

SKATING

March 2012



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On the cover

Photo by Jay Adeff

The 2012 U.S. champions added their names to the prestigious U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy with their outstanding performances in San Jose, Calif. (l-r) Caydee Denney and John Coughlin, Ashley Wagner, Meryl Davis and Charlie White and Jeremy Abbott. The 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships featured many great moments on and off the ice, including the induction of legend Michelle Kwan into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Complete coverage of the event begins on page 12.

SAN JOSE WINS GOLD AS THE PERFECT HOST

As it did in 1996, San Jose hit a home run as hosts of the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

I congratulate the San Jose Sports Authority, HP Pavilion and the City of San Jose for hosting an outstanding event. It was first-class all the way as the local organizing committee (LOC) worked seamlessly with U.S. Figure Skating's event staff, volunteers and officials.

Also helping to make the event successful were the contributions of many of the Bay Area skating legends who went out of their way to meet the public and represent the sport. Walking on the concourse, you may have bumped into Kristi Yamaguchi or Rudy Galindo signing autographs. Peggy Fleming served as the honorary chair for the San Jose LOC. Debi Thomas, Charles Tickner and Brian Boitano devoted their time and energy to the cause.

There were many other former Bay Area skaters and California coaches who took great pride in having the U.S. Championships in their backyard. Coaches Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, who won a gold medal in pairs at the 1996 event, watched a couple of their pairs teams capture medals in San Jose.

"It's nice to be back and see the kids we are working with experience the things we were able to experience as skaters," Meno said.

One of the strongest ties to the 1996 U.S. Championships is Michelle Kwan. She won her first of a record nine U.S. titles in San Jose. Michelle returned for induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. She was recognized in an on-ice ceremony that will forever be remembered by all who packed HP Pavilion to honor the sport's most decorated athlete. A standing ovation deeply touched Michelle, and her heartfelt speech left many wiping away a tear.

The competition itself was inspiring as well.

Ashley Wagner, the "almost girl," delivered two wonderful programs to claim her first U.S. title in her fifth trip to the big show. She moved last year from the East Coast to the West Coast to train under legendary coach John Nicks.

"She's a beautiful lady who did some beautiful skating," Nicks said of his star pupil.

Jeremy Abbott, who was on a mission to reclaim his U.S. men's title, did just that in record fashion. Besides executing virtually all of the tough tricks, Abbott gave a performance that only he can. It was the Colorado native's third title in four years.

The newly formed pairs team of Caydee Denney and John Coughlin soared above the rest. Coughlin honored his dad, Mike, a longtime officer with the Kansas City Police Department, by wearing a K.C. Police Department T-shirt in the kiss and cry.

Meryl Davis and Charlie White dazzled the crowds as well. Their latest accomplishment puts them in some elite company as they join predecessors Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, and Judy Schwomeyer and James Sladky with four consecutive U.S. titles.

More than 102,000 people attended the eight-day event, with millions more watching on NBC and icenetwork.com.

Once again, congratulations San Jose on a job well done.

Greg Schmeid



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

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

If you would like to be featured in the Kidz Spotlight, e-mail your information to tschwindt@usfigureskating.org 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.

WORLD FIGURE SKATING HALL OF FAME HONORS JAPAN'S NOBUO SATO

Nobuo Sato of Japan, a World Figure Skating Hall of Fame member, was honored during the 2012 ISU Four Continents Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Sato, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010, won 10 consecutive Japanese men's titles from 1956-1966. He represented Japan at the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Winter Games. In 1965, Sato took fourth place at the World Championships, held in Colorado Springs.

Sato is best known as a coach, having trained Olympic and World champions, including his daughter, 1994 World champion Yuka Sato.

The World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, located in Colorado Springs, was established in 1976 to honor distinguished athletes, coaches and contributors to the sport of figure skating.

Nobuo Sato is honored prior to an evening performance at the Four Continents Championships. His daughter and former pupil, 1994 World champion Yuka Sato, was there to honor her father.



PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF



PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF

SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presents Meryl Davis and Charlie White with SKATING magazine's Readers' Choice Award Michelle Kwan Trophy at the 2012 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Calif. Davis and White enjoyed a perfect 2010-11 campaign, which concluded in Moscow with the duo becoming the first U.S. ice dancing team to win a gold medal at the World Championships. Ice dancing became a discipline at the World Championships in 1952. Davis and White captured their fourth consecutive U.S. title in San Jose.

U.S. pairs champions Caydee Denney and John Coughlin were featured on a huge video board along the busy I-25 corridor between Denver and Colorado Springs as part of a promotional campaign for the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Colorado Springs. Denney and Coughlin won the silver medal at the event.

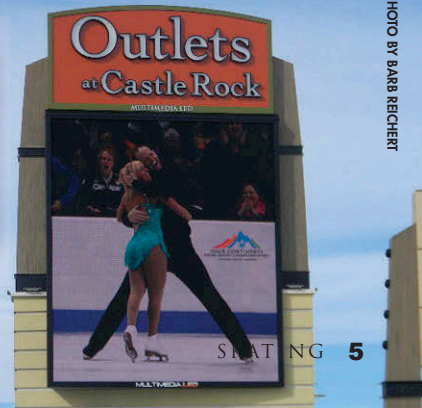


PHOTO BY BARB RECHERT

PHOTOS FROM U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS AVAILABLE

For the first time, U.S. Figure Skating is offering customizable professional action photographs starting with the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose.

USFigureSkatingPhotos.com is the place to go to view galleries from the senior events and capture an image of your favorite skater as a print or as a specialty item.

Additionally, for a limited time only, if you spend \$50 or more, add an 8x10 photograph to your cart before you check out and receive it at no additional cost.



BRUBAKER MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUNG BOY'S LIFE

Pairs skater Rockne Brubaker has an impressive résumé. He has won two U.S. titles, five U.S. Championships medals and countless awards from international events.

What he does outside of the rink, though, is even more inspiring. Brubaker, who hails from Illinois but trains in California, is a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Brubaker has become a big brother to a little boy named Gavin.

"Being a Big Brother has been the coolest experience," Brubaker said. "We play sports together and I've taught him to skate; his favorite part was falling and sliding on the ice."

Brubaker's involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters is not a recent development. He began working with the organization while living in Colorado and continued after moving to Aliso Viejo, Calif.

During his time mentoring Gavin, Brubaker has watched him progress.

"Gavin has changed a lot over the last couple of years, and I'm proud to be part of that," Brubaker said. "I encourage more men to step up and become Big Brothers — it's really easy to set aside just a few hours a month to hang out with a boy like Gavin."

COVERAGE OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Universal Sports and icenetwork.com will carry comprehensive coverage of the 2012 ISU World Figure Skating Championships later this month in Nice, France.



Coverage on Universal Sports gets under way on Wednesday, March 28, and wraps up on Saturday, March 31.

Check your local listings for Universal Sports in your area. All times listed below are Eastern.

- Wed., March 28 – Pairs short program/short dance (LIVE), 1–5 p.m.
- Thurs., March 29 – Ladies short program (LIVE), 8–11 a.m.; free dance (LIVE), 2:30–4:30 p.m.
- Fri., March 30 – Men's short program (LIVE), 8–11 a.m.; pairs free skate (LIVE), 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sat., March 31 – Men's free skate (LIVE), 9–11:30 a.m.; Ladies free skate (LIVE), 2:30–5 p.m.
- Sun., April 8 – World Championships recap show on NBC, 3–6 p.m.

icenetwork.com will provide live and on-demand coverage from the Championships. There are several viewing options available for fans:



- Current Season Pass subscribers can purchase the Four Continents Championships and World Championships for \$5.95.
- Those who are not Season Pass subscribers and who want to watch these two marquee competitions can do so for \$11.95.
- Those who wish to become Season Pass subscribers and add on the World Championships and Four Continents Championships can do so for \$45.90.

- Wed., March 28 – Pairs short program, 7 p.m., Short dance, 12:40 p.m.
- Thurs., March 29 – Ladies short program, 6:30 a.m., Free dance, 1 p.m.
- Fri., March 30 – Men's short program, 6:30 a.m., Pairs free skate, 1:30 p.m.
- Sat., March 31 – Men's free skate, 6:55 a.m., Ladies free skate, 12:30 p.m.

**All broadcast schedules subject to change*

Senior ice dancer Brittany Schmucker, in hat, and her family won the RISE online auction prize of an evening with Olympic champion Peggy Fleming and her husband Greg Jenkins. The Schmuckers and friends started the night by visiting Peggy and Greg's home and vineyard in Los Gatos, Calif.



Meryl Davis



Madison Hubbell

DAVIS, HUBBELL EARN GIANT WIN

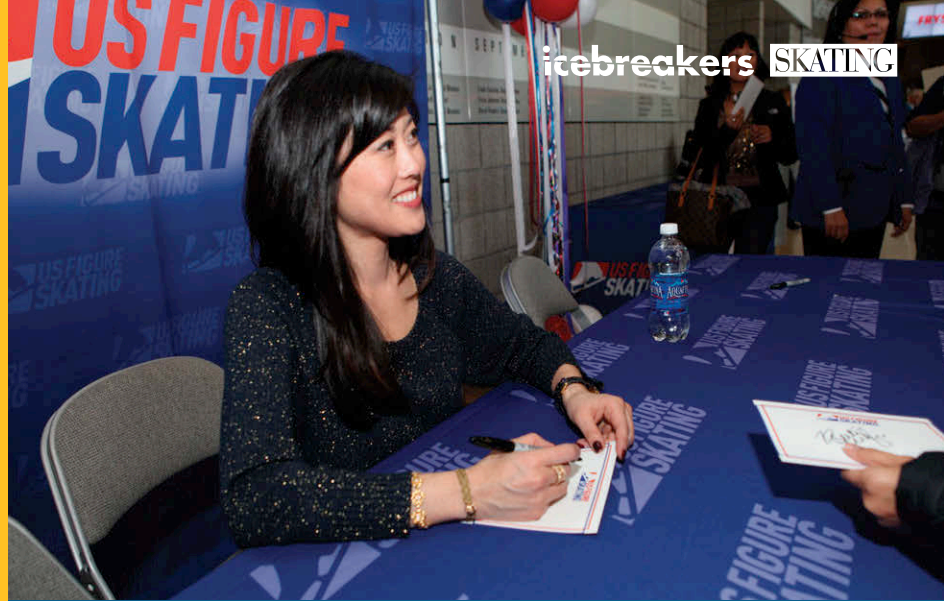
Ice dancers Meryl Davis and Madison Hubbell shared top honors in the SKATING magazine blog Super Bowl prediction contest.

SKATING Editor Troy Schwindt asked members of the U.S. World Team to project the winner between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants, as well as the total score.

Davis and Hubbell both picked the Giants. They each received a prize.



Olympians Emily Hughes and Sarah Hughes have some fun with the audience during the Memorial Fund reception at The Fairmont hotel at the 2012 U.S. Championships in San Jose. Proceeds from the event benefit the Memorial Fund, which helps skaters reach their skating and academic goals. The event was put on with the generous support of World Hall of Fame member Willy Bietak.



Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi signs autographs on the concourse during the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Calif. Yamaguchi and several other Bay Area skating greats helped to make the event one to remember.

HQ PROFILE: KATIE MCCARTER

I am in charge of all logistics for international competitions and serve as a liaison to the International Committee and all of Team USA.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy hanging out with friends, baking, watching Boston sports and Zumba!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I was a member of the University of New Hampshire Synchronized Skating Team for four years.

What do you cherish the most?

Family, friends, love and good health.

What's your favorite part of the job?

Watching Team USA succeed on the international scene after all of my work has been completed.

What's your ideal vacation?

Cruising the Greek Islands. I'm not Greek, but the photos that I've seen are amazing.

Tell us about your family.

I was born and raised in Massachusetts by my mom, Eleanor, and my dad, David. I am the second of three girls in my family. My older sister, Erin, is a nurse and my younger sister, Kimberly, will graduate from college this May.



The skating community takes part in last month's Super Bowl. Managing and performing at a VIP pregame party are (l-r) Kelly Shipstad, Eddie Shipstad, Larry Ibarra, Katie Shipstad, Erica Archambault, and Ryan Jahnke.



FIGURE SKATING MAKES SUPER BOWL APPEARANCE

Shipstad Entertainment, run by figure skating coach Eddie Shipstad of the Broadmoor SC, was hired to perform at one of the NFL's VIP pregame parties prior to Super Bowl XLVI on Feb. 5, 2012.

Skaters Erica Archambault, Ryan Jahnke, Larry Ibarra and Katie Shipstad each performed for 3,000 guests and fans during the three-hour "Football Wonderland" festivities on an EZ Glide Synthetic Ice System.

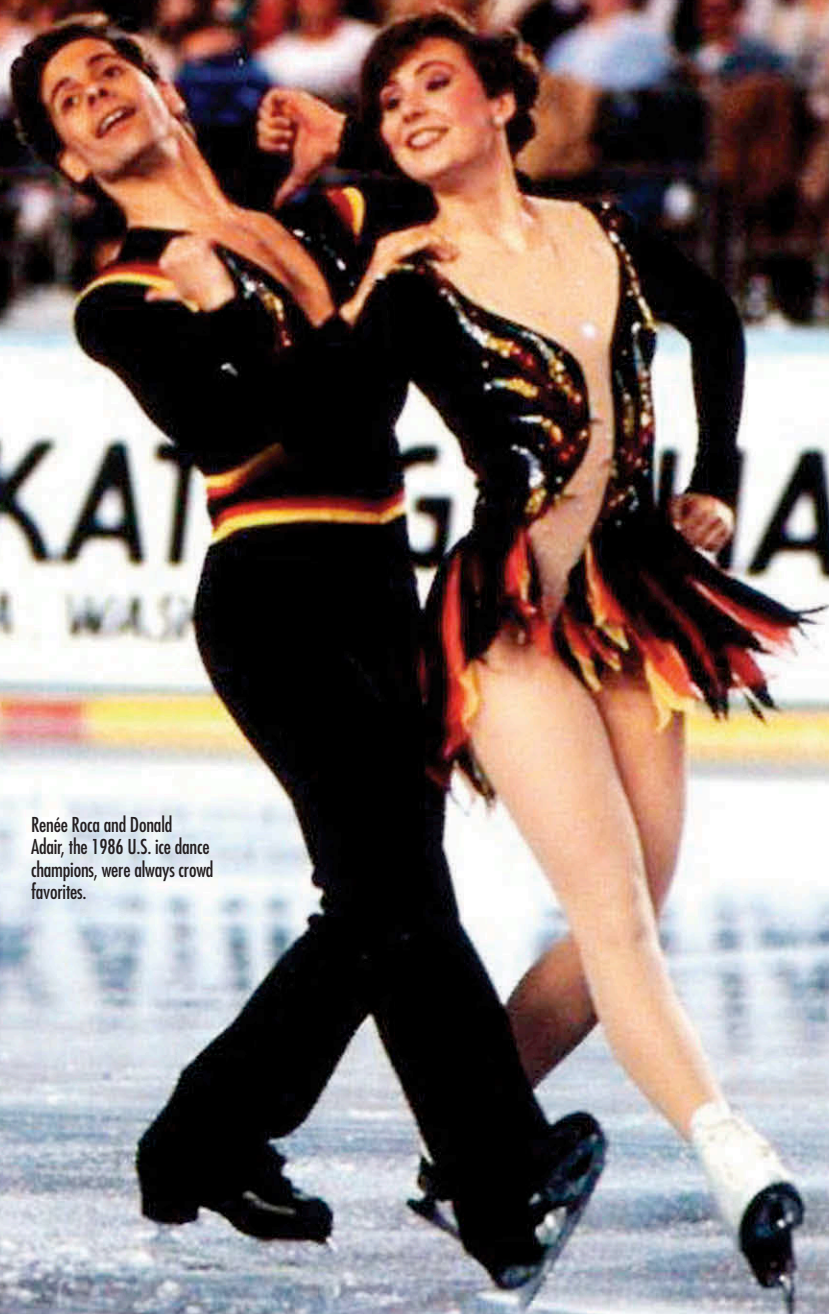
On location at Lucas Oil Field in Indianapolis, the quartet provided entertainment where fans and guests also hobnobbed with NFL players, listened to two live bands and enjoyed delicious food and drinks.

"After the party, we were guests of the NFL," Eddie Shipstad said. "We got to go to the game, watch Madonna's halftime show and see what a great production the Super Bowl is. To attend the Super Bowl should be on everyone's bucket list. I'm proud that figure skating was part of the day's entertainment and that we could bring our sport to the NFL and its fans."

The New York Giants defeated the New England Patriots 21-17.

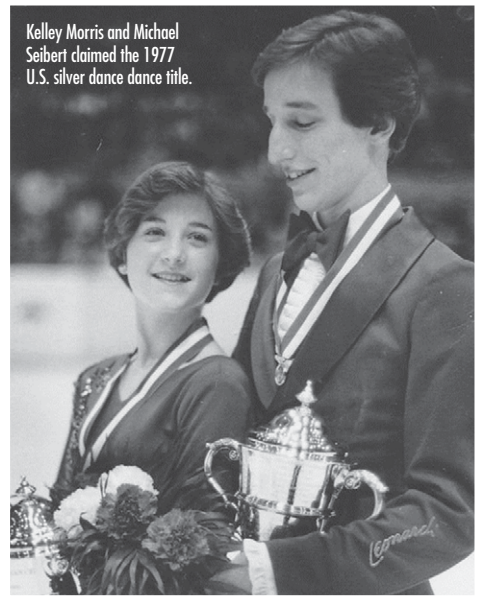
PARTNERS IN LIFE

FORMER COMPETITORS FORM
A WINNING COMBINATION



Renée Roca and Donald Adair, the 1986 U.S. ice dance champions, were always crowd favorites.

U.S. FIGURE SKATING PHOTO



Kelley Morris and Michael Seibert claimed the 1977 U.S. silver dance title.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KELLEY MORRIS-ADAIR

by LOIS ELFMAN

Heading into the 1977 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Hartford, Conn., expectations were high for local boy Donald “Donny” Adair and his partner Felicia DiGiusto. The medalists from the prior year in what was then known as silver dance (now junior ice dance) had moved up to seniors, and DiGiusto and Adair were next in line.

“They really did up the story in the hometown papers ready for him to be the next champion. Then Michael [Seibert] and I snuck in there and won,” Kelley Morris-Adair said.

“So I married her to get the trophy back,” Adair said.

As the history books show, Adair finally got his U.S. title in 1986, becoming U.S. ice dance champion with Renée Roca. In addition to two trips to the World Championships, they competed internationally for several years before Adair called it a day after the 1987 U.S. Championships.

“I was burned out,” Adair said. “It was time for me to walk away from it even though it was two weeks before Worlds in Cincinnati. I’ve never really looked back since. I don’t miss competition. I’m here to inspire young ones to go on and do great things with their skating.”

Morris-Adair’s competitive career ended before her 18th birthday. Shortly after winning silver dance, Seibert ended their partnership to move to California where he ultimately teamed with Judy Blumberg. Morris-Adair skated for a while with another partner but eventually set her sights on college. Her parents had paid for college for her older brother and sister but indicated that skating had eaten her college money.

“So I started teaching to earn money to go to college,” she said. “I was teaching in my hometown of Columbus, Ind., a small town where I was well-known. I caught the bug pretty fast. I really enjoyed the process of being able to help develop young athletes and show them their potential.

“My master ratings with PSA (Professional Skat-

ers Association) are my college degree.”

Morris-Adair, 49, and Adair, 51, who live and coach in Indianapolis, first met in the summer of 1975.

“The year of the movie *Jaws*,” she noted.

They were both attending summer skating school in Clarksville, Ind., with their partners. Despite the 1977 upset, they remained friends, and then romance blossomed in the early 1990s as a fortuitous job offer came their way.

She was living in Columbus, Ohio, and he in Atlanta, and they were co-coaching a young ice dance team long distance. They were approached about joining the coaching staff at the Indiana/World Skating Academy and forming a competitive ice dance program. They accepted the offer and began on April 1, 1991.

They got engaged in the summer of 1996 when Adair crafted a romantic proposal in Lake Placid, N.Y.

“We’ve always gone to Lake Placid for the summer dance competitions,” Adair said. “We were there with one of our dance teams. I took Kelley for a carriage ride around Mirror Lake. We stopped at the south end of Main Street by the church. I had the ring and the champagne. That’s where I proposed.”

“It was very romantic,” Morris-Adair said. They married in 1997.

A couple of years later, they decided to re-adjust their coaching duties to allow them more time at home.

“When we first moved to Indianapolis, we had a lot of success early on, a lot of teams, national champions,” Morris-Adair said. This included U.S. novice champions Kate Black and Kevin Spado and junior champions Kimber Hartley and Michael Sklutovsky.

“It became clear as we started dating and exploring our personal relationship, we needed to decide how much that was going to be disturbed by a coaching career. We were always on the road.”

They made a conscious decision to spend time together, which meant cutting back on traveling with skaters. After the 1998 U.S. Championships, they sat down and made a plan about where they wanted to go personally and professionally. The late Pieter Kollen was especially helpful in encouraging them to find a work/life balance.

“We value our relationship,” she said. They continued to consult with other coaches and do choreography for ice dancers, but focused on finding niches that kept them close to home.

Morris-Adair works with skaters in all disciplines on edge work, details and choreography. Adair loves working with test skaters.

“I’ve always enjoyed taking people through their dance tests,” he said. “I can still skate pretty well. To see the happiness of them achieving a goal of getting a gold medal in ice dancing is really satisfying for me.”

They work with a couple of young ice dance teams as supplemental coaches — traveling to Louisville, Ky., where Adair coaches on a regular basis.

Morris-Adair did take on a huge, time-consuming commitment in 2007 when she became president of the PSA, which she said she couldn’t have done without her husband’s love and support — not to mention his excellent cooking skills. She served until 2010 with the mantra that “teamwork makes the dream work.”

“We were trying to give the PSA back to the membership and really listening to what the members wanted,” she said. “It was a lot of hard work because we were coming up with and implementing so many new ideas. It was a most rewarding time.”

Given the coaching careers that Morris-Adair and Adair have been able to carve for themselves, her time as PSA president provided a real eye opener in terms of the challenges that many figure skating coaches face.

“This engagement gave me a real awareness

of different environments and the struggles and the challenges that coaches were going through,” she said.

While they may not be at U.S. and World championships, they are certainly aware of the top teams and express the utmost admiration.

“I’m not sure I could do half the stuff they do now,” Adair said. “They truly are amazing athletes. Meryl [Davis] and Charlie [White] are just an amazing dance team. I’m so glad they were able to break through and finally win the big one that we’ve all been trying to do for so many years.”

The one thing Adair said he finds a bit missing in current ice dance programs is connection.

“There used to be time to really look in your partner’s eyes. The crowd could see that and feel that emotion between a dance team,” he said. “Nowadays, they have so many elements they have to do. Other than Meryl and Charlie and the Canadians [Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir], I don’t see them take the time to do that anymore. I miss that emotional attachment with an ice dance team.”

They don’t display much personal skating memorabilia in their home, but there are some special items connected to the legendary Jackson Haines, from who Adair is descended. Most of it had belonged to Adair’s late mother, Ann Robinson, the 1943 U.S. novice champion.

In their down time, Morris-Adair and Adair love to head to their lake house.

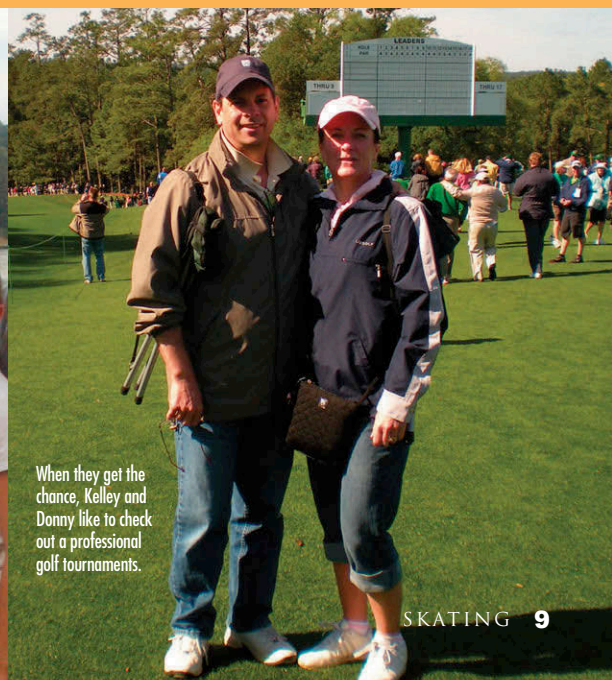
“A little piece of heaven that is about a two-hour drive away,” she said. “We decompress and we really enjoy all the outdoor sports and water sports.”

Both are avid golfers and “golf groupies,” and they often plan vacations around going to watch a golf tournament or playing a special golf course. They also check out local sports teams at Butler University.

“We enjoy watching athletes at their finest in action,” Morris-Adair said. “We love being around that competitive spirit.”



Kelley and Donny take in the scenery with some of their ice dancers in Lake Placid.



When they get the chance, Kelley and Donny like to check out a professional golf tournaments.



(l-r) Mao Asada, Ashley Wagner and Caroline Zhang



(l-r) Daisuke Takahashi, Patrick Chan and Ross Miner

WAGNER GLIDES TO TITLE; U.S. CLAIMS SIX MEDALS

by TROY SCHWINDT

Fresh off her breakthrough victory at the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Ashley Wagner showed the international skating community that she means business by winning the 2012 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo., held Feb. 9–12.

The 20-year-old from Alexandria, Va., breezed past the field of 30 women, which included 2010 World champion and Japanese tilitist Mao Asada.

The United States carted off an event-best six medals, including two each in ladies and pairs.

“This was a pretty darn good competition for me,” said Wagner, who shattered her person-

al-best free skate score by 18 points (128.34) en route to a total of 192.41 points, the highest score recorded by a lady this season.

“I think it’s huge for me to pull out those scores internationally. This is not only great for my career but for people’s understanding of my level of skating now, to give everyone an idea of what I’m capable of going to Worlds.”

Wagner, who trains under legendary coach John Nicks in southern California, put out two splendid programs that exceeded her performances in San Jose less than two weeks earlier.

“Going into Worlds, I can go in knowing I’m capable under not ideal situations — a week after nationals, at altitude — to pull something off like that,” she said.

Trailing Asada by 0.18 points after the short program, Wagner captivated the audience at the Colorado Springs World Arena with her “Black Swan” free skate. She started strong with a triple flip-double toe-double toe combination. Her only hiccup occurred next when she doubled the back end of an intended double Axel-triple toe loop combination.

“The Axel was a little bit screwy,” Wagner said. “I decided to do the double and not waste the energy to pull off the triple toe so I would have energy for the rest of the program, which sky-high as we are, that’s important to be able to do.”

From that point on, she glided effortlessly from one element to the next. She was credited with six clean triple jumps and three level four spins. Her speed, transitions and choreographed

moves blended magnificently to create a memorable performance that was rewarded with a standing ovation.

“We (choreographer Phillip Mills and Wagner) wanted to create something very authentic, and then that, combined with Mr. Nicks’ awareness of the audience and performance technique, I think creates the perfect performance package,” Wagner said.

Asada also skated well, but her triple Axel was judged as under-rotated. She also two-footed her triple Lutz and doubled an intended triple Salchow. Asada finished with 188.62 points.

One of the feel-good stories from the event came from Caroline Zhang, who has resurrected her career this season. Fourth at the recent U.S. Championships, Zhang has become steady and reliable under coaches Peter Opeggard and Karen Kwan-Opeggard.

In Colorado Springs, Zhang, 18, was terrific, finishing fourth in the short program and third in the free skate to earn the bronze medal. She recorded career-best scores, finishing with 176.18 points.

“It feels great,” Zhang said of her personal-best score. “It just gives me more motivation to keep working and help me get an even better one next year.”

U.S. bronze medalist Agnes Zawadzki hit snags in both of her programs, finishing sixth in both segments and sixth overall with 157.23 points.

“I’m a little disappointed in myself,” the 17-year-old said. “It was kind of bittersweet because I got a personal best but it wasn’t the way that I wanted it to be. It’s different in practice than in competition and I just think I have to work on bringing those two together for next season.”

PAIRS

For the first time since 2000, two U.S. pairs teams finished on the podium at the Four Continents Championships. U.S. champions Caydee Denney and John Coughlin and U.S. silver med-



Ashley Wagner tops her remarkable performance at the U.S. Championships with two crowd-pleasing programs in Colorado Springs. Wagner’s Black Swan free skate has been a huge hit this campaign.

Wagner credits her coach John Nicks with putting her on the right path to success.



Caydee Denney/John Coughlin, Wenjing Sui/Cong Han, Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker

Meryl Davis/Charlie White, Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje



Despite being together less than one year, Caydee Denney and John Coughlin are rock-solid together. The U.S. pairs champs show their consistency and big tricks en route to a silver medal.



Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker show that they've put some traction on their short careers together, winning the bronze medal in Colorado Springs.

alists Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker carted home the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

The teenage team of Wenjing Sui and Cong Han, two-time World Junior champions from China, won their first-ever senior event with a score of 201.83 points.

For both American teams, their performances in Colorado Springs will serve as building blocks heading into the World Championships.

"We still left points on the table," Coughlin said. "We don't want to lose what I call 'foolproof' points. We will get to work on our levels and performing together. We had fun and are happy with how it turned out."

"We've come a long way since last year," Brubaker said. "Mary Beth jokingly said our (international) season best was 88 at Skate America (for free skate) and today it was 116. There are some points we know we can easily get back. Our jumps and throws are usually pretty solid. We're ready to get to work for Worlds."

Denney and Coughlin's personal-best free skate was rewarded with positive grades of execution across the board, except for Denney singling the first of two double Axels in sequence. The team, which trains in Colorado Springs, finished with 185.42 points.

Marley and Brubaker started slow with Marley falling on the opening triple toe and turning out of the landing of a double Axel. The second-year team rallied to finish the rest of their program on a strong note. They ended with 178.89 points.

The podium finish of two U.S. pairs teams in an international competition is the start of the U.S. becoming a regular contender in that discipline, Brubaker hopes.

"We have to keep coming out every time and proving to the world we are taking this seriously," he said. "We are trying to take a stand and be a world power as far as pairs goes."

Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig, the U.S. bronze medalists, finished sixth with 167.99 points.

"It had some good and some bad," Evora said of the team's free skate. "What's interesting is some of the things we usually don't do so well we did well this time, and some of the things we usually do well we didn't do so well."

MEN

In an event dominated by Canadian Patrick Chan, Ross Miner couldn't help but be thrilled with the bronze medal, his second as a senior on the international scene.



Ross Miner was elated after learning he had won the bronze medal. Miner, the two-time reigning U.S. bronze medalist, rallied in the free skate to secure his podium position.

PLEASE SEE FOUR CONTINENTS, PAGE 69

THE MAGIC RETURNS!

SAN JOSE PRODUCES ANOTHER CLASSIC EVENT

The past, the present and the future shared the spotlight at the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Jan. 22–29, in San Jose, Calif.

Bay Area skating greats such as Peggy Fleming, Brian Boitano, Debi Thomas, Rudy Galindo, Kristi Yamaguchi and Charlie Tickner extended a warm welcome to everyone who walked through the turnstiles at HP Pavilion.

These icons of the sport signed autographs, took photographs with spectators, spent time with the current crop of athletes and served as ambassadors for the sport of figure skating. It was moving to see Galindo recognized and celebrated in the place where he made history at the 1996 U.S. Championships in San Jose.

One of the unforgettable moments of the

week occurred with the Hall of Fame induction and on-ice recognition of Michelle Kwan.

A packed house stood and cheered as the sport's most decorated athlete walked onto the ice and delivered her heartfelt message.

Attendance for the eight-day event totaled 102,619, and no one left disappointed. Each of the four senior disciplines provided excitement and drama.

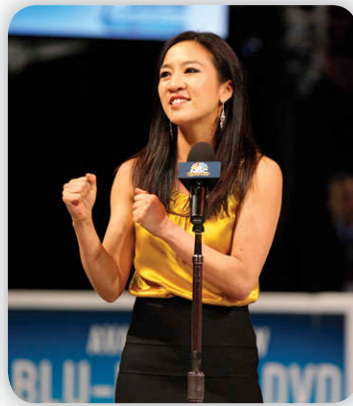
Ashley Wagner and Jeremy Abbott delivered programs that won't soon be forgotten. The new pairs team of Caydee Denney and John Coughlin were dynamic, while Meryl Davis and Charlie White, for the fourth consecutive year, led an extremely strong ice dance field.

