and prosper as they ride the event's wave of momentum.

While the behind-the-scenes efforts were special, so too were the performances of the skaters as well as the night that the 1961 U.S. World Team was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame as the class of 2011.

Following an induction ceremony and reception for the 83 family members representing the '61Team, there was an in-arena recognition ceremony. Olympians and Hall of Fame members Peggy Fleming and Wylie, standing in the spotlight, honored each of the 34 members of the team in an emotional tribute. (See induction story on page 40).

I also had the privilege to meet and interview several of the family members prior to the induction ceremonies, I enjoyed those conversations and met some really great people.

In closing, I'd again like to congratulate Hill, Greensboro and North Carolina on a wonderful event. Complete coverage of the 2011 U.S. Championships begins on page 10.

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HILL CARROW CHECKS OUT FANFEST DURING HIS DAILY ROUNDS AT THE U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GREENSBORD, N.C.

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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.

# icebreakers swing

## INJURY FORCES DENNEY AND BARRETT TO WITHDRAW FROM FOUR CONTINENTS

Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett, the 2010 U.S. pairs champions, did not compete at last month's 2011 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei, because of a leg injury suffered by Barrett.

The team was practicing when, following the landing of side-by-side triple toe loops, Denney's blade cut Barrett's right calf, requiring 42 stitches.

"We had just completed another clean long program and wanted to do one more set of side-by-side jumps," Denney said. "I landed mine clean, but Jeremy had not completed his as smoothly and, before I knew it, my blade had hit his leg."



CAYDEE DENNEY AND

The team was replaced at the event by first alternates Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker, who most recently placed fourth at the 2011 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, N.C.

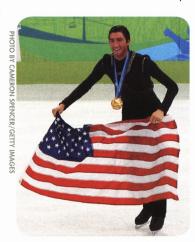
Denney and Barrett, who represented the United States at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, are the first alternates for the 2011 ISU World Figure Skating Championships, March 21–27 in Tokyo.

Their 2010-11 season has included a fifth-place finish at the NHK Trophy, a fourth-place showing at Skate America and a bronze-medal finish at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

### LYSACEK EARNS USOC SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Evan Lysacek, the 2010 Olympic champion and two-time U.S. champion, has been honored with the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) SportsMan of the Year Award.

"I was truly honored to represent the United States in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games," Lysacek said. "I am extremely proud to receive this prestigious award and humbled to see my name next to the incredible list of past recipients."



EVAN LYSACEK BASKS IN THE GLORY AFTER WINNING THE 2010 OLYMPIC TITLE IN VANCOUVER

Lysacek's memorable performance in Vancouver elevated his career to new heights. He triumphed over Russia's Evgeni Plushenko, favored to win his second Olympic title. Lysacek is the second figure skater to be named SportsMan of the Year. Fellow Olympic champion Scott Hamilton was honored in 1981.

Since 1974, the U.S. Olympic Committee has chosen a SportsMan of the Year, as well as a SportsWoman of the Year. Past honorees include Lance Armstrong, Michael Phelps, Michelle Kwan and Nastia Liukin. The winners are decided by votes from various USOC representatives, Olympic athletes and members of the me-

Since his Olympic win, Lysacek has kept busy. He was the runner-up on the 10th season of "Dancing with the Stars," toured the country with Smucker's Stars on Ice and was nominated for "Best Male U.S. Olympic Athlete" at the ESPY Awards.

# COLORADO SPRINGS TO HOST 2012 FOUR CONTINENTS

The ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships will return to American soil in 2012. U.S. Figure Skating and the International Skating Union announced in late January that Colorado Springs, Colo., will host the competition next year. Skaters from North America, Africa, Asia and Australia will compete. The event will be held at the Colorado Springs World Arena from Feb. 6 to Feb. 12.

"We look forward to welcoming the world's best figure skaters back to the United States for this prestigious competition," U.S. Figure Skating President Patricia St. Peter said.

This is not the first time the city has hosted the championship. It was held in Colorado Springs in 2006 and 2007. In addition, the city has hosted several other major figure skating competitions, including five World Championships, six U.S. Championships and three Skate Americas.

# skind icebreakers

### LYSACEK MAKES 'POWER 100' LIST

Evan Lysacek has conquered the ice and is now working to take on the business world.

The 2010 Olympic champion was recently named to *Bloomberg Businessweek's* Power Sports 100 list, which celebrates the most powerful athletes on and off the field. Athletes were chosen based on their on-field attributes such as rankings or statistics, and off-field attributes such as expected endorsement potential and earnings. The Power 100 began in 2007.

Lysacek, 25, is ranked at No. 82. Some of his key sponsors are Coca-Cola, AT&T, FlexJet and Vera Wang, *Bloomberg* reports.

NFL superstar Peyton Manning was ranked No. 1 on this year's list.

Since winning the men's competition at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Lysacek has been busy headlining the Stars on Ice tour, appearing on ABC's hit television show "Dancing with the Stars" and making appearances across the country.

He is also involved with various charitable organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Special Olympics. In addition, he serves on the board for Figure Skating in Harlem, a nonprofit organization that provides young girls with educational and skating opportunities, and he is a spokesperson for U.S. Figure Skating's RISE event.

### SARAH HUGHES TO BE HONORED AT SKATING WITH THE STARS GALA

Many Olympic skaters will soon take to the ice in Central Park for a great cause — the Skating with the Stars gala.

The nonprofit organization Figure Skating in Harlem will host its annual benefit on April 4. Among the honorees are 2002 Olympic champion Sarah Hughes, author and figure skating judge Tina Lundgren and Macy's Chairman and CEO Terry Lundgren.

The event, which will take place at the Wollman Rink in New York City, raises funds for the organization's youth development program and a new Leading Edge Skating and Education Center.

Figure Skating in Harlem provides girls with education and skating opportunities to help build self-worth and promote physical well-being and academic achievement.

Guests of the event will have the chance to skate with many Olympians including Hughes, Evan Lysacek, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto and Rachael Flatt. This is the second year Flatt has participated, and she is excited to be a part of the experience.

"Figure Skating in Harlem is a wonderful organization because it encourages young girls to stay physically and mentally motivated," she said.

"It is an amazing organization because it promotes a healthy lifestyle while building self-esteem and self-confidence. There are not too many organizations that accomplish that all at once."

For tickets, call 212. 675.9474.

— Kama Korvela

SARAH HUGHES



U.S. OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS SARAH HUGHES, TARA LIPINSKI AND EVAN LYSACEK RING THE CLOSING BELL AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE ON FEB. 15, 2011 IN NEW YORK CITY.



# BRITNEY SIMPSON EARNS STATE HONOR

Dedication. Hard work. Commitment. It's not easy being a figure skater and Britney Simpson knows that. And now, she's being rewarded for her efforts.

Simpson, who is a pairs skater, has been named 2011 Colorado Sportswoman of the Year – Most Promising Athlete. Simpson and Nathan Miller were the 2010 U.S. junior silver medalists.

"I was surprised because I did not know I was nominated," Simpson said. "I feel honored that I will be joining other women athletes from Colorado who also excel in their sports."

Since 1975, Sportswomen of Colorado have acknowledged young athletes whose achievements and efforts have advanced girls'

and women's individual and team sports. Simpson will be honored on March 13 in Denver at the organization's annual awards banquet.

"I think that the Most Promising Athlete award reminds me that through dedication, hard work and love of my sport, I can accomplish many of my future goals in skating," she said.

For Simpson, this award is motivation to stay committed to skating

"Winning this award is an acknowledgment that I am being recognized for doing my best to represent my sport of figure skating," she said. "It gives me yet another reason to continue to work hard at something I love to do."

— Kama Korvela

# 'LEGACY' EXHIBIT COMMEMORATES 1961 U.S. WORLD TEAM

by LINDA FAMULA

useum exhibits are often created to honor outstanding personal achievements or to educate visitors on a significant historical occurrence. The dedication of the "1961 U.S. World Team Legacy" exhibit on Feb. 10, 2011, at the World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colo., was a touching tribute to both.

The exhibit honors the 34 members of the 1961 U.S. World Team not only for their accomplishments on the ice, but to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the tragic loss of the U.S. World Team in the crash of Sabena Flight 548 on Feb. 15, 1961, en route to the World Figure Skating Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

More than 100 people attended the official ribbon-cutting ceremony with U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith and Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) President and CEO Doug Price cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Special guests included Patty Bushman, author of the book about the members of the 1961 U.S. World Team titled Indelible Tracings, CVB and Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce members, Team USA skaters and families related to members of the 1961 U.S. World Team. Carol Lacert of Loveland, Colo., who attended with her husband Larry, was a cousin of the 1961 silver medalist pairs skaters Ila Ray and Ray Hadley, Jr., who perished along with their stepmother and coach Linda Hadley. Ray and Joan Sherbloom Peterson of Orange, Calif., came to honor Sherbloom Peterson's sister, Diane Sherbloom, who was the 1961 ice dancing champion with Larry Pierce.

Raith welcomed the visitors, giving some historical perspective on the museum's founding since 1965 and the establishment of the Memorial Fund shortly after the crash to handle the outpouring of donations from around the world.

Bushman gave a heartfelt presentation when referencing sections of her book written with deep emotional ties from eight years of intense personal research. Bushman, a former competitive skater who trained at the old Broadmoor World Arena from 1966–1968, tailored her presentation to the Colorado Springs audience, focusing on the skaters, coach and family members training with the Broadmoor Skating Club.

"I held back tears when Patty Bushman gave her presentation about the skaters," Carol Lacert said. "I will always miss my cousins, and the great times we enjoyed before we lost them to this tragedy. Taking part in these events made me realize I have a new family circle to cherish and share memories of my family."

For Sherbloom Peterson, a former U.S. competitor, the opportunity to attend the dedication gave her the chance to visit Colorado Springs for the first time to experience where her sister had won the 1961 U.S. ice dancing title.

"The visitors that came to the event were so interested in the Team, especially the young skaters," Sherbloom Peterson said. "We spoke about the Team and also about competitions when I was skating. So much has changed since then."

For more information about the Memoria Fund, contact Director of Development Stacey Marsh at 719.635.5200. For more information about the WFSM, visit www.worldskatingmuseum.org.



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LEGACY" EXHIBIT

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AUTHOR OF INDELIBLE TRACINGS PATTY BUSHMAN AUTOGRAPHS A BOOK FOR BROADMOOR SKATING CLUB PRESIDENT JOHN LEFEVRE...

SKATERS MAX AARON, LUKAS KAUGARS, ALEXE GILLES AND RACHAEL FLATT SIGN POST-ERS DURING THE "1961 U.S. WORLD TEAM LEGACY" EXHIBITION CEREMONY.



# 'Loved every second'

# SKATING SHOW THE PERFECT FIT FOR BROOKE CASTILE

by LOIS ELFMAN

rooke was relentless," said "Skating with the Stars" choreographer Cindy Stuart about how Brooke Castile handled training freestyle skier Jonny Moseley.

"When Cindy and I created 'Cosmic Love' (the emotional program Castile and Moseley performed on week three of the show) we had a pretty powerful moment," said choreographer Douglas Webster. "The song is so gorgeous. We both burst into tears creating the number.

"To be able to convey that emotional life to Brooke and to Jonny, then to have them actually make that happen in their performance and do the elements was incredible."

Castile, who won the 2007 U.S. pairs title with Benjamin Okolski, said "Cosmic Love" was her favorite program of the season, despite

BROOKE CASTILE

AND BEN OKOLSKI

AMATEUR CAREER,

WINNING THE U.S.

PAIRS TITLE IN 2007

THEY RETIRED FROM

COMPETITIVE SKAT-

ING LAST YEAR.

**ENJOYED A STELLAR** 

taking a trip to the emergency room after suffering a severe cut on her hand during rehearsals. Despite bumps and bruises, Castile, 24, thrived in the "SWTS" format that paired celebrities with accomplished skaters.

"It was the right fit for me. I knew this is kind of what I was meant to do with skating," Castile said. "I loved competing, but toward the end with all the injuries, my fire kind of went out. I didn't have that fire that I always had my whole life with skating. I lost the passion for why I love skating. This definitely brought it back. It was the best experience I've ever had. I absolutely loved every second of it."

Although Castile had coached skating for years to support her own training, "SWTS" was a new concept. Moseley, 35, an Olympic gold medalist in Nagano in 1998, had virtually no experience on ice. She was brought on board about a month before the show's November premiere. Her task was not only to teach him to do forward and backward crossovers, but to get him performance-ready.

"I really had to start from the basics and teach him even how to tie his skates up. It was a lot to teach in a very short amount of time," she said.

Initially, they trained in San Francisco, where Moseley, now a TV commentator and host, lives. Shortly before the first broadcast, they relocated to Los Angeles and opted to stay there for the run of the show. One would think Moseley, who took many falls in skiing, would not be afraid to fall down, but that wasn't the case.

"In the beginning, I was pretty scared of it," Moseley said. "It was worse for me than snow in the beginning because ice is firm and flat. It's like falling on pavement."

Castile admitted that she couldn't help but laugh at some of those early falls because Moseley took everything with a smile on his face. He was a fast learner and highly motivated, so training him was a pleasure. She quickly

understood how he had achieved Olympic success.

She also realized that Moseley was an in-the-moment kind of guy. Not once did he cleanly skate a routine before the live show.

"I like the pressure. I like performing. I'm a total ham," he said.

"We did not even get through a whole program before show day," Castile said, adding that she could identify with Moseley because she often struggled with competitive programs until the big moment and then delivered good performances. "Jonny and I would always peak at the right time together, which was really cool because we both knew each of us would get it on the day it mattered."

No doubt, Moseley also appreciated Castile's macho attitude in the face of injury. On the day they performed "Cosmic Love" he skated over her left hand in practice, leaving a deep cut right over the knuckle of her index finger. Cameras captured her trip to the emergency room, but come showtime she was ready to go.

"That was the toughest week we had," she said. "We were both really, really tired that week. We were hurt all week and kept having accidents." At one point during camera blocking, he threw her off the ice into the seats. She said all she could do was laugh.

It was a learning process for her as well, as she'd never done a celebrity skating show before.

"I had to remember, it's a TV show," Castile said. "I had to learn how to produce a TV show, not just skate. Make things look the right way on camera. It was very important I got all of that down, too."

"SWTS" had the same costume department as "Dancing with the Stars," and Castile described the costume design process as living a fantasy.

"The wardrobe department blew my mind," she said. "It was great to actually be able to wear whatever fit the music or whatever you wanted. Those costumes were impeccably made." The female skaters were taped with double-sided tape in certain areas, so as to avoid any wardrobe malfunctions.

"It's a dream come true because I got to wear amazing costumes and I didn't have to pay for them," Castile continued. "The costumes have always been such a big part of skating for me, something I love. I could never ever afford what I wanted. For "SWTS," anything you wanted they could make. There was never

a doubt in my mind that what I envisioned would not happen."

If "SWTS" is picked up for another season, Castile hopes they will add coaches to the mix, as it was especially challenging to coach and skate with someone at the same time. She did well learning on the job.

Castile and Okolski announced their retirement last May. She said it did not cross her mind to try and find another partner. She is quite satisfied with what she accomplished and was ready to move on.

She thought about pursuing professional opportunities, such as skating on a cruise ship or joining Holiday on Ice, but really wasn't inclined to leave home for lengthy periods of time. She is close with her family and has a longtime boyfriend, former ice dancer Kevin O'Keefe, who was the 2001 U.S. novice champion and ended his career competing for Canada. O'Keefe is an engineer and recently completed his master's degree. He's inclined toward career opportunities in that field. O'Keefe came out to Los Angeles a couple of times during "SWTS's" run and even brought their dog, Kona-Eugene (the name was inspired by Hawaii and O'Keefe's passion for surfing).

Although ratings weren't great, Castile hopes ABC gives "SWTS" another try.

"Any show needs time to breathe and find its way a little bit," she said. "I thought the skating was really good, and that's the hardest part to get right."

She's willing to bring back her fearless attitude. In the meantime, she's back on the ice with her students. The week after Christmas, she choreographed about 10 new programs. She's extremely open to other short-term gigs that allow her to perform.

"We'll see if the show gets picked up. I'm hoping it does," said Castile, who is also open to exploring other sorts of jobs in television. "I really enjoyed it a lot."



"I LOST THE PASSION FOR WHY I LOVE SKATING. THIS DEFINITELY BROUGHT IT BACK. IT WAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE I'VE EVER HAD. I ABSOLUTELY LOVED EVERY SECOND OF IT."



# Southern hospitality

# NORTH CAROLINA DELIVERS A MEMORABLE EVENT

by TROY SCHWINDT



orth Carolina is feronly its dynamic agriculture — it's ranked No. 1 napotatoes and No. 2 for Christmas trees — but for its long-established

golf events have long been part of the sports fabric of the Tar Heel state.

having never hosted the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in the nizer Hill Carrow knew those in Greensboro, the Piedmont Triad region and North Carolina communities would rise to the occasion.

Skating Championships, held January 22-30 at the venerable Greensboro Coliseum, drew an attendance nine-day stay. Attendance on site sulted in an additional 50,805 peo-

"The true mark of an event's success, of course, is what the athletes and rights holder (U.S. Figure received extensive kudos from both skaters and U.S. Figure Skating executives throughout the event and continue to get nice comments several weeks later.'

Olympian Paul Wylie, who have much downtime during the

demonstrated a few moves on the jor role in the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in-arena recognition making himself available for the local and national media.

Wylie couldn't have been more proud of how Greensboro and the rest of the Carolinas supported the

ers have appreciated the hospitality and having the practice rink, Fan-Fest and the competition venue all think it's a job well done.

"This is a tremendous shot in the arm to what has been a growing number of clubs here," he added. "I looked around the concourse and saw many, many of my students and skaters from North and South Carolina here watching. Certainly, they will go home inspired to make a nationals themselves."

Outstanding local media coverage, a volunteer pool 400 strong team that delivered during tough economic times, Carrow said, made the difference in creating a special

'Unprecedented," Carrow said our follow-up meetings, all the local leaders have unanimously indicated that the event reached a level of media coverage and attention

"It was incredible to be part some days of four TV morning shows, all of which were broadcasting their entire two-hour morning segments from the Championships. erage from start to finish."

Carrow heaped strong praise on his volunteers, whose work ethhelpfulness were noted by skaters,

He is equally proud of how area businesses and corporations came through during difficult economic times.

"We were unsure at times as to what the end result might be," Carrow admitted. "The great news, of course, was that everyone came together, especially in the last six months leading to the event, and really helped pull off a tremendous

was thrilled to have his wife, daughter and mother come to the event.

"It was a highlight for me to have them see what dad had been spending so much time on over "They thoroughly enjoyed and ap-Championships.'

Excitement is indeed the appropriate word to describe what took place at the Greensboro Coliseum. From the first day, when spun like a top, to the last day when fan favorite Ryan Bradley ended the senior men's event with a spectacular back flip, the electricity in the building never faded.

"I felt amazing out there," senior competitor Keegan Messing said. "My legs were feeling great; I just let my blades fly. After every element I just felt incredible. I wanted more so I kept giving the crowd more and more. The crowd was great."

Czisny put the disappointment of 2010 behind her by claiming her second U.S. title in three years. A more confident and happier Czisny lit up the ice with her elegant spins and spirals. Her jumps, which in the past have been inconsistent, remained reliable in her best season to date. Defending champion Rachael Flatt won her third U.S. silver medal, while 2008 U.S. champion Mirai Nagasu secured the bronze. Czisny and Flatt will represent the U.S. at the World Championships this month.

Bradley, who thought seriously about retiring after failing to make the 2010 Olympic Team, returned with a fire burning inside to win. His young fans, using the many tools of social media, told the 27-year-old that he had to give it one more try. He listened to his legions of fans. A lively short program to "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" brought the crowd to its feet. A couple of days later, Bradley fought through his "Mozart" free skate to capture his first senior title. Two newcomers to the senior podium, Richard Dornbush and Ross Miner, delivered memorable free skate programs and earned World Team berths in the process.

Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin became the feel-good story of the competition when they captured the pairs title in emotional fashion. Coughlin lost his mother to a chronic illness last year, and in her memory, he dedicated the team's "Ave Maria" free skate to her before the season started. Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig earned the silver medal, while defending champions Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett rallied to win the bronze medal. The top two pairs teams will compete at the World Championships.

The veteran ice dancing team of Meryl Davis and Charlie White made it three U.S. titles in a row with entertaining and sound programs. The victory, they believe, will serve as a stepping stone to winning their first World title later this month. Their training partners Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani and Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein earned the silver and bronze medals, respectively. All three teams will compete at Worlds.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Following the 2011 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, N.C., U.S. Figure Skating nominated its international selections for the World Championships (March 21–27 in Tokyo), Four Continents Championships (Feb. 15–20 in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei) and World Junior Championships (Feb. 28-March 6 in Gangneung City, Republic of Korea).

#### **2011 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** LADIES

Alissa Czisny Rachael Flatt

Alternate: Mirai Nagasu Alternate: Agnes Zawadzki Alternate: Christina Gao

#### MEN

Ryan Bradley Richard Dornbush Ross Miner

Alternate: Jeremy Abbott Alternate: Adam Rippon

Alternate: Armin Mahbanoozadeh

#### **PAIRS**

Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin Alternate: Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett Alternate: Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker Alternate: Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir

#### ICE DANCING

Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein Meryl Davis/Charlie White Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani

Alternate: Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell Alternate: Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt

Alternate: Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello

#### 2011 FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS **LADIES**

Alissa Czisny Rachael Flatt Mirai Nagasu

Alternate: Ashley Wagner Alternate: Agnes Zawadzki Alternate: Christina Gao

Jeremy Abbott Armin Mahbanoozadeh Adam Rippon Alternate: Brandon Mroz Alternate: Douglas Razzano Alternate: Jonathan Cassar

#### **PAIRS**

Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin Alternate: Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker Alternate: Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir Alternate: Tiffany Vise/Don Baldwin

#### **ICE DANCING**

Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein Meryl Davis/Charlie White Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani Alternate: Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell Alternate: Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt

Alternate: Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello

#### 2011 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS LADIES

Christina Gao Courtney Hicks Agnes Zawadzki Alternate: Vanessa Lam Alternate: Yasmin Siraj Alternate: Kristiene Gong

#### MEN

Max Aaron Jason Brown Keegan Messing

Alternate: Alexander Zahradnicek

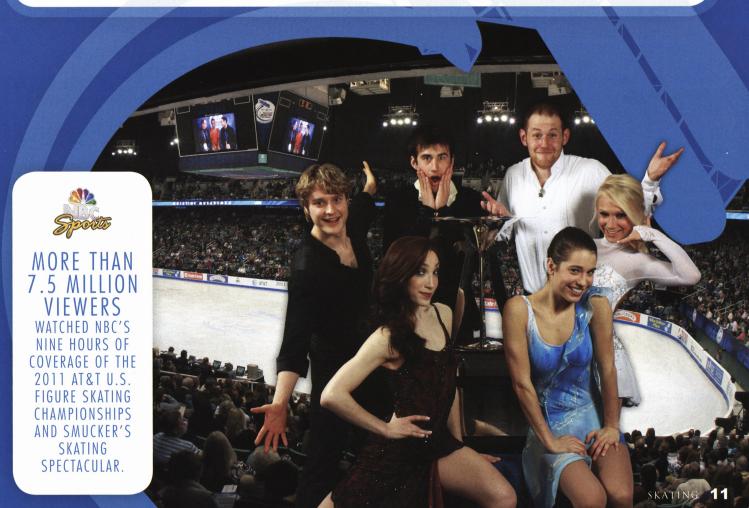
Alternate: Steven Evans Alternate: Philip Warren

#### PAIRS

Cassie Andrews/Timothy LeDuc Ashley Cain/Joshua Reagan Alternate: Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton Alternate: Brynn Carman/A.J. Reiss Alternate: Mandy Garza/Brandon Frazier **ICE DANCING** 

Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus Charlotte Lichtman/Dean Copely

Alternate: Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan Alternate: Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton Alternate: Joylyn Yang/Jean-Luc Baker



# A new beginning

# CZISNY MAKES CHANGES THAT PUT HER ON GOLDEN PATH

by TROY SCHWIND

lissa Czisny left the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in tears, her Olympic dreams dashed in Spokane, Wash., after a dismal 10th-place finish.

With her confidence also shattered, Czisny returned to her training home in Detroit, Mich., to contemplate her future.

"It was so heartbreaking to end like that," said Czisny, who just in 2009 won the U.S. title and appeared to be one of the favorites to make the Olympic Team. "Brian Boitano told me never leave with any regrets. I took a long look at what I wanted to do and if I wanted to continue skating. I realized I love to skate and I wanted to continue skating and commit to another year."

Eleven months later, Czisny's decision to continue proved to be a wise one as the 23-year-old from Bowling Green, Ohio, exorcised past demons en route to winning her second U.S. title in three years with two spellbinding performances in Greensboro, N.C.

"I think in terms of winning a title, this one definitely means more to me," Czisny told reporters. "The first one is always the first one, but to win with two good performances made this one a lot sweeter. Being able to come back after everything that happened last year, to really start fresh as a skater, just confirmed I made the right choices for my career."

czisny's journey back to prominence started in March 2010 when she changed coaches. A longtime pupil of Julianne Berlin, Czisny felt a change was in order and she sought the services of the husband-and-wife coaching team of Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen. In a similar move, two-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott had in recent years handed over the coaching reins to the duo.

The new relationship seemed right from the start, according to all involved. Czisny seemed eager and at ease with their coaching style, while Sato and Dungjen felt their new student possessed the right mindset and all the tools to succeed once again.

"I think when she decided to make the (coaching) change, she went into it with both feet," said Dungjen, who with Sato coaches at the Detroit Skating Club. "Anything we've asked her to do this season, she's done. If she didn't understand at the time what we were asking, she would just look at us and say, 'OK.'

"That's such an amazing thing for somebody with that much experience, already being a national champion, to be willing to do anything asked of her to get back where she wanted to be."

A back-to-basics approach is what Czisny started with, Dungjen said

"There was never any resistance," Dungjen said. "Sometimes frustration."

The coaching team also immediately took on Czisny's fragile confidence. Her inconsistent jumps over the years had taken a toll on the skater's self-assurance.

"People liked to say she's mentally not very strong, but I didn't believe that," said Sato, who is the 1994 World champion and two-time Olympian from Japan. "She's very firm inside. Once she sets her mind, she sticks to it and she's quite strong. She was convinced I think by everyone else's words that she was not mentally strong. That was the thing I started tackling. You can't tell me you are weak. You are sitting here trying to make a change and do all of this. A weak person can't do that."

With a plan in place and the start of a solid foundation beneath her, Czisny kicked off the 2010–11 campaign at one of her favorite competitions: Skate Canada. She won the event in 2005 and medaled there two other times.

Czisny's magic in Canada continued as she claimed the gold medal.

"I really wasn't ready to compete yet," Czisny said. "My final goal was Worlds. But to be able to win there gave me a confidence boost that I had not only made the right choices for my career, but that I was on the right track."



SILVER — RACHAEL FLATT — 183.38 BRONZE — MIRAI NAGASU — 177.26 FOURTH — AGNES ZAWADZKI — 173.84

From there, she earned a bronze medal at Trophée Bompard in France, despite having two weeks of interrupted practices due to sectionals and attending her twin sister Amber's wedding.

"I wasn't quite prepared for it as much as I wanted, but I went there and did what I had to do to make the Grand Prix Final," she said

Riding a wave of momentum, Czisny, along with 2010 U.S. champion Rachael Flatt, qualified for the Grand Prix Final in China. Czisny finished sixth and last in her first and only Grand Prix Final in 2005

"I went in and thought how cool it would be to win it," she said. "This time I really felt like I belonged and could compete with the other ladies. That competition taught me I could do everything under pressure. I was extremely nervous for my short, but I can't tell you how nervous I was for my long program and how I had to fight my way through that program."

In a major career breakthrough, Czisny won the gold medal at the Grand Prix Final.

One of the keys for Czisny's success during the Grand Prix campaign was retooling her jumps to be more consistent.

"There was a lot of Zamboning up the ice from my end," Czisny joked of her hard landings at practice. "It can be very frustrating going back and trying to change your jump technique. Going through it was hard, but I knew the end result was worth it. It's always a work in progress."

Another key to her jump success was the practice of saying key words while competing.

"That really helped me," she said. "Especially early in the season





when I was still struggling with my consistency a little bit. By the time I get to competition, I know what I want to focus on for each jump and that really helps me stay in the moment."

In Greensboro, Czisny arrived as one of the medal favorites along with Flatt and 2008 U.S. champion Mirai Nagasu. All three turned in solid short programs, with Nagasu leading the other two by a point heading into the free skate.

While Flatt and Nagasu experienced a few glitches each in their free skates, Czisny made her program to selections from George Winston's lyrical "Winter Into Spring" appear effortless. She easily won the free skate and the competition with a total score of 191.24 points.



A RELIEVED AND ELATED ALISSA CZISNY IS CONGRATULATED BY COACH JASON DUNGJEN AFTER HER FREE SKATE.

