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On the cover

Photo by Jay Adef

As is tradition at SKATING magazine, the U.S. champions posed for a photograph with the prestigious U.S. Championships Trophy at the conclusion of the Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Omaha. Pictured clockwise are men's champion Max Aaron, ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, pairs champions Simon Shnapir and Marissa Castelli and ladies champion Ashley Wagner. All the champions will have their names engraved on the perpetual trophy.

SKATING



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Skaters earn high marks off the ice in Omaha

The 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Omaha, Neb., presented more than its share of memorable moments. The event also showcased a wealth of depth in all five of the competition classes that bodes well for the future of the sport.

In listening to athlete interviews and the general buzz around the concourse, it was apparent that most everyone enjoyed their Omaha experience.

One of the primary reasons that the U.S. Championships is always so successful is the time and effort that our athletes put into not only into their performances on the ice, but in making sure that they do everything they can off the ice to make the event special.

I promise you that athletes in other sports don't always go that extra mile in promoting their major events, and thanking fans every chance they get.

Before the U.S. Championships even started, U.S. Figure Skating's top athletes conducted TV, radio and newspaper interviews in Omaha.

On one morning, I accompanied two-time U.S. champion Ashley Wagner to a live radio interview on the city's most popular morning show. Ashley, of course, was wonderful in promoting the event as well as explaining some of the sport's finer points.

As she walked out of the large communications building, another radio station caught her in the hallway and asked if she would do a live interview with its station. "No problem," Wagner told the announcers. From there, we drove across Omaha to a TV station to do a live interview on "The Morning Blend." Ashley's interview was packaged between the morning news and a live segment on laser hair removal. Again, Ashley served as a splendid ambassador for the event and U.S. Figure Skating.

Several more athletes also contributed their time on the media tour prior to the start of competition.

There were many other times during the weeklong event that our athletes stepped up

outside of their main job as competitors.

After they finished competing, all the medalists arrived on the concourse to sign autographs and take pictures with the fans. The athletes graciously took their time visiting with everyone and thanking them for attending the event.

One of the major highlights of the week had to be the Friends of Figure Skating breakfast at the CenturyLink Center. Fifty-seven athletes turned out to meet and thank more than 150 FOFS members for their continued support of Team USA and the sport of figure skating.

At the breakfast, each skater took the microphone and introduced himself/herself, and veteran pairs skater Mark Ladwig talked about the important role FOFS members play in a skater's career. He also talked about the Destination Sochi Family Tree Program, through which fans can help send an Olympic athlete's family to Sochi, Russia, for the 2014 Games.

Another one of the neat things that our athletes volunteered to do was participate in the "Buddies" program, in which senior pairs teams were assigned to mentor juvenile and intermediate pairs teams.

It was something that U.S. pairs champions Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnafir were thinking about even between their short program and free skate.

"We came out here and everyone had us as the favorites, but we just want to be good role models for everyone and prove that perseverance in the sport really pays off," Castelli said. "I can't wait to meet everyone else and talk to the little juveniles and encourage them to skate; that's really what I came here looking to do, inspire other people."

U.S. Figure Skating is proud of the product it puts on the ice, but it's equally proud of how its athletes represent the sport off the ice.

Greg Schwindt

U.S. silver medalist Ross Miner takes a photograph with one of his fans.



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SKATING is the official publication of
U.S. Figure Skating.

U.S. Figure Skating President Patricia St. Peter

U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith

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The mission of SKATING magazine is to communicate information about the sport to the U.S. Figure Skating membership and fans of figure skating, promoting U.S. Figure Skating programs, personalities, events and trends that affect the sport.

SKATING (USPS 497-800) (ISSN: 0037-6132) is published 11 times per year in January, February, March, April, May, June/July, August/September, October, Basic Skills Edition, November and December by U.S. Figure Skating, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Issue: Vol. 90, No. 3 Subscription rates: United States, one year \$27.50 (U.S.); Canada, one year \$37.50 (U.S.); Foreign, one year \$47.50 (U.S.). Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs and at additional mailing offices. Copyright ©2013 by United States Figure Skating, Colorado Springs, Colo. Phone: 719.635.5200. SKATING magazine assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Postmaster: Send address corrections to SKATING, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Canadian return address: Station A, P.O. Box 54, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J5. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from the editor.

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To be featured in the KIDZ Spotlight, e-mail your information to rfelton@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.

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Team USA shows off its silver medal at 2012 World Team Trophy in Tokyo. The U.S. is expected to contend for an Olympic team medal.

U.S. excited for debut of Olympic team event

Team USA will have a golden opportunity in Sochi as the figure skating team event makes its debut.

The three-day team event begins with men and pairs competing the day before the Opening Ceremonies, promising a huge piece of the spotlight to kick off the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

The top 10 figure skating nations will enter teams consisting of one skater or couple in each discipline. Athletes will perform a short program or short dance, with the top five teams moving on to free skates or free dances. With consistency in all four disciplines, three nations emerge as medal contenders.

"It is a great opportunity for the U.S. to win a medal," U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith said. "We expect the gold to be between the U.S., Canada and Russia — and we expect to win."

Raith based his projections on Team USA's success at ISU World Team Trophy events, held in 2009 and 2012. Team USA earned gold in 2009 and silver in 2012.

Enthusiasm among skaters has grown since more details have been developed, Raith said. Plus, after watching U.S. gymnastics' "Fierce Five" earn the team gold medal at the 2012 Olympics, the team event has even more appeal.

But before anyone starts working on a Fierce Five-style moniker for the figure skating team, beware: each team could have as few as six or as many as 10 athletes. That's where strategy comes in.

The team event will allow substitution of another Olympian competing in Sochi to be made in two programs (e.g., "Skater A" may compete in the ladies short program, while "Skater B" competes in the free skate). The decisions behind each team's strategy will provide fans and analysts plenty to debate.

Pairs skaters Brubaker, Berton to wed

Two-time U.S. pairs champion Rockne Brubaker got engaged and found a new pairs partner in February.

Brubaker and Italian pairs skater Stefania Berton started dating after the 2012 World Championships, after being friends for several years.

Brubaker planned a big party on Feb. 2 to set the stage for a proposal, although he told Berton that it was a birthday celebration for his brother and sister.

"Rockne had told me that he wanted to give a small speech and asked me to help him with it," Berton said. "When we got up in front of everyone, he gave me a kiss, wished Collin and Shauna a happy birthday, and then got down on one knee. I barely heard what he said to me before I heard the words, 'Stefy, will you marry me?' I could barely breathe and my heart was beating so fast."

"Neither of us have ever been happier than we are now," Brubaker said.

The couple have not yet set a wedding date.

Two weeks after the engagement, Brubaker found an on-ice partner: Lindsay Davis.

"It was the best tryout I ever had," Davis, 20, said. "After the first stroking pattern, it felt so good. Basically after the first day, we were like, 'Let's make this official.'" Davis and Brubaker will train in Canton, Mich., with Marina Zoueva and Johnny Johns.

— Sarah S. Brannen

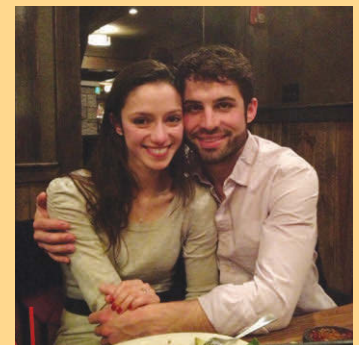




PHOTO BY MIKE STORER/GETTY IMAGES FOR USOC

Early last month, Lysacek was in New York to support the U.S. Olympic Committee at its One Year Out celebration. He and fellow Olympic champion Scott Hamilton appeared on "Today" together and Lysacek skated at Rockefeller Plaza.

Lysacek vows to return to try at Sochi

Olympic champion Evan Lysacek attended the U.S. Championships as a spectator and declared he is healthy and eager to compete.

"All my sights are set on Sochi to try to defend my Olympic title in addition to helping the U.S. win the Team gold medal and become the first skater to win two gold medals at the same Olympics," Lysacek told reporters before the men's free skate.

It has been three years since Lysacek competed at the 2010 Vancouver Games, where he skated two near-perfect programs to edge Russia's Evgeni Plushenko for gold. He planned to return to competition at Skate America in October, but a groin injury and subsequent surgery for a sports hernia derailed those plans.

"For the first time I am totally pain-free, back in the gym, back on the ice every day," he said. "I have total faith and total trust surgery will work. That is why I did it now and nipped it in the bud."

The upbeat Lysacek wants "to compete as much as possible and get as many [ranking] points as I can" in the 2013-14 season.

Lysacek, who did not execute a quadruple jump in Vancouver, acknowledged the necessity of doing so upon his return. He said he was consistently landing two quadruple toe loops in his free skate run-throughs before his injury last fall.

"There is no room in skating any more for timidity," he said. "These are warriors getting out there. They are fearless and that is what I strive to be in competition."

Czisny undergoes successful hip surgery

Alissa Czisny, a two-time U.S. champion, underwent successful surgery to repair damage in the joint capsule of her left hip caused by a hip dislocation. Czisny dislocated her hip on Jan. 12, while performing her free skate at the 2013 Fox Cities Invitational in Appleton, Wis.

The surgery was performed in Nashville, Tenn., by Dr. J.W. Thomas Byrd, who has served as a physician for the U.S. Olympic Team and the Tennessee Titans. Czisny is scheduled to be off the ice for approximately six weeks.

Czisny won U.S. titles in 2009 and 2011, the 2010 Grand Prix Final and is an eight-time Grand Prix Series medalist.



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Icenetwork to offer live World Synchro coverage

No ticket? No problem.

Icenetwork.com will provide live coverage of the sold-out 2013 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships to its 2012-13 Season Pass subscribers.

The Championships, which will feature 23 synchronized skating teams representing 18 nations, will be held April 5-6 inside the 6,150-seat Agganis Arena on the Boston University campus. It's the third time the U.S. will host the event, and tickets were scooped up fast.

The United States will have two teams, which were selected based on performances through the U.S. qualifying season and various international competitions.

The fast-paced sport continues to grow in size and stature, and Icenetwork.com will cover every team at Worlds. Current 2012-13 Season Pass subscribers already have access to more than 500 hours of on-demand video coverage of the biggest competitions of the season, including the 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the Grand Prix Series, the 2013 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships and much more. The Season Pass is still available for \$39.95 at icenetwork.com.

Icenetwork.com Season Pass subscribers can also watch on-demand video of the 2013 ISU World Figure Skating Championships (March 13-16 in London, Ontario), beginning March 24.

Beginning with the 2013-14 Olympic season, icenetwork.com will hold all U.S. media rights for ISU events through the 2017-18 season, allowing for live coverage across network, cable and digital platforms.

The Haydenettes have won medals at the last two World Synchronized Skating Championships.

Partial S.T.A.R.S. schedule announced

U.S. Figure Skating has announced a partial list of S.T.A.R.S. cities and dates for the 2013 campaign. Additional cities will be added soon. This city list is subject to change. Registration opens March 1. For more information or to register, go to www.STARScombine.org.

S.T.A.R.S. (Standardized Testing of Athleticism to Recognize Skaters) is a series of 15 off-

ice tests and an informational workshop titled "Training, Overtraining and Recovery" that helps developing athletes learn about the underlying athletic abilities they need to continue safe skills development on the ice. It is open to all U.S. Figure Skating members 6 years and older who have passed the pre-preliminary moves test.



CONFIRMED CITIES AND DATES FOR THE S.T.A.R.S. COMBINES

Newark, Del. — July 21	Atlanta, Ga. — June 16	Rochester, Minn. — May 5
Boston, Mass. — July 7	Salt Lake City, Utah — July 15	Charleston, S.C. — April 19
San Jose, Calif. — May 19	Charlotte, N.C. — July 12	Scottsdale, Ariz. — April 11
Washington, D.C. — June 16	Chicago, Ill. — July 14	Seattle, Wash. — Aug. 1
Dallas, Texas — May 4		

ADDITIONAL CITIES INCLUDE (Dates TBD)

Denver, Colo.	Portland, Ore.
Detroit, Mich.	Ontario, Calif.
Kansas City, Mo.	San Diego, Calif.
Louisville, Ky.	



Kwan ties the knot

Michelle Kwan, a five-time World champion and nine-time U.S. titlist, married Clay Pell, the grandson of the late U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), Jan. 19 in Providence, R.I. Kwan, who burst onto the skating scene at the U.S. Olympic Festival when she was 13 back in 1993, is now 32 and works at the State Department as a senior adviser for public diplomacy and public affairs. Pell, 31, is a Coast Guard lieutenant and serves as the director for strategic planning on the National Security Staff at the White House.

"It was a beautifully done wedding and Michelle was elegant beyond belief," Dick Button said of Kwan, who wore two dresses designed by Vera Wang. "It was a great honor for me to be there and a great pleasure to attend."

Button was among a handful of skating guests who were invited to the wedding. Olympic champions Brian Boitano and Dorothy Hamill were also in Providence to celebrate Kwan's big day, as were Champions on Ice tour founder Tom Collins and Evelyn Kramer, a coach who has known Kwan since she began training in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., as a youngster.

"I was with her at her first competition and had to tell her to put on lipstick," Kramer said. "Now she is married!"

Kwan's wedding day marked yet another milestone recorded in the public eye. Although her husband comes from a prominent political family — even he realizes his fame pales next to that of his new bride — the man who is now Michelle Kwan's husband received high marks from those in the skating crowd.

"I met him when Michelle was inducted into the Hall of Fame last year in San Jose," Collins said. "I liked him right away and I said, 'Michelle, this is the guy for you.'"

— Amy Rosewater

PHOTO BY CAITLIN MALONEY



Celebrating Michelle's big day are (l-r) Olympic champion swimmer Donna de Varona, Clay Pell, Michelle Kwan, Dorothy Hamill and Dick Button.

U.S. Figure Skating unveils Publications App

U.S. Figure Skating announced in January the release of the U.S. Figure Skating Publications Application, which is now available for download. The app, developed by Quad/Graphics, will feature a comprehensive collection of digital publications including SKATING magazine, event programs, the U.S. Figure Skating rulebook, U.S. Figure Skating media guide and more.



The app, available for Apple devices through the Apple iTunes Store, on Android devices through the Google Play Store and on Kindle devices, is free to download. However, some publications will require a purchase, subscription or U.S. Figure Skating membership to access.

The official event program of the 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships is available for \$4.99. The past four months of SKATING magazine are available for free, and future issues of SKATING will be available for purchase.

This is the second app offered by U.S. Figure Skating. The first, the U.S. Figure Skating Skate Coach App Series, is available through the Apple iTunes Store. The Skate Coach series was launched in November 2011 and features teaching videos associated with U.S. Figure Skating's Basic Skills Program.

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CREATIVITY COUNTS

Coaching brings out the best in Franks and Botticelli

by LOIS ELFMAN

When they were about 10 and 12, coaches and parents brought Sheryl Franks and Michael Botticelli together for a pairs tryout. Franks had been skating at the Hayden Recreation Center in Lexington, Mass., and Botticelli at The Skating Club of Boston.

"We skated around for about 45 minutes and then the parents and coaches went upstairs to decide our future," Botticelli recalled. "Sheryl and I were on the bench downstairs taking our skates off. I said, 'I'm not skating with you.' She said, 'Good, I'm not skating with you.' I said, 'Fine.' She said, 'Why aren't you skating with me?' I said, 'Because I want to go to the Olympics.' She said, 'I do, too.' I said, 'Then we should probably skate together.' That's how we started our career."

From that inauspicious initial interchange, Franks, now 51, and Botticelli, 53, went on to compete at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games and four World Championships (1977–80), notching all top-10 finishes. They also skated in the first Disney on Ice show (1981), touring for four years before return-

ing home to the Boston area and becoming coaches.

Their coach for most of their amateur career was Tom McGinnis at The Skating Club of Boston (they trained with Mark Militano from 1979 to '81), and their choreographer was the late Paul McGrath. The early programs that McGrath created for them, Franks said, not only won them medals but also helped shape her love for the beauty and artistry of skating.

"Paul gave us a program; I don't even know if we got a press lift up, but because our program was so exquisite we beat all these kids that had overhead lifts and throw doubles," said Franks, referring to the year they finished second in junior pairs at the U.S. Championships. "When I was nominated for the [PSA's] Paul McGrath [choreography] award was when I knew my career had achieved everything."

Botticelli recalled that program as being unique, with moments where they played off each other rather than simply skating in unison or mirror skating. Forty years later, he still remembers the music and the steps — although a current day re-creation of the program is

not imminent.

Given the relatively small amount of skating on television during the years they competed, Franks and Botticelli are probably best known for their Olympic short program, which they performed moments after five-time U.S. pairs champions and reigning World champions Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner withdrew from the competition due to injury.

"I tried to remove myself from what I saw was going on in the rink and stay in my own zone, but you couldn't help but feel that emptiness," Franks said. "We passed in the hallway. It was horrible."

"When I stepped up into the open ice area, it's funny how like with a trauma happening it gives you the strength for what you're meant to do. Strength was just driven into Michael and me. We got this adrenalin rush of 'This is the Olympics. This is our moment. We need to step up to the plate.'"

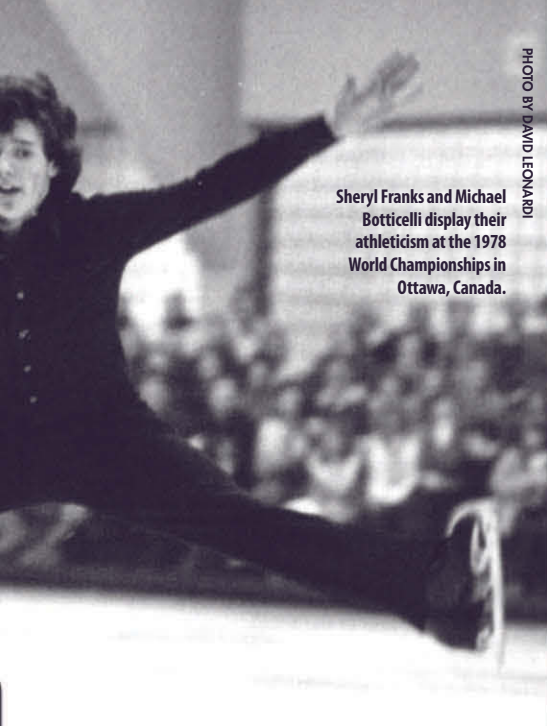
"It was absolute magic," Botticelli said. "We were on fire. There was a kinetic energy between us. It was amazing. Our heart rates, pulses and breathing were in sync. I never, ever attacked a program as

ferociously as we went out in that short program."

Franks said that desire to seize the moment and perform well for the U.S. Team came out of a closeness that generation of skaters shared. She tells her students that as a team they had relationships that continue to today. She remembers all of her international competitions, but most of the memories center on events off the ice.

When they were just teenagers, she and Barbara Underhill of Canada explored London. Without any chaperons, they hopped on a bus and headed downtown. Over the course of several hours, they went to Piccadilly Square, Westminster Abbey and London Bridge.

Franks and Botticelli's four years on the road with Disney on Ice were also magical. It was where Franks said she learned how to skate under pressure and perform, lessons she passes on to her students. Today one of her closest friends from the show, Trish Mills, coach of the Canadian synchronized skating team NEXXICE, has Franks do the team's choreography. Their touring ended when Botticelli's youngest sister (he's the third of six children)



Sheryl Franks and Michael Botticelli display their athleticism at the 1978 World Championships in Ottawa, Canada.

PHOTO BY DAVID LEONARDI

CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1980 Olympic Winter Games, 7th

1980 World Championships, 10th

1977-79 World Championships, 9th

1977-80 U.S. Championships, 3rd

1974 U.S. Championships (Junior), 2nd

1979 NHK Trophy, 3rd

1977 Nebelhorn Trophy, 2nd

was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and he wanted to be home with family.

Today, Botticelli teaches at three rinks in the Boston area. His work includes running group power skating classes for hockey skaters. Several of his students have earned college scholarships and others have played pro and semi-pro hockey.

"I love to teach and I love skating. I love the whole dynamic of working with kids," said Botticelli, who has two children. Daughter Marissa is a college freshman and son Chase is a high school senior. Both have enjoyed wearing their dad's team uniforms, such as his jacket from the Olympic Opening Ceremony and warm-up gear, on occasion. He still has some costumes, but said Franks raided his costume closet for her male students over the years.

Franks is mom to April May, 16, and Bo Louis, 14. She works with elite skaters as well as recreational skaters.

Among the students she co-teaches with Bobby Martin and Carrie Wall are national senior competitors Gretchen Donlan and Andrew Speroff, who she said embody elegant skating, and juniors Alexandra Shaughnessy and James Morgan. Franks also works with juvenile pairs team Jade Esposito and Nathan Rensing and senior man Wesley Campbell at the Colonial Figure Skating Club, where she team teaches with Chad Brennan. She said judges have complimented her on Campbell's choreography.

"I want to try and bring back

beautiful skating," Franks said. "That's what I'm all about — making these skaters see a beautiful skating structure."

About a decade ago, April May cried to her mother in frustration because she kept failing her skating tests, but she didn't want to give up the sport. She wanted to have fun moving to music, but not feel the pressure of tests. So seven years ago Franks launched her Creative Skating Academy, a learn-to-skate program that is now based at Buckingham Browne & Nichols, a prep school in Cambridge. Franks collaborates with hockey Olympian Laurie Baker, who teaches basic hockey skills.

"The figure skaters skate to music and incorporate their tricks and have fun at the same time," Franks said. "We have a viewing every 10 weeks so they can show their parents all the things they learn."

Franks and Botticelli and many of their friends from the sport were together last year when The Skating Club of Boston celebrated its 100th anniversary. Former pairs skater Mike Dee insisted Botticelli attend, even though he was recovering from surgery and not feeling particularly social. Botticelli insisted Franks come as well.

"It was the most amazing affair skating will ever see," said Botticelli, who spent the evening reminiscing with Dee, Gardner and Peter Caruthers. "I feel blessed that I had the career that I did. The people around me made it that way."

Sheryl Franks with son Bo Louis Pellegrini and daughter April May Pellegrini



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERYL FRANKS

Sheryl Franks with husband John Adams



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERYL FRANKS

Michael Botticelli with son Chase and daughter Marissa



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BOTTICELLI



Five-time reigning U.S. ice dancing champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White performed an emotionally charged free dance en route to their third Four Continents title.

U.S. CLAIMS THREE MEDALS

DAVIS AND WHITE SNAG THIRD FOUR CONTINENTS TITLE

by MIMI WHETSTONE

Less than two weeks after the 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Omaha, Neb., 18 members of Team USA headed to the 2013 Four Continents Championships, Feb. 6–11 in Osaka, Japan, where five-time reigning U.S. ice dancing champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White earned their third title (2009, 2011, 2013).

“We haven’t had a lot of time since the national championships, but we gained a lot of confidence there,” Davis said. “We felt we really put it all on the ice. We are thrilled to be here and are proud of what we did today.”

After a slight bobble on their twizzle sequence left them in second place following the short dance, Davis and White rallied with a dramatic free dance, which earned a career-high 112.68 points.

“It was a really emotional skate,” White said. “We gave it everything we had and that’s all we can ask of ourselves. It’s difficult coming off the U.S. Championships, so to be able to go out and perform the way we did is a testament to our preparation and I’m really proud.”

Set to selections from *Notre Dame de Paris*, Davis and White’s free dance earned a Level 4 on seven of nine elements, en route to edging longtime rivals and training mates, 2010 Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada, by more than three points for the title. They finished with 187.36 points.

Rounding out the podium were newly crowned U.S. silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates, who garnered their first ISU medal in their second season together.

“Luckily, Madison and I both have experi-

ence from our past partnerships to draw on,” Bates said. “But we are new and it does feel new. It feels great to be up here with the two best ice dance teams in the world.”

Performing to music from Cirque du Soleil, Chock and Bates received positive grades of execution on each of their five elements, on their way to a personal-best 65.44 points for their short dance. Despite a fifth-place finish in the free dance, Chock and Bates scored an international career-high 160.42 points and earned the bronze medal.

U.S. bronze medalists Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani finished just off the podium with 159.97 points.

U.S. pairs champions Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnafir added to Team USA’s medal count, winning bronze with 170.10 points.

“The long was a toss-up; it could be anyone’s game,” Castelli said. “We are happy with how it came out. We worked hard and had a good long program. It was our season’s best.”

Although mistakes plagued the pair’s performances, Castelli and Shnafir powered through each element with tenacity and strength, holding on to a podium position with a free skate that featured side-by-side triple toe loops, a throw triple Salchow and an overhead lift that earned a program-high 7.90 points.

“We had less than a week between coming home from the U.S. Championships and leaving for here,” Shnafir said. “It was tough. We have had quick turnarounds like that before so that helped us. For us, it’s about pushing through and riding the wave, staying together and working hard all the way through Worlds.”

Finishing fourth were U.S. bronze medalists Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay, who totaled a personal-best 167.30 points. Teammates Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim, reigning U.S. silver medalists, withdrew prior to the short program after Scimeca injured her right foot in practice.

The top spots both went to Canadian teams, with Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford on top with 199.18 points, followed by Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch with 196.78.

In the men’s competition, U.S. champion Max Aaron rallied from a disappointing 10th-place finish in the short program to earn second in the free skate. Aaron’s *West Side Story* performance featured a pair of quad Salchows, one in combination with a triple toe, and two triple Axels, one in combination with a double toe. Aaron earned 234.65 points and finished in fourth place.

“This is my first time at an [ISU] championship event and I’m glad to be here,” Aaron said. “This is a good experience to get the chance to

learn how championship events work at the senior level. It’s something special I can take toward Worlds.”

Richard Dornbush and U.S. silver medalist Ross Miner finished in fifth and ninth place, with 234.04 and 214.36 points, respectively. The gold medal went to Kevin Reynolds of Canada, who earned 250 points. Japan’s Yuzuru Hanyu captured the silver with 246.38 points, and the bronze fell to China’s Han Yan with 235.22 points.

Finishing behind an all-Japanese podium in the ladies event, Christina Gao turned in two impressive performances to record a personal-best 176.28 points. Although she suffered a fall on a triple Lutz in her free skate, Gao’s “Close Without Touching” short program garnered a personal-best 62.34 points, giving her a high enough score to secure fourth place overall.

“I’m disappointed that I missed the Lutz, because I almost never miss my Lutz,” Gao said. “I’m glad I pulled it together and still did everything afterward.”

Gao’s teammates, U.S. silver and bronze medalists Gracie Gold and Agnes Zawadzki, finished with 166.66 and 158.99 points, in sixth and eighth place, respectively.

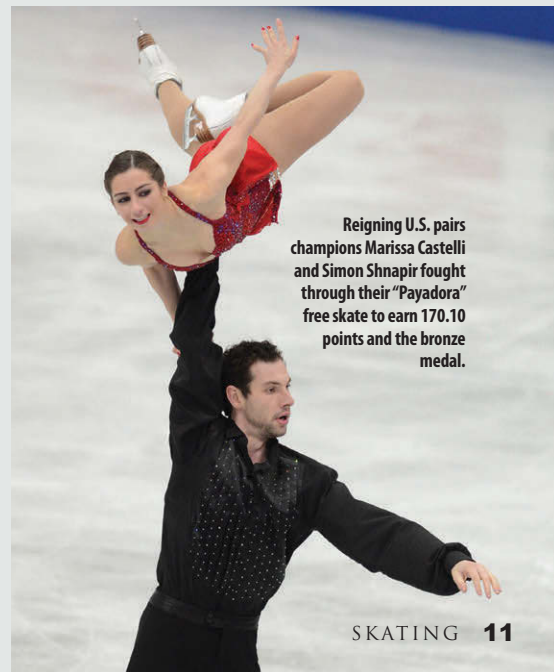
“I don’t think I lost much steam, it’s just not what I’m capable of doing,” Gold said. “I’m going to go home and take it easy for about a week to recover mentally and physically before I start my training for Worlds. I want to be top-10, but mostly it will be great experience for me.”