The future of U.S. Figure Skating also shone brightly. Gracie Gold and Nathan Chen, and novice skaters Karen Chen and Vincent

Zhou, entertained and wowed the crowds. A strong contingent of junior and novice pairs and dance teams made a lot of noise as well.

Giving fans the ultimate Championships experience, U.S. Figure Skating led the way with Downtown Ice, just a short walk from HP Pavilion. Fans spent their down time and evenings skating at this unique outdoor venue, which was adorned by 70-foot palm trees lit up for the holidays. Many skating greats, such as Johnny Weir and Sarah Hughes, skated at Downtown Ice with their legions of fans.

There were those who couldn't make it to San Jose: Nearly 9.5 million viewers watched NBC's nine hours of coverage of the U.S. Championships and Smucker's Skating Spectacular. Icenetwork.com reported that it had 5.1 million page views during the event.



(l-r) Skating fans flock to Downtown Ice to enjoy a unique skating experience; Michelle Kwan, the sole member of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame Class of 2012, addresses the packed house at HP Pavilion; Bay Area skating greats (l-r) Charles Tickner, Peggy Fleming, Brian Boitano and Debi Thomas prepare to take to the ice for the opening ceremonies; Rudy Galindo signs a huge poster of his historic 1996 performance at the U.S. Championships in San Jose.

WHAT'S NEXT? Following the 2012 U.S. Championships, U.S. Figure Skating nominated its international selections for the World Championships (March 26–April 1, Nice, France) and World Junior Championships (Feb. 27–March 4, Minsk, Belarus).

2012 World Championships

Ladies

Alissa Czisny
Ashley Wagner
Alternate: Agnes Zawadzki
Alternate: Caroline Zhang
Alternate: Mirai Nagasu

Men

Jeremy Abbott
Adam Rippon
Alternate: Ross Miner
Alternate: Armin Mahbanoozadeh
Alternate: Douglas Razzano

Pairs

Caydee Denney/John Coughlin
Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker
Alternate: Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig
Alternate: Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir
Alternate: Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff

Ice dancing

Meryl Davis/Charlie White
Madison Hubbell/Zach Donohue
Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani
Alternate: Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt
Alternate: Madison Chock/Evan Bates
Alternate: Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus

2012 World Junior Championships

Ladies

Christina Gao
Gracie Gold
Vanessa Lam
Alternate: Ashley Cain
Alternate: Hannah Miller
Alternate: Angela Wang

Men

Jason Brown

Timothy Dolensky

Joshua Farris

Alternate: Philip Warren

Alternate: Harrison Choate

Alternate: Jay Yostanto

Pairs

Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier

Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton

Britney Simpson/Matthew Blackmer

Alternate: Jessica Noelle Calalang/Zack Sidhu

Alternate: Jessica Pfund/AJ Reiss

Alternate: Madeline Aaron/Max Settlege

Ice dance

Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton

Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager

Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons

Alternate: Madeline Heritage/Nathaniel Fast

Alternate: Kaitlin Hawayek/Michael Bramante

Alternate: Amanda Bertsch/Sam Kaplun

LEADING LADY

WAGNER PUTS PAST IN REARVIEW MIRROR, WINS TITLE

by TROY SCHWINDT

Coming to San Jose, Ashley Wagner knew the truth.

There was no sugarcoating the fact that the 20-year-old from Alexandria, Va., had struggled putting together two solid programs at the previous three U.S. Championships. Her short program had been her Achilles' heel, and Wagner's reputation as the "almost girl" preceded her.

That all changed with a pair of magical performances at HP Pavilion, lifting Wagner from bridesmaid to U.S. Figure Skating's leading lady.

"I'm not the 'almost girl' anymore and I can't even describe how happy I am with that," said Wagner, who has two U.S. bronze medals in her trophy collection. "It's been since the Junior Grand Prix circuit that I was on the top of the podium and I almost forgot what that felt like.

"When I got on top of the podium today, it was an incredible feeling. It made me realize why I'm doing this crazy sport. If you work hard, it'll pay off. The fact that I trusted myself and I believed that I could go out and put out that program (free skate) and actually go do it, that speaks enough for itself."

Wagner's sensational performance helped qualify her for her second World Figure Skating Championships. She qualified in 2008 for the event in Gothenburg, Sweden, where she finished 16th. Wagner will be joined at Worlds later this month in Nice, France, by two-time U.S. titlist Alissa Czisny, who claimed the silver medal in San Jose.

Agnes Zawadzki, an Illinois native, led after the short program at the U.S. Championships and earned the bronze medal. Caroline Zhang, the 2009 U.S. bronze medalist, finished a strong fourth.

For Wagner, qualifying for the World Championships offers a golden opportunity to help return U.S. ladies figure skating to international prominence.

"I think we have the talent and the skaters," said Wagner, who moved from the East Coast to the West Coast last year to train under legendary coach John Nicks. "We just need to be able to go out there and put out consistent programs with triple-triples and show the world that ladies figure skating in the United States is not over."

Earning a third U.S. ladies' berth for the

World Championships and the Olympics, she said, is of utmost importance to her.

"I was on the team that lost the spot," she said. "I would really like to be on the team that gains that spot back."

In San Jose, Zawadzki set the early pace with her jazzy short program that opened with a triple toe-triple toe combination and a triple Lutz. The 17-year-old skated confidently, earning positive grades of execution on all her elements. Zawadzki, who trains in Colorado, racked up 66.24 points to win the short program.

Zawadzki's success came a year after making a coaching change and reuniting with childhood mentor and coach David Santee.

He and Broadmoor SC coach Christy Krall share the skater's coaching responsibilities in Colorado Springs.

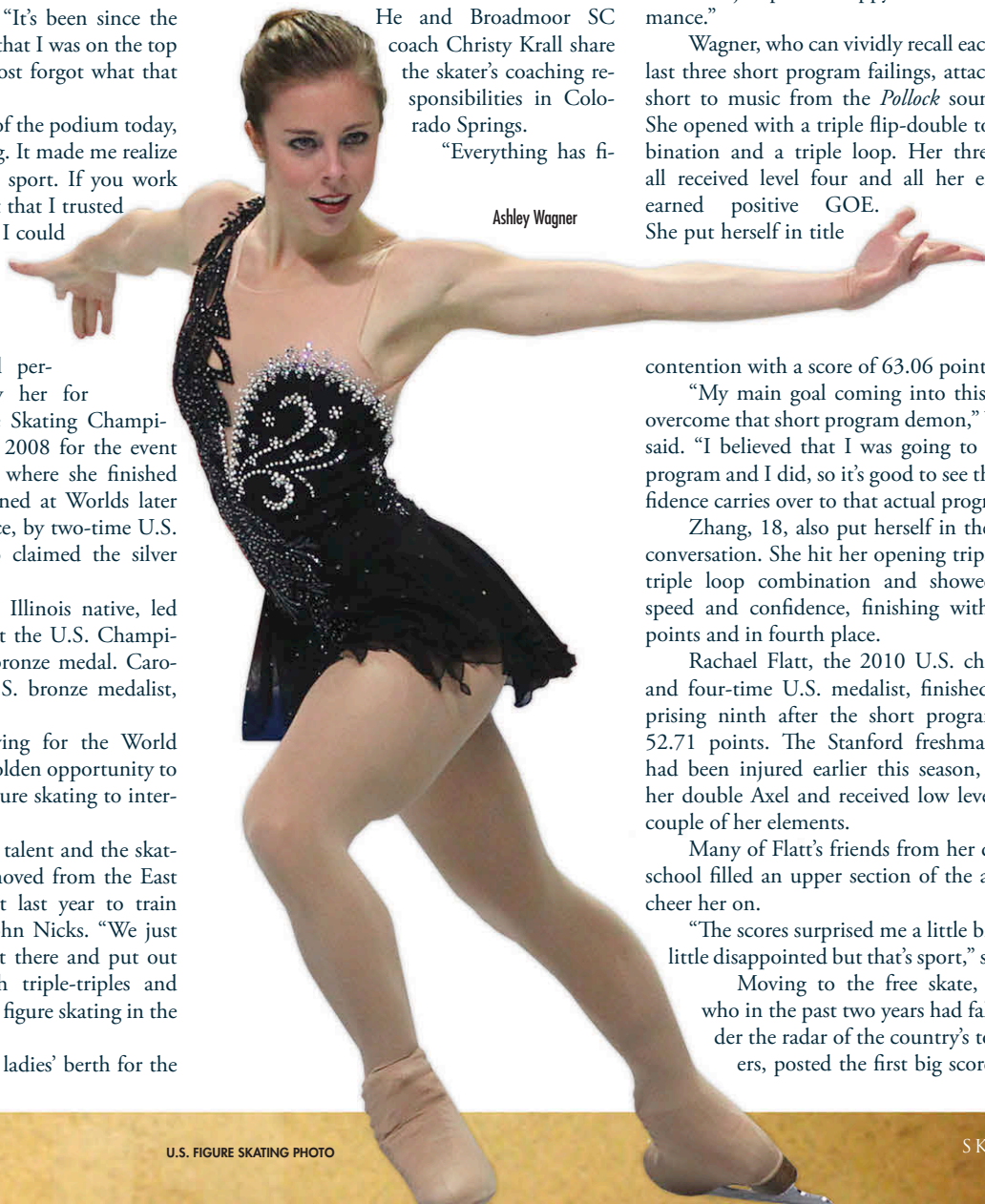
"Everything has fi-

nally clicked," said the high school senior, who placed fourth at the 2011 U.S. Championships and is the 2010 U.S. junior champion. "It was definitely a big improvement over the Grand Prix season. I think now I'm more mentally and more physically trained."

Czisny, who suffered a lower leg injury at the Grand Prix Final six weeks before the U.S. Championships, appeared primed to defend her national title with an elegant short to "La Vie en Rose." She, however, singled her double Axel, which positioned the Detroit-based skater in second with 63.14 points.

"I think I hesitated just a little bit going into the jump," Czisny, 24, said. "Except for that one jump, I'm happy with the performance."

Wagner, who can vividly recall each of her last three short program failings, attacked her short to music from the *Pollock* soundtrack. She opened with a triple flip-double toe combination and a triple loop. Her three spins all received level four and all her elements earned positive GOE. She put herself in title



Ashley Wagner

contention with a score of 63.06 points.

"My main goal coming into this was to overcome that short program demon," Wagner said. "I believed that I was going to do that program and I did, so it's good to see that confidence carries over to that actual program."

Zhang, 18, also put herself in the medal conversation. She hit her opening triple loop-triple loop combination and showed good speed and confidence, finishing with 60.18 points and in fourth place.

Rachael Flatt, the 2010 U.S. champion and four-time U.S. medalist, finished a surprising ninth after the short program with 52.71 points. The Stanford freshman, who had been injured earlier this season, singled her double Axel and received low levels on a couple of her elements.

Many of Flatt's friends from her dorm at school filled an upper section of the arena to cheer her on.

"The scores surprised me a little bit; I'm a little disappointed but that's sport," she said.

Moving to the free skate, Zhang, who in the past two years had fallen under the radar of the country's top skaters, posted the first big score in the



(l-r) Alissa Czisny, Ashley Wagner, Agnes Zawadzki and Caroline Zhang

MEDALISTS

- GOLD — ASHLEY WAGNER — 187.02
- SILVER — ALISSA CZISNY — 180.00
- BRONZE — AGNES ZAWADZKI — 174.10
- FOURTH — CAROLINE ZHANG — 173.19



final group. A fitter and faster Zhang hit her jump combinations and seamlessly moved from one element to the next. She finished third in the free skate and fourth overall with 173.19 points.

"I think from Champs Camp on, Caroline had an idea of what she wanted to accomplish this year," coach Peter Oppegard said. "It was definitely something that she set upon one step at a time, under her own power. We were there to guide her, if we could, when we could, but mostly she was quite determined this year to find herself and get on track."

"Anyone who knows Caroline knows that she is very strong-willed," coach Karen Kwan-Oppegard said. "When she put her mind to it to achieve her goal, she did."

Wagner followed Zhang with her "Black Swan" program, which was developed by longtime choreographer Phillip Mills.

From the opening note to the ending pose, Wagner was in character, and in control. She delivered Mills' intricate and balletic choreography with strength tempered by grace.

She opened with a triple flip-double toe-double toe combination worth 9.10 points. She executed two more jump combinations and was steady with her spins and footwork. Wagner did pop a triple Salchow into a single and experienced a couple of imperfect landings, but at the end of the program, she stood at center ice, soaking in the audience's love and appreciation for her skating.

Wagner won the free skate with 123.96 points and posted an overall score of 187.02.

"She's a beautiful lady who did some beautiful skating," Nicks said.

"I am so pleased that I was able to let myself skate," Wagner said as she came off the ice. "I was worried tonight that I was going to get in my own way. I think that I overcame that and proved that I can relax and perform and be competitive at the same time. I just have to get myself into the right mindset. Once I got there, it was just so easy for me. It flew by, I wasn't tired. It was just fun, I loved it."

Wagner credits Nicks' no-nonsense approach for much of her success.

"I think the best thing is that he doesn't overcomplicate things, he's very to the point. He says exactly what needs to be said, but is honest at the same time so I know what I'm getting is what I need to hear and it's the truth,"

Wagner said. "I think that stability and that trust that I'm able to have in what he tells me to do has really helped me in my confidence."

Mills, who also choreographed Wagner's short program, has worked with the skater throughout her career.

"She's an elite athlete," Mills said. "She reminds me of (three-time U.S. champion) Jill Trenary. I haven't had anybody since her that has had that same kind of fortitude until Ashley Wagner. She has it, she's a fighter. She will let you push her until she drops."

Czisny and Zawadzki followed Wagner, both hitting bumps in the road. Czisny fell on a downgraded triple Lutz and reduced an intended double Axel-triple toe to a double-double. She did turn in a nicely executed triple flip and two triple loops, one as part of a three-jump combination. Her spins and footwork were, as usual, breathtaking.

She finished with the second-best free skate and 180.00 points overall.

"We are very proud of her (Alissa)," coach Jason Dungjen said. "Physically she's completely healthy, but some doubts kind of lingered. At the end of the day, she did enough to move on. That's what really counts. Worlds is the biggest prize."

Czisny, who won U.S. titles in 2009 and 2011, said it wasn't her best performance, "but I kept fighting through it."

Zawadzki started strong but ended up seventh in the free skate, falling on a triple Lutz and a triple Salchow. Despite being unable to maintain her lead, Zawadzki's coach said the sky is the limit for the teenager.

"She came a long way, even in the span of this week," Santee said. "That's a lot to handle, but these are all good experiences and experiences to get her where she wants to go."

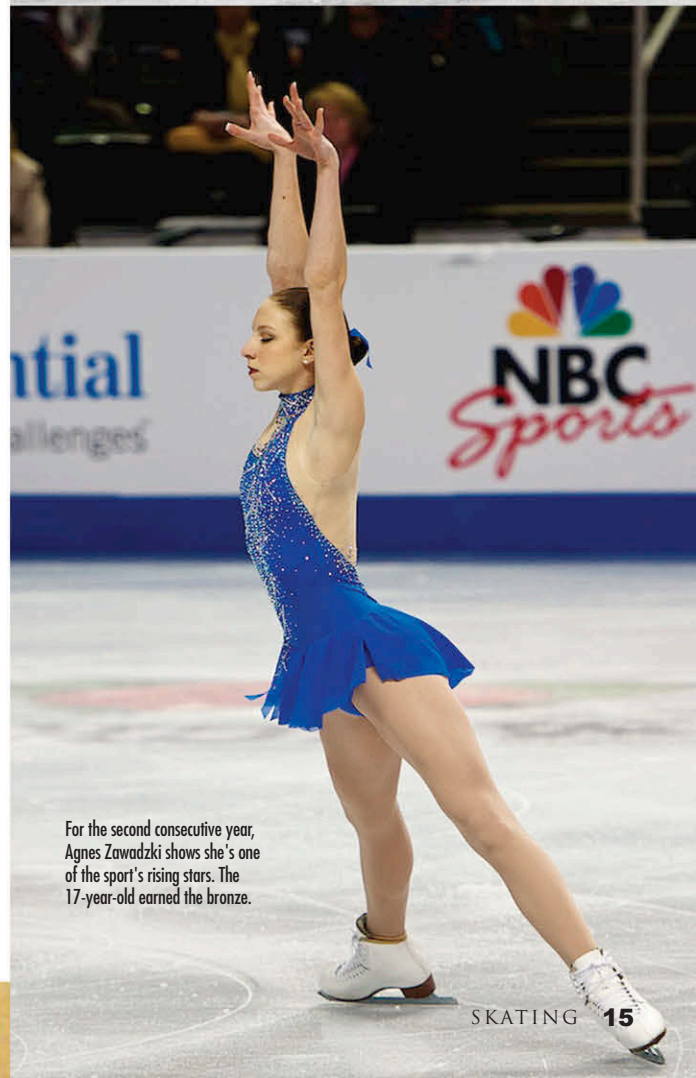
"She has so much talent; it's just going to take time. She trains hard; she does everything we ask of her. We've all been through this. You have ups and downs and it feels bad when you have them but you learn from them. And when you get where you want to go, you appreciate it so much more."

Flatt finished on a strong note, turning in the fourth-best free skate of the night and placing sixth in the 19-woman field. She landed five triple jumps.

"That was the most relaxed I've been all season going into a program," she said. "I had an amazing time."



Two-time U.S. champion Alissa Czisny gives the fans in San Jose a treat, with her signature elegance and grace. She captured the silver medal.



For the second consecutive year, Agnes Zawadzki shows she's one of the sport's rising stars. The 17-year-old earned the bronze.

PHOTO BY EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Jeremy Abbott put an exclamation point on his third U.S. title with a free skate for the ages.



2012 U.S. men's champion Jeremy Abbott

PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF

HE'S BACK!

ABBOTT DELIVERS ELECTRIC PROGRAMS TO RECLAIM U.S. TITLE

by TROY SCHWINDT

There was a quiet confidence that Jeremy Abbott carried into the 2011–12 skating campaign.

At Champs Camp in August, he talked about putting last year's disappointing finish at the 2011 U.S. Championships in Greensboro, N.C., behind him, his boot and blade issues now history. The two-time U.S. titlist spoke about moving forward with two programs that he loved, and the process of building toward San Jose and a return to the World Championships.

Rested and fresh in his heart, and more importantly, in his mind, he believed he could reclaim his coveted place atop U.S. men's figure skating.

In San Jose, Abbott executed his season's plan to near perfection, setting records for his short program, free skate and overall score on the way to his third U.S. title and a berth at the World Championships in Nice, France. Rink-mate Adam Rippon also performed brilliantly, securing the silver medal. Ross Miner backed up last year's bronze-medal finish with another bronze-caliber effort.

Both of Abbott's programs left fans at HP Pavilion and on TV awestruck. His huge jumps, intricate footwork and signature artistic ability garnered the Detroit-based skater the admiration of fans and insiders alike and put him in elite company as a three-time U.S. champion.

"The first time (U.S. title in 2009), I was just really excited to win," Abbott told reporters. "The second time (2010), I wasn't expecting to skate the way that I did. I was actually very surprised. This time, I was very confident that I was going to skate the way I did. It's the way I've been training and I do feel much more comfortable in my own skin. I was pretty confident that I was going to do what I did today and on Friday."

Abbott, 26, put out a swing dance short program that grabbed the judges' and audience's attention from the opening note. The Colorado native nailed his first two elements — a triple flip-triple toe combination and triple Axel — for a total of 22.27 points. He spent much of the rest of the program demonstrating his superior skating skills and vast artistic talent.

When it was over, Abbott had hit a home run, scoring a record 90.23 points.

Three-time U.S. titlist Johnny Weir, providing his expertise on icenetwork.com, called Abbott's performance "refreshing to see," adding there's no one else in the field who can put on a show like Abbott.

Carrying a 7.29-point advantage into the free skate over training partner Rippon, Abbott shut the door on the rest of the field with his sensitive, exquisitely paced performance to "Exogenesis Symphony Part 3" by Muse.

He opened with a monster quad and triple Axel-double toe combination worth a combined 24.1 points. Not having the quad in the program, he said, was never a consideration, although he enjoyed a large lead heading into the free skate. "It's in my program and there was no changing it regardless of what everyone else did," Abbott said. "It was the plan from the beginning and we weren't going to switch it."

Abbott continued to mount momentum throughout his free skate, which included a triple Lutz-double toe-double loop combination. He did experience one hiccup, doubling an intended triple Salchow toward the end of the program. Posting of his final score of



PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF

MEDALISTS

- GOLD — JEREMY ABBOTT — 273.58
- SILVER — ADAM RIPPON — 240.87
- BRONZE — ROSS MINER — 230.32
- FOURTH — ARMIN MAHBANOOZADEH — 224.63

273.58 points sent the audience into a frenzy.

Abbott stood at center ice and took in the crowd's love.

"I skate to give a performance like that and so I felt really good," Abbott said seconds after stepping off the ice. "I was really nervous when I started. I was shaking a little bit, but from the second I set for the quad, I was like, I'm going to do this. I just really took it into my hands and made sure that I did what I needed to do.

"When I finished, I could feel the energy of the arena and it kind of overwhelmed me. I was getting emotional but I kept it in, kept it together but I felt it. It was real nice."

Rippon, who moved his training base from Toronto to Detroit prior to the season to skate under coaches Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen, felt the weight of the world lifted off his back after three years of coming up short at the U.S. Championships.

This time, the 22-year-old Pennsylvania native came through with a sensational short program and a hard-fought free skate to land on the podium and secure his second World Team berth (2010).

His free skate to "Air" and "Toccatina and Fugue" by Bach, though, didn't start well. He intended to open with a quad Salchow but doubled the attempt. He turned out of his first triple Axel but fought for the landing of a triple Lutz-triple Salchow sequence.

Still, he executed six triple jumps, including a triple Axel, a triple flip-triple toe and his signature "Rippon" triple Lutz, done with both arms overhead. His final score of 240.87 cemented him as the event's silver medalist.

"I've had a busy few months," Rippon said. "I moved to Detroit over the summer and Jeremy and I train together. I think it's really affected my whole skating in a positive way. After the Grand Prix season, I just put myself in their (Sato and Dungjen's) hands and to be able to train with Jeremy is an honor. It's a great experience. I feel like we're coming in here as a team and I'm really happy for him today and I'm sure he's really happy for me."

In his recent experiences at the U.S. Championships, Rippon has struggled with his short program at nationals, much like his friend Ashley Wagner has. After watching her exorcise her short program demons the night before, he felt he could do the same.

"It really gave me a lot of confidence to know that if she could overcome it, I could overcome it," he said. "It's definitely a huge step forward for me."

Miner, who works with coaches Mark Mitchell and Peter Johansson at the Skating Club of Boston, placed fourth in the short

Jeremy Abbott broke the U.S. men's record with his entertaining swing dance short program. He generated a score of 90.23 points.



U.S. FIGURE SKATING PHOTO



Abbott embraces coaches Jason Dungjen and Yuka Sato in the kiss and cry.

program and third in the free skate to repeat as U.S. bronze medalist with a score of 230.32.

His free skate, to music from *The Untouchables* soundtrack, was solid, highlighted by an opening triple Axel, a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, three high level spins and some nifty footwork. He did fall on his second triple Axel and stumbled a bit on his choreographed step sequence, which Miner normally considers a highlight of his program.

"I was pretty happy with the program in general; I got through it," Miner, 21, said. "I lost my focus at the end a little bit and I'm a little disappointed in myself for that, but I'm still proud of what I did."

His return to the medal podium, Miner said, is a reward for all his hard work.

"Last year was great, but I came out of nowhere and I wasn't expecting it," Miner said. "So this year I had a little bit more expectation on my shoulders. It was cool to be able to go skate the way I know how and go out there and sort of legitimize last year by skating another good competition at nationals."

Armin Mahbanoozadeh, who recently moved from Delaware to Colorado to train, turned in two good performances to finish fourth.

Third after the short program, he landed seven triples in his free skate to music from *Kill Bill*. His final score was 224.63.

With their top placements, Abbott and Rippon earned the two World Team positions for the men, something that wasn't lost on the champion following the competition.

"I'm blown away, to share the podium with Adam and to be going to Worlds ...," Abbott said. "And then we have Aliisa (Cziszny), who is the silver medalist and Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, who were third. We all train together (at the Detroit Skating Club) and we are all going to Worlds together."

"For all of us at the rink to all be going to Worlds together is such an amazing thing. I think it's going to make it so relaxed and comfortable, like we are at home."

SCARY MOMENT FOR ABBOTT'S FAMILY

U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott discovered after his spectacular free skate that his stepfather, Allen Scott, had suffered heart problems while watching Abbott perform just a few feet away. Scott was taken by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

"I had no idea," Abbott said of what had transpired during his free skate. "I was just so focused on my program and what I had to do so when I found out I was actually surprised that I wasn't distracted by all that commotion."

Scott blacked out and was convulsing for about 15 seconds, according to Abbott's mother, Allison Scott.

"There was a doctor and nurse just rows behind us who were there within seconds and stayed with Allen until the paramedics came," Allison said. "He was coherent within a minute or so but still disoriented."

Allison said Allen suffered atrial fibrillation, which is the most common type of irregular heartbeat. The condition is associated with palpitations, fainting, chest pain and congestive heart failure. He spent three days in the hospital in San Jose.

Allen is back home in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he continues to receive medical care.

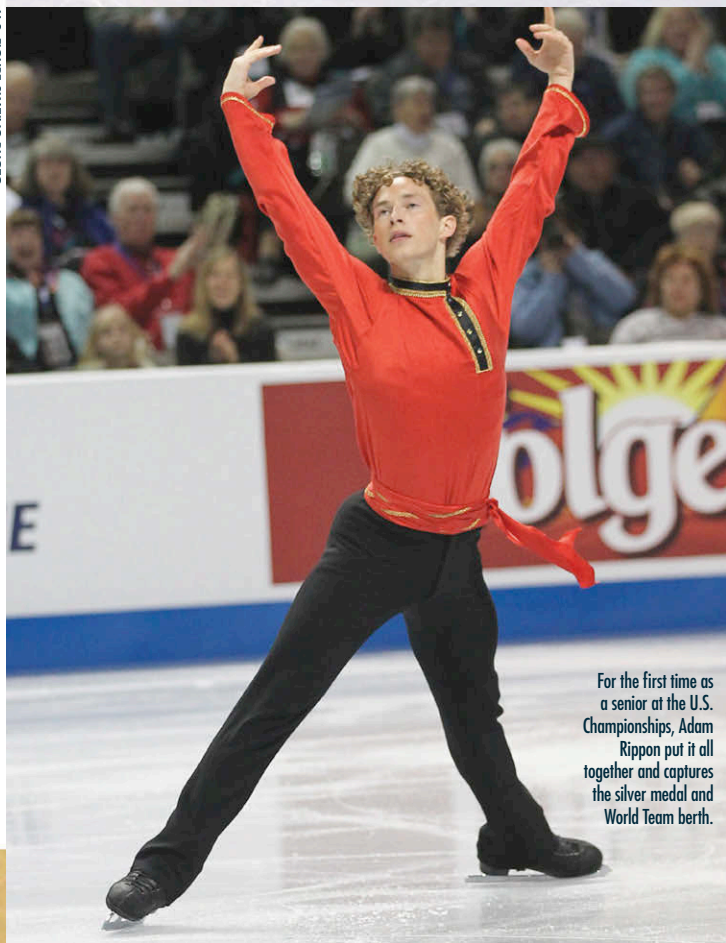
Abbott's sister, Gwen Abbott Asmussen, authored an account of the frightening episode titled "Four Minutes," which can be found on the SKATING magazine blog site.

PHOTO BY EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES



Ross Miner proves again he belongs in the conversation of elite U.S. men's figure skaters by winning his second consecutive U.S. bronze medal.

U.S. FIGURE SKATING PHOTO



For the first time as a senior at the U.S. Championships, Adam Rippon put it all together and captures the silver medal and World Team berth.



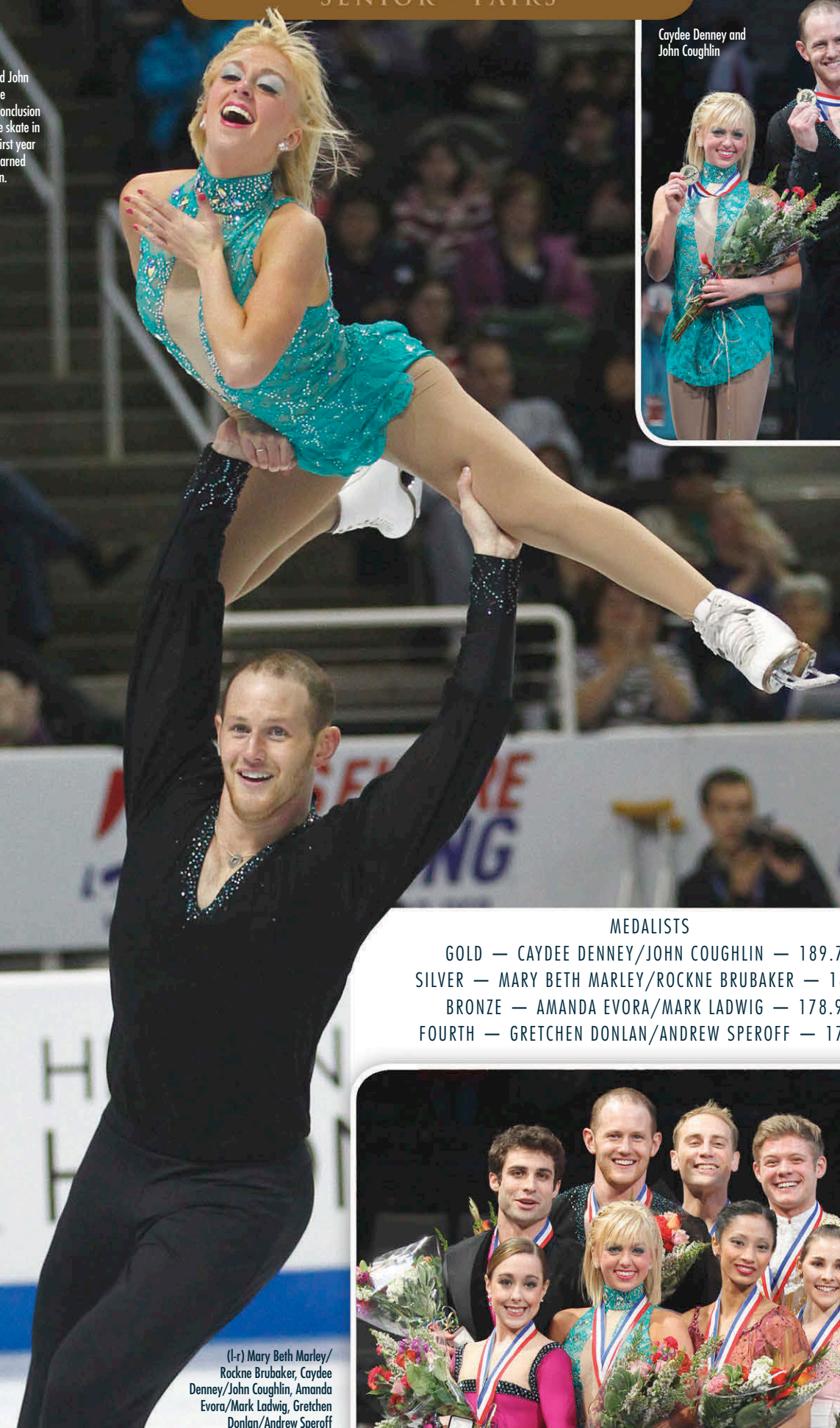
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2012 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS
SENIOR- PAIRS

U.S. FIGURE SKATING PHOTO

Caydee Denney and John Coughlin take in the moment near the conclusion of their electric free skate in San Jose. In their first year together, the duo earned the U.S. pairs crown.