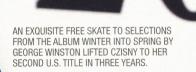
PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

In the press conference, a relieved and happy Czisny talked about her transformation as a skater and person and the appreciation and respect that she has for her coaches.

"In the past, there were times I thought I figured it out but I never really did," Czisny said. "But I feel everything is different. I feel like a different skater and I have a different perspective on my skating and going into competition. To be able to come back after last year and skate a program like that was pretty emotional."



ALISSA CZISNY
DISPLAYS HER
TRADEMARK
ELEGANCE AND
GRACE IN HER
SHORT PROGRAM.
CZISNY FINISHED
SECOND IN THE
SHORT, LESS THAN
A POINT BEHIND
MIRAI NAGASU.





SKATING 13

# Rejuvenated Czisny grabs the gold

# FLATT EARNS SILVER, NAGASU CLAIMS BRONZE

by TROY SCHWINDT

hile Alissa Czisny emerged with her second U.S. title in three years, no one really knew what to expect when the field of 23 ladies took the ice in Greensboro. Questions about each of the top contenders lingered.

Defending champion Rachael Flatt arrived having struggled at the Grand Prix Final. An injury to her right leg and foot in the fall affected her performances and training, and it was unclear if she would be at her best. Plus, she had recently gotten a new short program and its reception in front of a judging panel had yet to be deter-

Mirai Nagasu, the 2008 U.S. champion, suffered a stress fracture in her left ankle over the summer and missed two months of training. Her Grand Prix Series proved inconsistent, but ended with a silver medal at Trophée Bompard.

Ashley Wagner, the 2010 U.S. bronze medalist, came in trying to break a cycle of inconsistency at the U.S. Championships. Would this be the year she put it all together?

And Czisny, the 2009 U.S. champion, walked into the Greensboro Coliseum having just won the Grand Prix Final. Still, doubts prevailed if she had indeed turned the proverbial corner after a 10th-place finish at the 2010 U.S. Championships.

The competition slowly came into focus following the short program as Nagasu led Czisny and Flatt by about one point, with all three ladies turning in near-flawless programs. Wagner, who experienced a bout of the flu in Greensboro, struggled with her opening jumps and finished a distant seventh. U.S. junior champion Agnes Zawadzki made some noise, staying in the medal hunt with a fourth-place effort.

"Having been injured and not skating for two months was a big blow to my confidence," said Nagasu, who in 2010 won the U.S. silver medal and finished fourth at the Olympic Winter Games. "I had been competing like a chicken all year except for France, where I stepped up to the plate. ... I was a little nervous I hadn't worked as hard as I could."

Czisny provided a glimpse of the things to come with her exquisite short program to Korngold melodies. Other than an edge call on her triple flip, she cleanly landed her jumps, and her signature spins elicited cheers from the Greensboro faithful.



ALISSA CZISNY WAVES TO THE CROWD AFTER WINNING THE TITLE, AS COACHES YUKA SATO AND JASON DUNGJEN CONGRATULATE THEIR SKATER.

The rejuvenated skater credited new coaches Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen with turning her career around.

"I know the people behind me believe in me, and I'm so grateful for that," she said. "Especially Yuka and Jason, they've really helped me overcome a lot of doubts.

"I feel everything is different. I feel like I'm a different skater and I have a different perspective on my skating and going into competition."

Flatt's new short program to the soundtrack of East of Eden, choreographed by Lori Nichol, received rave reviews from the judges and a standing ovation. The defending champ scrapped the short program she used during the Grand Prix campaign after it received lukewarm reviews.

The midnight-hour decision paid off as Flatt, donned in a beautiful yellow dress, gave an energy-charged performance that she sold to everyone in the Greensboro Coliseum. Flatt landed a triple flip-double toe combination and a crisp triple Lutz. A level one layback spin was the only true blemish on the routine. Her program component marks were the best of the short program. There were no lingering signs from her earlier in-

"It's only been about a month with that program," Flatt said. "It was a very, very strong showing right off the bat."

She added that it was satisfying to see one of her coaches, Becky Calvin, in tears after her emotionally charged performance.

"It's so much fun to be feeling the music and feeling the program," Flatt said.

Flatt's training mate, Zawadzki, showed no signs of being new to the big show as she laid down a veteran-like short program that she called "her best ever."

"This is extra special because it's nationals and my first year as a senior here," said Zawadzki, who trailed the leader by less than two points.

She opened her program with a triple toetriple toe combination, a triple Lutz and a pair of level four spins.

With less than two points separating the top four skaters, the free skate left little room for er-

Nagasu watched her hopes for a World Team berth dashed when she staggered out of a double Axel and two-footed the landing of a flying sit spin, receiving no points for the element.

She finished third in the free skate and third overall with 177.26 points.

"The thing I was most disappointed about was that I wasn't able to get the audience on their feet and get the support behind me," she said. "I just let my nerves get the best of me tonight. As a skater, I've learned that sometimes it's not your

Nagasu said she was also disappointed that she wouldn't be competing at the World Championships in Japan, where many of her relatives live.



RACHAEL FLATT GIVES THE GREENSBORO CROWD A GREAT SHOW, WITH HER SILVER MEDAL-FINISH, FLATT EARNED HER THIRD TRIP TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

"Sometimes things are meant to be," she said.

Flatt, skating to "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," opened with a double Axel-triple toe combination, but the toe was judged under rotated. She went on to land five triples, but doubled her first Lutz, and ended up second in the free skate and second overall with 183.38 points.

"It was a little bit of a rough skate for me, but I was glad I got through it and stayed on my feet," she said. "It was just a little frustrating not having the best landings on all my jumps, but I'm glad I have a few more competitions ahead of me this season and a couple of good programs ahead of me."

A great showing at the World Championships, Flatt said, is the goal.

"I am planning on changing up the order of my programs a little bit, at least for my long program, and adding another triple-triple. Hopefully that arsenal will give me a little bit of an advantage."

Czisny, who won Skate Canada, earned a bronze medal at Trophee Bompard and captured the Grand Prix Final crown, added another title SHORT PROGRAM LEADER MIRAI NAGASU PERFORMS HER FREE SKATE TO MUSIC FROM THE MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA SOUNDTRACK BY JOHN WILLIAMS.

to her growing list of accomplishments with a clinching free skate to George Winston's lyrical "Winter Into Spring."

The Bowling Green, Ohio, native left no doubt she belonged at the top of the podium, taking the audience on a ride that they didn't want to end. Czisny landed six triples, including an opening triple Lutz-double toe combination followed by a triple flip. Her spins and footwork were vintage Czisny as she floated from one element to the next.

Czisny's event-best free skate lifted her to a score of 191.24 points and a second U.S. title.

"I had a lot of fun out there tonight," Czisny said. "I went out for my long just focused on what I had to do to make every jump happen. By the time I got to the end, I wasn't quite ready for it to be over because I was having so much fun out there. And winning tonight was icing on the cake."

#### CALIFORNIA DREAMING

U.S. silver medalist Rachael Flatt fielded her usual share of questions concerning a decision to attend Stanford University.

It came down to Princeton



and Stanford and I couldn't deny the Stanford weather," said Flatt, who is from Del Mar, Calif.

Flatt was a standout student at Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado Springs, Colo., and had considered about a dozen of the country's top-rated schools before picking Stanford.

#### GAO RECEIVES 'BROTHERLY' CARE

Although Christina Gao lives a long way from her hometown in Cincinnati, Ohio, she feels right at home at her training facility in



Gao, fifth the last two years at the U.S. Championships, shares the ice and coaching expertise of Brian Orser with fellow U.S. skater Adam Rippon.

"Adam is like a big brother," said the 16-year-old. "My dad sometimes has to go home for a business meeting and Adam takes care of me like a little sister."

The two skaters live in connecting apartment complexes near their training facility, the Toronto Cricket Club.

### FAMILY AFFAIR

Agnes Zawadzki, who finished fourth in Greensboro, said she's not alone in making her skatina dreams come true.

Besides her coaches at the Broadmoor Skating Club, Za-

wadzki, the 2010 U.S. junior champion, gets plenty of help from her mother and grandpar-

They all moved to Colorado from the Chicago area a few years ago so Zawadzki could pursue her skating career.

"My grandma cooks for me when my mom's not home and my grandpa drives me everywhere," she said. "It's a family effort."

Alissa Czisny, the 2011 U.S. champion, took a quote from fellow U.S. titlist and good friend Ryan Bradley to heart in her pursuit of a second U.S. crown.



"Why come back if you are not prepared to give it your all," is the quote Czisny read in the local paper.

"Every day in practice, that's what I think, whether I'm tired or something hurts or I don't want to be there. I remember what I'm there for. I don't leave if I don't give it my all."

### **COOL CUSTOMER**

Senior newcomer Vanessa Lam, 15, said she didn't feel too nervous when she took the ice for her free skate. Lam found herself in the final warm-up group after a solid sixth-place effort in the short program.



"Competing in front of a big crowd wasn't so much of a factor in my performance," said Lam, who finished seventh in the free skate and seventh overall.

"I tried to present a little bit more and the crowd didn't add any anxiety to it."

Lam, who won the Pacific Coast Sectional to earn a berth at the U.S. Championships, said she was proud of herself to make the final warm-up group in her senior debut.

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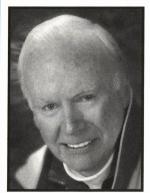
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# Tweet, tweet

### BRADLEY REWARDS LOYAL FANS WITH GOLD MEDAL

by TROY SCHWINDT

yan Bradley admits he had retirement on his mind after failing to qualify for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team last year in Spokane, Wash.

The then-26-year-old from St. Joseph, Mo., symbolically waved goodbye at the end of his free skate, thinking 15 years of competitive skating — 10 at the senior level — was a heck of a run for anyone. A U.S. silver medal in 2007 and World Team berth would endure as his crowning moments, he thought.

A formal retirement seemed imminent a few weeks later when he broke his foot while training in Colorado Springs, Colo., for the World Championships, an "awesome consolation prize" after Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir withdrew from the event.

Foot surgery and a lengthy recovery put the popular and charismatic skater in street clothes throughout the summer as he fell off the media's radar screen.

But that's where this farewell story took a fairy-tale turn.

"I was very fortunate to work

with children and teach seminars all over the country. I was able to find my roots. Just getting to talk to these kids who were starting where I was 150 years ago ..." said Bradley, who all off-season referred to himself as Brett Farve without all the success.

During this special time, Bradley said he had no intention of coming back. His plan was to take time off, do ice shows and enjoy life.

"But living in this digital generation with Twitter, Myspace, Facebook, I had so many great people, including friends, fans and colleagues, reach out to me," said Bradley, a longtime member of the Broadmoor Skating Club. "They said, 'Ryan, we respect what you are going to do but we want to see you out there again, we miss you."

Those words hit a chord with Bradley, who enjoys one of the country's largest skating fan bases.

"I realized that I miss this, I miss the faces I see at nationals every year," Bradley said. "So I decided to come back and lace them up again."

But he didn't have much time. With the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series about to get under way in late October, Bradley began practicing for his comeback that would take place at the 2011 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, N.C. Unfortunately, his decision to return coincided with his longtime coach

Bradley would have to go it alone for several weeks.

Prix events all over the world.

Tom Zakrajsek's busy travel sched-

ule to Grand Prix and Junior Grand

"I was still doing a lot of shows, traveling all over the country," he said. "All the people who brought me in were so wonderful, and they let me have my ice time and were supportive of the fact I was going to do competition numbers in their shows. That was a big way to help prepare for this."

Bradley's decision to return also hinged on one other important factor. He was only coming back to win first place after a career of competing in the shadows of Lysacek Weir and Jeremy Abbott, and settling for just-off-the-podium finishes.

"Over the years I had come in really wanting to medal and be in the top three and be on the World and Olympic teams," Bradley said. "I was never thinking about winning. I hadn't been to a competition where I wanted to win since I was 15 years old as a junior.

"When I started training again, I decided that if I wasn't prepared to make a push at the title, I didn't want to be here. So when I arrived in Greensboro, stepped off the plane, I just felt something in the air."

Bradley's resolve to win became apparent when he took the ice for his short program. Skating to the iconic World War II song "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," Bradley stole the night with an entertaining program that featured some big tricks and ended with a stand-



SILVER - RICHARD DORNBUSH - 225.56

BRONZE - ROSS MINER - 224.35 FOURTH - JEREMY ABBOTT - 224.16

toe-triple toe combination that generated 14.97 points. A triple Axel, triple flip, electric footwork and a level four combination spin at the end netted a short program score of 80.39, two points more than the second-place finisher, two-time defending champion and former rinkmate Abbott. Bradley's current rinkmate, Brandon Mroz finished third in the short program, about nine points from the lead.

ing ovation. He started with a quad

Bradley saw the patriotic program while he was injured.

"I watched an intermediate lady do it, and she was so cute," Bradley said. "I thought this would be hilarious if I did it, and it was just kind of fluttering in my brain. When I decided to come back, I was like, why not, who's going to stop me?"

One of the neighbors of Bradley's mother, Karen Mortensen, designed the costume.

"She went way beyond what I could have imagined," he said.

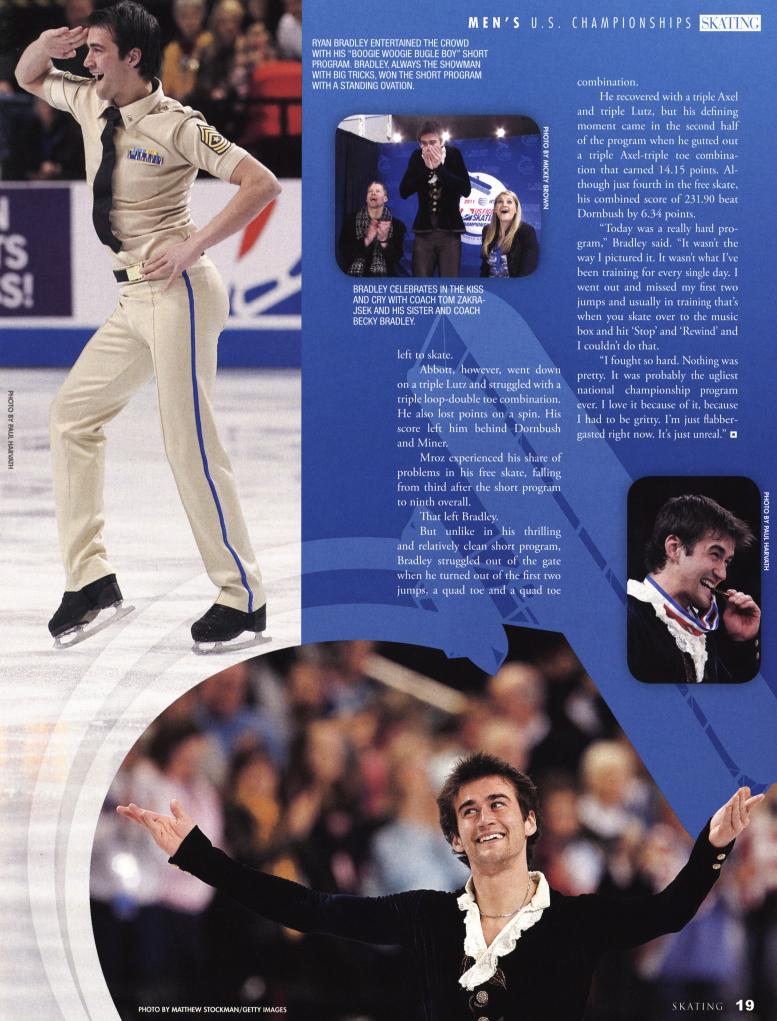
On the final day of the U.S. Championships, Bradley had to anxiously wait for the opportunity to perform his comical Mozart program, a routine that he carried over from the Olympic year. He was the 22nd and final competitor of the event.

Bradley watched the competition take a surprising turn when up-and-comers Ross Miner and Richard Dornbush, sixth and seventh, respectively, after the short program, dazzled the Greensboro crowd with dynamic and clean programs. Dornbush's overall score of 225.56 points shot him to the top, with Miner right behind at 224.35 points.

Their finish on the podium, however, remained tenuous at best, with Abbott, Mroz and Bradley still







# Show time

# BRADLEY MAKES HEADLINES WITH GOLDEN EFFORT; DORNBUSH, MINER CRASH MEDAL PARTY

by TROY SCHWINDT

or the first time in eight years, rivals Johnny Weir and Evan Lysacek didn't rule the headlines leading up to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Although both attended the men's final — Weir was on hand to accept SKATING's Readers' Choice Award, while the Olympic champion watched the event and then waited for his chance to perform in the Smucker's Skating Spectacular — it was Jeremy Abbott's quest for a third consecutive title that created the media buzz in Greensboro.

All indications were that Abbott, who had dominated the past two U.S. Championships against the likes of Weir and Lysacek, would rise up again and secure the three-peat.

But as Weir and Lysacek have attested, winning a third title in a row is the hardest of all to accomplish.

The event started on a positive note for the 25-year-old Abbott, who made a statement with a refined and dynamic tango short program that generated 78.39 points.

"I really felt like I had to fight for that program," said Abbott, who won two medals during last fall's Grand Prix Series. "It wasn't an easy performance for me but it's what I do in training. I came out here for a reason, with a goal and a mission and I wasn't going to detract from that."

Abbott's toughest competition was expected to come from Adam Rippon, the 2010 Four Continents champion, and Abbott's former rinkmate at the Broadmoor Skating Club, Brandon Mroz, the 2009 U.S. silver medalist.

Rippon, who trains in Toronto with Brian Orser, turned out of his triple Axel and fell on his "Rippon" Lutz (arms straight up over his head) to bury himself in ninth place after the short program. Mroz delivered a solid program that yielded 71.61 points and mixed reviews from the skater.

"I'm happy with what I did," Mroz said. "I'm kind of a perfectionist. I wanted that quadtriple. I did it at both Grand Prixs. Not getting that done was a little bit of a bummer, but I got the quad-double."

The short program took a dramatic twist when fan favorite Ryan Bradley, 27, glided onto the ice in full military uniform for his "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" routine. Bradley arrived in Greensboro with virtually no fanfare. After failing to qualify for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games,

he suffered a broken foot while training for the World Championships and endured surgery and a lengthy recovery. His absence from the Grand Prix Series indicated to most people, including those in the media, that he was not coming back.

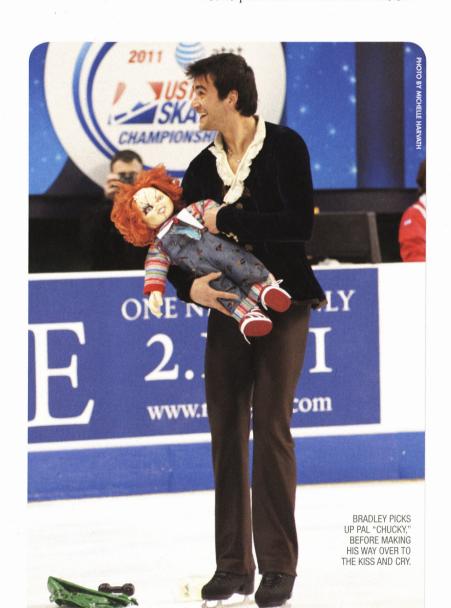
In Greensboro, Bradley's short program captivated the audience with an equal dose of big tricks and great choreography. He connected on his opening quad toe-triple toe combination before ending with a level four combination spin.

His patriotic and upbeat performance generated 80.39 points and brought the crowd to its

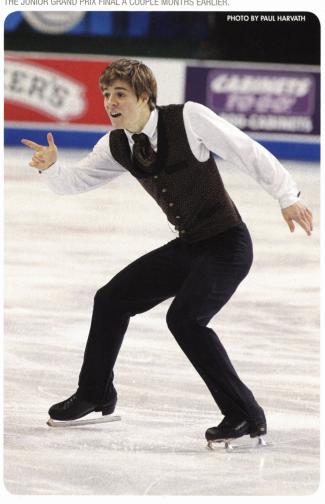
The free skate two days later figured to be a showdown between Bradley, Abbott and Mroz. But California's Richard Dornbush and Massachusetts resident Ross Miner crashed the party.

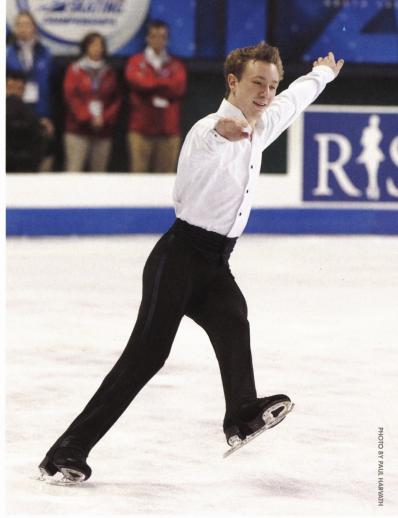
Dornbush, who several weeks earlier won the Junior Grand Prix Final, stunned the crowd with his free skate to music from the Sherlock Holmes soundtrack.

Seventh after the short program, the 19-year-old reeled off eight triples including two triple Axels. He did his damage in the second-tolast warm-up group, generating a free-skate best 157.85 points and an overall score of 225.56.



RICHARD DORNBUSH TURNED IN THE EVENT'S BEST FREE SKATE EN ROUTE TO A SILVER-MEDAL FINISH. DORNBUSH WON THE JUNIOR GRAND PRIX FINAL A COUPLE MONTHS EARLIER





ROSS MINER PUSHED HIMSELF TO THE LIMIT IN PRACTICE AND THAT HARD WORK PAID DIVIDENDS WITH A BRONZE MEDAL IN GREENSBORO.

"Everything went so well," said Dornbush, who trains in Riverside, Calif., under coach Tammy Gambill. "It is just a little bit surreal. I've been training for this all season. I had a great program in China at the Junior Grand Prix Final and that set me up with confidence to be able to do it here again.

"I was talking to Ross earlier and we were talking about how we had gone through almost an entire program before it hit us that we had done everything. That's one of the most exciting moments you can have."

Miner, who struggled in his first senior Grand Prix campaign last fall, took some of those tough lessons to heart when he returned home to The Skating Club of Boston to begin training for the U.S. Championships.

"I took away an understanding of what people at the top level of the sport are doing and the realization that I really wasn't doing enough if I wanted to be at the top level," said the 20-yearold.

Miner, who is coached by Mark Mitchell and Peter Johansson, said the difference in his training was not settling for anything.

"If something wasn't good enough, do it again," he said. "It didn't matter if I didn't want to do it, if I didn't feel great. Just stick to my plan

and do it. There's a great Rafael Nadal quote in the last Sports Illustrated that says, 'If you practice your whole life at high intensity, it's easier to stay there when the big moments arrive.' I really used that to motivate me."

Miner, sixth after the short program, put all his hard work and attention to detail to the test and came away with a career-best performance that included eight triples in his free skate to Casablanca. His score of 156.36 points and overall total of 224.35 elevated him into second place, with three skaters left to perform.

Abbott and Mroz followed Miner. Both hit bumps in the road with their free skates. Abbott fell on a downgraded triple Lutz and struggled with a triple loop combination. He also lost points on a spin that received a level one. He finished .19 points behind Miner.

"I was feeling good through the first half of my program," Abbott said. "Then I had a weird pick on my Lutz and a bad landing, and I guess that was enough to put me in fourth."

Abbott has struggled with boot problems all season, sticking with last season's pair throughout the Grand Prix season. He has been in his current boots for about a month.

"I haven't felt comfortable with my skates, but I really felt I could be solid today," he said. "I came to do two solid performances and I did one and a half, and that was not enough."

Mroz fell out of medal contention early in his program after failing to execute his opening quad toe.

"Things were tight today," said Mroz, who finished ninth in the free skate and seventh overall. "I was trying to give my best effort and fight through everything. Having the quad toe in the beginning being downgraded and crappy doesn't help. There was a lot of force going on rather than just being effortless."

That left the door open for Bradley to win his first U.S. title since claiming the junior crown in 1999. But it wouldn't be easy.

Bradley turned out of the first two jumps, a quad toe and a quad toe combination, in his comical program to a Mozart medley.

He recovered with a triple Axel and triple Lutz, but his defining moment came in the second half of the program when he gutted out a triple Axel-triple toe combination that earned 14.15 points. Although just fourth in the free skate, his combined score of 231.90 beat Dornbush by 6.34 points.

"It wasn't the way I pictured it," Bradley said. "Nothing was pretty, but I loved it because I had to be gritty. It's just unreal."



#### TOTALLY RAD

No one in Greensboro had more fun and expended as much energy as Keegan Messing. His interviews with the media sounded like he had just nailed a triple cork at the Winter X Games.

"It was a blast," he said after the free skate. "It was the first time I landed both triple Axel and quad in the same program. I was just stoked after that. I just let my blades fly, had a lot of fun."

Messing, who finished fourth in the short program and eighth overall, said his all-out practice sessions paid dividends in Greensboro.

"I do run-throughs every day, five days a week," he said. "Full-out, like it's the last one I'll ever do. I also run three miles, three days a week. The last time I did it I had three 6:10 miles."

### STORYTIME

Ryan Bradley told a funny story at the press conference about one of his fellow medalists.

Bradley missed the 2005 U.S. Championships after breaking his arm. He asked U.S. Figure Skating if he could still come to the competition and help out.

"They assigned me to be the team leader for the novice camp," Bradley said. "There was an adorable little kid, whose hair was a mess. He was walking around. I kept calling him Michael from Peter Pan. Michael would walk around with a Teddy Bear.

"It was Ricky Dornbush. If you were going to tell me six years later it was going to be him or me when I stepped on the ice, I wouldn't have believed it."

### HOME SWEET HOME

Ricky Dornbush told the media that he has skated at Icetown in Riverside, Calif., since taking up the sport at age 7.

"When you have three older sisters who skate, you kind of get out-voted when it comes to what to do. But I love the sport and enjoy it a lot," he said.

#### WAITING GAME

Two-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott had to wait a few extra minutes to perform his short program when Jonathan Cassar lost a chain and cross pendant during his short pro-

Flower sweepers were called to the ice to search for any small pieces.

"It was a little weird waiting that extra time and having the announcement and extra noise going on," Abbott said. "I did my best to block it out and stay focused on the job at

Abbott responded to the minor commotion by turning in the second-best short of the night.

"I really felt like I had to fight for this program," he said. "It wasn't easy for me. It's what I do in training. I came out here with a goal and a mission."

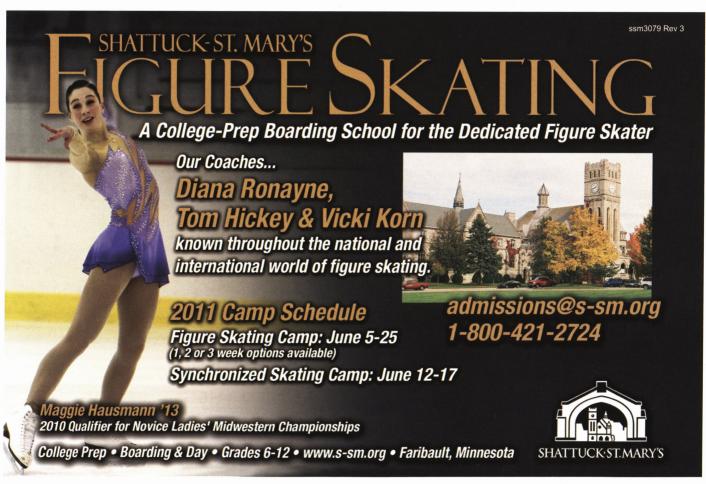
#### UNLUCKY

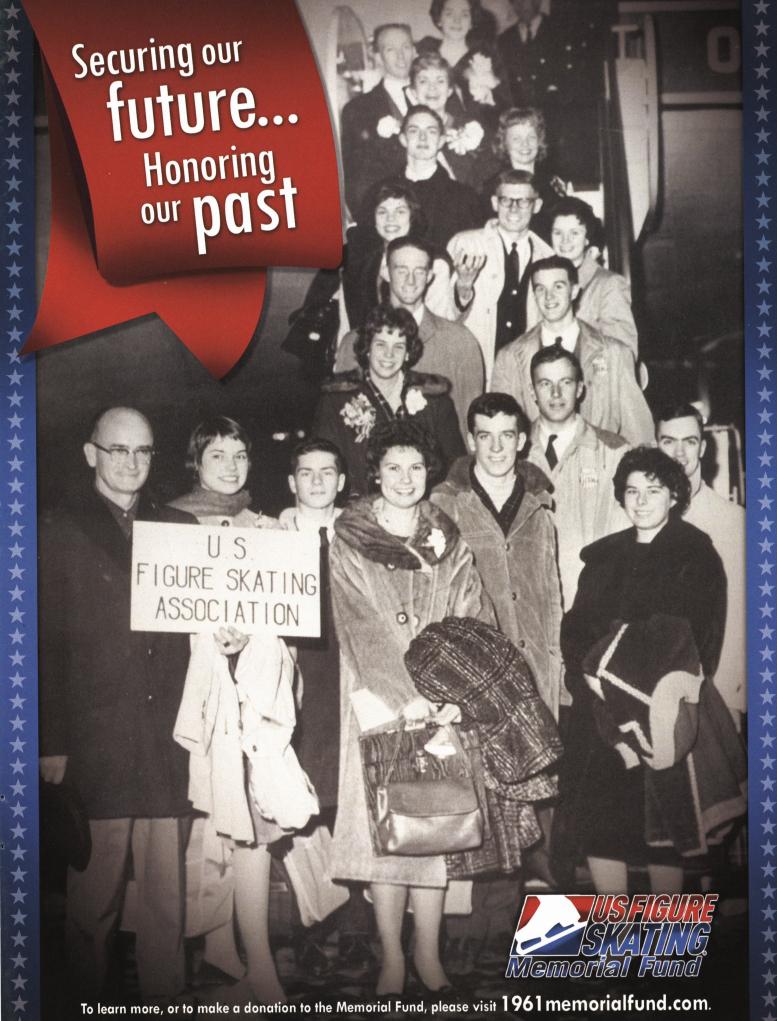
Joshua Farris probably couldn't wait to get out of Greensboro after having a double dose of bad luck.