Mao Asada won the title with 205.45 points. Akiko Suzuki collected the silver medal with 190.08 points, while Kanako Murakami generated 181.03 points for the bronze.

PHOTOS BY ATSUSHI TOMIURA/GETTY IMAGES



Newly crowned U.S. silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates earned a personal-best 65.44 points for their ‘Cirque du Soleil’ short dance, on their way to their first ISU medal.



Reigning U.S. pairs champions Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnafir fought through their “Payadora” free skate to earn 170.10 points and the bronze medal.

LASTING IMPRESSION SKATING MEMORIES CREATED IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

Gracie Gold's electrifying free skate. Max Aaron's soaring quad jumps. Meryl Davis and Charlie White celebrating their record-tying fifth U.S. ice dancing title. Those are just a few of the indelible images left in the minds of those who attended the 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Omaha, Neb., Jan. 20–27.

"I think the people who came really saw a sport that will stick with them for a while," Harold Cliff, president and executive director of the Omaha Sports Commission, said. "The athletic performances were very, very solid and I think any sports enthusiast, regardless of the sport, when they see the best of sport do something, they appreciate it."

Omaha, which has hosted many of the top amateur sporting events in the country, rolled out the red carpet for the 95th edition of U.S. Figure Skating's premier event.

Fans enjoyed the convenience of having the competition venue, the CenturyLink Center, within walking distance or a short ride from their hotels. The more than 350 skaters and their families appreciated that they could leave the host hotel, the Hilton Omaha, and walk two minutes across the street to practice and compete.

The CenturyLink Center also hosted the always-popular FanFest as well as much of the skating for the juvenile and intermediate divisions, which for the first time were held in conjunction with the U.S. Championships.

"The feedback we received from the skaters, judges and officials has been extremely positive," Cliff said. "It's been a pleasure working with all those folks associated with the event."

The local organizing committee and its volunteers worked seamlessly with the event team from U.S. Figure Skating to make the competition the best it could be.

"Thank you to everyone in Omaha," U.S. pairs champion Simon Shnapir told reporters. "It's such a great crowd and a great city."

The media in Omaha earned a gold medal with their collective blanket coverage of the weeklong event. The local TV and radio stations and the *Omaha World-Herald* devoted substantial airtime and space leading up to and during the competition.

"We had a bit of a first in Omaha with one of the radio stations, Clear Channel, teaming with the *Omaha World-Herald*, to co-brand sponsor the FanFest," Cliff said. "It just goes to show the cooperation that's available here. Just the overall number of mentions and taped [interviews] going on and the front page coverage, it's something we don't take for granted in Omaha but when it comes along we appreciate it. When sports come to town for the first time, they are usually pleasantly surprised with the amount of coverage we get locally."

There was plenty of excitement off the ice as well, with the induction of skating great Rudy Galindo and choreographer Lori Nichol into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Skaters also gave their time after competitions to signing autographs, and U.S. Figure Skating's sponsor partners found a buzz on the concourse that started early in the week and hit a fevered pitch as the senior events took center stage.

Having the U.S. Championships in Omaha, U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith said, gave the sport exposure to a part of the country that doesn't have a deeply rooted figure skating history.

"It's about developing an interest and promoting figure skating," Raith told the *World-Herald*, adding he sees potential for future skating events in Omaha.



Meryl Davis and Charlie White clinch title No. 5 with their powerful free dance.



Gracie Gold celebrates following her electric free skate.



Max Aaron and his coaches, Becky Calvin and Tom Zakrajsek, react to the skater's huge scores.



Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir seize the moment during their short program.

PHOTO COURTESY OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

PHOTO COURTESY OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

EPIC FINISH WAGNER REPEATS AS CHAMPION; GOLD RALLIES FOR SILVER WITH STERLING FREE SKATE

by BARB REICHERT

Ashley Wagner stood atop the podium, the gold medal hanging around her neck. Her stature was that of a champion, but her expression conveyed the frustration and anger of two falls.

To her immediate right stood a beaming Gracie Gold, the freshly minted U.S. silver medalist who, at age 17, used an electrifying free skate to throw down the proverbial gauntlet.

Game on.

After years of reloading, the 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships proved the U.S. again has a fiercely competitive ladies field. Lost in Gold's gutsy ascent from ninth place in the short program was the fact that Wagner, 21, defeated the "Kwan Curse," becoming the first repeat U.S. ladies champion since Michelle Kwan in 2005.

"It's definitely not the performance I imagined having," Wagner said, "but the fact that I was able to become repeat champion, with those two performances, that's something to be proud of."

But the night — no, the event — belonged to Gold.

So much had been placed on the statuesque teen's shoulders coming into this, her first senior U.S. Championships. In 2012, Gold won the U.S. junior title and finished a solid second at the World Junior Championships. Her star was rising so quickly that she was invited to compete as a senior at the 2012 World Team Trophy event in Tokyo. Among her teammates was Wagner.

LADIES

GOLD
Ashley Wagner
188.84

SILVER
Gracie Gold
186.57

BRONZE
Agnes Zawadzki
179.63

PEWTER
Courtney Hicks
177.92

In her first full senior season, Gold has experienced the highs and lows of sport. At 2012 Skate Canada, she finished a disappointing seventh. In her next Grand Prix Series event, 2012 Rostelecom Cup, she earned silver. Entering the U.S. Championships, there was much buzz about which Gracie Gold would show up.

The drama unfolds

Early in the week, the ladies practice ice became prime viewing ground. Each time Wagner or Gold entered the

venue, the media would follow. But also gaining attention were Agnes Zawadzki, Courtney Hicks and Christina Gao. All five ladies looked ready for battle, holding little back on jumps and spins.

By the time the competition began, expectations had been set. The pressure was on Wagner but the magnifying glass was on Gold.

A hushed Omaha crowd settled in to see if Gold was indeed the "next big thing," but after she fell on a triple flip-triple toe combination and popped a double Axel, it appeared this would not be her coming-out party. Out of 20 competitors, Gold's score of 54.08 put her in ninth place.

Skating last, Wagner was undeterred. The 2012 Four Continents champion had a solid season, winning each of her Grand Prix events and finishing second at the Grand Prix Final. Her strong "The Red Violin" short program earned 67.57 points to put her in the lead.

Nipping at Wagner's heels was her friend Zawadzki, 18, whose consistently solid short program earned 65.31 points. Strong performances by 2010 Olympian Mirai Nagasu, Hicks and

(l-r) Gracie Gold, Ashley Wagner, Agnes Zawadzki, Courtney Hicks





Ashley Wagner grabs the short program lead with her compelling "Red Violin" program.

Gao meant that with Gold seemingly out of the running, the ladies competition still held much drama.

But lurking on an unofficial practice ice the day after her self-proclaimed "horrific" short program was Gold. Only this time, away from all the attention, the outwardly confident Gold had inner struggles.

"It was a little shaky getting out there," she said of her off-day practice. "I wasn't in the best frame of mind. I was really upset at myself. But as

I started skating, I started thinking, 'This is OK. I can do this. It's just the short program. You know, I'm kind of down [in standings] from medaling, but that doesn't mean anything in terms of what I can put out in the long program.'

"I just kept skating, and I had to just take it one step at a time: 'This is the jump that I'm doing in the practice. I'm not doing the program right now, so it doesn't matter.'"

Somewhere, on that practice ice, the teen from Glen Ellyn, Ill., regained her strength.



Wagner breathes a sigh of relief after learning that she held on to win her second consecutive U.S. title, as coaches Phillip Mills and John Nicks congratulate her.

A game-changing final

After a gray and subfreezing week in Omaha, the ladies final was the hottest ticket in town. Many who attended the short program on Thursday returned to pull for the young upstart whose talents failed her so publicly just two days before.

As Gold took the ice for her free skate, skating 13th and far from the leaders, the largest audience of the week seemed to collectively hold its breath. This time, she would not disappoint.

Skating without apology, Gold opened with a huge triple Lutz-triple toe as the crowd roared its support. When she followed with a double Axel-triple toe, it was clear there was magic in the air.

"After my triple flip, I only had one more jump and a spin left," Gold said. "I turned to the crowd and they all clapped, and that's when I was like, 'I'm done. I have one jump left.' That's when I really started to think that this is real, this is happening, this is literally my dream come true."

Gold finished with seven clean jumps for a mind-numbing 132.49 points, the second-best free skate score in U.S. Championships history. (Sasha Cohen posted a 134.03 free skate score in 2006.) Her total score of 186.57 sent a surge of energy rippling through the arena.

And there were still seven skaters left.

Samantha Cesario had the unenviable task of skating next. When her *Black Swan* music began, people were still talking about Gold. To her credit, Cesario skated a relatively clean program to finish in eighth place with 170.15 points.

One by one, the leading ladies took the ice. And program after program, Gold's lead remained unchallenged. When it came down to the final three — Zawadzki, Wagner, Nagasu — the arena crowd and a live NBC audience were afraid to blink.

Zawadzki, skating to "Rhapsody in Blue," came out strong, but when her triple flip turned into a double, a chink in her armor was exposed. A fall on her second triple Lutz resulted in a free skate score of 114.32 (for a total 179.63), a personal best. But it put her nowhere near Gold, who was asked by NBC to wait backstage with a camera trained on her to gauge her reaction.

As Zawadzki left the kiss and cry, Wagner was standing nearby on the boards getting last-second words from coach John Nicks.

"Go get 'em, Ash!" Zawadzki shouted.

Wagner skated to center ice and took her position. It was classic Wagner: Tall. Proud. Prepared. The first half of her program, skated to *Samson and Delilah*, was clean and bold. But then back-to-back falls (triple Lutz, then triple loop) put her title in danger. Without a triple-triple in her program, the tension mounted as the judges' scores were tabulated.

Sitting in the kiss and cry, there was a look of relief from Wagner as her free skate score of 121.27 was announced. When the math was complete, giving her a total score of 188.84 and first place over Gold, Wagner simply covered her mouth. No celebration.

"I was very uncertain as to what was going to happen, waiting for these scores to come up," Wagner said. "I knew the program as a whole was very solid, taking out the two falls, so I wasn't sure what they [judges] were going to do with it. But I knew I skated a great short program, so I knew I was in a great position for the long program if I made a mistake."

The drama ended early during Nagasu's program, as she under-rotated three jumps. Her free skate score of 109.36 dropped her from third to seventh (173.75). Zawadzki earned the bronze, with Courtney Hicks gaining the pewter with two stellar programs.

From the eyes of Olympic champions

Backstage, the drama was not lost on two Olympic champions, Tara Lipinski (1998) and Sar-

ah Hughes (2002). Both were even younger than Gold when they were thrust into the spotlight.

"I haven't seen a ladies event so strong in a long time," said Lipinski, who at age 15 won the Olympic gold. "You look at the last two warm-ups, almost every girl skated well. It was really exciting!"

Hughes, who was 16 when she won the Olympic title, echoed the sentiments of the crowd.

"I was so entertained," Hughes said. "The ladies were so good. They are really strong. I just couldn't wait to see what jumps they were going to try next. It was really a great night of skating."

But soon, both Olympic champions' thoughts turned to Gold.

"She was terrific tonight. Her jumps were so high, she's so athletic," Hughes said. "I had never seen her skate like that before. I feel really good that she's now on the World Team, but there are so many good girls that it's frustrating that we only have two [World Team spots] girls when we have so many great girls."

"Gracie," Lipinski said, "I was so proud of her to come back. I think being in the underdog position is always a great position; all the pressure is off and you can really go out and prove yourself."

"The opposite happened for Ashley," continued Lipinski, who is Wagner's mentor. "She had all the pressure and she needed to stand up. She did a good job. She didn't fall apart and she held on to every jump."

Wagner's choreographer, Phillip Mills, said



Agnes Zawadzki claims her second consecutive U.S. bronze medal in Omaha.

Gracie Gold floats on the ice during her event-best free skate.



Wagner was staring down two battles.

"Nobody realizes how hard it is to repeat in a championship of any kind until you have to do it," Mills said. "Having had repeat champions in singles pairs and dance, I tried to warn her. However it was even harder than I had explained."

"I know had she not gotten salmonella [the week prior to competition], she would have skated like she did in the [2012] 'Black Swan' win."

Lipinski recalled the pressure all too well.

"It's all mental. It's really a mental game. It's all about the pressure. All of these girls are amazing. You watch the practices and they are all doing triple-triples, but it counts for those 4 minutes out there and you have to learn how to skate under pressure and really train yourself mentally to close everything else out."

If there's a lesson to take away from this competition, it is just that: "Close everything else out."

For one 4-minute window in Omaha, Gold did exactly that.

"I stopped focusing on what was around me: the crowd, the screaming, the other skaters, the pressure, the expectations," Gold said. "I let it all go. I just pictured myself at my rink in Chicago and even the practices here – how I would skate if I was practicing. Just the feel of the knees, the feel of the ice, one thing at a time. I didn't get over my head with thoughts or expectations."

"I just went out there and skated like I know how to skate."

LIFT OFF! AARON VAULTS HIS WAY TO GOLD MEDAL; MINER, ABBOTT RETURN TO PODIUM

by TROY SCHWINDT

Coach Tom Zakrajsek loves what 2013 U.S. titlist Max Aaron brings to the sport.

"There was an article in the Omaha paper that started, 'If anybody had any questions about the importance of pure athleticism in men's figure skating, Max Aaron answered it.' I think that's a great way to describe it."

Aaron, 20, who grew up in Arizona playing high-level junior hockey, soared above the 20-man field at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha with an arsenal of monster jumps (a total of three quad Salchows and 10 triple jumps), lightning-fast spins and slick footwork.

His overall score of 255.00 points sent Aaron and his coaches, Zakrajsek and Becky Calvin, into a state of jubilation in the Puffs kiss and cry. Aaron's longtime competitor and golfing buddy, Ross Miner, earned the silver medal with a score of 251.29, while defending champion Jeremy Abbott claimed the bronze medal with 249.33 points.

Zakrajsek, who has coached four senior U.S. champions in the past five years (Aaron, Ryan Bradley, Rachael Flatt and Jeremy Abbott), said Aaron did a beautiful job this season blending his athletic style with an artistic side that continues to evolve.

"He's strong, he's fast, he attacks, he's aggressive," said Zakrajsek, who coaches Aaron at the Broadmoor SC World Arena in Colorado

MEN'S

GOLD
Max Aaron
255.00

SILVER
Ross Miner
251.29

BRONZE
Jeremy Abbott
249.33

PEWTER
Joshua Farris
244.82

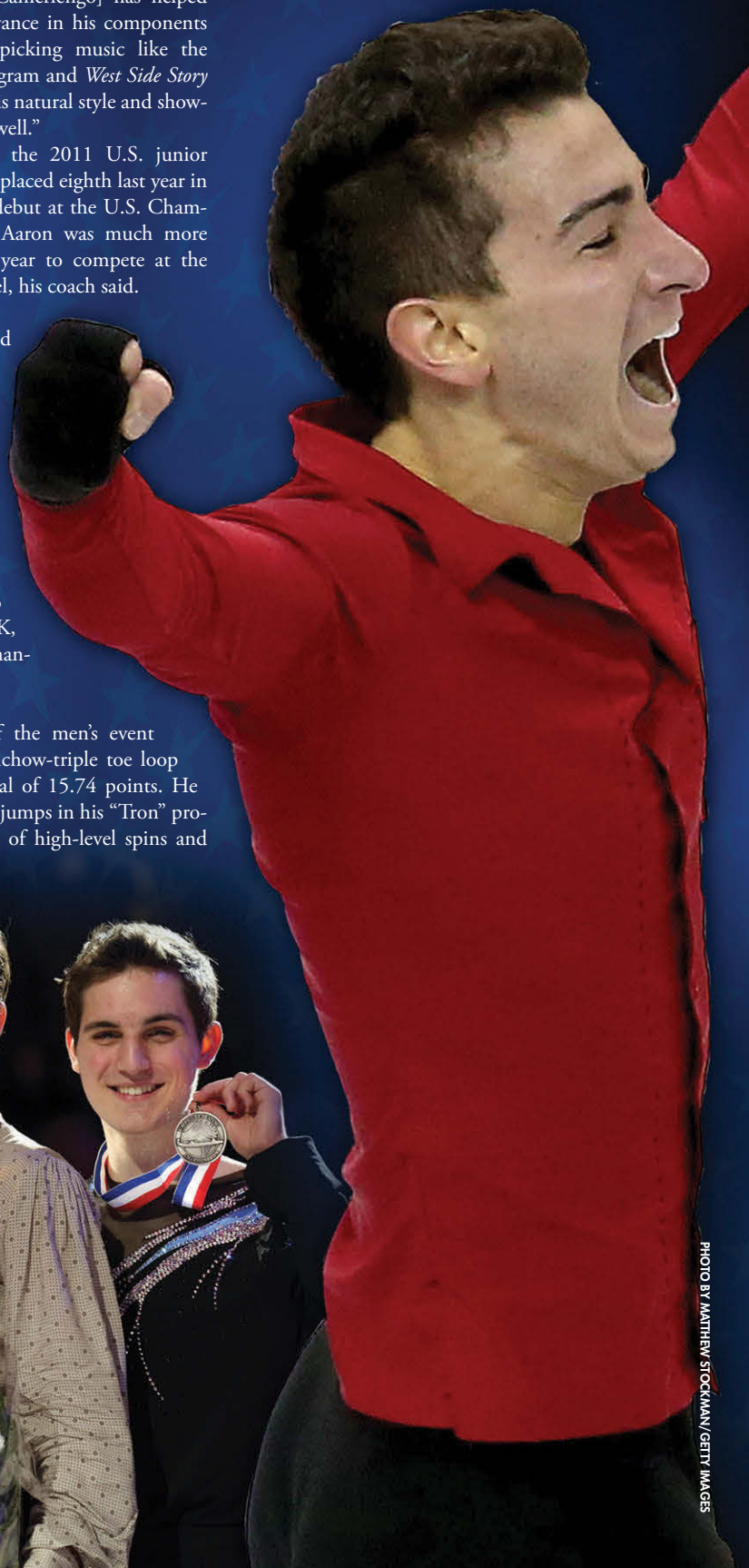
Springs, Colo. "Certainly, the way Pasquale [Camerlengo] has helped him to advance in his components this year, picking music like the "Tron" program and *West Side Story* really fits his natural style and showcased him well."

Aaron, the 2011 U.S. junior champion, placed eighth last year in his senior debut at the U.S. Championships. Aaron was much more ready this year to compete at the highest level, his coach said.

"When they played his long program music at the start of his short program, and the fact that he had to skate first in the short program, those are two things that can kind of unnerve you," Zakrajsek said. "But I turned to Becky and said he's OK, he's ready this year to handle things like that."

Coach was right.

Aaron kicked off the men's event by landing a quad Salchow-triple toe loop combination for a total of 15.74 points. He added two more triple jumps in his "Tron" program, and with a trio of high-level spins and



(l-r) Ross Miner, Max Aaron, Jeremy Abbott, Joshua Farris





some crafty footwork, Aaron found himself in fourth place with 79.13 points. Abbott grabbed the short program lead with his entertaining “Spy” program, scoring 84.10 points, with Miner second at 80.99 and Aaron’s rinkmate, Joshua Farris, third with 79.78 points.

In the free skate, performed to *West Side Story*, Aaron electrified the crowd with an explosive program that was launched with a quad Salchow-double toe loop combination and a quad Salchow that generated 26.87 points. There was no doubt about each of those jumps as Aaron landed them with conviction.

Level 3 and Level 4 spins and footwork carried Aaron into the middle of his program, where he turned it on again with his jumping prowess. Seven triple jumps, including two triple Axels, lifted the audience to its feet as the program drew to a dramatic close.

“I’ve always wanted a standing ovation and that just kind of happened,” said Aaron, who skated first in the final warm-up group. “That was the best part. People just stood up because they were excited and that’s all I want is the excitement. I want to create that new atmosphere and bring it to more people.”

Aaron has taken a page from two-time reigning World champion Patrick Chan, who trains with Aaron in Colorado Springs. Chan, who represents Canada, is arguably the sport’s best jumper and has Aaron’s full attention when it comes to any advice he shares.

“I know how Patrick trains every day and how he jumps and I compare myself a lot to him,” Aaron said. “I see how he goes about his days and he makes sure he gets his programs done. He’s told me what it’s like to be at an event with great men, putting out quads and clean programs. He’s taught me how to compete, how to be on the World stage.”

While Aaron admits he doesn’t have the artistic talents of some of the other top skaters in the U.S. and world, he is excited about bringing his athleticism to current skating fans and, hopefully, a new fan base.

“It might take time for people to get used to my style,” Aaron said. “I know I’ll take a lot of criticism for it, but that’s what it takes when you’re at the top and I’m ready for it. I read the article on icenetwork and all the comments that were under it, and there were a lot of negative comments. But I talked to Sandra Bezic and many top people and they said don’t read that stuff, let people get used to you. Don’t change for them. You are who you are.”

Zakrajsek, however, said Aaron spends significant time improving his artistic side.

“He’s committed to being in the ballet studio and the dance studio and working on his components and posture, and learning about the artistic part of our sport, and I really feel all the criticism he’s getting is totally unjustified.

“He’s 20 years old. It’s not like he’s ignoring that part of the sport. He doesn’t want to just be a jumper, but he’s awesome at jumping. I think Max has a great balance going on right now.”

Miner, the U.S. bronze medalist in 2011 and 2012, moved a step closer to the title with a pair of sensational programs that also included the quad as the opening element. The athlete from The Skating Club of Boston finished second in the short program and second with his *Captain Blood* free skate.

While his quad in the short program was declared under-rotated, it was clean as a whistle in the free skate. He did pop his triple Axel, though, which likely cost him the title.



Max Aaron waves to the crowd after learning his free skate scores.

Max Aaron delivers one of his explosive jumps in his short program.



"The single Axel is not what I was looking for," Miner said, "but I'm happy I kept my head in it and fought all the way to the end. It was a good day."

For Miner, it was special to share the podium with Aaron, whom he has competed against since they were in their early teens.

"He was my first roommate at the North American Challenge," Miner said. "Max and I medaled at the junior nationals in Scottsdale. We were just talking about that because we had this goofy little handshake thing going on. I know his family and he knows mine. I grew up with a lot of these guys and have the utmost respect for them. It's been fun to look how far we've come."

Usually after a competition, it's tradition for Miner and Aaron to find a golf course and play a

round.

"It was just too snowy and foggy this year," Aaron said. "Maybe after Four Continents or Worlds."

While he'll always have fond memories of Omaha, Miner can't wait for 2014, when the U.S. Championships will be held in his backyard of Boston. There, he'll compete in front of those who have supported him over the years, including those from The Skating Club of Boston, his parents and coaches.

"It means so much to have all that support," Miner said.

Abbott, the three-time U.S. champion, sat in the driver's seat entering the free skate. He, however, fell on his opening under-rotated quad toe and doubled his two final planned triples,

Ross Miner skates two beautiful programs en route to the silver medal.



PHOTOS BY JAY ADERFF



Defending champion Jeremy Abbott grabs the early lead with his dynamic "Spy" program.

a loop and a Salchow, in his stirring and emotional program to "Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables*. While he dominated the artistic scores, the miscue on the Salchow likely cost him a spot on the World Team.

"It's really disappointing that I missed it by the easiest jump in my program," Abbott said. "I'm kicking myself in the head. It's so silly that it can come down to that, because the rest of the program I was really proud of and happy with. I love this program. I felt the most comfortable I've ever felt on the ice in my life and I was loving every second of it. You really can't ask for more than that, except for one more rotation.

"I always say things happen for a reason and I think right now I need to rest my back and I need to find my focus and decide what I want to do for next season and come back stronger than I've ever been. It will be my last season and I'm not going away quietly. I plan to be in Sochi no matter what."

Abbott, who trains in Detroit, said he will be pulling for Aaron and Miner to earn a third spot for the American men at the World Championships this month.

Farris earned the pewter medal with 244.82 points. He, too, attempted a quad toe loop in his free skate but fell. His performances, though, were dramatically better than his first two attempts at the U.S. senior level, where he placed 21st and 16th, respectively.

"I'm feeling awesome. I can't believe I medaled," Farris said. "I went out there with nothing to lose. I've already accomplished way more than I have in the past nationals. I went out there and did what I knew how to do, did most of it, only one little fumble on the quad, but I have room to grow."



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NO SPIN ZONE PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF FOR CASTELLI AND SHNAPIR

by TROY SCHWINDT

Coach Bobby Martin remembers the day he gave an ultimatum of sorts to his disgruntled pairs team of Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir.

Together since 2007, the Boston-based duo had hit the wall in their professional relationship after back-to-back fifth-place finishes at the U.S. Championships. Their partnership was collapsing, and everyone at The Skating Club of Boston figured something big was about to happen.

As Martin and his family boarded a plane to Lake Tahoe in February 2012 for their annual vacation, he left his pupils with simple, but stern instructions: "This isn't working. I'll see you in 10 days and you can tell me what you've decided. Call anyone you want, do whatever you need to do. This is your destiny."

Martin, who coaches the team with Carrie Wall, said that the friction between Castelli, 22, and Shnapir, 25, had reached a boiling point and that enough was enough.

"We [the club] have core values that we adhere to and they definitely stepped outside of those boundaries on occasion and we let them know," Martin said.

With Martin on vacation, Castelli and Shnapir agreed to get together for a heart-to-heart talk about their skating future.

"I think they hit the low of the low, and they had to try and figure out how this thing was going to work," Martin said.

Deciding to move forward and not look back, Castelli and Shnapir embarked on the 2012-13 season with a com-

PAIRS

GOLD
Marissa Castelli/
Simon Shnapir
180.61

SILVER
Alexa Scimeca/
Christopher Knierim
172.75

BRONZE
Felicia Zhang/
Nathan Bartholomay
172.02

PEWTER
Lindsay Davis/
Mark Ladwig
165.08

mitment to each other and the motivation to become medal contenders.

After a successful Grand Prix season in which they won their first medal (a bronze at NHK Trophy), Castelli and Shnapir finally realized their potential by winning the U.S. pairs title in Omaha.

"It's been forever," Castelli said of waiting for their moment in the sun. "We had dreams of a novice gold medal and then we had dreams of a junior gold medal, and we just missed them by that much. We were always in third place and last year was a real disappointment."

In answering questions following their long-awaited triumph, Castelli and Shnapir were more than forthcoming about their past partner-

ship issues.

"I guess Simon and I have good patience with each other, because there were multiple times in which we didn't like each other before and it was very apparent. But you know, we finally matured as people and we grew up. We looked at each other at the beginning of the season and decided what we really wanted to do. We really worked together and now we get along."

"We definitely did butt heads in the past," Shnapir added. "We have had so many ups and downs. We finally sat down and we had to move forward and put the past in the past."

Castelli and Shnapir arrived in Omaha as the heavy favorites, with defending champions Caydee



(l-r) Alexa Scimeca/
Christopher Knierim,
Marissa Castelli/Simon
Shnapir, Felicia Zhang/
Nathan Bartholomay,
Lindsay Davis/Mark Ladwig



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Denney and John Coughlin unable to compete because of an injury to Coughlin and the partnership dissolution of 2012 U.S. silver medalists Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker.

The Boston pair rushed to a nearly 10-point lead with their short program to “Stray Cat Strut” and “The Pink Panther.” Their throw triple

Salchow and program-opening triple twist lift generated big numbers en route to a score of 62.27.

“We had a couple bobbles but overall we’re happy with what we put out there today,” Shnapir said.