Caydee Denney and John Coughlin

MEDALISTS

- GOLD — CAYDEE DENNEY/JOHN COUGHLIN — 189.70
- SILVER — MARY BETH MARLEY/ROCKNE BRUBAKER — 186.07
- BRONZE — AMANDA EVORA/MARK LADWIG — 178.98
- FOURTH — GRETCHEN DONLAN/ANDREW SPEROFF — 171.61



(l-r) Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker, Caydee Denney/John Coughlin, Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig, Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF

LIVIN' A DREAM

DENNEY AND COUGHLIN WASTE NO TIME IN BECOMING CHAMPS

by TERRY TERZIAN

When Caydee Denney and John Coughlin executed their “head-banger” move at the end of their virtually flawless free skate, the San Jose crowd erupted in frenzied delight. The performance capped a magical weekend that earned them a season-best 189.70 points and the U.S. title.

“Our goal this year was to go out and win nationals, and I feel so happy that we have achieved that,” Denney said. “We skated the best that we could’ve. We want to make the podium at Worlds or at least finish in the top four.”

“We had a great time out there,” Coughlin added. “There was a lot of energy in the audience. We had a vision of what we wanted to do while we were here. Once I got off the ice, it was how I wished it would be; it was how I was dreaming it would be.”

Denney and Coughlin found themselves in third place after a fall on a normally steady throw triple flip in the short program. All of the other required elements were well done, in particular their high-soaring triple twist, and received positive grades of execution.

Denney, 18, and Coughlin, 26, have only been skating together since May 2011, both having won U.S. pairs titles with previous partners (Denney in 2010 with Jeremy Barrett and Coughlin in 2011 with Caitlin Yankowskas).

With their win in San Jose, Denney and Coughlin earned the distinction of being the first pairs titlists in U.S. skating history to have each captured a gold medal with a previous partner. There have been a few select individuals who have earned national crowns with more than one partner (notably Kyoko Ina, Todd Sand, Melissa Militano, and Maribel Vinson), but no pair in which both individuals skated to gold with two different partners.

Denney and

Coughlin train in Colorado Springs, Colo., under Dalilah Sappenheim and Larry Ibarra. Denney moved to Colorado Springs after Barrett’s retirement.

“I think that their work ethic, their chemistry, their relationship, how easy it is to work with them, have made all the difference in why they’ve clicked so quickly,” Sappenheim said. “They communicate so well and are really in tune with each other’s needs. There’s no fighting; each has the same goal. So it’s made a big difference in how quickly they’ve been able to jell.”

Coughlin agreed.

“We did feel comfortable right off the bat,” he said. “Obviously, there’s no replacement for time. That’s why Dalilah had us get out so many times. We did as many shows at the beginning of the season as we could, just because we wanted to build that rapport and build that mileage.”

The pair turned to famed choreographer Marina Zoueva for assistance with their “Nessun Dorma” free skate. Highlights from that spectacular program included a program-opening triple twist followed by a throw triple loop and side-by-side triple toe loops. A pair of level four spins, a throw triple flip and a magnificent lift which they exited with Coughlin swinging Denney head-first toward the ice, earned them the top element score and best component mark of the competition.

“We had a blast,” Coughlin said immediately after stepping off the ice. “Caydee landed that flip. We wanted it so bad after the short and I smiled really big and she looked at me and said ‘stay focused.’ ‘Yes, ma’am.’”

“I really made it a goal for myself, to just go out there and do the best that I could no matter what happens. I’m glad I achieved that goal,” Denney said.

Trivia aficionados will delight in another nugget arising out of the San Jose competition. Earlier in the week, Caydee’s 16-year-old sister, Haven, skated to the junior pairs gold medal with partner Brandon Frazier. This marks one of the first times in U.S. skating history in which two sisters have earned gold medals at the same U.S. Championships.

“I was sitting up in the stands and it was so exciting watching my sister,” Caydee said. “It’s different, you know, when you’re watching. This is my little sister! I care so much about her. It was very motivating. That was awesome.”

Somewhat unexpectedly, the leaders after the short program were Mary Beth Marley, 16,

and 25-year-old Rockne Brubaker. Save for a small gaffe in the last 10 seconds — Brubaker put his hand down on the death spiral — their “Singin’ in the Rain” program was maturely presented and earned the couple a standing ovation. Their score of 65.80 put them more than four points ahead of their nearest competitors heading into the free skate. It is also the second-highest pairs short program score at a U.S. Championships under the current International Judging System (IJS), rivaled only by Brubaker’s achievement with former partner Keauna McLaughlin in 2008.

“We had a lot of fun with the performance and the skate tonight,” Brubaker said. “Going in here, we felt good all week. At home we’ve trained really hard. We came into nationals feeling prepared and trained. It was nice going into the short program knowing we could let loose and take one thing at a time and really perform it.”

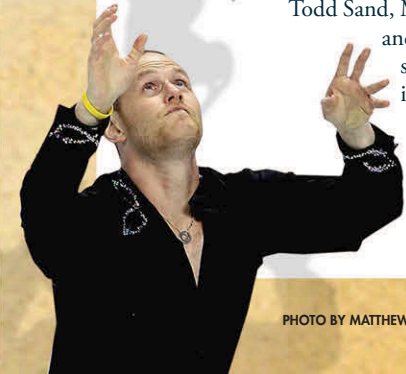
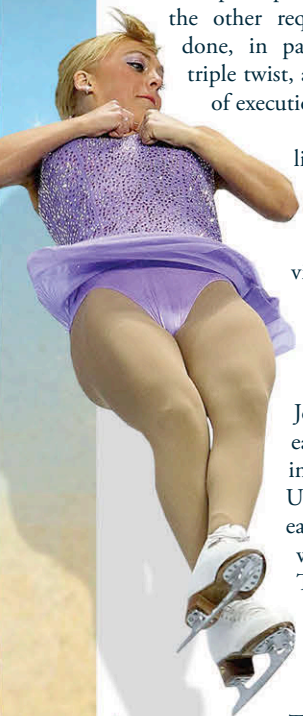
“We improved a lot from Skate America,” Marley added. “We got a lot of higher GOEs and lots of more positive levels. I’m happy about getting a level two on the twist. The catch has been more difficult for me to learn, but I’m happy it worked out today. I felt we put all the pieces together from our training and shined today.”

A two-time U.S. senior pairs champion (2008-’09) and World Junior titlist (2007) with McLaughlin, Brubaker contemplated quitting the sport after the bitter disappointment of failing to make the 2010 Olympic Team.

“After the last trials and with what happened, it was a tough experience,” Brubaker said. “The thought of starting over wasn’t fun. But I’m glad I stayed in it. This is a testament that when you really want something and you’ve worked hard enough for it, good things will come your way. I think Mary Beth and I are on the right track. It’s going to take some years; we’ve got a lot of growing to do. I haven’t felt that good on the ice in probably a couple years. When you can feel like that after a performance, it’s in that moment you realize why you came back and why you stuck it out.”

Marley was a complete newcomer to pairs skating when she and Brubaker paired up in the summer of 2010.

“Rockne and Mary Beth have come a long way in the last 16 months since she started skating pairs and they started skating together,” said Jenni Meno, who with husband Todd Sand



coach the team. “Not just the skating and the elements, but I thought they really showed how much they love to skate and I think the audience enjoyed watching it.”

“The thing we have focused on the most over the last three months is pairs skating — getting them to skate as one, and skate together,” Meno added. “They have improved a great deal technically in the last year but they have also improved so much in the way they skate together and the way they present their programs. We want them to use this as an experience and stepping stone over the next few years leading up to the next Olympics.”

Skating last in the free program, uncharacteristic errors by Brubaker on the triple toe and double Axel cost them the gold medal. Placing second in the free skate, the talented couple settled for silver, along with their first trip to the World Championships.

“I think it was a great week for us,” Brubaker said. “We came in still a very new team hoping to skate two performances that were good enough to maybe make a World team, so I feel like we reached our goals this week.”

Brubaker was quick to praise his younger partner.

“Mary Beth was great today. She did a

phenomenal job of keeping it together once she realized I missed my toe. For her to stay focused and not let that affect her shows a lot of courage on her part. She definitely helped to save the performance there while I was sliding around on the ice.”

The sentimental favorites heading into the competition by virtue of their 10 consecutive appearances in the senior pairs event at U.S. Championships were Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig. The two-time silver medalists (2010–2011) and 2010 Olympians displayed their trademark elegance and stunning lifts in San Jose, but difficulties with the jumps in both the short and long programs had Evora and Ladwig settling for a bronze medal.

Despite the outcome — and failure to make the World Team for the first time in three years — 31-year-old Ladwig reflected on the positive aspects of their performance in San Jose.

“I think we still have things we can improve on, but we really did attain a goal,” he said. “We said coming in we wanted to break 115 [points in free skate] domestically, and we wanted to have the highest lift total [both of which they accomplished]. I saw a lot of goodness in there. It is a competition, and everybody brought a good effort, and while we

didn’t top out, that’s fine. We can come back with better elements and better tricks next year.”

Evora, 27, was also upbeat and realistic in her assessment of the week.

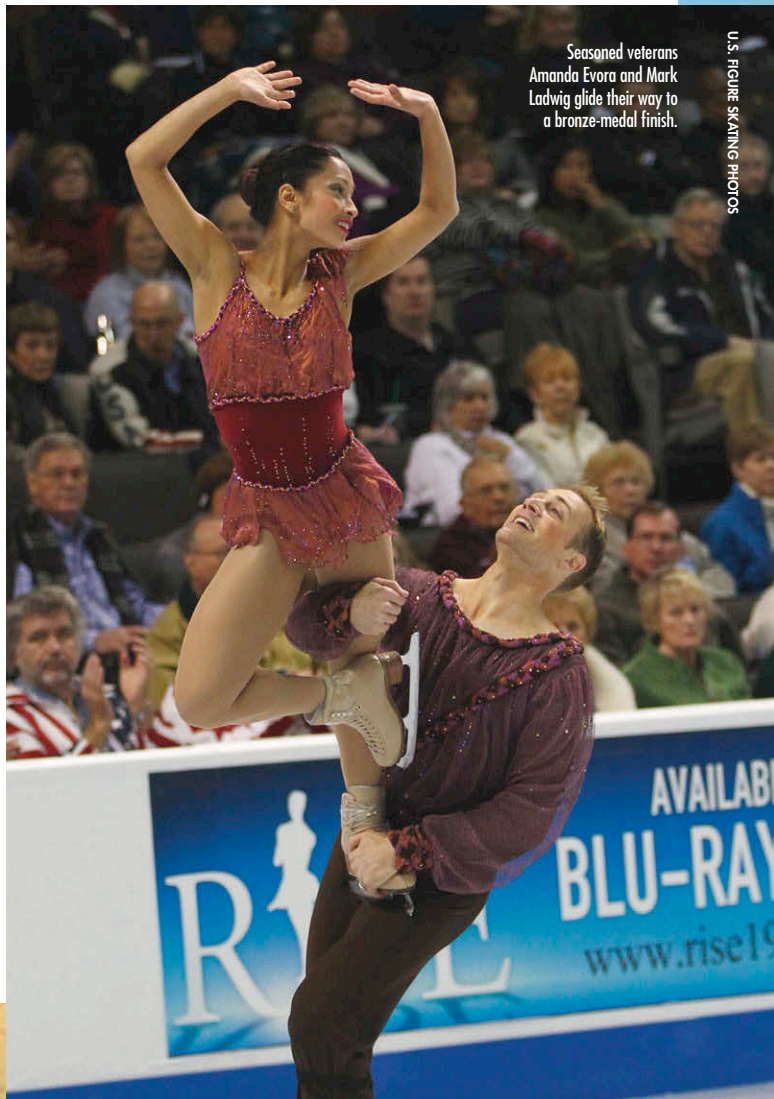
“A lot of people were hoping that we would be national champions, and of course we want to be national champions, too. But it is a competition. You go out there and you have to perform. There were a lot of good performances out there, and we didn’t do enough to be the champions. But I still enjoyed myself, I still enjoyed performing with Mark, and that’s what I will take away from here.”

Skating a beautifully elegant free program to *Sleeping Beauty*, highlighted by striking lifts, big throw jumps and gorgeous carriage across the ice, 18-year-old Gretchen Donlan and her 23-year-old partner Andrew Speroff finished a strong fourth overall.

Within striking distance of the podium after the short program were 21-year-old Marissa Castelli and her partner, 24-year-old Russian-born Simon Shnapir. Their attempted throw triple Axel had the highest base value — 7.5 — of any element of the pairs competition, but it was two-footed and that, along with other errors, dropped the couple to seventh in the free skate and fifth overall.



Rockne Brubaker launches partner Mary Beth Marley into a new time zone during their event-best short program. The couple finished second overall and earned a spot on the World Team.



Seasoned veterans Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig glide their way to a bronze-medal finish.

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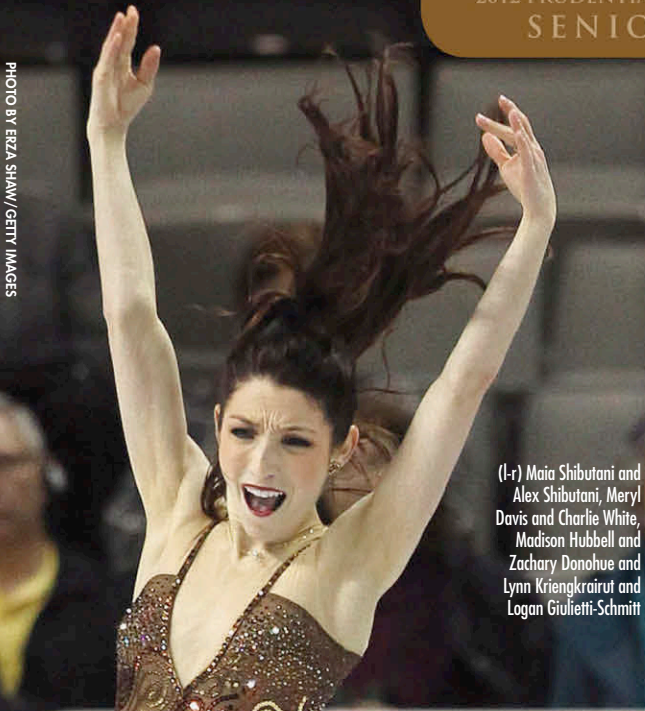
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(l-r) Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue and Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt



MEDALISTS

- GOLD — MERYL DAVIS/CHARLIE WHITE — 191.54
- SILVER — MAIA SHIBUTANI/ALEX SHIBUTANI — 178.84
- BRONZE — MADISON HUBBELL/ZACHARY DONOHUE — 151.60
- FOURTH — LYNN KRIENKRAIRUT/LOGAN GIULIETTI-SCHMITT — 148.55



Davis and White give the crowd in San Jose plenty to cheer about with their sizzling Latin short dance.



Meryl Davis and Charlie White

PHOTOS BY AN ADEFF

GOLD STANDARD

DAVIS, WHITE DIAL UP FOURTH U.S. TITLE

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Winning never gets old for Meryl Davis and Charlie White, and it never gets any easier.

Early in their senior careers, Meryl Davis and Charlie White pursued Tanith Belbin and Benjamin Agosto, the 2006 Olympic silver medalists and five-time U.S. champions.

For the past four seasons, they have been the hunted ones, and it isn't getting any easier.

"When we were coming up, Tanith and Ben really set the standard for American ice dance, and we were chasing them," White, 24, said. "That really helped push us. Now we're on top, but we've got the Shibutanis (Maia and Alex) right behind us and that also helps push us. So it's different, but in some ways it's the same."

The score line says Davis and White defeated their Canton, Mich., training partners by 12 points in San Jose, comfortably winning their fourth consecutive U.S. ice dance title. The reality is a bit different.

"Not just the Shibutanis, but pretty much everybody in Canton pushes each other," Davis, 25, said. "Whether it's Tessa [Virtue] and Scott [Moir] or the Shibutanis, or one of the other teams."

With 10 consecutive victories to their credit, Davis and White aren't letting up.

"Their training hasn't slowed down," said Igor Shpilband, who coaches the team with Marina Zoueva. "They surprise me every year."

In the Latin short dance, their rumba was fast and sure; their samba, fast and steamy. They even ramped up the excitement level with a new closing highlight, with White scooping up Davis in a "through-the-legs" entrance to a lift. It added up to 76.89 points and a five-point lead over Shibutani and Shibutani going into the free dance.

"With Latin, you can never really do too much," White said of their performance level. "We build on that every time we go out there. It's never enough. We feel like we've grown a lot throughout the season."

The team's free dance to the Strauss' operetta *Die Fledermaus* had blazing twizzles, lightning-fast steps and speedy rotational lifts. They earned 114.65 points, another record, and ended with a new high of 191.54 points.

"We tried to pay attention to more [of the] nuances involving the two of us," White said. "The music calls for a lot of grand movements, noticeable beats, all the elements on the music. We want to make sure people get

the idea we are doing it for each other, and not for just the rest of the world to see. So I think we've tried to add a layer underneath everything we've been doing so far."

"We also really worked on each element, strengthening the grade of execution (GOE), making sure the footwork sequences are really powerful, adding some arm movements to a couple of lifts," Davis said. "We're just slowly plugging away, making it the best program we can."

Davis and White have to work hard, because the Shibutanis sure do. The World bronze medalists turned up in San Jose with a re-vamped short dance — new steps, new music, new costumes — and nearly stole the show with a faster, more challenging routine that oozed Latin feel and gained level fours for all five elements. They scored 72.61, their highest short dance total ever.

"We felt we had outgrown our old short dance and discussed it with our coaches," Maia, 17, said. "We brought in [five-time world

The team's free dance to the Strauss' operetta *Die Fledermaus* breaks records and gives Davis and White their fourth consecutive U.S. title.

Latin dance champion] Corky Ballas, with whom we worked with extensively this season. We just thought it was a good change for us to keep pushing and keep growing."

"Igor and Marina told us, 'This is your chance to attack it. Don't hold back on anything,'" Alex, 20, said. "We need to see what's working and maybe what's not working so that when we go back home we can make the necessary adjustments to peak at the right time."

The siblings also shone in their light-hearted free dance to Glenn Miller favorites including "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and "In the Mood." They scored 106.23



PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani ditched their short program used during the Grand Prix season for a new one in San Jose. The change paid major dividends.

points and ended with a total score of 178.84.

As always, they gave credit to their coaches.

"Marina and Igor do such a great job with all of their teams," Maia said. "We all have our own styles; they really help find your highlights and work on them, and I think it's just a good training environment."

With the talent in U.S. ice dance so deep, several teams were locked in a tight fight for the bronze medal and third spot on the U.S. World Team. Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue edged Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan-Giulietti Schmitt by three points to come away with the prize. The skaters paired up in the spring of 2011 after Hubbell's former partner, brother Keiffer, took a temporary break from the sport.

"I did not try out with anyone else," Madison said. "We didn't even plan to try out. We just starting stroking together one day, and we knew we wouldn't find anyone better. We were happy right from the first day."

Both of the team's programs, the Latin short to mambo, rumba and samba rhythms and free dance to "I Put a Spell on You," were marked by the kind of sexy connection you don't see everyday.

"From the first day when they started to skate together we felt there was something really strong about them," Massimo Scali, one of their coaches at the Detroit Skating Club, said. "Of course, they can improve, but you can always work on your technique. You can't work on your soul, and they have it."

Kriengkrairut and Giulietti-Schmitt walked off the ice following their free skate, excited about their performance and best finish ever at the U.S. Championships.

"We were here last year, unfortunately had a bit of a disappointment," Giulietti-Schmitt said. "This year went a lot better and we are really excited."

"We definitely discover something new every year and it becomes even more fulfilling each year, each season and we love what we do," Kriengkrairut added.

First-year team Madison Chock and Evan Bates finished fifth. Their performance in San Jose, they said, was a good first step in their partnership.

"We were both unsure of how things were going to go but we both kind of plunged into it and we got together kind of late in the season but it just kind of gave us more incentive to work hard and stay extra hours on the ice in the summer and put in the extra work," Bates said. "It's gone by so quickly I don't think we even had time to make goals for the event. I think today's performance is a big step forward for us, kind of a breakthrough performance, so we are thrilled."

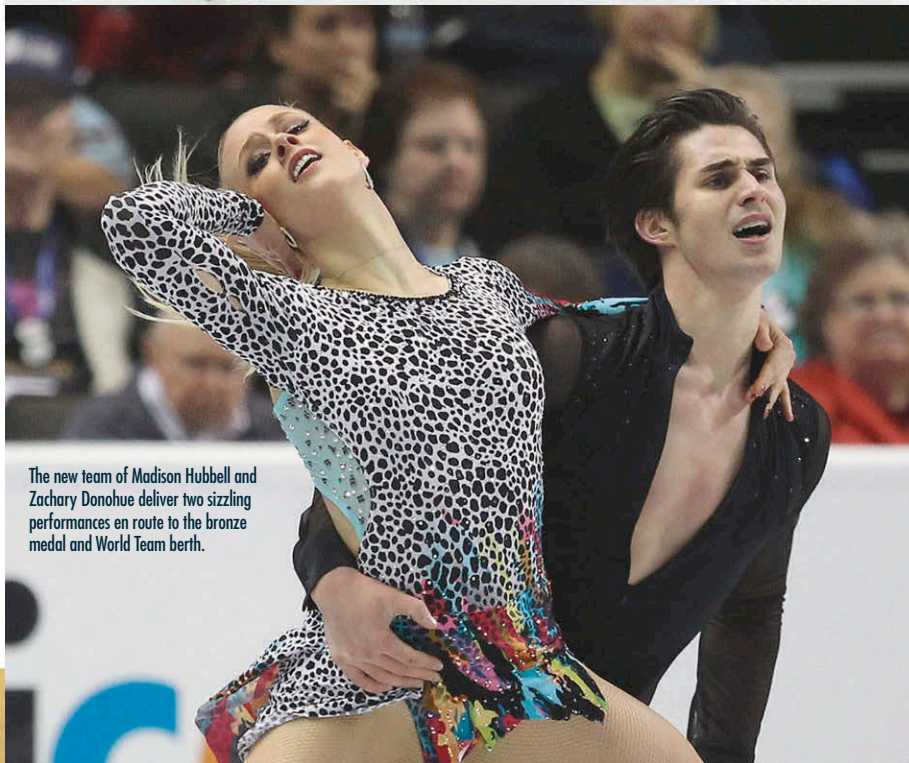
The top three teams will compete at the 2012 World Figure Skating Championships in Nice, France on Mar. 26-Apr. 1. There, Davis and White will square off against the last team that beat them: their training partners, Canadian Olympic champions Virtue and Moir. Whatever happens, the outcome will be hard fought.

"Winning can never get old," Davis said. "Especially winning these days takes so much work and so much effort. You can't just sit back and kind of expect to win. There's so much effort involved on a daily basis, and it really is an honor to be at the top whenever you can get there."

PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



PHOTO BY ERZA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES



The new team of Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue deliver two sizzling performances en route to the bronze medal and World Team berth.



CATCHING UP WITH THE BALDWINS

In keeping a family tradition alive, Don Baldwin and pairs partner Tiffany Vise made their third U.S. Championships appearance in San Jose.

The Baldwins are the quintessential skating family. John Baldwin Sr. earned U.S. titles in novice men, junior men and junior pairs in the late 1960s and was an alternate for the U.S. Olympic Team in 1972. His wife, Donna, competed at the novice and junior ranks as well.

The couple's three children are all highly successful skaters in their own right. John Jr. and Rena Inoue earned U.S. pairs titles in 2004 and 2006, as well as a berth on the 2006 U.S. Olympic Team. Younger siblings Donna Jr. and Don competed together in pairs and dance; Don also skated singles and garnered U.S. novice and junior medals in the 1990s. Even Donna Sr.'s mother, 95-year-old Dorothy Abbott, was a talented skater at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo.

What are the Baldwin siblings up to now?

Don has an aerospace and mechanical engineering degree from UC Irvine.

Donna Jr. has a degree in biology and is working on her master's in Midland, Texas. Her goal is to be a physician's assistant. John Jr. and Rena were married in a private ceremony last fall and reside in a new home in Escondido, Calif. John has hung up his skates and is now partnered with his father in Baldwin Auto Sales. John Jr. and Rena welcomed Lilliana Miyabi Baldwin to the world on Oct. 31 and affectionately call their daughter "Little Pumpkin."

— Terry Terzian

FLATT LOVING "THE FARM"

While Rachael Flatt didn't finish on the podium this season, getting to compete in front of her many friends from Stanford University was a thrill. Classmates from her dormitory packed one upper-level section for her short program.

Flatt wore Cardinals' attire all week long, including a Stanford ball cap in the kiss and cry. The first quarter of the academic year, she said, was rough, but things have settled down and she's happy as can be.

Flatt's roommate is Stanford point guard Jasmine Camp from Georgia. Camp is a wonderful friend and roommate, Flatt said.

"She's like a sister," said Flatt, adding they share a similar study habits.

— Troy Schwandt

SKATING IS FAMILY AFFAIR FOR LORELLO AND CANNUSCIO

When people find out Ian Lorello has an older brother and younger twin siblings who also compete in ice dance, the first question is usually: How do your parents pay all the bills?

"I don't know, my dad is a miracle worker," Lorello said with a laugh.

Lorello, 21, and partner Isabella Cannuscio, also 21, placed ninth in senior ice dance in San Jose. Younger sister Meara and her partner, William Dean, the 2011 U.S. intermediate champions, were sixth in novice. Meara's twin, Grant, and his partner, Whitney Miller, the 2011 U.S. intermediate silver medalists, were seventh in novice.

Older brother Alexander was in San Jose cheering them on but could not compete due to knee trouble. He and partner Katherine Pilgrim hope to return next season.

"My family is very artistic and we're all very emotional," Ian said. "I feel we kind of gravitated toward skating and dance for the performance aspect, on top of the fact that we're all very competitive."

"I feel it was kind of where we were meant to be. My mom did a lot of singing; my dad was an athlete. He did sprinting, racquetball and tennis in college. It was fun to grow up in that kind of family."

It's also a family affair for Isabella, whose younger sister Anastasia, 18, placed sixth in senior ice dance with partner Colin McManus.

"A lot of people ask how we compete against each other, but we've been doing it for years," Isabella said. "When we started she did pairs, I did dance and I was a level above her, until we got to novice. Last year was our one-year break [Anastasia competed as a junior]."

"We support each other a whole lot. I freak out so much when Stasia is competing. It's hard when she and Colin compete before us, because I get so nervous, and then I have to go out and skate."

All of the teams train together at University of Delaware under Alexandr Kirsanov, Karen Ludington and Christie Moxley-Hutson.

— Lynn Rutherford

SON'S FIGHTING CAREER TOUGH TO WATCH

Coach Dalilah Sappenfield gets nervous enough watching her pairs skaters compete at major competitions. But that's nothing compared to the feeling of watching her stepson and fellow coach Larry Ibarra step into a steel cage and stand toe to toe with a beastly looking opponent wanting to do bodily harm.

That's what Sappenfield faced about a year and half ago when Ibar-



ra fought for the first time down the road in Pueblo, Colo.

"The most nervous I've ever been in my life was watching my son fight in the MMA (mixed martial arts) event," Sappenfield said. "It only lasted 35 seconds but it was awful for me, awful. Obviously I get a little bit nervous watching my skaters skate but I train them so I kind of know what to expect. And it's a little different; you don't have someone who wants to kill you. I thought I was going to pass out."

Ibarra defeated his opponent with a submission arm bar to pick up the win. He loves the rush of competing although he doesn't necessarily have a strong desire to fight someone.

"I plan on getting back to training and fighting again (once the skating season winds down)," Ibarra said.

For Sappenfield, it won't be any easier a second time.

"I don't want to be there but I have to be there," she said.

- Troy Schwindt

STARTING YOUNG

Many U.S. ice dancers come to the discipline after competing in freestyle, but Maryland's Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA) believes in introducing skaters to ice dance when they're kindergarteners.

Novice silver medalists Whitney Miller and Kyle MacMillan, at 13 and 14, respectively, are about three years younger than the gold medalists. Another WISA team, siblings Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons, at ages 14 and 16, won the U.S. novice title last season and placed fourth at the 2012 Youth Olympics.

"If couples start young, they have time to grow up and cook a little bit so when they are in seniors, they will be prepared," Dmytri Ilin, co-director of WISA and a former Ukrainian ice dance competitor, said. "All of our kids start young and they try little by little."

WISA brought five teams, including one novice, three junior and one senior, to San Jose. In addition, WISA teams won juvenile gold and silver, and intermediate gold, at the 2012 U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships.

"Every practice is a mini competition where they can improve and compete," Alexei Kiliakov, the WISA director and a Soviet-era ice dance competitor, said.

"If skaters are 13, they have six years to be in juniors to get experience to successfully compete at senior level. Here we have girl at junior level who is just 12, I think they are very competitive, they can try to get a medal maybe."

They did. Lorraine McNamara and her partner, Quinn Carpenter, took bronze.

— Lynn Rutherford

MENO AND SAND KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE

"We have a lot of great memories of competing here in 1996," said Jenni Meno, who with husband Todd Sand captured their third of three U.S. pairs titles in San Jose. "The audience was just amazing, plus we had our families here with us."

"It's a great venue, it's very comfortable to perform here," Sand added. "We performed in Champions on Ice several times in San Jose, and it was always a very warm and appreciative crowd."

Meno and Sand coached second-year team Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker to the silver medal and a World Team berth in San Jose.

"It's nice to be back and see the kids we are working with experience the things we were able to experience as skaters," Meno said. "Coming into these nationals, we hoped our students would come away with a great experience as well."

In comparing coaching to competing, the couple offered their vast experience of standing on both sides of the boards.

"It's different; you're not skating yourself, and you're not in control of your own destiny, so to speak," Sand said. "We have to help them develop, not just their skating. We have to help them be themselves out on the ice, in a pressure-packed environment."

"We know what it feels like to have a great skate, or to have a skate which isn't exactly what we wanted," Meno said. "We know what it's like to win the short program and skate last in the free. Most of the situations we've been in. We know what they're going through."

In addition to Marley and Brubaker, the coaching team had two junior pairs teams competing in San Jose; Jessica Calalang and Zack Sidhu, and AnnaMarie Pearce and Craig Norris. They also coached two novice teams in Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini, and Hannah Klopstock and Chadwick Phillips. Liu and Perini won the novice title.

Meno and Sand reside in Alisa Viejo, Calif., with their sons, Jack, 7, and Matthew, 5.

— Terry Terzian

AGE DIFFERENCE NO BARRIER FOR FEHR AND BIVER

For 15-year-old Rita Fehr and her 35-year-old pairs partner Peter Biver, just making it to the U.S. Championships required a Herculean effort.

Although Biver has been Fehr's singles coach since she was 10, only this fall did the duo decide to take a stab at pairs skating. San Jose was their first competition together at any level.

"They came to me in October," explains their coach Trudy Oltmanns. "He took her through her pair tests, and they decided to sign up for sectionals just to see how it would go, and they got a bye. They called and said, 'We have no programs!' So we made up two programs."

Everything is new — the throws are new, the lifts are new, all the spins, the side-by-side jumps — everything is new."

"We're just really happy that we've had this wonderful opportunity to do something more with our skating, and Trudy has really helped us accomplish that," Biver says. She's packaged us with the right music, the right costume, and the right style for us, in a very short period of time."

The nearly 20-year age difference between Fehr and Biver is one of the largest in the history of U.S. pairs skating. When asked what it's like to skate with someone more than twice her age, the red-haired Fehr said, "He gets more tired than I do!"

"Rita is especially good at the throws," Biver says. "She's very brave and she's always been that way. I still remember the first day that I picked her up and put her into a lift. I said, 'You would make a really good pairs skater,' and she just lit up, she had this big smile on her face. I just knew at that very second she would be a good pairs skater."

Fehr and Biver reside in Minnesota and represent the Eau Claire and St. Paul Figure Skating Clubs. They placed 13th in the senior pairs event in San Jose.

— Terry Terzian



2012 U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONS & WORLD TEAM

2012 U.S. ice dance champions
Meryl Davis and Charlie White



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF

2012 U.S. Ladies
champion Ashley Wagner



2012 U.S. pairs champions
Caydee Denney
and John Coughlin



2012 U.S. men's
champion Jeremy Abbott



The 2012 U.S. World
Team is back row (l-r)
Rockne Brubaker, John
Coughlin, Adam Rippon,
Jeremy Abbott, Charlie
White, Alex Shibutani
and Zachary Donohue;
front row (l-r) Mary
Beth Marley, Caydee
Denney, Alissa Czisny,
Ashley Wagner, Meryl
Davis, Maia Shibutani
and Madison Hubbell



A GREAT CHAMPION

KWAN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

by BARB REICHERT

Michelle Kwan adds a playful, yet graceful heart to her signature. It's more than decoration, of course; more subtle than proclamation.