In making his senior debut, Farris experienced an allergic reaction following the short program that required a trip to the Moses Cone Health System's emergency room, where he remained until 4 a.m. the next day.

He then suffered a fractured foot during his free skate, and painfully walked up a flight of stairs to get treatment.

The Moses Cone Health System, the official medical services provider for the event. received rave reviews for their work with the athletes, coaches, officials and staff.





# Mother's Day

# YANKOWSKAS AND COUGHLIN MAKE STACY PROUD

by MICKEY BROWN

Sappenfield, looked for music and themes that would at once challenge them emotionally and enhance their connection on the ice.

And it was an emotional connection Coughlin had off the ice lar, come alive.

By now, the story behind the team's "Ave Maria" program is wellpassed away in the middle of the

"I did not want to do [skate clown around on the ice and not

modern dance teacher, Kathy Johnson; and the program's choreograway for Coughlin to deal with his

"When we called Marina, she thought doing a tribute was "That's what (Ekaterina) Gordeeva did when Sergei (Grinkov) died, and it really moved everyone."

The inherent sentiment in the piece combined with the feelings almost too much for him to take.



SILVER - AMANDA EVORA/MARK LADWIG - 185.22 BRONZE - CAYDEE DENNEY/JEREMY BARRETT - 175.49 FOURTH - MARY BETH MARLEY/ROCKNE BRUBAKER - 163.55

said. "Emotionally, it was really dif-

But as days turned into weeks and weeks into months, the pair found that being in the rink and skating to that music were the healthiest things for them to be do-

"It felt like a sanctuary away "Being together helped the process. Training the program brought it all to life."

The program is laid out thusing what happened to his mother to Yankowskas. As it plays out, Yankowskas encourages her partner to tell her more and more of the story until, at the end, he is kneeling at her feet and she is pointing

"Dalilah said she needed to create a safe place for me while telling that story. She was protecting me from the world while I was doing it," Coughlin said.

When it came time to skate the program in Greensboro, they received a sign from — dare we say it, — above, that someone was smiling down on them.

"In the six-minute warm-up, we landed a real smooth throw triple loop. Our six-minute warm-ups for the long in the past have been tough for us," Coughlin said. [Caitlin] looked at me and said, 'We're going to do this, aren't we?' I said, 'Well, yeah.'"

Of course, they did do it. As the last note of "Ave Maria" rang throughout Greensboro Coliseum, Coughlin knelt on the ice holding Yankowskas' hand to his face.

At that moment, the enormity of what they had accomplished hit

"It was a magical experience out there," Yankowskas said. "If I could go back and do it again, I would."

With the deafening cheers raining down on them, Coughlin stood up and skated around the rink, his face conveying an expression of disbelief.

He looked for their coaches. He looked for his father, Mike. He took Yankowskas' hand and spun her around in acknowledgment of the crowd's appreciation.

"That's something we'll keep with us forever," Coughlin said.

From then on, it was hard to

(L-R) AMANDA EVORA/MARK LADWIG, CAITLIN YANKOWSKAS/JOHN COUGHLIN. CAYDEE DENNEY/JEREMY BARRETT, MARY BETH MARLEY/ROCKNE BRUBAKER





# 'Unreal'

# YANKOWSKAS/COUGHLIN FINISH CLIMB TO TOP; LADWIG/EVORA, DENNEY/BARRETT SECURE MEDALS

by MICKEY BROWN

his was about heart. This was about paying tribute to a loved one who passed on too soon. But most of all, this was about

Skating two emotion-packed programs, Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin captured the senior pairs title at the 2011 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, N.C. The win signified the highlight of a season they dedicated to the memory of John's mother, Stacy, who succumbed to chronic respiratory illness in February 2010.

Yankowskas and Coughlin — who have trained in Colorado Springs with Dalilah Sappenfield and her son, Larry Ibarra, since 2007 chose Franz Schubert's "Ave Maria" for their free skate music this season in honor of Stacy.

The decision proved a wise one as the program propelled them to the best cumulative finish of any U.S. pairs team in the 2010 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series (fourth at the NHK Trophy, bronze at the Cup of China) and their first U.S. title.

"I told myself that no matter what we did today competitively, to get out on the ice and perform the program was going to be a happy moment for me," Coughlin said following the free skate. "To think it went the way it did is unreal.

The pair has always had the make-up to be champions, but it has been plagued by inconsistency at the biggest moments. Their three previous finishes at the U.S. Championships were sixth, seventh and sixth, and they had never finished better than sixth in the free skate.

Credit Sappenfield, who has her third U.S. championship pairs team in four seasons, for the improvement.

"She likes to kick our butts, and she definitely did that this year. She's drilled us on our jumps," Yankowskas said. "We've built a lot of confidence. We know that no matter what happens in competition — bad warm-up, good warm-up — when we compete, we have a clean slate."

Yankowskas and Coughlin took a 1.47-point lead in the short program with a clean and, at times, world-class skate to Astor Piazzolla's "Tango Oblivion." They were the only team in the segment to receive positive Grades of Execution for all seven of their elements.

"In our minds, if we skate well, like we

Coughlin said after the short program. They were nearly as good in the free skate, in which they received positive grades of execution on 11 of their 12 elements.

did out there, [we think] we're tough to beat,"

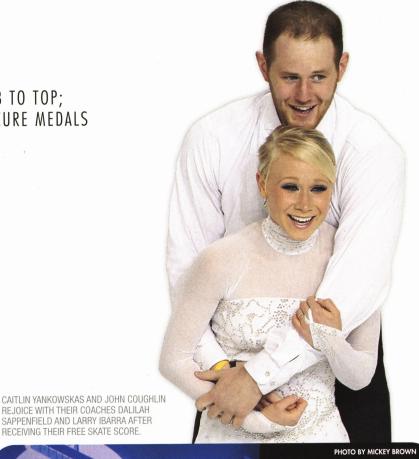
"We didn't allow ourselves to think about how well it was going until it was over," Coughlin said. "I could have stayed out there forever."

For the second year in a row, Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig placed second, though they made it much closer this time, finishing just three points out of first.

The team, along with coaches Jim Peterson and Lyndon Johnston, changed its short program after the Grand Prix Series from a James Hornercomposed tango to the jazzy "Sing, Sing, Sing."

"We wanted to find a piece we felt was still opposite from our long but also seemed to be with our personality," Evora said.

For its "Nessum Dorma" free skate, the Florida-based team actually earned a higher technical score (62.09) than did the victors (61.97).





VETERAN TEAM AMANDA EVORA AND MARK LADWIG EARNED THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE U.S. SILVER MEDAL AND BERTH TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS







A second trip in as many years to the World Championships is the reward for Evora and Ladwig, who have come into their own after eight seasons together.

"The confidence was always there; making it a reality was something else," Evora said. "Many skaters have the same capabilities as we do, but we know we can go out there and do it in the moment."

In assuming the role of the hunted rather than the hunters, reigning champions Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett found the going

more difficult. A fall on her triple toe put them in fourth after the short program, but the duo, coached by husband-and-wife team John Zimmerman and Silvia Fontana in Coral Springs, Fla., recovered nicely in the free skate to earn the bronze and their third straight podium finish.

"The short was tough for us. It would have been easy to just give up," Barrett said. "We definitely fought for everything today. We weren't going to give up the title without a fight, and we

In placing fourth, Mary Beth Marley and

Rockne Brubaker exhibited extraordinary unison and maturity for a team that had only been together five months — and for one that included a 15-year-old member who had never before skated pairs. Their technical prowess was on display in their Addams Family free skate, in which they landed both of their throws and both of their jump elements.

"We have all the right tools — from Mary Beth's work ethic and ability to the guidance of our coaches," Brubaker said. "What we've done in a short amount of time, it's pretty remarkable."

### MARLEY, BERESWILL TRY THEIR HANDS AT PAIRS

The pairs event featured two skaters who made their pairs debuts this season. Mary Beth Marley and Becky Bereswill began partnerships with Rockne Brubaker and Trevor Young, respectively, in the last several months.

Marley, 15, said she never wanted to try pairs unless the opportunity to skate with Brubaker arose. She has spent her entire career as a singles skater and competed this year as a junior lady, placing fifth.

Brubaker and former partner Keauna McLaughlin, who won senior titles in 2008 and 2009, dissolved their partnership last summer when McLaughlin retired from competitive figure skating.

Marley and Brubaker formed a new partnership that she called "rushed," but that seems to be working out well considering their fourthplace finish in Greensboro.

"The growth in Mary Beth is unreal," Brubaker said. "There are few people who could have done what she has done in the last several months. It takes energy and determination. We are set up well for next year."

Unlike Marley, Bereswill has long considered skating with a partner despite enjoying a successful singles career.

"Pairs has always been my favorite," Bereswill said. "When I had the opportunity to try out with Trevor, I took it."

She has made the transition in stride, saying the most challenging aspect has been partner awareness.

"I have to remind myself I'm skating with someone else, that there are two of us out there trying to accomplish a goal," she said.

Young, who ended his five-season partnership with Andrea Best last April, thinks that he has found something special in his fifth partner.

"I can't tell you how far Becky has come in eight months," he said. "She is mentally and physically tough, doesn't shy away from anything. I'm so proud that she is sticking with me and that we are getting stronger every day."

### NAM DOESN'T GO EASY ON LEFTHERIS DESPITE HISTORY

Themi Leftheris and Naomi Nari Nam enjoyed a successful career together that included the 2007 U.S. bronze medal, before medical issues forced Nam into retirement in 2008. Since her retirement, Nam has remained an active part of Leftheris' career.

With Peter Oppegard, Nam coached Leftheris and his last partner Angelyn Nguyen during the 2010 season. Leftheris started a partnership with Lindsay Davis this season and while Nam isn't on the formal coaching staff, she runs the off-ice conditioning program that all of Oppegard's couples attend.

The program features strength training, aerobic conditioning and increasing explosiveness and agility geared toward improving partner work.

Both Leftheris and Davis have a lot of respect for the program and its instructor.

"She knows how to get the most out of us; she really pushes us," Leftheris said. "I respect her and what she does for us. It's such an important part of our training."

#### AN AARON FAMILY AFFAIR

Molly Aaron, with partner Daniyel Cohen, was the last of three Aaron siblings to compete at the 2011 U.S. Championships. Younger sister Madeline and partner Max Settlage won the novice pairs title, while brother Max became the junior men's champion.

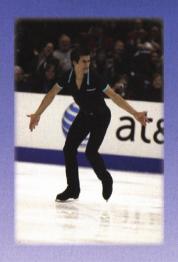
Aaron and Cohen placed 11th in their second season as seniors. Aaron acknowledged that being the female half of a senior pairs team is one of the toughest spots to be in as a figure skater, and she was pleased with how they skated even though they didn't enjoy the overt success her siblings did.

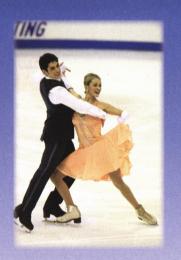
"This was a good competition for us," she said. "We need this experience and know how we can improve and expand our goals next season."

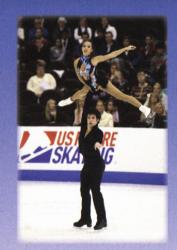


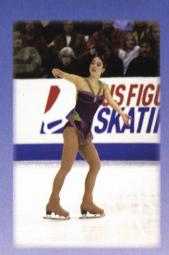
# 2012 U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA









JANUARY 22-29, 2012





SKATESANJOSE2012.COM







# Eyes on the prize

# DAVIS AND WHITE FULLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING GOALS

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

hen they were teamed together in 1997, Meryl Davis and Charlie White had luck on their side.

The two skaters, born 10 months apart, grew up within a few miles of each other in the Detroit suburbs. Their sizes — he is 5-9, she 5-3 — were, and are, a good match. World-level coaches worked nearby. And the international judging system (IJS), used by the ISU since 2004, helped technically superior North American ice dancers climb the sport's ranks faster than ever before.

But the University of Michigan students, who won their third consecutive U.S. ice dancing title in Greensboro, N.C., in January, share something that has nothing to do with luck: a brutal work ethic.

Igor Shpilband, who coaches

the team in Canton with Marina Zoueva, has said more than once: "I've been working with them since they were juniors, and they are the hardest-working team I've ever seen."

When pressed, the skaters agree.

"We do work very hard," Davis, 24, said. "It comes down to a level of comfort on the ice. Pretty much all of Igor and Marina's teams are on the ice four or five hours a day. I think at this point, skating comes to us as easy as walking."

Easier, says the 23-year-old White

"Actually, I trip more when I walk than when I skate," he said.

The two made it even harder for themselves this season. After winning 2010 Olympic and World silver medals with their powerful, story-driven *Phantom of the Opera* free dance, they did an about-face,



GOLD - MERYL DAVIS/ CHARLIE WHITE - 185.48

SILVER - MAIA SHIBUTANI/ALEX SHIBUTANI - 173.18 BRONZE - MADISON CHOCK/GREG ZUERLEIN - 154.62 FOURTH - MADISON HUBBELL/KEIFFER HUBBELL - 141.70

choosing a passionate tango set to selections from the *Il Postino* and *Forever Tango* soundtracks.

"We wanted to do something that didn't necessarily play to our strengths," Davis said. "It definitely has been really challenging day in and day out to learn to what extent we need to put the passion into the program to really make it work."

Also keeping the team on its toes are the many other couples training at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena. Not only are the two inspired by their longtime rivals, Olympic and World champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada, but they are being pushed from behind by younger couples, including Maia Shibutani and Alex

Shibutani, and Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein.

"There's a real positive vibe. That's one of the reasons we flourish so well together," White said. "We all appreciate each other, too. We're there for each other, we push each other. That's why you see the three of us sitting up here."

When Virtue underwent a second, more aggressive surgery to relieve chronic exertional compartment syndrome in her lower legs last October, many thought the Americans would waltz to the United States' first-ever World ice dancing title. Davis and White dominated the fall season, claiming gold at the NHK Trophy and Skate America before winning their second successive Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final last December.

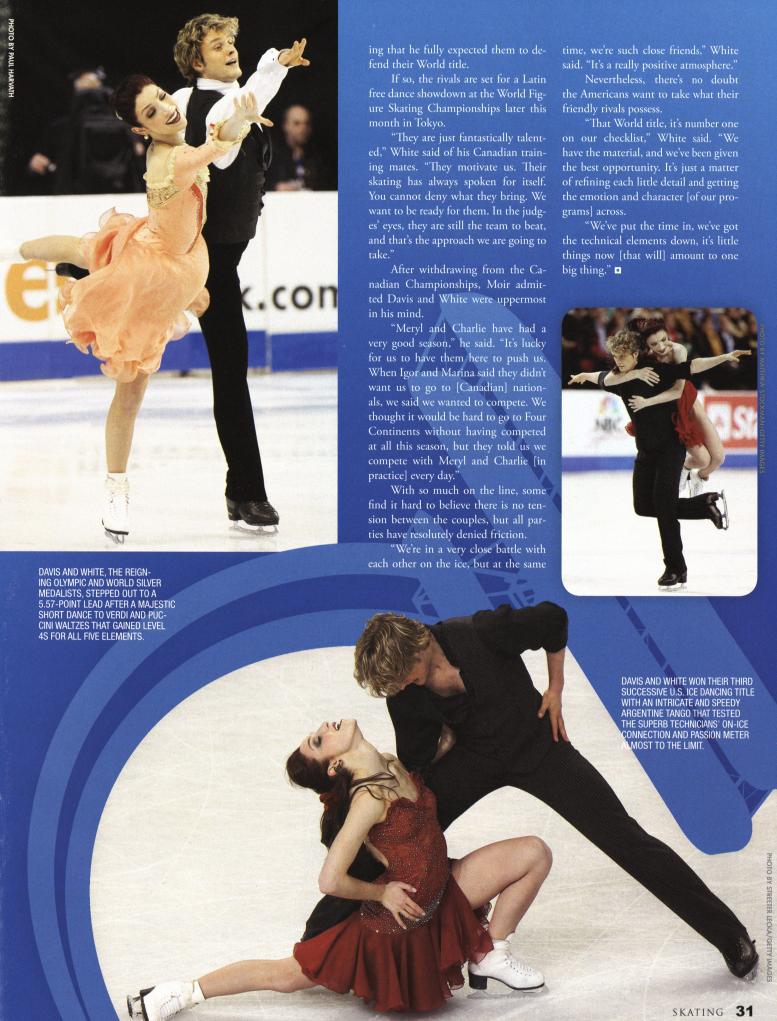
After missing the Grand Prix season and their national championships, Virtue and Moir returned to competition at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in February and started right where they left off, edging the Americans in the short dance. In practice, their Samba free dance looked every bit as challenging and sultry as Davis and White's tango. However, the Canadians withdrew from the competition midway through their free dance, citing tightness in Virtue's thigh.

According to Skate Canada High Performance Director Mike Slipchuk, the withdrawal was a precautionary move unrelated to Virtue's previous injuries.

"The free dance they're doing is very demanding and definitely takes a higher toll, and today when they started, she just felt with the tightness in the quad, she was just not able to continue," he said, add-

(L-R) MAIA SHIBUTANI AND ALEX SHIBUTANI, MERYL DAVIS AND CHARLIE WHITE, MADISON CHOCK AND GREG ZUERLEIN, MADISON HUBBELL AND KEIFFER HUBBELL









# 'A great stepping stone'

# DAVIS AND WHITE CLAIM THREE-PEAT; SHIBUTAINIS EARN SILVER, CHOCK/ZUERLEIN NAB BRONZE

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

world? Meryl Davis and Charlie White took another leap toward a

oday, Greensboro. Tomorrow, the

first-ever U.S. World ice dancing title, winning their third consecutive U.S. gold. The University of Michigan students capped

the week with a riveting performance of their tango free dance that took the audience's collective breath away and had the preternaturally fit skaters to huffing and puffing a bit as well.

"We really wanted to give an emotional per-

formance tonight and we are in fantastic shape," White, 23, said. "It's one thing to do the athleticism, but to put the emotion in the program really takes it out of you."

"It's definitely the most tiring program we've ever had," Davis, 24, said.

It's been a challenging season for the Olympic and World silver medalists, who got a laterthan-usual start on their programs after performing full-time in the post-Olympic "Stars on Ice" tour and other shows.

After several acclaimed story-driven free

dances, most recently their powerful Phantom of the Opera routine, the couple switched gears this season, aiming to master the sultry look and intricate athletic demands of the Argentine Tango.

"The goal is to take the Tango off the ice and make it seem like it's happening in a club in Buenos Aires," Davis said.

The skaters and their coaches, Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva, enlisted Daniela Pucci and Luis Bianchi, founders of the Tango Zone Dance Company, to help sharpen their movements and capture the Tango feel. Although they won NHK Trophy and Skate America, they tinkered with the program until two weeks before Greensboro, changing the middle section of the music.

The hard work paid off with an impressive 109.44 points, including six level four elements and program components ranging up to 9.82. Overall, they earned 185.48 points.

"I think the program has not only grown in and of itself, it's helped us grow as performers and skaters," Davis said. "Learning to what extent we had to put the passion into the program to make it work, we knew it was something that was really going to challenge us."

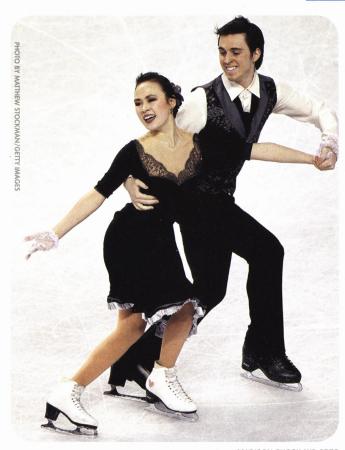
Earlier, Davis and White won the short dance with a free-flowing outing to Puccini and Verdi Waltzes that gained all level four elements, the first time they achieved that feat.

Good as it was, White things they can make



MERYL DAVIS AND CHARLIE WHITE, WITH COACHES MARINA ZOUEVA AND IGOR SHPIL-BAND, BEGIN THE CELEBRATION OF A THIRD CONSECUTIVE U.S. ICE DANCING TITLE





MADISON CHOCK AND GREG ZUERLEIN, AS THEY'VE DONE ALL SEASON, PUT TOGETHER TWO STRONG PERFORMANCES AT THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

MAIA SHIBUTANI AND ALEX SHIBUTANI MAKE THEIR FREE DANCE LOOK EFFORTLESS AND FUN. THE BROTHER-AND-SISTER TEAM BUILT ON AN OUT STANDING GRAND PRIX CAMPAIGN BY WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN GREENSBORO

it even better.

"I think there is timing and expression, and our twizzles weren't perfect," he said. "There were a lot of little things that may not be noticeable but put together could add up to a perfect performance."

One reason Davis and White continue to work so hard to perfect their craft may be the challenge in their Canton, Mich., rink from siblings Maia Shibutani, 16, and Alex Shibutani, 19, who won the silver medal their first time out as seniors.

The duo began the season with a simple goal "We wanted to cleanse ourselves of the junior label," said Alex — and won two Grand Prix medals in the process.

In Greensboro, their short dance to Richard Rodgers' "Carousel Waltz" also earned all level fours for elements, including the two Golden Waltz compulsory (pattern) dance sequences.

"The Golden Waltz was new to us; it was a real challenge," Alex said. "We made some mistakes early in the season and we feel like we've built up to this moment, so it is really gratifying."

The siblings' coming-of-age continued with

a fleet-footed Foxtrot and Quickstep routine to Charlie Chaplin's "Smile" and Irving Berlin's "Let's Face the Music and Dance" that gained seven level four elements and a higher technical score — 52.34 vs. 52.16 — than Davis and White's Tango. They ended the competition with 173.18 points.

"I have never seen such elegance in both programs, from such a young couple," Zoueva said.

"The score doesn't matter at this point," Alex said. "We were really up for this competition and are glad to make it beyond nationals to the next two [the 2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships and Worlds]. We're proud of how we fought through this week."

Yet another Shpilband/Zoueva team, Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein, claimed bronze with two exceptionally entertaining programs: a short dance to Edith Piaf waltzes and a free dance to selections from Cabaret that pushed their performance to new heights.

"This year was a big step for us," Zuerlein, 22, said. "There is more character in our program. Usually Maddie is the one who outshines me, but I think we're more together this season. I've really had to come out of my shell."

Overall, the 2009 World Junior champions earned 154.62 points, completing a top-three sweep for their coaches.

"Marina and Igor handle it so well and give each of us individual attention," Chock, 18, said of training in Canton. "Marina [Zoueva] does the scheduling, I don't know how, there are so many teams. No matter what, at the end of the day we are still close friends."

Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell made a fine recovery from Keiffer's back injury earlier in the season, capturing fourth place after a solid free dance to music from "Art of Noise." Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt were fifth.

As Davis and White move toward an expected showdown with their training mates, Canadian Olympic and World champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, at the World Figure Skating Championships in Tokyo this month, they think they are in good position to win the first-ever U.S. World ice dancing title.

"We've got a great shot," White said. "We're going to keep improving and this is a great stepping stone."

### BATTLE OF THE TWIZZLES

Meryl Davis and Charlie White reign supreme, but training mates Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani are hot on their twizzles.

The "Shib sibs" are tantalizingly coming close to their elders' technical ability, and beat Davis and White's element score in the free dance in Greensboro. One reason: their blazing twizzle (onefoot turns) sequences, done in sets of three.

"Twizzles are obviously one of their best attributes," White said. "It's hard to keep track



AND ALEX SHIBUTANI

AND CHARLIE WHITE

of them, they go by so quickly."

"It's a lot of training day in and day out," Maia said. "Since it was an option [to do three sets] this year, our coaches decided that it would be a good idea to do the three sets. It pushes us and makes us stronger skaters."

After some prodding from the press in the mixed zone, Alex declined the twizzle crown, deferring to White, who is four years older.

"Charlie is in a class of his own; he's the twizzle king," Shibutani said.

"Maybe we'll do a 'twizzle off' when we get back [home]," was White's rejoinder in the press conference.

#### ON THE MEND

The senior ice dancing event lacked a few familiar faces: Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates, 2010 U.S. silver medalists who placed 11th at the 2010 Olympics and climbed to ninth at the 2010 Worlds.



AND EVAN BATES

A training accident in late September — Samuelson's skate blade severed Bates' left Achilles tendon while the two were practicing a lift in their American in Paris free dance — ended their season before it began.

Both were on hand in Greensboro: Samuelson was doing ice dancing commentary for icenetwork.com, and Bates was a blogger. After four months off ice, Bates is skating again, having had successful surgery to repair the ten-

At first, Bates told the Detroit Free Press, "I had no balance. It felt weird. And then all of a sudden, I got it. I don't have the power or the ability to push, but as I came off the ice I knew there's no doubt I'll make a full recovery."

#### HAIL TO THE VICTORS

For the first time since 1998, the top three senior ice dancing teams at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships all practice under the same roof.

That year, a trio from the Detroit Skating Club finished 1-2-3, with Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow winning gold, Jessica Joseph and Charles Butler earning silver, and Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev taking bronze.

Davis and White, the Shibutanis and Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein all train at the Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, Mich.

"There's a real positive vibe. That's one of the reasons we flourish so well together" White said. "We all appreciate each other, too. We're there for each other, we push each other. That's why you see the three of us sitting up here."

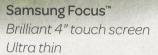




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at the 2011 AT&T U.S. Championships. The 10 outstanding student-athletes were recognized for their ure Skating. Five-time U.S. ice dancing efforts in the classroom, in their communities and as competitive figure skaters. Scholastic Honors Team champions and Olympic silver medalists recipients received scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Honors Team letter jackets. The Scholastic Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto addressed the distinguished group. "Over the past Honors Team is funded through the generosity of the Pioneer Fund, the legacy of the late Helen McLoraine. Pictured are (I-r) Clarice Zhou, Jay Yostanto, Kelly Traunero, Layla Siraj, Greta Riebe, Melissa few years, I've seen more and more re-Li, Lauri Bonacorsi and Amanda Bertsch. Not pictured are Maia Shibutani and Christine Mozer. tired skaters return to the incredible support group that is the U.S. Figure Skating family, to give back and stay connected to the sport which always gave them so much," Belbin said. "I'm so happy that





Ben and I were given the opportunity to host the alumni reception so that we had our own chance to thank everyone for keeping our tight-knit group so strong. As young athletes, I'm sure we all remember just how inspiring it was to see and hear from generations of great skaters as we pursued our dreams. I hope to always stay connected with all U.S. Figure Skating alumni and give back in as many ways possible to the sport I love."

DEDE DISBROW PRESENTS THE JIMMY DISBROW AWARD TO LONGTIME COACH AND CHOREOGRAPHER PHILLIP MILLS AT THE 2011 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

#### MILLS RECEIVES DISBROW AWARD

Phillip Mills, who has spent much of his life as a coach and choreographer for skaters at all levels, is the 2011 recipient of the ninth annual Jimmy Disbrow Award.

The Jimmy Disbrow Award is given to a member of the figure skating community who exhibits the same passionate spirit of dedication, selflessness and volunteerism that Jimmy showed to figure skating throughout his life.

Disbrow, who passed away in 2002, was a U.S. junior medalist in singles and pairs, a coach, an official and president of U.S.

Figure Skating from 1998 to 2000.

Mills has worked with numerous World and Olympic champions, as well as skaters just embarking on their careers and every level in between.

Those who nominated Mills for the award said, "Mills generates the same enthusiasm and positive energy to all levels of students and continues to give back to the sport, volunteering his time for Team USA camps, U.S. Figure Skating Coaches College and judges schools. His love, warmth, compassion and unwavering optimism about life personify the essence of this award."

Mills said it's been a privilege over the years to work with such hard-working and dedicated athletes and coaches and is honored to be recognized with the prestigious Disbrow Award.

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

THIS YEAR'S NOVICE CLASS WAS WORDS OF WISDOM FROM FIVE-TIME U.S. ICE DANCING CHAMPIONS TANITH BELBIN AND BEN AGOSTO.



SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presented the 2009-10 Readers' Choice Award for Skater of the Year (Michelle Kwan Trophy) to 2010 U.S. bronze medalist Johnny Weir during a break in the men's final. Weir also won the award in 2008. In addition to his success at home, Weir earned a bronze medal at the Grand Prix Final and finished sixth at the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. After being presented the award, Weir treated the crowd by answering

a few questions from icenetwork's Linda

# BELBIN AND AGOSTO ADDRESS NOVICE SKATERS

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, the most decorated ice dancing team in U.S. Figure Skating history, were the guest speakers for the Team USA Prep Seminar breakfast.

All the novice athletes at the U.S. Championships, their parents and coaches attended the half-day-long event.

The skating greats talked about the importance of communication, working together and learning from others at their respective rinks.

"It's important to have strong communication with your partner and coaches," they told the group.

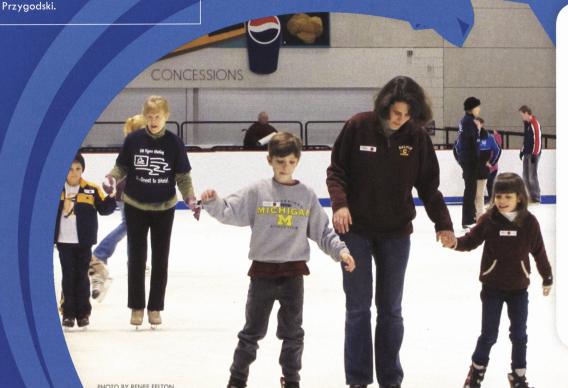
They also stressed the importance of having incremental goals and enjoying the journey, as well as using nerves to your advantage.

"It's also important to maintain a balanced life," Agosto said. "Keep things in perspective and spend every day doing non-skating-related activities."

In addition to the breakfast, the group learned about Team USA and the international selection process.

Dan Gould, director for the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, addressed the topic of athlete development, while Dr. Dan Benardot and his wife Robin talked about proper nutrition.

Peter Zapalo introduced the skaters to S.T.A.R.S. (Skater Talent and Athleticism Recognition System), which was created to help coaches and athletes benchmark athletic ability and foster the athletes' on-ice skills, with the goal of making those skills progress more easily while preventing injury.



David, Cindy and Alex White of Greensboro, N.C., take part in U.S. Figure Skating's Skate Fest on the final weekend of the U.S. Championships, Dozens of local families participated in the two-hour skating session, which included a free lesson with area professionals and the opportunity to skate with many of the novice and junior medalists from the week's competition. The celebrity skaters provided tips on how to improve their skating, and they demonstrated the jumps, spins, dance moves and footwork sequences that propelled them to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Many of the participants signed up for Basic Skills after their fun experience.

# 1961 U.S. World Team inducted

# INTO U.S. FIGURE SKATING HALL OF FAME ON MAGICAL NIGHT

by TROY SCHWINDT

he induction of the 1961 U.S. World Team at the venerable Greensboro Coliseum last month will go down as one of the great moments in U.S. Figure Skating history.

Eighty-three family members from across the country arrived to represent the 18 athletes and 16 coaches, officials and family members who died in a plane crash en route to Prague, Czechoslovakia, for the 1961 World Champion-

In front of a packed house, Olympic medalists and skating icons Peggy Fleming and Paul Wylie stood in the spotlight and read the names of each team member, as their photographs were displayed on the big screen above the arena.

The audience applauded and some cheered loudly as each name was read. It was an electric evening that Wylie says he'll never forget.

"It was incredible to stand there center ice with Peggy Fleming and take responsibility for reading the names of all the families," Wylie said. "It was a very moving experience. I think we forget about that history that we have in skating and the fact that we are one big family. It was an honor to be part of that night."

Before the in-arena recognition ceremony, family members of the team were honored with an induction ceremony and reception that included many of the sport's skating greats as well as longtime figure skating supporters.

The evening gave each family time to reflect on their loved ones and remember the contributions they made in life and to the sport of figure skating.

Stephen Kelley, brother of Gregory and Nathalie Kelley, said he was grateful for the opportunity to honor his brother and sister on this 50th anniversary.

"I think it was wonderful for U.S. Figure Skating to do this and do it so nicely," Stephen

Gregory Kelley was the 1961 U.S. silver medalist. He moved from Boston to Colorado Springs, Colo., to train with coach Edi Scholdan. Nathalie went with Greg to support his skating career and tutor him in school.

"Greg was very energetic, able to accomplish great things in school," Stephen said. "Being able to devote that amount of time as a young person to balancing his education and skating was something."

Gregory wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become a doctor. Nathalie was a schoolteacher.

Christie Davies, niece of coach William Kipp, wore a picture of Kipp next to her name tag at the induction.

She was in Greensboro with Kipp's sister Wilhelmina "Timmy" Kipp Gozzard and other family members.

Kipp was one of the sport's top up-andcoming coaches. He led the career of Peggy Fleming for a short time and was to coach 1961 U.S. bronze medalist Rhode Lee Michelson and ice dancing silver medalists Dona Lee Carrier and Roger Campbell in Prague.

Kipp's memory, Davies said, remains vivid in their family's minds.

"We will be watching (figure skating on television) and everything will be going on just fine and then we'll see somebody who looks like him, skates like him and we all get emotional and have tears run down our faces," Davies said.

The five children of coach Danny Ryan attended the induction and cheered when their father's name was read.

All five were very young when the accident took place, but their mother RoseAnne Paquette (Ryan) Wager, who passed away in November, and other family members and friends have helped the Ryan children keep his memory alive.

Daughters Sheryl Ryan Nolan and Terri Ryan Sullivan said it was wonderful to be in Greensboro and honor their father. Both Nolan and Sullivan are figure skating coaches. Nolan's son Christopher was a competitive figure skater and received money from the Memorial Fund, which was created on Feb. 23, 1961, as a living memorial for those who lost their lives in the crash. Sullivan's daughter competes today.

"(Induction of the '61 Team) is recognition for the foundation of the skating world that we have today, because the legacy is being carried on," Sullivan said. "I think it speaks to the closeness and the family and the commitment that the United States has to figure skating. We are very proud our father is part of that."

According to Nolan and Sullivan, their father was "a lot of fun, a real jokester who liked to have a good time." He was also a great coach, dedicated to his students.

"He would take kids in and give them free lessons," Nolan said. "He would just give so



EACH OF THE INDUCTEES' FAMILIES RECEIVED AN ENGRAVED SILVER "PAUL REVERE" BOWL.

much of himself."

Sullivan keeps a picture of her father in her wallet and remembers him every day.

"Even when mom was sick, a lot of the skating community really reached out to her and us children," Sullivan said. "It makes me feel like we are not so alone in the world because of our skating friends."

Joan Sherbloom Peterson, younger sister of 1961 U.S. ice dancing champion Diane Sherbloom, said Diane was enjoying life after winning the title with Larry Pierce and was looking forward to the World Championships and an exhibition tour that included a stop in Japan. Pierce asked Sherbloom to skate with him after his partner, Marylin Meeker, broke her ankle a couple months before the U.S. Championships. In just five weeks under coach Danny Ryan, the team won the U.S. ice dancing title in Colorado Springs, Colo.

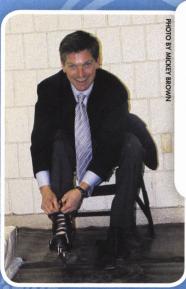
"I got a postcard from her that she wrote on the way to Philadelphia (for the North American Figure Championships)," Joan said. "It said, 'Can you imagine, I can't. I'm totally on cloud nine. Life is really very wonderful. Don't ever forget

For one of her high school classes, Diane wrote a story titled "This is my Life." In that piece, she talks about how her skating interest evolved as well as her love of school and desire to become a pediatric surgeon. She also shared her interest in religion.

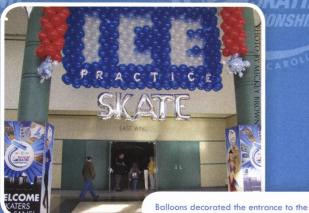
"... It's made me realize the happenings and troubles of the people around me in the world. It has made me want to be more outward not only in helping others but being more friendly myself. You might call it gaining a more pleasing personality along with giving service."



# SKATING U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS



Paul Wylie, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist and North Carolina resident, wore many hats during the 2011 U.S. Championships in Greensboro. He served as the event's honorary chairman, coached junior bronze medalist Alexander Aiken, participated in the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame induction ceremony, signed autographs and conducted a skating demonstration at FanFest.



CHAMPION:

practice ice. Fans took advantage of watching practice for free at the Coliseum. **YUSFIGURE** 



For never having hosted a major figure skating event,

Greensboro turned out to support the 2011 U.S. Championships. Great crowds, super skating and some Southern hospitality made for a week to remember.

Meryl Davis and Charlie White captured their third consecutive U.S. ice danc-

ing title, setting themselves

up nicely for a run at their

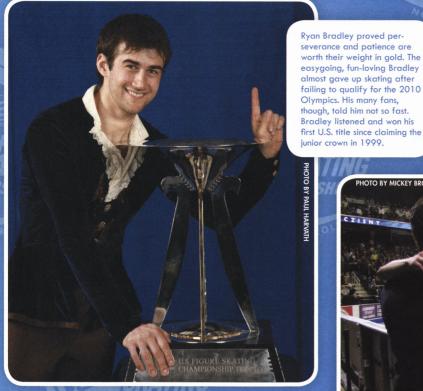
first World title later this

month. The Michigan team

has successfully taken the

torch from five-time U.S.

Coach Jason Dungjen hugs an ecstastic Alissa Czisny after her first-place free



TO BY MICKEY BROWN

# U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS SKATING

Alissa Czisny enjoyed the moment after winning her second U.S. title in three years. The 23-year-old from Bowling Green, Ohio, rediscovered her love for skating this season and it showed on the ice.



free skate.

U.S. junior bronze medalist Alexander Aiken shows his support for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

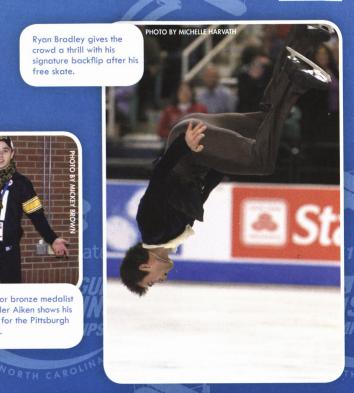


PHOTO BY MICKEY BROWN

U.S. silver medalist Rachael Flatt makes the day of one of her young fans during an autograph session.

Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin knocked on the door in 2010, finishing sixth overall. This year, the Colorado-based pairs team knocked the door down en route to the gold medal. The victory was an emotional one for both skaters, as Coughlin's mother, Stacy, passed away last year.



The pairs team of Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin react to scores in the kiss and cry, along with their coaches Dalilah Sappenfield and Larry Ibarra.

WORTH CAROL

Olympic champion Evan Lysacek talked to the media about RISE and his future in figure skating during a press conference at the Greensboro Coliseum. The two-time U.S. champion said he feels a sense of pride to be part of RISE and feels a strong connection to the project, with his coach Frank Carroll having been coached by Maribel Vinson Owen. As far as his future in competitive skating, Lysacek continues to weigh his opportunities. He did thrill the Greensboro crowd with an electric performance during the Smucker's Skating Spectacular.



**AMPIONSHIPS** 

(L-R) LAUREN DINH, COURTNEY HICKS, KATARINA KULGEYKO AND MCKINZIE DANIELS



LADIES MEDALISTS GOLD — COURTNEY HICKS — 173.22 SILVER - LAUREN DINH - 153.99 BRONZE — KATARINA KULGEYKO — 146.62 FOURTH - MCKINZIE DANIELS - 138.59

(L-R) ALEXANDER ZAHRADNICEK, MAX AARON, ALEXANDER AIKEN AND STEVEN EVANS



MEN'S MEDALISTS GOLD — MAX AARON — 188.67 SILVER - ALEXANDER ZAHRADNICEK - 182.85 BRONZE - ALEXANDER AIKEN - 179.94 FOURTH - STEVEN EVANS - 173.08

# Stars in waiting

# JUNIOR CLASS STEPS UP WITH AN ELECTRIC SHOW

ed the careers of many great skaters, and it looks like he has another starin-the-making in Courtney Hicks of

Hicks' exhilarating and athletic performance was just one of many turned in by a junior class that senior ranks.

Max Aaron, a bronze medalist as a junior in 2010, climbed the final two steps of the podium ladder in nabbing the gold medal. Just two years ago, the 19-year-old skater from Arizona found himself off the ice for an extended time with a serious back injury.

Pairs skaters Ashley Cain and Joshua Reagan, who train in the Lone Star state, proved they are a team to watch during this Olympic cycle. A year after claiming the novice crown, Cain, 15, and Reagan, 21, made it two titles in a row with a convincing free skate.

Michigan residents Charlotte Lichtman, 17, and Dean Copely, 22, followed in the steps of their senior training mates in Canton, Mich., by winning the ice dancing event. They clinched the gold medal with a free dance to music from the Beetlejuice soundtrack. Lichtman and Copely share the ice each day with the trio of teams that swept the senior division of ice dancing in Greensboro. They are all coached by Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva.

(L-R) ANDREA POAPST AND CHRISTOPHER KNIERIM, ASHLEY CAIN AND JOSHUA REAGAN, CASSIE ANDREWS AND TIMOTHY LEDUC AND BRYNN CARMAN AND A.J. REISS



PAIRS MEDALISTS GOLD — ASHLEY CAIN/JOSHUA REAGAN — 142.28 SILVER — ANDREA POAPST/CHRISTOPHER KNIERIM — 136.46 BRONZE — CASSIE ANDREWS/TIMOTHY LEDUC — 129.84 FOURTH — BRYNN CARMAN/A.J. REISS — 129.02

(L-R) LAURI BONACORSI AND TRAVIS MAGER, CHARLOTTE LICHTMAN AND DEAN COPELY, ANASTASIA CANNUSCIO AND COLIN MCMANUS, AND ANASTASIA OLSON AND JORDAN COWAN



ICE DANCING MEDALISTS GOLD — CHARLOTTE LICHTMAN/DEAN COPELY — 132.28 SILVER — LAURI BONACORSI/TRAVIS MAGER — 127.39 BRONZE — ANASTASIA CANNUSCIO/COLIN MCMANUS — 122.86 FOURTH — ANASTASIA OLSON/JORDAN COWAN — 121.12

## NICKS FINDS GOLD WITH HICKS

by MICKEY BROWN

When John Nicks finds something that works, he sticks with it. And he's sure found something in Courtney Hicks.

Outfitted in the same dress Sasha Cohen once wore and using two pieces of music to which a certain uber-flexible understudy of Nicks once skated, Hicks dominated her competition, winning the junior ladies title at the 2011 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships by a 20-point margin.

For someone who has mentored such heavyweights as Peggy Fleming, Kristi Yamaguchi and Cohen, Nicks had some high praise for his

"She has remarkable attributes. She can warm up in half the time of any other skater I've ever taught. She's fearless; there's no fear there at all," Nicks said. "When you put those two things together, you've got a remarkable athlete."

Hicks (All Year FSC) ran away from the field in record-setting fashion. Her free skate score of 112.38 and her overall total of 173.22 points are both records for a junior lady at a U.S. qualifying competition.

"It's really awesome," Hicks said. "I've been trying for a long time to get first place at nationals. It's really nice to get what I've been working for."

Donning the same dress (a purple number with gold trim) Cohen wore for her free skate in the 2002-03 season and skating to the same piece of music (the Russian folk song "Dark Eyes") the 2006 Olympic silver medalist used in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons, Hicks grabbed a lead of almost eight points in the short program.

She was the only competitor in that segment to even attempt a tripletriple combination — an opening flip-toe — and she landed it cleanly.

"I've been working on [the triple-triple] since the beginning of the season," said Hicks, the 2009 U.S. intermediate silver medalist. "It's been going well since the weeks before nationals. I wanted to do it, and it went well."

Just as in the short, Hicks was the only competitor in the free skate to so much as try a triple-triple, opening her "Malaguena" program with a clean triple flip-triple toe. She landed four more triples (two in combination) and had all three of her spins graded level four.

"Going into this season, I was hoping to win — I didn't expect I was going to," Hicks said. "It's a nice surprise."

Lauren Dinh (Broadmoor SC) moved up one spot after the short program to take the silver. After getting off to a shaky start in her "Danse Macabre" free skate, falling on her first jump element, a triple loop, she pulled herself together to land five clean triples (two in combination) en route to a second-place segment score of 101.48.

"I made one mistake at the beginning, and I tried to not let it affect the rest of the program, because everything counts," said Dinh, the 2008 U.S. intermediate bronze medalist. "I told myself to let it go, that there was more to do, more to accomplish."

Katarina Kulgeyko (Los Angeles FSC) extended her medal streak at a U.S. championship competition to three with a bronze in Greensboro. (She won intermediate gold in 2009 and novice bronze last season.).

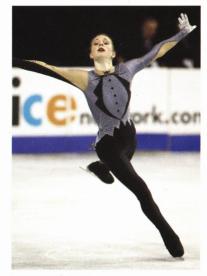
"There's no secret — only determination and hard work and drive to keep being on top," she said when asked what the secret is to her podium finishes.

By earning the pewter, McKinzie Daniels (Broadmoor SC) found her way onto a U.S. podium for the first time in her career. Her previous best finish was eighth in intermediate in 2008.

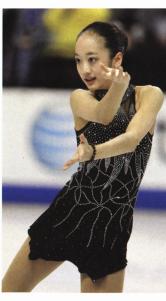
Mary Beth Marley (DuPage FSC) came in fifth in junior ladies. Three days later, she and partner Rockne Brubaker walked away with the senior pairs pewter medal.



**COURTNEY HICKS** 



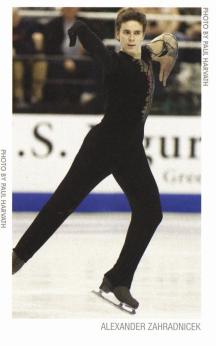
KATARINA KULGEYKO



LAUREN DINH

# U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNIORS

MAX AARON



ALEXANDER AIKEN

## AARON TO RIDE MOMENTUM INTO SENIOR RANKS

by RENEE FELTON

Two years ago, Max Aaron (Broadmoor SC) was in a back brace. Diagnosis? A fractured L-5 vertebrae. Since then, Aaron has rallied for multiple finishes on the podium including winning consecutive medals at the U.S. Championships. He breezed to victory in Greensboro, following up on a bronze-medal effort in 2010.

The injury served as a wake-up call for the Arizona native. After ignoring the pain much longer than he should have, Aaron found himself completely off the ice.

"The injury happened when I was figure skating and playing hockey at an elite level," Aaron said. "One day I was practicing with my team and I completely seized up. I could barely walk. An x-ray revealed the fracture."

As part of his recovery, Aaron, who was living in Scottsdale and training under coach Doug Ladret at the time, was in a back cast and spent two hours a day with a physical therapist.

"Without support from my coach, physical therapist and family, I wouldn't have gotten back on the ice," he said.

Despite having overcome this adversity, the 19-year-old was reserved upon learning he had won the junior men's title. The pressure that he had placed on himself to win tempered his excitement.

"He came in as the favorite and expected to skate that way," coach Tom Zakrajsek said. "I think he trained better than he skated, but I'm proud of him and feel this season has prepared him to make the move to championship men next season."

Aaron echoed his coach's sentiment following his free skate to Vivaldi's "Winter" and "Summer" that featured six triple jumps (three in combination) and a trio of level

"[The skate] didn't go as well as I trained it every day, but I feel like we are getting closer and closer to two clean performances," Aaron said. "This competition is very important because it sets up next year."

Aaron finished with a total score of 188.67 points.

Alexander Zahradnicek (SC of Wilmington), winner of the short program, captured the silver medal. North Carolina resident Alexander Aiken (Atlanta FSC) garnered the bronze.

Zahradnicek, a native of Suwanee, Ga., improved on a fifth-place finish from a year ago. He skated a long season with a stop on the Junior Grand Prix Series in Austria (he placed ninth), and wins at the Eastern Sectional Championships and the South Atlantic Regional Championships.

Zahradnicek's goal for this season was to become a more mature skater, and with coach Priscilla Hill, he worked hard on improving his jumps and spins.

"He is highly improved from last year," Hill said. "He is definitely a stronger allaround skater."

The 19-year-old totaled 182.85 points, including 119.04 points for his "Toccata and Fugue" free skate. Each of his 12 elements earned positive grades of execution.

Zahradnicek plans to spend the off-season transitioning to the senior level.

"I'm going to start fully focusing on the triple Axel," he said. "When I go to senior, I have to be great jump-wise, but also will work so my second mark (program components) is great, too."

Aiken brought the house down after skating his "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" free skate. The crowd rose to its feet and public address announcer Ann O'Keefe thanked the hardworking sweepers who collected several bags of goodies from the ice following the program that netted 118.16 points. He earned an overall score of 179.94 points.

Originally from Kennesaw, Ga., Aiken moved to the Charlotte area 10 months ago to train under 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie.

The change of scenery helped the 20-year-old overcome what he called a "disastrous" outing at the 2010 U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash., where he placed 10th. He credited the crowd and a cheering family section, as well as hard work throughout the fall, with getting him podium-ready.

"I made a little mistake early on in my program," Aiken said. "The crowd helped me to overcome and pretend that didn't happen. The fans pushed me through this routine even though I'm exhausted and battling a little cold. This is the first time I ever put together two clean programs and they definitely were a part of that. I'm really excited."

Steven Evans (Dallas Figure Skating Club) finished fourth with 173.08 points.

# CAIN AND REAGAN RIDE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO SECOND U.S. TITLE

by RENEE FELTON

Ashley Cain and Joshua Reagan (Stars FSC of Texas) followed up their U.S. novice pairs title in style with a gold medal in the junior ranks.

The Dallas-based team claimed both segments of the competition, finishing with 142.28 points. Andrea Poapst and Christopher Knierim (Broadmoor SC) grabbed the silver medal with 136.46 points. Cassie Andrews (Indiana World Skating Academy) and Tim LeDuc (Eastern Iowa FSC) secured bronze with 129.84 points.

The winning duo, in just their second season together, entered the Greensboro event confident after skating through the Junior Grand Prix Series season and gaining important experience and feedback. They finished sixth and second, respectively, at events in Great Britain and the Czech Republic, and fifth at the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in China.

"We got to go out on the Junior Grand Prix circuit and I think that really helped us this year," Cain said.

"We hadn't been on the international scene before so there was pressure and stress, but that prepared us for this," Reagan added. "We were more comfortable and prepared because of those experiences."

Cain, 15, and Reagan, 21, knew they were in good shape for the gold medal after landing double Axel, double Axel in sequence at the midpoint of their "Romeo and Juliet" free skate. Cain said that executing that element "sent shivers through my body."

A few minutes later, as they performed a level four combination spin, the couple knew they had skated their best.

"It was a great skate," he said. "I was so happy after many different points. In the ending spin, she said, 'we did it,' and we were both just so happy."

Other program highlights included side-by-side triple Salchows, a throw triple flip and a throw triple Salchow.

They will finish their season this month at the 2011 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Korea before getting to work on next year.

"Our goals are to skate clean and hopefully end up on the podium at World Juniors," Cain said. "We would like to improve our total score by six points. We feel if we are in the 150s, we can reach the podium."

Knierim has now medaled at three consecutive U.S. Championships, with three different partners. In 2009, he won silver with Brynn Carman, followed by pewter in 2010 with Carolyn-Ann Alba.

But he says this silver medal with Poapst, who recently moved to the United States from Canada to take her pairs tests and train in Colorado Springs, Colo., is special because of the connection the duo has.

"We weren't focused on getting a medal, but on the component mark and relating to each other while we were skating," Knierim said. "This is the most I've related to any partner so far."

Knierim and Poapst finished the short program in sixth place before rallying with a polished and athletic free skate to excerpts from the Amelie soundtrack.

Based on post-competition talk, it appears they don't plan to change partners any time soon.

"We've been working on looking like a senior team, or a team that's ready for senior," Poapst said.

Andrews and LeDuc will join Cain and Reagan at the World Junior Championships to conclude a successful first season together. They will make their second international journey after finishing eighth at their Junior Grand Prix Series stop in

Their free skate will need to improve between the U.S. Championships and World Juniors if they hope to contend for a medal. While the program garnered third-place marks, Andrews and LeDuc left points on the table with negative grades of execution on six elements.

"Coming into this competition, our goal was to skate well," LeDuc said. "We did that in the short and had a solid effort today in the free skate. Obviously, we have a lot of room to improve, but we are looking forward to what the future has in store for us."



ASHLEY CAIN AND



ANDREA POAPST AND CHRISTOPHER KNIERIM

TIMOTHY I FOLIC

CASSIE ANDREWS AND

# CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNIORS

CHARLOTTE LICHTMAN AND DEAN COPELY



LAURI BONACORSI AND TRAVIS MAGER



ANASTASIA CANNUSCIO AND COLIN MCMANUS

## LICHTMAN AND COPELY ACT LIKE WINNERS

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Charlotte Lichtman (Arctic FSC) and Dean Copely (All Year FSC) are quite the characters, and in Greensboro they acted their way to the junior ice dancing title.

Last season, the Canton, Mich.-based team's free dance portrayed scenes from Charlie Chaplin movies, with Copely — a self-described "short and goofy guy" —costumed in the requisite mustache and baggy-pants suit.

This season, they went one better: Copely played the title character in Beetlejuice, stalking and wooing a reluctant Lichtman. The quirky program, which featured three difficult level four lifts and lots of intricate steps, won the free dance with 77.05 points. They ended the event with 132.28 points, capturing first by 4.89.

"We didn't have a perfect free dance [Copely put a foot down on a twizzle] but we were able to really perform the program and finish with more energy than at the beginning of the season," said the 17-year-old Lichtman, a Northville High School senior who will attend the University of Michigan this fall.

"Last year our free dance focused a lot on the connection between us, building the characters," Copely said. "This year we were able to bring out the characters while still skating full out.

"We didn't realize until halfway through the season that there were no stops in this program — it's go, go, go, and then go faster."

Earlier, Lichtman and Copely placed second in the short dance with a charming waltz to a medley of "That's Amore" and "An Evening in Roma."

"It was the best short program we've put into competition," Copely said. "We've been incorporating more speed, more presentation."

In Canton, the skaters are trained by Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva and share the ice daily with Meryl Davis and Charlie White, as well as Canada's Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

"There is always a really good feeling at our rink," Lichtman said. "It's motivating to see the best ice dancers in the world every day. You never want to go back home and relax; you want to get out there and practice, too."

The silver medal went to Lauri Bonacorsi (Peninsula SC) and Travis Mager (Ice-Works SC). The duo took third in the short dance before captivating the crowd with a fast-paced free dance to "Cuban Pete" and "This Business of Love." They ended with 127.39 points.

"That was the most we could do. We just went out there and gave it our all and we're very happy," Bonacorsi, 17, said.

"I think we fed off of each other well and the crowd loved it, so it worked out great," Mager, 20, said.

The team trains in Aston, Pa., under 1980 Olympic champions Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov, who coach many national and international competitors. Karponosov thinks they have a great future.

"They can do a lot better," he said. "All they need is more experience."

Anastasia Cannuscio (Univ. of Delaware FSC) and Colin McManus (SC of Boston) won bronze with 122.86 points, placing fourth in both segments of the competition.

Their dramatic free dance was highlighted by difficult, well-executed twizzles as well as a speedy closing rotational lift.

"We worked so hard this season and having a national medal to show for it is great," the 20-year-old McManus said.

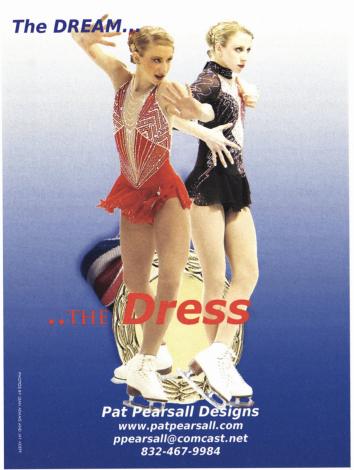
A computer scoring glitch during the short dance kept the team on pins and needles for a few minutes, but it came out right in the end.

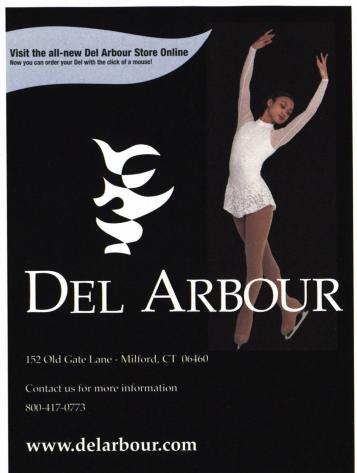
"We didn't think we had an error; we were trying to figure out what could have gone wrong," Cannuscio, 18, said. "We're grateful to the chief referee, who stuck with it and kept us informed."

Anastasia Olson (Detroit SC) and Jordan Cowan's (All Year FSC) ebullient program to "Zoot Suit Riot" was third in the free dance and they placed fourth overall with 121.12 points.