Four other teams found themselves in a logjam behind the leaders. Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay

may, Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim, Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier, and Lindsay Davis and Mark Ladwig all were within 1.54 points of each other heading into the free skate.

Up ninth in the 10-team field, Castelli and Shnapir locked up the title with their free skate to “Payadora.” They moved effortlessly from one element to the next for the third-best free skate of the segment and an overall score of 180.61 points. Their lifts, throws and side-by-side jumps were crisp and strong. They did, however, experience one major hiccup midway through the program when Shnapir nearly fell heading into a spin and decided to sit out the element entirely as Castelli continued spinning.

This awkward moment left everyone in the CenturyLink Center and an NBC television audience stunned and wondering what was next. To their credit, Castelli and Shnapir regrouped, picking up the program after the spin and finishing strongly.

As they glided off the ice and in the kiss and cry, Shnapir beat himself up over the mistake, with Castelli offering reassurance to her longtime partner.

When the scores were announced, the duo had the lead by eight points, with only

Zhang and Bartholomay left to skate. While Zhang and Bartholomay turned in an outstanding program, it wasn’t enough to overtake the leaders.

Despite their comfortable margin of victory, the mistake with the spin was what grabbed the media’s attention.

“It was a very long moment for me,” Castelli said. “I didn’t know if he was going to try and catch up with me and I really didn’t know what to do.”

“I really didn’t realize how long that spin was either,” Shnapir joked. “It was a weird feeling, obviously. At that point I think we just banked on our training and our preparation at home.”

After the press conference, Martin and Wall reflected on their team’s ultimate success.

“It’s a great feeling to watch them, the looks on their faces, the complete and sheer joy that they feel,” Martin said. “When you work through so much and work so hard as they have done, it’s such a great feeling for everybody.”

The team’s ability to rally after “the spin” is testament to the strength of their partnership as well, Wall said.

“They were fired up and wanted this bad,” she said. “They could have let it go south but they didn’t.”

The gold medal at the U.S. Championships was the first for a senior competitor from The Skating Club of Boston since 1963 when Lorraine Hanlon won the U.S. ladies crown in Long Beach, Calif.

Leaving Omaha with the silver medal were Scimeca, 21, and Knierim, 25, who forged their partnership less than a year ago. The Colorado-based team, under the coaching tandem of Dalilah Sappenfield and Larry Ibarra, sat third after the short program and won the free skate which they just started training for a couple months earlier after their Grand Prix assignment in Japan.

“It’s more of a performance program, where the other one was more element-based,” Knierim said. “We wanted to change to this program earlier but we had competition after competition and

Castelli and Shnapir soak up the moment after hearing their final score as coaches Carrie Wall and Bobby Martin proudly look on.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir deliver an entertaining free skate to sew up their first U.S. title.

we just held off.”

Performing to music from *La Vita E. Bella* (Life is Beautiful), they were nearly flawless, earning positive GOEs on 11 of 12 elements and Level 4s on three of their four lifts.

“We just had fun and that’s what we wanted to do, to come out here and put on a great performance for everyone,” Knierim said. “I think we accomplished that.”

“Right after I landed the second element, the throw flip, I was on cloud nine and I just let everything else fall into place,” Scimeca said. “It set the tone for the rest of the program.”

Although they finished second with a score of 172.75 points, Scimeca and Knierim were named first alternates to the U.S. World Team as Denney and Coughlin received the international selection committee’s nod pending a monitoring session.

Things, however, became foggy when Denney and Coughlin pulled themselves out of Worlds because they didn’t feel they had enough time to prepare. Scimeca and Knierim, meanwhile, were forced to withdraw from the Four Continents Championships because of a right foot injury sustained by Scimeca.

Upon her return to Colorado Springs, where the team trains, Scimeca was evaluated and cleared to train for Worlds.

Zhang, 19, and Bartholomay, 23, emerged with the bronze medal, finishing second in the short program and second in the free skate for an overall score of 172.02.

The Florida-based team, which came together in May 2011, was rock solid in Omaha.

“We’ve been training and it was really refreshing to come out at nationals and throw down one of our better programs,” Bartholomay said. “It doesn’t matter what color the medal is, we are just so excited to have proven that we belong here.”

Performing their free skate to *West Side Story*, Zhang and Bartholomay received positive GOEs on 11 of 12 elements, including Level 4s on their spins and lifts.

“There was a conversation about the component mark, and I feel that’s where they have made their big stride,” coach Jim Peterson said. “We went to go see *West Side Story* in the theater. We’ve obviously studied the movie. They take a solid two hours of ballet a week. I feel that it’s just going to get better and better.

“I think they’ve scratched the surface of sort

of where they are going to be and tonight was a turning point for them because they had to skate last, they had to skate last in a very strong event; they had never been second after the short and it really showed their backbone and fortitude to compete. It was the first standing ovation for them. I think they got the crowd behind them and that helped a lot.”

Peterson, who has coached recent pairs champions and medalists, said the future is bright for this team.

“There’s a lot of young, new talent right now in pairs and I feel they are just going to develop,” Peterson said. “I am going to bring Judy Blumberg back many times this year and work on choreography for their programs so they will be ready for next year. I don’t know what it will bring. I think they are certainly going to advance to the next cycle after Sochi, but if things happen sooner, they happen sooner.”

Davis and Ladwig, a first-year team, finished with 165.08 points and the pewter medal.

After the U.S. Championships, they announced that they have ended their partnership. Davis expressed interest in finding a new partner, while Ladwig is exploring his options.

Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim dazzled the crowd with their big tricks and performance.



Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay capture the bronze medal with a stellar performance to *West Side Story*.



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DAVIS AND WHITE WIN FIFTH U.S. TITLE

ONE MORE AND THEY WOULD HAVE THE RECORD TO THEMSELVES

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

For Meryl Davis and Charlie White, being great isn't good enough.

The skaters arrived at the 2013 U.S. Championships fresh off a convincing win at the Grand Prix Final in Sochi, Russia, where they defeated longtime training partners and rivals, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, the reigning World and Olympic champions from Canada.

In the lead-up to Omaha, they set about improving their programs, adding a dash of new choreography here, a new position or two there and, to bring it all together, even greater speed and flow.

Well-matched perfectionists they are, they even had fun doing it.

"Marina [Zoueva] has a lot of exercises, a lot of techniques, which we have used for years to build speed and power," Davis, 26, said. "We really focused on those after the Grand Prix Final and throughout the holiday season, which was actually a lot of fun for us. Charlie and I really enjoy pushing ourselves physically and athletically."

It showed in their performances. In their playful yet sophisticated short dance to music from the classic ballet *Giselle*, they flew around the ice with refinement and unison, gaining Level 4s for all of their elements, including the two sections of the challenging Yankee Polka. The program earned 79.02 points, the highest U.S. short dance score ever.

"We worked with our ballet teacher to make sure we hit all of the details of the program," Davis said. "This routine in particular is about the details, and it's been really educational. Researching, working the details — that's how we're going to approach our skating from here on out."

The 2011 World champions selected their free dance music to *Notre Dame de Paris*, the 1998 musical based on Victor Hugo's novel "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame," to

ICE DANCING

GOLD
Meryl Davis/
Charlie White
197.44

SILVER
Madison Chock/
Evan Bates
175.91

BRONZE
Maia Shibutani/
Alex Shibutani
174.21

PEWTER
Madison Hubbell/
Zachary Donohue
167.86

show their increased on-ice chemistry, and their performance in Omaha was their best yet, with new choreographic highlights to emphasize the love story.

They did not put a foot wrong, producing perfect twizzles, an elegant spin and lifts, and swift steps, all of which gained Level 4s from the technical panel.

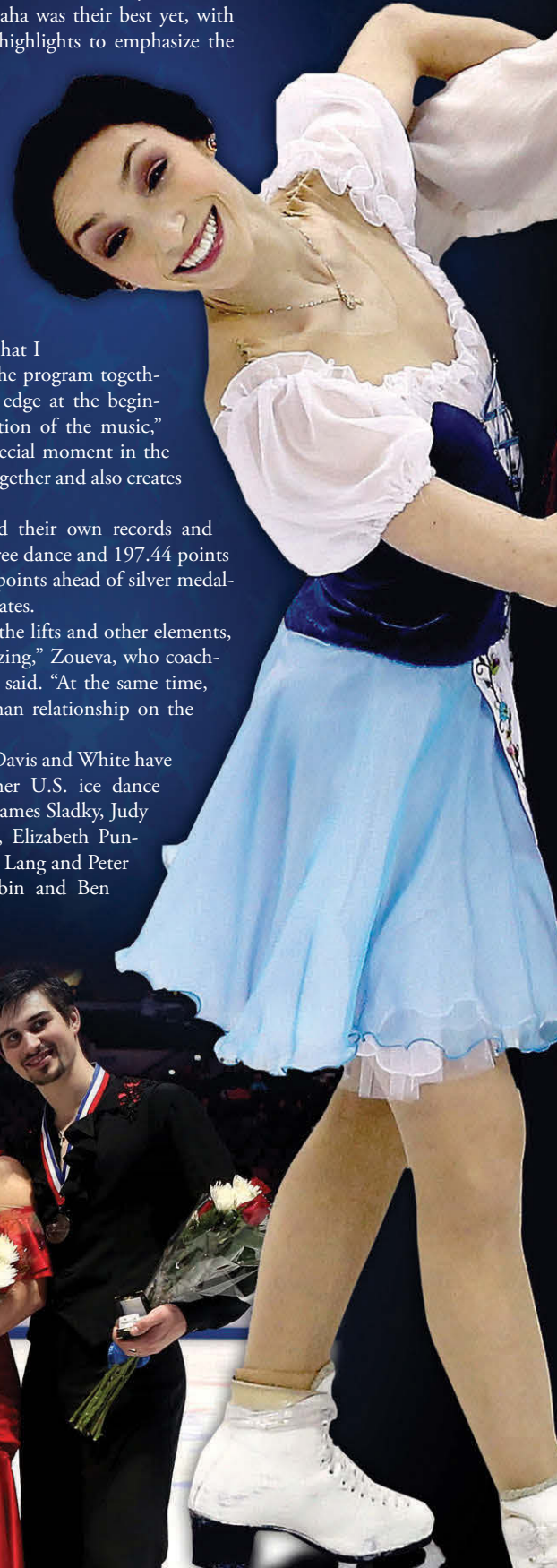
"There is a part that I think really brings the program together, a long extended edge at the beginning of the last section of the music,"

White, 25, said. "It's a really special moment in the program that helps bring it all together and also creates excitement going into the end."

Davis and White shattered their own records and earned 118.42 points for their free dance and 197.44 points overall, finishing more than 21 points ahead of silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates.

"The flow, into and out of the lifts and other elements, has improved so much, it's amazing," Zoueva, who coaches her teams in Canton, Mich., said. "At the same time, they are showing the man-woman relationship on the ice more than ever before."

With their fifth U.S. title, Davis and White have joined elite company. Five other U.S. ice dance teams — Judy Schwomeyer and James Sladky, Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow, Naomi Lang and Peter Tchnernyshev, and Tanith Belbin and Ben



(l-r) Madison Chock/Evan Bates, Meryl Davis/Charlie White, Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue



PHOTO BY JAV ADEFF



PHOTO BY MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Meryl Davis and Charlie White breeze to their record-tying fifth U.S. ice dance title with a pair of stellar performances.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES



Madison Chock and Evan Bates perform to *Dr. Zhivago* en route to a silver-medal finish.



Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani give a stellar performance with their *Memoirs of a Geisha* free dance.

Agosto — have won five U.S. crowns. One more, and Davis and White, already the most-decorated U.S. ice dancers internationally, would stand alone.

Chock and Bates, who began skating together in the summer of 2011, put storytelling skills to work in both of their programs. First, Chock played a circus tightrope walker in the team's quirky short dance set to the ethereal Cirque du Soleil "Quidam," and the team earned Level 4 for all five elements, including a fast-moving rotational lift.

In a romantic free dance to the sweeping score of *Dr. Zhivago*, the skaters used their height differential to good advantage, showing complex but smoothly executed lifts. They placed second to Davis and White in both sections, and took second overall with 175.91 points.

"There is no real substitute for time spent together and last season we didn't have much of it," Bates, 23, said. "This year we've had a lot more. There is just a night and day difference that we feel on the ice with each other."

The team's coach, Igor Shpilband, used input received from judges after Cup of China to strengthen the free dance.

"They do a lot more to bring the story out, and the elements are stronger," Shpilband, who trains the skaters in Novi, Mich., said. "They

proved this year they are very competitive, they have two good programs, their skating is consistent and they are ready."

Two points in deductions for extended (too long) lifts — one in their short dance to South American pan flute music, and another in their free dance to the *Memoirs of a Geisha* soundtrack — cost Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, who were edged out of the silver medal by 1.70 points.

The siblings, who train alongside Davis and White in Canton, worked with Miyako Tachibana, an esteemed practitioner and teacher of traditional Japanese dance — and the associate choreographer and principal Japanese dance consultant for the *Geisha* film — to help them refine their portrayals.

"We're very proud of the progress we've made in three seasons in senior," Alex, 21, said. "This year in particular we feel we've made a huge jump forward in maturity, look on the ice as well as the programs we are trying to tackle."

"We wanted to challenge ourselves by doing something new this year, and our programs are very different than what we've done in past seasons," Maia, 18, said.

Zoueva isn't concerned about the deductions.

"That kind of thing is easy to fix," she said.

"They got Level 4 on all of their hard elements, that is the big thing."

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, third in the U.S. last season, placed fourth in Omaha after two entertaining and well-skated programs, including a short dance to music from *Titanic* and a flamenco free dance. Although the team from Detroit Skating Club showed great on-ice chemistry and solid elements, in the outstanding field, their technical marks and program components were just a shade lower than those of the top couples.

"I think we did a strong performance," Hubbell, 21, said. "There are a lot of really good teams in the top so we felt a lot of pressure today. We thought we were using it to our advantage, all of those nerves, so we're happy with what we did."

Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt were fifth after two engaging programs including a short dance to country music, and free dance to an Adele medley, including "Turning Tables" and "Rumour Has It."

"We were happy with our performance, we put ourselves out there and we really enjoyed it," Giulietti-Schmitt, 27, said after the free dance. "All of our elements went smoothly so we couldn't hope for anything more."

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PHOTOS BY JAY ADFF



The crowd shows its support during the ladies free skate in Omaha.

OMAHA EXPERIENCE LAUDED

U.S. Figure Skating announced the attendance total of 90,760 for the 2013 U.S. Championships.

"We have heard nothing but overwhelmingly positive remarks from our athletes, officials and fans about the experience in Omaha," U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith said. "Great crowds, especially during the senior events, created a backdrop for great skating."

"The city was featured throughout the weekend on the event's coverage on NBC, and the local figure skating clubs benefitted from the experience of the U.S. Championships coming to Omaha. We are pleased and thank the city, fans and media for their support of the event."

VERY SUPERSTITIOUS

Even though she held on to win the title by more than two points, an obviously cautious Ashley Wagner admitted she was nervous before her performances and blamed being "crazy superstitious" for the uncharacteristic timidity.

"Going out onto the ice I had all of these bad omens that I kept seeing," Wagner said at the short program press conference. "I have this one lucky thing and that didn't happen, and then a song came on that I hated. It started when I was 6 years old. I always find a sparkle on the ground. I can't go looking for a sparkle; I just have to find the sparkle. Tonight, I didn't happen to come across one. I also always find my mom in the stands but I couldn't find her to save my life. I had an O.A.R. phase, but I grew out of it, so now I hate that song. All of that was happening and I was getting more and more nervous as time went on."

Despite her struggles with superstition, Wagner's maturity and exquisite program components managed to carry her through a bumpy free skate to become the first U.S. lady to win back-to-back U.S. titles since Michelle Kwan won eight straight through 2005.

— Mimi Whetstone

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Several sets of siblings took the ice in pursuit of U.S. titles in Omaha.

In the senior dance event, bronze medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani joined twins Danielle and Alexander Gamelin as sibling teams, while Anastasia and Isabella Cannuscio and Madison and Keiffer Hubbell each competed with their respective partners.

U.S. men's champion Max Aaron was joined in the spotlight by sister Madeline, who earned the bronze medal in the junior pairs event with partner Max Settlege. Junior silver medalist Mariah Bell was joined by sister Morgan, who competed in the senior ladies event.

Lauren and Logan Leonesio competed in the novice and intermediate dance events, respectively, and were joined in the lower levels by Gigi and Luca Becker (novice dance); Ananya and Aditya Nandy (intermediate pairs); Joanna and William Hubbard, Greta and John Crafoord, Jasmine and Joshua Fendi, Cecilia and William Wright (juvenile pairs) and Sophia and Christopher Elder and

Caroline and Gordon Green (juvenile dance).

"Sometimes when we're around each other all the time it gets annoying," 11-year-old Gordon Green admitted. "But then she'll make this big smiley face and it helps us stop being mad. Competitions like this one make all that time worth it."

— Mimi Whetstone

BROWN SMILES THROUGH AXEL CHALLENGE

Jason Brown, the 2010 U.S. junior champion, won the Junior Grand Prix Final in 2011 and World Junior bronze medal in 2012. But he and his coach, Kori Ade, knew that to make his mark in seniors, he needed a triple Axel.

Brown tried, and tried, and then kept on trying. He traveled to Lake Arrowhead, Calif., to work with technical master Rafael Arutyunyan on the three-and-a-half revolution jump. He attempted it at summer competitions. He trained the jump at altitude in Colorado Springs, Colo. All the while, he endured questions from reporters about his progress, always answering with a genuine smile.

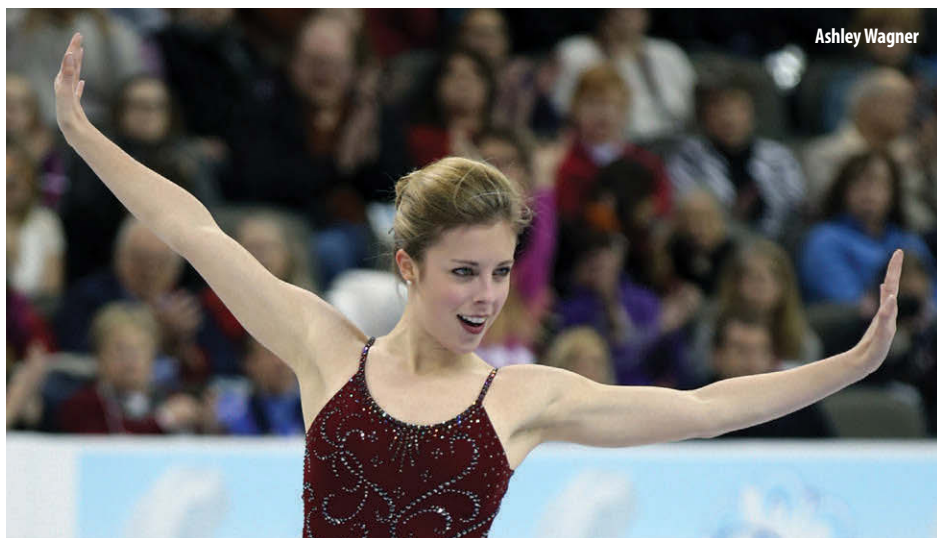
At his second Grand Prix event in Turkey this season, he tried the jump in international competition for the first time, falling on it. Then, at the Junior Grand Prix Final in Sochi, Russia, in December, he landed it in the short program.

"I landed it the Wednesday before the Final, and I was so excited — it was literally nonstop," the 18-year-old from Chicago said. "I was afraid to get off of the ice. I was nervous it wouldn't be there when I got back, but the following day I landed it, and the next and the next."

In Omaha, Brown hit the jump with ease in practice. Then he fell on it in his short program. Finally, he landed his first attempt in the free skate.

"I was just really excited to come to nationals with the jump," Brown said. "I feel so blessed to land them in warm-up, and to do it in the long, I'm just really happy."

— Lynn Rutherford



PASSING IT ON

Omaha abounded with competitors following in their famous parents' tracings.

Maxim Naumov, the 12-year-old son of Russia's 1994 World pairs champions Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, won the juvenile boys title. Daniel Petrenko, son of 1986 World Junior champion Vladimir Petrenko and nephew of 1992 Olympic champion Viktor Petrenko, placed 10th in novice men. Both skaters train in Simsbury, Conn.

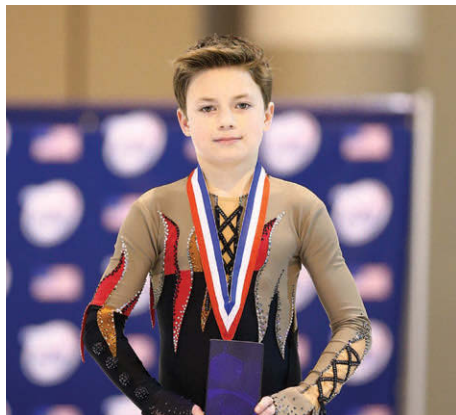
Anthony Ponomarenko may have the biggest boots to fill. His parents, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, who competed for the Soviet Union, won three Olympic ice dance medals: a bronze in 1984, silver in 1988 and gold in 1992. Ponomarenko and his partner, Sarah Feng, were eighth in novice ice dance. Feng also placed eighth in novice ladies.

Klimova, who coaches the team in San Jose, Calif., expressed mixed feelings about guiding her son's career.

"I'm just a mom, and I think students respect a coach more," she said. "They listen better, and focus more, when it's the coach talking. When parents talk, they take it easy, they listen halfway."

It's much harder to coach as a parent. You need to stay tough and demanding, but it's hard, because it's your own child. You don't want to be

Maxim Naumov



rough and evil."

If anything, Dad is an even softer touch. "I try not to press [Anthony] too much, because he just turned 12 a few weeks ago," Ponomarenko said. "If I press too much, he won't like skating as much as he does now. So our goal is just to calm down, let him become more involved in the skating process and hopefully he will find he can't live without it. If we start to yell at him and just have him do hard elements, he probably won't like it and will quit someday, which we don't want."

Klimova hopes to strike the right balance between loving mom and stringent taskmaster. "We will figure it out, because I explained to him, 'At home I am your loving mom, but at the rink I am your coach. So I can be tough, a little bit strict and demand discipline, but I still love you,'" she said.

She may need to get a bit tougher, because Anthony isn't buying it.

"Sometimes she is really strict at the rink, but she is still a really cool mom," he said.

Omaha was far different for Igor Shpilband, whose daughter Katia placed 12th in junior ladies. The renowned ice dance coach does not train his daughter; she moved from her home in Michigan a year ago to work under Rafael Arutyunyan in Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

"Katia is on her own path; I never pushed her into skating," Shpilband said. "When she was little I would bring her to the rink and show her how to skate, but she really started to express interest when she turned 10, which is quite late, and started to take lessons. I think Rafael is the best coach for her and she has been progressing tremendously and growing up as a person throughout this year."

It's clear, though, that his daughter's pursuit of her dream is bittersweet for him.

"I barely see her; I saw her maybe four times this past year," he said. "Here in Omaha I'm just enjoying my time with her. Katia making nationals for the first time was really a great experience. I want her to enjoy it and take the best of it."

— Lynn Rutherford

METHOD ACTING ON SKATES

Madison Hubbell likes to stay in character, even during practices. She and partner Zachary Donohue, who placed fourth in Omaha, performed a fiery flamenco as their free skate, and the tall, blonde ice dancer dashed around the hotel in full regalia: dark eyeliner, ruffled skirt, hair combs and fan, and big drop earrings.

"You can't do flamenco halfway," she said. "If we wear our practice clothes, it doesn't feel right. I like dressing the part, trying to feel as Spanish as I can."

Flamenco dancers are generally a bit older than competitive figure skaters, and Hubbell's dark-haired partner tried to add a few years, growing a mustache and goatee.

"I'm doing my best, but a 22-year-old guy isn't going to be able to grow this in, in a few weeks," Donohue said.

— Lynn Rutherford

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue



WHAT'S NEXT?

These skaters will represent Team USA at the ISU World Championships (March 11–17, London, Ontario, Canada) and the ISU World Junior Championships (Feb. 25–March 3, Milan, Italy):

2013 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Gracie Gold
Ashley Wagner
Alternate: Agnes Zawadzki
Alternate: Christina Gao
Alternate: Mirai Nagasu

MEN

Max Aaron
Ross Miner
Alternate: Jeremy Abbott
Alternate: Adam Rippon
Alternate: Joshua Farris

PAIRS

Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnafir
Alexa Scimeca/Chris Knierim
Alternate: Felicia Zhang/Nathan Bartholomay
Alternate: Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier

ICE DANCING

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

2013 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES

Samantha Cesario
Courtney Hicks
Yasmin Siraj
Alternate: Angela Wang
Alternate: Hannah Miller

Alternate: Leah Keiser

MEN

Jason Brown
Joshua Farris
Shotaro Omori
Alternate: Harrison Choate
Alternate: Jay Yostanto

PAIRS

Jessica Noelle Calalang/Zack Sidhu
Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier
Britney Simpson/Matthew Blackmer
Alternate: Madeline Aaron/Max Settlage
Alternate: Jessica Pfund/AJ Reiss

ICE DANCING

Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton
Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker
Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter
Alternate: Holly Moore/Daniel Klüber
Alternate: Elliana Pogrebinsky/Ross Gudis

**MARISSA CASTELLI
AND
SIMON SHNAPIR**
2013 U.S. PAIRS CHAMPIONS

**MERYL DAVIS
AND
CHARLIE WHITE**
2013 U.S. ICE DANCING
CHAMPIONS



**ASHLEY
WAGNER**
2013 U.S. LADIES
CHAMPION

**MAX
AARON**
2013 U.S. MEN'S
CHAMPION

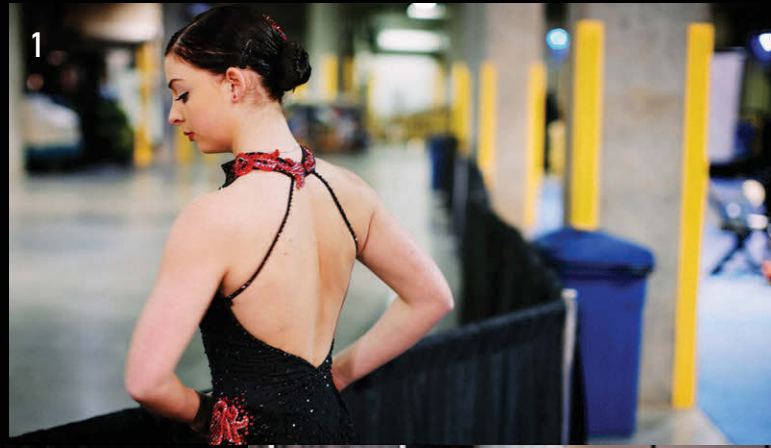
PHOTOS BY JAY ADERF

BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTOS

PHOTOS BY TOM WEHRLE

- 1) Haven Denney prepares to perform with partner Brandon Frazier in the pairs event.
- 2) Ross Miner and coach Peter Johansson walk down the competition tunnel.
- 3) Ice dance teams (l-r) Zachary Donohue and Madison Hubbell and Alex Shibutani and Maia Shibutani hang out in the AT&T Athlete Lounge.
- 4) Jeremy Abbott gets himself ready to compete under the watchful eye of coach Jason Dungjen.
- 5) Five-time U.S. champions Charlie White and Meryl Davis, with their coach Marina

- 6) Zoueva, prepare to take the ice.
- 7) Two-time U.S. champion Ashley Wagner works on her lines in the off-ice practice area.
- 8) Zachary Donohue and Madison Hubbell share a light moment as their coaches, Pasquale Camerlengo and Massimo Scali, look on.