Perhaps it's that contrast — a fierce competitor with a soft edge — that has won the hearts of skating fans across the world. Many of those fans specifically made the trip to San Jose, Calif., to honor Kwan as she was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame on Jan. 27.

And as much as fans miss her, Kwan admits she feels a bit of loss, too.

"I miss everything about skating, to tell you the truth," she said during an intimate affair inside the elegant Fairmont San Jose. "I miss the routine. I miss training every day. I miss my friends at the rink. I miss everything. I miss competing."

Kwan was celebrated with a ceremony befitting one of the sport's most-beloved athletes. After waiting in a line that extended through the hotel's grand entrance, enthusiastic guests were welcomed with a commemorative coin depicting Kwan's iconic spiral and her most notable accomplishments: nine U.S. championships, five World titles, two Olympic medals.

The room was lit in royal hues, highlighted by Kwan's translucent signature stylishly projected on the wall. As the 300 guests mingled before the ceremony, some spontaneously toasted Kwan, while others exchanged memorable moments of a stellar career.

Dr. Larry Mondschien, chair of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame selection committee, led the ceremony. Others on the dais were U.S. Figure Skating President Patricia St. Peter and 1988 Olympic champion and 1996 Hall of Fame member Brian Boitano. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was unable to attend, gave a video tribute to her close friend.

Boitano, who has known the 31-year-old Kwan since she was 13, shared memories of their travels as members of Champions on Ice. When he met Kwan, she was an alternate to the 1994 Olympic team. Boitano reminisced about the girl with "little wispy hairs on her forehead, a ponytail and no makeup."

"She had these little tiny legs that made you think, 'how are those going to hold her up much less do triples?'"

Boitano vividly recalled a trip when a young Kwan, now a U.S. diplomacy ambassador, confided that she one day would like to be president of the United States. Not missing a beat, Boitano

pulled out a button that proclaimed KWAN FOR PRESIDENT, and pinned it to his lapel to the delight of the audience.

Seated with her family in the front row, Kwan took in the moment and often flashed her infectious smile. When it was her turn to speak, an appreciative crowd stayed on its feet. Humbled, she thanked her family, friends, fans and U.S. Figure Skating.

"When I look back at my skating career, I'm thankful for the years I was on the ice," Kwan said, "having the opportunity to go out and do what I love every day, with thousands and millions of people watching."

And like a great champion, Kwan does not live with regret.

"You might look back and say, 'It's a bummer I didn't win gold in '98 or 2002.' Yes, I could reflect back and think those thoughts. But to me, it was about moments. It was never about the medals, it was about loving what I do.

"Skating is something that will always be close to my heart. That will always be there."



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF





OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH NOVICE TEAM

Olympic champions Kristi Yamaguchi and Brian Boitano talked about their climb to the top of the skating ranks and the challenges that they faced along the way at the novice competitors' Team USA Prep Seminar on Jan. 24.

The skating icons recalled their days as novice competitors and shared their recipes for success.

Yamaguchi competed for the first time at the U.S. Championships in 1985 in the novice ladies division and in junior pairs with Rudy Galindo. As a novice skater, Boitano recalled how excited he was to show everyone what he could do, and that he carefully watched how the higher-level skaters prepared for competition.

"You can really learn a lot watching the juniors and seniors," he said.

When asked what they would change about their skating careers, Yamaguchi said she wouldn't change a thing. Boitano talked about how hard he was on himself, which is something he battles to this day.

Dealing with the pressures of being an elite skater, Yamaguchi revisited the year leading up to the 1992 Olympic Winter Games.

"I was questioning my love for the sport," she said. "I had to find a way to take the sport back and make it fun again. You have to be passionate about it."

Boitano, who was fifth at his first Olympics, also experienced a crossroads in his career.

"I felt like I was skating well but not getting the marks I felt I deserved," he said. "I came to realize that I truly loved the day-to-day process and that helped me move forward. I tried to find things that would separate myself from the rest of the field."

In dealing with anxiety, Yamaguchi said that feeling was always there, but "that means you care. I would look back on my preparation and knew I'd done the work. I would think positively and not let negative thoughts in. I'd say, 'I've done this 100 times ...'"

"Anxiety made me focus better," Boitano said. "One real key was not letting negative thoughts come in."



PHOTOS BY JAN ADEFF

Skating greats Johnny Weir and Sarah Hughes added commentary and analysis and engaged in behind-the-scenes coverage for icenetwork.com at the U.S. Championships.

Longtime judge Margaret (Peg) Faulkner, of the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club, is the 2012 recipient of the (10th 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. Faulkner has served on the local, national and international scene for more than 40 years as a judge. "Perhaps one of the toughest jobs in our organization would be chair of the International Committee," said Richard Dalley in his support letter for Faulkner. "Like Jimmy, Peg served with distinction and guided the committee through very difficult decisions. ... "Young at heart and in spirit, Peg is always anxious to learn, support and reach out to the skating family."

Members of U.S. Figure Skating's Scholastic Honors Team are honored during an on-ice ceremony in San Jose. The 10 outstanding student-athletes were recognized for their efforts in the classroom, in their communities and as competitive figure skaters. Scholastic Honors Team recipients receive scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Honors Team letter jackets. The Scholastic Honors Team is funded through the generosity of the Pioneer Fund, the legacy of the late Helen McLoraine. Pictured are (l-r) Jason Brown, Harrison Choate, Jacob Jaffe, Lukas Kaugars, Vanessa Lam, Esther Wu and Michelle Xie. Not pictured are Jordan Barone, Christina Gao and David Cruikshank.



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF



**KAREN CHEN, VINCENT ZHOU RECEIVE COLLEDGE AWARD;
NATHAN CHEN EARNS HERSHBERGER HONOR**

Karen Chen and Vincent Zhou, the novice singles champions, received the Cecilia Colledge Memorial Fund Award, while 2012 U.S. junior men's champion Nathan Chen garnered the Ron and Gayle Hershberger Award at the 2012 U.S. Championships.

The Colledge Award is presented annually to the novice lady and novice man who achieve the highest combined program components score of the U.S. Championships. The award was established by Ms. Colledge's estate following her death in 2008. She enjoyed a successful skating career, winning the silver medal at the 1936 Olympic Winter Games and the 1937 World title while representing Great Britain. She relocated in 1952 and joined the Skating Club of Boston's coaching staff, where she taught until 1977. Susan Shapiro, a representative of the Colledge estate, presented Chen and Zhou with a scholarship certificate.

Nathan Chen is the second recipient of the Hershberger Award, which was created from the Ron and Gayle Hershberger Fund. The fund was established through gifts made in tribute to Ron's long-term service to U.S. Figure Skating and to Gayle's support of her husband.

Winners are chosen based on the combined total of their short program and free skate component marks at the U.S. Championships. The award rotates among the four disciplines annually using the following pattern: ladies (2011), men (2012), ice dancing (2013) and pairs (2014).

Hershberger served as U.S. Figure Skating president from 2005 to 2009. He also sat on the Board of Directors from 1990 to 2010. He and Gayle presented the awards in San Jose.

For more information on available scholarships and awards through U.S. Figure Skating, visit www.usfigureskating.org/funding.



Rachael Wall, 10, and Carolyn Byrd, 11, are all smiles as they pose for a keepsake with World champion ice dancers Charlie White and Meryl Davis.

FRIENDS OF FIGURE SKATING BREAKFAST A BIG HIT

More than 200 Friends of Figure Skating members had their own personal podium experience, as all four U.S. ice dance medalists attended the Friends of Figure Skating breakfast at The Grille inside the HP Pavilion.

U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, silver medalists Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, bronze medalists Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, and pewter medalists Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, mingled with the appreciative crowd and posed for snapshots.

The morning after being crowned ladies champion, Ashley Wagner stopped by to wish the Friends well and share her story of a memorable evening.

Olympic champion Sarah Hughes and her sister, Olympian and 2007 U.S. silver medalist Emily Hughes, also mingled with a very in-the-know crowd.

Fan favorite Ryan Bradley, the 2011 U.S. champion, was all smiles as he thanked the Friends for their past support.

The ice dance team of Isabella Cannuscio and Ian Lorello also spent time thanking fans. The Friends met some new faces in junior pairs silver medalists Britney Simpson and Matthew Blackmer.

Technical panel officials and judges helped to make this year's event a great success. Pictured are (l-r) Jamie Whyte, Julia Rey, Bob Horen, Bill Rowe, Rodney Williams and Dawn Eyerly.



Many of U.S. Figure Skating's greats and current stars took part in the annual Athlete Alumni Association reception at HP Pavilion. The event is hosted each year by the Athletes Advisory Committee as a way to keep former skaters involved in U.S. Figure Skating. Olympic champion Brian Boitano addressed the attendees, while chair of the Athletes Advisory Committee, Lindsey Weber, introduced U.S. Figure Skating's DREAM Team. The DREAM Team was developed with the goal of using the skating and leadership skills of successful junior- and senior-level athletes in all disciplines to influence the lives of developing athletes.

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF

(l-r) Ashley Cain, Gracie Gold, Hannah Miller, Barbie Long



LADIES MEDALISTS

- GOLD — GRACIE GOLD — 178.92
- SILVER — ASHLEY CAIN — 155.48
- BRONZE — HANNAH MILLER — 149.68
- FOURTH PLACE — BARBIE LONG — 144.57

(l-r) Timothy Dolensky, Nathan Chen, Philip Warren, Harrison Choate



MEN'S MEDALISTS

- GOLD — NATHAN CHEN — 193.90
- SILVER — TIMOTHY DOLENSKY — 187.84
- BRONZE — PHILIP WARREN — 182.17
- FOURTH PLACE — HARRISON CHOATE — 163.43

(l-r) Britney Simpson/Matthew Blackmer, Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton, Jessica Calalang/Zack Sidhu



PAIRS MEDALISTS

- GOLD — HAVEN DENNEY/BRANDON FRAZIER — 148.84
- SILVER — BRITNEY SIMPSON/MATTHEW BLACKMER — 146.43
- BRONZE — KYLIE DUARTE/COLIN GRAFTON — 144.35
- FOURTH PLACE — JESSICA CALALANG/ZACK SIDHU — 134.84

GOLD, CHEN LEAD THE CHARGE IN JUNIOR RANKS

While Gracie Gold certainly marches to her own beat, she has skaters whom she looks up to, such as two-time U.S. champion Alissa Czisny.

“She’s been in the sport for so long, and I appreciate how if you were to take the jumps from her program, it would still be a beautiful program,” said Gold, winner of the junior ladies title. “I lose some of that aspect when I’m in the jumps.”

Gold also has her share of admirers, who include those athletes who shared the medal podium with her in San Jose.

“I think Gracie is a great skater,” silver medalist Ashley Cain said. “She deserved what she got this year, and I hope they send her to World Juniors and she takes down those Russians.”

Bronze medalist Hannah Miller also praised the champion.

“I think she set a great standard for all the girls,” Miller said. “It makes them all strive to become better, and I think she’s great and deserves the placement she received.”

Gold’s record-breaking performance was one of the many highlights turned in by the juniors during Championships week.

Crowd favorite Nathan Chen, two-time reigning novice champion, didn’t disappoint in making his junior debut. The electric Chen, who sat second after the short program, pulled away with a dynamic free skate.

“I’ve been watching lots of old skating phenomenons the past two days, and I just noticed how much power and emotion and energy they put into their performances, and I just wanted to try to see if I could have that kind of energy, so I tried to do it out there,” Chen said.

Pairs champions Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier reunited this year and led the way for a podium sweep of teams who train under Dalilah Sappenfield at the Broadmoor SC in Colorado Springs.

Denney matched her older sister in claiming a national title in San Jose. Caydee Denney and John Coughlin captured the senior pairs crown.

Ice dancing reigns supreme in the United States and there are several promising teams coming up the pipeline, including junior champions Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton. The Michigan natives, fourth at the Junior Grand Prix Final last fall, led from start to finish.

(l-r) Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager, Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton



ICE DANCING MEDALISTS

- GOLD — ALEXANDRA ALDRIDGE/DANIEL EATON — 142.10
- SILVER — LAURI BONACORSI/TRAVIS MAGER — 133.73
- BRONZE — LORRAINE MCNAMARA/QUINN CARPENTER — 126.10
- FOURTH PLACE — RACHEL PARSONS/MICHAEL PARSONS — 123.26

GRACIE MAKES STATEMENT WITH 'GOLD'-MEDAL EFFORT

by TROY SCHWINDT

In the days leading up to the 2012 U.S. Championships, choreographer Scott Brown pulled junior skater Gracie Gold aside and shared with her the editor's letter on Michelle Kwan that appeared in the January issue of SKATING magazine.

Brown, who put together Gold's music and programs for the season, pointed out to the 16-year-old how Kwan's consistency helped to make her one of the sport's greatest performers, and how Kwan remained unchanged during and after her hall of fame skating career. Kwan won her first U.S. title in San Jose at age 15.

Those traits, Brown feels, are essential for the skater from Springfield, Ill., to embrace as she moves forward in her promising career.

In San Jose, Gold heeded Brown's life lesson by executing two consistent and challenging programs that earned her the title, and then handled questions from the press like a seasoned veteran.

Gold led from start to finish en route to breaking the U.S. junior ladies record with a total score of 178.92 points, more than 23 points better than silver medalist Ashley Cain of Coppell, Texas. Hannah Miller, the 2011 novice champion from Williamstown, Mich., secured the bronze medal with 149.68 points, while Barbie Long of St. Louis, representing the Springfield FSC, finished fourth with 144.57 points.

Heading into the event, Gold was considered the heavy favorite based on her victory in the fall at the Junior Grand Prix Series event in Estonia, as well as her win at the 2012 Midwestern Sectional. At the 2011 Midwestern Sectional, though, Gold experienced a rough weekend and missed qualifying for the 2011 U.S. Championships.

She felt a little nervous, she said, when taking the ice for the short program.

"Most of the pressure I felt going in was from myself," Gold said. "I put high expectations on myself. I thought all of these people are thinking these things, they are talking the talk and now it was my turn to walk the walk. I'd been doing the training, so I knew that I could do it."

After last season's disappointing finish, Gold started seeing a sports psychologist in Chicago, which she said paid dividends this campaign.

Gold, who represents Wagon Wheel FSC, started her short program to "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" with a triple flip-triple toe combination, followed by a triple Lutz. Level three and four spins and footwork put her in a commanding position heading into the free skate.

Her free skate to *The Mission* and *The Untouchables* soundtracks was loaded with difficulty, including seven triple jumps, three of which were in combination. She skated brilliantly, except for a fall on a double Axel, which she figuratively kicked herself for afterward.

"I was really happy with myself, slightly frustrated," Gold said. "I do (triple) Lutz-(triple) toe and a double Axel fall. I was going pretty fast and there was clearly an extremely large technical mistake. I lost a little bit of focus going into it."

Gold's coach Alex Oursiashv calls his star pupil "the best jumper in the U.S. No argument here."

Gold looks forward to moving up to the senior ranks next season and competing against the Russian skaters this spring at the World Junior Championships.

PHOTOS BY JAY ADERH



Gracie Gold



Ashley Cain



Hannah Miller

"It would be a great competition," she said. "I've watched three or four of them and they are very talented, but I think I can compete with them."

Cain, representing Stars FSC of Texas, was also terrific. Pulling double duty as a senior-level pairs skater and junior lady in San Jose, the 16-year-old finished strong. Performing to David Garrett's "Who Wants to Live Forever," Cain landed six triple jumps, including a triple Salchow-double Axel sequence in her free skate. Nearly all of her spins and footwork received levels three and four, but, like Gold, fell on her double Axel. She rolled to 155.48 points.

"I felt the energy from the crowd, and felt the energy going after Gracie kind of gave me motivation," Cain said. "It felt so great, especially after landing that last loop. I was so happy. I hope that showed in the program."

Cain also skated to programs designed by Brown.

Miller, 15, finished second in the short program and fourth in the free skate.

"I was really happy with my performances, more with my short," she said. "I have a lot of improvements to make in my long but the stuff I did do I thought I did well."

CHEN RALLIES TO GRAB THIRD U.S. TITLE

by JOSH ELLIS

For the third straight year, Nathan Chen (Oval FSC) is a U.S. champion, but this time he had to come from behind to reach the top of the podium.

Chen, the two-time reigning novice champion, was in second after the short program by .05 points to Timothy Dolensky (Atlanta FSC), but skated his way to the junior crown in San Jose.

"I had to have the skate of my life," Chen said. "I wanted to go out there and show everything I had. I had the time of my life, it was really great."

Chen, 12, sat in second place after his *WALL-E* short program with 63.15 points before posting a score of 130.75 points in his free skate, which he performed to music from the movie *The Godfather*.

Chen began his free skate with a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, which earned him 11.10 points, the top scoring element in the competition. He completed his skate with five more triple jumps, and each of his elements received a positive grade of execution.

"I felt like I needed to get to first place," Chen said. "I am planning on moving to Lake Arrowhead (Calif.) and thought that boost would help make the move easier."

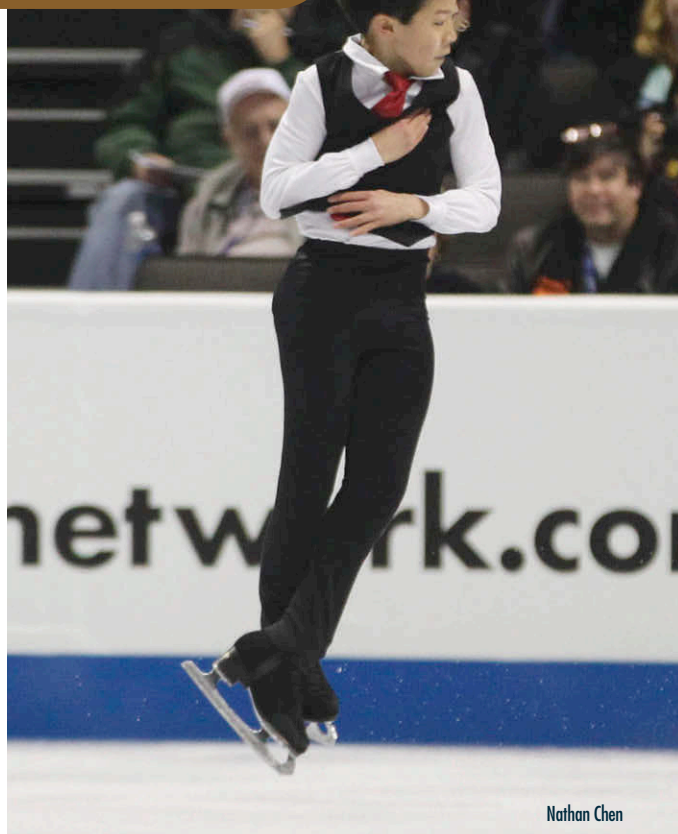
Chen will move to Lake Arrowhead to train, which he feels will advance his career and believes the atmosphere will provide motivation for the future.

"At Lake Arrowhead, the training facilities are really nice," Chen said. "It's way high up so it's really good for stamina, and everybody there is very seriously into training. I see people doing triples and quads all the time so it motivates me."

Dolensky, who earned the silver medal, took great pride in his finish in San Jose after a fifth-place effort at the 2011 Eastern Sectional Championships, which kept him home for the U.S. Championships in Greensboro, N.C., last year.

"I'm so proud of myself," Dolensky said. "I have been waiting a whole year for this, and I was just so happy that I made it here and I was able to do my best."

Dolensky took the lead after the short program, skating to music he composed himself. He began working on the music last season with



Nathan Chen

the hope of using the music in San Jose after missing out on the 2011 U.S. Championships. He earned 124.64 points for his "Gypsy Kings" free skate for a total score of 187.84 points. Dolensky's performance featured seven triple jumps, including a triple Lutz-double toe-double loop that earned 9.56 points.

Despite finishing fifth in the short program, Philip Warren (All Year FSC), who calls California home, delivered one of the most crowd-pleasing performances of the competition and earned the second-best total in the free skate to take home the bronze medal. Warren posted a score of 57.42 points in his short program, but rolled up 124.64 points for his "Ragtime" free skate.

Warren put on a display that engaged the crowd, and that's exactly how he likes to skate.

"I skate for the audience. I skate for the judges, too, but I think I do it mostly for the fans," he said. "My first coach, Adam Dooley, inspired me to actually love the sport and love what I do and have a great time doing it."

Harrison Choate (SC of Boston) jumped six places from 10th after the short program to finish fourth. The winner of a pewter medal in 2008 at the intermediate level, Choate finished fourth in the free skate, but more than 21 points better than the fifth-best free skate score, to land on the podium. After changing back into his free skate costume for the award ceremony, Choate ran and jumped with joy into the arms of his fellow medalists.



Timothy Dolensky



Philip Warren

TRAINING MATES CELEBRATE PODIUM SWEEP

by TROY SCHWINDT

PHOTOS BY JAY ADRETT

Dalilah Sappenfield's army of pairs teams hooked up for an impromptu celebration in a corridor of HP Pavilion following the junior pairs event.

A sweep of the podium by teams that train at the Broadmoor SC in Colorado Springs, Colo., left Sappenfield and company feeling elated.

"I'm speechless," said the veteran coach, who with assistant coach Larry Ibarra stood at the boards for seven teams (two senior, four junior, one novice) in San Jose. "I just want my kids to go out and skate their very best and skate what they've trained. I'm pleased that they really fought. It was completely unexpected."

Sappenfield, who has coached the U.S. senior pairs champions in four of the past five seasons, insists there's no formula for her success.

"My kids just work well together," she said. "They are matched well. They have a great camaraderie and work ethic at home."

The team of Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier emerged as champions with 148.84 points. Junior Grand Prix Final bronze medalists Britney Simpson and Matthew Blackmer won the free skate and secured the silver medal with 146.43 points, while longtime partners Kylie Duarte and Colin Grafton grabbed the bronze medal with 144.35 points.

In preparation for the bright lights of San Jose, the Broadmoor SC teams performed their programs in costume at a handful of "Fire and Ice" exhibitions.

"That made it easier to come here and fight," Sappenfield said.

For Denney, 16, and Frazier, 19, their gold medal holds special meaning. They grew up together at the roller rink before embarking on an ice skating career from 2005 to 2008. They earned the U.S. intermediate bronze medal in 2008.

Their partnership ended when Denney moved back to Florida. The two skaters went on to compete with other partners until reuniting in the spring of 2011.

"I always had that feeling we would go back together," Frazier said.

"Brandon is like my brother, skating with him feels natural and comfortable," Denney said.

Skating to music from the *Chicago* soundtrack, Denney and Frazier turned in a personal-best short program to take a two-point lead. Their *Pearl Harbor* soundtrack moved seamlessly across the ice. They executed a pair of level four lifts and a level four spin. Denney, however, fell on the team's throw triple loop.

"When they got back together, we kind of knew it was right," Sappenfield said. "This year it was about trying to jell again; they had both developed, so it was just about jelling and working with their differences they have now."

Simpson, 15, and Blackmer, 20, third after the short program, performed a memorable routine to music from the *Titanic* soundtrack. Program highlights included a pair of level four spins and level three lifts. They received all positive grades of execution except for a minor deduction on their double flip-double toe combination.

The duo credited their JGP experience with helping them in San Jose but tried to approach their two performances in a business-like manner.

"At the end of the day, nationals is just another sheet of ice for us to show what we have been training and to continue our performances," Blackmer said. "The experience is definitely invaluable, but it's ice all the same."



Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier



Britney Simpson/Matthew Blackmer



Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton

With so much success in the JGP Series and at the JGP Final, Sappenfield was concerned that Simpson and Blackmer might place too much pressure on themselves to succeed.

"I was very proud of them coming in here," Sappenfield said. "As much as the Junior Grand Prix and the Final is an experience, it's also a pressure cooker. They put a lot of expectations on themselves instead of treating it like another competition, so we had to work on that between the (JGP) Final and nationals."

Duarte, 18, and Grafton, 20, who have skated together for nine years, placed fourth in the short program and third in the free skate.

"She has had injuries along the way, so it's been rough on her mentally to train the way she wants to train, so they've always been on the cusp of doing well," Sappenfield said. "I'm happy they were able to keep it together; the experience of being together so long paid off in the end."

Jessica Noelle Calalang and Zack Sidhu, second after the short program, finished fourth with 134.84 points.

ALDRIDGE, EATON HAVE THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Detroit, home to GM, Ford and Chrysler, has long been known as the Motor City. Lately, though, its number-one export seems to be ice dance.

The top three teams at the 2011 World Figure Skating Championships train in Canton, a Detroit suburb. Teams number four and five — French European champions Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat, and Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje — make their home at the Detroit Skating Club (DSC) in nearby Bloomfield Hills.

The company they keep makes all the difference to new U.S. junior ice dance champions Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton, who trained at DSC even before they teamed up in the spring of 2009.

“We absolutely love it,” Aldridge, 17, said. “Along with working and training hard, we all get along great. It’s a really calm environment and we’re motivated to improve when we’re on the ice, whether it’s to skate as fast as the senior teams, or express the character of the music as well as they do.”

Striving to keep up with the world’s best is working well for the duo, who placed fourth at the Junior Grand Prix Final last December. In San Jose, they skated a sizzling Latin American short dance that won the day with 54.42 points.

The short dance, an International Skating Union–devised hybrid of pattern dances and three additional elements, debuted in the fall of 2010. This season, juniors must include two sequences of the Cha Cha Congelado, done consecutively.

“We will go hours, or weeks if Natalia (Deller) could, working on Cha Cha sequences over and over again,” Eaton, 19, said. “It’s probably one of the best things we’ve ever been able to do. We get to break down the dances, and we get the Russian aspect from Natalia and the American style from Liz (Swallow).”

Their coaching doesn’t stop there. Pasquale Camerlengo, a former Italian ice dance champion, heads up the team and handles much of the choreography. His wife, Anjelika Krylova, a two-time World ice dance champion, and Massimo Scali, a European medalist, are also integral to the group.

“All of them are always on the ice with us,” Aldridge said. “They each bring something different to our skating, whether it’s Pasquale getting our free dance to be perfect or Natalia and Liz work-



Lauri Bonacorsi/
Travis Mager



Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter

ing on our Cha Cha sequences. They all want us to be the best we can be.”

The DSC team made a bold choice for its free dance, step-dancing their way through *Lord of the Dance*, the Irish

extravaganza. The dynamic program opened with an excellent straight-line lift with Aldridge in an upside-down position, followed by a speedy three-part twizzle sequence. It earned 87.68 points, and Aldridge and Eaton finished with 142.10, outpacing the field by nearly 10 points.

“This free dance was probably our favorite to compete so far,” said Aldridge, who got the idea for the program when the *Lord of the Dance* troupe visited Detroit. “We had so much energy and the crowd was great, clapping along the whole time.”

Lauri Bonacorsi and Travis Mager, who train in Aston, Pa., under 1980 Olympic champions Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov, placed second in the short dance and second in the free dance to win their second-consecutive U.S. junior ice dance silver medal.

The couple’s dramatic and smoothly skated free dance to Sandra and Tony Alessi’s “Close to You” featured a fine three-part twizzle sequence as well as attractive lifts. It earned 80.34 points and they ended with 133.73 points overall.

“We were really happy with how we skated this week,” Bonacorsi, 18, said. “We got a clean start with the short dance and then the free dance. We put our heart into it and really enjoyed skating.”

“My favorite thing about skating is skating with Lauri,” Mager, 21, said. “When we get to skate, especially in front of a crowd, it brings out the best in us as people. I thought we made a great connection on the ice today.”

Just 12 and 15 respectively, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter of the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy in Maryland took bronze after a difficult and energetic free dance to a techno version of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*. The duo, who have skated together for a remarkable seven years, finished with 126.10 points.

“It felt great to be able to entertain everybody, to be able to put on an act together,” McNamara said. “We’ve been skating together for so long that it’s just like one of us really.”

“We like to think of each other as one, not two separate people doing things,” Carpenter said. “San Jose has been a really great experience for us.”

Last season’s novice ice dance champions, Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons, arrived in San Jose fresh from their fourth-place finish at the 2012 Youth Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria. They placed third in the short dance and fourth in the free dance to take fourth place overall.

Next stop for the top two teams, plus Parsons and Parsons: the 2012 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Minsk, Belarus, Feb. 27–Mar. 4.

“We’re going to bump up our training and try to get ourselves to peak at Junior Worlds,” Eaton said. “We’re going to train as hard as we can with our coaches and go for a medal.”

Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF



"When we made a decision to be partners, we talked about what it would take to reach our dream of competing at the Olympics. We knew we would have to make some sacrifices and work really hard. We agreed that we could do that, but that wasn't enough. We needed the help, love and support of a network, a team of family, friends and supporters to achieve our goal. The Memorial Fund has been an important part of that team, and we are deeply grateful to those who make contributions."

— Meryl Davis and Charlie White
2011 WORLD CHAMPIONS, 2010 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALISTS



A tragedy shook the figure skating world on Feb. 15, 1961, when Flight 548, carrying the U.S. Team to the World Figure Skating Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia, crashed near Brussels, Belgium. All aboard were lost. From this loss arose the U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund. The mission of the Memorial Fund is to provide qualified U.S. Figure Skating members in need of financial aid with monetary assistance to pursue their goals both inside and outside the competitive arena. The fund is committed to awarding skating and academic scholarships to those athletes who have demonstrated excellent competitive results and/or academic achievements, and who have potential in national and international competitions.



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FOR STARTERS

NOVICE SKATERS RAISE THE BAR IN SAN JOSE

The novice-level skaters refused to take a backseat to their junior and senior counterparts in San Jose. This talented and determined group provided more than their share of quality performances, earning the praise of U.S. Figure Skating officials and fans who took in the action at HP Pavilion.

"I thought the novice athletes did a tremendous job," said Mitch Moyer, U.S. Figure Skating's senior director of athlete high performance. "Without question, they showed that the future of figure skating in this country is bright, and I can't wait to see them progress up the ranks."

Karen Chen is one of those rising stars. The 12-year-old turned in a free skate program loaded with triple jumps and difficult elements. The California native, however, doesn't want it any other way, her coaches said.

"She loves the challenge," coach Gilley Nicholson said.

Showing a confidence and approach ahead of her years, Chen pulled away from the field with her free skate en route to the title. She won the intermediate crown in 2011.

Vincent Zhou, 11, was electric in winning the men's division. Also a California native, Zhou offered up seven triple jumps and spins and footwork in his free skate worthy of levels three and four. His program components easily were the best in the field.

"I was really nervous about the double Axel-triple toe, because that's the newest addition into my program," he said. "It's the most difficult jump for me and it hasn't really been that consistent."

Zhou also won the 2011 intermediate title.

The California-based pairs team of Chelsea Liu, 12, and Devin Perini, 18, made their coaches Jenni Meno and Todd Sand proud, winning gold in the same building as they did in 1996.

Liu and Perini captured the silver medal at the 2011 U.S. Championships.

The team's upside for the future, Sand said, is outstanding.

Ohio's Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber used their spirited free dance to claim the title. Moore, 16, and Klaber, 17, have competed together for seven years.

"We got a personal best score, so that was very exciting, and I think that over the season the program has really built and it all just came to this and we just left it all out on the ice," Moore said.

The day after the final novice event, the skaters were treated to a talk by Olympic champions Kristi Yamaguchi and Brian Boitano.

(l-r) Amber Glenn, Karen Chen, Amanda Gelb, Madison Vinci



LADIES MEDALISTS

- GOLD — KAREN CHEN — 140.17
- SILVER — AMBER GLENN — 125.88
- BRONZE — AMANDA GELB — 122.34
- FOURTH — MADISON VINCI — 116.56

(l-r) James Schetelich, Vincent Zhou, Spencer Howe, Kevin Shum



MEN'S MEDALISTS

- GOLD — VINCENT ZHOU — 164.96
- SILVER — JAMES SCHETELICH — 139.77
- BRONZE — SPENCER HOWE — 134.22
- FOURTH — KEVIN SHUM — 132.68

(l-r) Caitlin Fields/Jason Pacini, Chelsea Liu/Devin Perini, Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, Christina Zaitsev/Ernie Utah Stevens



PAIRS MEDALISTS

- GOLD — CHELSEA LIU/DEVIN PERINI — 122.63
- SILVER — CAITLIN FIELDS/JASON PACINI — 118.89
- BRONZE — ALEXANDRIA SHAUGHNESSY/JAMES MORGAN — 113.87
- FOURTH — CHRISTINA ZAITSEV/ERNIE UTAH STEVENS — 107.70

(l-r) Whitney Miller/Kyle MacMillan, Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, Hannah Rosinski/Jacob Jaffe, Chloe Rose Lewis/Logan Bye



ICE DANCE MEDALISTS

- GOLD — HOLLY MOORE/DANIEL KLABER — 109.53
- SILVER — WHITNEY MILLER/KYLE MACMILLAN — 108.13
- BRONZE — HANNAH ROSINSKI/JACOB JAFFE — 99.13
- FOURTH — CHLOE ROSE LEWIS/LOGAN BYE — 93.99

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF

CHEN DAZZLES WITH ELECTRIC PERFORMANCES

by TROY SCHWINDT

Diminutive, soft-spoken and unassuming describe 12-year-old Karen Chen from Fremont, Calif. Aggressive, fearless and passionate speak to her skating prowess.