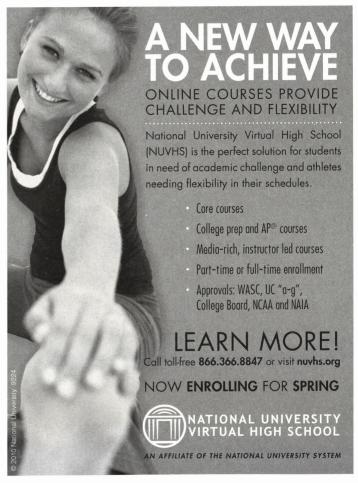
Joylyn Yang and Jean-Luc Baker (Seattle SC) won the short dance, but a fall in the free dance ended their medal chances. They placed sixth.

Next stop for the three top teams: the 2011 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Korea this month. There, Lichtman and Copely — who placed fifth at the Junior Grand Prix Final — hope to push for a medal.









(L-R) BARBIE LONG, HANNAH MILLER, AMANDA HOFMANN, MARIAH BELL

(L-R) JORDAN MOELLER, NATHAN CHEN, NIX PHENGSY, ALEXANDER BJELDE



LADIES MEDALISTS GOLD — HANNAH MILLER — 122.30 SILVER — BARBIE LONG — 121.85 BRONZE - MARIAH BELL - 115.33 FOURTH - AMANDA HOFMANN - 100.16



MEN'S MEDALISTS GOLD - NATHAN CHEN - 163.40 SILVER - JORDAN MOELLER - 127.85 BRONZE - NIX PHENGSY - 127.48 FOURTH — ALEXANDER BJELDE — 126.27

# Opening act

# NOVICE ATHLETES LIGHT UP GREENSBORO COLISEUM

athan Chen doesn't say much. He doesn't have to. The 11-year-old livewire from Salt Lake City, Utah, at the U.S. Championships with jumps for his second consecutive novice title.

His overall score of 163.40 was 26 points better than his effort at last year's big event in Spokane, Wash, where he became one of the youngest singles skaters to win a medal at a U.S.

While the 4'6" Chen stole the show in the novice ranks, there were plenty of other crowdpleasing performances from this budding group of skaters.

Michigan's Hannah Miller received a pickme-up phone call from a skating legend and then rallied to claim the ladies title. Miller, with Midwestern Sectional Championships medalists Barbie Long and Mariah Bell, swept the podium

The winning pairs team of Madeline Aaron and Max Settlage appeared polished and ready for the junior and senior divisions. The Colorado-based duo's ability to execute their elements and flow across the ice earned it cheers from the crowd and high marks from the judges. They led from start to finish and won by about 16 points.

And the sister-brother ice dancing team of Rachel and Michael Parsons, which united after last year's U.S. Championships, emerged as the cream of the field. The Maryland duo won both pattern dances and just missed claiming top honors in the free dance.

(L-R) CHELSEA LIU AND DEVIN PERINI, MADELINE AARON AND MAX SETTLAGE, AUDREY GOLDBERG AND JOSEPH DOLKIEWICZ AND CAITLIN FIELDS AND JASON PACINI



PAIRS MEDALISTS GOLD — MADELINE AARON/MAX SETTLAGE — 128.21 SILVER — CHELSEA LIU/DEVIN PERINI — 113.90 BRONZE — AUDREY GOLDBERG/JOSEPH DOLKIEWICZ — 109.97 FOURTH — CAITLIN FIELDS/JASON PACINI — 107.32

(L-R) JESSICA MANCINI AND TYLER BROOKS, RACHEL PARSONS AND MICHAEL PARSONS KAITLIN HAWAYEK AND MICHAEL BRAMANTE AND ELLIANA POGREBINSKY AND ROSS GUDIS



ICE DANCING MEDALISTS GOLD — RACHEL PARSONS/MICHAEL PARSONS — 112.82 SILVER — JESSICA MANCINI/TYLER BROOKS — 109.19 BRONZE - KAITLIN HAWAYEK/MICHAEL BRAMANTE - 106.64 FOURTH — ELLIANA POGREBINSKY/ROSS GUDIS — 105.91

# PHONE CALL FROM KRISTI HELPS LIFT MILLER TO GOLD

by TROY SCHWINDT

Disappointed in her short program performance, Hannah Miller (Lansing SC) received a phone call that put her in the proper frame of mind for her

Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi offered words of wisdom to the 14-year-old eighth-grader from Williamston, Mich. They were words that Miller took to heart, and to the top of the medal podium.

"She said to stay in the moment, that I was in a good position and to trust my training," said Miller, who sat third after the short program.

Miller, performing to William Joseph's "Piano Fantasy," won the free skate with 82.96 points. She finished with an overall score of 122.30 points. Her fellow medalists from the Midwestern Sectional Championships, Barbie Long (Springfield FSC) and Mariah Bell (Rocky Mountain FSC), finished second and third, respectively, with scores of 121.85 and 115.33. They finished in that order at sectionals.

Miller's connection to Yamaguchi is threaded through her dad's friendship with Yamaguchi's husband Bret Hedican. Both Hedican and Kevin Miller played for Team USA and for long stints in the NHL.

Miller also received words of encouragement in a text message from her cousin, Ryan Miller, who is in the NHL and was the goaltender of Team USA at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. It was in Vancouver last year that Miller met Yamaguchi for the first time.

"We have a long history of hockey and skating in our family," said Miller's coach Kirsten Miller-Zisholz, who is Hannah's aunt. "She has two sisters who figure skate and one who plays hockey. Hannah has a lot of competitiveness in her and sometimes you can't teach that."

Miller trailed by 2.57 points after her "Singin' in the Rain" short program; a fall on an opening triple Salchow hurt her score.

Her free skate, however, was much better and included a triple Salchowdouble toe-double loop combination and three level four spins. A shaky landing on her second Salchow was Miller's only hiccup in the program.

"She was disappointed in her short program skate," Miller-Zisholz said. "It's a program she skated clean all season so I think she was little bit in disbelief that she made that error. We felt she was a little cautious and we approached the long program with the nothing-to-lose, put-it-all-out-there thinking. The goal going into long was not placement but just a personal happiness when she left ice."

Long, the bronze medalist last year as an intermediate, put out the two most technically difficult programs of the competition.

The 14-year-old from St. Louis finished second in the short program and second in the free skate. Her free skate to music from Schindler's List included six triple jumps, three of which were in combination. Long showed the presence of mind to add a combination to her second triple Lutz after failing to do so earlier in the program. She fell on her triple loop but received level four for two of her spins.

"I wasn't too nervous," Long said about her first experience at the U.S. Championships. "It was a lot of fun."

Working hard on her skating skills and program component scores are priorities for the upcoming season, she said.

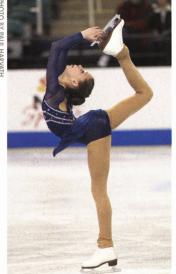
Bell, a freshman at Ralston Valley High School near Denver, jumped out to the lead with her short program to music from East of Eden. The energetic 14-year-old earned the highest program component marks of the short program and connected on a triple Salchow-double toe combination for a score

Her free skate to music from Cats experienced a bump in the road when she popped a planned triple toe. The way she responded to that adversity, however, was the highlight of her program, she said.

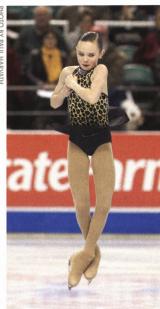
Amanda Hofmann (Highland SC) finished fourth.



HANNAH MILLER

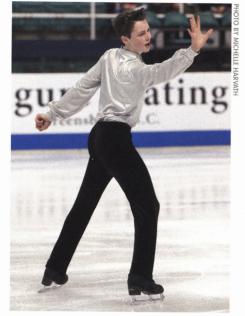


BARBIE LONG



MARIAH BELL

NATHAN CHEN



JORDAN MOELLER

NIX PHENGSY

# CHEN GOES BACK-TO-BACK IN CONVINCING STYLE

by MICKEY BROWN

Nathan Chen (Salt Lake Figure Skating) admitted his novice win at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships — which included a third-place finish in the free skate, a segment in which he fell on his first two triple jump attempts — tasted bittersweet.

His triumph a year later was much more palatable to the 11-year-old

Looking like he hadn't grown much from the 4 feet, 5 inches he measured a year earlier in Spokane, Wash., Chen left no doubt as to who the best competitor in the field was, winning his second-straight U.S. novice title. The margin this time around was staggering: He won the free skate by more than 26 points and beat his nearest challenger by almost

"I'm really happy about it," Chen said after his free skate. "After warm-up, I was a little scared, but during the performance I was pretty

Chen grabbed a six-point lead with his "Rawhide" short program. Wearing full cowboy get-up — replete with a vest, plaid shirt and neckerchief —and using his fingers as pistols, he landed a clean triple Lutzdouble toe combination, a triple flip and a double Axel, but the real highlights were his fast-as-lightning spins, both of which earned level four.

"Last year I just tried to do my best and see what happened," Chen said following the short program. "This year there's a lot of pressure, but I think it's easier since I know how to handle it."

Chen opened his "Hungarian Rhapsody" free skate with a double Axel-double loop-double loop combination and went on to land six triples (two in combination) en route to the convincing victory. His free skate total of 110.93 points would have been sixth-best in the junior event and beaten eight of the scores posted in the senior men's free skate.

"I had a thought before the performance that I had to do everything as well as I could, and I wanted to show it for this nationals," said Chen, who racked up a total of 163.40 points.

While his technical prowess was unquestioned, what really stood out were his improved expression and musical interpretation, which Chen attributes to his performing in shows and taking ballet classes.

Moeller (Northern Ice SC), the 2010 U.S. intermediate champion, edged Nix Phengsy by .37 points for the silver. The slender, long-legged Moeller skated a clean short program to Stevie Ray Vaughan's "Little Wing," landing a triple Salchow-double toe, a triple toe and a double Axel. His free skate, to Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor," was a bit shakier, as it contained only two clean triples.

"It could have been better, but for my first year at nationals, I'm real excited with it," said Moeller, who trains outside Chicago under coach Kori Ade. "I consider it a success."

Phengsy (All Year FSC), who is of Laotian descent, pulled up from fourth to earn the bronze. Like Moeller, he landed only two clean triples in the free skate, but he asserted himself in other areas, as he was the only skater in the event to earn level four for all three of his spins.

"I know that I messed up a bit, but I did my best," said Phengsy, who takes from the coaching team of Jerome Michael and Alex Chang. "I stood up on everything, and that makes me happy."

The German-born Alexander Bjelde (whose last name is pronounced "BYEL-dee") finished fourth. He stopped on-ice training after the sectional championships because of a stress fracture in his back and only started doing full run-throughs less than one month before the U.S. Championships.

"I didn't think I'd get in the top six," he said. "I'm so very happy with how I placed."

# AARON AND SETTLAGE WIN WITH SEASONED PERFORMANCES

by TROY SCHWINDT

Madeline Aaron (Coyotes SC of Arizona) might have had a 102 temperature, but the spunky pairs skater nicknamed "Mighty Mouse" by her coaches and rinkmates would not be denied her first U.S. title.

The 16-year-old from Scottsdale, Ariz., with her partner of seven months, 18-year-old Max Settlage (Broadmoor SC) of Flagstaff, Ariz., turned in two polished, veteran-like performances en route to a 14-point victory and the gold medal.

The California tandem of Chelsea Liu (Broadmoor SC), 11, and Devin Perini (Los Angeles FSC), 17, also a new team on the scene, secured the silver medal, while Pennsylvania's Audrey Goldberg, 14, and Joseph Dolkiewicz (SC of Southern New Jersey), 18, claimed the bronze medal.

"We were all cheering for Madeline, because she has a 102 fever and had been throwing up all day," said her coach Dalilah Sappenfield after the free skate. Aaron and Settlage train at the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Sappenfield, who has coached some of the country's top pairs teams over the last several years, said her goal for Aaron and Settlage since November's sectional championships was to clean up their programs and focus on their connection and unison.

"They have a mature look on the ice and I wanted to capitalize on that a little bit," Sappenfield said.

Sappenfield's work in those areas paid dividends as Aaron and Settlage glided over the ice like teams in the junior and senior ranks. They finished with 128.21

The skaters credited their longtime friendship with their ability to easily emote on the ice.

In their free skate to music from The Nutcracker, Aaron and Settlage flowed from one element to the next. They hit a big throw triple Salchow early in the program and were credited with a pair of level four spins. Their program component marks were about nine points better than the next team's.

Aaron, a sophomore at Cheyenne Mountain High School, moved to Colorado at the end of May, joining her brother, Max, and sister, Molly, who also skate at the Broadmoor rink and who qualified for the Greensboro event. Max captured the junior men's title the night after Madeline's win.

Liu and Perini won over the fans with their high-energy programs. The team finished second in both the short program and free skate en route to an overall score of 113.90 points. Their free skate to "Oogway Ascends" featured a pair of level four spins, a double twist and a strong death spiral.

Their accelerated rise to the podium wasn't lost on their coaches and former pairs greats Jenni Meno and Todd Sand. Christine Binder also works with the team on their skating skills and choreography.

"They are very new both as a team and as pairs skaters," Sand said. "When we put them together it was a little bit of an experiment at first but it's turned out very well. Our goal was to get them to nationals in novice and I think they've exceeded expectations. They work very hard and they have a very good rapport, which I think really benefits them when they are practicing at home."

"I think it comes out in their performance," Meno added. "You can see the relationship they have with each other when they are skating."

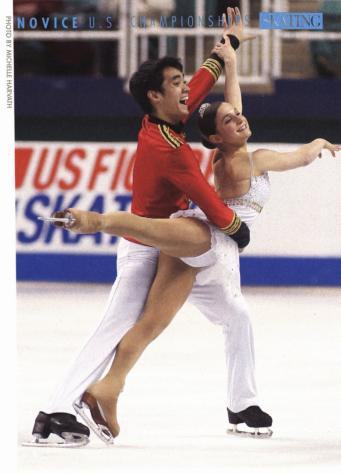
Goldberg and Dolkiewicz, fourth after the short program, executed a nice Axel lasso lift midway through their "Chicago" medley free skate. A pair of combination spins received high marks as well.

Goldberg and Dolkiewicz, coached by Rocky Marval and Isabelle Brasseur, became a team three years ago and have gradually made their way up the ranks. They finished 10th in their first season at the juvenile level, second last year at intermediate and this year earned the bronze.

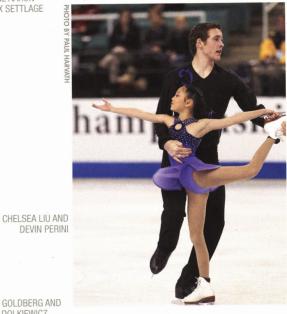
"When you've skated together for so long, you can close your eyes, reach out for her hand and it's there," Dolkiewicz said.

Goldberg said they planned to celebrate their medal by getting massages.

Caitlin Fields (Coyotes SC of Arizona) and Jason Pacini (Fort Collins FSC), third after the short program, finished fourth.



MADELINE AARON AND MAX SETTLAGE



AUDREY GOLDBERG AND JOSEPH DOLKIEWICZ



# SKATING U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS NOVICE

RACHAEL PARSONS AND MICHAEL PARSONS



JESSICA MANCINI AND TYLER BROOKS



KAITLIN HAWAYEK AND MICHAEL BRAMANTE

# PARSONS PROJECT PAYS OFF WITH GOLD MEDAL

by TROY SCHWINDT

After the 2010 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash., Rachel Parsons and her brother Michael Parsons (Washington FSC) decided to join forces for the upcoming season.

It was a matter of convenience for the ice dancing team from Derwood, Md., who had enjoyed success with other partners a year earlier. Rachel, 13, won the intermediate title with Kyle MacMillan while Michael, 15, finished fourth at the novice level with Kristina Rexford.

"It makes the schedule a lot easier, it's more flexible," said Rachel, who with Michael attend Maryland public schools.

In Greensboro, the Parsons proved their decision to unite was a wise one. They won both pattern dances and finished second in the free dance en route to 112.82 points and the gold medal.

Jessica Mancini and Tyler Brooks (Broadmoor SC) won the free dance and secured the silver medal with 109.19 points. Kaitlin Hawayek (SC of Western New York) and Michael Bramante (Detroit SC) collected the bronze medal with 106.64 points.

The Parsons' free dance to Stravinsky's Firebird garnered the event's highest program component marks. They started on a great note with a combination of lifts that rang up 9.31 points. Each one of their six elements earned positive grades of execution.

"I'm most pleased with the twizzles because that's probably our hardest element and we did them pretty good," Rachel said.

One of their coaches, Elena Novak, said the team's overall performance was fine but that they are young and still learning how to compete.

Mancini, 14, and Brooks, 16, were riding on cloud nine after their winning free dance to Louie Armstrong's "La Vie en Rose/La Mer." The Colorado connection edged the Parsons 60.51 to 60.46. Intricate footwork and strong lifts put the team on top.

"We really just wanted to sell it since it was the last one of the season," said Mancini, who is from Castle Rock and drives down Interstate 25 to Colorado Springs to train with Brooks at the Broadmoor Arena. "It was just so fun to be in front of a big crowd and we just focused on taking the crowd into it with us."

"It was like a celebration of everything we've trained for," Brooks added. "Our last free dance of the year, make it the best one. We wanted to bring the performance out like never before and I think we did that today."

Mancini and Brooks, coached by Tiffany Dombeck, began their partnership in March 2010.

"We really didn't have too high expectations for this year but it's turned out great and we've enjoyed every competition," Brooks said.

Hawayek and Bramante celebrated their relatively new partnership by winning some hardware. The two participated in a tryout in Detroit six months ago after Hawayek's partner unexpectedly quit. Bramante, who is from Boston, was looking to relocate to a different training center in the Detroit area and ended up joining Hawayek for an audition. Hawayek actually lives in Buffalo, N.Y., and commutes to Detroit.

The team, third after the pattern dances, put out a solid free dance to "Strictly Violin" and "The Red Violin" by Ikuko Kawai.

On the positive side they were pleased with their step sequence, which received a level three.

"We've never received that mark before," Bramante said.

The team's level two spin, however, was disappointing, the skaters said.

"We've normally done the spin really well, with positive GOEs, a level four," Hawayek said. "It was just a mistake."

Elliana Pogrebinsky (Peninsula SC) and Ross Gudis (Washington FSC) finished fourth with 105.91 points.

# U.S. Figure Skating Announces SKATING DIRECTOR'S COURSE



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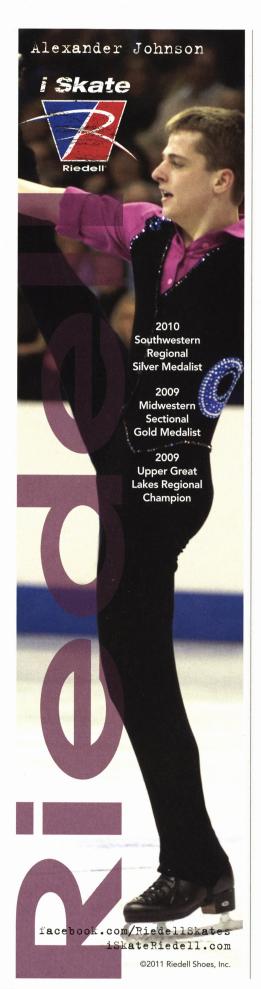
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# Ask Mr. Edge

# 2011 PRODUCT REVIEW



#### RIEDELL UNVEILS 'ECLIPSE' MODELS

It's time for my annual product review. In 2011 we'll see numerous changes within the industry. There are so many changes that I am devoting a separate column to Riedell and Jackson Ultima.

The most surprising change in the industry comes from Riedell. It is introducing its own competitive blade line called the "Eclipse," which is designed to meet the performance needs of the competitive skater. The line consists of three models of freestyle blades and one for ice dancing. The use of the latest state-of-the-art technology and modernized manufacturing equipment should make this blade line a hit with consumers.

Another benefit of the new blade line is the quality control in place to make sure that the sole and heel plates are positioned evenly, making it easier for mounting, while at the same time providing a higher tolerance against breakage.

Skaters and parents alike will also be glad to hear that these blades are made in North America, and the retail pricing will reflect the current economic climate. Having its own blade line will also allow Riedell to carry a larger inventory without worrying about any additional manufacturing costs or delays, while at the same time delivering a cost-efficient quality product to the skating commu-

All Eclipse models are made with the following:

- 1. Full silver welds offer strength and
- 2. 1075 high carbon steel combines strength and resilience
- 3. Chrome plating over nickel base plate creates a beautiful finish
- 4. Body hardening and heat tempering extends edge life
- 5. Automated chrome relief provides more consistent edge bite
- 6. Chrome relief toe rakes allows secure ice engagement

All Eclipse blades carry a complete oneyear warranty against any defect in workmanship or materials. If not completely satisfied with any Eclipse blade, return them to the place of purchase within 60 days along with the proof of purchase for a full refund or exchange.

#### **BLADE MODELS**

**Volant:** Entry level freestyle blade taking skaters through U.S. Figure Skating pre-preliminary levels Retail Price: \$135



Mist: Intermediate freestyle blade for U.S. Figure Skating preliminary and juvenile levels Retail Price: \$229



Infinity: Hi-test freestyle blade similar to the Wilson Pattern 99 and Ultima Elite. This blade will easily allow skaters working on doubles and triples the performance needed for that level of skating. Retail Price: \$325



Dance: Slightly different but similar to the MK Dance; skaters can expect to do well using this blade. With its slightly larger toe picks, synchro skaters should find this to be an awesome blade as well. Retail Price: \$235



I have personally seen these blades, inspected them closely, and predict that these will do quite well in the Riedell lineup.

#### **NEW BOOT MODELS**

Back by popular demand is the everpopular model 375 Gold Star Classic that has provided skaters with unmatched quality, durability and performance for years.

Aside from the all-natural leather interior and exterior, other great features include Riedell's new VDO (vibration dampening outsole). This boot features a complete leather

mid-sole with a laminated urethane membrane that absorbs shock on landings and dampens vibration when skating, resulting in better control of the skate blade edge, while allowing for improved shock absorption and a firmer blade mounting area. The 375 Gold Star Classic is available in ladies, girls, men's and boys sizes.



Other great features which have been incorporated into the Gold Star model are the open-throat design, flex notch, tongue lace bar and higher toe box design. Note: Rolled comfort collar, tongue lace bar and flex notch are not available on the junior sizes.

Retail Price: \$585 adult ladies, \$459 junior girls; men's and boys black are slightly higher in price.

New to Riedell's instructional lineup is the 229TS model in adult, junior and youth sizes. Filling the void between the 133TS and 255TS in both price and quality, this model has many features — such as leather outsoles and heels, rolled comfort collar and flex notch - normally found in higher-priced skates, while still offering enough support and comfort for the beginning freestyle and adult pleasure skater.

Retail Price Boot Only: \$174 adult ladies, \$159 junior and youth girls; men's and boys black are slightly higher in price.

The new 113SF model and the 725SS are targeted at beginners and recreational skaters. The 113 model is a hybrid of traditional styling



and design with comfortable mellow temper for easy break-in. The 725SS is a stylish beginninglevel skate that offers skaters added warmth and all-day comfort with its 3M Thinsulate lining.

113SF Retail Pricing Boot & Blade: \$59 adults and \$55 juniors

725SS Retail Pricing Boot and Blade: \$69 adults and \$65 juniors

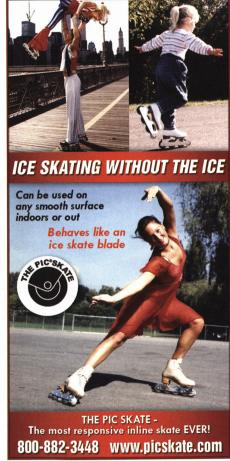
Have a great skate,

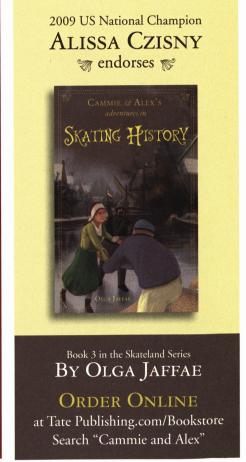




Mr. Edge







# Saramarie Puzzanghera



Age: 11

Hometown: Winchester, Mass.

Home club: Hayden Recreation Center FSC

Level: Preliminary freestyle, novice moves, juvenile synchronized skating

How often I skate: Almost every day including twice a week with my team, the Mini-Mates

Coaches: Karen Pavio, Kendra Flanagan, Saga Krantz

Favorite skaters: Emily Hughes, Sasha Cohen, Rachael Flatt, the Haydenettes

Favorite jumps/moves: Spread eagle, Lutz, layback

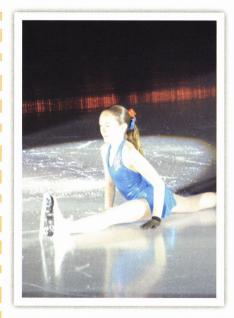
How I got started: I watched my sisters take lessons. My mom and our neighbor finally took me on the ice when I was 2 and took away the crates.

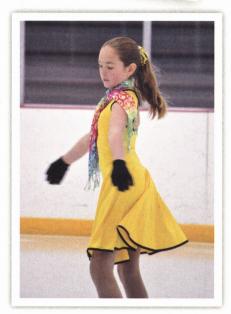
Goal: To compete at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships and to land my Axel

Most memorable moment: It was skating my first solo in front of my entire school at our annual skating party.

What else you should know: I am a graduate of the Vinson-Owen School. Our school is named for Maribel Vinson Owen, nine-time U.S. champion and famous coach. Every year, we have a schoolwide skating party to celebrate our namesake; everyone skates, even the principal. As a figure skater, I have had the privilege of skating for the whole school every year since second grade. I now attend the Winsor School in Boston.

Hobbies: I play piano and clarinet. I am a Girl Scout Cadette and love camping, I also love watching the Boston Red Sox and cooking for my family (popovers are my specialty).









# MORE FAVORITES

Foods: White pizza, stuffed clams

Singers: Taylor Swift, The Beach Boys

TV shows: "Extreme Home Makeover," "Cyberchase"

Books: My Father's Dragon, Lost, The Doll People, The Green Glass Sea, Harry Potter

School subjects: Math, science, reading

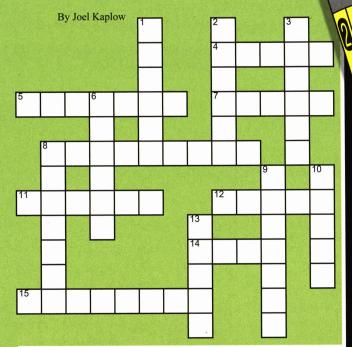


#### ACROSS

- 4 Zawadzki took the ladies 3 Down at the U.S. Championships in January
- 5 In Greensboro, \_\_\_ and Keiffer Hubbell won the 3 Down for ice dancing
- 7 NBC has a spot called The \_\_\_\_ Booth for skaters to say oncamera how they feel about their performances
- 8 The U.S. Olympic Committee has chosen Evan Lysacek to receive the 2010 \_\_\_\_ of the Year award
- 11 Skaters have "\_\_\_" a jump when they "open up" in mid-air and don't complete the planned number of rotations
- 12 When Michelle Kwan attended a state dinner at the White House in January, she made the president of \_\_\_\_ laugh when she told him that she was too old to compete
- 14 Mirai Nagasu calls herself the "\_\_\_" Mirai when she goofs off at skating practice, or loses focus
- 15 Even though Rockne \_\_\_\_ had been with his new partner Mary Beth Marley for only five months, they still picked up the pairs 3 Down in Greensboro

#### DOWN

- 1 The men's 3 Down went to Jeremy
  \_\_\_\_ at the 2011 U.S. Championships
- 2 During NBC's "Skating & Gymnastics Spectacular" in January, Olympic ladies all-around gold medalist \_\_\_\_ Liukin strapped on a pair of skates and held on to Evan Lysacek for dear life!
- 3 What medal is awarded for fourth place at the U.S. Championships?
- 6 Name Peppermint Patty's "doggone" coach on ABC's "She's a Good Skate, Charlie Brown"
- 8 Ice dancing blades need to be more maneuverable than regular figure skating blades, so are they longer or shorter?
- 9 The World Synchronized Skating Championships will happen next month in the capital city of Helsinki, \_\_\_\_
- 10 Alissa Czisny is the first U.S. lady to win the Grand Prix Final since \_\_\_\_ Cohen did it in 2002
- 13 In January, NBC aired "Skate for the \_\_\_" hosted by Peggy Fleming and Michelle Kwan



Answers to the Crossword Puzzle and Word Find appear on page 76



RITCAATGOIERI IEJAMIESALER MMIALSENGSA TAPLATTERL LLOOESDOEAD AEAAATNLEN WXXOSA - 1 TNOAAAL S S RGERBIDABTG BEIATAOCXI IRELREAAAA ELTAAGESOSTNTL REITELLEPDIVAD TRILEAEAKW

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!