Members of the 2013 U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team are honored during an on-ice ceremony in Omaha. The 10 outstanding student-athletes were recognized for their efforts in the classroom, in their communities and as competitive skaters. Honorees receive scholarships and team jackets, and a donation is made in each member's honor to the charity of their choice. The Scholastic Honors Team is funded through the generosity of the Pioneer Fund, the legacy of the late Helen McLoraine. Pictured are (l-r) Kaitlin Hawayek, Wilbur Ji, Sage Kelner, Brian Krentz, Alexander Martin and Holly Moore. Not pictured are Christie Corn, Jacquelyn Cruz, Lauren Lapuck and Jennifer Skerker.

Ice dancers Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton received the 2013 Ron and Gayle Hershberger Fund Award in Omaha. The two-time U.S. junior champions won the grants for having the highest short dance and free dance component marks at the U.S. Championships in Omaha. The award, now in its third year, rotates among the four disciplines. Ron Hershberger served as U.S. Figure Skating president from 2005 to 2009. Also, Tyler Pierce and Oleksiy Melnyk received the Cecilia Colledge Memorial Fund Award, which is presented annually to the novice lady and man who achieve the highest combined program components score of the U.S. Championships. Colledge won the silver medal at the 1936 Olympics and the 1937 World title while representing Great Britain. She joined the coaching staff at The Skating Club of Boston, where she taught until 1977.



Junior ice dancers Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker visit with Friends of Figure Skating members Shirley and David Lewis at the FOFS breakfast in Omaha. More than 150 FOFS members attended the annual FOFS breakfast. While dining on eggs and breakfast sausage, attendees were treated to a keynote speech from senior pairs competitor Mark Ladwig. In all, 57 athletes, ranging in level from juvenile to senior, attended the breakfast to meet and mingle with FOFS members. The 2013-14 Friends of Figure Skating season begins Oct. 1, 2013. Secure your membership today! Visit www.friendsoffigureskating.com.



Two-time U.S. champion Ashley Wagner received the Michelle Kwan Trophy as SKATING magazine's winner of the 2012 Readers' Choice Award. Wagner enjoyed a breakthrough campaign in 2011-12, capped off by winning her first U.S. title and less than two weeks later capturing the 2012 Four Continents Championships. She went on to finish fourth at the 2012 World Championships. SKATING magazine editor Troy Schwindt presented Wagner the award during the Smucker's Skating Spectacular.





▶ Olympic champion Tara Lipinski talked about her career and its challenges during the annual Team USA Prep Seminar on Jan. 22 at the Omaha Hilton. Nearly all of the novice athletes attended the breakfast, where the keynote address was delivered by the skating great. A video showing 15-year-old Lipinski winning the Olympic gold medal kicked off her address to the young athletes. She talked about dealing with frustration and competition nerves, as well as the huge role that her mom played in her success.



▲ Fans had the opportunity to experience a mock "Puffs Kiss and Cry" on the concourse during the Championships.

U.S. pairs silver medalists Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim sign an autograph for one of their fans. Medalists from the novice level to the senior level spent time on the concourse at the Century Link Center signing autographs and taking photographs with their supporters.



Rick Perez, who has served U.S. Figure Skating in numerous ways over the past several decades, received the 11th annual Jimmy Disbrow Award in Omaha. Perez embodies the spirit and passion for volunteerism on which the Jimmy Disbrow Award was founded, according to the selection committee. He has amassed an impressive career as a competitor, referee, judge, technical panel official, committee chair and a beloved team leader at multiple international competitions. He served as the chief referee at the U.S. Championships in Omaha. His nomination letter read in part, "Across all disciplines, this individual is held in high esteem by peers, skaters and coaches for his commitment to achievement and fairness, with no thought of personal ambition. He brings an infectious enthusiasm and gentle nature to all that he does, making everyone feel equally important and valued." 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. His wife, Dede, presented the award to Perez.



▲ The 2013 Prudential U.S. Championships silent auction raised more than \$4,500 for Team USA. Prudential, Hilton HHonors, Main Event, Mannheim Steamroller and U.S. Figure Skating donated items.



▲ Memorial Fund Chair Susan Bonn is flanked by junior pairs skaters Britney Simpson and Jessica Noelle Calalang, who both spoke at the Memorial Fund reception in Omaha. The Memorial Fund reception took the form of a buffet luncheon as 70 guests and a number of current athletes enjoyed sandwiches, salads and desserts. Bonn welcomed guests and delivered remarks on the history, mission and importance of the Memorial Fund. Simpson and Calalang, who have both received Memorial Fund assistance, spoke to the group about how Memorial Fund support has helped them to continue to train and compete to reach their goals.



ZHOU AND COMPANY PUT ON A GREAT SHOW

It's easy for coach Tammy Gambill to keep Vincent Zhou motivated at her Riverside, Calif., rink. The 12-year-old from Palo Alto, Calif., can't wait to compete each day against his talented rinkmates.

"Vincent is always up for a challenge," Gambill said. "He's trying to be better than all the senior men and he's got his eyes forward."

Zhou, the 2012 novice titlist and 2011 intermediate champ, bested the junior field with his *Casablanca* free skate.

"This is a very mature program and it certainly took a lot of work and I think it's paid off and I was able to put my best out there," he said.

Another Californian, Polina Edmunds, secured the ladies title.

Sixth last year in the junior ranks and seventh as a junior in 2011, Edmunds performed two technically challenging programs to secure the crown. Her short program started with a triple-triple combination, and her free skate to *Romeo and Juliet* included a pair of triple-triple combinations.

"My triple-triple, I've been working on all year," Edmunds said after the short program. "I'm really happy that I nailed it in my program; it's the main jump that I try to do and it feels consistent now."

The pairs team of Britney Simpson and Matthew Blackmer won the silver medal in the junior ranks in 2012. They climbed to the top spot in Omaha.

Simpson and Blackmer, who train in Colorado Springs, Colo., sat second after the short program to training mates Madeline Aaron and Max Settlage.

Their component marks in their free skate proved to be the difference in elevating them to the top of the podium.

Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton successfully defended their ice dance title, winning both segments and the competition by more than 10 points.

The skaters, who train at the Detroit Skating Club, used their vast experience both domestically and internationally to help seize the crown. They've been competing together since 2010.

LADIES

GOLD
Polina Edmunds
159.87

SILVER
Mariah Bell
152.80

BRONZE
Barbie Long
152.53

PEWTER
Karen Chen
144.56

MEN'S

GOLD
Vincent Zhou
205.26

SILVER
Shotaro Omori
189.25

BRONZE
Nathan Chen
181.31

PEWTER
Jimmy Ma
176.09

PAIRS

GOLD
Britney Simpson/
Matthew Blackmer
146.44

SILVER
Jessica Noelle Calalang/
Zack Sidhu
141.52

BRONZE
Madeline Aaron/
Max Settlage
138.41

PEWTER
Chelsea Liu/
Devin Perini
138.31

ICE DANCING

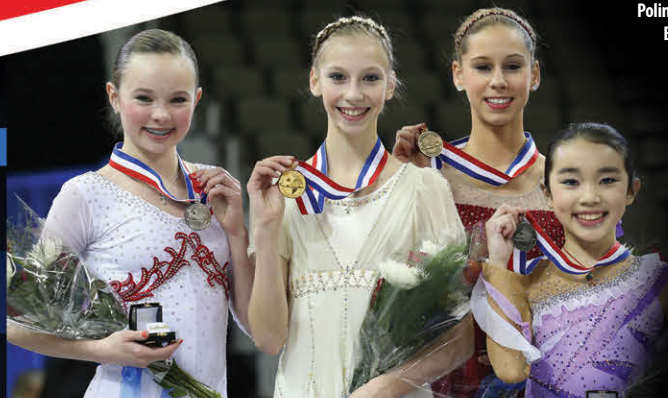
GOLD
Alexandra Aldridge/
Daniel Eaton
159.85

SILVER
Kaitlin Hawayek/
Jean-Luc Baker
149.74

BRONZE
Lorraine McNamara/
Quinn Carpenter
149.25

PEWTER
Holly Moore/
Daniel Klaber
141.33

(l-r) Mariah Bell,
Polina Edmunds,
Barbie Long,
Karen Chen



(l-r) Shotaro
Omori, Vincent
Zhou, Nathan
Chen, Jimmy Ma



(l-r) Jessica Noelle
Calalang/Zack
Sidhu, Britney
Simpson/Matthew
Blackmer,
Madeline Aaron/
Max Settlage,
Chelsea Liu/
Devin Perini



(l-r) Kaitlin Hawayek/
Jean-Luc Baker,
Alexandra Aldridge/
Daniel Eaton,
Lorraine McNamara/
Quinn Carpenter,
Holly Moore/
Daniel Klaber



PHOTOS BY JAY ADFF



GOLD MEDALIST
POLINA
EDMUNDS

POISED EDMUNDS CLAIMS TITLE

by MIMI WHETSTONE

Poise, class and effortless grace have become synonymous with those crowned U.S. ladies champion. This year's junior champion, 14-year-old Polina Edmunds, is no exception. Winning both segments of the competition, Edmunds received an overall score of 159.87 points to stand atop the podium.

Mariah Bell earned the silver medal, while Barbie Long claimed the bronze hardware.

"I'm really excited to be a national champion," said Edmunds, who calls San Jose, Calif., home. "This is my first national medal, so for it to be gold is really amazing."

Her short program performed to "Two Guitars," a Russian gypsy folk song, was packed with difficult elements including a triple Lutz-triple toe combination that generated a program-high 10.80 points.

"I've been working on my triple-triple all year," Edmunds said after her short program. "I did it a little bit last year, too, so I'm really happy that I nailed it in my program."

In addition to her jumps, Edmunds received a Level 4 on each of her three spins and garnered an impressive 58.17 points for the segment, a score that would hold its own in the senior event.

For her free skate, Edmunds took the ice in a delicate cream-colored dress to Nino Rota's *Romeo and Juliet*. Despite receiving a series of downgraded marks for underrotation, Edmunds emerged on top after a performance that featured seven triple jumps, including two triple-triple combinations.

"I don't know where things were underrotated," Edmunds ad-

mitted. "Of course I'm kind of disappointed with my score based on the difficulty of the program, but I'm really happy with my skate and that's all I can really do."

Edmunds earned 101.70 points for the segment, crediting choreographer and Olympic ice dancing champion Marina Klimova for her exquisite components.

"I love Marina Klimova; she's so great and I love her choreography," Edmunds said. "She makes the most beautiful programs. I'm so happy to be able to skate them and show everyone Marina Klimova's choreography because I think everything she does is gorgeous."

Edmunds, who trains under coach David Glynn, won the event by more than seven points, erasing a disappointing sixth-place finish at last year's U.S. Championships and proving herself to be a serious contender among the country's top skaters.

"Last year I wasn't well-trained," Edmunds said. "I was slacking off the whole season. I went into the short and I did really well, which was a fluke because that was probably the first clean short that I had done in competition that season. This year, I feel a lot better-trained and I learned a lot from last year's experience. I've worked so much harder this year."

Bell, 16, disclosed her last season's struggles as well.

"I was at the junior level last year and I think I've matured so much," said Bell, who lives in Westminster, Colo. "Last year I let myself get nervous. I had to understand that this is just a sport. I love it, but it's just a sport. It's something that

I've had to get used to, not making myself really nervous, because I do everything in practice and this is no different."

Bell earned 152.80 points for the week, finishing with a free skate to music from *West Side Story*, a selection she admits was not her first choice.

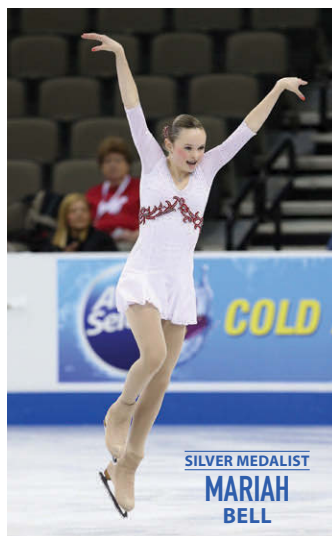
"I feel like it's a good thing that I didn't love the music right at first," Bell said. "I've done that in the past and by the end of the year I'm like, 'I don't know, I guess it's OK.' This year I was really picky about it. I started working with a new choreographer, Cindy Stuart, and I absolutely love her. She's efficient when she works and she has a total plan before we even start working together."

Also performing her free skate to selections from *West Side Story*, Long bounced back from a disappointing fourth-place finish in the short program to tackle her nerves and round out the podium.

"I think I was a little too nervous," said Long, 16, who hails from St. Louis. "I could have relaxed a little more and felt the program instead of thinking about every little detail. I have trouble with confidence sometimes, just because I always want everything to be perfect. I'm getting better, but it's something that still needs work."

Long, who claimed the silver medal last fall at a Junior Grand Prix event in Slovenia, placed second in the free skate and finished less than a point behind Bell, with 152.53 points.

Karen Chen, the 2012 U.S. novice champion, garnered 144.56 points and placed fourth.



SILVER MEDALIST
MARIAH
BELL



BRONZE MEDALIST
BARBIE
LONG

ZHOU TAKES 'CASABLANCA' PROGRAM TO TOP OF PODIUM

by TROY SCHWINDT

He's only 12 years old, but Vincent Zhou knows how to command a performance and give an equally entertaining interview afterward.

The dynamic skater from Palo Alto, Calif., breezed past the junior men's field in Omaha with his "Casablanca" free skate that helped generate a personal-best overall score of 205.26 points.

Zhou overtook Riverside, Calif., rinkmate and short-program leader Shotaro Omori, who garnered the silver medal with 189.25 points. Nathan Chen, the defending junior titlist, captured the bronze medal with 181.31 points.

"That was incredible," said Zhou, who won the U.S. intermediate title in 2011 and the U.S. novice crown in 2012. "That was the skate of my life and I was so happy out there."

Dressed in a black suit and bow tie, Zhou played Rick from the classic film *Casablanca*. He stayed in character throughout the program, which featured eight triple jumps, two of which were in combination. Moving seamlessly across the ice, all but one of his 12 elements received positive grades of execution. (His triple Lutz-triple toe loop near the end of the program was judged underrotated.) Justin Dillon put to-

gether the dynamic program, while Cindy Stuart choreographed his short program to "The Sorcerer's Apprentice."

Breaking the 200-point barrier, he said, felt fantastic.

"I got 199 at regionals and I was like, 'What's my problem, I can't get over 200,'" he said. "This is a huge accomplishment for me and I'm very proud. I think it's going to give me a lot of confidence in myself."

"I loved that last triple Lutz-triple toe," he added. "It's a big hurdle for me and I'm glad I was able to get it done."

Zhou's program and his overall success isn't surprising, said his coach Tammy Gambill, who calls him a delight to coach.

"He's a little pistol and always keeps me entertained and on my toes," Gambill said. "He does this [free skate] on a daily basis and for him to come out and do it under this pressure, I'm incredibly proud of him."

Zhou is usually the first to arrive at the practice rink each day, ready to get to work, his coach said.

"He's there in the parking lot, in the dark, warming up outside before the rink even opens," Gambill said.

Another one of Gambill's star pupils, Omori secured a 3.56-point advantage with his short program to "Misa Tango." He started by landing a triple Axel and a triple Lutz-triple toe loop combination that generated 19.51 points.

"I think landing that triple Axel right away gave me a lot of confidence, but I didn't want to let my confidence go after that," he said.

In his free skate to "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini," Omori, 17, turned in another fine performance although he experienced a few bumps in the road. He fell early in the program on his triple Axel-double toe loop combination and later popped his second triple Axel.

"Actually I thought the first one went up pretty well from my angle and I thought he had it, and he did too," Gambill said. "The second one he went into a bit cautious. He actually added a triple toe at the end of the program that wasn't planned, so I was pleased that he wasn't going to try and just hang on but was making sure to get as many



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF

points as he could."

Chen, 13, battled the stomach flu during the event and contemplated withdrawing prior to the short program, but pushed through with a pair of gutsy performances.

"It (withdrawal) was in my mind before the short program," Chen said. "Five minutes before I was like, 'Do I withdraw or do I go, do I withdraw or do I go.' I've come so far. I've had such a rough season with injuries and sickness."

Coach Rafael Arutyunyan said Chen showed the heart of a champion in the face of adversity.

"Sure, he was slower and weaker, but he went through [his programs], didn't stop, did as much as he could and I'm so proud of him."

Chen finished third in the short program and fourth in the free skate.

Jimmy Ma of New York finished third in the free skate and fourth overall with 176.09 points.

SIMPSON AND BLACKMER FINALLY REACH THE SUMMIT

by JOSH ELLIS

As the final team received their scores, Britney Simpson and Matthew Blackmer engaged in a long embrace. For the pair, a long road, filled with ups and downs, had culminated in their first U.S. title together, and you could tell from the look on their faces and the tears in their eyes how much it meant to them.

“For me, I’ve been coming to the U.S. Championships for a very long time and I have always been so close,” Simpson said. “We got what we wanted so I was happy to finally relax and be happy that we did what we trained to do.”

“Last year we had big expectations and a lot of pressure and we were right there, but not quite,” Blackmer said. “But to get there this year was big, super emotional and a validation of what we have been working so hard for.”

Simpson and Blackmer, who joined forces in February 2011, were medalists prior to their partnership, but a U.S. title was something special for these two.

Second after the short program, Simpson and Blackmer executed their elements well in their free skate, which included a throw triple loop that earned 5.80 points, but won gold on the strength of their component score, which was nearly six points higher than the second-place team. They finished with an overall score of 146.44.

“I think all we focused on was going out, having fun and performing and that’s what we did out there,” Simpson said.

The duo were scheduled to compete at the World Junior Championships in Milan, Italy, Feb. 25–March 3, where they looked to improve upon their 10th-place finish from last year.

Jessica Calalang and Zack Sidhu, third after the short program, earned the silver medal with 141.52 points. Last year’s pewter medalists generated 93.20 points for their free skate and reeled in the best score for their elements in the competition.

“Today we skated pretty well, although it wasn’t our best,” Calalang said. “We still have room for improvement, but we had a lot

of fun today.”

Included in their performance were the event’s top two elements, a Level 4 Axel lasso lift that earned 7.20 points and a throw triple Lutz that counted for 6.35 points.

Calalang and Sidhu, who train in California, were second after the short program last year in San Jose, but two falls in their free skate dropped them to fourth. This year, the duo who train under Olympians Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, skated clean and confidently to advance their position from the short program.

Madeline Aaron and Max Settlage, rinkmates of the champions in Colorado Springs, Colo., secured the bronze medal with 138.41 points. They entered the free skate in first place; however three falls during their free skate had them clinging to the bronze medal by one-tenth of a point. Despite the rocky start to the routine, Settlage and Aaron executed their final five elements with a positive grade of execution.

“Today we didn’t do exactly what we had trained,” Aaron, fighting tears, said after the free skate. “But we are still happy to leave here with a medal.”

The bronze is their second of the season after earning a medal of the same color at the Junior Grand Prix–United States last September. The duo also improved their position from last year’s sixth-place finish at this event.

“I definitely feel like we’ve grown a lot this year,” Settlage said. “This is just another experience and we are going to take it as that and keep going.”

Aaron is the sister of Max Aaron, the newly crowned U.S. men’s champion.

Earning the pewter medal were last year’s novice champions Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini with 138.31 points. The two were happy with their finish in their first season competing at the junior level.

“Both Chelsea and I have been working really hard,” Perini said. “We medaled our first time as juniors and it feels good.”



GOLD MEDALISTS
BRITNEY SIMPSON
AND
MATTHEW BLACKMER



SILVER MEDALISTS
JESSICA NOELLE CALALANG
AND
ZACK SIDHU



BRONZE MEDALISTS
MADELINE AARON
AND
MAX SETTLAGE

PHOTOS BY JAV ADREFF



ALDRIDGE, EATON MAKE PERFECT MATCH WITH 'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF'

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Last season, Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton gave audiences a high-stepping, foot-stomping ride with their roaring *Riverdance* routine. This season, their goal was to show something equally entertaining.

"We knew we wanted to get people tapping their feet to our music, and draw them into the program as much as we could," Eaton, 20, said.

When the skaters and their coaches at the Detroit Skating Club (DSC) discussed music choices, there was some back and forth. Broadway? Disco? How about ballroom? Then Anjelika Krylova spoke up.

"I want Fiddler," the two-time World ice dance champion said.

And so *Fiddler on the Roof* it was, and the uplifting musical score, with its life-affirming message, has proven a perfect vehicle for the duo's exceptional ice coverage and increasing power. In Omaha, they flowed into and out of difficult elements with ease, and were so well-trained that when Aldridge took a slip at the start of the diagonal step sequence, she was back up in the blink of an eye.

The defending U.S. junior champions earned 93.74 points for the sparkling routine, ending the event with a score of 159.85, some 10 points ahead of training partners

Kaitlin Hayawek and Jean-Luc Baker.

"The program had the toe-tapping that we loved, but there was also such a deep connection between the characters," Aldridge, 18, said. "We thought that would be a good challenge for us, to play up the love story."

Aldridge and Eaton, who won both of their Junior Grand Prix events and placed third at the Junior Grand Prix Final, entered the free dance with a 2.44-point lead after a smooth performance of their short dance to "Down Home Blues." It was particularly satisfying since they've had to come from behind after the short dance in their international events.

"It was definitely our best yet," Eaton said. "Before nationals, we

went back and worked on the key points of the Blues pattern dance and really got the style of it down, so we could just focus on technical aspect of it."

Now, their sights are firmly set on the 2013 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Milan, Italy, in February, where they hope to beat last season's bronze medal.

"I think that Alex and I have improved a lot since last season; we're communicating better and our elements have all gotten stronger and more consistent," Eaton said.

"Our training is getting harder and harder, and that is helping us improve competition to competition," Aldridge said. "I'm happy with the way things are progressing for us."

Hawayek and Baker, teamed together just seven months ago by the DSC coaches, impressed with their deep edges and fine unison, first in their short dance to a jazzy "Minnie the Moocher," and again in their free dance to the sprightly *Singin' in the Rain* score. They won silver with 149.74 points.

"We try to skate as though we are little kids; We do it because we love it, not as a job," Baker, 19, said. "It's 'We get to go and skate,' not 'we have to go and skate.'"

"We both lucked out finding this great partnership," Hawayek, 16, said. "It's just been working out really well."

Baker has ice dance in his genes. His mother, Sharon Jones, is a three-time British ice dance champion. His previous partner, Joylyn Yang, with whom he won the 2011 U.S. novice bronze medal, retired due to back problems, and when he did not find a suitable partner at home in Seattle, he approached the team at DSC.

"We have five coaches and

they all bring us something unique," Hawayek said. "Anjelika and Natalia [Annenko-Deller] drill us; Pasquale [Camerlengo] is very specific and technical on what he wants; Liz [Punsalan-Swallow] is great with keeping us focused; Massimo [Scali] works a lot on the choreography with Pasquale. They are all just very motivating."

For the second year running, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, who train at Maryland's Wheaton Skating Academy, claimed the bronze medal, losing out on silver by just .49 points.

The youngsters skated a dramatic free dance to the French musical version of *Romeo and Juliet*, but really made noise by playing zombies in their hip-hop-infused short dance to "Zombie Blues" and "Ramalama."

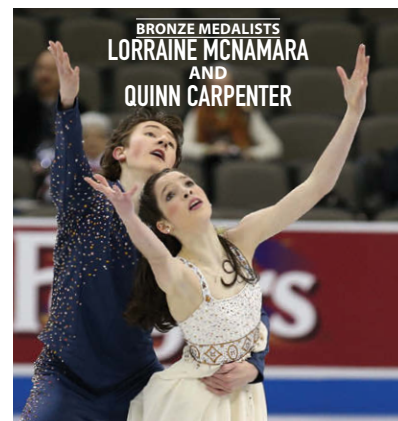
"We really wanted to stand out," McNamara, 13, said. "We [watched] the zombie number on 'So You Think You Can Dance' to see how those professional dancers moved and how they carried their bodies. ... Once we discovered hip-hop, it was a lot of fun."

"It was very interesting to do something so different from a lot of the other dances we practice," Carpenter, 16, said. "It was very cool."

Another team from DSC, Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber, placed fourth with 141.33 points. The 2012 U.S. novice champions performed a fun short dance from *Grease*, and an equally entertaining, and more edgy and sophisticated free dance to music from *Moulin Rouge*.

"We really love to perform and bring the audience into our programs," Moore, 17, said.

"This was our first year in juniors, so we didn't have any real placement goals," Klaber, 18, said. "We're very happy with our programs here."



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NOVICE

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NOVICE SKATERS BRING THEIR A-GAME TO OMAHA

The future of competitive skating in the United States is in good hands. In Omaha, the novice-level skaters routinely demonstrated entertaining programs that were filled with difficult elements.

They kicked off the 95th edition of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the CenturyLink Center on Sunday, Jan. 20 and finished up late Monday afternoon, Jan. 21.

The thrill of competing at the “Big Show” wasn’t lost on any of the 74 skaters who traveled from all over the country to battle for medals in America’s Heartland.

“It’s been such an amazing experience already, and I’m so grateful to be here,” novice ladies champion Tyler Pierce said after her event-best short program.

Pierce found herself in a friendly showdown with Riverside, Calif., rinkmate Amy Lin. Both ladies displayed their arsenal of triple jumps and finely tuned spins and intricate footwork. At the end of Day 2, it was Pierce finishing in front of her friend by 2.39 points.

“Both of them have been really solid at home in practicing and training and working hard and staying focused,” their coach Tammy Gambill said.

In the men’s division, Tomoki Hiwatashi of Hoffman Estates, Ill., edged Oleskiy Melnyk of Reston, Va., by 2.30 points.

It was Hiwatashi’s third consecutive national title. He captured the juvenile crown in 2011 and the intermediate title in 2012.

All of Hiwatashi’s 11 elements in his “Die Fledermaus” free skate received positive grades of execution.

The Indiana-based pairs team of Christina Zaitsev and Ernie Utah Stevens rallied past first-year team Kaitlin Budd and Nikita Cheban to claim gold.

The winners’ coach Serguei Zaitsev believes the foundation has been laid for future success.

“They are young and have a lot to learn, but hopefully we are on the right track,” he said. “Obviously next year we will be at the junior level and we’re hoping to do the harder elements.”

In ice dance, Chloe Rose Lewis and Logan Bye stole the spotlight by winning the free dance and the title. They finished fourth at the novice level in 2012.

On the day after the last novice event, skaters were treated to breakfast and a keynote address by 1998 Olympic champion Tara Lipinski.

LADIES

GOLD
Tyler Pierce
128.96

SILVER
Amy Lin
126.57

BRONZE
Bradie Tennell
116.91

PEWTER
Morgan Flood
112.60

MEN’S

GOLD
Tomoki Hiwatashi
155.29

SILVER
Oleskiy Melnyk
152.99

BRONZE
Nicholas Vrdoljak
139.11

PEWTER
Daniel Samohin
135.07

PAIRS

GOLD
Christina Zaitsev/
Ernie Utah Stevens
123.30

SILVER
Kaitlin Budd/
Nikita Cheban
114.71

BRONZE
Elise Middleton/
Robert Hennings
109.85

PEWTER
Aya Takai/
Brian Johnson
102.71

ICE DANCING

GOLD
Chloe Rose Lewis/
Logan Bye
102.89

SILVER
Tory Patsis/
Joseph Johnson
100.42

BRONZE
Sammi Wren/
Alexey Shchepetov
95.37

PEWTER
Gigi Becker/
Luca Becker
95.26



(l-r) Amy Lin,
Tyler Pierce,
Bradie Tennell,
Morgan Flood



(l-r) Oleskiy Melnyk,
Tomoki Hiwatashi,
Nicholas Vrdoljak,
Daniel Samohin



(l-r) Kaitlin
Budd/Nikita
Cheban, Christina
Zaitsev/Ernie
Utah Stevens,
Elise Middleton/
Robert Hennings,
Aya Takai/Brian
Johnson



(l-r) Tory Patsis/
Joseph Johnson,
Chloe Rose Lewis/
Logan Bye,
Sammi Wren/
Alexey Shchepetov,
Gigi Becker/
Luca Becker

RINKMATES CHEER EACH OTHER ON TO A 1-2 FINISH

by TROY SCHWINDT

They call themselves “Lutz buddies.”