Chen, the 2011 intermediate champion, turned on her extraordinary talent to capture the novice crown with 140.17 points. Amber Glenn, 10th last year in the intermediate ranks, secured the silver medal with 125.88 points. Amanda Gelb claimed the bronze medal with 122.34 points.

Representing the Peninsula Skating Club, Chen led second-place Gelb by 2.87 points heading into her free skate to the soundtrack from *The Godfather*.

She pulled away from the field with a senior-level program that featured five triple jumps and three jump combinations. Her confident footwork and fast spins earned rousing applause.

The program's only real hiccup came late when she fell on her second triple Lutz. Chen, though, jumped right up for a downgraded triple flip and finished strong with a level four layback spin.

Having such an ambitious program is exactly what Chen wants, said one of her coaches, Gilley Nicholson.

"She's a very confident young lady and she goes for everything," Nicholson said. "We could have taken the triple toe out after the double Axel. We talked about that but she said, 'No, I'm doing it.' That's her character, so she's very determined."

Nicholson and Sherri Krahn-Thomas started coaching Chen about five years ago. The skater discovered early on that she loved to compete and hasn't looked back since.

"The more I give her the more she does," Nicholson said. "If you challenge her, she'll rise to the challenge."

One of Chen's mentors is 1992 Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi, who also grew up in Fremont, Calif.

Yamaguchi, who was on hand to watch Chen, offered the young skater some advice before the competition started.

"She told me that nationals was like a big party and that I have an invitation to come here to compete and have fun," Chen said. "Now all I have to do is just have fun and enjoy this party."

Yamaguchi has been extremely helpful in numerous areas, Nichol-

PHOTOS BY JAN ADEFF



Karen Chen

son said.

"You couldn't ask for a better mentor," he added.

Glenn, of the Dallas FSC, erased a rough performance at the 2011 U.S. Junior Championships to claim silver with her free skate to selections from the *Black Swan* soundtrack.

Conquering her nerves and gaining confidence proved instrumental in her comeback effort.

"I had motivation from my inspiring family and coach and friends," Glenn, 12, said. "They pushed and helped me through the tough times and helped me succeed when I really needed it the most. I came back and worked hard and got the rest of my jumps. I was OK with what happened last year; I accepted it. But I thought I'm going to come back next year and I'm going to go to nationals and leave an impression. That's what I was aiming for and I think I've done it."

Her coach, Ann Brumbaugh, said Glenn has always possessed the talent. It was overcoming nerves and the pressure of skating that she had to address head on.

"From last year to this year, she got all of her triples and made a huge improvement," Brumbaugh said. "She was very motivated to make a comeback and show what she had. I've always believed she would go out and do that."

Gelb, of the Los Angeles Figure Skating Club, also showed vast improvement over last year, when she placed 10th as a novice at the Southwest Pacific Regional.

The 14-year-old shined in her free skate to *Romeo and Juliet*.

"I felt like I was much more prepared this year and more confident," Gelb said. "It's awesome."

Highlights from her free skate included level three and level four spins and footwork.

Madison Vince, of the Washington FSC, placed fourth.



Amber Glenn



Amanda Gelb

ZHOU DYNASTY BEGINS WITH YEAR OF THE DRAGON

by KRISTIN ZINSMEISTER

When Vincent Zhou of Palo Alto, Calif., stepped onto the ice for his free skate, he had a feeling luck was on his side. Jan. 23 is the first day of the Year of Dragon, according to the Chinese calendar, and the dragon symbolizes luck.

Zhou, who was born during the previous Year of the Dragon and was wearing a costume adorned with a dragon, capitalized on the Chinese zodiac meaning. Skating to music from *Iron Monkey* and *Rising Sun*, the 11-year-old dominated the field, cleanly landing five triples, including a triple Lutz-double toe-double loop and a double Axel-triple toe loop that added up to 18.71 points.

"It took a lot of concentration and a lot of effort," Zhou, of the Peninsula SC, said. "I had to really try hard and I couldn't let anything go."

His performance earned the young skater his first "partial standing ovation."

"Not that I've lived very long," he joked.

Zhou, who trains in Riverside, Calif., under Tammy Gambill, never trailed during the competition. He placed first in the short program with 52.45 points and was first in the free skate with 112.51 points for an overall score of 164.96, more than 25 points better than the silver medalist.

At 4-foot-8-inches tall, the tiny fireball can barely see over the boards, yet tackles triples with the proficiency of someone twice his size and age. The air time on Zhou's jumps indicates that he is capable of adding an extra rotation for quads and triple Axels, but he and Gambill are holding back.

"I'll definitely be working on triple-triples because that's something I'll need for next year," Zhou said. "Tammy says that we can't start triple Axels until I physically mature more, but it's always good to try new things."

Zhou, who is the 2011 intermediate champion, said his mom drives about 1,000 miles a week in support of his skating. Zhou looks up to several skaters, including rinkmate and 2011 U.S. silver medalist Ricky Dornbush.

"When I go home, almost every night I watch his free skate from last year's nationals," Zhou said. "That gives me motivation."

He also likes World champion Patrick Chan.

"Not because he got the big points, but because he has a sunny personality, he's always smiling."



Vincent Zhou

Zhou comes to the rink each day with a fun fact for Gambill.

"He used to come in when he was really young and tell me a joke before we would start training," Gambill said.

"I've run out of jokes," Zhou said.

James Schetelich, representing the Skating Club of New York, also benefited from some luck. He rebounded from a fourth-place finish after the short program to finish second despite taking a hard fall just hours before his free skate that sent paramedics running to his side.

"During my warm-up this morning, I was skating at full speed, slipped off my heel and slammed into the wall on my back. I've never done anything like that. But as the adrenaline kicked in, I could barely feel it [during my free skate]," Schetelich said.

Skating to *West Side Story*, the 15-year-old from Scotch Plains, N.J., completed five triples, earning 139.77 points overall.

"Just as I did in the short, I made every jump the best it could be," Schetelich said. "This was the first time I've actually said that to myself the entire way [through the program]. I was positive."

From Woodland Hill, Calif., Spencer Howe, representing the Los Angeles FSC, moved up from fifth to third with a strong free skate to *The Phantom of the Opera*. Although he bobbed on his opening triple Lutz, he recovered quickly, making sure the rest of the program was seamless.

"As I was going into [the Lutz], I was a little bit nervous and I just didn't get the reach-back and timing that I usually get, so I ended up whipping it around," Howe said. "So, I sucked it up and pretended like it never happened and [the program] turned out good."

He earned 134.22 points overall, completing a triple toe loop, a triple loop and a level four straight line step sequence.

Kevin Shum, of Piedmont, Calif., was second after the short, but after a shaky free skate, finished the competition in fourth place with 132.68 points. Highlights of his program included a triple Lutz-double toe loop-double loop combination and a level four spin. Shum represents the St. Moritz ISC.



James Schetelich



Spencer Howe

LIU, PERINI GIVE COACHES GIFT OF GOLD

by TROY SCHWINDT

The lives of Jenni Meno and Todd Sand certainly have changed since they won their third U.S. pairs title in 1996 at HP Pavilion in San Jose, Calif.

They now coach alongside their former coach John Nicks in Aliso Viejo, Calif., and they have two sons, Jack, 7, and Matthew, 5.

"Now we're in a completely different world," Meno said.

But at the 2012 U.S. Championships, Meno and Sand were able to relive some of the magic from that classic 1996 event when their novice pairs team of Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini captured the gold medal.

"I told them that they were our first national champions in the last place we won nationals," Meno said. "So that's pretty special, right?"

Liu, 12, wasn't around, and Perini, 18, wasn't old enough to have watched Meno and Sand compete, but they are well aware of their coaches' reputation as one of the sport's most successful teams. They also competed in two Olympics and won bronze and silver medals at the World Championships.

Liu, of the Broadmoor SC, and Perini, of the Los Angeles FSC, took another big step toward realizing their own skating dreams by winning the short program and free skate en route to 122.63 points and the title. Last year in Greensboro, N.C., the duo made their national debut by placing second in the novice class with 113.90 points.

Caitlin Fields, representing the Coyotes SC of Arizona, and Jason Pacini, of the Fort Collins FSC, finished second with 118.89 points. The Skating Club of Boston's Alexandria Shaughnessy and James Morgan captured the bronze medal with 113.87 points.

Liu and Perini led Fields and Pacini by just .70 points after the short program, but increased their advantage with a fun and playful program to a Charlie Chaplin medley. The program did hit a sudden bump in the road when Liu fell hard on their opening double Lutz combination, but she immediately jumped up and they finished the rest of the program in a strong fashion.

"I just tried to put the fall behind me," Liu said.

"I think the thing that was really great is that she showed she's a tough little competitor," Meno said. "After that [fall] you would have never known she made a mistake."

"I thought he took real good care of her," Sand added. "He knew she had a little issue."



Caitlin Fields/Jason Pacini

PHOTOS BY JAY ADER

Highlights from their free skate included two level four lifts, a level four inside death spiral, a throw double loop and a pair of level four spins.

Keeping the team in novice for one more season proved to be the right call, Sand said.

"Staying back, of course, they wanted to win," he said. "But I think the most important thing was for them to continue improving and developing. And I think the improvement they showed tonight, whether they ended up winning or not, was what we wanted to show the judging community and the skating community. We feel they have a lot more potential than anyone has ever seen yet."

Liu and Perini will jump up to juniors next season, although they won't be eligible to compete internationally until 2013.

Fields and Pacini, fourth at the novice level last year, performed a strong program to music from *Cutthroat Island*. They, like the champions, experienced a fall early on when Fields tumbled on the team's throw triple loop. That miscue, however, didn't faze them.

"They were the only team that tried a throw triple tonight and it was there, just a little slip on it," coach Doug Ladret said. "They recovered right away with side-by-side double Axels that were really well in unison and covered the ice."

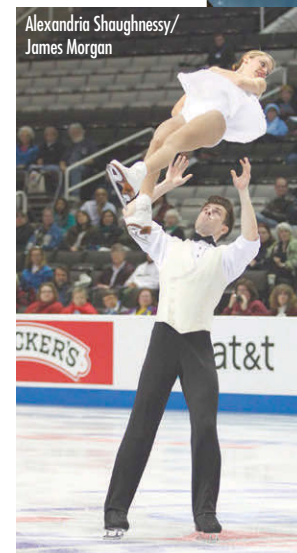
Pacini, 16, and Fields, 21, look forward to competing as juniors next season, with more opportunities to try "bigger and better tricks."

Shaughnessy, 19, and Morgan, 20, fifth at novice last year, figured they would jump up to juniors before the season started. But an injury to Morgan and their relative inexperience together prompted coach Bobby Martin to leave them in novice for one more season.

"They were in the international selection pool this year, we were getting ready to move up to junior, and Jimmy had some shoulder problems," Martin said. "We tried to rehab but ended up doing shoulder surgery. We really weren't sure what they were going to be like at this point and time. They had a short season; he has a bionic arm pretty much. We are always looking at the long term and we just want to make sure they are strong and healthy, and I think they are in a fantastic place to keep going forward now."

The team from the Skating Club of Boston performed to *Evita* for their free skate and were rewarded for their level four spins. They did stumble on the side-by-side double Axels.

Christina Zaitsev and Ernie Utah Stevens, of the Indiana World Skating Academy FSC, placed fourth.



Alexandria Shaughnessy/
James Morgan



Chelsea Liu/Devin Perini

IT'S LUCKY SEVEN FOR MOORE, KLABER

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Holly Moore began skating with Daniel Klaber when she was 9 and he was 10, and since then, there have been a few changes. When they started, she was so shy she barely spoke a word for the first year or two. Now the bubbly 16-year-old, an honors student at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio, can barely contain herself.

"At first we were both really young and [ice dance] was just kind of a fun thing to do," Moore said. "Over the years, our trust in each other built and we became really good friends. Through success and failure, everything just made us stronger. We were just always excited to get right back at it and keep going."

"We were kind of opposites when we first started, but then our personalities started rubbing off on one another and we started having more in common," Klaber, a 17-year-old junior at Charles F. Brush High School in Lyndhurst, Ohio, said. "It just made it more fun, and I think the more fun you have the better your partnership will be."

After placing second in both of the novice pattern dances, the Argentine Tango and Starlight Waltz, Moore and Klaber sure had fun with their free dance to "Le Jazz Hot," from *Victor/Victoria*. They shimmed, sparkled and high-stepped their way to 62.02 points, including a well-executed and challenging twizzle sequence and fast-moving closing rotational lift. Overall, they earned 109.53 points.

"We really love our free dance," Moore said. "I hope that showed and everyone could share in the fun we were having. We worked hard this season and it really paid off."

"As soon as the music came on, I forgot everything in my head and went along with everything we do every day," Klaber said.

Moore and Klaber, who train under Jackie Miles and Chip Rossbach at the Pavilion Skating Club in Cleveland Heights and also spend time at the Detroit Skating Club, are likely moving up to the junior ranks next season, with an eye on competing in the Junior Grand Prix Series. This is their first national title, although they won intermediate silver in 2010.

"The key was hard work all season, and also being consistent and competing like they practice every day," Miles, who has coached the duo for five years, said. "We also spend a lot of time working on the basics, like stroking, skating skills and edges."



Whitney Miller/Kyle MacMillan

Whitney Miller and Kyle MacMillan, who train at Maryland's Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA), won both of the pattern dances and captured the silver medal with a second-place free dance to gypsy music highlighted by three difficult lifts. They finished with 108.13 points.

For MacMillan, just 14, it was his third U.S. medal in four seasons. He and former partner Rachel Parsons won both the U.S. juvenile and intermediate ice dance titles.

"We had a very solid free skate," MacMillan said. "Unlike [other] times we've done it, the second half had a lot of energy. The first half was light, but also had energy."

"We want to work to increase our power and to become a stronger team together in our synchronization," Miller, 13, said.

Moore and Klaber's Cleveland Heights training partners, Hannah Rosinski and Jacob Jaffe, took bronze after a fun and funky free dance to soulful James Brown hits. They scored 99.13 points.

"We think it was our best free dance performance we ever competed," Rosinski, 16, said. "I was most nervous about the twizzles, because I screwed up on them at sectionals, but I'm really happy I got them today."

"This is our first season together, so we're just starting to feel more comfortable," Jaffe, 17, said. "We've been really working on our edges, just getting them so secure and such a change from past. They're not only important in the pattern dance but also in the free dance, with all of the footwork."

Rosinski and Jaffe share the ice with the novice champions every day. They also train with Jaffe's younger brother, Micah, and his partner, Kimmie Berkowitz, who placed fourth in intermediate ice dance at the 2012 U.S. Junior Championships.

"Holly and Daniel are so much fun to train with because they push us, they motivate us, and I think we do the same with them," Rosinski said.

"Both Hannah and Jacob competed at the novice level with previous partners, who have since enrolled in college," coach Miles said. "That experience really helped, and they've jelled nicely together."

Colorado Springs-based skaters Chloe Rose Lewis, just 11, and her 15-year-old partner Logan Bye took fourth place after placing sixth in the Argentine Tango, fourth in the Starlight Waltz and third in the free dance.



Hannah Rosinski/Jacob Jaffe



Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber

PHOTOS BY AJV ADEF

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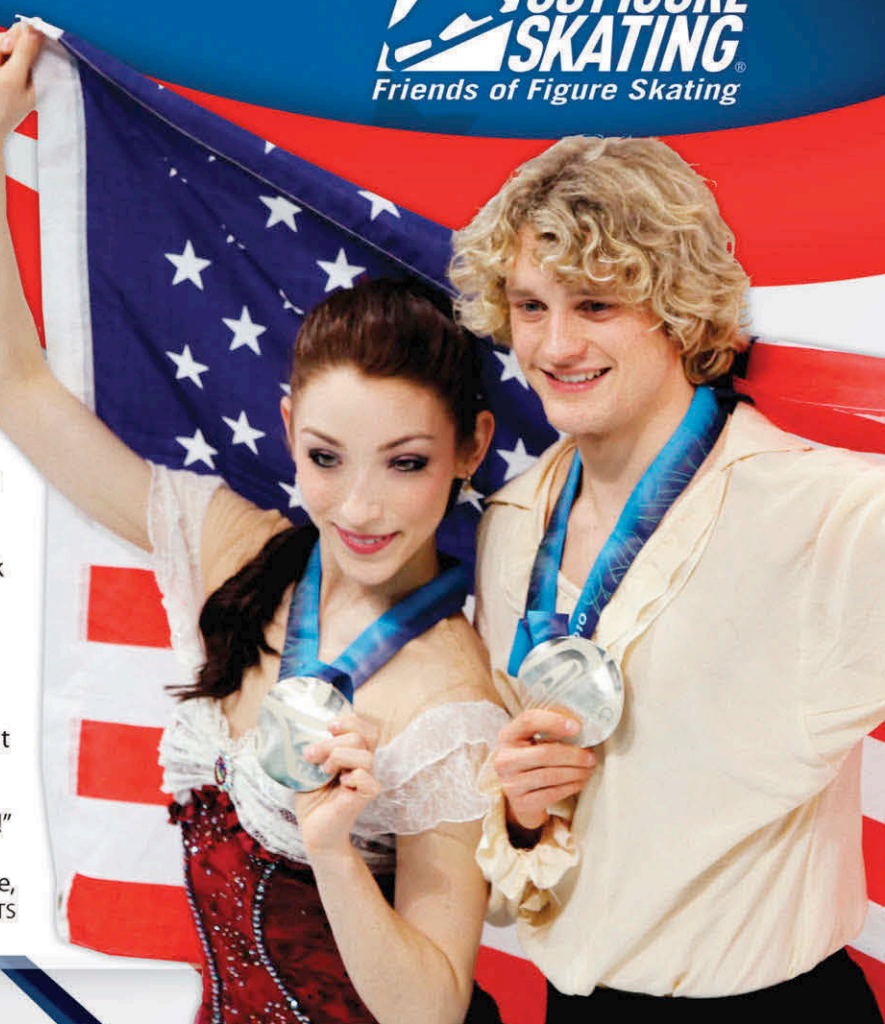


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- Meryl Davis and Charlie White,
2010 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALISTS

by RYAN JAHNKE

Thousands of people will tell you that figure skating is a GREAT sport. But what makes this unique ice sport so great and worth your time? That question is what we tackle in this article.

Webster's Dictionary defines *great* as "remarkable in degree, magnitude or effectiveness." Skating is truly remarkable in the degree of detail it can be pursued, breathtaking in the magnitude of things one has to learn and extremely effective in building character.

Allison Scott, mother of Jeremy Abbott, three-time U.S. men's champion, offers this thought:

"Skating is about discipline. It teaches so much more than jumps and spins. It teaches about coping with the twists and turns of life, too. Skating teaches an understanding and acceptance of who you are, and who your friends are. Ultimately, skating is not exclusive; it is inclusive. If you are a new parent in the sport, please remember this: In the heat and passion of competition, know that the here-and-now is just that. What truly matters is what is ahead, as well as what has gone before. Those are the six walls of a perfect box that encompass the best present of all in this sport: lasting friendships. That is a gift that is truly priceless."

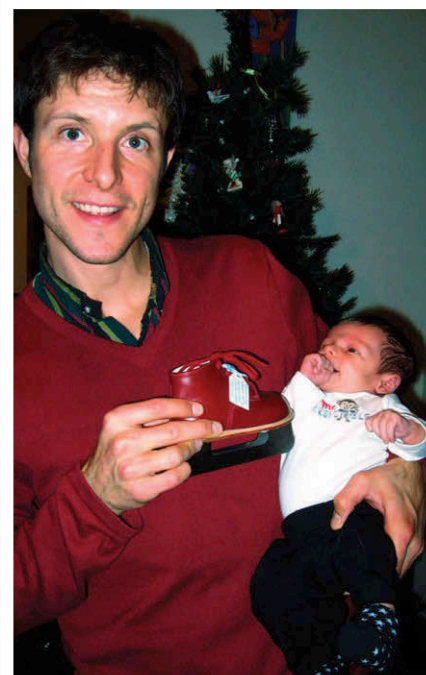
Now, here is an answer from a teenage skat-

Ryan Jahnke performs a show program, wearing his favorite team's jersey of the Denver Broncos.



Pairs skaters Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig

PHOTO BY GANGLAN CHU/GETTY IMAGES



Ryan Jahnke reminds everyone that it's never too soon to begin skating. His son, Zayin, is getting a head start.

er: "Figure skating teaches you a lot about life itself even before you get out there. This sport is like a roller coaster, and so is life. You have your ups and your downs. There will always be people who want to see you rise, and there are always people who want to see you fall. How you deal with these falls is how you succeed. This concept applies in life itself. You face this problem every day of your life, and you face this problem every day in skating. In skating though, you literally fall, but you have to get back up and keep going. You cannot look back or feel sorry that you fell, you just have to get up and keep going. This is why I love figure skating." — Casey Yee

Below are my personal reflections from 21 years of competing.

Skating allows you to possess a unique set of skills. You can do things that only a small fraction of a single percent of people in the world can do. It is so rewarding to dedicate yourself day after day, year after year to developing skills that others couldn't even comprehend of doing quickly.

Constant personal growth. I feel like I can accomplish anything now. I feel like I'll never be in harder situations than I've already gone through. It's a crucible.

You learn to set and work toward goals. Achieve them and reset them higher.

When you fail, you know it quickly. Your life becomes practice for the ultimate success formula of learning from mistakes, making adjustments and moving forward. Skaters do not have a "padded room" life. You can get so strong emotionally, mentally.

To be good demands a lot of time and sacrifice. If you are a competitive skater, you know that you can't do everything other kids your age are doing. Do I regret not going to all the parties, etc.? No way.

No other sport combines the artistic and physical requirements of skating. It has the artistry of dance and the athleticism of gymnastics.

There is always something else to learn, someone who is better than you. You can progress at your own pace.

It's the hardest thing I've ever done.

You learn to deal with physical pain and discomfort. Injuries are a common hurdle.

Perseverance. Knowing that you may have to do something a thousand times before you get it and stepping down that road and doing it anyways.

Skating teaches you that you can't control everything that happens to you in life, no matter how hard you work on it. Maybe you step on a loose ice chip on the ice. A skater's balance needs to be so fine-tuned to complete certain elements that even though you've landed a jump a thousand times before, you sometimes fall.

When Amanda Evora got off the ice after her long program at the 2010 Olympic Games with partner Mark Ladwig, she looked at the camera and said, "It's worth it!" I hope you have found this article insightful and encouraging. I want other people to experience the same great benefits that I have experienced through competitive figure skating.

Ryan Jahnke is a 2003 World Team member and founder of MySkatingMall.com, a site where skaters can buy and sell new and used skating items while raising money for skating charities.

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by LEXI ROHNER

This is the second installment in a three-part series on adult skating camps and clinics. Featured are the experiences from skaters residing in and/or participating at camps in the Midwestern section of the country. Camps are available to skaters of all levels of ability and experience. Check the U.S. Figure Skating's Adult Skating page for a list of upcoming camp locations: <http://www.usfsa.org/Programs.asp?id=112>

**Sandy Wittmann, Maplewood, Minn.
St. Paul FSC, Coach masters/junior/senior**

Sandy Wittmann is a coach who has directed adult skating camps in St. Paul, Minn., in recent years. She loves everything that skating as an adult offers and enjoys sharing her knowledge and expertise with others in a camp setting.

"It (skating) teaches life lessons, discipline, handling success and failure, and promotes self-expression," said Wittmann, who spent eight months planning the camps to make them special for each participant. "My hope was for each adult to take something away from the weekend and expand it to their training."

Wittmann has high regard for adult skaters who find time to train and do something they love. She recognizes their hard work and believes dreams come true as a result.

"Coaching provides the reward of seeing a student work on a new trick and eventually achieving it," Wittmann said.

Building friendships and learning alongside their peers enable adult skaters to achieve just as many goals as younger skaters, she said.

Wittmann volunteers at many local and national competitions and consults with many coaches throughout the year. She holds one practice a week with her adult students, encouraging them to practice twice a week on their own.

Wittmann's husband is a member of the U.S. Figure Skating's national music committee, and Wittmann has competed and earned a medal at the U.S. Adult Championships.

**Autumn Allison, St. Moritz ISC
Clayton, Calif., Adult bronze**

Autumn Allison has gained a new perspective on skating after attending adult skating camps in Aspen, Colo., and in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"Being critiqued in a new way may only consist of one comment or word, but sometimes that makes the difference," she said.

Analogizing camps as "an appetizer at a wonderful meal — a nice taste of something unusual or different," Allison has seen her confidence increase, recognizing tests and competition are sometimes a victory over circumstances.

"I learn something from each event," said Allison, a news writer, musician and student pilot.

She describes skating as frustrating at times but never boring, and is grateful for friends and



Sandy Wittmann



Pam Sexton

opportunities without major consequences.

"After competition or testing, I still have a husband, job, mortgage and friends," Allison said.

Allison skated twice as a teen before beginning the sport 16 years later. Her weekend work schedule allows time to explore hobbies, including skating. Her original goal was to skate one lap without assistance or falling. She was intrigued by doing something that seemed scary or difficult to others.

"I was always the family klutz and still trip over sidewalk chalk lines," she said.

After a year, Allison entered her first competition (the only skater over age 12). She reviews her progress through competition videos.

"From there it's exploded into part of how I define myself," Allison said. "It's a way to explore part of me that would have gone otherwise undeveloped."

Allison is a regional announcer, gold singles/pairs test judge and an Adult Skating Committee member. She skates seven to 10 hours a week.

"What feels like the greatest achievement is that I'm still skating and plan to until I'm physically unable," she said.

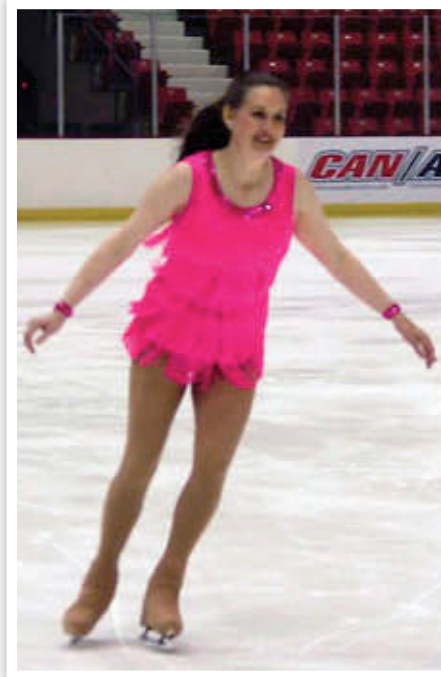
**Pamela Sexton, Fredericksburg, Va.
Richmond FSC, Adult silver dance**

The opportunity to meet other skaters and learn from a variety of coaches is in part why Pamela Sexton enjoys attending adult skating camps. She's attended a camp in Aspen and two in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"Aspen had figure skating ice like bridal satin," Sexton said. "I'd like to skate on that again now that I have better skills."

Sexton also acquires knowledge about specific off-ice activities at camp that she can incorporate into her skating.

"I find that getting away from my home rink can help (my skating)," she said. "I learn from different coaches, who teach a variety of techniques



Autumn Allison

and ways of expressing elements that can lead to a breakthrough for me."

Sexton began skating at 55. She took a year off because of a broken ankle (on ice) that required her to completely start over.

She took up ice dance to improve her skating and now works with dance and moves-in-the-field coaches.

"The combination of learning new skills involving balance and flexibility combined with artistic expression is very appealing," Sexton said. "My biggest challenge, though, remains spirals."

Sexton, retired military, claims she has learned useful skills for her age by discovering she has great balance and is able to take a fall. Her doctor's recent comment on her gracefulness meant a lot, she said.

"At 60 you treasure those little words of praise," said Sexton, who also participates in horseback riding, rifle shooting and aerobic flying.

Sexton has two coaches and takes group lessons, which she said have a vibe all their own.

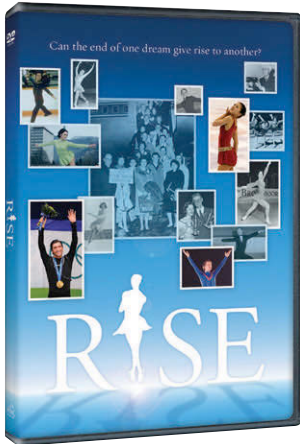
"It makes skating more collaborative as opposed to individual," Sexton said.

Skating about eight hours a week, she will increase that amount upon retirement from her civil service job and plans to pass her gold dance test before age 70.

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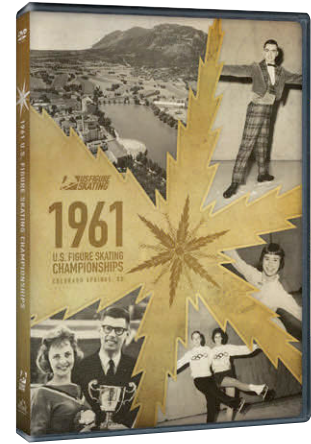


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ANNIVERSARY PARTY

NSM CELEBRATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

compiled by SUSI WEHRLI-MCLAUGHLIN

The National Skating Month campaign is an opportunity for Basic Skills programs, member clubs and ice facilities across the country to increase awareness of and participation in U.S. Figure Skating programs by welcoming new families to the world of skating.

In celebrating its 10th anniversary, National Skating Month (NSM) presented a golden opportunity for the public to learn about local programs, acquire basic skating knowledge and skills and develop an enthusiasm for the sport of skating.

The following are a few capsule summaries of events and activities hosted this year. For complete coverage of events held nationwide and for more photos and videos, go to the NSM homepage found at "Programs" then click "National Skating Month."

GERMAIN ARENA, ESTERO, FLA.

More than 240 skaters participated in the fifth NSM open house on Jan. 7 at the Germain Arena, in Estero, Fla. The open house took place during normal public skating hours. A quarter of

the rink was sectioned off for group lessons. U.S. Figure Skating instructional staff donated their time, giving 20-minute group lessons to all. Each group learned the basics of skating. There was an information booth where people could pick up literature on all the recreation programs for skaters held at the arena. At the end of the event, numerous prizes were raffled off, including Everblades ECHL hockey tickets (\$24 value), 10-punch passes to public skate (\$60 value) and Basic Skills group lessons (\$140 value). "Swampee," the Everblades mascot, made a special appearance. All the new faces had smiles from such a positive experience.

BAY AREA CLUBS — PENINSULA FSC, SC OF SAN FRANCISCO, ST. MORITZ ISC

The San Francisco Bay Area kicked off its NSM celebration with a gala performance under the holiday lights at the Union Square outdoor rink in the heart of downtown San Francisco. There was a full moon and a slight chill in air. Willy Bietak donated the ice time for the event.

NSM materials as well as buttons promoting the 2012 U.S. Championships in San Jose were distributed to skaters and the audience.

For the second year, three Bay Area clubs — Peninsula FSC, St. Moritz ISC and the SC of San Francisco — worked together to produce the exhibition. Skaters were selected from each club with an eye toward the 2012 U.S. Championships. Skaters just returning from the U.S. Junior Championships also performed. A youth synchronized flag team opened the gala performance. Two special events helped mark the celebration. First, special recognition went to Maya Schwartz, winner of the NSM video contest and member of the SC of San Francisco. Second, Kristi Yamaguchi, with her mom, Carole, and her children, Keara and Emma (who is now skating), were special guests of honor and came to support the young skaters of the community.

CAPITAL CLUBHOUSE, WALDORF, MD.

About 300 people came through the doors to celebrate NSM on Jan. 7 during a public session. It was crowded but a lot of fun!