MAO ASADA
SECTIONALS
BRIAN ORSER
GREENSBORO
JAMIE SALE
DAVID PELLETIER
ALEXE GILLES
PLATTER LIFT
KATARINA WITT

By Joel Kaplow

# **AXEL ANNIE**

By Andrea Nason • Check out www.axelannie.com See Axel Annie on Facebook











Editor's note: Annaleigh Yahata is a member of U.S. Figure Skating's DREAM program and California Gold. Yahata, a senior at Esperanza High School, first represented Team USA with California Gold at the 2010 French Cup. In her second year on Team USA, she traveled to the 2011 Cup of Berlin, helping California Gold earn a fourth-place finish at the event. In this article, Yahata reflects on her recent experiences in Berlin.



# Lessons learned

## BERLIN EXPERIENCE INVALUABLE FOR CALIFORNIA GOLD

by ANNALEIGH YAHATA

n a warm and sunny afternoon, we leave California and head toward the chill of Berlin, Germany. Armed with our animal-shaped pillows and prepared for the 12-hour flight ahead, the California Gold senior team walks onto the plane. After landing in Paris, France, we run to our next flight, even though it is the last thing we want to do. However, a short hour and a half later, we arrive in Berlin. On the bus, we wake up enough to watch the foreign buildings pass by us, noting we are not in California anymore.

At the hotel, we cram into the small elevators and hurry to our rooms to start hair and makeup. We have an unofficial practice right off the bat to wake our bodies up and try to adjust to the nine-hour time difference. We walk into the rink, proud to be wearing our Team USA jackets and proud to be representing the United States. We get to work right away. We have some great run-throughs of both

programs and work through adapting the program to the ice size. After practice, we use the "U-Bahn," Berlin's equivalent to subways, to get back to our hotel. We begin to absorb the culture of the city.

The next morning, after another unofficial practice, we tour the city. We begin at the historic Brandenburg Gate, make our way through the labyrinth of the Holocaust Memorial, eat at a delicious authentic German restaurant, walk by the Berlin Wall and visit a decadent chocolate shop where we drown in rich German hot chocolate. After a long day of touring, we go to bed, ready to fully commit ourselves to our short program, inspired by the history of the Berliners who had pulled together to create one unified



CALIFORNIA GOLD PRACTICES AT AN OUTDOOR RINK IN BERLIN.

city after a war.

During official practice the next morning, it feels great to be able to perform two short programs on the competition rink. It is a bit mesmerizing to be surrounded by the flags of all the countries at the competition, but we feel ready to compete later that night. As we walk to the rink that evening, we pump each other up for competition, ending with a loud "USA!" cheer as we walk to the locker room. We skate an amazing short program and place third.

Though being in a foreign place is an immeasurable experience, we take seriously our responsibility to represent our homeland. The next day

is completely devoted to the free skate. The official practice is difficult to get through. We are tired from jet lag, and the adrenaline we ran on the night before is fading.

Though the waving of many American flags in the stands can take your breath away, by that night, while competing, we engage, focus and perform a good free skate. After hearing our scores, all we want to do is head back to the ice, skate the program again and erase the three-point shortfall that keeps us off the podium. Since our coach tells us, "Your competition is the average of your practices," we now bring this fire to work harder back to our practices in the United States.

Looking back on this competition, I realize that the opportunities for our team to grow did not just take place on the ice. The minute-to-minute challenges that faced us while living and learning in a foreign culture helped pull us even closer as a team, whether it was figuring out how many dollars there are in a euro, what currywurst was (or anything else on the menu, for that matter), or how to say "thank you" in German. We are honored to represent the United States, and the experience has propelled our team toward excellence.

CALIFORNIA GOLD TAKES IN SOME OF THE SIGHTS, INCLUDING A STOP AT THE HISTORIC BERLIN WALL







Editor's note: Bianca Jackson is a member of U.S. Figure Skating's DREAM program and a member of the Starlights. Jackson, a senior at New Trier Township High School, helped the Starlights earn a pewter medal at the 2010 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in the team's first year at the senior level. In this article, Jackson reflects on her team's recent experience representing Team USA at the 2011 Mozart Cup in Salzburg, Austria.

# True colors

## REPRESENTING USA IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE

by BIANCA JACKSON

n my first time skating at the U.S. Synchronized Championships in 2005, I remember seeing a senior team enter the arena in crisp red, white and blue jackets emblazoned with "TEAM USA."

My 11-year-old self is in awe. "Can I buy one of those jackets? Please?" I innocently ask my mother. She laughs and tells me that if I want to wear the red, white and blue, I have to earn it.

Fast-forward six years and I'm stepping off the plane in Munich, Germany, with the rest of the Starlights senior team. We gather our skatefilled suitcases with relief and board the bus for Salzburg, Austria, where we will compete at the Mozart Cup as representatives of the United States.

As soon as we arrive in Salzburg, we head straight outside for a walking tour of the beautiful city, never for a moment letting the snow-flakes the size of quarters faze us on our adventure. We then head to the hotel for a quick team meeting with team leaders Bob Bauer and Karin Sherr and U.S. judge Jeanette Davis before heading straight up to our rooms to bed. The next day we have a practice session bright and early, during which we are able to get our feet underneath us, and we leave feeling confident and ready for the short program the next day.

Walking back into the rink the next morning offers a whole new feeling. All around me

are jackets with "ITALY," "FINLAND," "SWE-DEN" and more in bold letters on the skaters' backs. Suddenly, everything feels real. Here we are representing our country on an international assignment. I take this feeling of pride onto the ice for our official practice and carry it with me the rest of the day until, after hair and makeup and plenty of off-ice practice, we are back at the rink warming up for the competition.

Skating second-to-last, we have a clean, solid skate and end up in fifth place. I head up to the draw ceremony with my coaches. Slipping my hand into the black velvet bag I pull out the

number: 1. This means we are the first team to perform the free skate the next day. We leave the rink with excitement bubbling, anxious to compete the next day.

In what feels like no time at all, my teammates and I are standing along the boards, preparing to take the ice for the free skate. Looking out over the freshly surfaced, glass-like ice, butterflies start to flutter in my stomach; but then, they announce our team and I hear a huge roar from the other side of the arena. Chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" fill my ears, chasing away any signs of fear. We are ready. We skate well,

THE STARLIGHTS WITH BIANCA JACKSON, FRONT AND CENTER TAKE PART IN THE AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE MOZART CUP

loving every moment of our "Zombie"-themed program, and finish overall in fifth place.

As the referee hangs a medal around my neck at the awards ceremony, I smile, thinking back to my first U.S. Synchronized Championships. Here I am, with my teammates and my closest friends, wearing my Team USA jacket with pride. I realized then that it isn't about the jacket. It never had been. It is about representing my country by doing what I love most: skating.

So now, while my Team USA warm-ups hang in my closet, the memories of this amazing trip abroad are still with me every time I take the ice.



BIANCA JACKSON, RIGHT, AND TEAMMATE KRISTI KING GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION AT THE MOZART CUP

# ADULT corner

# NATIONAL SHOWCASE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES

Jennifer Jones, 36 Hau'ula, Hawaii Hawaii FSC Masters/adult silver pairs/gold moves gold dance/CFSA gold artistic

Jennifer Jones has competed at every National Showcase, garnering 24 medals and a lifetime's worth of memories.

"I love the creative freedom for in-depth stories and themes," said Jones, an Ice Palace Hawaii choreographer and professional make-up artist. Her club's vice president, Jones is also a U.S. Figure Skating announcer and has skated singles, pairs and dance.

Always bringing different ideas to the ice, Jones immerses herself in related environments.

"In 2006 I went weekly to the Japanese Cultural Center to learn fan dancing make-up for my Memoirs of a Geisha program," Jones said. "It's like learning a new language to speak on ice. Less focus on technical elements creates opportunities to do beautiful, classic laybacks without trying to increase grades of execution."

Integrating props is challenging, and Jones is grateful her rink tolerates all the tables, ribbons, chairs, etc., that she brings on the ice.

"By competition I've destroyed a few props and some have taken me out," she said.

In 2009, Jones turned an extemporaneous improvisation final mishap into a win. Her Hula-Hoop prop went out of the spotlight, but caught on her foot during a spiral where she flipped it from foot to hand.

As a kid, Jones remembers begging her parents for lessons in Edmonds, Wash., after watching hometown skater Rosalynn Sumners win the Olympic silver medal.

She recommends National Showcase to adult skaters and hopes for its continued success. The power to move an audience through emotions without speaking draws Jones to the ice.

"Skating is my passion," Jones said. "My heart is on the ice."

Joan Bys, 43 Temple City, Calif. Los Angeles FSC Adult silver free skate, silver solo dance

The transition from three decades of competing and performing stage dancing to starring on the ice has been a wonderful experience for Joan

Bys trains with four coaches and two cho-





on the ice.





MELISSA BOWMAN

reographers who have learned over the past few Melissa Bowman, 49 years not to tell the California skater that she Plano, Texas can't do something when it comes to performing Stars FSC of Texas, adult pre-silver dance

Fellow coffee club skaters encouraged Bys to enter National Showcase. Performing under spotlights and hearing audience reactions prompted her to then create light, dramatic and extemporaneous programs for the event.

"I enjoy playing roles," said Bys, who attributes this approach to helping her technical pro-

While Bys enjoys competitive challenges, National Showcase jumps and spins receive credit only for flow and program appropriateness. She enjoys freedom in performing elements that allow more expression.

"Adults have done well in the Parade of Champions (all first-place category winners compete at the competition's conclusion) with an acting focus," she said.

Training six days a week, Bys practices extemporaneous programs with her iPod, noting props and spotlights take practice.

"Costumes need pre-competition runthroughs to determine durability," Bys said. "I always feel self-conscious with props initially."

An exciting moment for Bys came when she was chosen to be a finale "Dwyer Girl" with Richard Dwyer. Dwyer is known as "Mr. Debonair" from his Ice Follies days and continues to be a major supporter of National Showcase.

Bys' Showcase goal is to progress from adult to masters categories.

"I work hard on the mental side of skating," Bys said. "I never realized my capability for determination."

Bys is proud of her accomplishments: a U.S. Adult Championships solo dance gold medal and gold in every adult singles category at National

"The Temple City Historical Society Museum added my skates and picture after the 2009 National Showcase," said Bys, who is also trying her hand at trial judging. "For someone who always dreamed about skating, that was pretty cool."

Bys' day job is as a California state supervising parole agent.

As its national vice chair, Melissa Bowman has been a driving force behind National Showcase for seven years.

Bowman loves the originality that National Showcase offers.

"We often hear ISU-judged programs look similar," Bowman said. "In Showcase, programs are varied and reflect skaters' individuality and dimension."

The biggest difference between National Showcase and adult interpretive skating is prop allowance, she said, with a 30-seconds-on, 30-seconds-off, no-assistance rule. Showcase competitors are judged as if auditioning for a variety show. Judges must select acts with the greatest entertainment value.

"I think adults really get Showcase," said Bowman, who ironically has never competed at a National Showcase. "Their creativity has matured and younger skaters can learn a lot about developing a good idea into a great one."

Bowman began skating as a child during public sessions and, in 1993, found herself getting measured for skates and enrolling in group lessons. Today, she competes in her club's showcase and adult skating interpretive events. She practices five days a week, training differently when props are involved.

"Skating is not merely something I like to do, it is what I am," Bowman said.

A middle school librarian, Bowman is active on her club's board and is a gold singles and pairs judge. She found a niche with National Showcase and hopes for nationwide alignment of the program's durations, levels and spotlight skating.

Her personal goals include skill improvement to better convey artistic ideas.

Prop mishaps are not foreign to Bowman. Once, her fan broke, she forgot her program and improvised. Another snafu saw her hairpiece and rhythmic ribbon tangled briefly. Still, Bowman loves props, spotlights and costumes and said her biggest competitive challenge is herself.

She credits her progress to coaches Pierre Panayi and Nick Traxler.

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"Because of your generous support, we have had an incredible journey of skating success while proudly representing the United States. We speak not only for the members of Team USA, but also for those just getting on the ice for the first time with dreams of becoming champions, when we say thank you for your support of figure skating at all levels – it is greatly appreciated! We hope to see you at a Friends of Figure Skating event soon!"

 Meryl Davis and Charlie White, 2010 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALISTS

# ATHLETE CORNER

# KEEP THE LIGHT ON

# DON'T LET CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECT YOUR DREAMS

by IENNIFER WESTER

2010 will go down as one of the most difficult and yet most rewarding years of my life.

At the beginning of the year, I experienced a heartbreaking slide away from my dream of being an Olympic figure skater, or even a U.S. champion. In response, I took on a workload in school, at the rink and at home that was unimaginably heavy in order to drown my emotions in a hectic schedule.

Included in that move away from competitive skating, my husband Daniil and I moved halfway across the country (back to Connecticut) to escape the Michigan economy. That decision resulted in five months of inter-state living to allow for him to fix up and release our Michigan residence, while I tended to and lived in our Connecticut home. By the second quarter of the year, I applied to Yale University in an additional attempt to move on from skating (and cried in my entrance interview when the subject came up).

I then had skating leap back into my life mid-year when Daniil and I performed in an unexpected summer skating show in China. And finally, I ended 2010 on an unbelievable high. In the most glamorous town on earth and in my favorite sport, we performed in ABC's primetime show "Skating with the

From the moment I began skating at 11 years old, I dreamed of performing in a big skating show. And before that, I wanted to play in the World Cup on an all-male soccer team. (I was 5 and thought girls were too wussy to play real soccer. Oh, thank goodness I've corrected that view!)

Nevertheless, when I hung up my competitive skates for the foreseeable future in 2009, after my second knee surgery, I thought that dream of being under the lights, on the ice in front of a cheering audience, and in a big skating show, was over. I was inconsolable for months as I conceded to life as a coach or spectator rather than a skater.

I desperately wanted to perform, thought about returning to competition daily even, but I knew I needed to move on, for both my mental and physical health. However, through all of that, I somehow never stopped believing that someday that dream would still come true. And then "Skating with the Stars" came along.

Celebrities, Hollywood television sets, executive producers, field producers, publicists, production assistants, coordinators, hair stylists, make-up artists, costume designers, press rooms, PAPARAZZI! It was the craziest and yet most exciting experience of my life.

There were dressing rooms with personalized robes, snack baskets and couches. Production assistants ushered us to wherever we needed to be. Gourmet catering was provided on-set on show days. On long practice days, assistants fetched meals for everyone on call. A warm-up rink behind the stage was built to accommodate warm-up time before a performance. And to add to the Hollywood-ness, a golf cart took skaters door to door, from the set to the warm-up rink. All skaters even had their own parking spots.

Yes, "Skating with the Stars" had it all. Sure, the schedule was heavy, the work-load extreme, but the fun was beyond my wildest expectations. The thrill of performing live on national prime time television? It was amazing.

So, now what? Well, "Skating with the Stars" is over for now. I hope there will be another season and I hope to be involved if there is, but for the moment I look forward to 2011 and think to myself, the sky is the limit with or without the show. Why? Because 2010 didn't just surprise me with crazy adventures, it taught me that sometimes our perceptions discourage our ac-



JENNIFER WESTER WAS TEAMED UP WITH MUSICIAN VINCE NEIL DURING SKATING WITH THE STARS

tions; they discourage us from taking bold steps through our inevitable obstacles in the path to our dreams.

But they don't have to. For instance, I finished my first semester at Yale while on "Skating with the Stars." How? By finding alternatives to the obstacles most would have assumed to be too great to overcome. I skyped into class so as to be virtually present, utilized resources at local universities for references in completing research papers and Fedex-ed projects directly to my classroom. Instead of dropping classes and presuming ahead of time that I couldn't handle the obstacles, I solved them. And in so doing, I learned that I needn't be confined by my perceptions any longer.

Skating teaches generations of people, better than any other sport, how to get up when you fall down, physically or mentally. But even better than learning how to get up,

WESTER WAS TREATED LIKE A HOLLYWOOD STAR WHILE ON THE PRIME-TIME SKATING SHOW, COMPLETE WITH HER OWN PARK-ING SPACE



is how to keep going. Yet we rarely employ that lesson in our daily lives. Instead, we focus on missed opportunities; not realizing that while we are focused on what we've missed, we may be missing even more.

As one of my favorite sayings goes, "People are like stained glass windows. They shine and sparkle when the sun is out. But their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within." So in 2011, keep the light within you on, no matter what the storm. There is always a new adventure on the horizon, but you've got to have your blinders off to see it. 🗆



PHOTOS BY GREGORY F. JAMROSZ

# Join the fun

# FRIENDS OF FIGURE SKATING MEMBERSHIP A WIN FOR EVERYONE

by JOANNE VASSALLO JAMROSZ

fter a busy week competing at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, N.C., junior pairs competitor Colin Grafton was happy to attend the Friends of Figure Skating breakfast. The young skater finally met many of the dedicated fans who attend this event each year and support the skaters.

The biannual event takes place during the U.S. Championships and Skate America. It began at 2002 Skate America in Spokane, Wash., where just 40 people attended. Today, approximately 150 members attend during Skate America and 200-300 during the U.S. Championships. The North Carolina breakfast drew more than 300 attendees.

"We don't often get a chance to meet our supporters, so an event like this is great," Grafton said.

Launched in 2001, Friends of Figure Skating has provided financial support to U.S. Figure Skating programs and athletes through annual membership giving. These contributions support programs such as Basic Skills and provide assistance to skaters at all levels, with the goal of helping athletes compete successfully at the local, national and international levels.

Together, Friends of Figure Skating (FOFS) members are also instrumental in introducing the sport of figure skating to young men and women across the country and in developing and supporting the champions of today and tomorrow.

"Some benefits are priceless. Many Friends of Figure Skating members have built friendships with other members across the country and look forward to traveling to competitions and getting together throughout the year," said Stacey Marsh, U.S. Figure Skating Director of Development.

During each event, members meet and visit with skaters, get autographs and have their pictures taken, win drawing prizes and even bid on auction items such as dinner with a skater. The 2011 breakfast included a dinner auction prize with two-time U.S. pairs silver medalists Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig.

# FRIENDS OF FIGURE SKATING HAS PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO U.S. FIGURE SKATING PROGRAMS AND ATHLETES THROUGH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING.

Skaters participate in question-and-answer sessions with the members, and at the Greensboro event, members participated in a panel discussion and chatted with the skating moms of Jeremy Abbott, Charlie White, Adam Rippon, Emily Samuelson and Alissa Czisny.

Additionally, members receive information and updates on upcoming productions, other

special events such as RISE and insider news and information before it is released to the public.

What makes the event so special?

"If you ask the members they will tell you it's the opportunity to meet the skaters in person in a casual setting," Marsh said.

The skaters in attendance change depending on their skating schedule, and if skaters skate that day, they are not able to attend. Nevertheless, the breakfast has favorite attendees.

"Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig love the breakfasts," Marsh said. "Caydee Denney is wonderful with the audience. Ryan Bradley always brings applause when he enters the room and Rachael Flatt actually has a memory posted on the testimonial page I have on the Friends of Figure Skating site.

"The members will also tell you that over the years they have made friends and the breakfast is a reunion of sorts. Because of the FOFS events, they now stay in touch in between and plan their trips together, not only to these events but others as well. They will also tell you that knowing that part of their membership is going to the Memorial Fund to support the skaters is vitally important to them."

"It's such a great appreciation for us," Grafton said. "To feel their support, and talk to them and hear them share their stories about nationals. It's the best."

To join Friends of Figure Skating, call Stacey Marsh at 719.635.5200.

# Best yet!

# FAMILIES TURN OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS FOR NSM EVENTS

he 2011 National Skating Month celebration, titled "Fun, Friends and Fitness," was a tremendous success, with a record-breaking 400 kits going to member clubs, Basic Skills programs and STAR rinks.

Many signed up for multiple events throughout January and February to take advantage of this opportunity to promote skating across the nation.

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 skating times, introductory lessons, exhibitions by local talent, skating demonstrations, fun and games on ice, parents' meetings, equipment resales, fund-raising activities and parties at the rink.

A few club and rink leaders offered brief summaries of events and activities that took place during National Skating Month.

RESIDENTS OF ALLEN, TEXAS, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A FREE DAY AT THE RINK. PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF ALLEN AMERICANS MASCOT BISCUIT, THE ICE ANGELS AND THE CHICK-FII. -A SKATING COW

## CITY OF MENTOR AND MENTOR FSC, OHIO

We hosted approximately 400 people for free lessons, open skating and raffles throughout the day. Every half hour during open skating, a club member exhibited a program. This gave participants a whole different view of skating. It was exciting to see the kids who just watched a skater do his or her program go right back to the open skate without hesitation and perform the skills they watched a moment ago. It really grabbed their attention and excitement.

During the free lesson portion of the day, we had skaters working one-on-one and also in group lessons. We even had adults who wanted to learn some basics.

We raffled off T-shirts, open skate sessions, two birthday party packages and two Basic Skills sessions. We offered a \$5 discount off classes if they signed up that day; a number of families signed up.

# BLAZIN' BLADES SKATING ACADEMY, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

This year was one of our more successful "It's Great to Skate" open houses, with more than 250 people in attendance. The turnout helped us more than double our Basic Skills enrollment for the next session. We offered everything at no charge, including skating, classes, skate rental and giveaways. Participants registered at the door with name and e-mail address, signed a waiver and registered for a drawing of prizes. The prizes consisted of a set of Basic Skills lessons, 10 free public sessions, T-shirts from U.S. Figure Skating and two private lessons.

## ALLEN COMMUNITY ICE RINK IN ALLEN, TEXAS

More than 270 skaters took part in a free two-hour clinic, which included a 30-minute group lesson given by Community Rink Basic Skills instructors, admission to an open-skate





CHILDREN AT BOWLING GREEN SC AND BGSU ICE ARENA THANKED SKATING LEGEND SCOTT HAMILTON FOR SKYPING WITH THEM DURING NATIONAL SKATING MONTH.

session the day of the clinic and skate rental.

Participants were divided into four groups based on their skill level. The majority of participants had never skated or had only attended an open-skate session. The Allen Americans mascot Biscuit, the Ice Angels and the Chick-Fil-A skating cow made special on-ice appearances. The Community Rink held free drawings for a semester of Basic Skills sessions and two National Skating Month T-shirts. Due to the event's popularity, we have decided to host similar events in the coming months.

## CITY OF KETTERING AND SOUTH DAYTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB, KETTERING, OHIO

The City of Kettering and the South Dayton Figure Skating Club joined forces and hosted their eighth annual "Absolutely Free National Skate Clinic Day." Freebies offered included public lessons, skate rental, an open-skate session, prize giveaways and exhibitions. South Dayton FSC also held a bake sale. We had information tables set up for the South Dayton Figure Skating Club, our City of Kettering group lessons and the Ice Force Synchronized Skating Team.

There were approximately 180 participants. We offered group lessons every 15 minutes. The group lessons were taught by our City of Kettering professionals (who have been awarded the Excellence on Ice award once again this year), instructor assistants and some of our volunteers. Many participants stayed in the group lessons for two sessions and then moved on to the open skate. We were excited to have three skaters perform their routines during an exhibition. The crowd seemed eager to watch and cheered during their performances.

We gave away four U.S. Figure Skating Tshirts, four passes for free admission to an open skate and three skating tote bags.

# SYRACUSE FSC, NEW YORK

Our event was open to our skate school, club members and their families. To keep costs down, our junior board volunteered their time and provided music, games and assistance on the ice. Everyone brought a baked good to share and each individual received a free goodie bag with items provided by U.S. Figure Skating and our club. The kids had a great time skating with their friends to the music being played by the club kids.

# **BOWLING GREEN SC** AND BSGU ICE ARENA, OHIO

We celebrated National Skating Month with a joint celebration between the Bowling Green Skate Club and BGSU Ice Arena learnto-skate program. We were so excited and honored to have Olympic champion Scott Hamilton skype with the kids during our celebration.

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. 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. Remember to host an open house any time you need a membership drive. It really works.

If you want to sign up for 2012 National Skating Month, please remember to sign up early as supplies are limited. Registration forms will be available beginning in August.

For complete coverage of the events held across the country and more photos and videos, go to www.usfigureskating.org (U.S. Figure Skating's home page) and click on "Programs" and then "National Skating Month."

> - Susi Wehrli-McLaughlin, senior director of membership at U.S. Figure Skating

#### CALENDAR

#### MARCH

- 8-13 | 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Skate Aloha 985.373.7644.
- 734.421.0980
- call Lisa May at 720.480.3345.
- 10-13 | 2011 Jackson Hole Invitational sponsored by the Jackson Hole FSC 18-20 | Cleveland Invitatonal Champiat 307.733.7220.
- 11-13 | 2011 Garden City Annual Competition sponsored by the Garden 18-20 | 2011 Glacier Challenge spon-Raby at 734.421.0980.
- Nette Flunken at 715.836.2088.
- 11-13 | 2011 Magnolia Open sponsored by the Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 19 | 2011 Spring Time Invitational at 10800 Davis Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004. The Forum at Fishers, 9022 East 126th St., For more information call Teija Junnila at Fishers, IN 46038. For more information 678.393.2940.
- at 802.881.8395.
- 12-13 | 2011 Sunflower Classic spon- 19 | Irish Snowflake 2011 sponsored sored by Lake Minnetonka FSC at Min- by Michiana FSC at Joyce Center Ice netonka Ice Arena, 3401 Williston Rd., Rink, 112 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN Purnell at 502.415.0962. Minnetonka, MN 55391. For more 46556. For more information call Sharon information call Nancy Kaufman at Rajski at 269.683.6360. 612.860.7760.
- Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01462. For chaela Maione at 978.273.5482. more information call the Wallace FSC at 978.502.0272.
- Steven's Sports Complex Thayer Arena, 975 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02886. For more information call Rita Bapties at 19 | Fourth Annual Shore Skate Basic ing Finals at Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 401.739.1606.
- at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Ct., call Lara Walsh at 732.674.0344.

- ace Skating Arena, 4510 Salt Lake Watertown FSC at George E. Maas Ice Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96707. For more Arena, 112 21st Southwest, Watertown, 513.290.1443. information contact the Hawaii FSC at SD 57201. For more information call Tracy Ronke at 605.868.9744.
- sponsored by the Garden City FSC Rockford Park District at Carlson at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Ice Arena, 4150 North Perryville, Rd., Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. Loves Park, IL 61111. For more infor-For more information call Kim Raby at mation call Brigitte Carlson Roquet at 19 | 2011 Blades in Decatur sponsored dence College, 331 Huxley Ave., Provi-815.964.4073.
- 10-13 | 2011 Denver Invitational spon- 13 | Fifth Annual Basic Skills Skate sored by Denver FSC at South Suburban with U.S. Competition sponsored by the Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Centen- SC of Andover at Haverhill Valley Forum nial, CO 80121. For more information Arena, 7 Parkridge Rd., Haverhill, MA 19-20 | 2011 Crystalline Classic Show-01835. For more information call Stacy Lane at 978.373.3373.
- at Snow King Center Ice Rink, 100 East onships 2011 sponsored by Shaker FSC Snow King Ave., Jackson, WY 83001. at Thornton Park Arena, 3301 Warrens-For more information call Gary Merrell ville Rd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122. For 20 | Fourth Annual South Shore Open Kalafatis at 216.752.6643.
- City FSC at Garden City Civic Arena, sored by the Missoula FSC at Glacier Ice 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI Rink, 1101 South Ave., West Missoula, 20 | 11th Annual Wagon Wheel FSC ty FSC at Schmitz-Maki Arena, 114 Missoula FSC at 406.544.6990.
- sored by the Eau Claire FSC at Hobbs sored by the Alexandria FSC at Rune-Ice Arena, 915 Menomonie Eau Claire, stone Community Center, 802 West WI 54701. For more information call La- Third Ave., Alexandria, MN 56308. For 24-27 | 2011 Skate La Grande San by Amherst SC at Northtown Center at 320.846.3365.
  - call Devan Heiber at 317.727.6581.
- 11-13 | 2011 Champlain Valley Open 19-20 | 2011 Colonial Adult Winter sponsored by the Champlain Valley SC Challenge sponsored by the Colonial at Gordon H. Paquette Arena at 216 FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Leddy Park Rd., Burlington, VT 05408. Massachusetts Ave., Route 111, Boxbor-For more information call Cynthia Kalinen ough, MA 01719. For more information 25-27 | 2011 Louisville Skating Invitacall Colonial FSC at 978.263.3450.
- 12 | 2011 Wallace Spring Synchro Skills Competition at South Rink Phillips ton Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For information contact Julie Patterson at Open sponsored by Wallace FSC at Academy, 254 South Main St., Andover, more information call Jennifer Simon at juliep@coyotesice.com Wallace Civic Center, 1000 John Fitch MA 01810. For more information call Mi- 713.408.0416.
- 12 | Warwick Figure Skaters 25th An- Green Bay FSC at De Pere Ice Arena, Sportsplex Dr., Coral Springs, FL 33065. nual Basic Skills Competition sponsored 1450 Fort Howard, De Pere, WI 54115. For more information call Elizabeth Stark by the Warwick Figure Skaters at Mickey For more information call Amy Beider- at 954.341.9956. wieden at 920.819.6047.
- Skills Competition sponsored by Gar- Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. den State SC at Howell Ice World, 269 12-13 | 2011 Skate Challenge spon- Lakewood-Farmingdale Rd. Rt. 524, 26 | 2011 Golden Ice Fest at Canlan formation call 412.561.4363.