Tyler Pierce and Amy Lin share practice ice in Riverside, Calif., under the nurturing eye of coach Tammy Gambill. They are naturally competitive and driven, but at the same time, each other’s biggest fans.

Their friendly rivalry was on display during the novice ladies free skate on Jan. 21 in Omaha as Pierce edged Lin by 2.39 points for the gold medal.

“It’s just sinking in now,” Pierce, 14, said. “I’m thrilled and honored to be standing with my friend beside me.”

Pierce, the 2012 intermediate bronze medalist, led Lin by less than one point after the short program.

Up first in the final group, Lin set the tone for an exciting finish with her “Spirited Away” free skate. The personal-best program featured five triple jumps, including one in combination with a double toe loop. Her three spins all earned Level 3s, while her component mark proved to be the best of the segment.

Last year, Lin failed to advance out of the Pacific Coast Sectionals, finishing seventh.

“I had the stomach flu at sectionals last year, but that’s not an excuse to skate bad,” said the 13-year-old from Fremont, Calif. “I’ve not only progressed on the physical side this year but also the mental side. My outlook on skating has changed. It’s more positive and I know how to focus on one jump and forget it if I make a mistake.”

A strong skating environment, with the likes of Pierce, Shotaro Omori, Richard Dornbush and Vincent Zhou gliding around the rink, and good coaching, are the reasons for her improvement, she said.

“When I first came to Tammy I was an emotional disaster,” Lin said. “I’d fall apart after competitions if I skated bad. I really wanted to focus on that.”

Performing 10th in the free skate field of 11 skaters, Pierce started shaky with a fall on her opening triple Lutz. Most of the rest of her “Korobushka” program,

though, moved strongly from element to element. The skater from Norco, Calif., landed double Axels in sequence, as well as two triple jumps in combination. Two spins received Level 3s and her final spin was rewarded with a Level 4. She did touch a hand on the ice during her triple loop midway through the program.

Pierce’s segment-best total element score helped to lift her to the top. She finished with an overall score of 128.96 points, with Lin right behind at 126.57 points.

“I really focused on my skate and I really tried my best to go through with all my jumps,” Pierce said.

Pierce, who had a touch of the flu before flying out to Omaha, said she worked on her focus and concentration following her intermediate season.

“I visualize my jumps a lot and that helps me, and just not getting out of the zone,” Pierce said.

Gambill, who promotes camaraderie at her rink, said Pierce and Lin have fun training together and are always trying to outdo each other in practice.

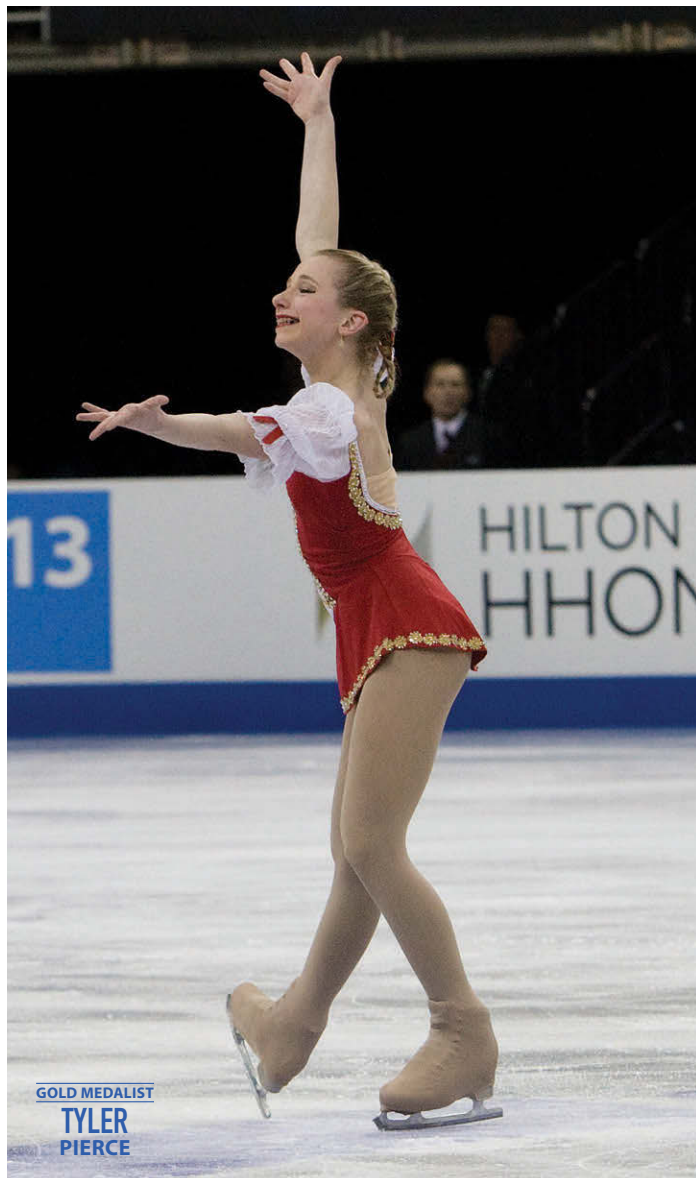
“It just makes for better competition and it pushes them to be better skaters.”

Cindy Stuart choreographed Pierce’s programs, while she and Justin Dillon collaborated on Lin’s programs.

Earning the bronze medal, Bradie Tennell showed great improvement over her 2012 season, in which she finished 10th in the novice ranks.

Tennell, 14, who hails from Carpentersville, Ill., finished third in the short program and fourth in the free skate with an overall score of 116.91 points.

“I didn’t really expect to [win the bronze medal] because I only have the first two triples and there are kids after me that have all of them, so I was happy I recovered after the fall [on triple toe] and did



GOLD MEDALIST
TYLER
PIERCE

PHOTO BY ANNA BAXTER

the best that I could.”

Morgan Flood of the Dallas FSC had a disappointing short program and was 10th entering the free skate. The 2013 Midwestern

Sectional champion, however, rallied with the third-best free skate to claim the pewter medal with 112.60 points.



SILVER
MEDALIST
AMY
LIN

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF



BRONZE
MEDALIST
BRADIE
TENNELL

HIWATASHI CELEBRATES NO. 13 WITH THIRD NATIONAL TITLE

by JOSH ELLIS

Do you remember your 13th birthday?

For Tomoki Hiwatashi, along with turning a year older at the 2013 U.S. Championships, he also added another title to his mantle for a birthday he won't soon forget.

Hiwatashi, who hails from Hoffman Estates, Ill., earned his third gold medal in as many years with 155.29 points, and now holds titles in the juvenile, intermediate and novice ranks in consecutive years. However, along with being happy, Hiwatashi was also critical of his performances.

"I'm really happy and excited, but I feel like I could do more arm movements and overall perform better," Hiwatashi said after the short program.

Hiwatashi shot out to a nearly three-point lead after the short program which he performed to "Orange Blossom Special" and was businesslike, dressed in suit and tie,

during his "Die Fledermaus" free skate, which was just good enough to keep him atop the podium. Since he was so successful last year, earning the intermediate title by a margin of nearly 18 points, Hiwatashi was wary this year at his first U.S. Championships.

"I felt nervous at the beginning, because last year I felt like it went too well, and this is a huge rink with cameras everywhere," Hiwatashi said.

Hiwatashi landed six triple jumps at the competition and executed each element in both his short program and his free skate with a positive grade of execution. He did, however, finish second in points for his program components in both of his skates.

Third after the short program, Oleksiy Melnyk landed seven triple jumps in his free skate to lift himself to the silver medal. Eleventh at this event a year ago in San Jose,

Calif., Melnyk has since finished first in both his regional and sectional competitions before earning silver in Omaha. He earned 103.72 points for his free skate and 152.99 points overall.

"This feels good," said Melnyk, who lives in Reston, Va. "It was much better than last year, and winning the silver medal gives me more confidence in myself. I think that from now on I'll be able to do a lot better in all of my competitions."

His triumph this season wasn't without hardship. Melnyk had to overcome an injury as well as a lengthy period of time off the ice to get where he needed to be.

"I had an injury two months ago, so that wiped me out for a month, and I had to get my jumps back, but I feel better now," he said.

Nine triple jumps and three Level 4 spins later, Melnyk can call his second-place-worthy skates a successful comeback, with hope and confidence for the future.

Earning the bronze medal, Nicholas Vrdoljak improved upon his finish from last year in this event by four places, and it was clear he

was happy with the result. Vrdoljak earned 139.11 points overall.

Second after the short program, Vrdoljak was thrilled with his performance on this stage.

"I've never really performed a short program that well so far this year, so I am pretty happy with my effort," Vrdoljak said. "It was such a great feeling, especially out here in front of all these people."

Despite falling one spot on the podium after his free skate, the Westmont, Ill., native was still happy with his placement.

"I didn't really come here to medal," Vrdoljak said. "I managed to do one-and-a-half good programs and to do that out here I'm happy with that. It's a good feeling to win a bronze medal."

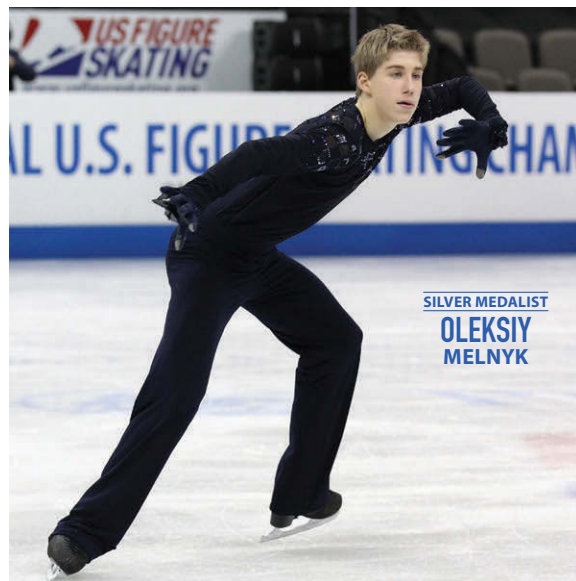
Daniel Samohin secured the pewter medal. He amassed 135.07 points.

"Winning a medal is fine for me," Samohin said. "I could have done better but the experience is wonderful because this is my first real nationals so I think that the experience is going to help me a lot in maturing."

PHOTOS BY JAY ADFFF



GOLD MEDALIST
**TOMOKI
HIWATASHI**



SILVER MEDALIST
**OLEKSIY
MELNYK**



BRONZE MEDALIST
**NICHOLAS
VRDOLJAK**



GOLD MEDALISTS
CHRISTINA ZAITSEV
AND
ERNIE UTAH STEVENS

ZAITSEV, STEVENS CAP BREAKTHROUGH CAMPAIGN WITH VICTORY

by TROY SCHWINDT

For Christina Zaitsev and Ernie Utah Stevens, the 2012–13 campaign couldn't have gone much better. In their third year together, they received their first international assignment, finished a strong second at the Midwestern Sectional Championships and capped off their season in Omaha with the gold medal in the novice pairs event.

Their victory over 12 other pairs teams on a late Monday afternoon was a moment to savor with each other and their coaches, who happen to be Zaitsev's parents, Serguei and Elena Zaitsev.

"They came here well prepared," Serguei said. "They are experienced and they've been around. It's a good event for them to one

more time build confidence. The last four teams were very good; it wasn't until the last moment that you knew who was going to be on top."

Zaitsev, 13, and Stevens, 19, entered the free skate in second place, 1.21 points behind short-program leaders Kaitlin Budd and Nikita Cheban, who train at the Detroit SC.

Skating right before the leaders in the final group, Zaitsev and Stevens seized the moment with a smooth-flowing, strongly executed program to "Toccatà" by Bach.

Despite being ill in the 24 hours leading up to the free skate, Stevens dug in and never wavered. Their lifts, spins, throws and foot-

work all were sound, while their two side-by-side jumps received a minor deduction for an edge call. Stevens wore all black, while Zaitsev wore a dress that featured hot pink that faded to purple at the bottom.

"It was really rough last night," said Stevens, who with Zaitsev represents the Indiana World Skating Academy FSC. "I was throwing up and today at lunch I was throwing up. It was a struggle waking up in the morning and just getting in the car and the mental focus, but having Christina as my partner is ultimately why we did what we just did."

Zaitsev and Stevens chalked up the best technical and program component scores of the free skate en route to a season-best overall score of 123.20 points.

"I told myself that I have to do this for Christina and myself," Stevens said. "We had a huge, unforgettable season and I knew I had to go out there and do it for her. There was no withdrawal in mind, only skating a clean program and winning."

The team likely will move to the junior level next season, but Stevens said they are just taking things one day at a time.

"Christina and I are just cool and confident," Stevens said. "We are just going to go season to season and be there for each other along the way. So instead of looking at the Olympics, we are spending every day together, learning together, and I think that's important."

Skating last, Budd, 16, and Cheban, 20, saw their title hopes slip away early in their "Ice Symphony" free skate when Budd fell on the team's side-by-side double Axels.

It was a gamble that their coaches don't regret at all.

"You live by the sword and die by the sword," coach Jason Dungen said. "Both of our teams yesterday and today went for the double Axel, because if you look at it internationally, you really have to start jumping, so we figured we are going to put it out there and see."

Together only seven months, they finished with 114.71 points and captured the silver medal.

"It was a good experience for our first nationals," Cheban said. "Next year we will be back; you can count on that."

Budd and Cheban defeated Zaitsev and Stevens at the Midwestern Sectional Championships in November — 114.53 to 107.19.

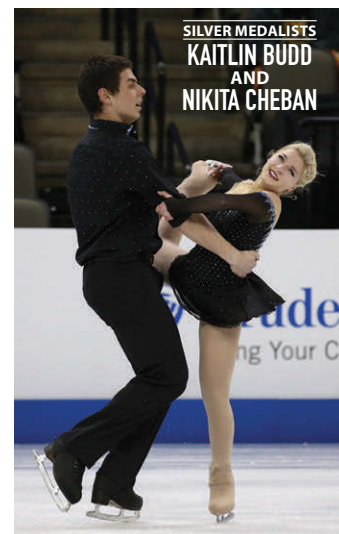
The team of Elise Middleton and Robert Hennings of the Los Angeles FSC secured the bronze medal with 109.85 points. A fall in the waning seconds of their free skate to *Immortal Beloved* had the audience gasping.

"I rushed that last lift. I kind of let her go over behind me," Hennings, 16, said. "I have a tendency to keep it [lift] behind my head instead of forward, and it was inevitable when we went down."

Performing a more serious free skate, Middleton, 13, said, is a big step in the team's evolution.

"Last year we just had a happy program and we just had to smile; this one is more emotional."

Aya Takai and Brian Johnson of the Detroit SC finished fourth with 102.71 points.



SILVER MEDALISTS
KAITLIN BUDD
AND
NIKITA CHEBAN



BRONZE MEDALISTS
ELISE MIDDLETON
AND
ROBERT HENNING

LEWIS AND BYE PROVE OPPOSITES ATTRACT ON THE ICE

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Chloe Rose Lewis is a budding artist and actress, a bubbly young woman who loves playing characters on and off the ice. Logan Bye, her stalwart partner, favors robotics and recently gave a student speech on the fiscal deficit.

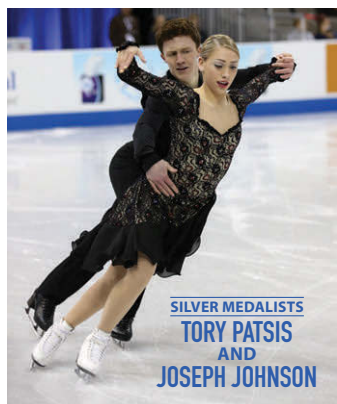
Together, the students of Catlin Gabel School in Portland, Ore., wove a youthful, yet sophisticated performance to the charming Roaring 20s-style soundtrack of *The Artist* to win the novice ice dance title.

“That’s what makes them a team: their interests are different, their personalities are different, but they mesh beautifully,” their coach, Judy Blumberg, said. “They have a wonderful, nurturing relationship.”

The 13-year-old Lewis, who hails from Portland, and her 14-year-old partner, who is from Colorado Springs, Colo., teamed up in 2010. Although they placed fourth in novice last season, only this September did they start training together every day, when Bye relocated to Portland to live with family friends of Lewis. He enrolled in Catlin Gabel on the Knight Family Scholars’ Program, which offers a leadership, sports and academic scholarship.

“Instead of training about two weeks a month, which we did last season, we were full time and it was really nice being able to do that,” Bye said. “We succeeded [in doing] what we’ve been striving for, this season.”

It wasn’t all clear sailing in Omaha for the winsome duo. They placed fourth in the first pattern dance, the Starlight Waltz, after what Blumberg called “a glitch.”



They rose to second after the second pattern dance, the Paso Doble, and entered the free dance 1.21 points behind the leaders, Tory Patsis and Joseph Johnson.

That’s where they really shined. Skating to choreography by Marina Zoueva and Igor Shpilband, they executed three light and easy Level 4 lifts, along with a smoothly done spin and well-matched steps. “The Artist” scored 61.64 points, including the event’s highest technical element and program component score, and Lewis and Bye ended with 102.89 points.

“All of our work has paid off, and all of our coaches’ work has paid off, and I’m really happy about that,” Lewis said.

“They are so easy to coach; they critique themselves,” Ikaika Young, who trains the skaters on a day-to-day basis at Winterhawks Skate Center, said.

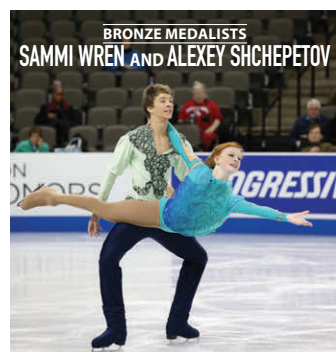
Next step: juniors, and likely international competition on the Junior Grand Prix circuit. Blumberg acknowledged they will spend much of the off-season building their power and speed. The youngsters are undaunted.

“We are really inspired by Meryl [Davis] and Charlie [White],” Lewis said. “Our goal is to be like them.”

“We strive to try new lifts, lifts like they do,” Bye said.

Patsis, 17, and Johnson, 18, surprised themselves by winning the silver medal. Patsis, a former singles skater, took up ice dance less than two seasons ago. She relocated from Chicago to Colorado Springs last spring to team with Johnson.

After winning both pattern dances, the couple impressed judges



PHOTOS BY JAY ADERH

with their tango free dance, choreographed by Trina Pratt. They opened with well-synchronized Level 4 twizzles, and Patsis hit elegant positions in their lifts and spin. They placed second in the free dance and ended with 100.42 points.

“From the moment we started together, it went well, and in September we thought, ‘We may actually be able to do something with this,’” Johnson, who did not compete last season, said. “It’s definitely a big step up from being partnerless and having to watch all of your friends go to nationals.”

The two, who train under Patti Gottwein at Honnen Ice Arena, will compete as juniors next season.

“We’ve been together such a short time, we missed some of the basics of having a new partner — stroking, twizzles — so we will go back and work on all that,” Patsis said.

Sammi Wren’s lovely red hair was shown to great effect in Wren and partner Alexey Shchepetov’s dramatic free dance to Cirque du Soleil’s “Alegria,” and the team

earned Level 4s for three lifts as well as the spin. The skaters, who train in Philadelphia, rose from fourth after the pattern dances to win the bronze medal with 95.37 points.

“We were really pleased with our free dance; it was a clean performance,” Wren, 14, said. “We are going to take our tests and move up to junior next season.”

The youngest team in the field, siblings Gigi Becker and Luca Becker, just 10 and 12 years old, were third in the pattern dances and fourth in the free dance to place fourth overall with 95.26 points.

The 2012 U.S. intermediate champions, who train at Maryland’s Wheaton Skating Academy, added a shot of color to the event with their creative free dance to South American rhythms.

“It was a really fun program, because it was all samba and stuff, and when we skated it I liked it because we were dancing,” Luca said.

“The costumes were different, and they really matched the music, like rainbows and sunshine,” Gigi said.

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YOUTH MOVEMENT

JUVENILE, INTERMEDIATE SKATERS JOIN THE FUN IN OMAHA

The top juvenile and intermediate skaters in the country showcased their skating at the same time as their junior and senior counterparts in Omaha.

For the first time, the U.S. Championships included all five of U.S. Figure Skating's competitive classes. And like the novice, junior and senior athletes, the juvenile and intermediate skaters followed the exact same qualifying path to punch their ticket to the "Big Show."

Several parents, skaters and the organizers praised the Omaha experience.

"I thought it was so well-run, from start to finish," said Dawn Vassel, mother of intermediate ice dancer Jolie Vassel-Beasley. "I thought there was such an effort to make the juvenile and intermediate competitors feel welcome and well-informed.

"Most importantly, though, our daughter came home with a fire for skating that didn't seem possible, because she has always loved it more than anything else in her life."

One of the perks enjoyed by the juvenile pairs skaters was the "buddies" program, in which senior pairs teams were assigned to meet and support each of the juvenile pairs teams.

The senior team of Gretchen Donlan and Andrew Speroff became role models and friends for Toby Evett and Nathaniel Dennler.

"They were amazingly gracious to both of our young skaters," said Peggy Dennler, Nathaniel's mother. "Honestly, this was a fantastic way to introduce the younger skaters into a very exciting world."

Kelly Vogtner, senior director of athlete development at U.S. Figure Skating, said the juvenile and intermediate skaters benefitted greatly from their Omaha experience.

"Competing alongside the best skaters in the country really inspired the younger athletes, and hopefully made a positive impact on their skating careers for the long term," Vogtner said. "In addition to being a little bit star-struck, the skaters and their parents were able to see firsthand how figure skating is a long journey. It takes many, many years of hard work and dedication to reach the highest levels of the sport, but if you do put in the time and effort, it is possible."

GIRLS

GOLD	Karolina Calhoun 49.25
SILVER	Maxine Marie Bautista 46.76
BRONZE	Akari Nakahara 46.66
PEWTER	Krystal Edwards 44.12

BOYS

GOLD	Maxim Naumov 46.59
SILVER	Kendrick Weston 46.28
BRONZE	Sasha Lunin 46.11
PEWTER	Dinh Tran 45.77

PAIRS

GOLD	Joanna Hubbard/ William Hubbard 48.16
SILVER	Cate Hawkins/ Eric Hartley 39.91
BRONZE	Jasmine Fendi/ Joshua Fendi 38.84
PEWTER	Greta Crafoord/ John Crafoord 38.43

ICE DANCING

GOLD	Caroline Green/ Gordon Green 85.83
SILVER	Alina Efimova/ Kevin Kwong 78.68
BRONZE	Elizabeth Addas/ Jonathan Schultz 77.68
PEWTER	Katherine Grosul/ Cameron Colucci 76.07



(l-r) Maxine Marie Bautista, Karolina Calhoun, Akari Nakahara, Krystal Edwards



(l-r) Kendrick Weston, Maxim Naumov, Sasha Lunin, Dinh Tran



(l-r) Cate Hawkins/
Eric Hartley,
Joanna Hubbard/
William Hubbard,
Jasmine Fendi/
Joshua Fendi,
Greta Crafoord/
John Crafoord



(l-r) Alina Efimova/
Kevin Kwong, Caroline Green/
Gordon Green,
Elizabeth Addas/
Jonathan Schultz,
Katherine Grosul/
Cameron Colucci

JUVENILE GIRLS

As the second event of the day on Saturday morning, Jan. 26, the juvenile girls enjoyed performing in front of a large crowd at the Convention Center, located inside the CenturyLink Arena.

Among others sitting in the bleachers and taking in the action were Richard Dwyer ("Mr. Debonair"), 1985 U.S. champion Tiffany Chin, pairs coach Jim Peterson and U.S. Figure Skating President Patricia St. Peter. Along the fringe of the rink were many of the top seniors, who took a break to peek in at the future of the sport. Those included U.S. silver medalist Gracie Gold, who was on hand to support rinkmate Maxine Marie Bautista.

Up sixth in the field of a dozen skaters, Karolina Calhoun posted the best score of the event — 49.25 points — with her program to "Ave Maria." Bautista secured the silver with 46.76 points, while Akari Na-

kahara carted home the bronze with 46.66 points.

Calhoun, who trains under coach Anna Baram in California, landed a pair of double-double combinations in the second half of her program. She also earned a Level 3 on one spin and a Level 4 for her program-ending layback spin.

"At first I was a little nervous because these are the top 12 in the country," Calhoun, a seventh-grader, said. "My biggest problem, though, is just competing against myself and I don't try and think about the other skaters."

Baram called Calhoun, 13, the hardest worker at the rink.

"She's a role model for the skaters around her, the way that she works, the way that she trains, the way she thinks about skating," Baram said.

Bautista displayed her spirited personality with her program to the theme from *Beware of the Automobile*.

The 11-year-old from River Grove, Ill., delivered a well-rounded routine that ended with a Level 4 spin.

"The nicest thing about her is that she is what a real juvenile girl is," said Scott Brown, who helped choreograph her program. "She loves to skate and you can see that by the smile on her face. I think her whole package was very youthful and really what a juvenile girl should be."

Supporting Bautista in Omaha was Gold. Bautista said the stand-out skater helps her during practice and inspires her.

Coach Alexander Ouriashev said he is thrilled with his young skater's results.

"She's really a beautiful and cute little skater," he said. "She's a hard worker and professional. She's training with Gracie Gold and learning a lot from her."

Nakahara, who has won recent National Showcase titles for her performance talent, turned it on for the audience in Omaha.

Skating to "Dance of the Tumblers," Nakahara showed off her skating skills and presentation qualities.

The 10-year-old from Los Angeles turned in an almost flawless performance, her coach Susan Berens said.

"She skated strong, no wobbles; that's about the best she has done," Berens said.

Berens called Nakahara a delight to coach.

"She's the easiest little skater to teach and she's always energetic and always wants to learn more and more," she said.

Krystal Edwards, 10, of Raleigh, N.C., finished with the pewter medal, earning 44.12 points.

— *Troy Schwandt*

JUVENILE BOYS

Talk about a close one!

Less than one point separated gold from pewter as the juvenile boys mixed the right amount of skill with the right amount of cute to put on a quite a show in Omaha.

Maxim Naumov led the way and won his first U.S. title with a score of 46.59 points. Drawing on the experience of his seventh-place finish at the 2012 U.S. Junior Championships and the energy of his personal cheering section fea-

turing novice competitor Daniel Petrenko, Naumov skated a clean program to "Rock Prelude" and "Dramatico." The program featured a pair of double Axels, a Level 4 sit spin and a double Lutz-double toe loop combo. His program components score of 23.48 points was easily the highest in the field.

"I went for everything and tried my best," Naumov said. "I've been working on my double Axel and making it good for the competition. It paid off."

Since sectionals, Naumov has battled knee pain that has hindered parts of his training. However, that wasn't about to stop the 11-year-old in his medal quest.

"I have had a lot of pain in my knees so I have tried to limit things," he said. "It really hurt when I was skating but it's worth it every time. If you have pain, just skate through. Usually I am so into the program, I forget about it."

Silver medalist Kendrick Weston, with 46.28 points, earned his first medal in three tries at the juvenile level. Coach Lisa Kriley encouraged her charge to begin competing in qualifying events two years ago at the age of 10 because his home club, Salt Lake Figure Skating, hosted the 2011 U.S. Junior Championships. Since then, his skating has progressed to a level that has made him competitive as a juvenile.