Attractions included skate-fitting and lacing demonstrations, free 15-minute beginner skating lessons, games and fun center ice for the little ones with parents (beanbag toss, skate through cones, Hula Hoops), skate with Snowplow Sam, \$15 discount on Basic Skills registration, candy and stickers for participants and exhibitions by Basic Skills skaters.

TWIN CITY FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

The Twin City Figure Skating Association, in collaboration with Minnesota NAPVI (Minnesota Chapter of the National Organization for the Visually Impaired), hosted an adaptive skating day at the Bloomington Ice Garden, Bloomington, Minn., on Jan. 16.

TCFSA contracted 90 minutes of ice time, choosing Jan. 16 since it was a national holiday. Since school was not in session, it was a good time for children to participate. TCFSA sent out a request for volunteer coaches and helpers. The goal was to have a coach available for each visually impaired participant. Ages of the skaters were 2 to 10. Coaches were e-mailed an instruction manual prepared by Mandy Benavides. Four skater volunteers helped coaches with off-ice duties, such as putting on skates, making the children feel comfortable and helping them get used to the feeling of the skates and the rubber floor they would walk on.

TCSFA provided snacks and beverages for

Garden State Skating Club President Lara Walsh helps youngsters enjoy the NSM activities.





The Olympic Regional Development Authority put on a successful NSM skatefest in Albany, N.Y.

the skaters and their families. Parents and siblings of the skaters also used the free ice and free skate rental. Everyone came away from this event with big smiles and a lot of enthusiasm for future opportunities. Coaches discussed how adaptive skaters could be integrated into a club's Basic Skills program.

**THE ICE SKATING ACADEMY,
ATKINSON, N.H.**

On Jan. 16, THE Ice Skating Academy hosted a free public skate and fundraiser for "Somebody Cares New England" at Veterans' Memorial Skating Rink in Haverhill, Mass., in honor of NSM and Martin Luther King, Jr. The rink was

decorated with inspiring quotes, and there was a moment of silence in honor of the civil rights leader. There was a brief presentation by coaches and skaters to show off some local talent with the song "Shed a Little Light" by James Taylor.

More than 120 people attended the event, which started with a skating presentation and a public skate where professionals from THE



The Twin City Figure Skating Association held a NSM event that provided skating opportunities for Minnesota-area's visually impaired.



More than 500 people turned out to celebrate NSM at the North Olmsted Skating Academy in Ohio.

Ice Skating Academy offered free assistance and guidance to anyone skating that day. A donation of more than 100 food items and \$50 was delivered to “Somebody Cares New England.”

GARDEN STATE SC AND HOWELL ICE WORLD

The Garden State Skating Club (GSSC) in conjunction with Howell Ice World kicked off the New Year by celebrating NSM with its inaugural open house at the Howell Ice World arena in Farmingdale, N.J., on Jan. 7. More than 300 participants attended and enjoyed a fun-filled day at the rink. Festivities kicked off at noon with two hours of public skating. The GSSC coaching staff volunteered their time to skate and play on-ice games and other fun activities with all the skaters. The public skate session was followed by a youth mite hockey game exhibition by Howell Ice World’s hockey players and a figure skating performance showcasing the talents of GSSC accomplished skaters. The day’s events concluded with complimentary half-hour skating lessons taught by GSSC professional coaches and instructors. GSSC also had members available to speak with parents wishing to learn more about

their U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program and the club. The first 200 participants received goodie bags filled with U.S. Figure Skating promotional items, and everyone earned two-for-one admission tickets to the rink for their next visit.

Adriana Ryan, Howell Ice World’s academy skating director, was excited to coordinate and bring the NSM open house event to the public, which she says “encouraged all to enjoy and learn more about the sport of skating in addition to our comprehensive instructional skating programs and the modern facilities at Howell Ice World.” Lara Walsh, president of GSSC, was delighted that many of the club’s skaters had the opportunity to share their talents and help celebrate the great sport of figure skating.

OLYMPIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (ORDA), LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

Blizzard conditions and a closed Northway did not keep skaters away. While temperatures dropped below freezing and snow fell throughout the morning, the skatefest held in Albany, N.Y., at the Empire State Plaza was a huge success. With registered numbers of 210 skaters and

a waitlist of approximately 75 more, area coaches taught those who had never skated before and those who had experienced the fun and joy of skating. This studio-sized outdoor rink facility lent charm and ambiance as skaters learned the fun of skating.

The highlight of the day was a visit from Olympians Sarah Hughes and Emily Hughes, who spoke with every skating group and signed autographs. ORDA, New York State Office of General Services and the New York State United Teachers sponsored the SkateFest, with hot chocolate donated by State Employees Federal Credit Union. Mascots visited from the Albany Devils and Siena College and raffle prizes were donated by the Albany Figure Skating Club and Lake Placid Olympic Arena and ORDA. Volunteers worked endlessly to help make the event a huge success. True to the Northeast, we did not let a little snow get us down!

NORTH OLMSTED, OHIO

The city of North Olmsted’s celebration was held on Feb. 5. Preparation for this day began with advertising the event through the hometown newspaper, flyers to local elementary schools and information placed in the quarterly recreation department mailer. Flyers and e-mail blasts were sent to Basic Skills members, Cleveland Edges Figure Skating Club and North Olmsted Hockey Club, inviting their friends and family. The event was to run from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., but the public lined up for skate rental starting at 12:15 p.m. A record 517 people participated. The day’s activities included free ice skating, free skate rental, free beginner skating lessons, raffle prizes and giveaways, along with on-ice games and skating exhibitions. Information tables were set up for the Basic Skills Program, the Cleveland Edges Skating Club and the North Olmsted Hockey Club.

At the studio rink, Basic Skills staff ran four, 20-minute free skating lessons. For each set of lessons, 20 skaters enrolled, for a total of 80 new skaters taking a free start-up lesson. U.S. Figure Skating recognized the North Olmsted Skating Academy’s decade of celebrating NSM by sending a banner for it to display during NSM.

To sign up for 2013 National Skating Month, remember to register early as supplies are limited. Online registration is available beginning in August. Remember that you can organize an open house any time you need a membership drive. It really works!

SC of San Francisco member and NSM video contest winner Maya Schwartz takes in the fun with Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi at the NSM gala celebration in downtown San Francisco.



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'AMAZING' EXPERIENCE

U.S. TEAMS UNITE AT FRENCH CUP

by ASHLEY MULHERN

Four U.S. teams converged on Rouen, France, to represent our country and compete at the 2012 French Cup. This was an extremely special competition as it was my first international event as a freshman on the Miami University senior team.

I have always loved the honor of representing the United States overseas, but this competition allowed me to represent my school as well. It was also exciting to be able to compete alongside of some of my best friends and my old team, the Skyliners. The experience could not have been any more amazing!

The United States enjoyed a strong showing at the French Cup with solid competition performances by California Gold, Miami, Skyliners and Team Braemar. To kick off the competition, teams from all 11 countries gathered in the town

square for a parade around Rouen.

Team USA was in high spirits and energetic even as we marched and cheered through the freezing cold temperatures of the night. We also enjoyed a great Team USA dinner with all four teams, organized by our wonderful team leaders, Robin Greenleaf and Bob Bauer. This time gave us the opportunity to meet girls from the other teams and make new friends that we will be able to cheer on in the future.

The 2012 French Cup was a challenging competition with the top junior and senior teams in the world competing for the top prize. I personally could not have been more proud of the performances that came from the U.S. teams.

Skyliners junior team finished in fourth place, only 10 points behind Team Fantastic of

Finland, the reigning Junior World Challenge Cup champions. Team Braemar ended up in sixth place with two impressive skates.

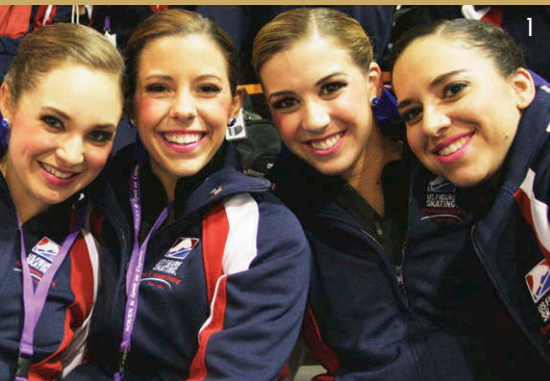
Miami skaters were thrilled with our performances, and we were proud to feel that we had gotten the audience involved in our programs. I absolutely loved skating first in the short program, as it gave us the opportunity to sit in the stands with both Skyliners and Team Braemar bringing our voices, American flags and pride together to cheer on California Gold.

Miami and California Gold placed fifth and seventh respectively, with Sweden in between, only behind Finland, Russia and Canada. Overall the competition was a huge success for the United States, and I can't wait to see how the rest of the season plays out.

- 1 | Miami's Sarah Arnold, Martha Buckley, Ashleigh Ostin and Aziza Alaoui are on hand to cheer on California Gold.
- 2 | California Gold, which is used to sunny days and mild temperatures, watches the snowflakes fly in Rouen.
- 3 | Miami skaters Ingrid Benson, Andrea Trembath and Ashleigh Ostin play tourists for a day and check out the Eiffel Tower.

- 4 | California Gold makes its walk from the hotel to the competition rink.
- 5 | California Gold endures the cold and snow in Rouen.
- 6 | Miami enjoys its short program performance to the song "Blue Suede Shoes" at the French Cup.
- 7 | Team USA gathers together for a photograph en route to the French Cup parade.

- 8 | The RedHawks strike their beginning pose of their free skate in Rouen, France.
- 9 | DREAM skaters Ashleigh Ostin of Miami University and Emmeline Weinert of California Gold take in the sights of Rouen.
- 10 | Miami's Vanessa Thornton and Ashley Mulhern display the spirit of Team USA following Miami's free skate.





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10

SIMPSON TO RECEIVE HONOR

Britney Simpson, a member of the Broadmoor Skating Club and Team USA, was named 2012 Sportswoman of Colorado for figure skating.

Last year, she was awarded the 2011 Most Promising Athlete award. Winners are picked by a panel of sportswriters and reporters from a variety of media based on their successes in 2011. Simpson was chosen because at 15, she, with her new partner, Matthew Blackmer, won gold and silver at their Junior Grand Prix events and bronze at the Junior Grand Prix Final.

To honor the winners, a banquet will be held on March 13 in Denver with sports reporters Susie Wargin and Marcia Neville as hosts. The Sportswomen of Colorado is a non-profit group that honors outstanding sportswomen in the state.

Simpson and Blackmer earned the silver medal in junior pairs at the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Calif.

Britney Simpson and Matthew Blackmer



SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERS THERAPEUTIC SKATING EVENT

C3 Therapeutic Skating of Colorado Springs, Colo., participated in School District 38's "Try A New Sport Day" event for disabled children who attend the elementary and high schools within the district. Pam Nearhoof formed the C3 Therapeutic Skating program in June of 2011.

The "Try a New Sport Day" program introduced students to the sports of bocce ball, cup-stacking, soccer and therapeutic skating.



C3 Therapeutic Skating founder Pam Nearhoof helps a student have fun on the ice.

Students from seven schools attended, with 53 pupils taking part in the therapeutic skating outing. These students were divided into four groups and experienced ice skating for the first time.

"With 11 C3 Therapeutic Skating instructors and helpers, six walkers, two ice sleds and 24 buckets, we saw lots of smiles and heard 'Look I'm skating' or 'I'm doing it!'" Nearhoof said.

"During the Try A New Sport Day," C3 Therapeutic Skating accomplished its goal of 'challenge yourself, conquer the goal, find your confidence.'"

At the event's conclusion, U.S. Figure Skating gave each participant tickets to the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships.

U.S. Figure Skating Championships competitors Ashley Cain and Ali Smith join fellow members of the Stars Figure Skating Club of Texas to help 6 Stones Mission with food baskets for the needy in Texas. The mission was to feed 700 families. It is one way skaters can make a difference.

Sometimes, a LOL is no laughing matter — especially when it changes someone's life.

Emilyrose "Emily" Young and her mother Cynthia were driving to a skating lesson in Newark, Del., when a driver became distracted by a text message on her phone and crashed into the Youngs' vehicle. The car flipped several times, injuring Emily and her mother badly.

Young, a novice-level singles and pairs skater, not only had to heal physically, but emotionally, too. Part of her healing process was creating Teens Against Texting While Driving, a nationwide initiative that discourages teenagers and other young adults from distracted driving.

"My motto is 'Don't let a LOL become a 911,'" she said. "Not picking up a phone to text could not only save your life — but someone else's."

Young has taken her cause to social media as well. She created a Facebook page to promote Teens Against Texting While Driving and works to spread the word on a daily basis.

"I think that every 'Like' on the page could be a person who saves a life by not texting," Young said.

As a participant in the Miss New Jersey Outstanding Teen Pageant, Young chose as her platform: distracted driving and educating teens about its dangers. She is also an advocate for Text Zapper, a software program for smart phones that prevents the user from texting or talking on the phone while driving.

Young is back on the ice as well, working with coach Rocky Marval in Mount Laurel, N.J., and looking for a pairs partner. Though it has been a slow road to recovery, it hasn't deterred her dreams or her passion for the sport.

"Emily has found a new love for skating and enjoys coming to the rink every day," Marval said.

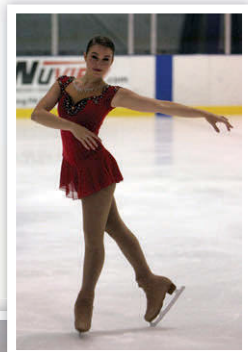
Her mother is proud of how her daughter is making an impact on others.

"She used the accident and the recovery time for her skating to make positive changes in her life," Cynthia said. Emily Young hopes others will listen — and learn — from her experience.

"Teens and young people don't believe something bad can really happen to them," she said. "They think as long as they are careful with texting it will be OK — but it won't. You can't be careful when you are distracted from driving."

To learn more about Teens Against Texting While Driving, search for "Teens against TWD" on Facebook.

— Kama Korvela



Emily Young is back at the rink following a devastating accident on the highway that involved texting and driving.





Members of the Charleston FSC put on a great show for guests at the Greenbrier Resort.

CHARLESTON FSC PERFORMS AT GREENBRIER RESORT

Members of the Charleston Figure Skating Club in West Virginia performed January 7–8 at the annual Winterfest Weekend at the Greenbrier Resort.

This was the second year for the event, which included the annual National Ice Carvers Association Competition. Ice carvers compete in one- and two-man teams to create beautiful and unusual sculptures.

The Greenbrier's owner, Jim Justice, installed an outdoor ice surface at the resort last season. This was the second year that the club had been invited to perform there. Members of the West Virginia synchronized skating team, the state's only such program, under the direction of Victoria Fauver Robb, also performed. Selected other club members displayed their figures, freestyle and ice dance programs for the guests. The guests enjoyed the skating, many attending all three performances.

Club members were available after the show to meet guests and provide encouragement as several stepped onto the ice for the first time. A few of those new participants will even be enrolling in learn-to-skate classes.

The Greenbrier is an award-winning luxury resort and a National Historic Landmark located in White Sulphur Springs, W.V. Figure skating is only one of the resort's many offerings.


"It was great to see guests try a new sport, and watch new talent emerge," former Charleston FSC board member Stacey Leadmon said. "The Greenbrier experience is a must-see, and do, for all skaters."



Members of the Mentor Ice Diamonds, a beginner 1 synchronized skating team from Mentor, Ohio, took one of the team's moms at her word before their season-opening competition in January. "The girls were really nervous, so to calm them down, a team mom said, 'If you win, you can each throw a pie at me.' She never dreamed they would win their event," said club vice president Sue Clemente. "Well, they did win and she kept her end of the bargain. Each skater got to throw a whipped cream pie at her after practice the next week. Not sure if she will do that again, but the skaters had a blast and couldn't wait to compete again."

The Dallas FSC celebrated the joy of skating by hosting exhibitions at the Winter Games of Texas competition on Jan. 15 at the Ice at Stonebriar Centre in Frisco, Texas. Club skaters Ashley Shin, the U.S. intermediate champion, and Ashlee Raymond, the U.S. juvenile bronze medalist, performed captivating showcase programs. Shin skated to "Fallin'" by Alicia Keys. Raymond skated to "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers. Also, good luck send-off exhibitions were performed by Dallas FSC's Amber Glenn, the U.S. novice silver medalist, and Ali Smith with her partner Anthony Evans, Midwest Sectional novice pairs pewter medalists. Joining them was Zhaira Costiniano, Philippines senior ladies silver medalist. The RISE DVD was shown continuously during the competition, while Dana Tanner, Dallas FSC souvenirs chair, promoted U.S. Figure Skating by handing out information and logo items. Pictured is the pairs team of Ali Smith and Anthony Evans.




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‘LABOR OF LOVE’

JUDGING IS GREAT WAY TO STAY INVOLVED, GIVE BACK

by JULIET NEWCOMER

So far we have provided information on the roles and skill sets of accountants, technical accountants and technical panel officials, and how to get involved in each position. This month, we will talk about judges and referees.

JUDGES

Mariam Mohajer-Rahbari stopped skating when she finished high school so she could focus on college, but she felt a draw back toward the sport during her time away.

“I knew I didn’t want to coach or compete anymore, so I decided to give judging a try,” she said.

A former sectional champion at the intermediate level, Mohajer-Rahbari continues to judge because she “really likes being able to stay involved in skating, give back to the sport and watch it evolve. (It’s changed so much!)”

Being a judge requires long days at the rink watching a lot of skating, so you need to enjoy watching the sport at all levels and not be bothered by sitting in the cold for hours at a time.

“Do it because you love it” is the advice from Jeff Charbonneau, a former national competitor in pairs and current judge, technical specialist and data operator. Charbonneau also recommends investing in a nice seat cushion and warm clothes. But even with the possible discomfort that comes from sitting in an ice rink for hours, Charbonneau enjoys the thrill he gets from judging.

“It brings back the feelings of excitement I had when I was a competitor,” he said. “I enjoy my small part in making new champions. I also

really enjoy all of my fellow officials’ company and the many great people I’ve met through officiating.”

Before becoming a judge, one starts as a trial judge. As a trial judge, one judges test sessions and competitions as if a judge on the panel, but the trial judge’s scores do not count toward the results. Instead, the scores, comments (for tests) and results are compared to those of the actual judges. In order to achieve an appointment, a trial judge must trial judge a certain number of tests and/or competition events at each level and in each discipline pertaining to the appointment, and the results must meet a certain standard of agreement with the actual judges.

At competitions, trial judges participate in critiques following the events they trial to discuss the event and the reasons behind their scores with a judges education trainer (JET). The process of trial judging is an eye-opening experience as one learns to view the sport from a completely different perspective and is trained to look for things one may have never considered before.

Once achieving the appropriate amount of trial judge activity and accuracy, a trial judge can apply to the Judges Committee for an appointment. The final steps in being approved include a peer review process — where behavior, ethics and temperament are reviewed along with knowledge and accuracy — and a written exam that must be passed.

Like accountants, each trial judge is assigned a mentor (referred to officially as a monitor) to assist in the process of becoming a judge.

Judges are not allowed to coach while hold-

ing a judging appointment (except as part of Basic Skills or learn-to-skate group lesson classes where none of the skaters being coached have passed any U.S. Figure Skating tests); however, one can continue to coach while trial judging.

Trial judges must be at least 16 years old, and judges must be at least 18 years old. Skaters and coaches who are at least 16 years old who are interested in judging but aren’t sure they want to commit to it can start by judging Basic Skills competitions or club competitions, neither of which requires certified judges. This is a great way to get introduced to the process and see if you enjoy it. The Basic Skills Subcommittee has created a manual on how to judge Basic Skills competitions, which can be found on U.S. Figure Skating Online at <http://www.usfsa.org/Content/JudgingBasicSkillsCompetitions.pdf>.

Of course, the main responsibility of judges is to know the rules and be able to apply them within the context of a test session or competition. Having a skating background is helpful and allows one to progress through trial judging more quickly, but it is not required.

In addition to knowing the sport, a good judge is able to make decisions quickly and support those decisions within the rules of the sport but is also open-minded and respectful of the opinions of other officials.

Hayley Pangle, a former skater and current college student who received her first judging appointment in 2010, recommends treating judging as one would a class; Plan to study and review on a regular basis.

“Be prepared to learn,” Pangle said.

She also recommends that those pursuing appointments “genuinely listen to every critique and word of advice directed toward you, no matter if it is from someone outside of your appointment sphere or not.”

If you’re interested in becoming a judge and are ready to start the process of trial judging, visit www.usfigureskating.org and click on “About Us” and then “Judges & Officials” for more information and a link to the Trial Judge Registration Form. If you want more information about what it’s like to be a judge prior to starting, judges in your area can serve as great resources for answering questions. You can also contact your regional or sectional vice chair on the Judges Committee. For names and contact information, please visit <http://www.usfsa.org/Story.asp?type=leadership&cid=850>.

Judges call in the action at the 2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose.



PHOTO BY JAN ADER

REFEREES

In order to become a referee, one must first become a judge. To be a good referee, one needs to be organized, decisive, confident, fair, comfortable using Excel and willing to study the rules of U.S. Figure Skating to have the utmost understanding. Those interested in becoming referees start by serving as event referees at nonqualifying competitions. Once one is comfortable as an event referee, he or she will start serving as the chief referee at nonqualifying competitions.

Rick Perez, national vice chair of the Referees Selection and Education Subcommittee and an international judge and national referee from California, appreciated

that in becoming both a judge and a referee he could progress at his own pace.

"I was able to balance skating into career and family commitments," he said.

Perez finds officiating at competitions to be fun and exciting, although he also refers to it as a "labor of love."

"I've become friends with many of my fellow officials, and part of the appeal of going to test sessions and competitions is seeing your friends who are also officials," he said.

For more guidelines on becoming a referee, visit <http://www.usfsa.org/Content/Referee%20Appointment%20Guidelines.pdf> or contact Perez at rjperez@pacbell.net.

Juliet Newcomer is the director of technical services at U.S. Figure Skating.

KEEP YOUR MOTOR RUNNING WITH RECOVERY

S.T.A.R.S. TIP

By Debbie Pitsos, NSCA-CPT

Debbie is a trainer at the Skating Club of Detroit and trains national and international singles and ice dance competitors including Jeremy Abbott, Alissa Czisny and Adam Rippon.

As a young athlete, you pack a lot of "stuff" into your daily schedule — school, skating, ballet, off-ice training, homework, etc. You want to do your best at everything, but you seem to be running out of hours in the day. Often overlooked but important to the quality of your training and school, is rest and proper recovery nutrition. This month, we look at the importance of rest.

What is rest?

Rest is a good night's sleep every night, especially before and after training days. Rest is also defined as days off from training. It is especially important to get plenty of sleep each day so you can be mentally and physically alert the next day for school and for quality training on and off the ice. When you are mentally and physically ready for the challenge of training, you are also protecting yourself from injury. Rest and recovery are necessary for growing bodies.

How do you know when you need a day off from training? Your coach and off-ice trainer (where appropriate) will help you determine whether you need to incorporate further recovery into your training routine. Signs of being overtired/over-trained are:

- Feeling tired, drained, lack of energy
- Pain in the muscles and joints

PHOTO BY PETER ZAPALU



Trainer Debbie Pitsos times an athlete during one of last year's S.T.A.R.S. Combine tests.

- Sudden drop in performance
- Decreases in your immune system
- Insomnia
- Headaches
- Decrease in ability to train
- Moodiness and irritability
- Depression
- Loss of enthusiasm
- Decrease in appetite
- Increase in number of injuries
- Increase your resting heart rate

Remember that rest, recovery and time off will keep you both mentally and physically fresh for quality training days.

See the S.T.A.R.S. training tip in the April SKATING magazine for Debbie's advice on incorporating recovery nutrition into your daily routine!

IMPORTANT S.T.A.R.S. NEWS:

S.T.A.R.S. Registration for the 2012 Summer Combine Season opens Monday, April 16, 2012. All registrations and more information are available only at www.STARScombine.org.

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Giuliana LAWRENCE

KIDZ
SPOTLIGHT

Age: 11

Hometown: Palatine, Ill.

Home club: Chicago FSC

Level: Preliminary

How often do I skate: I skate five to six days a week.

Coach: Mimi Bedard

Favorite skater: Rachael Flatt

Favorite jumps/moves: Back scratch, Lutz, spread eagle, backward shoot-the-duck, split jump

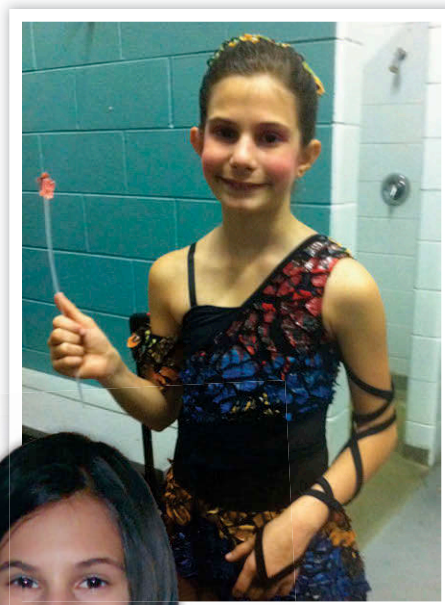
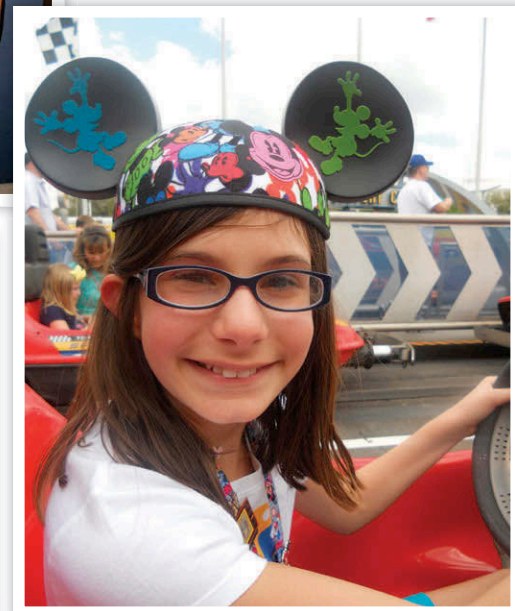
Goal: To land an Axel

How I got started: I started skating in the Basic Skills Program at age 5.

Memorable moment: Winning my first solo competition in January 2012

What else you should know about me: I'm fast and have big jumps! I have a collection of more than 50 medals, ribbons, trophies and awards.

Other hobbies: Softball, writing, making things out of duct tape, playing the flute



MORE FAVORITES

Foods: Dad's mashed potatoes

Book: *The Lightning Thief*

Movies: *Monsters, Inc.*

TV shows: "Dance Moms," "Next Great Baker," "Toddlers and Tiaras," "DC Cupcakes"

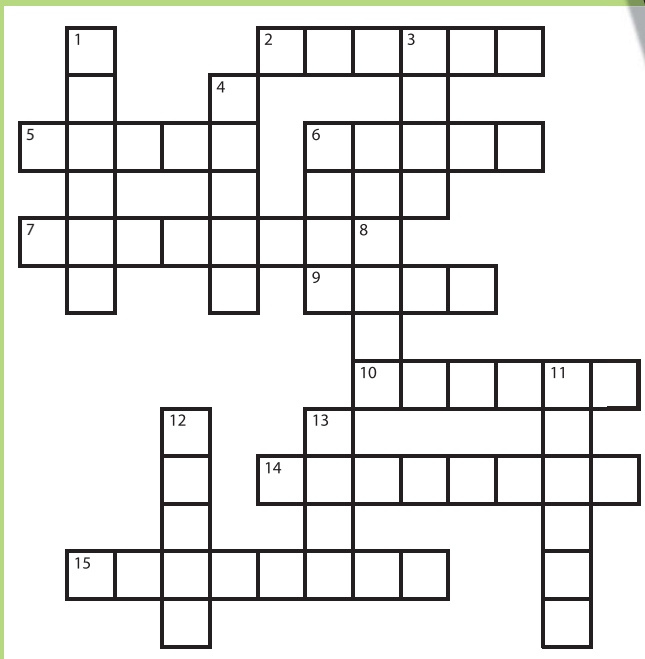


ACROSS

- 2 Ross Miner earned his second consecutive ___ medal at the U.S. Championships in San Jose last January.
- 5 During the U.S. Championships telecast on NBC, skaters entered the Truth ___ (still panting after their performance), looked into the camera and told the viewers how they thought they did.
- 6 ___ Zawadzki won the ladies short program in San Jose, but in the end she wound up in still-not-too-shabby third place.
- 7 2012 U.S. champion Ashley Wagner half-jokingly says if she weren't a figure skater, she would like to be a professional ___ taste tester! (2 wds.)
- 9 ___ Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker snagged the pairs silver in San Jose.
- 10 After years of missing the top spot on the podium and coming close but not quite making the cut for big competitions, Ashley Wagner said she was tired of being the "___" girl. But now she's the golden girl.
- 14 Fittingly, ___ Kwan was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame during the U.S. Championships in San Jose, in the same arena where she won her first U.S. gold in 1996 at age 15.
- 15 Caydee Denney and John Coughlin grabbed the U.S. pairs gold in January. They've both won it before, but with different ___.

DOWN

- 1 SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presented the Readers' ___ Skater(s) of the Year Trophy to Meryl and Charlie at the U.S. Championships.
- 3 How many U.S. Championships gold medals has 14-Across won?
- 4 Jeremy Abbott really dominated in San Jose, winning the U.S. gold for the ___ time in four years.
- 6 The men's silver was secured by ___ Rippon in San Jose.
- 8 No surprise, ice dancers ___ and Alex Shibutani were solid silver next to Meryl and Charlie's gold in San Jose.
- 11 In the past, Alissa Czisny has won U.S. gold and bronze, and in January she added a ___ medal to her collection.
- 12 In January, NBC aired "Improvisation" featuring skaters who had only a few ___ to choreograph two routines, instead of a few months as in the regular season.
- 13 Although 14-Across never won an Olympic gold medal, she did have World gold placed around her neck ___ times."



Answers to the Crossword Puzzle, Word Find and Match mania appear on page 72.

Puzzles by Joel Kaplow



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

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!

- MARY BETH MARLEY
- ROCKNE BRUBAKER
- DOUBLE SALCHOW
- MADISON HUBBELL
- ZACH DONOHUE
- TOE LOOP
- AGNES ZAWADZKI
- ADAM RIPPON
- SAN JOSE

match mania

Draw a line from the cities that have most recently hosted the U.S. Figure Skating Championships on the left across the rink to the year(s) they hosted on the right.

St. Louis, Missouri •	• 2008
Spokane, Washington •	• 2012
San Jose, California •	• 2009
St. Paul, Minnesota •	• 2007, 2010
Greensboro, North Carolina •	• 2006
Cleveland, Ohio •	• 2011

OBITUARY

TAYLOR

Howard Taylor, a longtime singles, pairs and dance judge and a national referee, passed away suddenly at his home in Walnut Creek, Calif., on Feb. 5, 2012. He was 93.

Howard was a member of the St. Moritz ISC for more than 50 years. He was also an honorary member of U.S. Figure Skating's Executive Committee and served on several committees for U.S. Figure Skating.

He was a dedicated volunteer who served on the club's board of directors, including as its president. Over his many decades in support of the sport of figure skating, he helped organize local skating competitions and shows, as well as national and international events held in the Bay Area. He also skated in many of the shows with his family.

He shared some of his career highlights in 1991 as part of the St. Moritz Ice Skating Club Oral History.

"During my early days, when I was associated with the club, we did occasionally put on a show where everybody got together and worked hard," he said. "Everybody seemed to enjoy putting on these shows."

"It took some doing to get the award



of the 1969 North Americans," he added. "It was through that competition that the club, for the first time, was able to receive some financial gain from putting on a competition. Up until then, the club was operating on low

funds. Shortly after that, we were fortunate to get the 1975 Nationals, which also gave the club some financial backing."

Howard was also one of the original organizers of the Central California Interclub Association. His motto was "keep 'em skating!" and he remained supportive of skaters and skating activities for all levels.

He was an ice dancer, competing at the 1961 U.S. Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the junior level.

"It was the year that the U.S. team was on their way to Worlds when their plane went down in Belgium. That was a sad event and year for skating all around," he said.

In 1962, he and Aileen Kahre competed at the U.S. Championships in Boston as seniors.

"We came out in the middle of the pack," he said. "The judges came back to say that we did a respectable job. It was quite an accomplishment for me."