- Cicero, NY 13039. For more information 19 | 2011 Snowflake Classic Skat- Sports at 260.387.6614, ext. 108. call Katherine Picciott at 315.952.5866. ing Competition sponsored by the FSC of Cincinnati at Sport Plus, 10765 26 | 28th Garren Invitational Figure sponsored by Hawaii FSC at Ice Pal- 12 | Skate Games 2011 sponsored by Reading Rd., Evendale, OH 45241. For
- Garden Skate SC at Howell Ice World, 10-13 | 2011 Garden City Basic Skills 13 | Sixth Annual Shamrock Open 269 Lakewood Farmingdale Rd., Howell, NJ 07731. For more information call 26 | 2011 Lee Ann Miele Synchronized Laura Walsh at 732.674.0344.
  - by Point Mallard FSC at Point Mallard Ice dence, RI 02918. For more information Complex, 2901-D Point Mallard Circle, call March Truppa at 401.353.2153. Decatur, AL 35601. For more information call Heidi Langham at 256.654.3330.
  - case Competition sponsored by the Santa Rosa FSC at Snoopy's Home Ice, 1667 West Steele Ln., Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Seman at 518.235.9362. For more information call Andrea Ewing at 707.546.6338.
  - more information call Susan Kennedy- sponsored by the South Shore SC at 98034. For more information call Kim Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rock- Derickson at 425.821.7133, ext. 104. land, MA 02370. For more information call 781.749.3807.
- 48135. For more information call Kim MT 59801. For more information call Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Spruce St., Farmington, MN 55024. For the Wagon Wheel FSC at Crystal Ice more information call Janelle Wall at House, 320 East Prairie, Crystal Lake, IL 651.775.7462. 11-12 | 2011 ECFSC Competition spon- 19 | 2011 Battle of the Blades spon- 60014. For more information call Lanny Nelson at 815.455.6403.
  - more information call Kris Juettner at Diego sponsored by the San Diego Amherst, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., Wil-FSC at San Diego Ice Arena, 11048 Ice liamsville, NY, 14221. For more informa-Skate Place, San Diego, CA 92126. For more information call San Diego FSC at 858.566.9650.
    - sored by the Greater Milwaukee FSC at more information call Liz Eldridge at Wilson Park Recreation Center, 4001 South 20th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. For more information call 414.282.3948.
    - tional sponsored by the Louisville Skat- by Flyers SC of South Jersey at Virtua ing Academy at Iceland Sports Complex, Center Flyers Skate Zone, 601 Lau-1707 UPS Drive, Louisville, KY 40207. For more information call Rebecca Hatch- more information call Pam Dreyer at
  - 25-27 | Skate Houston 2011 spon- 27 | 2011 In House Only Basic Skills sored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Team Competition at Ice Den, 9375 East 19 | 2011 Phillips Academy Basic Land & Sports Center, 16229 Lexing-
  - 25-27 | Eighth Annual South Flori-19 | 2011 Skate Green Bay Basic Skills da Challenge sponsored by the Pan-Competition sponsored by the Greater thers FSC at Saveology Iceplex, 3299
- sored by the SC of Central New York Howell, NJ 07731. For more information Ice Sports, 3869 Ice Way, Fort Wayne, IN 66805. For more information call Ice

- Skating and Basic Skills Competition more information call Denise Gifford at sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC at Houston Fieldhouse on the RPI Campus, People's Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. For 19 | 2011 Shore Skate sponsored by more information call Ann Seman at 518.235.9362.
  - Skating Open at Pawtucket & Providence FSC at Schneider Arena at Provi-
  - 26 | 2011 The Garren Invitational and Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk FSC at Houston Field House, People's Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. For more information call Ann
  - 26 | Fiesta Skate 2011 sponsored by the Kingsgate SC at Kingsgate Ice Arena, 14326 124th Avenue NE, Kirkland, WA
  - 26 | Ninth Annual Farmington Spring Festival 2011 sponsored by Tri-Coun-
  - 26 | Fourth Annual Amherst Skating Club Basic Skills Competition sponsored tion call Kathy Tzetzo at 716.639.0951.
- 26 | 2011 Freeport Spring Challenge at Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. 24-27 | 2011 W.I.M. Competition spon- Merrick Rd., Freeport, NY 11520. For 516.428.0304.
  - 26 | Third Annual Flyers Skate Zone "In-House" Spring Fling, Learn to Compete Basic Skills Competition sponsored rel Oak Rd., Voorhees, NJ 08043. For 856.309.4400, ext. 2257.
  - Bell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85260. For more
  - 31-April 3 | 2011 Skate KC sponsored by the Kansas City FSC at Independence Events Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call 913.638.9026.

26-27 | 2011 Detroit High School Skat- 1-3 | 2011 Mt. Lebanon Invitational sponsored by SC of Mt. Lebanon at Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center, 900 Cedar Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228. For more in-

#### CALENDAR

- 1-3 | 2011 Fort Collins Classic/Basic Skills sponsored by ISC of Fort Collins at EPIC, 1801 Riverside Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80504. For more information call Linda Hobaugh at 970.219.5111.
- 1-3 | 2011 Philadelphia Area Championships sponsored by SC of Southern New Jersey at The Igloo at Mt. Laurel, 8033 Fostertown Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. For more information call Betty Field at 856.638.0801.
- 2 | Challenge Cup 2011 at Leddy Park Arena, Leddy Park Rd., Burlington, VT 05408. For more information call Kathy Knauer at 802.865.7558.
- 2 | Ice World 12th Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition sponsored by Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, 1300 Governor Court, Abinadon, MD 21009. For more information call Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000, ext.
- 2 | Hodag Skate Classic 2011 sponsored by Rhinelander FSC at Rhinelander Ice Arena, 2021 Timber Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501. For more information call Alison French at 715.362.8889.
- 2 | 2011 Hardee's Ice Plex Rising Star Basic Skills Competition at Hardee's Ice Plex, 16851 North Outer 40 Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63011. For more information call Melody Carper at 636.537.4200, ext. 3012.
- 2 | 2011 Skate Great Basic Skills at Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeview Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075. For more information call Kristen Hawayek at 716.812.1071.
- 3 | The Rinx 2011 Basic Skills Competition at The Rinx, 660 Terry Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788. For more information call Cathryn Schwab at 631.232.3222, ext. 209.
- 3 | Eighth Annual USFS South Florida Basic Skills Series — Pembroke Pines sponsored by Pines FSC at Pines Ice Arena, 12425 Taft St., Pembroke Pines, FL 33028. For more information call Rachel Marks at 954.704.8700, ext. 104.
- 3 | 2011 Skate KC Basic Skills sponsored by Kansas City FSC at Independence Event Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call Lori Osborne at 913.638.9026.
- 6-10 | 2011 Nations Cup and National Theatre on Ice Competition sponsored by Yarmouth Ice Club at Hyannis Youth and Community Center, 141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601. For more information call Donna Wunder at 508.237.7272.
- 7-10 | 2011 Central Carolina Skating Classic sponsored by Central Carolina SC at Triangle SportsPlex, 101 Meadowland Dr., Hillsborough, NC 27278. For more information call Bonnie Boaz at 919,929,9595.

- 7-10 | 35th Annual Phoenix Fiesta Skate Competition sponsored by the SC of Phoenix at Polar Ice 15829 North 83rd Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382. For more information contact Andrea Palos at skateandrea84@gmail.com.
- 8-11 | 2011 Spring Fling sponsored by the Strongville SC at Hoover Arena, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. For more information call Scott Zimmerman at 440.724.8308.
- 8-10 | 26th Annual Florida Open sponsored by Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information call 407.426.0513.
- 8-10 | 17th Annual Morris Open sponsored by SC of Morris NJ at WG Menne Arena, 161 East Hanover Ave., P.O. Box 1295, Morristown, NJ 07962. For more information call 908.443.1398.
- 8 | 26th Annual Florida Open Basic Skills sponsored by Central Florida FSC in Maitland, FL. For more information call Carolyn Colvin at 407.426.0513.
- 8-10 | 2011 Spring Fest Invitational sponsored by Portland ISC at Mt. View Ice Arena, 14313 Southeast Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98684. For more information call Lisa Mizonick at 503.332.7630.
- 8-10 | 17th Annual Biennial Genesee Invitational sponsored by Genesee FSC at Rochester Institute of Technology. Frank Ritter Arena, 51 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623. For more information call 585.315.0144.
- 9-10 | Last Chance Spring Skate 2011 sponsored by Helena FSC at Helena Ice Arena, 400 Lola St., Helena, MT 59602. For more information call Kathy Lamping at 406.431.4144.
- 9 | SkateQuest Reston Blossom 2011 at SkateQuest Reston, 1800 Michael Faraday Court, Reston, VA 20190. For more information call Christina Coho at 703.709.1010, ext. 1105.
- 9 | 2011 Silver Skate sponsored by South Dayton FSC at Kettering Ice Arena, 6900 Glengarry Dr., Kettering, OH 45420. For more information call Anna Taylor at 937.474.0264.
- 9 | 45th Annual Worcester Open sponsored by the SC of Worcester at Buffone Arena, 284 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604. For more information call Lynne-Ann Frederickson-Bonnici at 508.845.1331.
- 10 | 2011 Skate Into Spring San Antonio Basic Skills sponsored by Northwoods FSC at Ice & Golf Center at Northwoods, 17530 Henderson Pass, San Antonio, TX 78232. For more information call Bernadette Meagher at 210.490.9550, ext. 226.
- 14-17 | 2011 Lady Bug Competition sponsored by Glenwood FSC at Homewood Flassmoor Ice Arena, 777

- Kedzie, Homewood, IL 60422. For 16 | 2011 Colonial FSC Spring Skate more information call May Wiza at 708.957.4063.
- 15-17 | 33rd Annual Cherry Blossom Invitational at Mr. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22307. For more information call Dorothy Dodson at 703.370.5959.
- 15-17 | 2011 Southern Connecticut Open sponsored by SC of Southern Connecticut at Darien Ice Rink, 55 Old King's Highway North, Darien, CT 06820. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.
- 15-16 | 2011 Tri-State Memorial Free Skating Championships sponsored by Fort Wayne ISC at Canlan Ice Sports, 3869 Ice Way Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. For more information visit fortwayneiceskatingclub.com
- 15-17 | 2011 La Jolla FSC Open Championships sponsored by La Jolla FSC at Ice Town La Jolla, 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92122. For more information call 858.274.1607.
- 15-16 | Butch Cassidy Invitational 2011 sponsored by Sweetwater FSC at Rock Springs Family Recreation Center, 3900 Sweetwater Drive, Rock Springs, WY 82901. For more information call Kelly Davis at 307.349.5571.

- sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Boxborough, MA. For more information call Kathy Boucher at 978.808.3080.
- 16 | 2011 Spring Funtastics at The Edge Ice Arena, 6623 South Ward St., Littleton, CO 80127. For more information call Carol Zeles at 303.979.0802.
- 17 | 2011 Wisconsin High School Figure Skating Competition Series sponsored by Timberline SC at Greenheck Fieldhouse DC Everest High School, 6400 Alderson St., Weston, WI 54476. For more information call Diane D'Amato at 715.359.3195.
- 17 | 2011 Skate Dallas BS Competition sponsored by Dallas FSC at Polar Ice House, 3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway, Suite 613, Grapevine, TX 76051. For more information call Debra Dryburgh at 972.768.7628.
- 23 | 11th Annual Ice House Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Ice House Skating Academy at Ice House, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack, NJ 07601. For more information call Edward VanCampen at 201.487.8444.
- 30-May 1 | Michigan Showcase 2011 sponsored by Ice House Skating Academy at Kensington Valley Ice House, 10540 Citation Dr., Brighton, MI 48116.



#### 2011 AT&T U.S. FIGURE **SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Greensboro FSC, Greensboro, N.C. January 22-30

Competition Officials: Ann Barr, Anne Cammett, Anthony Bardin, Barbara Buch, Brett Drury, Carol Wooley, Charles Cyr, Dana Graham, Denise Williamson, Deveny Deck, Diana Wisner, Doug Williams, Gale Tanger, Hal Marron, Jacki Crugnola, Janis Engel, Jennifer Hartley, Jessica Gaynor, John Cole, John LeFevre, John Millier, Jonathan Ige, Judy Blumberg, Justin Dillon, Kanae Tagawa, Kathleen Harmon, Kathleen Krieger, Kim Moore, Lawrence Mondschein, Leonardo Chavez, Linda Chihara, Lisa Ervin Baudo, Lorrie Parker, Lynn Goldman, Nancy lida, Patricia Smith, Paula Naughton, Richard Kern, Robert Horen, Roberta Parkinson, Samuel Auxier, Sharon Watson, Susan Johnson, Tamie Campbell, Terri Levine, Terri Maurice, Wendy Enzmann, Whitney Gaynor, William Smith

#### Senior ladies

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Alissa Czisny, 191.24, 2, 1
- 2. Rachael Flatt, 183.38, 3, 2
- 3. Mirai Nagasu, 177.26, 1, 3
- 4. Agnes Zawadzki, 173.84, 4, 4
- 5. Christina Gao, 167.20, 5, 6
- 6. Ashley Wagner, 165.36, 7, 5
- 7. Vanessa Lam, 162.91, 6, 7
- 8. Yasmin Siraj, 152.47, 8, 8
- 9. Joelle Forte, 149.28, 12, 9
- 10. Melissa Bulanhagui, 144.53, 15, 11
- 11. Kristiene Gong, 143.30, 17, 10
- 12. Caroline Zhang, 140.95, 10, 12
- 13. Kelsey Traunero, 128.30, 18, 13
- 14. Alexe Gilles, 123.75, 11, 16
- 15. Kristine Musademba, 123.53, 13, 15
- 16. Ellie Kawamura, 121.94, 16, 14
- 17. Morgan Bell, 119.57, 9, 20
- 18. Danielle Kahle, 117.61, 14, 19
- 19. Keli Zhou, 115.59, 19, 17
- 20. Katy Jo West, 112.81, 21, 18
- 21. Raina Narita, 94.54, 22, 21
- 22. Tatyana Khazova, 85.49, 23, 22

#### Withdrawn

Felicia Zhang, 41.23 20

#### Senior men

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Ryan Bradley, 231.90, 1, 4
- 2. Richard Dornbush, 225.56, 7, 1
- 3. Ross Miner, 224.35, 6, 2
- 4. Jeremy Abbott, 224.16, 2, 6
- 5. Adam Rippon, 220.04, 9, 3
- 6. Armin Mahbanoozadeh, 215.05, 8, 5
- 7. Brandon Mroz, 213.49, 3, 9
- 8. Keegan Messing, 213.29, 4, 8
- 9. Jason Brown, 208.76, 11, 7
- 10. Douglas Razzano, 206.76, 5, 10 11. Jonathan Cassar, 187.76, 17, 11
- 12. Grant Hochstein, 183.37, 10, 13
- 13. Scott Dyer, 177.15, 18, 12
- 14. Wesley Campbell, 176.69, 14, 14
- 15. Jason Wong, 172.63, 12, 15
- 16. Alexander Johnson, 165.50, 16, 17

- 17. Parker Pennington, 164.68, 19, 16
- 18. Andrew Gonzales, 162.52, 20, 18
- 19. Christopher Caluza, 157.72, 15, 20
- 20. Sean Rabbitt, 155.71, 21, 19
- 21. Joshua Farris, 151.73, 13, 22
- 22. Lloyd Ting, 140.92, 22, 21

#### Senior pairs

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Caitlin Yankowskas/John Coughlin, 188.45.1.1
- 2. Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig, 185.22, 2, 2
- 3. Caydee Denney/Jeremy Barrett, 175.49, 4, 3
- 4. Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker, 163.55, 3, 4
- 5. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, 151.92, 6, 5
- 6. Tiffany Vise/Don Baldwin, 151.26, 5,7
- 7. Lindsay Davis/Themi Leftheris, 148.25, 7, 6
- 8. Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff, 145.25, 9, 8
- 9. Chloe Katz/Joseph Lynch, 140.00, 12.9
- 10. Becky Bereswill/Trevor Young, 137.71, 8, 12
- 11. Molly Aaron/Daniyel Cohen, 136.83, 10, 10
- 12. Erika Smith/Nathan Bartholomay, 132.59, 13, 11
- 13. Lisa Moore/Justin Gaumond, 127.58, 11, 13

#### Withdrawn

Alexa Scimeca/Ivan Dimitrov

#### Senior ice dancing

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SD, FD

- 1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 185.48, 1, 1
- 2. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 173.18, 2, 2
- 3. Madison Chock/Greg Zuerlein,
- 154.62, 3, 3 4. Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell,
- 141.70, 5, 4 5. Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-
- Schmitt, 138.42, 4, 6
- 6. Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello, 136.55, 7, 5
- 7. Shannon Wingle/Timothy McKernan, 130.20, 6, 8
- 8. Rachel Tibbetts/Collin Brubaker, 118.25, 10, 7
- 9. Meredith Zuber/Kyle Herring, 118.06, 9, 9
- 10. Ginna Hoptman/Pavel Filchenkov, 117.53, 8, 10
- 11. Alissandra Aronow/Zachary Dono-
- hue, 105.36, 11, 11 12. Kristen Nardozzi/Robert Cuthbert-
- son, 92.99, 12, 13
- 13. Katharine Zeigler/Baxter Burbank, 90.00, 15, 12 14. Alison Carey/Ryan Van Natten,
- 15. Katherine Pilgrim/Alexander Lorello, 80.39, 14, 15

#### **Junior ladies**

83.68, 13, 14

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Courtney Hicks, 173.22, 1, 1
- 2. Lauren Dinh, 153.99, 3, 2
- 3. Katarina Kulgeyko, 146.62, 2, 3
- 4. McKinzie Daniels, 138.59, 5, 5
- 5. Mary Beth Marley, 137.82, 4, 6
- 6. Ashley Cain, 137.44, 7, 4
- 7. Polina Edmunds, 132.91, 6, 8
- 8. Haley Dunne, 132.57, 9, 7
- 9. Nina Jiang, 128.55, 8, 9
- 10. Allison Timlen, 115.64, 10, 10
- 11. Elise Eng, 103.02, 11, 11
- 12. Nicole Rajic, 90.78, 12, 12 Junior men

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Max Aaron, 188.67, 2, 1
- 2. Alexander Zahradnicek, 182.85, 1, 2
- 3. Alexander Aiken, 179.94, 3, 3
- 4. Steven Evans, 173.08, 4, 5
- 5. Emmanuel Savary, 170.56, 5, 4
- 6. Philip Warren, 160.52, 10, 6
- 7. David Wang, 152.54, 6, 8
- 8. Harrison Choate, 150.06, 9, 7
- 9. Shotaro Omori, 136.80, 7, 11
- 10. Timothy Koleto, 136.05, 8, 9
- 11. Ryan Hartley, 129.81, 12, 10
- 12. Will Michael, 128.12, 13, 12
- 13. TJ Yang, 109.65, 11, 13

#### **Junior pairs** Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Ashley Cain/Joshua Reagan, 142.28, 1, 1
- 2. Andrea Poapst/Christopher Knierim, 136.46, 6, 2
- 3. Cassie Andrews/Timothy LeDuc, 129.84, 2, 5
- 4. Brynn Carman/AJ Reiss, 129.02, 4, 3 5. Mandy Garza/Brandon Frazier,
- 128.29, 5, 4 6. Haven Denney/Daniel Raad,
- 125.17, 8, 6 7. Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton, 122.94,
- 3,7 8. Jessica Calalang/ Zack Sidhu,
- 113.32, 7, 8 9. Morgan Sowa/David Leenen, 110.13, 9, 9
- 10. Kloe Chanel Bautista/Tyler Harris, 104.98, 10, 10
- 11. Olivia Oltmanns/Joshua Santillan,
- 103.28, 11, 11 12. Christina Guterres/Justin Schumann, 99.67, 12, 12

#### Junior ice dancing

## Pl. Name, Total Score, SD, FD

- 1. Charlotte Lichtman/Dean Copely, 132.28, 2, 1
- 2. Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager, 127.39, 3, 2
- 3. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 122.86, 4, 4
- 4. Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan, 121.12, 6, 3
- 5. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 120.64, 5, 5 6. Joylyn Yang/Jean-Luc Baker,
- 118.99, 1, 8 7. Danielle Gamelin/Alexander Game-
- 8. Madeline Heritage/Nathaniel Fast,

lin, 108.67, 8, 6

- 103.24, 7, 9
- 9. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 102.99, 9, 7
- 10. Heather Buckner/Nicholas Taylor, 93.96, 10, 10
- 11. Carina Glastris/Kevin Allison, 84.02, 12, 12
- 12. Natalie Wojton/Michael Soyfer, 82.95, 11, 13
- 13. Jenna Dzierzanowski/Vinny Dispenza, 75.67, 13, 11

#### **Novice ladies**

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Hannah Miller, 122.30, 3, 1
- 2. Barbie Long, 121.85, 2, 2
- 3. Mariah Bell, 115.33, 1, 3
- 4. Amanda Hofmann, 100.16, 9, 4
- 5. Mia Eisenhandler, 98.37, 6, 6
- 6. Katia Gorodetsky, 96.94, 11, 5
- 7. Alana Walker, 95.89, 4, 10
- 8. Ana Draovitch, 95.44, 5, 9
- 9. Ysabel Tran, 94.04, 10, 8 10. Viviana Mathis, 91.35, 8, 11
- 11. Jordan Bauth, 90.93, 7, 12
- 12. Jessica Pfund, 89.51, 12, 7

#### Novice men

- Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS
- 1. Nathan Chen, 163.40, 1, 1
- 2. Jordan Moeller, 127.85, 3, 4 3. Nix Phengsy, 127.48, 4, 3
- 4. Alexander Bjelde, 126.27, 5, 2
- 5. Lukas Kaugars, 125.36, 2, 6 6. Spencer Howe, 122.05, 8, 5
- 7. Andrew Nagode, 117.79, 6, 7
- 8. Troy Tomasello, 113.97, 7, 9
- 9. Kevin Shum, 111.26, 9, 8 10. Jack Newberry, 107.78, 11, 10
- 11. Marcus Mimidis, 103.68, 12, 11

#### 12. Cale Ambroz, 89.94, 10, 12

- **Novice pairs** Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS 1. Madeline Aaron/Max Settlage,
- 128.21, 1, 1 2. Chelsea Liu/Devin Perini, 113.90,
- 2, 2 3. Audrey Goldberg/Joseph Dolkiewicz, 109.97, 4, 3
- 4. Caitlin Fields/Jason Pacini, 107.32,
- 5. Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, 106.93, 5, 4 6. Brianna de la Mora/Taylor Wilson,
- 105.31, 7, 5 7. Kay Bergdolt/Miles Addison,

100.12, 8, 7

- 8. Allison Smith/Craig Segall, 99.26, 6,8
- 9. AnnaMarie Pearce/Craig Norris, 86.29, 10, 9 10. Stefanie Griffin/Jordan Griffin,
- 69.45, 9, 11 11. Janelle Unger/Robert Przepioski,

#### 66.60, 11, 10 **Novice ice dancing**

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, P1, P2, FD

- 1. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 112.82, 1, 1, 2
- 2. Jessica Mancini/Tyler Brooks, 109.19, 2, 2, 1
- 3. Kaitlin Hawayek/Michael Bramante, 106.64, 3, 4, 3

- 4. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Ross Gudis, 105.91, 4, 3, 4
- 5. Bryna Oi/Mark Jahnke, 102.16, 6, 6, 6
- 6. Brittany Schmucker/Adam Munday, 101.17, 7, 7, 5
- 7. Morgan Grant/Luke Skala, 94.38, 9, 8, 7
- 8. Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, 94.36, 5, 5, 10
- 9. Roxette Howe/Ryan Farmer, 93.02, 8, 9, 8
- 10. Cassandra Jeandell/Damian Dodge, 89.36, 12, 10, 9
- 11. Grace Deissroth/Brett Mueller, 81.95, 11, 12, 11
- 12. Jessica DeMaria/Dean Miller, 78.66, 10, 11, 12

#### FRENCH CUP 2011

#### Rouen, France, February 4-6 Seniors

- Pl. Team, Country, Total Score, SP, FS
- 1. Team Unique, FIN, 212.34, 1, 1
- 2. Les Supremes, CAN 186.47, 2, 2
- 3. Crystallettes, USA 170.25, 3, 4
- 4. Team Boomerang. SWE, 166.81, 4, 3
- 5. Jingu Ice Messengers Grace, JPN, 144.68, 5, 6
- 6. Team Berlin 1, GER, 143.95, 7, 5
- 7. Golden Blades, FIN, 130.03, 13, 7
- 8. Tokyo Synchronized Skating Club, JPN, 126.49, 6, 9
- 9. Skating Graces, GER, 119.78, 10, 8
- 10. Team Dancers, SUI, 119.27, 8, 10
- 11. Atlantides, FRA, 118.83, 9, 11
- 12. Team Synchro Energy, FRA, 100.39, 11, 12
- 13. Zoulous, FRA, 96.71, 12, 13
- 14. Nova 30.60, AUS, 79.25, 14, 14 **Juniors**
- Pl. Team, Country, Total Score, SP, FS 1. Team Braemar, USA, 172.74, 1, 1
- 2. Musketeers, FIN, 162.57, 3, 2
- 3. Ice Steps, FIN, 160.37, 2, 3
- 4. Les Supremes Juniors, CAN, 150.39,
- 5. Sun City Swing, FIN, 144.26, 4, 5
- 6. Team Convivium, SWE, 142.05, 6, 6
- 7. Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 132.17,
- 8. Cool Dreams Junior, SUI, 116.94, 8,8
- 9. Black Diam's Juniors, FRA, 87.28,
- 10. Wight Jewels, GBR, 68.57, 10, 10
- 11. Duke Town Twinkle Stars, NED, 19.41, 11, 11

#### **CUP OF BERLIN**

#### Berlin, Germany, January 14-15 Seniors

- Pl. Team, Country, Total Score, SP, FS
- 1. Team Rockettes, FIN, 189.78, 1, 1
- 2. Team Berlin 1, GER, 152.64, 2, 2
- 3. Team Olympia, CZE, 145.53, 4, 3
- 4. Team California Gold, USA, 143.09, 3.4
- 5. Team United Angels, GER, 121.57, 6,5
- 6. Team Skating Graces, GER, 119.20,

- 7. Team Daisies, CZE, 102.99, 7, 7
- 8. Team Dandelion Senior, ITA, 94.99, 8,8

#### Juniors

- Pl. Team, Country, Total Score SP FS
- 1. Team Fintastic, FIN, 162.12, 1, 1
- 2. Team Reflections, FIN, 143.02, 4, 2
- 3. Team Mystique, FIN, 137.90, 2, 3
- 4. Team Chicago Jazz, USA, 127.11, 3, 4
- 5. Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 123.91, 5,5
- 6. Team Cool Dreams, SUI, 105.25, 6,6
- 7. Team Kometa, CZE, 99.81, 7, 7
- 8. Team Saxony Ice Pearls Junior, GER,
- 9. Team Dandelion Junior, ITA, 84.37, 9,9

#### **MOZART CUP 2011**

#### Salzburg, Austria, January 21-23 Seniors

- Pl. Team, Country, Total Score, SP, FS
- 1. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 186.77, 1.1
- 2. Haydenettes, USA, 184.32, 2, 2
- 3. Team Boomerang, SWE, 164.54, 3, 3
- 4. Hot Shivers, ITA, 140.95, 4, 4
- 5. Starlights, USA, 118.66, 5, 5
- 6. Sweet Mozart, AUT, 102.70, 6, 6
- 7. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 83.81, 7,7
- 8. Ankara University Synchronized Skating Team, TUR, 56.46, 8, 8

#### **Juniors**

#### Pl. Team, Country, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Nexxice, CAN, 168.31, 1, 1
- 2. Musketeers, FIN, 164.86, 2, 2
- 3. Lexettes, USA, 141.12, 4, 3
- 4. Team Convivium, SWE, 137.34, 5, 4
- 5. Stella Polaris, FIN, 129.44, 3, 6
- 6. Miami University, USA, 122.78, 7, 5
- 7. Team Spirit, SWE, 112.71, 6, 8
- 8. Team Estreija, FIN, 112.46, 8, 7
- 9. Hot Shivers Jun, ITA, 107.62, 9, 9
- 10. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 72.35, 11, 10
- 11. Frostwork, HUN, 66.97, 10, 12
- 12. Starlets, CZE, 63.98, 12, 11
- 13. Ice Stars Junior, HUN, 57.40, 13, 13

#### 2011 PACIFIC COAST **SYNCHRONIZED** SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rochester FSC, Rochester, Minn.