Weston's technical mark was the highest of the competition at 25.56 points.

"I could have done my double Axel better, but I have been a lot more consistent with my jumps, including my Axel, and my spins since last year," Weston said. "I think today choreography and my combo spin went well."

Within minutes of his bronze-medal performance, Sasha Lunin was looking ahead. After quickly noting that everything in the "Escala" free skate went well, Lunin talked about what's next.

"I'm already working on triple jumps," he said. "My mom and dad (who coach their son) make me work hard. I got a double Axel, which is the hardest jump I can do, and now I'm moving on."

After his free skate, Dinh Tran, who secured the pewter medal with 45.77 points, was ready to cheer on his favorite senior competitors, Kee-

PHOTOS BY MELANIE HOLT



GOLD MEDALIST
KAROLINA
CALHOUN

gan Messing and Jonathan Cassar.

“At sectionals, Keegan and Jonathan came up and introduced themselves to Dinh,” coach Don Corbiell said. “As you can see, it really made an impression.”

— Renee Felton

JUVENILE PAIRS

The juvenile pairs competition was a sibling affair, but not one of rivalry.

Brother-and-sister duo William and Joanna Hubbart of Palm Harbor, Fla., took the top spot by nearly 10 points. Their Irish-themed program and performance earned them an event-best score of 48.16.

“We’re excited!” Joanna said.

“Yeah,” agreed her older brother,

beaming, “We got surprisingly high scores.”

The pair had been working hard, practicing for this moment every day of the season. This was especially challenging for William, since he also competed in the intermediate men’s event.

“It is difficult because there is not a lot of break,” he said.

Their pairs performance was filled with skillful tricks, delivered with a mature air of ease. The upbeat show included theatrical dance steps, a smooth death spiral and a nearly perfect synchronized side-by-side double Lutz.

The Hubbart siblings said practices focused on technique, particularly with the throws and lifts. William said he thought the practice paid off in Omaha, contribut-



ing undoubtedly to their high score.

There was also an extra special element to their win at the U.S. Championships.

“Today is my birthday,” Joanna said. “I’m 14 today!”

“It was a good way to spend my birthday, since I love the sport and love to skate with my brother,” she said.

For silver medalists Cate Hawkins and Eric Hartley, it may not have been a sibling bond uniting them on the ice, but they were both excited to see how far they have come over the past two years working together.

The score for their Egyptian-style performance, which included energetic and well-executed half press lifts and side-by-side flying camel spins, was 39.91 points.

Hawkins and Hartley, both of Ohio, won the Midwestern Sectional Championships last year and competed at the U.S. Junior Championships, where they finished 15th.

“I feel like we were more solid,” Hawkins said. “Our style and everything has improved so much over the last two years.”

Twin competitors Jasmine and Joshua Fendi, of Big Bear Lake, Ca-

lif., earned the bronze medal with a personal-best score of 38.84 points.

The two performed an *Aladdin*-themed program with high energy and speed. The 10-years-olds also brought great personality to their performance, as it was clear to see that they were not only having fun skating, they were having fun with each other.

“They’re a delight,” coach Karen Kwan-Oppergard said.

The two are special, she said, because they have great minds, good attitudes, and are supportive of not only each other, but also their pair mates and their friends in the competitions.

Indiana siblings Greta and John Crafoord finished fourth with 38.43 points.

— Ali Hodge

JUVENILE DANCE

Caroline and Gordon Green finished seventh at last year’s U.S. Junior Championships. Just one year later, the brother-sister team secured their first national title, besting their competitors by more than seven points.

“It feels amazing. I’m so happy right now,” Caroline said. “I

got really excited after our twizzles, because we were pretty much done with the program and we had done everything well.”

Following pattern dance performances of the Foxtrot and Willow Waltz that displayed a level of closeness and speed rarely achieved at such a young age, the Greens entered the final segment of the event with a four-point lead. Already three years into their partnership, the 9- and 11-year-old siblings consider their impressive scores a stepping-stone toward their ultimate goal.

“We want to go to the Olympics together,” Gordon said. “We don’t want to break up; we want to be together a long time like Meryl and Charlie.”

Caroline and Gordon earned 46.60 points for their pirate-themed free dance, which received Level 4s on three of five elements, en route to 85.83 points for the week.

Jumping from a fourth-place finish in the pattern dance segment, Alina Efimova and Kevin Kwong placed second in the event with 78.68 points.

“At first it was a little scary out there, but after our footwork I relaxed and just had fun,” Efimova said.

In their second year under the tutelage of coach Nathan Truesdell, a former pupil of renowned ice dancing coach Igor Shpilband, Efimova and Kwong propelled themselves from a 10th-place finish at last year’s championships all the way to the silver medal.

“The first year they were just learning the ropes and I just wanted them to get comfortable skating together,” Truesdell said. “This year we focused a lot more on technique, edges, getting the levels, things like that. It’s incredible, but it’s a little nerve-racking, the whole coaching thing. At the end of the day, nothing is in your hands; it’s all up to them. All you can do is sit and watch.”

Completing the podium were Elizabeth Addas and Jonathan Schultz with 77.68 points, and Katherine Grosul and Cameron Colucci, who finished fourth with 76.07 points.

— Mimi Whetstone



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INTERMEDIATE

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INTERMEDIATE LADIES

Less than a point separated the top three competitors following the short program, all of whom competed as juvenile ladies last year. In the end, 11-year-old Anna Grace Davidson, of Holladay, Utah, claimed the title over an impressive field of young up-and-comers.

"It feels different being at such a big competition with so many older girls," Davidson said of her first championships as an intermediate competitor. "I think I handled it well. I've been working really hard."

Despite a second-place finish in the free skate, Davidson won the event. She finished sixth at last year's U.S. Junior Championships at the juvenile level. Her clean free skate to "Whitaker's Wonder" included a double Axel-double toe combination and back-to-back Level 4 spins. Davidson finished with 99.52 points.

Rallying from a fifth-place finish in the short program, Anastasia Kortjohn, of Colorado Springs, Colo., who also completed her first intermediate season in Omaha, won the free skate with 64.92 points to claim the silver medal.

"Before I got here I was working really hard," Kortjohn said. "Then today, I just made sure I did what I've been doing in training."

In her impressive performance to "Rhapsody in Rock," Kortjohn completed the most difficult element of the event, a triple Salchow-double toe combination that netted 5.20 points. In addition, Kortjohn completed double Axel-double toe and double Lutz-half loop-double flip combinations and earned a Level 4 on both of her spins. Kortjohn finished with 97.41 points.

Winning the bronze medal, Emmy Ma, of Manhasset, N.Y., executed a near-perfect free skate to selections from *Memoirs of a Geisha*, which included double flip-double toe and double Lutz-double loop combinations.

"I felt like I could skate to this music really well when I heard it," Ma said. "I love everything about it. I saw the movie, I read the book and I like all of it. Today I was a little bit nervous, but only a little bit."

Ma earned a total of 95.59 points, less than a point ahead of Olivia Allan, of Elmhurst, Ill., who finished fourth with 94.27 points.

— Mimi Whetstone

(l-r) Anastasia Kortjohn, Anna Grace Davidson, Emmy Ma, Olivia Allan



LADIES

GOLD
Anna Grace Davidson
99.52

SILVER
Anastasia Kortjohn
97.41

BRONZE
Emmy Ma
95.59

PEWTER
Olivia Allan
94.27

MEN'S

GOLD
Andrew Torgashev
107.92

SILVER
Eric Stinehart
98.00

BRONZE
Micah Tang
88.55

PEWTER
Eric Sjoberg
87.54

PAIRS

GOLD
Alicia Bertsch/
Austin Hale
67.83

SILVER
Darbie Burke/
Griffin Schwab
59.69

BRONZE
Gabriella Marvaldi/
Kyle Hogeboom
53.59

PEWTER
Alexandria Schmainda/
Matthew Scorable
44.23

ICE DANCING

GOLD
Eliana Gropman/
Ian Somerville
103.56

SILVER
Madison Fox/
Val Katsman
97.63

BRONZE
Gwen Sletten/
Elliot Verburg
89.75

PEWTER
Rebecca Lustig/
Zachary Milestone
87.61

(l-r) Eric Stinehart, Andrew Torgashev, Micah Tang, Eric Sjoberg



(l-r) Darbie Burke/Griffin Schwab, Alicia Bertsch/Austin Hale, Gabriella Marvaldi/Kyle Hogeboom, Alexandria Schmainda/Matthew Scorable



(l-r) Madison Fox/Val Katsman, Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, Gwen Sletten/Elliot Verburg, Rebecca Lustig/Zachary Milestone



PHOTOS BY MELANIE HOYT



INTERMEDIATE MEN

When the free skate concluded in Omaha, nearly 10 points separated 12-year-old Andrew Torgashev from his competitors.

"This would only happen in my dreams," said the Florida skater. "I was really nervous coming out, but I had to put it aside and do what I know I can."

Coached by his parents, Ilona Melnichenko and Artem Torgashev, the 2012 U.S. juvenile champion earned 107.92 points for the week, giving him his second U.S. title in as many years.

"That's the best I've skated all season, so I'm really proud of it," Torgashev said.

After a flawless short program to "Nostradamus" by Tonci Huljic, Torgashev entered the free skate with a nearly five-point lead. Despite a fall during his footwork sequence, he earned 68.07 points for his rock-and-roll-themed free skate, besting the field by another five points. His final performance featured three triple jumps, including the highest-scored element of his program, a triple Salchow-double toe combination that garnered 6.10 points.

Earning the silver medal, Eric Stinehart, of Wilmette, Ill., earned 98 points, nearly 10 points ahead of the bronze medalist.

"I felt a little shaky on some things, but I think I did pretty well based on what I've been practicing," Stinehart said.

Stinehart performed his free skate to selections from *The Firebird*, complete with a triple toe-double toe combination and two Level 4 spins.

After a 13th-place finish at last year's championships and a fifth-place finish in the short program, Micah Tang, of Gilbert, Ariz., performed an impressive free skate for 56.98 points and the bronze medal.

"I was actually really happy being in fifth place after the short program," Tang said. "To be able to get a medal is incredible."

Tang, who trains under the coaching team of Doug and Lara Ladret, executed a flawless free skate to music from *Conan the Barbarian*. His program included an array of difficult elements including a high-flying triple toe and a double Axel-double toe-double loop jump series. He finished with 88.55 points.

"He did awesome, that was his

best skate this season," Doug Ladret said. "We've had ups and downs throughout the year, but we trusted the process. He got here, did two great skates and ended up with a medal. It's great."

Finishing fourth was Eric Sjoberg, of Middleton, Md., with 87.54 points.

— Mimi Whetstone

INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

Winning the pairs event brought excitement for Alicia Bertsch and Austin Hale that was difficult to contain.

"We feel pretty confident in how we did," Bertsch said as she hopped up and down next to her partner.

"I feel good about it," Hale agreed.

Their performance boasted talent, skill and chemistry that was difficult to beat. Their final score, 67.83, was six points higher than the previous year's champions, making them confident they would place even with four teams left to skate following their program.

"We skated clean," Hale said. "We've only done that a couple of times."

Bertsch, who lives in Willis, Mich., said they only were able to

practice as a team on the weekends and throughout the summer since they are from different cities. Hale, who lives in Richland, Wash., said the distance didn't keep them from forming a friendship that took on a personality of its own on the ice.

"Yeah, I guess we get along," he teased. "Off the ice we're pretty close, so I think that helps."

"Like you said," responded Bertsch, "we were quiet, now we just can't shut up."

In preparing for the U.S. Championships, the team practiced the technique of their jumps and lifts. The key to their success, Bertsch said, was nothing more than hard work. Their coach, Alena Lunin, pushed them, and they both agreed it paid off in the end.

"Throws, good, strong lifts and nice twists!" exclaimed Lunin, who was proud of their performance. "I think the main goal was to skate clean and show their hard work over there, since they don't spend a lot of time together; just only on the weekends. I think it's good that they looked unison; we do spend a lot of time on that and they were able to show that."

Darbie Burke and Griffin Schwab, of New York, earned the silver medal. Their performance



featured great attitude, eye contact and some daring elements, such as a split double twist, a death spiral and a throw double Salchow. They had notably good speed on the ice and good momentum through their routine. Despite one fall from Burke, the pair achieved a score of 59.69.

"The fall was OK," Burke said. "It hurt a little bit, but it was fine."

Their coach, Cathryn Schwab, said the two had been working hard in practice, especially on things that came as a challenge to them.

"The side star (lift) was probably the hardest thing for them coming in, and they've done a great job with it," she said.

"The split double twist was difficult as well," Schwab added. "That was a new one."

Burke, who is 12 years old, and Schwab, who is 16, have skated for more than three years together. They have competed at three U.S. national events, but winning the silver medal in Omaha is the best they have done to date.

"I love skating, especially pairs," Burke said.

"I'm excited," Schwab said. "Skating is definitely going to be the rest of my life."

Finally, for Gabriella Marvaldi and Kyle Hogeboom, excitement was written on their faces, as well as emanating from the many supporters they had in the audience.

The final score for their theatrical, dynamic performance was 53.59.

"We're so excited," said Hogeboom, as the two struggled to hold all of the mementos thrown onto the ice after their program, which included multiple bouquets of flowers and several stuffed animals.

"Yeah, we didn't expect it at all!" Marvaldi said.

The two, who live in New Jersey, had been working on their throws and spins and they were proud of the final product they delivered in Omaha.

Hogeboom said their families were present, as well as friends from their home rink.

A special supporter who was also in the crowd cheering for them was "Mr. Debonair" Richard Dwyer.

Alexandria Schmainda and Matthew Scorallo earned the pewter medal.

— Ali Hodge

INTERMEDIATE DANCE

Eliana Gropman and Ian Somerville have grown accustomed to the top of the podium. Both just 12 years old, they have already won juvenile dance titles at the 2012 Eastern Sectional and U.S. Junior Championships, the intermediate dance title at the 2013 Eastern Sectional Championships and now, the 2013 U.S. intermediate dance title.



GOLD MEDALISTS
ELIANA GROPMAN
AND
IAN SOMERVILLE

PHOTOS BY MELANIE HOYT



GOLD MEDALISTS
ALICIA BERTSCH
AND
AUSTIN HALE

"We're both just so happy to be here," Gropman said.

After a second-place finish in the Rocker Foxtrot pattern dance, Gropman and Somerville stunned with their European Waltz, demonstrating posture, edge quality and carriage well beyond their years. Finishing the segment with 52.67 points, Gropman and Somerville entered the free dance more than four points ahead of the field; a feat they admit was not as effortless as they made it look.

"We train six days a week from one to maybe three hours a day," said Gropman, who, like Somerville, lives in Maryland. "Sundays we have ballet and the other days we have warming up and exercising."

Gropman and Somerville went on to edge silver medalists Madison Fox and Val Katsman by less than a point in the free dance segment, but took the title with a total of 103.56 points.

Fox and Katsman, coached by Patti Gottwein and Trina Pratt in Colorado Springs, Colo., placed second in both segments of the event and finished with 97.63 points. Their free dance featured three Level 4 elements, including a combination spin that netted a program-high 5.50 points.

"We're feeling really good right

now," Fox said. "We've been working on a lot of footwork and lifts, and definitely spins and twizzles, too."

In addition to their hard work, Fox and Katsman receive some extra day-to-day motivation, training alongside newly crowned U.S. novice silver medalists Tory Patsis and Joseph Johnson at Honnen Ice Arena at Colorado College.

"It's not so much that they push each other," Gottwein said. "I think that, emotionally, the older team really finds ways to encourage the younger team. They have a nice friendship that has little to do with skating. I would also credit a lot of our success to our rink. The woman who runs the facility has really gone out of her way to provide us what we need to train these couples, so we have a really good training environment."

Completing the podium were Gwen Sletten and Elliot Verburg, who overcame a slight bobble in their European Waltz to earn 89.75 points and the bronze medal, followed by Rebecca Lustig and Zachary Milestone, who finished fourth with 87.61 points.

— Mimi Whetstone



Lori Nichol and Rudy Galindo are celebrated by their skating peers at the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame reception. (l-r) Tom Collins, Frank Carroll, Sarah Hughes, Lori Nichol, Rudy Galindo, Peter Oppegard, Kristi Yamaguchi, Paul Wylie, Tara Lipinski, Brian Boitano, Doug Wilson and Richard Dwyer

INSPIRING MOMENT

GALINDO, NICHOL HUMBLD TO ENTER U.S. HALL OF FAME

by BARB REICHERT

Olympic gold medalists, World champions and fellow hall-of-famers were among those who gathered at a reception Jan. 25 in Omaha to celebrate Rudy Galindo and Lori Nichol as the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame Class of 2013.

The Hall of Fame reception has become an annual reunion of sorts, as 165 guests mingled freely before honoring the hall's new members, who were inducted earlier that evening during an on-ice ceremony at the CenturyLink Center.

Galindo, the 1996 men's champion and 1989 and 1990 U.S. pairs champion with partner Kristi Yamaguchi, lit up the Omaha Hilton ballroom with his smile and playful laugh as he accepted congratulations from fans and skaters alike. Olympic champions Yamaguchi and Brian Boitano joined Galindo in the front row; all three live in the San Francisco Bay area, where Galindo coaches Yamaguchi's daughter.

World-renowned choreographer Nichol laughed her way through

a receiving line of figure skating's elite, many of whom performed or coached her programs. Among those sitting with her were Olympic champion Evan Lysacek and hall-of-fame coach Frank Carroll.

Carroll, who helped launch Nichol's career when he asked her to choreograph programs for an 11-year-old Michelle Kwan, introduced her at the reception. Nichol, he pointed out, has worked with eight Olympic medalists and more than 35 World medalists.

A tearful Nichol was humbled by it all.

"I would not be standing here tonight if it weren't for you, Frank," she said. "Your knowledge, character, wit and patience and professionalism consistently amaze me. Working with you and knowing you have been among the greatest gifts of my life. It will take me a lifetime to express my gratitude to you."

Galindo, who is best remembered for his inspiring and surprising 1996 U.S. Championships victory, was introduced by his sister, Laura Galindo. In a tender tribute, he shared how Laura helped raise him as a child and supported him as a skater. Coming from a family with meager means, Rudy Galindo lived in a trailer and rode a bicycle as his

transportation. When he realized the 1996 Championships would be held in their hometown of San Jose, Calif., Rudy asked Laura to coach him. The result is now part of his hall-of-fame history.

In a story that appeared on the *MercuryNews.com*, Galindo called the Hall of Fame induction an affirmation of everything he has accomplished.

"It just says that you don't have to hide or you don't have to give up on your passion for something," he said. "All those years having to get up and train and go to ballet class and ride the bike and go to the gym. This confirms it. It's all so worth it."

Laura Galindo, who shies away from taking any credit for her brother's success, is proud of his accomplishments and perseverance.

"He is finally acknowledged by his peers that he made a difference in the skating world," she said. "Rudy has changed a lot of things, from how people skate to what they wear. But most of all, Rudy has inspired others to just believe in your goals."

Lori Nichol and Rudy Galindo are honored as the U.S. Figure Skating Class of 2013 during an on-ice ceremony in Omaha.



'Ice Age' to showcase traveling ice show era

Donations sought to complete documentary

by TROY SCHWINDT

When skating legends Richard Dwyer and Tom Collins reminisce about the glory days of the traveling ice show, they paint a picture of a magical time that is never coming back.

The glamorous skaters, the elaborate production sets and costumes, the intricately orchestrated routines — all melded together to entertain families across the nation for much of the 20th century.

"We used to fill Madison Square Garden, Boston Garden, Chicago and many other of the country's major arenas, and every show was sold out," said Dwyer, who played the iconic "Mr. Debonair" in the Ice Follies and Ice Capades. "Every city loved the ice shows."

While those wonderful times hold fond memories for Dwyer and Collins, they hope that a documentary film that's almost completed can preserve this golden age of the traveling ice show for everyone to see and enjoy.

Filmmaker Keri Pickett is in the final stages of completing her movie, titled *The Fabulous Ice Age*. She started on the documentary film nearly seven years ago in an effort to help tell the story of her uncle, Roy Blakey, who became a show skater after seeing the famous Sonja Henie perform on the silver screen. During his time as a performer, Blakey col-



Keri Pickett and her uncle Roy Blakey display pieces of Blakey's ice show memorabilia collection.

lected thousands of pieces of ice show memorabilia. He hopes to find a permanent home for his vast collection in conjunction with the film's release.

"Roy is the viewer's backstage pass to this unique history," Pickett said. "The movie covers the history and Roy's passion for the ice shows, his skating career and the fact that he wants this history to be remembered for all the glamour, but also because the shows offered a skater an opportunity — a way to make a living."

Pickett has traveled the country interviewing skaters and others associated with the traveling ice shows. Her film, which she hopes to enter in various film festivals this year, has the financial support and backing of many of the sport's greats, such as

Dwyer, Collins, singles and pairs star Ken Shelley and two-time Olympic champion and show skater Dick Button.

"It takes people back to when the ice show industry was started, where it all came from," Dwyer said. "It has the great entrepreneurs like the Shipstads (Roy and Eddie) and (Oscar) Johnson, Morris Chalfen and John Harris, all of those people who created those shows."

With the project 90 percent finished, Pickett is turning to the public to help her complete the film. She has spent more than \$100,000 of her own money and needs help raising the final \$77,000. You can learn more about the film at www.fabulousiceage.com and about Blakey's ice show memorabilia collection at www.icestagearchive.com.

"My bills will be coming in over time, because after post-production there is the cost of the festival entry, attendance and public relations," Pickett said.

Collins, who skated in the shows and launched *Champions on Ice* in 1969, said many young people don't know anything about the traveling ice show era. This film, he said, will "be an education for them."

It was typical, Collins said, to have 100 performers in a show, and that they traveled city to city by train.



'Mr. Debonair' Richard Dwyer

"You had the large casts, you had the unbelievable costumes, you had the beautiful girls," Dwyer said. "It was an extravaganza."

"The show itself was the star," Collins added. "People came to see Ice Follies or Holiday on Ice or the Ice Capades. They bought tickets just for the name of the show."

These shows used to sell out famous venues such as Madison Square Garden for two weeks (24 shows) at a time.

"People loved it and they had their favorites, and they would applaud when certain people came out, such as Frick and Frack, Freddie Trenkler and Hans Leiter," Dwyer said.

"People would actually wait from year to year for the ice show to come back," Collins added. "It was the event of the year."

When one of the ice shows came to town, the local newspaper would often put it on the front page or the sports page.

"We have to admit, it was before television," Dwyer said. "So we were the great family entertainment and it lasted for many years after that."

Collins is looking forward to seeing the film upon completion and believes that everyone will be in for a treat.

"When they see it, it's going to be a thrill for them," Collins said.

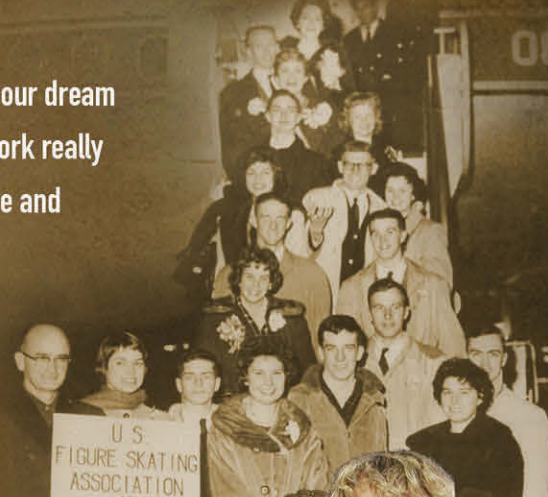
Those interested in helping Pickett fund the rest of the film can go online and make a donation at the Independent Film Maker Project at www.ifpnmn.org/sponsored-project/fabulous-ice-age.

Skaters from 1944 Holiday on Ice



"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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Performance-driven

Quigley-Moenkhoff thriving as coach, NFL cheerleader

by AMBER GIBSON

Molly Quigley-Moenkhoff stopped competing in 2002, but she never hung up her skates. She still skates with partner Bert Cording, whom she competed with for five years. The pair performed at the Nashville Figure Skating Club's holiday show and they team-coach kids at the rink as well.

"I'm probably not growing up as quickly as most people in the world," Quigley-Moenkhoff said. "I am still doing what I did as a child. It helps me stay youthful."

Quigley-Moenkhoff coaches more than 50 students and is also an NFL cheerleader for the Tennessee Titans. She cheered as a kid and tried out for the Titans in 2011.

"Being an athlete, showgirl and cheerleader are all very similar," she said. "I've maintained my physique from being active in all of them."

It's no surprise that Quigley-Moenkhoff is still in prime shape, but she never would have guessed that she and Cording would still be so close more than a decade after their last competition together.

"I love Bert," Quigley-Moenkhoff said. "He's like another brother for life."

Highlights of Quigley-Moenkhoff and Cording's competitive career include placing eighth in pairs at the 2000 and 2002 U.S. Championships. She competed in both pairs

and singles at the 2002 U.S. Championships. Internationally, the pair won a silver medal at the Golden Spin of Zagreb in 2000 and placed fourth at the Nebelhorn Trophy in 2001. After her competitive career ended, Quigley-Moenkhoff began show skating.

"I jumped on board the Royal Caribbean ship," she said. "I was a soloist and skating with other World and Olympic competitors."

Quigley-Moenkhoff performed on cruise ships for three years, spending one hundred weeks at sea.

"There's nothing like it," she said. "It's like college with the rooming situation and would make a great reality show."

In 2010, she competed on "Dancing on Ice" in England, becoming more famous in London than she ever was in the United States.

"You're in the tabloids and everyone wants your autograph," she said.

Quigley-Moenkhoff even has her own character in the European "Dancing on Ice" Wii game.

Now back at home in Nashville, Quigley-Moenkhoff spends most days at the rink working alongside her mentor and former coach Laura Sanders, the skate school director of the Nashville FSC.

"She brings such positive energy into the rink," Sanders said of her

former student. "If I'm absent for an event, she's the first one I pick to go in my place. She has a really good knack for what to say at an event to keep the skater calm."

Sanders has Quigley-Moenkhoff do all the choreography for her students.

"I consider her one of the best choreographers in the country," Sanders said.

Between figure skating and cheerleading, Quigley-Moenkhoff said skating was much more nerve-racking than her NFL performances.

"In cheerleading, it's a big audience, maybe 90,000, and it's still an adrenaline rush," she said. "But you're with your fellow friends and cheerleaders and it's a lot more comfortable."

Instead of

competing against one another, the women work together to make the team the best it can be.

"I don't think they understand how hard we work," Quigley-Moenkhoff said. "A lot of people think we get paid really well, like the players, but that's definitely not the case."

The glamour and fun, though, keep her coming back.

"You're definitely a bigger sex symbol as a cheerleader," Quigley-Moenkhoff said. "It's another realm and another following. The average fan is a 55-year-old male as opposed to a 14-year-old female."

Unfortunately for those male fans, Quigley-Moenkhoff is off the market. She has been married for five years, and her husband, Joel Moenkhoff, works in telecommunications sales and officiates college football.

"He's striving to be a referee in the NFL," his wife said. "How neat would that be? We'd both get to work for the NFL!"



PHOTO BY DAVE NELSON

Molly Quigley-Moenkhoff entertains the sold-out crowds at the Tennessee Titans games.



Molly Quigley and partner Bert Cording compete at the U.S. Championships.

PHOTO BY RICHARD HARTMAN



PHOTO BY KRISTEN SULLIVAN

Quigley-Moenkhoff works with student Karlise Sullivan.

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A merging of arts

Skaters turning to dancers for their expertise

by MIMI WHETSTONE

With the rising popularity of dance competitions on reality television and tours featuring the world's best dancers, more of dancing's champions have become household names than ever before.