He was the beloved husband of Georgia, father of Donna, Georgia, Diana and Debra and brother of Don. Private funeral services will be held.

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RESULTS

2012 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

San Jose, Calif., Jan. 22-29

Competition Officials: Arthur Bahr, Carolyn Clausius, Charles Cyr, Charles Tickner, Coco Gram Shean, Dawn Eyerly, Deborah Currie, Deveny Deck, Doug Williams, Gale Tanger, Hazel Wecal, Holly Cole, Jamie Whyte, Jan Serafine, Janis Engel, Jeffrey DiGregorio, Jeffrey Wolf, Joseph Inman, Julia Rey, Kanae Tagawa, Kathaleen Kelly Cutone, Kathleen Harmon, Kathy Slack, Kristina Lundgren, Larry Kriwanek, Laurie Johnson, Leslie Gianelli, Libby Scanlan, Lynn Bell, Lynn Goldman, Mary Karen Henderson, Michael Ricigliano, Peggy Graham, Richard Dalley, Richard Kern, Richard Perez, Robert Horen, Robert Rosenbluth, Roger Glenn, Stefanie Mathewson, Steve Winkler, Steven Moore, Susan Keogh, Terry Kubicka, Tiffany Chin, Wayne Hundley, Wendy Enzmann, William Rowe

Senior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Ashley Wagner, 187.02, 3, 1
2. Alissa Czisny, 180.00, 2, 2
3. Agnes Zawadzki, 174.10, 1, 7
4. Caroline Zhang, 173.19, 4, 3
5. Christina Gao, 166.36, 6, 5
6. Rachael Flatt, 164.98, 9, 4
7. Mirai Nagasu, 163.99, 5, 8
8. Angela Wang, 158.66, 16, 6
9. Vanessa Lam, 157.62, 7, 9
10. Kiri Baga, 149.38, 14, 10
11. Nina Jiang, 146.42, 8, 12
12. Leah Keiser, 145.55, 10, 11
13. McKinzie Daniels, 140.42, 15, 14
14. Joelle Forte, 139.82, 17, 13
15. Yasmin Siraj, 138.83, 11, 15
16. Haley Dunne, 136.28, 12, 16
17. Sophia Adams, 125.22, 13, 18
18. Morgan Bell, 112.48, 18, 17
19. Aimee Buchanan, 101.89, 19, 19

Senior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jeremy Abbott, 273.58, 1, 1
2. Adam Rippon, 240.87, 2, 2
3. Ross Miner, 230.32, 4, 3
4. Armin Mahbanoozadeh, 224.63, 3, 6
5. Douglas Razzano, 223.38, 8, 4
6. Stephen Carriere, 213.41, 9, 7
7. Keegan Messing, 212.47, 5, 12
8. Max Aaron, 211.15, 6, 13
9. Jason Brown, 209.16, 7, 14
10. Scott Dyer, 207.97, 13, 9
11. Jonathan Cassar, 207.75, 11, 10
12. Grant Hochstein, 206.23, 10, 11
13. Richard Dornbush, 200.59, 17, 5
14. Brandon Mroz, 200.14, 12, 15
15. Alexander Johnson, 199.23, 15, 8
16. Joshua Farris, 197.98, 14, 16
17. Wesley Campbell, 166.94, 20, 17
18. William Brewster, 156.48, 16, 19
19. Alexander Aiken, 152.44, 18, 18
20. Daniel Raad, 147.37, 19, 20

Senior Pairs

Pl. Name, Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Caydee Denney/John Coughlin, 189.70, 3, 1
2. Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker, 186.07, 1, 2
3. Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig, 178.98, 2, 3
4. Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff, 171.61, 5, 4
5. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnafir, 168.81, 4, 7
6. Ashley Cain/Joshua Reagan, 166.65, 7, 5
7. Andrea Poapst/Christopher Knierim, 166.38, 6, 6
8. Felicia Zhang/Nathan Bartholomay, 156.57, 9, 8
9. Tiffany Vise/Don Baldwin, 140.97, 10, 9
10. Alexa Scimeca/Ivan Dimitrov, 132.62, 8, 11
11. Cassie Andrews/Timothy LeDuc, 128.52, 11, 10

12. Kloe Chanel Bautista/Tyler Harris, 122.72, 12, 12
13. Rita Fehr/Peter Biver, 85.05, 13, 13

Senior Dance

Pl. Name, Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 191.54, 1, 1
2. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 178.84, 2, 2
3. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 151.60, 3, 3
4. Lynn Kriengkairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, 148.55, 4, 4
5. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 145.08, 5, 5
6. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 137.37, 6, 7
7. Anastasia Olson/Jordan Cowan, 137.08, 7, 6
8. Emily Samuelson/Todd Gilles, 135.99, 8, 8
9. Isabella Cannuscio/Ian Lorello, 130.35, 10, 9
10. Charlotte Lichtman/Dean Copely, 129.22, 9, 10
11. Ginna Hoptman/Pavel Filchenkov, 114.88, 11, 12
12. Brittany Schmucker/Adam Munday, 113.54, 12, 11
13. Meredith Zuber/Kyle Herring, 109.29, 13, 13
14. Carina Glastris/Kevin Allison, 60.46, 14, 14

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Gracie Gold, 178.92, 1, 1
2. Ashley Cain, 155.48, 3, 2
3. Hannah Miller, 149.68, 2, 4
4. Barbie Long, 144.57, 5, 3
5. Mariah Bell, 136.90, 6, 5
6. Polina Edmunds, 134.06, 4, 6
7. Gwendolyn Prescott, 119.53, 8, 9
8. Jenelle Herman, 117.85, 10, 7
9. Katarina Kulgeyko, 115.93, 7, 10
10. Allison Timlen, 111.57, 12, 8
11. Jessica Hu, 110.12, 9, 11
12. Camille Davis, 102.67, 11, 12

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Nathan Chen, 193.90, 2, 1
2. Timothy Dolensky, 187.84, 1, 3
3. Philip Warren, 182.17, 5, 2
4. Harrison Choate, 163.43, 10, 4
5. Lukas Kaugars, 154.95, 4, 6
6. Timothy Koleto, 149.01, 3, 10
7. Jay Yostanto, 148.54, 6, 7
8. Troy Tomasello, 147.36, 7, 8
9. Ryan Hartley, 141.85, 11, 5
10. Andrew Nagode, 134.99, 9, 11
11. David Wang, 132.72, 8, 12
12. Emmanuel Savary, 129.45, 12, 9

Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 148.84, 1, 2
2. Britney Simpson/Matthew Blackmer, 146.43, 3, 1
3. Kylie Duarte/Colin Grafton, 144.35, 4, 3
4. Jessica Noelle Calalang/Zack Sidhu, 134.84, 2, 4
5. Jessica Pfund/AJ Reiss, 126.99, 7, 5
6. Madeline Aaron/Max Settlage, 125.34, 5, 6
7. AnnaMarie Pearce/Craig Norris, 122.21, 6, 7
8. Brianna de la Mora/Taylor Wilson, 114.27, 8, 8
9. Olivia Oltmanns/Joshua Santillan, 109.30, 10, 9
10. Audrey Goldberg/Joseph Dolkiewicz, 108.99, 11, 10
11. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhynch, 107.44, 9, 11

Junior Dance

Pl. Name, Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 142.10, 1, 1
2. Lauri Bonacorsi/Travis Mager, 133.73, 2, 2
3. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 126.10, 4, 3
4. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 123.26, 3, 4
5. Madeline Heritage/Nathaniel Fast, 118.17, 5, 7
6. Kaitlin Hawayek/Michael Bramante, 116.77, 6, 5
7. Amanda Bertsch/Sam Kaplun, 114.28, 9, 6

8. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Ross Gudis, 111.52, 7, 10
9. Jessica Mancini/Tyler Brooks, 110.89, 8, 9
10. Roxette Howe/Mark Jahnke, 108.94, 10, 8
11. Cassandra Jeandell/Damian Dodge, 99.37, 11, 11
12. Danielle Gamelin/Alexander Gamelin, 96.74, 12, 12
13. Jenna Dzierzanowski/Vinny Dispenza, 76.37, 13, 13

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Karen Chen, 140.17, 1, 1
2. Amber Glenn, 125.88, 3, 2
3. Amanda Gelb, 122.34, 2, 3
4. Madison Vinci, 116.56, 4, 7
5. Olivia Serafini, 115.40, 6, 4
6. Brianna Laxson, 114.54, 7, 6
7. Selena Zhao, 111.28, 5, 8
8. Avery Kurtz, 109.23, 9, 5
9. Dyllan McIntee, 101.62, 8, 10
10. Bradie Tennell, 101.38, 10, 9
11. Morgan Sewall, 95.02, 11, 11
12. Madison DeLuca, 81.79, 12, 12

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Vincent Zhou, 164.96, 1, 1
2. James Schetelich, 139.77, 4, 2
3. Spencer Howe, 134.22, 5, 3
4. Kevin Shum, 132.68, 2, 7
5. Jimmy Ma, 129.29, 6, 4
6. Brian Krentz, 124.05, 7, 6
7. Nicholas Vrdoljak, 123.82, 3, 8
8. Chase Belmontes, 123.10, 10, 5
9. Kyle Shropshire, 116.16, 11, 9
10. Tony Lu, 114.10, 9, 10
11. Oleksiy Melnyk, 113.90, 8, 11
12. Wilbur Ji, 108.44, 12, 12

Novice Pairs

Pl. Name, Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Chelsea Liu/Devin Perini, 122.63, 1, 1
2. Caitlin Fields/Jason Pacini, 118.89, 2, 2
3. Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, 113.87, 3, 4
4. Christina Zaitsev/Ernie Utah Stevens, 107.70, 4, 5
5. Elise Middleton/Robert Hennings, 104.31, 8, 3
6. Danielle Viola/Alexander Johnson, 104.15, 5, 6
7. Allison Smith/Anthony Evans, 89.37, 6, 7
8. Hannah Klopstock/Chadwick Phillips, 78.39, 7, 9
9. Nancy Xu/Robert Przepioski, 71.64, 10, 8
10. Alexis Donahoe/James Rappold, 63.08, 9, 10
11. Victoria LoRusso/Timothy Habeeb, 56.75, 11, 11
12. Lianna Thomas/Gene Fu, 50.08, 12, 12

Novice Dance

Pl. Name, Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, 109.53, 2, 2, 1
2. Whitney Miller/Kyle MacMillan, 108.13, 1, 1, 2
3. Hannah Rosinski/Jacob Jaffe, 99.13, 3, 3, 4
4. Chloe Rose Lewis/Logan Bye, 93.99, 6, 4, 3
5. Stacey Siddon/Jared Weiss, 89.05, 8, 6, 5
6. Meara Lorello/William Dean, 82.90, 7, 9, 6
7. Hannah Pfeifer/Grant Lorello, 81.42, 10, 5, 7
8. Sierra Chadwick/Alexander Martin, 80.81, 4, 7, 9
9. Madison George/Brad Kleffman, 78.98, 5, 10, 8
10. Rebecca Lucas/Yan Kazansky, 75.10, 9, 8, 10
11. Lauren Leonasio/Dustin Perini, 69.13, 11, 11, 11
12. Karen Tong/David Cruikshank, 59.12, 12, 12, 12

FRENCH CUP

Rouen, France, Feb. 3-5

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS Senior

1. Team Unique, FIN, 183.92, 2, 1
 2. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 179.24, 1, 2
 3. Paradise, SUI, 169.02, 3, 3
 4. Les Supremes, CAN, 165.86, 4, 4
 5. Miami University, USA, 159.44, 5, 5
 6. Team Boomerang, NZL, 139.94, 6, 6
 7. California Gold, USA, 115.24, 8, 7
 8. Skating Graces, GER, 113.94, 9, 8
 9. Golden Blades, FIN, 113.90, 7, 9
 10. Zoulous, FRA, 108.06, 10, 10
 11. Team Synchro Energy, FRA, 95.52, 12, 11
 12. Atlantides Seniors, FRA, 95.86, 11, 12
 13. Ex'L Ice, FRA, 76.26, 13, 13
 14. Infusion, AUS, 73.68, 14, 14
- Junior**
- Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**
1. Musketeers, 1, 1, 157.60
 2. Team Fintastic, 2, 2, 148.54
 3. Team Mystique, 3, 3, 145.32
 4. Skyliners, 4, 4, 138.72
 5. Nexxice, 6, 5, 130.32
 6. Team Braemar, 5, 6, 127.70
 7. Les Supremes, 7, 7, 120.98
 8. Team Convivium, 8, 116.80
 9. Sunrise (1), 9, 9, 101.66
 10. Team Spirit, 10, 89.92
 11. Skif, 11, 11, 10, 87.22
 12. Black Diam's, 12, 12, 83.28
 13. NIC Icicles, 13, 13, 62.94

MOZART CUP

Salzburg, Austria, Jan. 27-29

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS Senior

1. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 187.68, 4, 1
2. Rockettes, FIN, 184.92, 2, 2
3. NEXXICE, CAN, 184.40, 1, 3
4. Team Unique, FIN, 182.24, 3, 4
5. Revolutions, FIN, 156.30, 5, 5
6. ICE'Kateers, USA, 119.84, 6, 7
7. Hot Shivers, ITA, 117.97, 7, 6
8. Team Dancers, SUI, 101.24, 9, 8
9. Dandelion, ITA, 92.68, 8, 9
10. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 71.54, 11, 11
11. Team Passion, HUN, 68.63, 10, 12
12. Infusion, AUS, 68.40, 13, 10
13. Shining Blades, ITA, 66.64, 12, 13

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Ice Steps, FIN, 137.65, 1, 1
2. Stella Polaris, FIN, 130.77, 2, 2
3. Xcellence, CAN, 121.00, 4, 3
4. Team Berlin, GER, 113.55, 3, 6
5. Reflections, FIN, 113.01, 6, 4
6. Sun City Swing, FIN, 110.14, 7, 5
7. Miami University, USA, 108.22, 5, 7
8. Cool Dreams, SUI, 97.40, 8, 8
9. Hot Shivers, ITA, 90.38, 9, 9
10. Kometa, CZE, 87.17, 10, 10
11. Starlets, CZE, 77.88, 11, 11
12. Black Diam's, FRA, 75.18, 12, 12
13. Starlets, GER, 59.02, 15, 13
14. Frostwork, HUN, 56.80, 14, 14
15. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 53.61, 13, 15

2012 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sheffield, Great Britain, Jan. 23-29

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Carolina Kostner, ITA, 183.55, 1, 1
2. Kiira Korpi, FIN, 166.94, 2, 4
3. Elene Gedevanishvili, GEO, 165.93, 4, 3
4. Polina Korobeynikova, RUS, 164.13, 12, 2
5. Viktoria Helgesson, SWE, 160.82, 5, 5
6. Ksenia Makarova, RUS, 159.59, 3, 7
7. Alena Leonova, RUS, 158.78, 6, 6
8. Valentina Marchei, ITA, 146.84, 7, 9
9. Yretha Silete, FRA, 145.50, 8, 11
10. Elena Glebova, EST, 141.92, 10, 13

RESULTS

Men

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Evgeni Plushenko, RUS, 261.23, 2, 1
2. Artur Gachinski, RUS, 246.27, 1, 2
3. Florent Amodio, FRA, 234.18, 5, 3
4. Michal Brezina, CZE, 229.30, 6, 4
5. Tomas Verner, CZE, 225.36, 3, 6
6. Javier Fernandez, ESP, 222.26, 4, 7
7. Samuel Contesti, ITA, 212.32, 11, 5
8. Brian Joubert, FRA, 207.83, 10, 8
9. Jorik Hendrickx, BEL, 204.63, 8, 9
10. Sergei Voronov, RUS, 195.89, 14, 10

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Tatianna Volosozhar/Maxim Trankov, RUS, 210.45, 1, 1
2. Vera Bazarova/Yuri Larionov, RUS, 193.79, 2, 2
3. Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov, RUS, 171.81, 3, 3
4. Stefania Bertone/Ondrej Hotarek, ITA, 158.99, 4, 4
5. Mari Vartmann/Aaron Van Cleave, GER, 154.99, 7, 5
6. Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, FRA, 151.93, 8, 6
7. Maylin Hausch/Daniel Wende, GER, 148.82, 5, 7
8. Daria Popova/Bruno Massot, FRA, 139.98, 6, 9
9. Stacey Kemp/David King, GBR, 138.39, 9, 8
10. Lubov Bakirova/Mikalai Kamianchuk, BLR, 122.25, 14, 10

Ice Dancing

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SD, FD

1. Nathalie Pechalat/Fabian Bourzat, FRA, 164.18, 2, 1
2. Ekaterina Bobrova/Dmitri Soloviev, RUS, 160.23, 1, 2
3. Elena Ilinykh/Nikita Katsalapov, RUS, 153.12, 7, 3
4. Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte, ITA, 153.09, 6, 4
5. Ekaterina Riazanova/Iliia Tkachenko, RUS, 152.22, 3, 5
6. Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland, GBR, 145.31, 4, 6
7. Pernelle Carron/Lloyd Jones, FRA, 142.27, 8, 7
8. Nelli Zhiganshina/Alexander Gazsi, GER, 140.84, 9, 8
9. Isabella Tobias/Deividas Stagniunas, LTU, 139.53, 5, 10
10. Julia Zlobina/Alexei Sitnikov, AZE, 133.04, 11, 9

2012 EASTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Central Pennsylvania FSC Hershey, Pa., Jan. 27-28

Competition officials: Ashleigh Renard, Cathleen Renzi, Cheryl Litman, Colette Nygren, Devon Hensel, Elizabeth Harty, Evelyn Minter, Jacqueline Addis, Jeanne Matthews, Judith Edmunds, Kim Cool, Laura Days, Lauren Neidig, Leonard Colaruso, Marie Pearce, Michele Blatt, Nancy Marron-Asti, Paula Ziegler, Robin Greenleaf, Sara Stephens, Shirley Holdsworth, Susan Haugh, Thomas Sobell, William Beharrell, William Mein.

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Haydenettes, 180.59, 1, 1
2. Skyliners, 159.57, 2, 2
3. Team Image S.S.T., 124.39, 3, 3

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Lexettes, 141.90, 1, 1
2. Synchroettes, 118.95, 2, 2
3. Precisely Right, 75.32, 3, 3

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Ice Mates, 69.03
2. Skyliners, 63.58
3. Team Delaware, 55.95
4. The Colonials, 50.56
5. Capitol Steps, 47.54
6. Synchroettes, 47.08
7. Team Image, 44.41

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Star Mates, 63.65
2. Skyliners, 56.45
3. Team Reflections, 54.59
4. The Colonials, 52.83
5. Carolina Ice Synchro, 49.70
6. Richmond Twizzlers, 45.51
7. Philadelphia Symmetry, 45.49
8. Team Ashburn, 45.42
9. Capitol Steps, 45.09
10. Chesapeake Sailors, 43.94
11. Team Delaware, 43.76
12. Saratoga Stars, 43.67
13. Team Achilles Edge, 41.61
14. Synchroettes, 40.00
15. National Blades, 38.05
16. Florida Sunations, 37.73
17. Precisely Right, 35.22

Juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1
2. Mini Mates, 5/2
3. Synchroettes, 4/2
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/4
5. Team Delaware, 6/5
6. Team Image S.S.T., 5/7
7. Team Millennium, 4/7 TOM 25
8. Capitol Steps, 4/7 TOM 26
9. Team Excel, 7/9

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. University of Delaware, 79.58
2. Univ of New Hampshire, 65.75
3. Boston Univ. Synchronized S T, 63.51
4. Team Excel, 63.41
5. MassachusETTES, 46.69
6. Cornell Synchronized S T, 38.86

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Esprit de Corps, 66.61
2. DC Edge, 60.97
3. Team Delaware, 58.45
4. The Colonials, 51.39

Masters free skate

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Esprit de Corps, 7/2
2. DC EDGE, 5/2
3. Team Delaware, 5/3
4. Essex Blades, 7/4
5. Team Reflections, 7/5

Open collegiate free skate

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Oswego State Ice Effects, 4/2
2. University Of Delaware, 6/3
3. University Of Maryland, 4/3
4. Team Excel, 5/4
5. Ice Of The Tiger, 4/5
6. Boston College Eagles, 6/6
7. Bryant University, 5/6
8. Hamilgate, 5/8
9. Iced Brew, 7/9

Open adult free skate

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Ice Magic, 4/1
2. Cutting Edge, 4/3
3. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/4 TOM 12
4. Mystic Ice, 4/4 TOM 16
5. Nor'easters, 4/5
6. Gotham City Synchro, 5/6
7. Esprit De Corps, 6/7
8. DC EDGE, 4/7
9. Iceline of Richmond, 5/8
10. Philly Spirit, 5/9
11. Team Delaware Dazzle, 6/11

12. The Colonials, Colonial FSC, 7/12

Open juvenile championship round

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Superettes, 7/3
2. Team Esprit - Green, 4/3 TO 25
3. Wallace Synergy, 4/3 TO 26
4. Mirror Images, 4/4 TOM 9
5. Sparklers, 4/4 TOM 13
6. Shadows, 5/5
7. Bluewater Blades, 4/7
8. Munchkins, 4/8
9. Island Waves, 4/9
10. Nor'easters, 5/10
11. Central Park Ice, 5/11
12. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 7/12

Open juvenile free skate Group A - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Mirror Images, 4/1
2. Bluewater Blades, 5/3
3. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/3
4. Island Waves, 5/4
5. Steel City Blades, 4/4
6. Team Winterettes, 6/5
7. Team Esprit - Pink, 5/7
8. DC EDGE Blue, 7/8

Open juvenile free skate Group B - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Superettes, 6/1
2. Wallace Synergy, 6/2
3. Munchkins, 5/3
4. Central Park Ice, 5/5
5. DC Edge Red, 4/5
6. Carolina Ice Synchro, 5/6
7. Rainbow Connection, 5/7
8. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 4/7
9. Team Liberty, 7/9

Open juvenile free skate Group C - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Team Esprit - Green, 4/2 TO 15
2. Nor'easters, 4/2 TO 21
3. Shadows, 4/3 TOM 7
4. Sparklers, 4/3 TOM 11
5. CNY Blizzard, 5/5
6. Harlem Ice, 5/6
7. Team Ashburn, 4/6
8. Beach Blades, 4/8 TOM 26
9. Ice-Lantics, 4/8 TOM 31

Pre-Juvenile championship round

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1
2. Shooting Stars, 5/2
3. Team Ashburn Blue, 6/3
4. Synchroettes, 5/4
5. Team Winterettes, 5/6
6. Shimmers, 4/6
7. CNY Storm, 5/7
8. Sparklers, 4/7
9. (tie) Saint Sensations, 5/10
10. National Blades, 5/10
11. Team Delaware, 5/10 TOM 44
12. Capitol Steps, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile free skate Group A - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 6/1
2. CNY Storm, 5/2
3. Sparklers, 4/3
4. Capitol Steps, 4/4
5. WV Synchro, 4/5
6. DC EDGE Blue, 5/6
7. Team Liberty, 6/7
8. Excel Crystals Gold, 4/7
9. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 7/9

Pre-Juvenile free skate Group B - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Team Winterettes, 5/1
2. Team Ashburn Blue, 7/2
3. Saint Sensations, 4/4
4. National Blades, 5/5
5. Saratoga Rising Stars, 5/6
6. Mirror Images, 7/7
7. Carolina Ice Synchro, 6/7
8. Synchro Stars, 5/8
9. Team Reflections, 5/9 TOM 31
10. Central Park Ice, 5/9 TOM 41

Pre-Juvenile free skate Group C - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1
2. Synchroettes, 5/2
3. Shimmers, 4/3
4. Team Delaware, 4/5
5. Team Ashburn White, 4/6 TO 43
6. Richmond Twizzlers, 4/6 TO 48
7. Steel City Blades, 4/7 TOM 22
8. Excel Crystals, 4/7 TOM 23
9. Bluewater Blades, 7/9
10. DC EDGE Red, 7/10

Preliminary championship round

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Skyliners, 6/1
2. Snowflakes, 5/3
3. Shooting Stars, 6/4
4. Team Ashburn, 5/4
5. Excel Crystals, 5/6
6. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 4/6 TOM 19
7. Sparklers, 4/6 TOM 20
8. Icing On The Cape, 4/7

Preliminary free skate Group A - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 5/1
2. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 5/3
3. Team Ashburn, 4/3
4. Excel Crystals, 6/4
5. Team Esprit, 4/4
6. Synchroettes - Red, 5/6
7. Team Liberty, 7/7

Preliminary free skate Group B - QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Skyliners, 7/1
2. Sparklers, 4/3
3. Snowflakes, 6/4
4. Icing On The Cape, 4/4 TOM 11
5. Synchroettes - Yellow, 4/4 TOM 14
6. Precisely Right, 5/5
7. Team Image S.S.T., 7/7

2012 PACIFIC COAST SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dearborn FSC, Plymouth, Mich., Jan. 26-28

Competition officials: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Ann Fauver, Bette Todd, Caren Kirsch, Carylyn Landt, Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Daren Patterson, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Barrow, Hannelore Murphy, Erin Bridge, Felicia Haining-Miller, Hannelore Murphy, Jo Ann Hall, Kristin Abbott, Lauren Whittaker, Lauren Zell, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Mary Ann Wilcox, Melissa Hampson, Pamela Pangle, Rita Cerny, Robert Bauer, Steve Wolkin, Susan Demeniuk, Susan McInnes, Tiffani Shipley

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 82.68, 1, 1

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. ICE'kateers, 59.88
2. California Gold, 51.35

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Tean Del Sol, 56.86
2. Epic Edge, 45.58
3. Denver Synchronicity, 42.81
4. Sierra Storm, 42.71
5. Tremors, 42.62
6. Rose City Crystals, 34.96

Juvenile

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Fusion, 7/1

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 42.20
2. Masters Adult
- Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker
1. Denver Synchronicity, 7/1
2. La Fuma, 7/2

RESULTS

Open Adult

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Capital Ice, 7/1

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Team Del Sol, 7/1
2. The Rockers, 5/2
3. Epic Edge, 6/4
4. ICE'Kateers, 4/4
5. Fusion, 4/5
6. South Suburban Stars, 6/6
7. Silver Stars, 4/6
8. Everett Silver Blades, 4/7

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Epic Edge, 6/2
2. Glacial Magic, 5/2
3. Shining Blades, 7/3
4. South Suburban Stars, 7/4

Preliminary

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. South Suburban Stars, 7/1

2012 MIDWESTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dearborn FSC,

Plymouth, Mich., Jan.26-28

Competition officials: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Ann Fauver, Bette Todd, Caren Kirsch, Carylyn Landt, Charles Cope, Christine Wenger, Daren Patterson, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Barrow, Hannelore Murphy, Erin Bridge, Felicia Haining-Miller, Hannelore Murphy, Jo Ann Hall, Kristin Abbott, Lauren Whittaker, Lauren Zell, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Mary Ann Wilcox, Melissa Hampson, Pamela Pangle, Rita Cerny, Robert Bauer, Steve Wolkin, Susan Demeniuk, Susan McInnes, Tiffani Shipley

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Crystallettes, 177.98, 1, 1
2. Starlights, 123.49, 2, 3
3. Western Michigan University, 121.53, 3, 2

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Braemar, 159.94, 1, 1
2. Chicago Jazz, 134.82, 2, 2
3. Hockettes, 108.26, 3, 3
4. Evolution, 86.61, 4, 4

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Hockettes, 69.70
2. Team Braemar, 63.87
3. Crystallettes, 59.47
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 59.20
5. Starlights, 58.36
6. Chicago Jazz, 55.74
7. SwanSyncSation, 53.06
8. Chicago Radiance, 47.37

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Saint Louis Synergy, 61.55
2. Fond Du Lac Blades, 60.82
3. Crystallettes, 58.87
4. Capital Ice Chips, 56.51
5. Maplewood Highsteppers, 56.26
6. Dazzlers, 56.20
7. Chicago Jazz, 56.18
8. Starlights, 55.30
9. Mentor Ice Diamonds, 54.17
10. St Louis Diamond Edges, 46.85
11. Oxford Ice Crystals, 45.58
12. Cleveland Edges, 45.34
13. Synchro Panache, 44.72
14. Kicks, 39.37
15. Phoenix, 39.08
16. Windjammers, 38.93
17. Rhythm and Blades, 37.11
18. UNITY, 34.88
19. Chicago Skates, 31.86

Juvenile

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Chicago Jazz, 7/1
2. Starlights, 6/3
3. Phoenix, 4/3
4. Hockettes, 4/4
5. Fond Du Lac Blades, 5/6
6. Team Braemar, 4/6 TOM 20
7. Crystallettes, 4/6 TOM 22
8. Cleveland Edges, 5/7
9. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/8
10. SwanSyncSation, 4/10
11. Onyx Blades, 4/12 TOM 41
12. Wisconsin Edge, 4/12 TOM 43
13. Chicago Radiance, 4/12 TOM 45
14. Windjammers, 6/13

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. University of Michigan, 78.01
2. Western Michigan University, 77.55
3. Michigan St. Univ., 72.04
4. University of Wisconsin SST, 70.30
5. Illinoiskating, 57.58
6. University of Minnesota, 52.77
7. Adrian College, 51.17

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Crystallettes, 60.45
2. Allegro!, 51.76
3. Starlights, 51.52
4. Western Michigan Univ. Alumini, 50.80
5. Leather and Laces, 44.54
6. Synchro Panache, 43.26
7. Goldenettes, 43.06

Masters Adult

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Allegro!, 7/1

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Fighting Irish, 4/1
2. Miami Unvi., 6/2
3. Ohio University, 7/3
4. Lindenwood Univ., 5/5
5. Grand Valley State U, 4/5
6. Ohio State Univ., 4/6 TOM 20
7. Northwestern U, 4/6 TOM 23
8. Spartans Synchronized, 6/8
9. Univ. of Minn - Duluth, 7/9

Open Adult

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Cleveland Edges, 5/1
2. Ice Connect, 5/2
3. Eclipse, 4/3
4. Revolution, 5/4
5. Phoenix, 6/5
6. The Turning Points, 4/6
7. Rhythm and Blades, 6/7
8. Texas Chilly Peppers, 6/8
9. Team Glace, 6/9
10. Radiance on Ice, 7/10

Open Juvenile Final

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Dazzlers, 4/1
2. Ice Delights, 5/2
3. Team Du Coeur Blue, 5/3
4. Cleveland Edges, 4/4 TOM 13
5. Wisconsin Edge, 4/4 TOM 14
6. Ice Kicks, 4/5
7. Ice Force, 5/8
8. Shoreline Blaze, 4/8
9. Silver Leafs, 4/9
10. Northern Lights, 6/10
11. Crystallettes, 5/11
12. Rhythm and Blades, 4/11

Open Juvenile Group A QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Ice Delights, 6/1
2. Dazzlers, 5/3
3. Ice Kicks, 4/3 TOM 8
4. Wisconsin Edge, 4/3 TOM 10
5. Northern Lights, 4/6
6. Silver Leafs, 4/7 TOM 20
7. Precicettes Elite, 4/7 TOM 22
8. Louisville River Stars, 6/8
9. Chicago Radiance, 6/9

10. Chicago Skates, 5/10
 11. Kalamazoo Kinetic Purple, 7/11
 12. UNITY, 7/12
- ### Open Juvenile Group B QR
- #### Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker
1. Team Du Coeur Blue, 5/1
 2. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
 3. Crystallettes, 4/3
 4. Shoreline Blaze, 4/5
 5. Ice Force, 6/6
 6. Rythm and Blades, 4/6
 7. Team Du Coeur Purple, 5/7
 8. Kalamazoo Kinetic Black, 4/8
 9. Eclipse, 4/10 TOM 31
 10. St. Louis Ice Gems, 4/10 TOM 35
 11. Ice Reflections, 5/11
 12. Kicks, 4/11

Pre-Juvenile Final

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Crystallettes, 7/1
2. Cleveland Edges, 5/3
3. Team du Coeur, 6/4
4. Silver Leafs, 5/4
5. Dazzlers, 4/4
6. Oxford Ice Crystals, 5/6
7. Starfire, 6/7
8. Team Polaire, 7/8

Pre-Juvenile Group A QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Crystallettes, 6/1
2. Silver Leafs, 6/2
3. Team du Coeur, 6/3
4. Starfire, 7/5
5. Allegro!, 4/5
6. Fond Du Lac Blades, 6/6
7. Northern Ice, 7/7