Competition Officials: Bette Todd, Carla Golubski, Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Daren Patterson, Elizabeth Barrow, Elizabeth Harty, Erin Bridge, Hannelore Murphy, Joanne Butcher, Karin Sherr, Kristin Abbott, Kristy Panos, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Mary Lou Rothman, Megan Walsh, Richard Perez, Rita Cerny, Robert Bauer, Robert Withrow, Steve Wolkin, Susan Demeniuk, Susan McInnes, Tiffani Shipley, Wayne Hundley

#### Senior

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. California Gold, 165.42, 1, 1
- 2. ICE'Kateers, 149.44, 2, 2
- 3. Denver Synchronicity, 127.43, 3, 3 Intermediate

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. Team Del Sol, 55.32, 1
- 2. Epic Edge, 49.45, 2
- 3. Denver Synchronicity, 48.05, 3
- 4. Sierra Storm, 41.24, 4
- 5. Rose City Crystals, 37.78, 5
- 6. La Furia, 35.78, 6
- 7. Tremors, 34.50, 7

#### Novice Pl. Name Total Score FS

- 1. Team Del Sol, 56.94, 1
- 2. California Gold, 51.92, 2
- 3. ICE'kateers, 44.92, 3

# Juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Fusion, 4/1
- 2. Tremors, 7/2
- 3. South Suburban Stars, 7/3

#### Adult

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

1. California Gold, 42.40, 1

#### Masters Team, Maj.

- 1. Denver Synchronicity, 7/1
- 2. Capital Ice, 6/2

3. La Furia, 7/3

#### **Open Collegiate**

#### Team, Maj.

1. University of Colorado SST, 7/1

#### Open Juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. The Rockers, 4/1
- 2. San Diego Shining Blades, 7/2
- 3. Fusion, 6/3
- 4. South Suburban Stars, 7/4

#### Pre-Juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1.Silver Stars, 5/1
- 2. Epic Edge, 7/2
- 3. Fire Crystals, 7/3
- 4. South Suburban Stars, 4/4
- 5. Glacial Magic, 7/5

#### **Preliminary**

## Team, Maj.

- 1. San Diego Shining Blades, 7/1
- 2. Epic Edge, 7/2

## **2011 MIDWESTERN** SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Rochester FSC, Rochester, Minn.

Feb. 3-5 Competition Officials: Bette Todd,

Carla Golubski, Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Daren Patterson, Elizabeth Barrow, Elizabeth Harty,

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Erin Bridge, Hannelore Murphy, Joanne Butcher, Karin Sherr, Kristin Abbott, Kristy Panos, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Mary Lou Rothman, Megan Walsh, Richard Perez, Rita Cerny, Robert Bauer, Robert Withrow, Steve Wolkin, Susan Demeniuk, Susan McInnes, Tiffani Shipley, Wayne Hundley

#### Senior

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Western Michigan University, 141.23, 1, 1
- 2. Univ. of Illinois Synchronized Skate 121.80, 2, 2

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS

- 1. Chicago Jazz-Junior 145.40, 1, 1
- 2. Hockettes, 123.34, 2, 2
- 3. Synchro St Louis Diamond Edges, 100.74, 3, 3

#### Novice

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. Crystallettes, 71.52, 1
- 2. Chicago Jazz, 58.50, 2
- 3. Hockettes, 52.96, 3
- 4. Starlights, 48.81, 4
- 5. Windjammers, 45.06, 5
- 6. Saint Louis Synergy, 44.91, 6
- 7. Oxford Ice Crystals, 42.15, 7

#### Intermediate

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. Fond Du Lac Blades, 59.59, 1
- 2. Saint Louis Synergy, 56.20, 2
- 3. Chicago Jazz, 55.60, 3
- 4. Capital Ice Chips, 54.03, 4
- 5. Rhythm and Blades, 51.98, 5
- 6. Maplewood Highsteppers, 51.34, 6
- 7. Windjammers, 51.00, 7
- 8. Crystallettes, 50.51, 8
- 9. Dazzlers, 49.11, 9
- 10. lcettes, 48.62, 10
- 11. SwanSyncSation, 48.34, 11
- 12. Mentor Ice Diamonds, 47.56, 12
- 13. Synchro Panache, 46.72, 13
- 14. Hockettes, 44.48, 14
- 15. Wisconsin Edge, 44.47 15
- 16. Chicago Skates, 40.82, 16
- 17. Cleveland Edges, 38.90, 17
- 18. Granite City Rockettes, 25.61, 18

#### **Juvenile**

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Chicago Jazz, 6/1 2. Crystallettes, 6/3
- 3. Phoenix, 6/4
- 4. Cleveland Edges, 4/4
- 5. Wisconsin Edge, 6/5
- 6. Starlights, 5/6
- 7. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/7
- 8. Rhythm and Blades, 6/8
- 9. Windjammers, 7/9

#### Collegiate

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. Miami University, 96.91, 1
- 2. Western Michigan Univ., 86.80, 2 3. University of Michigan, 81.94, 3
- 4. Michigan State University, 76.76, 4
- 5. Univ, of Wisconsin, SST, 75.53, 5
- 6. University of Minnesota, 70.87, 6
- 7. Adrian College, 68.43, 7
- 8. University of Illinois, 58.24, 8

## 9. Northwestern University, 43.01, 9

#### Adult

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. Western Michigan University Alumni, 56.13.1
- 2. Starlights, 45.86, 2
- 3. Evolution, 42.12, 3
- 4. Synchro Panache, 41.91, 4
- 5. Eclipse, 39.92, 5

#### Masters

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Allegro!, 7/1
- 2. Louisville River Stars, 6/2
- 3. Cleveland Edges, 7/3
- 4. Team Glace, 5/4
- 5. Eble Elite Edgers, 7/5

#### **Open Collegiate**

#### Team, Mai.

- 1. University of Notre Dame, 4/1
- 2. The Ohio University, 6/2
- 3. Central Michigan University, 5/3
- 4. University of Wisconsin, 5/5
- 5. Grand Valley State University, 4/5
- 6. Miami University, 4/6 TOM 18
- 7. Lindwood University, 4/6 TOM 21
- 8. Ohio State University, 4/6 TOM 24
- 9. University of Minnesota Duluth, 7/9

#### Open Adult

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Phoenix, 7/1
- 2. Rhythm and Blades, 6/2
- 3. Revolution, 5/4
- 4. Eclipse, 4/4
- 5. Miami University, 5/5
- 6. Ice Connect, 4/6 TOM 19
- 7. Texas Chilly Peppers, 4/6 TOM 21
- 8. Cleveland Edges, 7/8
- 9. Rivers Edge, 7/9

#### Open juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Dazzlers, 5/1
- 2. Ice Delights, 4/2
- 3. Kicks, 4/3
- 4. Cleveland Edges, 4/4
- 5. Ice Kicks, 4/5
- 6. Stars, 4/6
- 7. Wisconsin Edge, 5/8 TO 54
- 8. Synchro Saint Louis Ice Gems, 5/8TO 56
- 9. Shoreline Blaze, 4/8
- 10. SwanSyncSation, 5/9
- 11. Northern Lights, 4/9
- 12. Louisville River Stars, 4/11

#### Open Juvenile QR Group A Team, Maj.

- 1. Dazzlers, 7/1
- 2. SwanSyncSation, 4/2
- 3. Northern Lights, 5/4
- 4. Louisville River Stars, 4/4 TOM 12
- 5. Fire on Ice, 4/4 TOM 15
- 6. Team Du Coeur Purple Team, 4/5
- 7. Crystallettes, 4/6
- 8. Maplewood Highsteppers, 5/79. Eclipse, 7/9

## Open Juvenile QR Group B

- Team, Maj. 1. Ice Delights, 4/1
- 2. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
- 3. Shoreline Blaze, 4/4 TOM 10
- 4. Stars, 4/4 TOM 13
- 5. Ice Sabres, 5/6

- 6. Team Du Coeur Blue Team, 4/6 TOM
- 7. Precicettes Elite, 4/6 TOM 20
- 8. Chicago Heart and Soul, 6/8
- 9. Emerald Blades, 4/8
- 10. Oxford Ice Crystals, 4/9 11. Rhythm and Blades, 7/11

#### Open Juvenile QR Group C

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Ice Kicks, 5/1
- 2. Kicks, 5/2
- 3. Wisconsin Edge, 4/4 TOM 14
- 4. Synchro Saint Louis Ice Gems, 4/4 TOM 16
- 5. Big River Blades, 4/5 TO 36
- 6. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/5 TO 38
- 7. Unity Synchronized Skating Teams, 4/6
- 8. Windjammers, 7/8
- 9. Artic Blaze, 5/9
- 10. Sparks on Ice, 5/10
- 11. Rivers Edge, 4/10

#### Pre-Juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Silver Leafs, 5/2
- 2. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
- 3. Cutting Edge Ice Stars, 5/3
- 4. Ice Kicks, 4/4 5. Hockettes, 5/5
- 6. Chicago Skates, 4/6
- 7. Dazzlers, 6/7

#### 8. Chicago Heart and Soul, 5/7Pre-Juvenile Group A

- Team, Mai.
- 1. Cleveland Edges, 7/1
- 2. Chicago Skates, 4/2
- 3. Dazzlers, 5/3
- 4. Chicago Heart and Soul, 6/4

#### 5. Kicks, 7/5 Pre-Juvenile QR Group B

- Team, Maj.
- 1. Silver Leafs, 5/1
- 2. Hockettes, 6/2
- 3. Cutting Edge Ice Stars, 4/3
- 4. Ice Kicks, 5/4
- 5. Syncro Panache, 4/4 6. Ice Sculptures, 7/6

#### **Preliminary**

- Team, Maj.
- 1. Crystallettes, 5/1 2. Phoenix, 5/2
- 3. SwanSyncSation, 4/3
- 4. Chicago Jazz, 5/5
- 5. Hockettes, 4/5 TO 36
- 6. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/5 TO 38
- 7. Starlights, 5/6 TOM 21 8. Unity Synchronized Skating Teams,

#### 5/6 TOM 29 Preliminary QR Group A

- Team, Maj.
- 1. SwanSyncSation, 6/1

6. Team De Coeur, 7/6

- 2. Starlights, 5/3 3. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/3
- 4. Unity Synchronized Skating Teams, 4/4 TOM 11

#### 5. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/4 TOM 13

#### Preliminary QR Group B Team, Maj.

- 1. Phoenix, 4/1
- 2. Crystallettes, 5/2

- 3. Hockettes, 5/3
- 4. Chicago Jazz, 4/4
- 5. Oxford Ice Crystals, 5/5 TOM 22
- 6. Wisconsin Edge, 5/5 TOM 24
- 7. Starfire, 5/6

## **2011 EASTERN** SYNCHRONIZED SKATING **SECTIONAL**

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

# The SC of Lake Placid

Lake Placid, N.Y., Feb. 3-5 Competition Officials: Ann Buckley,

Ann Fauver, Barbara Shostak, Evelyn Minter, James Achtenberg, Judith Edmunds, Kim Cool, Laura Days, Lauren Neidig, Leonard Colarusso,

Lisa Marsocci, Marie Pearce, Martha Rasmussen, Melissa Hampson, Patricia Lynch, Robin Greenleaf, Sara Stephens, Shelley Danner, Shirley

Holdsworth, Shirley Kreppel, Susan Haugh, Wendy Enzmann, William Beharrell, William Mein

# Senior

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS 1. Haydenettes, 194.41, 1, 1

- Junior
- Pl. Name, Total Score, SP, FS 1. Lexettes, 140.13, 1, 1
- 2. Synchroettes, 118.10, 2, 3
- 3. Team Image, 114.26, 3, 4 4. Team Excel, 112.92, 4, 2
- Novice
- Pl. Name, Total Score, FS 1. Ice Mates, 62.20, 1
- 2. Skyliners, 59.07, 2
- 3. Team Image, 47.01, 3
- 4. Team Delaware, 44.74, 4
- 5. Synchroettes, 44.52, 5 6. Team Excel, 42.96, 6

#### 7. Capitol Steps, 42.29, 7 8. Superettes, 31.86, 8

- Intermediate Pl. Name, Total Score, FS
- 1. Skyliners 54.80 1
- 2. Team Esprit, 51.36, 2
- 3. The Colonials, 50.04, 3 4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 46.71, 4
- 5. Team Reflections, 46.55, 5 6. Saratoga Stars, 45.24, 6
- 7. Carolina Ice Synchro, 45.14, 7 8. Precisely Right, 44.15, 8
- 9. Ashburn Ice Angels, 43.64, 9
- 10. Richmond Twizzlers, 43.09, 10 11. Capitol Steps, 40.50, 11 12. Team Delaware, 38.26, 12
- 13. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 35.09, 13
- 14. Chesapeake Sailors, 33.80, 14
- 15. Chill & Grace, 32.43, 15 16. Synchroettes, 31.37, 16

#### 17. National Blades, 29.83, 17 **Juvenile**

- Team, Maj. 1. Skyliners, 5/1
- 2. Mini Mates, 6/2
- 3. Synchroettes, 5/3
- 4. Team Delaware, 6/5
- 5. Team Image, 4/5

- 4. Team Delaware, 6/5
- 5. Team Image, 4/5
- 6. Team Millennium, 4/6 TOM 20
- 7. Precisely Right, 4/6 TOM 22
- 8. Munchkins, 5/9
- 9. National Blades, 4/10 TOM 34
- 10. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 4/10 TO 69
- 11. Capitol Steps, 4/10 TO 72
- 12. Icing On The Cape, 4/11
- 13. Ashburn Ice Angels, 7/13
- Collegiate

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. University of Delaware, 86.79, 1
- 2. Team Excel, 70.99, 2
- 3. University of New Hampshire, 66.21, 3
- 4. Oswego State Ice Effects, 61.24, 4
- 5. Boston University Terrierettes, 52.51, 5
- 6. University of Maryland Terrapins, 49.17,6
- 7. Cornell University, 34.62, 7
- 8. MassachusETTES, 34.50, 8

#### Adult

#### Pl. Name, Total Score, FS

- 1. Esprit de Corps 58.30 1
- 2. DC EDGE, 43.35, 2
- 3. Team Delaware A, 42.66, 3

#### Masters

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Esprit de Corps, 7/1
- 2. DC EDGE, 6/2
- 3. Essex Blades, 4/3
- 4. Team Carolinas, 6/4
- 5. Ice Magic, 7/5

## **Open Collegiate**

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Boston College Eagles, 4/1
- 2. University of Delaware, 5/2
- 3. Bryant University, 5/3
- 4. Northeastern U. SST, 4/4
- 5. Colgate/Hamilton College, 5/5
- 6. Orange Experience, 4/6
- 7. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/7
- 8. Ice of The Tiger, 4/8
- 9. Catamount Blades, 6/9
- 10. LU Radiance, 5/10
- 11. Iced Brew, 7/11

#### Open Adult

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Saint Anselm Lady Hawks, 6/2
- 2. Cutting Edge, 5/2
- 3. Esprit De Corps, 6/3
- 4. DC EDGE, 4/4
- 5. Nor'easters, 4/5
- 6. Carolina Ice Synchro, 5/6
- 7. Gotham City Synchro, 5/7 TOM 25
- 8. Philly Spirit, 5/7 TOM 32

## Open Adult QR Group A

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Cutting Edge, 4/1
- 2. DC EDGE, 4/2
- 3. Esprit De Corps, 5/3
- 4. Gotham City Synchro, 4/3
- 5. Mystic Ice, 4/4
- 6. Perpetual Motion, 4/6
- 7. The Colonials, 7/7

#### Open Adult QR Group B TEAM, MAJ

- 1. Saint Anselm Lady Hawks, 7/1
- 2. Nor'easters, 4/3

- 3. Philly Spirit, 6/4
- 4. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/4 TO 28
- 5. Iceline of Richmond, 4/4 TO 30
- 6. Aged To Perfection, 5/6
- 7. Team Delaware Dazzle, 5/7 8. Precisely Right, 4/7

#### Open Juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Achilles Edge, 5/1
- 2. Sparklers, 5/3
- 3. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/3
- 4. Shadows, 4/4
- 5. Steel City Blades-CT, 4/6
- 6. Genesee Express, 4/7 TO 51
- 7. Bluewater Blades, 4/7 TO 52
- 8. Mirror Images, 6/8
- 9. Beach Blades, 4/8
- 10. Nor'easters, 4/9
- 11. Wallace Synergy, 4/10 TOM 27
- 12. The Sharper Edge, 4/10 TOM 34

#### Open Juvenile QR Group A Team, Maj.

- 1. Achilles Edge, 7/1
- 2. Beach Blades, 5/3
- 3. Shadows, 4/3
- 4. Genesee Express, 4/4
- 5. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/5
- 6. DC Edge, 4/6
- 7. Munchkins, 5/7
- 8. Richmond Twizzlers, 5/8
- 9. Team Liberty, 7/9
- 10. CNY Chill, 7/10

#### Open Juvenile QR Group B Team, Maj.

- 1. Wallace Synergy, 6/1
- 2. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/2
- 3. Mirror Images, 4/4 TOM 12
- 4. The Sharper Edge, 4/4 TO 32
- 5. CNY Blizzard, 4/4 TO 33
- 6. WV Synchro, 7/5
- 7. Central Park Ice, 6/8
- 8. Ashburn Ice Angels, 5/8
- 9. Chesapeake Skipjacks, 6/9
- 10. Team Rinx Island Hurricanes,

#### Open Juvenile QR Group C Team, Maj.

- 1. Sparklers, 7/2
- 2. Bluewater Blades, 4/2
- 3. Steel City Blades-CT, 5/4 TOM 15
- 4. Nor'easters, 5/4 TOM 16
- 5. Island Waves, 4/5
- 6. Ice-Lantics, 5/6
- 7. Saint Sensations, 5/7
- 8. Team Panache, 4/8
- 9. Carolina Ice Synchro, 6/9
- 10. Southern Stars, 4/9

#### Pre-Juvenile

#### Team, Maj.

- 1. Shimmers, 6/2
- 2. Team Esprit, 4/2
- 3. Skyliners, 4/3 TOM 8
- 4. Shooting Stars, 4/3 TOM 10 5. Synchroettes, 5/5
- 6. Team Reflections, 4/6 TOM 19
- 7. Sparklers, 4/6 TOM 23
- 8. Bluewater Blades, 4/7
- 9. Steel City Blades JC, 7/9 10. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 7/10

#### Pre-Juvenile QR Group A Team, Maj.

- 1. Team Esprit, 5/1
- 2. Skyliners, 6/2
- 3. Team Reflections, 5/3
- 4. Steel City Blades JC, 6/4
- 5. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 5/6
- 6. Genesee Express, 6/7
- 7. Mini Crystals, Basic Skills, 5/7 TOM
- 8. Team Rinx Island Storm, 5/7 TOM

#### Pre-Juvenile QR Group B Team/Maj.

- 1. Shimmers, 7/2
- 2. Shooting Stars, 4/2
- 3. Synchroettes, 7/3
- 4. Sparklers, 4/4
- 5. Bluewater Blades, 7/5
- 6. CNY Storm, 6/6
- 7. Mirror Images, 5/7
- 8. The Cutting Edge, 6/8
- 9. Ice-Lantics, 7/9

#### **Preliminary**

- Team, Maj.
- 1. Skyliners, 4/1 2. Synchroettes - Yellow, 5/2
- 3. Team Image, 4/3
- 4. Synchroettes Red, 4/4
- 5. Ashburn Ice Angels, 4/5
- 6. Team Excel, 4/6
- 7. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/7 TOM 22
- 8. Snowflakes, 4/7 TOM 24
- 9. Shooting Stars, 4/8 10. Sparklers, 7/10

#### Preliminary QR Group A Team, Maj.

- 1. Skyliners, 5/1
- 2. Synchroettes Red, 6/3
- 3. Philadelphia Symmetry, 5/3
- 4. Team Excel, 7/4
- 5. Snowflakes, 4/5
- 6. Team Millennium, 4/6
- 7. Team Delaware, 4/7 TOM 23
- 8. Ice Angels, 4/7 TOM 25
- 9. National Blades, 7/9

#### Preliminary QR Group B Team, Maj.

- 1. Synchroettes Yellow, 4/1
- 2. Ashburn Ice Angels, 4/2
- 3. Team Image, 4/3
- 4. Shooting Stars, 5/4
- 5. Sparklers, 5/6 TOM 25
- 6. Team Image SST, 5/6 TOM 26
- 7. Icing On The Cape, 4/7
- 8. Precisely Right, 6/8 9. Island Waves, 7/9

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Regional Accountant Martha Downen, Rye, N.Y. Sectional Accountant Colleen Newman, Plano, Texas; Linda Ogawa, Foster City, Calif.

Calvin Carson, Detroit, Mich. Nonqualifying Singles/Pairs/Dance **Video Replay Operator** Linda Elfman, Stoneham, Mass.; Andrew

Lam, Lake Worth, Fla.; Patricia Lynch,

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Glen Ridge, N.J. Regional Singles/Pairs/Dance Video **Replay Operator** Carrie Bacasa, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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## **OBITUARIES**

#### **ATWOOD**

Donna Atwood, the 1941 U.S. junior champion and senior pairs champion with Eugene Turner, and longtime Ice Capades star, died Dec. 20, 2010, at the Motion Picture Television & Country House in Woodland Hills, Calif. She was 85.

Donna was 15 years old when she and her mother hopped on a Greyhound bus and made their way across the country for the 1941 U.S. Championships in Boston. Her goal of competing at the Olympic Winter Games and World Championships, however, was dashed when international competitions were cancelled due to World War II.

Remarkably her rise to the top began at age 13, when she took to the ice for the first time at the Polar Palace in Hollywood, Calif. There, she quickly excelled due to her natural ability and work ethic. She began taking lessons from John McDonald and became a member of the Mercury Figure Skating Club.

In just six months, Donna passed her first, second and third figure tests and won the Pacific Coast novice ladies title. She finished seventh at her first U.S. Championships, a placement that only fueled her fire to be the best.

After her success in Boston, and without the opportunity to realize her Olympic dreams, Donna was contacted by John H. Harris, the producer of Ice Capades. He was looking for skaters for his ice show that debuted a year earlier. He picked Donna out of hundreds of skaters during a public session and offered her a contract.

Deciding whether to keep her amateur standing or turn professional, the 16-year-old



signed on the dotted line.

Rehearsals began in July 1941 in Atlantic City, N.J. Within a year, she became the star of the show, charming audiences with her beauty, grace and style. Her dramatic flair was quickly recognized and productions were designed around her ability to bring life to the heroines of The Student Prince, Brigadoon and American in Paris. She was partnered with Jimmy Lawrence and then Bobby Specht, who joined the cast in 1943.

Billed as the "The Sweetheart of the Ice," Atwood fielded requests for press interviews and photo sessions in every city. Her picture appeared on countless magazine covers, including LIFE (with Specht) in May 1946.

On Aug 1, 1949, Donna and Harris, the man who shaped her career, were married in Atlantic City. Donna continued with her roles in Ice Capades before taking time out in 1950 for the birth of their twins, Donald and Dennis, and one year later for the birth of their daughter, Donna.

The children became the focus of Donna's life, but she still longed to get back on the ice. The prop shop of Ice Capades had a solution: a portable nursery.

In 1956, Donna brought Peter Pan to life by making her entrance flying high above the audience and then lightly skating away. It was a lot of fun but at the end of that season, at the age of 31, Donna decided to devote all her time to raising her family. She had toured the United States and Canada for 15 years and given more than 6,000 performances in two dozen venues.

After her children were grown, she returned to the ice as a skating instructor and helped several students achieve success, including Julie Gidlow and Angela Nikodinov.

She is survived by her sons, Don Harris, a Paramount Pictures executive, of Ventura, Calif., and Dennis Harris, a lawyer, of Manhattan Beach, Calif.; daughter Donna Greenfield, a real estate agent, of Boston and Washington, D.C.; and five grandchildren.

John Martens of Tulsa, Okla., passed away Jan. 13, 2011, with wife and love of his life Mary Anne McGivern at his side. He had

## OBITUARIES

fought cancer for more than two years.

Born Nov. 12, 1943, in Wayne Neb., John graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a bachelor's degree in business administration, the Thunderbird School of Global Management with a master's degree in international management and attended Queen Mary College, University of London for postgraduate study in the World Energy Model.

John completed active duty as captain, U.S. Air Force, Strategic Air Command.

He was a board member and officer of the Tulsa Figure Skating Club, and was proud of becoming a U.S. Figure Skating judge and being president of the Mid-America Figure Skating Association.

He was a leader, exemplified by his many accomplishments. His early business career was spent at Ford Motor Company and as chief executive officer and president of Sterling Oil in Tulsa, Okla. He was vice-president of corporate development of MCI Communications, Washington D.C.; vice-president of Southern New England Telephone, New Haven, Conn.; and senior vice president, WilTel, Inc. in Tulsa, Okla.

He is survived by his wife; brothers, James Leonard Martens of Las Vegas, Nev., Frederick Lee Martens of Rifle, Colo.; and son David Martens of Tulsa, Okla.

#### **DORSEY**

Frances Dorsey, a U.S. medalist and World competitor in the 1950s, and well-known ice show skater, passed away in Santa Fe, N.M., in July 2010.

She earned the silver medal at the 1952 U.S. Championships and was the bronze medalist at the 1954 U.S Championships. She competed at the World Championships in 1951 in Milan, Italy, and 1954 in Oslo, Norway, where she placed fifth.

Frances grew up skating, with her younger sister Sherry Dorsey Cook (almost five years younger) never far behind; they were known in the competitive circles as "the Dorsey sisters."

Frances was always great to be around and possessed the personality and looks that received attention everywhere she went. While training at the old Broadmoor World Arena in Colorado Springs, Colo., she was so stunning that the hotel bellmen would try and get off work early to watch her practice. People at that time started calling her "The Marilyn Monroe of the ice," a moniker she carried into her competitive days.

She was determined, passionate and disciplined in her skating career whether as a competitor, show skater or choreographer. As an adult, she would wake up at 4:30 every morning to do an hour or more of stretches before going to the rink to teach in full makeup and



wearing stylish outfits.

Richard Dwyer, one of the most popular show skaters in figure skating history, said that when Frances was a soloist for Ice Follies, a group of show skaters went on a rafting trip down the Colorado River. They all wondered how Frances would dress, because she always looked so beautiful on the ice. She didn't disappoint them. Instead of wearing traditional outdoor attire, Frances appeared in elegant Western-style clothes and full makeup.

For 25 years, she was the skating director of the Northbrook, III., Sports Center, where she directed its annual ice show that included 1,500 participating skaters; it was the largest ice show in America.

She continued to perform in such productions as Holiday on Ice, America on Ice, and authored the book titled Creative Ice Skating.

While living in Chicago, Frances contracted lung cancer from secondary cigarette smoke. Despite chemotherapy treatments, she maintained her strict fitness regime. More magazine chose her as one of the 20 most physically fit cancer survivors in the United States. The magazine brought her to Washington, D.C., to be honored in a ceremony presided over by the vice president's wife, Tipper Gore.

Frances later moved with her husband to Santa Fe, where she became interested in horsemanship and learned dressage riding.

While there, she accumulated 11 cats and five

When the Santa Fe rink opened in 2000, Frances returned to her love of teaching ice skating and choreographing the club's annual ice show. She taught skating even on the day a blood vessel burst in her throat, causing her death.

At her memorial service, friends and family praised her enthusiasm for skating and how she served as an inspiration. She was also remembered as having a self-effacing humor about herself.

She is survived by her daughter Dorsey Lachner, son Comer Plummer Jr., and her sister Sherry Dorsey Cook. Contributions for a Frances Dorsey memorial park bench may be sent to: Northbrook Park District Sports Center, Frances Dorsey Memorial Fund, 1730 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.

## CORRECTIONS

- The University of New Hampshire was omitted from the list of U.S. Figure Skating's collegiate synchronized skating programs that appeared in the January issue of SKATING magazine.
- The Central Pennsylvania Figure Skating Club in Harrisburg, Pa., was incorrectly listed under the National Skating Month Participating Clubs in the January issue of SKATING magazine.
- A sports science article on S.T.A.R.S. in the February issue contained the wrong web address. The correct address is: www.STARScombine.org As recently featured in PSA and SKAT-ING magazines, S.T.A.R.S. is a nationwide program designed to help U.S. athletes train their physical abilities ahead of the on-ice skills curve, and to recognize exceptional athleticism in developing skaters.
- U.S. Figure Skating Athlete High Performance has announced S.T.A.R.S. cities for the 2011 Summer Combine season: (subject to change).

#### July 2011

Newark, Del. (following Liberty competition) Detroit, Mich. following Skate Detroit)

#### August 2011

Anaheim, Calif. (following Glacier Falls event) Chicago, III. (following DuPage Open)

Other summer locations (dates TBA): Boston, Mass; Colorado Springs, Dallas, Texas

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#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS** FROM PAGE 59

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#### WORD SEARCH ANSWERS **FROM PAGE 59**

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# THE 2011 U.S. WORLD TEAM

Back row (I-r) Greg Zuerlein, Alex Shibutani, Charlie White, Ross Miner, Ryan Bradley, Richard Dornbush, John Coughlin and Mark Ladwig; Front row (I-r) Madison Chock, Maia Shibutani, Meryl Davis, Alissa Czisny, Rachael Flatt, Caitlin Yankowskas and Amanda Evora