As the 2014 Olympic Winter Games approach, creative worlds are colliding as more and more star athletes are turning to the stars of the dance floor in order to excel as artists, a strategy that three-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott feels has paid off.

"I think bringing in people who don't work with figure skating brings in a fresh perspective," Abbott said. "Dancers provide different ways to move and new ways to do things that most skaters aren't used to. The product is far more challenging, but worth it, in my opinion."

Last season, Abbott created his "Swing" short program with the assistance of Benji Schwimmer, an eight-time world Swing dance champion and the season two winner of Fox's reality series "So You Think You Can Dance."

"Seeing the massive success that Jeremy has gotten from 'Swing' has been such a validation," Schwimmer said. "To see someone benefit from the basic knowledge of dance and literally embody the spirit of it in a nondance spectrum was worth more than a win at the U.S. Championships, though that was definitely awesome, as well."

After their success in the 2012 season, Abbott and Schwimmer reteamed for a second year to create Abbott's 2013 short program set to Nathan Lanier's "Spy."

"This time around it wasn't so difficult to get my ideas out on the ice with Jeremy," Schwimmer

Benji Schwimmer and Jeremy Abbott work on the skater's "Spy" program.



mer said. "It's not our first time at the rodeo, so to speak. The most difficult issues I've encountered are trying to get all the nooks and crannies accented musically when there are rules and preps to jumps that sometimes take precedence over musicality. The artist just shuts off and the technician turns on, leaving the viewer feeling a sense of worry and disconnect."

While the task of bringing the best of the floor to the best of the ice can prove to be difficult, in the end, Abbott feels the advantages outweigh the challenge.

"Even though the audience watching the choreography may not realize that a dancer set the program, they recognize that there is something different, something special about the overall product," Abbott said. "Translating the movement to the ice is a monumental challenge for me. Finding a way to make the same movement patterns with different foot action and making the piece translate to skating terms is a headache, but worth the loss of hair."

For ice dancing, the program components are factored separately and then added together. The idea behind the factoring is to place more emphasis on the components that are most important to each dance, an area in which ice dancers are seeking guidance from the stars of the ballroom dance world.

"We had looked to different types of dance specialists in the past to help us bring authenticity to our performances," said Maia Shibutani, the 2011 World bronze medalist with her brother, Alex. "Since last season's (2011-12) short dance rhythm was Latin, we knew we needed assistance from someone who could help us learn a new style of dance and translate it from the floor to the ice."

The Shibutanis found what they were looking for in Corky Ballas, an eight-time undefeated U.S. champion, winner of the Open World British Championship in Blackpool, England, Professional World champion and professional dancer on the ABC series "Dancing with the Stars."

"Working with Corky was a lot of hard work, but at the same time, so much fun," Alex said. "His energy and enthusiasm were infectious, and although the choreography and technique he gave us were challenging, his belief in us pushed us to try things we didn't think were possible. Realizing the potential difficulties of taking a dance learned on the floor and bringing it to the ice, the three of us challenged ourselves to broaden our skills and movement vocabulary."

Renowned as a competitor and choreographer on the floor, Ballas acknowledges the chal-



Jeremy Abbott performs his "Swing" short program, which was a collaborative effort between himself and World champion dancer Benji Schwimmer.

lenges of abiding by the technical rules of figure skating, but encourages skaters to take advantage of the guidance available to them.

"The challenge is making dance choreography that the individual is open to and can execute, while adhering to their rules," Ballas said. "Skaters can benefit definitely from dancers, to get fresh ideas and open their minds. The problem I see is that most of them are closed in their thinking."

The Shibutanis, who train in Canton, Mich., share the ice with both 2011 World champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White and 2010 Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada, all of whom utilized the expertise of Elena Grinenko, a professional national and World ballroom champion who, like Ballas, was a professional partner on "Dancing with the



Corky Ballas, an undefeated eight-time U.S. dance champion, helped Maia and Alex Shibutani with their programs.

Stars.”

“We did a lot of training on the floor and created many options of what I thought would work on the ice,” Grinenko said. “It was an amazing experience. Working with such great couples like Meryl and Charlie and Tessa and Scott, it doesn’t get any better than that. They taught me the inside mechanics of what works and what doesn’t work on ice, which made it easier for me to create new ideas.”

Echoing Ballas’s sentiments, Grinenko agrees that the experts of dance have a lot to offer the world’s best skaters.

“I think the name of the sport speaks for itself, ice dancing, or dancing on ice,” Grinenko said. “Learning where the concept came from, the original dance of what skaters are trying to portray on the ice is extremely important. They

need to learn the character of the dance and emotionally connect with it.”

As the opportunities from this somewhat untapped resource reveal their benefits, the merging-of-arts trend is on the rise. Davis and White have sought out ideas and inspiration from Anuja Rajendra, a leading Bollywood teacher for 2010’s short dance and this year, from Alex Wong, a former “So You Think You Can Dance” competitor and star of *Newsies* on Broadway.

For their “Legion of Extraordinary Dancers” free dance this season, 2012 Canadian ice dancing silver medalists Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje sought the help of Allison Holker, who appeared on “So You Think You Can Dance” as both a competitor and an all-star, while 2012 U.S. pewter medalists Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt developed their 2013

free dance to the music of Adele with Stacey Tookey, a resident choreographer and guest judge for Fox’s hit show.

“We wanted to visit the off-ice dance world for choreography because we knew it would shine a new light in our skating and bring a different perspective to the ice,” Giulietti-Schmitt said. “Stacey was able to connect with us and give suggestions through her experiences that helped us tremendously. It was extremely beneficial to hear her interpretation of our music and how she would portray our characters, especially since she has choreographed her own number to ‘Turning Tables,’ which gave her national recognition and an Emmy nomination.”

As components continue to factor into an athlete’s chances for gold, top skaters and dancers are experiencing the benefits that come from each successful partnership between the masters of each sport. As a result, audiences and judging panels alike are getting a glimpse of the talent that makes the sport of figure skating so unique, the collaboration between athleticism and artistry.

“The character of the dance tells the story and even the idea behind specific movements,” Grinenko said. “Knowing those elements helps skaters express the program better. Being introduced to the technique and mechanics of that specific dance and learning how the body should move during that dance can make the program something really special.”

Stacey Tookey, center, a resident choreographer and guest judge on the Fox hit show “So You Think You Can Dance” worked with Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt on their free dance to music from Adele.



'It's Great to Skate'

National Skating Month celebrated from coast to coast

compiled by SUSI WEHRLI-MCLAUGHLIN

U.S. Figure Skating extends a sincere thank you to all participating club members, Basic Skills programs and rinks around the country that celebrated National Skating Month and promoted the fun and joy of skating in numerous unique and creative ways. We packaged and shipped out 470 kits this year, shattering our previous record of 420.

The following are some of the terrific summaries we've received. To view all submitted summaries, photos and news clips, please go to www.usfigureskating.org, click on "Programs" then "National Skating Month."

It's Great to Skate!

Skating Club of San Francisco

The Skating Club of San Francisco hosted the fourth annual Celebration of Bay Area Skating at the Union Square Outdoor Rink in San Francisco. The event not only kicked off National Skating Month (NSM) with performances by top local champions in pairs, singles and ice dance, but it also was a send-off for skaters competing at the 2013 U.S. Championships in Omaha. For a small region like the Central Pacific, the number of skaters competing in Omaha is impressive. To top off the evening, the Skating Club of San Francisco honored Rudy Galindo for his induction in the 2013 U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

Ice Mountain Figure Skating Club

The Ice Mountain Figure Skating Club (IMFSC) in Burton, Mich., took part in NSM

Skating Club of San Francisco

by hosting an "Everything Skating" event at the Perani Arena & Event Center. The event was filled with a bit of ice skating history, music, dancing, spirit and power. The IMFSC recruited a few of Michigan's most talented skaters and teams to introduce the world of ice skating to the community — from figures and freestyle to ice dancing and Theatre on Ice. Following the special skating exhibition was a \$5 public skate, where participants could meet, greet and skate with Ronald McDonald along with several of the skating talents. The first 100 skaters that stepped on the ice for public skate received a coupon for one free ice cream.

Skating Club of Vail

The Skating Club of Vail in Colorado invited the community to celebrate and skate free



of charge. The club provided the ice time, rental skates, homemade baked goods and a giant cake. It advertised through the *Vail Daily* and the Vail Recreation Department, and it asked members to bring their friends. Club members and coaches volunteered to anyone who needed help on the ice, making sure it was a fun and safe session for all. It was truly a celebratory atmosphere, just fun with no pressure. Parent volunteers helped with a gear/dress swap, U.S. Figure Skating information table, giveaways from one of our sponsors, free treats and great music.

The Skating Company

The Skating Company of McFarland, Wis., promoted Basic Skills competitive skating by holding an in-house team skills competition. The hope was that the event would spark an interest in many of its newer and younger students. Skaters were divided into four teams. Each team had one or two skaters from each class level. Every level had one designated skill from the class that they performed in front of the judges. (Our instructors were the judges.) The ice was divided into three sections: one end was for Snowplow to Basic-level skaters for their warm-up, the middle was the competition area and the other end was the warm-up area for free skate skaters. Instructors supervised and assisted. While groups were in the competition area, announcements were made to the parents as to what level was performing and what skill they were performing. This enabled parents to learn the names of the skills their children were performing and to learn the names of future skills. Having the skaters perform in front of the judges as a group made it easier for all skaters to feel comfortable. The club awarded each team a place based on their point total, and every skater won a medal. It gave treat bags with the promotional items sent in the NSM kit.

Kansas City Ice Center

During its public sessions on Friday evenings in January, Kansas City Ice Center in Shawnee, Kan., offered themed nights — '80s Night, Hawaiian Shirt Night, Crazy Pants Night and School Spirit Night. On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays during its public sessions, it offered Family Skate Night, in which kids skated for free with a paid adult admission. During themed nights, if skaters dressed up they received admission and skate rental at a reduced rate, and prizes were given for bestdressed. Kansas City Ice Center ended its celebration of NSM with a free Basic Skills open house, which included a free lesson,





Skaters at Fort Dupont Ice Arena

demonstrations and free skating. Those who signed up for classes that day received a discount.

Point Mallard Figure Skating Club

The Point Mallard Figure Skating Club in Decatur, Ala., hosted Snowplow Sam during NSM. The club hosted a Skate with Sam on Jan. 12. The skate included a group lesson, parachute games, hockey pokey, exhibition by Point Mallard skaters and prize giveaways. More than 70 skaters turned out. Snowplow Sam demonstrated how to fall properly, how to get up and posed for many pictures with the skaters. On Martin Luther King Day, Snowplow Sam made another appearance at the Point Mallard Ice Complex with the free skate hosted by the rink. About 125 skaters participated in a free group lesson and free skate.

Fort Dupont Ice Arena

Fort Dupont Ice Arena (FDIA) in Washington, D.C., extended D.C.'s MLK and inauguration festivities by hosting an open house on Jan. 21. Members of the community were invited to a free public skating session that included free skate rental and free lessons. Those in attendance were treated to an exhibition by the Washington Figure Skating Club competitors, who also helped teach Basic Skills to first-time skaters. The children were thrilled to receive a lesson from the stars of the show and were in awe of their pretty skating dresses with sparkles. Approximately 80 people attended. This was a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about its programs and the many ways FDIA serves its community. On Jan. 26, Snowplow Sam visited its Basic

Skills students. Everyone was all smiles and loved receiving his big bear hugs. Fort Dupont Ice Arena also celebrated NSM by having an essay contest. Members of our Kids On Ice© speed skating, hockey, synchronized skating and Basic Skills programs wrote about why they think "It's Great to Skate." Prizes for the contest included a Zuca bag, Washington Capitals tickets and skating-themed gift bags.

Dartmouth College Figure Skating Team

The Dartmouth College Figure Skating Team in Hanover, N.H., invited skaters from the Skating Club at Dartmouth (SCAD) to have some fun on the ice. The community skaters in

U.S. Figure Skating staff at Honnen Ice Arena



attendance represented a wide range of levels and abilities, from Snowplow Sam to preliminary freestyle. The event started with a 30-minute open practice of the Dartmouth College figure skaters, a team of 25 skaters. The SCAD skaters and parents were invited to watch. Following this, every SCAD skater was paired with a member of the Dartmouth team. Whether playing games of tag and shoot-the-duck with their younger counterparts or offering a freestyle skater helpful hints on their scratch spin or spiral, each skating pair agreed that the event was a huge success. Just one week later, the two skating clubs gathered again for a U.S. Championships viewing party at a local restaurant. This event was truly a success, allowing for cross-generational interactions between skaters whereby younger skaters could learn new elements from older skaters, creating an opportunity for collegiate skaters to share their love of figure skating in a mentoring role. For the community skaters, this was a great way to have fun. From the parents' perspective, it was exciting to learn that there is, indeed, life after high school skating.

City of Mentor

The city's Basic Skills program in Mentor, Ohio, helped host a fun-filled day of activities. In the morning it hosted a pancake breakfast (donations only with proceeds going to its special-needs program) for new equipment. Throughout the day, it offered free figure skating and hockey lessons for all ages. The rest of the day was filled with open skate, exhibitions, games on ice in shoes and a DJ to host the event. It offered a lot of prizes and a \$5 discount if children registered for its next session of Basic Skills. More than 700 people attended.

Honnen Ice Arena

The Honnen Ice Arena in Colorado Springs, Colo., hosted an NSM event. Members of U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters staff and local instructors provided free lessons. More than 250 participants took part.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ACHIEVE MILESTONES TOGETHER

Elizabeth Ellsworth, 49, and daughter Catherine, 13, were both testers at a recent session hosted by the Essex Figure Skating Club in West Orange, N.J.

For Elizabeth, passing the Westminster Waltz marked the successful completion of her Adult gold dances, a journey that took her seven years. For Catherine, it is just the beginning, as the judges signed off on her three preliminary dances.

"She was so proud of me and I was so proud of her," Elizabeth said.

"It was so special and such a fun experience to share," Catherine added. "I was so happy she passed her last dance and I was so happy to do my first ones."

The two, who live in New Canaan, Conn., and typically skate at the Terry Connors rink in Stamford and The Rinks at Shelton, describe the first and last dance tests as milestones.

"In the first tests you're learning the fundamentals of ice dancing; by the last one you've performed 23 dances of varying difficulties and rhythms," said Elizabeth who with Catherine is coached by former Ukrainian Olympian Oleg Voyko.

Catherine is also a freestyle skater, having started skating at the age of 4 when her mom introduced her and her brother to the sport at a local rink.

"I liked it right away," Catherine said. "The sensation of being on the ice is like no other."

Elizabeth was an occasional recreational skater as a child but really got involved at age 39 as a mother of young children.

"I loved the camaraderie among the other adults and the goal-setting," she said. "It became my 'me time.'"

— Laura Fantarella



Elizabeth Ellsworth, with coach Oleg Voyko and her daughter Catherine

Snowplow Sam came to skate at Kettler Capitals Iceplex on Jan. 9 in Arlington, Va. Sam skated with some of his classmates as well as new friends. While on the ice, Sam taught the importance of falling on your bottom, tying skates properly, the basic fundamentals of skating and, above all, friendship. After the public skate, Sam stayed to say goodbye to his friends and handed out Snowplow Sam coloring books. Snowplow Sam made National Skating Month memorable at Kettler Capitals Iceplex.



ICE CREWS PLAY MAJOR ROLE AT BIG EVENTS

By Dave Fies

There are skaters, coaches, judges, officials, programs, music, scores and spectators at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. But nothing happens without the ice!

Many are coming to appreciate the dedication of the ice rink builders and ice technicians who make certain the ice sheets are as perfect as possible.

"Ice is a 24-hour-a-day job, and more complex than most realize," said Mike Clayton, president of Ice Rink Events, the company

that provides the practice rinks at championship events. "You have the industry's top professionals here, all taking great pride in their work for these skaters, these athletes, these artists."

U.S. Figure Skating's ice technicians working the U.S. Championships keep a close eye on the ice temperatures and watch for any imperfection that might affect a performance.

A quality ice sheet is important to Clayton and his partner in life and business, Lena Gottschall, as their ties to figure skating go back to their childhoods. Gottschall is Ice Rink Events' lead designer; she is usually first to test new ice surfaces, giving constructive in-

put about the feel, the finish and the texture of the ice.

Don "Scooter" Mosher, a fixture at U.S. championship events for 18 years, is Ice Rink Events' senior technical director. Dave Gagnon has been a presence at championship events for 22 years, Don McKenzie for 17 years and Bruce McNally for 12 years. STAR's Cory Porter kept the ice resurfacers in Omaha in top operating condition all week.

Early arriving skaters in Omaha watched the practice rink come to life. They marveled at the technology of building a full-sized ice arena in only five days. Many skaters and coaches thanked the ice crew for a job well done.

(l-r) Ice dancers perfect their moves at the practice rink in Omaha; Mike Clayton and Lena Gottschall of Ice Rink Events; the ice rink crew at the CenturyLink Center kept the conditions perfect for the sport's top athletes; Juvenile ladies accept their medals in Omaha.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LENA GOTTSCHALL



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Wooster FSC using diverse strategy to build membership

by TROY SCHWINDT

A versatile skating director, a few tried-and-true fundraisers and a strong working relationship with arena management have the Wooster Figure Skating Club in Wooster, Ohio, on the rise. The club, a member of the Greater Cleveland Council, recently signed up its 61st member with an eye on surpassing 100 members a year from now. Club membership stood still at 42 last year. Wooster is located about 60 miles southwest of Cleveland.

One of the major reasons for this turnaround is Alice Noble Ice Arena figure skating director Mark Cockerell, a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team and longtime show skater. A PSA master-rated coach, he joined the Alice Noble Ice Arena in March 2012.

“He has a tremendous amount of experience in skating and building programs in the Quad Cities and a couple of other areas,” club president Bob Lapsley said. “He’s good at getting people interested in the sport, and he’s an expert at getting younger skaters to a point in their skating that allows them to reach their goals and expectations quickly.”

Also helping spearhead the club’s growth is a grant that it received from the Greater Cleveland Council to form a club synchronized skating team. The beginner 2 team, called Precise Ice, is made up of a few members of last year’s Noble Ice Arena learn-to-skate team, the Noblettes, as well as existing Wooster Club members. Most of the team is under 9 years of age.

“We gained eight new members including two new coaches from just starting the synchro team,” Cockerell said.

The leadership is also making membership inroads with a select few fundraisers that have been tremendously successful.

“The Tastes of Wooster is a wine-tasting and food-tasting event, in which 15 to 20 local



Wooster FSC youth members enjoy some ice time together.

restaurants donate samples of their signature dishes and a winery provides its locally made wines,” event chair Valarie Stern said. “We charge \$25 per person. We’ve held that event for four years, usually in May, and it is one of our biggest fundraisers netting as much as \$4,000 in profit with more than 200 in attendance. It also provides these local businesses more exposure to the Wooster community.”

A major Christmas ice show, “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” netted \$3,500 for the club. More than 100 children and a handful of adults took part in the production, and more than 500 people attended.

The nonstop, full-scale production directed by Cockerell and assisted by coaches Pat Lapsley and Rachel Firm came from the animated movie.

“The show’s storyline broke a number of times for solos and features, but melded together nicely,” said Marlane Kennedy, who is the club’s public relations and media director. “We had a huge set — 140 feet of scenery that our members

designed and built. There was a castle, a mountain 50 feet long and 16 feet high, along with a three-dimensional gazebo, four other buildings, Santa’s workshop and 15 live trees that made up the forest on the ice.

“We probably had 120 hours of building scenery. We are talking about doing a version of this show every other year, so it’s stored away in a nice, safe place where we can put it up again.”

The club also puts on a show in the springtime.

Another successful fundraiser is a shopping spree at a local grocery store. The club sells tickets for \$5 and whoever wins receives a 90-second shopping spree.

“We’ll buy the groceries and keep the rest,” Club Treasurer Joel Kennedy said. “We did that this past spring and made \$2,500 on that, and the lady who won got \$700 in groceries. The grocery store loves it.”

Lastly, the club has been successful in selling major blocks of ice time at discounted rates.

“We are small; we only buy 200 hours of club ice,” Lapsley said. “If a skater wants to contract every single hour, pay in advance, it’s \$1,000 [\$5 an hour]. The prices go up if you buy less. We let the walk-ons and guest skaters pay \$14 to \$16 each time. I’d say 50 percent are contracted for the whole year.”

A number of skaters in the club have dramatically improved their skating because of the extra ice time and good coaching.

“We don’t sell candy or magazines,” Lapsley said. “We go after the big items. It takes a lot of work, but it’s worth it and can be a lot of fun for adults and kids. Without a great board of directors and the help of all the members this would not be possible.”

The holiday show is a primary fundraiser and a golden opportunity for everyone to work together at the Wooster FSC.



Ice can be nice in the summertime

by ERIN SCHOPF

With winter still gripping most of the United States, it is hard to believe that parents are already planning summer activities for their children.

Regardless of how your facility is set up, you can make summer programming beneficial to your overall bottom line. I've always found it ironic that when the weather is hot, most rinks are empty. You would think that people would be coming to ice rinks in droves. We all know that is not the case, and summer programming can sometimes pose our biggest challenge.

When conceptualizing your summer skating school, it is imperative that you understand your target audience. You may need to restructure your program to fit the needs of your clientele.

As the skating season ends, figure skating clubs face older skaters leaving for college and newer skaters entering the competitive pipeline. The most important thing to realize is that last summer will not run exactly as this summer. You may need to change the levels of freestyle sessions, offer Basic Skills sessions at a reduced cost and change the structure of the camp to target younger skaters. Skaters under 12 years old seem to enjoy the camp experience. By offering daily arts and crafts, theme days and weekly fun activities, you can accomplish that goal.

On those really hot days, an inexpensive activity that kids absolutely love is to have the rink staff dump the snow from the Zamboni outside so that the kids can have a fun snowball fight. In addition to being an enjoyable break from the rigors of skating practice, this creates a buzz around the facility as heads turn to see snow outside on a 90-degree day.

As program coordinator, you also must understand the needs of your parents. In many families, both parents work full time. By offering a before or aftercare program, you can considerably boost your revenue.

Stay organized. From getting a parent/family brochure out to sending a letter with required items for camp, make it as easy on the parents as possible. Create an email distribution list with weekly updates to send to the parents. Parents need to feel reassurance; after all they are entrusting you with their children.

Have emergency contact information and waivers readily available in case of an emergency. If you have concessions at your facility, discuss with its management the possibility of a partnership to offer campers healthy lunch options. It is so important that while your campers are training they understand the benefits of nutrition and how it can fuel their bodies. The parents will appreciate not having to pack a lunch every day and the kids will benefit from not eating the typical ice rink food.

When you begin scheduling your daily free-

style sessions, discuss with the coaches if they would be willing to work together with you to offer on-ice clinics and off-ice classes. By staggering your classes during the week to offer ballet, Pilates, yoga, off-ice jump and conditioning, you give the skaters enough variety to stay engaged.

Another option would be to contact your local gym to see if a trainer would be willing to come out to your facility and work with the skaters. When hiring a trainer, be sure to involve your coaches, and discuss as a group the specific needs of figure skaters. Make sure the trainer understands the importance of injury-free training. In addition, whether they focus on flexibility or core exercises, make sure they understand that figure skaters' needs are different to those of their regular clientele. Also, take a minute to learn more about U.S. Figure Skating's S.T.A.R.S. program and how it can benefit your skaters.

If offering a summerlong skating school won't work for your facility, try offering a week-long camp. A new trend in camps is cross-sports training camps. See what else your facility has to offer. Do they have a swimming pool? Talk with the pool manager and see if he or she would be willing to package swim lessons with skating lessons. The glide and slide camp that I ran at



The snow from the Zamboni can help kids cool off and have some fun.

Thornton Park in Shaker Heights, Ohio, has been successful. We offered skating lessons, open skate time, swim lessons and open swim time. We started with just half-day options and then graduated to a full-day option with additional on-ice clinics and outdoor activities. The full-day option became so successful we had a waiting list.

While filling summer ice often fills program coordinators with a sense of dread, it is, in reality, a valuable opportunity for your facility. By understanding the needs of your clientele, offering quality programming, and staying organized you can turn your icy, cold rink into a hot spot during those summer months.

Erin Schopf is the Basic Skills manager at U.S. Figure Skating.

Tie-dyeing shirts can be a fun activity between summertime skating sessions.



Swede memories

Synchroettes shine in international debut

by REBECCA HAUPT AND ASHLEY TOMICH

The Synchroettes junior team achieved a milestone in our organization's history last month when we competed at the Leon Lurje Trophy in Gothenburg, Sweden. We were there representing the United States along with the Crystallettes and Miami University, both senior teams.

It marked the first time that the Synchroettes synchronized skating team, which formed in 2001 and represents the Essex Skating Club of New Jersey, competed at the international level. The event flew by faster than we anticipated, but thanks to constant reminders from our coach Geri Lynch-Tomich and team leader Colette Nygren to

Synchroettes members Flora Sugarman and Daphne Campbell cheer on Miami and the Crystallettes.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY TOMICH

enjoy every moment, we returned home with unforgettable memories.

We arrived in Sweden on Thursday, stopped at our hotel and headed to the rink. At our first unofficial practice we focused on skills to get our knees going and then some program parts. Despite the jet lag, we had a terrific practice and left feeling motivated for the days ahead. We returned to our beautiful hotel for dinner and an early bedtime.

On Friday morning we had a longer unofficial practice, which exceeded our expectations, and we left the ice feeling confident. It's quite amazing what a Team USA warm-up jacket can do to an individual and to a team. As we glanced around, all 20 members of our team were beaming ear to ear, realizing we were finally here in Sweden representing the United States. It was truly an amazing feeling; how could we keep from smiling? The confidence we skated with at that practice and all weekend was incomparable to any other feeling. Being in Sweden confirmed that our hard work was worth it, and we could not be more proud of what we have accomplished together.

After practice we bundled up and headed to the ferry dock across from our hotel. The ferry dropped us off to explore the shops and cafes on the quaint streets of Gothenburg. We did some souvenir shopping and visited a candy shop for some Swedish chocolate as recommended by our

team leader, Colette. It was a lot of fun to have some down time with the team and, of course, none of us complained about all the chocolate. That night we ate dinner at the hotel with the rest of Team USA before calling it a night. Throughout the weekend we exchanged good luck cards with Miami and Crystallettes skaters. It was exciting to bond with skaters who share the same passion for the sport and who also compete on behalf of the U.S.

Our alarms went off early Saturday so we could get prepared and ready to look great for our short program official practice. Practice went according to plan and we became extremely eager to compete. The anticipation had been rising all week and we knew once we put on our bright yellow competition dresses we were unstoppable. Back at the hotel we rested and before we knew it, it was time for our international debut. The energy was electric on the bus to the rink, during our warm-up, in the locker room and on the ice. While in our warm-up block, hearing our parents and other fans chanting "USA" for the first time and waving American flags brought tears to our eyes. It was a feeling no one will ever forget.

We all had a blast performing our fun and energetic program to "Trashin' the Camp" from the movie *Tarzan*. In a blink of an eye we were back in the locker room where we were so excited to hear we had placed third in the short program.

The Synchroettes celebrate after winning the bronze medal at their first-ever international event.



PHOTO BY GLENN TOMICH



PHOTO BY PONTUS CLASSON

The Synchroettes have tons of fun skating their "Trashin' the Camp" short program.

We became even more fired up as we cheered on the Crystallettes and Miami, and couldn't wait to get back on the ice the next day.

Sunday morning we attacked our long program official practice. As we took the ice we were excited to see the other Team USA teams in the stands watching; their presence and support motivated us further. We returned to the hotel and prepared ourselves for our final performance in Sweden.