Pre-Juvenile Group B QR

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Dazzlers, 7/1
2. Oxford Ice Crystals, 4/2
3. Cleveland Edges, 4/3
4. Team Polaire, 4/4
5. Southern Magic, 6/6
6. St. Louis Jade Blades, 5/6
7. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 7/7

Preliminary

Pl. Name, maj, tie-breaker

1. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/1
2. Chicago Jazz, 6/2
3. Hockettes, 4/3
4. Chicago Radiance, 4/4
5. Icestars, 4/5
6. Phoenix, 4/6 TOM 17
7. Wisconsin Edge, 4/6 TOM 20
8. Starlights, 5/8
9. UNITY, 4/9
10. Evolution, 5/10
11. Team Du Coeur, 4/10

2012 FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 9-12

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Ashley Wagner, USA, 192.41, 2, 1
2. Mao Asada, JPN, 188.62, 1, 2
3. Caroline Zhang, USA, 176.18, 4, 3
4. Kanako Murakami, JPN, 169.32, 3, 5
5. Kexin Zhang, CHN, 162.59, 5, 4
6. Agnes Zawadzki, USA, 157.23, 6, 6
7. Amelie Lacoste, CAN, 147.65, 7, 8
8. Cynthia Phaneuf, CAN, 147.47, 8, 7
9. Haruka Imai, JPN, 134.49, 11, 9
10. Min-Jeong Kwak, KOR, 130.52, 9, 10
11. Bingwa Geng, CHN, 127.89, 10, 11
12. Victoria Muniz, PUR, 117.83, 12, 13
13. Alexandra Najarro, CAN, 117.11
14. Melinda Wang, TPE, 103.69, 18, 15
15. Sandra Khoon, THA, 103.15, 17, 16

(30 ladies competed)

Men's

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Patrick Chan, CAN, 273.94, 1, 1
2. Daisuke Takahashi, JPN, 244.33, 3, 2
3. Ross Miner, USA, 223.23, 6, 4

4. Adam Rippon, USA, 221.55, 7, 3
5. Takahito Muro, JPN, 217.16, 2, 6
6. Denis Ten, KAZ, 210.03, 5, 7
7. Tatsuki Machida, JPN, 208.04, 4, 10
8. Kevin Reynolds, CAN, 203.26, 9, 5
9. Misha Ge, UZB, 196.53, 11, 8
10. Jinlin Guan, CHN, 196.53, 10, 9
11. Nan Song, CHN, 190.51, 8, 11
12. Christopher Caluza, PHI, 172.60, 14, 12
13. Richard Dornbush, USA, 164.29, 13, 14
14. Jeremy Ten, CAN, 159.22, 12, 18
15. Min Seok-Kim, KOR, 157.14, 21, 13

(28 men competed)

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Wenjing Sui/Cong Han, CHN, 201.83, 1, 1
2. Caydee Denney/John Coughlin, USA, 185.42, 2, 2
3. Mary Beth Marley/Rockne Brubaker, USA, 178.893, 3, 3
4. Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford, CAN, 171.76, 8, 4
5. Narumi Takahashi/Mervin Tran, JPN, 171.11, 4, 5
6. Amanda Evora/Mark Ladwig, USA, 167.99, 5, 6
7. Paige Lawrence/Rudi Swiegers, CAN, 158.66, 6, 7
8. Jessica Dube/Sebastien Wolfe, CAN, 154.79, 7, 8
9. Yue Zhang/Lei Wang, CHN, 140.24, 10, 9
10. Huibo Dong/Yiming Wu, CHN, 137.91, 9, 10

Ice Dance

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SD, FD

1. Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, CAN, 182.84, 2, 1
2. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, USA, 179.40, 1, 2
3. Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje, CAN, 163.26, 3, 3
4. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, USA, 158.29, 4, 4
5. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, USA, 129.20, 5, 5
6. Alexandra Paul/Mitchell Islam, CAN, 117.97, 6, 7
7. Xiaoyang Yu/ Chen Wang, CHN, 115.05, 7, 6
8. Anna Nagornyyuk/Viktor Kovalenko, UZB, 107.61, 9, 8
9. Danielle O'Brien/Gregory Merriman, AUS, 105.91, 8, 9
10. Corene Bruhns/Ryan Van Natten, MEX, 91.57, 10, 10
11. Cortney Mansour/Daryn Zhunussov, KAZ, 78.66, 11, 11

U.S. officials: Anne Cammett, Tamie Campbell, Jennifer Mast, Anne Shean, Steve Winkler, Linda Leaver, Ted Barton, Judy Blumberg, Joseph Inman, Charlie Cyr, Tina Lundgren, Shawn Rettstatt, Will Smith

NEUCHÂTEL TROPHY

Neuchatel, Switzerland, Feb. 10-12

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

Senior

1. Crystallettes, USA, 156.94, 1, 2
2. Haydenettes, USA, 151.76, 2, 1
3. United Angels, GER, 114.32, 3, 3
4. Team Dancers, SUI, 104.34, 4, 4

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Chicago Jazz, USA, 125.46, 2, 1
2. Lexettes, USA, 120.44, 1, 2
3. Valley Bay Synchro, FIN, 107.30, 3, 3
4. Cool Dreams Junior, SUI, 98.94, 4, 6
5. FireBlades, FIN, 97.96, 5, 4
6. Team Seaside, SWE, 96.04, 6, 5
7. Starlight Juniors, SUI, 69.08, 8, 7
8. Dandelion, ITA, 63.14, 7, 8
9. United Blades Juniors, SUI, 49.48, 9, 9

CALENDAR

MARCH

8-11 | 2012 Denver Invitational sponsored by the Denver FSC at South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 South Vine St., Centennial, CO 80121. For more information call 720.272.0290.

9-11 | 2012 Garden City Figure Skating Club Invitational sponsored by the Garden City FSC at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI 48124. For more information call Rosie Keller at 734.421.0980.

9-11 | 2012 Eau Claire Figure Skating Competition sponsored by the Eau Claire FSC at Hobbs Ice Arena, Menomonie St., Eau Claire, WI 54701. For more information call LaNette Flunker at 715.559.0799.

9-11 | 2012 Eastern Adult Sectional Nonqualifying Competition sponsored by the Washington FSC at Cabin John Ice Rink, 10610 Westlake Dr., Rockville, MD 20852. For more information contact Diana Cheng at wfsc2012adulteasterns@gmail.com

9-11 | 2012 Magnolia Open sponsored by the Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 10800 Davis Dr., Alpharetta, GA, 30004. For more information call Jeannette Doney at 770.641.8034.

9-10 | 2012 Greater Spokane Skating Competition sponsored by the Spokane FSC at Eastern Washington University-URC, 107 West Elm St., Cheney, WA 99204. For more information call Jennifer Hent-

ges at 509.991.1536.

10 | 2012 Central Minnesota Basic Skills Series Battle of the Blades sponsored by the Alexandria FSC at Runestone Community Center, 802 Third Avenue West, Alexandria, MN 56308. For more information call Melinda Fults at 320.304.2849.

10 | Showskate 2012/Showskate 2012 Basic Skills sponsored by the Stars of FSC of Texas at Dr. Pepper Star Center, 1400 South Pipeline Rd., Euless, TX 76040. For more information call Melissa Bowman at 972.208.2852.

10 | 2012 Wisconsin High School Figure Skating Competition Series sponsored by the Timberline SC at DC Everest High School — Greenheck Field House, 6400 Aldersont St., Weston, WI 54476. For more information call Diane D'Amato at 715.573.1494.

10 | 2012 Wallace Spring Synchronized Classic sponsored by the Wallace FSC at Wallace Civic Center, 1000 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420. For more information call 978.345.7054.

10 | Warwick Figure Skaters 26th Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Warwick Figure Skaters at Warwick Figure Skaters, 975 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02886. For more information call Rita Bapties at 401.739.1606.

10-11 | 2012 Skate Challenge sponsored by the SC of Central New York at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Court,

Cicero, NY 13029. For more information call Shelley Kline at 315.480.8175.

10-11 | 2012 Greater Chicagoland Basic Skills Championships sponsored by the Chicago FSC at Hoffman Estates Ice Arena, 1685 Higgins Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60619. For more information call Kerry Murphy at 847.674.1510.

11 | 2012 Garden City Figure Skating Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Garden City FSC at Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. For more information call Karen Carter at 734.751.1737.

11 | Ninth USFS South Florida Basic Skills Series at Pines Ice Arena, 12425 Taft St., Pembroke Pines, FL 33028. For more information call Rachel Spoto at 954.704.8700, ext. 104.

11 | 2012 Shamrock Open/2012 Shamrock Open Basic Skills and Beyond sponsored by the Rockford SC at Carlson Ice Arena, 4150 North Perryville Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111. For more information call Sherry Frew at 815.654.1435.

11 | Reisterstown Sportsplex Fourth Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Reisterstown FSC at Reisterstown Sportsplex, 401 Mitchell Dr., Reisterstown, MD 21136. For more information call 410.429.4242.

16-18 | 2012 Jackson Hole Invitational sponsored by the Jackson Hole FSC at Snow King Ice Center, 100 East Snow King Ave., Jackson, WY 83001. For more information call Gary Merrell at 307.733.7220.

16-18 | 2012 Cleveland Invitational Championships sponsored by the Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights at Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. For more information contact Diane Moore at cluboffice@pavilionfsc.com

17-18 | 2012 Eastern Conference Intercollegiate UD Competition sponsored by the University of Delaware at Fred Rust Ice Arena, 547 South College Ave., Newark, DE 19711. For more information call Marissa Marschall at 302.547.0493.

17 | 2012 Battle of the Blades sponsored by Alexandria FSC at Runestone Community Center, 802 Third Avenue West, Alexandria, MN 56308. For more information call Melinda Fults at 320.304.2849.

17-18 | 2012 Colonial Adult Winter Challenge sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information call Cheryl Milroy at 781.275.4476.

17 | 2012 Skate Green Bay Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Greater Green Bay FSC at De Pere Ice Arena, 1405 Fort Howard, De Pere, WI 54115. For more information call Amy Beiderwieden at 920.819.6047.

17 | Michigan Basic Skills Series Event 1 - Lansing at Suburban Ice East Lansing, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, MI 48823. For more information contact Nancy Simpson at nancysimpson@cablespeed.com

17 | Fifth Annual Shore Skate sponsored by Garden Skate SC at Howell Ice World, 239 Squankum Rd., Howell, NJ 07731. For more information call Lara Walsh at 732.674.0344.

17-18 | 2012 Midwestern Adult Sectional Nonqualifying Competition

sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids FSC at Patterson Ice Center, 2250 Patterson Avenue Southeast, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. For more information call Denise Hendershot at 616.293.8669.

17 | 2012 Michigan Basic Skills Series Event 2 - Arctic Basic Skills sponsored by the Arctic FSC at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. For more information contact Diane Keils at dmkeils@aol.com

17 | 2012 St. Patrick's Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Triangle FSC at Polar Ice House at The Factory, 1839 South Main St., Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27587. For more information call Scott Cudmore at 919.302.6151.

17 | Skate Games 2012 sponsored by Watertown FSC at Maas Ice Arena, 112 21st Street SW, Watertown, SD 57201. For more information call Tracy Ronke at 605.868.9744.

17 | Spring Fling 2012 at Cool Sports, 110 South Watt Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934. For more information call Nikki Ronayne at 865.218.4500.

17 | Fifth Annual 2012 Amherst Skating Club Basic Skills Competition at Northtown Center at Amherst, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221. For more information call 716.634.3887.

18 | Fifth Annual South Shore Open sponsored by the South Shore SC at Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rockland, MA 02073. For more information call Katy Hayden at 781.749.3807.

18 | 2012 Southern Connecticut Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the SC of Southern Connecticut at Terry Conners Rink, Cove Island Park, 1125 Cove Rd., Stamford, CT 06903. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

22-25 | WIM 2012 Competition sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee FSC at Wilson Park Recreation Center, 4001 South 20th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. For more information call Ralph Dahlman at 414.282.3940.

23-24 | 2012 Spring Showcase sponsored by Tri-Valley FSC at Iceoplex Simi Valley, 131 West Easy St., Simi Valley, CA 93063. For more information call Jolinda Olivia at 805.798.2450.

23-25 | Ninth Annual South Florida Challenge sponsored by the Panthers FSC at Saveology Iceplex, 3299 Sportsplex Dr., Coral Springs, FL 33065. For more information call Elizabeth Stark at 954.345.9948.

23-25 | Skate Houston/Skate Houston 2012 Basic Skills sponsored by the Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington, Blvd., Sugar Land, Texas 77479. For more information call Jennifer Simon at 713.826.7640.

24-25 | 2012 SunFlower Classic sponsored by the Lake Minnetonka FSC at Minnetonka Ice Arena, 3401 Williston Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55391. For more information call Nancy Kaufman at 612.850.7760.

24-25 | 2012 Massena Invitational sponsored by the Massena FSC at Massena Arena, Route 37, Haven Shopping Center, Massena, NY 13662. For more information call Tammy Savage at 315.769.3386.

24-25 | 2012 Michigan High School

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CALENDAR

Districts — Traverse City at Centre Ice Arena, 1600 Chartwell #8, Traverse City, MI 49686. For more information call Dorothy Tank at 313.386.7936.

24-25 | 32nd Biennial Niagara Invitational and Basic Skills Event sponsored by the Buffalo SC at Buffalo State College Ice Arena, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. For more information call Annmarie Hilton at 716.390.2129.

24-25 | 2012 Skate Cincinnati sponsored by the FSC of Cincinnati at The Sphere, 10765 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241. For more information call Stacy Brinkman at 513.895.5377.

24 | 2012 Chiller Spring Classic at Chiller North, 8144 Highfield Dr., Lewis Center, OH 43035. For more information contact Denise Hughes at 614.764.1000.

24 | 2012 Lee Ann Miele Garden State Synchro Classic at Richard J. Codey Arena at South Mountain, 560 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052. For more information call Michele Blatt at 973.759.7313.

24 | 29th Garren Invitational Figure Skating Competition sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk FSC at RPI Houston Field House, 1900 People's Ave., Troy, NY 12180. For more information call Ann Seaman at 518.235.9362.

25 | Third Annual Skylands Ice World Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the North Jersey FSC at Skylands Ice World, 2765 Route 23, Stockholm, NJ 07460. For more information call Rick Breitweiser at 201.696.8046.

25 | Ice Den Basic Skills Team Competition-In House sponsored by the Coyotes SC of Arizona at Ice Den, 9375 East Bell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85260. For more information contact Julie Patterson at juliep@coyotesice.com

29-31 | Skate Kansas City sponsored by the Kansas City FSC at Independence Events Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call Suzy Blair at 913.638.9026.

30-April 1 | 2012 Louisville Skating Academy Invitational Competition sponsored by the Louisville Skating Academy at Iceland Sports Complex, 1701 UPS Dr., Louisville, KY 40223. For more information call Rebecca Hatch-Purnell at 502.415.0962.

30-April 1 | 2012 Spring Fest Invitational sponsored by the Portland ISC at Mountain View Ice Arena, 14313 Southeast Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98684. For more information contact Lisa Mizonick at 503.332.7630.

30-April 1 | 2012 Glacier Challenge sponsored by Missoula FSC at Glacier Ice Rink, 1101 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801. For more information call Harvey Hergett at 406.544.6990.

30-April 1 | 2012 Champlain Valley Open sponsored by the Champlain Valley SC at Gordon H. Paquette Arena at Leddy Park, Burlington, VT 05408. For

more information call Cynthia Kalinen at 802.881.8395.

30-April 1 | 18th Morris Open 2012 sponsored by the SC of Morris NJ at WG Mennen Arena, 161 East Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07962. For more information call Wendell Miyajiri at 908.443.1398.

30-April 1 | 2012 Skate La Grande San Diego sponsored by the San Diego FSC at San Diego Ice Arena, 11048 Ice Skate Place, San Diego, CA 92126. For more information call Kathie Wilcox at 858.663.8707.

30-April 1 | 2012 Fort Collins Classic sponsored by the Fort Collins FSC at Epic, 1801 Riverside, Fort Collins, CO 80525. For more information call Kate James at 970.567.2876.

31 | Fiesta Skate 2012 sponsored by Kingsgate SC at Kingsgate Ice Arena, 14326 124th Avenue NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. For more information call Kim Derickson at 206.353.2706.

31 | Ice World's 13th Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition sponsored by the Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, 1300 Governor Ct., Abingdon, MD 21009. For more information call Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000, ext. 102.

31 | 10th Annual Farmington Spring Festival at Schmitz Maki Arena, 114 West Spruce St., Farmington, MN 55024. For more information call Janelle Wall at 651.775.7462.

31 | Spring Preview 2012 sponsored by the Vaca Valley FSC at Vacaville Ice Sports, 551 Davis St., Vacaville, CA 95688. For more information call Marc DeContreous at 530.304.7759.

31 | Hodag Skate Classic 2012 sponsored by Rhinelander FSC at Rhinelander Ice Arena, 2021 Timber Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501. For more information call Allison French at 715.362.8889.

31 | 2012 Janice Smith Memorial Basic Skills Competition at Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeshore Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075. For more information call Kirstin Hawayek at 716.812.1071.

APRIL

1 | Skate Kansas Cup 2012 Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Kansas City FSC at Independence Events Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call Lori Osborne at 913.638.9026.

1 | The Rinx 2012 Basic Skills Competition at The Rinx, 660 Terry Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788. For more information call Cathryn Schwab at 631.232.3222, ext. 209.

1 | 2012 Michigan Basic Skills Series Event 2 – Arctic Basic Skills sponsored by the Arctic FSC at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. For more information contact Diane Keils at dmkails@aol.com.

1 | Third Annual Kankakee Valley Open at Ice Valley Centre, 1601 River Rd.,

Kankakee, IL 60901. For more information call Angela Pace at 815.939.1946, ext. 235.

1 | 2012 March to Victory sponsored by Granite State FSC at Tri Town Ice Arena, 311 West River Rd., Hooksett, NH, 03106. For more information call Jen Hurley at 603.270.1022.

1 | Ninth USFS South Florida Basic Skills Series Glacier Ice and Snow Arena at Glacier Ice and Snow Arena, 4601 North Federal Highway, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064. For more information call Wendy Baker at 954.943.1437.

7 | 12th Annual Ice House Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Ice House of New Jersey at Ice House, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack, NJ 07601. For more information call Edward Vancampen at 973.819.8144.

13-14 | 27th Annual Florida Open Championships sponsored by the Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information contact Carolyn Colvin at ccolvin@cfl.rr.com.

13-14 | 2012 Tri-State Memorial Free Skating Championships sponsored by the Fraser FSC at Great Lakes Sport City, 34400 Utica Rd., Fraser, MI 48026. For more information call Christine Bisby at 586.604.1784.

14 | 2012 Hardee's Ice Plex Rising Star Basic Skills "Plus" Competition at Hardee's Ice Plex, 16851 North Outer 40 Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63005. For more information call Melody Carper at 636.537.4200.

14 | Silver Skate 2012 sponsored by South Dayton FSC at Kettering Ice Arena, 2900 Glengarry Dr., Kettering, OH 45420. For more information call Anna Taylor at 937.320.5144.

15 | Sixth Annual Skating Club of Worcester Basic Skills Competition at Buffone Skating Arena, 284 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604. For more information call Denise Raskett at 508.867.3230.

19 | 2012 Ladybug Competition sponsored by the Glenwood FSC at Home-wood Flossmoor Ice Arena, 187th Kedzie, Homewood, IL 60422. For more information go to www.gfsc.org

19-22 | 2012 Central Carolina Skating Classic sponsored by the Central Carolina SC at Triangle SportsPlex, 101 Meadowlands Dr., Hillsborough, NC 27727. For more information call Bonnie Boaz at 919.929.9595.

19-22 | Skate Dallas 2012 sponsored by Dallas FSC at Polar Ice House, 3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway, Grapevine, TX 76051. For more information call Marty Pottenger at 214.293.9583.

20-22 | 2012 Southern Connecticut Open sponsored by the SC of Southern Connecticut at Darien Ice Rink, 55 Old Kings Highway North, Darien, CT 06820. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

21-22 | 2012 Spring Fling Invitational at Hoover Arena, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. For more information call Janet Wene at 440.346.7579.

21-22 | Boise Ice Classic 2012 sponsored by the Boise FSC at Idaho Ice World, 7072 South Eisenman Rd., Boise, ID 83716. For more information call Richele Rapp at 208.315.3140.

21 | 2012 ICES Spring Classic sponsored by the International Center For Excellence in Skating at Troy Sport Center, 1819 East Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48083. For more information call Rhonda Kasper at 248.556.6271.

21 | 2012 Spring Spectacular at Steele Ice Center, 320 East First St., Bethlehem, PA 18015. For more information call Angela M. Roesch-Davis at 610.625.4774, ext. 226.

22 | 2012 Freeport Spring Challenge at Freeport Recreation Center, 130 East Merrick Rd., Freeport, NY 11520. For more information call Liz Eldredge at 516.771.4195.

27-29 | 2012 Mt. Lebanon Invitational Learn to Skate Competition at Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center, 900 Cedar Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228. For more information call Tim Leavy at 412.835.0333.

27-29 | Skate Nashville 2012 sponsored by the Nashville FSC at Sportsplex, 215 Gothic Ct., Franklin, TN 37067. For more information contact Sherry Tull at sherrytull@hotmail.com.

27-29 | 2012 La Jolla FSC Open Championships sponsored by the La Jolla FSC at La Jolla Ice Town, 4545 La Jolla Village Dr., San Diego, CA 92122. For more information call Carylyn Landt at 619.225.0707.

28 | 2012 Spring Fever at X-Ice Skating School, 4416 Waxhaw Indian Trail Rd., Indian Trail, NC 28079. For more information call Jenny Gwyn at 980.721.6613.

28-29 | 2012 Golden Ice Fest at Lutheran Health Sports Center, 3869 Ice Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. For more information call Alena Lunin at 260.387.6614, ext. 11.

28-29 | 2012 Riverbend Spring Classic sponsored by the East Alton Skating Academy at East Alton Ice Arena, 631 Lewis and Clark Blvd., East Alton, IL 62024. For more information call Kathryn Rose McKeon-Hicks at 618.806.3965.

28 | 2012 Midwest Basic Skills Competition at Eagles Next Ice Arena, 103 Lincoln St., Verona, WI 53593. For more information call Dena Hiline at 608.206.4512.

29 | Michigan Showcase 2012 at Hartland Sports Center, 2755 Arena Dr., Hartland, MI 48353. For more information call Amanda Goetz at 248.974.9481.

29 | 2012 Southport Spring Classic sponsored by the Southport SC at Rink Side Ice Arena, 6152 West Grand Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031. For more information call Elaine Johnson at 847.800.8172.

APPOINTMENTS

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Ann Buckley, Essex, Mass.; Pamela Kelly, Westminster, Colo.; Renee Pack, Wichita, Kan.

Gold Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Rebecca Bates, North Mankato, Minn.

Gold Dance Test Judge

Danielle MacFarlane, Harley, Ontario, Canada

Gold Certification to Judge Moves in the Field Tests

Malin Zandelin, Johnstown, Pa.

Nonqualifying Synchronized Competition Judge

Devon Hensel, Westfield, Ind.; Cathleen Renzi, Framingham, Mass.

Nonqualifying Singles/Pairs/Dance Video Replay Operator

Victoria Hildebrand, Williston, Vt.

TESTS PASSED

Senior Moves In The Field

Connie Achtenberg — Ann Arbor FSC
Rebecca Arrington — Washington FSC
Olivia Barbulescu — Rye FSC
Hannah Bloch — Rye FSC
Samantha Brandt — Border Blades FSC
Christina Cleveland — Washington FSC
Brooke Demetri — SC of New York
Kira Egan — Denver FSC
Stephanie Fiore — Lake Minnetonka FSC
Eric Fiorello — SC of Western New York
Helena Fisher — Atlanta FSC
Emily Fitzgerald — Frederick FSC
Megan Fox — Winterhurst FSC
Samantha Friday — Monroe FSC
Laura Gettier — Chesapeake FSC
Madison Gietzen — Onyx-Suburban SA
Jessica Goble — Heart Of Illinois SC
Sarah Gosen — Lake Minnetonka FSC
Hannah Govrin — Essex SC of NJ
Steve Grant — Woodbury FSC
Hanna Guidry — New Edge FSC
Emma Guo — Washington FSC
Nicole Kettel — Winterhurst FSC
Shoshanna Lustig — University of Delaware FSC
Kaitlin Manning — Skating Club of Boston

Meghan Murphy — Onyx-Suburban SA
Jessie Murray — SC of Central New York
Nikolina Pakhomova — North Jersey FSC
Jessica Pierce — Onyx-Suburban SA
Danielle Pilgrim — University of Delaware FSC
Julie Purdie — Bowie FSC
Julia Rapela — Skating Club of Boston
Erica Seman — Shaker FSC
Sara Serota — Onyx-Suburban SA
Aasta Shechter — Aspen SC
Madison Shipman — Ann Arbor FSC
Kaycee Siebler — Ann Arbor FSC
Hallie Stacho — Mentor FSC
Natalie Stoflet — Lake Minnetonka FSC
Melissa Trujillo — Chicago FSC
Shelby Vojcak — Chicago FSC
Janice Wang — Peninsula SC
Jessica Weltz — SC of New York
Kitty Whaley — Florida Everblades FSC
McKayla Williams — Saratoga Springs FSC
Mira Yaggie — Southern Valley FSC
Angie Zhang — Washington FSC
Adult Gold Moves In The Field
Reuben Jenkins — SC of San Francisco
Senior Free Skate Test
Madison Chancey — St. Louis SC

Khanh Dan Dao — Richmond FSC
Brenna Doherty — University of Delaware FSC
Jennifer Feldis — Peninsula SC
Madison Havel — Metro Edge FSC of Missouri
Hayley Kidd — Los Angeles FSC
Patrick Liu — Dallas FSC
Kaitlin Manning — Skating Club of Boston
Katie McBeath — Westminster FSC of Erie
Arielle Pressman - St. Paul FSC
Leigh Seitz — Central Virginia SC
Tracy Tanovich — Florida Everblades FSC
Emily Williams — SC of Northern Virginia
Willia Zhao — Highland SC
Gold Dance Test
Erica Bolton — Denver FSC
Annie Nelson — Bismarck FSC
Katie Nelson — Bismarck FSC, Inc.
Allison Ritt — Sheboygan Lakers FSC
Corin Treat — Bemidji FSC, Inc.
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"It's incredible," said the 21-year-old, who trains in Boston. "Getting bronze at NHK was a really big surprise, but this was the most surprising of all. It wasn't my best skate, but I pushed through and got a result that I'm really proud of."

Miner, who carded a total score of 223.23 points, said he arrived with the goals of improving on his season-best score and remaining on the Grand Prix Series.

Sixth after the short program, Miner opened the free skate by nailing his first three elements: triple Axel, triple Axel-double toe and triple Lutz-triple toe. He fell on a triple Lutz and doubled a planned triple loop.

"I was really proud that I was mentally strong and got through it, because it is not easy at altitude," Miner said. "It was like, be tough, remember you did all the training and have faith."

Miner finished just ahead of U.S. silver medalist Adam Rippon, who scored 221.55 points.

Rippon, seventh after the short program, rallied to place third in the free skate. Skating to music by Bach, he opened his program with a fall on a downgraded quad Salchow, but regrouped immediately to land a triple Axel-double toe combination. A popped triple Axel midway through his program likely kept him off the podium.

"I told myself that I was well-trained and I worked really hard for nationals and I just wanted to keep that momentum going," said Rippon, 22, who trains in Detroit. "This wasn't as strong, but I don't really think I showed much weakness or letdown from nationals."

California native Richard Dornbush, 20, named as an alternate to replace an injured U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott, struggled in both of his programs and finished 13th overall.

"It was extremely difficult to prepare not only physically but mentally," Dornbush said. "It was a short time to regroup after U.S. Championships; I guess it wasn't quite enough."

Chan was simply spectacular. He opened his free skate with a quad toe-triple toe followed by a quad toe and never looked back.

"The two quads are of course the peak of the program, as well as

the triple Axel," Chan said. "Even today, the quads didn't go up real well, I felt a little off in the upper body, but I was able to find my feet and at that moment I knew I had to take it one thing at a time and not get carried away, just relax."

Japan's Daisuke Takahashi earned the silver with 244.33 points.

ICE DANCE

World champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, and long-time training partners Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Canada's Olympic champions, wrote yet another chapter in their storied rivalry in Colorado Springs. This time, the Canadians came out on top, notching their first win over the Americans since the 2010 World Figure Skating Championships.

As usual, the two teams matched each other swivel-for-swivel and twizzle-for-twizzle in the Latin American short dance, with Davis and White edging out a .55-point lead entering the free dance. There, the U.S. champions had a near-flawless performance of their *Die Fledermaus* program, showing deftly controlled step sequences and four smooth lifts. Still, their technical element score was four points lower than the Canadians' and they had to settle for silver.

"Charlie and I have been skating for 15 years and we have had a lot of fuel that has brought us to where we are today," Davis, 25, said. "[This loss] will fuel us as we head into the World Championships, but I don't think this is the biggest fuel we have had thus far."

Performing their breezy, sophisticated free dance to music from the Fred Astaire-Audrey Hepburn musical *Funny Face*, the Canadians gained the advantage when seven of their nine elements were awarded the coveted level four. They ended with 182.84 points overall, versus 179.40 for Davis and White.

"Not everything is going to go your way, and today I think some of the calls didn't go our way," White, 24, said. "I could not be prouder of the way we fought through both programs. Obviously you can tell by the way I'm breathing it's not easy [in the high altitude]. We wanted to work on expression and we did that. I felt like our elements were pretty good."

U.S. silver medalists Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani brought the crowd to its feet with their fast-as-lightning short dance, with some Latin spice recently added by ballroom champion Corky Ballas. A viral infection struck Alex the day of their free dance, but the siblings still delivered an entertaining program to Glenn Miller hits. They earned 158.29 points for fourth place behind Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje.

"It was definitely challenging today," Maia, 17, said. "I'm proud of the way we fought through the performance, and I'm proud of Alex for skating the way he did when he's not feeling his best."

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, who won bronze at the 2012 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January, had a few challenging moments, with Donohue falling in both programs. Still, they earned a season's best 49.93 points for their short dance and placed fifth with 129.20.

"We've definitely learned from this experience," Hubbell, 20, said. "This is the first time we've had two rough skates and worked through it together. We will go home and take some rest then look at the positive and negative things we can take away from this competition."

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

World champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White turned in another strong performance but settled for silver, finishing behind rinkmates and friends Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada.

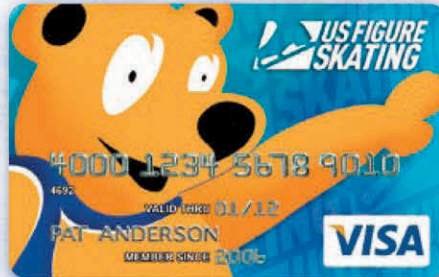


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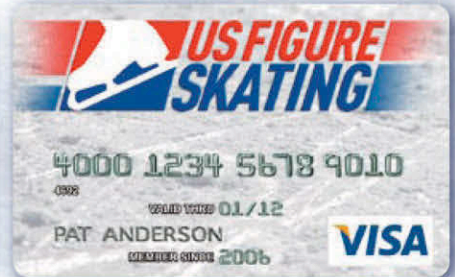
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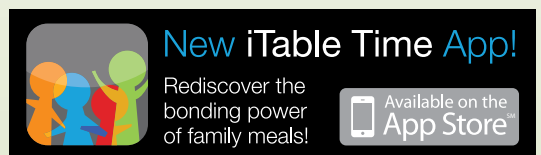
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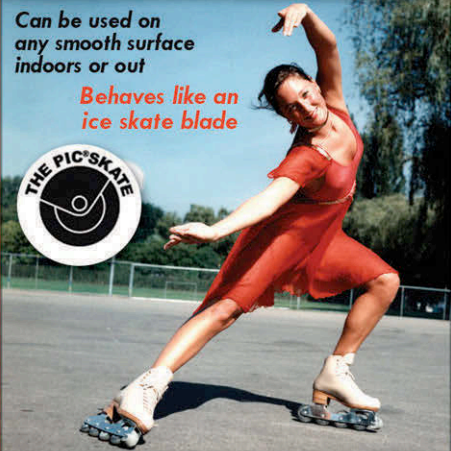
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I C E C R E A M
E D M A R Y
A L M O S T
H O M I T C H E L L E
U V V
P A R T N E R S
S R

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