We went out with a mission and we refused to go home with any regrets. This time the USA crowd didn't bring tears; instead it brought the comfort of home and all those who believed in us from day one. It was our time to believe in ourselves, and that is what we did.

We fiercely skated our Michael Jack-



PHOTO BY KALEIGH CORRETT

The Synchroettes get into character for their Michael Jackson free skate.

son-themed program with power, as all 20 of us channeled our inner MJ. We placed second in the free skate, putting us in third place overall; we narrowly missing second place by about one point.

Our coaches were pleased with our two clean and strong skates, and were proud of how we stayed in the moment and did not let the pressure of our international debut affect our skating. We had come to Sweden with the goal of medaling

at our first international competition, and we met that goal with memories to last a lifetime.

As we stood on the podium, we felt so proud of one another and the country we represent. Sharing the awards ceremony with Miami, which also placed third, was special. We have always admired the Miami skaters, and as we took pictures with them holding the American flag, we felt unified as one Team USA.



EVERY SKATER DESERVES A RATED PROFESSIONAL

How do you know if a figure skating professional is the right coach for you or your child?

Seeing a **Professional Skaters Association (PSA)** membership and ratings on a coach's resume is an indicator that they acknowledge and follow a standard of ethics, are knowledgeable about the sport and safety, and are dedicated to expanding their techniques in developing successful, well-rounded athletes.

The Professional Skaters Association is the official figure skating coach's education, training, and accreditation program for U.S. Figure Skating and the Ice Skating Institute. It is the largest and most recognized of all figure skating coach's organizations in the world, and is dedicated to providing continued education and accreditation to ice skating professionals in a safe and ethical environment.

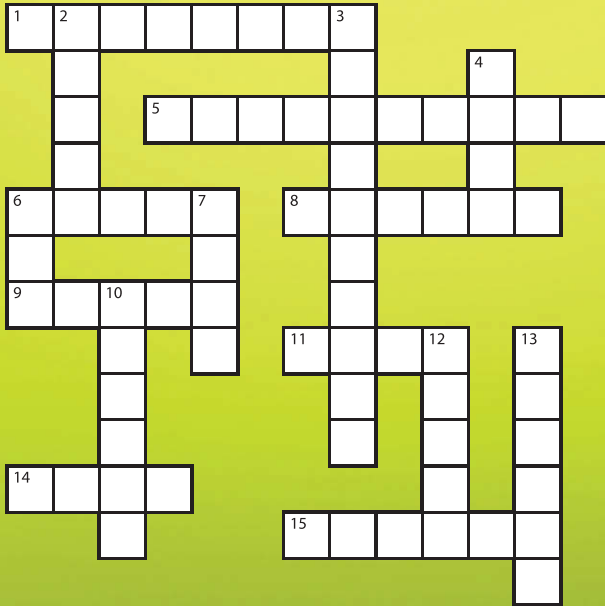
To learn more about PSA go to www.skatepsa.com



PSA

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle and Word Find appear on page 80.

Puzzles by Joel Kaplow



Across

- 1 Max Aaron said he knew his free skate at the U.S. Championships was really good because it was followed by his first-ever ___ ovation.
 - 5 In January, NBC aired a special that combined summer and winter sports called "Pandora Skating & ___ Spectacular."
 - 6 At the 2013 European Championships, Javier Fernández became the first Spaniard to win gold there. His free skate included ___ quads!
 - 8 Doing well, especially since they've been partners for less than one year, which medal did pairs skaters Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim grab at the U.S. Championships?
 - 9 The 2013 U.S. Figure Skating Championships happened last January in ___, Nebraska.
 - 11 ___ Miner grabbed the men's silver in 9-Across, one step higher on the podium than his 2011 and 2012 bronze finishes.
 - 14 When a skater has only one foot touching the ice, the one not touching is part of the ___ leg.
 - 15 In January, Jeremy Abbott lost his U.S. crown and took the ___ medal home.
- Down
- 2 At the U.S. Championships, skaters who had just finished their routine faced the NBC camera and commented on how they thought they had done in a segment called the "___ Booth."
 - 3 Despite finishing in ninth place in the ladies short, ___ had a super free skate and battled back to snag the U.S. silver. (2 wds.)
 - 4 Started by Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev in 1999, then followed by Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, Meryl and Charlie kept the streak alive by becoming the third consecutive ice dancing team to win the U.S. gold ___ years in a row!
 - 6 How many quads did the surprise men's winner Max Aaron land in his free skate in 9-Across?
 - 7 The newly coupled ice dancing team of Madison Chock and ___ Bates snatched the silver at the U.S. Championships.
 - 10 Despite a not-so-clean free skate, ___ Wagner was still the U.S. golden girl in the end due to her large lead in the short program.
 - 12 There were eight new faces on the pairs podium at the U.S. Championships this year. At the top were ___ Shnapir, who is 6'4" tall, and Marissa Castelli, who is 5' nothing.
 - 13 Due to "problems" at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, the IJS was put in place in 2004. "IJS" stands for International Judging ___.

WORDS ON ICE

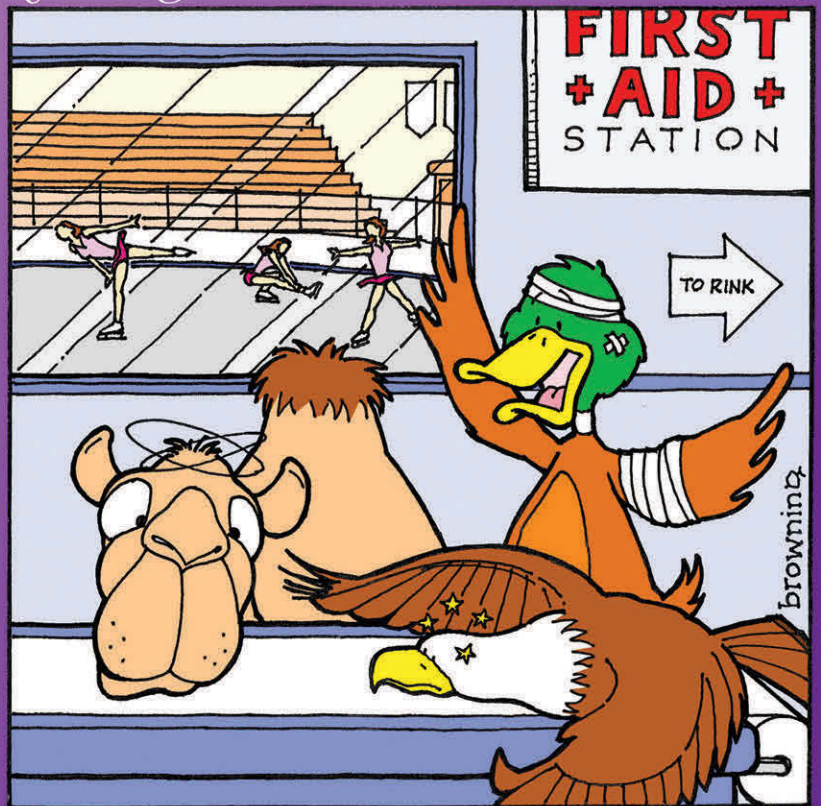
M A R I S S A C A S T E L L I
 C O U R T N E Y H I C K S W I
 Z R K F Y H O V P I F D P O S
 M T U K E L J S B O T E E H E
 A A K I Z V Z R M T M P X C A
 R F X F T R I P L E A X E L Z
 G B X A Q E R I U F M E B A L
 O M R X A Z V O X A U J Z S J
 R G M P H R E I S D Q D L D Q
 P F Y D P C O V M S M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

Hi skaters! Try to find and circle the words listed below hidden in the box 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 medal podium!

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| COURTNEY HICKS | QUAD SALCHOW |
| EVAN BATES | ROSS MINER |
| MADISON CHOCK | SHORT PROGRAM |
| MARISSA CASTELLI | SIMON SHNAPIR |
| MAX AARON | TRIPLE AXEL |

Go Figure

by Gene Browning



Camel Spin, Shoot the Duck, Spread Eagle; they don't need a coach, they need a veterinarian...!

CLAIRE MACEDONIA

KIDZ
SPOTLIGHT

AGE: 11

HOMETOWN: Stanfordville, N.Y.

HOME CLUB: Dutchess Figure Skating Club

HOW OFTEN | SKATE: Four to five days a week

COACHES: Laurie May and Karen Courtland-Kelly

FAVORITE SKATERS: Evan Lysacek, Sasha Cohen, Ross Miner, Gracie Gold

FAVORITE JUMPS/MOVES: Biellmann spiral, layback spin and Lutz

HOW I GOT STARTED: I went on a play date when I was 3 years old to our local ice rink; I was hooked ... my friend never skated again.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS: Coming in second in a competition at Chelsea Piers in New York. Off the ice, riding camels with my sister Grace in Tunisia!

GOAL: To test senior gold before I go to college

FAVORITES

FOOD: Spaghetti and meatballs

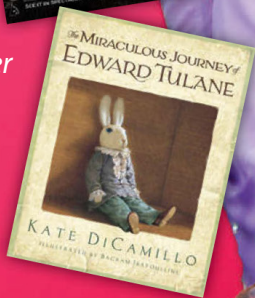


MOVIES: *The Hunger Games* and *Frankenweenie*



TV SHOWS: I love cooking shows, especially "Cake Boss: Next Great Baker"

BOOKS: *The Hunger Games* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*



PETS: Two dogs, a Westie named Buggy and a lab named Belle, and one aquatic frog named Hannah-Bella



AVIVA CANTOR, 25

MADISON, WIS.
CAROLINAS FSC

ADULT SILVER FREE SKATE/, BRONZE DANCE

Figure skating ranks at the top of things that Aviva Cantor enjoys most. While she competes and tests, it's the pure love of the sport that keeps her heavily involved on and off the ice.



Her love of performing in shows and competitions is just a part of her self-professed die-hard fan status.

"I watch all icenetwork.com events," Cantor said. "I follow the skaters and I love Fantasy Skating." (She tied for first with her 2011 Skate America picks.)

Choosing and editing her music and designing her costumes and choreography offer Cantor the creative outlet her extroverted personality craves. She relishes opportunities to portray characters, the more outlandish the better, and her coaches support her skating mission.

Though her home club is in Charlotte, N.C., Cantor is quick to acknowledge the support she's received since moving to Madison, Wis., in 2011. Passing adult silver moves on her sixth try, she admitted motivation was tough.

"It felt so good to pass when I truly knew I'd earned it," said Cantor, who has ambitious goals for future tests.

Earning a gold medal and a bronze medal at the 2012 U.S. Adult Championships was also memorable. To cap off the achievement, the audience sang "Happy Birthday" to Cantor.

"I'm the first-ever national medalist from my home club," Cantor said.

A certified Special Olympics coach, Cantor has participated since high school in teaching mentally and physically disabled skaters. She also coaches learn-to-skate classes and is a Basic Skills judge.

As an assistant editor for Shopbop.com, Cantor writes e-commerce product descriptions for designer clothing and accessories, putting her education in fashion design and journalism to good use.

"Fashion, like skating, is fast-paced and passionate," Cantor said.

Sharing in her passion for skating is Cantor's mother.

"At 65, she's still skating and having a blast," Cantor said.

DENNIS WICKLINE, 32

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.
LOS ANGELES FSC

ADULT GOLD FREE SKATE

Dennis Wickline skated briefly as a child and remembers watching Olympic champions Kristi Yamaguchi and Brian Boitano on television.

So when he stumbled across a beginner skating class two years after graduating from college, Wickline jumped at the opportunity to return to skating. Private lessons followed and Wickline headed toward competition.

Despite being a lifelong performer, Wickline found competitions a huge challenge.

"I've done live theater, choir solos, band and color guard," Wickline said. "I had to harness my physical ability, combined with endurance and artistry and put that in front of people."

Wickline, who has lost 80 pounds since returning to the ice, finds himself in game-on mode with skating, attacking elements until they are mastered. His persistence has fueled efforts to enhance his skating, from improving his breathing to performing better than his practices.

A quality control manager and research and development associate in the chemistry field, Wickline is grateful to have balance from his fast-paced, high-stress job.

Coach and friend Gina Testa and Wickline often find themselves laughing to tears. Every time he takes the ice, Wickline said, something funny happens. The most memorable of those times occurred in his portrayal of Tracy Turnblad in "Good Morning Baltimore." Better known as the "wig" incident during which his wig flew off, the judging panel could barely write marks; they laughed so hard.

Wickline has landed all but the double Axel at least once, aspiring to pass his senior moves test by 2017 and eventually land one triple jump. A frequent club volunteer, Wickline enjoys being involved and meeting fellow club members. In 11 years, skating has become Wickline's best friend.

"Without it I'd be completely different. I'm thankful every day that skating is in my life," Wickline said.



REED HASTINGS, 30

DRAPER, UTAH
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

PRE-SILVER ICE DANCE

Reed Hastings is a second-generation adult skater.

Hastings' mother began skating as an adult, competing in ice dance at the first U.S. Adult Championships in 1995. Following in her footsteps, Hastings skated for four years starting at age 10 when his mother took him and his sister skating; he returned to skating in 2008.

"I cannot imagine life without skating," said Hastings, who teaches Basic Skills classes. "There is nothing better than gliding on the ice."

Though he has taught all ages and levels, he particularly enjoys working with other adult skaters and observing their progress and confidence on the ice.

Hastings' passion for and focus in skating is ice dance, though he also spends time learning moves in the field to improve his skating skills.

Working with several coaches over the past four years, Hastings settled on Kent Weigle.

"I have achieved so much with him," Hastings said. "I adore him."

Hastings feels strongly about giving back to the skating community. He has served on the board of directors and as secretary for Salt Lake Figure Skating. He also volunteers as often as possible at competitions to support local organizing committee efforts.

His participation as an announcer on the local level motivated him to pursue a U.S. Figure Skating regional announcer appointment and, more recently, Hastings decided to pursue judging appointments for singles and pairs, and dance.

"Watching skating skills demonstrated with correct technique, especially when matched with music, melts my heart and transports me," Hastings said.

An information technology industry professional for more than a decade, Hastings also enjoys cooking, learning about wine and napping.





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2013 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

OMAHA, NEB., JAN. 20-27

Competition officials: Adam Leib, Anne Cammett, Bridgit Wallace, Dana Graham, David Hamula, David Hold, Deborah Weidman, Denise Williamson, Deveny Deck, Doug Williams, Elliot Schwartz, Eric Hampton, Hal Marron, Heather Nemier, Janis Engel, Jennifer Thompson, Jenny Mast, Jessica Gaynor, John Millier, Kanae Tagawa, Karen Terry Perreault, Karen Wolanchuk, Katherine Conrad, Kimberly Heim, Kirsten Novak, Kitty DeLio LaForte, Laurie Johnson, Linda Leaver, Lisa-Marie Allen, Lori Dunn, Lynn Goldman, Margaret Faulkner, Michelle Zeles-Hahn, Nancy Iida, Nancy Ruedebusch, Philipp Rey, Richard Perez, Robert Horen, Robert Rosenbluth, Roberta Parkinson, Ronald Pfening, Samuel Auxier, Scott Cudmore, Sharon Rogers, Shawn Rettstatt, Stephanie Segien, Taffy Holliday, Tamie Campbell, Todd Bromley, Tracey Poletis, Troy Goldstein, Vicki Merten, Wayne Hundley, Wendy Enzmann

Championship ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Ashley Wagner, 188.84, 1, 2
2. Gracie Gold, 186.57, 9, 1
3. Agnes Zawadzki, 179.63, 2, 7
4. Courtney Hicks, 177.92, 4, 3
5. Christina Gao, 176.28, 5, 4
6. Yasmin Siraj, 175.07, 6, 5
7. Mirai Nagasu, 173.75, 3, 11
8. Samantha Cesario, 170.15, 7, 6
9. Angela Wang, 164.76, 10, 8
10. Hannah Miller, 164.68, 8, 10
11. Caroline Zhang, 161.89, 12, 9
12. Ashley Cain, 150.79, 11, 12
13. Kiri Baga, 138.14, 13, 13
14. Haley Dunne, 127.73, 15, 15
15. Joelle Forte, 124.95, 14, 16
16. Becky Bereswill, 123.57, 17, 14
17. Amanda Hofmann, 119.14, 16, 17
18. Morgan Bell, 107.65, 18, 20
19. Sophia Adams, 107.50, 19, 19
20. Laney Diggs, 102.80, 20, 18

Championship men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Max Aaron, 255.00, 4, 1
2. Ross Miner, 251.29, 2, 2
3. Jeremy Abbott, 249.33, 1, 3
4. Joshua Farris, 244.82, 3, 4
5. Adam Rippon, 229.87, 6, 6
6. Richard Dornbush, 228.81, 5, 7
7. Alexander Johnson, 224.49, 12, 5
8. Jason Brown, 223.29, 7, 8
9. Brandon Mroz, 202.42, 10, 10
10. Stephen Carriere, 201.30, 17, 9
11. Jonathan Cassar, 196.49, 8, 14
12. Douglas Razzano, 192.99, 14, 13
13. Armin Mahbanoozadeh, 192.77, 16, 12
14. Wesley Campbell, 191.75, 20, 11
15. Grant Hochstein, 188.57, 11, 17
16. Keegan Messing, 187.34, 13, 16
17. Harrison Choate, 187.11, 19, 15
18. Philip Warren, 183.27, 9, 19
19. Sean Rabbitt, 181.66, 15, 18
20. William Brewster, 170.13, 18, 20

Championship pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnafir, 180.61, 1, 3
2. Alexa Scimeca/Christopher Knierim, 172.75, 3, 1
3. Felicia Zhang/Nathan Bartholomay,

- 172.02, 2, 2
4. Lindsay Davis/Mark Ladwig, 165.08, 5, 4
5. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 162.27, 4, 6
6. Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff, 159.67, 7, 5
7. Tarah Kayne/Daniel O'Shea, 148.32, 9, 7
8. Kiri Baga/Taylor Toth, 148.08, 8, 8
9. DeeDee Leng/Timothy LeDuc, 143.71, 6, 10
10. Tiffany Vise/Don Baldwin, 143.35, 10, 9

Championship dance

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 197.44, 1, 1
2. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 175.91, 2, 2
3. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 174.21, 3, 3
4. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 167.86, 4, 4
5. Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, 160.01, 5, 5
6. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 142.32, 6, 6
7. Anastasia Olson/Keiffer Hubbell, 130.67, 7, 9
8. Alissandra Aronow/Collin Brubaker, 130.55, 9, 7
9. Isabella Cannuscio/Michael Bramante, 129.08, 8, 8
10. Ginna Hoptman/Pavel Filchenkov, 119.77, 10, 10
11. Danielle Gamelin/Alexander Gamelin, 113.34, 11, 12
12. Kristen Nardozzi/Nick Traxler, 113.18, 12, 11
13. Taylor Tran/Sam Kaplun, 106.09, 13, 13
14. Kseniya Ponomaryova/Oleg Altukhov, 78.03, 14, 14
15. Katie Donaldson/Brock Jacobs, 62.34, 15, 15

Junior ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Polina Edmunds, 159.87, 1, 1
2. Mariah Bell, 152.80, 2, 3
3. Barbie Long, 152.53, 4, 2
4. Karen Chen, 144.56, 3, 4
5. Amber Glenn, 131.70, 7, 6
6. Madison Vinci, 131.64, 11, 5
7. Dyllan McIntee, 116.03, 10, 8
8. Brianna Laxson, 115.29, 12, 7
9. Maria Yang, 115.00, 5, 10
10. Olivia Serafini, 114.85, 8, 9
11. Amanda Gelb, 107.04, 9, 11
12. Katia Shpilband, 102.28, 6, 12

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Vincent Zhou, 205.26, 2, 1
2. Shotaro Omori, 189.25, 1, 2
3. Nathan Chen, 181.31, 3, 4
4. Jimmy Ma, 176.09, 4, 3
5. Jordan Moeller, 161.02, 5, 7
6. Jay Yostanto, 159.25, 6, 6
7. Nix Phengsy, 152.73, 9, 8
8. Brian Krentz, 151.44, 10, 9
9. Marcus Mimidis, 150.11, 11, 5
10. Troy Tomasello, 147.11, 7, 10
11. Lukas Kaugars, 145.20, 8, 11
12. James Schetelich, 122.64, 12, 12

Junior pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Britney Simpson/Matthew Blackmer, 146.44, 2, 1
2. Jessica Noelle Calalang/Zack Sidhu, 141.52, 3, 2
3. Madeline Aaron/Max Settlage,

- 138.41, 1, 4
4. Chelsea Liu/Devin Perini, 138.31, 4, 3
5. Brianna de la Mora/Taylor Wilson, 120.84, 6, 6
6. Jessica Pfund/AJ Reiss, 120.81, 7, 5
7. Caitlin Fields/Jason Pacini, 116.43, 5, 11
8. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyne, 115.49, 8, 7
9. Caitlin Belt/Michael Johnson, 111.95, 9, 9
10. Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, 110.68, 10, 10
11. Olivia Oltmanns/Joshua Santillan, 110.25, 11, 8
12. Brenna Doherty/Craig Norris, 95.16, 12, 12

Junior dance

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 159.85, 1, 1
2. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 149.74, 3, 2
3. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 149.25, 2, 3
4. Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, 141.33, 4, 4
5. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Ross Gudis, 127.77, 5, 5
6. Whitney Miller/Kyle MacMillan, 112.82, 6, 6
7. Madeline Heritage/Nathaniel Fast, 106.47, 8, 7
8. Hannah Rosinski/Jacob Jaffe, 104.86, 7, 8
9. Julia Biechler/Damian Dodge, 95.90, 9, 12
10. MacKenzie Reid/Christian Erwin, 94.98, 10, 9
11. Yura Min/Igor Ogay, 89.63, 12, 10
12. Stacey Siddon/Jared Weiss, 89.33, 11, 11

Novice ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Tyler Pierce, 128.96, 1, 1
2. Amy Lin, 126.57, 2, 2
3. Bradie Tennell, 116.91, 3, 4
4. Morgan Flood, 112.60, 10, 3
5. Elizabeth Nguyen, 107.37, 4, 11
6. Emily Mei-Lin Chan, 105.84, 6, 6
7. Rebecca Peng, 105.40, 8, 5
8. Sarah Feng, 104.63, 9, 7
9. Megan Wessenberg, 104.02, 5, 10
10. Brynne McIsaac, 103.55, 7, 9
11. Ashley Shin, 95.96, 11, 8

Novice men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Tomoki Hiwatashi, 155.29, 1, 2
2. Oleksi Melnyk, 152.99, 3, 1
3. Nicholas Vrdoljak, 139.11, 2, 3
4. Daniel Samohin, 135.07, 4, 4
5. Daniel Kulenkamp, 123.84, 5, 7
6. Luke West, 123.75, 7, 5
7. Paolo Borromeo, 122.07, 6, 8
8. Harrison Wong, 116.52, 11, 6
9. Tony Lu, 115.04, 8, 9
10. Daniel Petrenko, 113.36, 10, 10
11. Christopher Aaron Singletary, 110.90, 9, 11
12. Albert Zeng, 103.19, 12, 12

Novice pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Christina Zaitsev/Ernie Utah Stevens, 123.30, 2, 1
2. Kaitlin Budd/Nikita Cheban, 114.71, 1, 2
3. Elise Middleton/Robert Hennings, 109.85, 3, 3
4. Aya Takai/Brian Johnson, 102.71, 4, 4
5. Sophia Dai/Jeffrey Fishman, 100.62, 5, 5

6. Grace Knoop/Noah Chinault, 90.43, 6, 6
7. Riley Herr/Michael Lueck, 87.42, 8, 7
8. Madeleine Gallagher/Jonathon Horton, 86.07, 10, 8
9. Kristen Jennings/Cody Dolkiewicz, 80.82, 9, 9
10. Lianna Thomas/David Botero, 74.83, 7, 11
11. Juliette Erickson/Connor Fleming, 69.57, 11, 10
12. Nicole Lee/Timothy Habeeb, 65.61, 13, 12
13. Alexis Donahoe/James Rappold, 65.18, 12, 13

Novice dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Chloe Rose Lewis/Logan Bye, 102.89, 4, 2, 1
2. Tory Patsis/Joseph Johnson, 100.42, 1, 1, 2
3. Sammi Wren/Alexey Shchepetov, 95.37, 3, 4, 3
4. Gigi Becker/Luca Becker, 95.26, 2, 5, 4
5. Katherine Gourianova/Alexander Petrov, 88.55, 9, 3, 6
6. Rebecca Lucas/Yan Kazansky, 87.39, 6, 9, 7
7. Sierra Chadwick/Alexander Martin, 86.10, 10, 6, 5
8. Sarah Feng/Anthony Ponomarenko, 85.00, 5, 8, 10
9. Lauren Leonasio/Quinn Chambers, 83.89, 7, 7, 9
10. Kimberly Berkovich/Micah Jaffe, 83.86, 8, 10, 8
11. Ashlyn Gaughan/Cody Lithco, 64.92, 12, 12, 11
12. Vivian Luo/Darrell Cheung, 64.58, 11, 11, 12

Intermediate ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Anna Grace Davidson, 99.52, 1, 2
2. Anastasia Kortjohm, 97.41, 5, 1
3. Emmy Ma, 95.59, 3, 4
4. Olivia Allan, 94.27, 2, 6
5. Paige Rydberg, 92.36, 6, 3
6. Riley Shin, 91.27, 4, 8
7. Jin Baseman, 90.22, 8, 5
8. Caitlin Nguyen, 86.69, 12, 7
9. Ai Setoyama, 86.07, 7, 9
10. Samantha Steeman, 82.25, 10, 10
11. Samantha Scott, 78.69, 9, 12
12. Hina Ueno, 78.48, 11, 11

Intermediate men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Andrew Torgashev, 107.92, 1, 1
2. Eric Stinehart, 98.00, 3, 2
3. Micah Tang, 88.55, 5, 3
4. Eric Sjoberg, 87.54, 4, 4
5. Liam Roumila, 87.05, 2, 8
6. Derek Wagner, 84.90, 6, 5
7. Justin Ly, 82.62, 7, 6
8. Jun-Hong Chen, 80.84, 8, 7
9. William Hubbard, 73.72, 10, 9
10. Mitchell Friess, 72.44, 11, 10
11. Mathew Graham, 70.64, 9, 11
12. Ivan Mokhov, 59.89, 12, 12

Intermediate pairs

Pl. Name, TS

1. Alicia Bertsch/Austin Hale, 67.83
2. Darbie Burke/Griffin Schwab, 59.69
3. Gabriella Marvaldi/Kyle Hogeboom, 53.59
4. Alexandria Schmainda/Matthew Scorallo, 44.23
5. Reaghn Yack/Kristofer Ogren, 40.07
6. Ashlyn Olson/Jacob Nussle, 39.58
7. Annalyse Bowden/Johnathon

Chang, 36.24
8. Ananya Nandy/Aditya Nandy, 33.51

Intermediate dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, 103.56, 2, 1, 1
2. Madison Fox/Val Katsman, 97.63, 1, 2, 2
3. Gwen Sletten/Elliot Verburg, 89.75, 3, 5, 3
4. Rebecca Lustig/Zachary Milestone, 87.61, 5, 3, 4
5. Payten Howland/Jason Cohn, 86.93, 4, 4, 5
6. Cassidy Klopstock/Logan Leonesio, 78.36, 6, 6, 7
7. Alexis Middleton/Michael Valdez, 74.78, 7, 9, 6
8. Eleanor Babaev/Scott Wenner, 69.46, 8, 7, 9
9. Caroline Leadmon/Jacob Schedl, 68.51, 9, 8, 10
10. Rachel Gart/Matthew Rosenthal, 66.22, 10, 10, 8
11. Sara Fagan/Jonathan Loiacono, 48.01, 12, 11, 12
12. Jolie Vassel-Beasley/John Neff, 47.63, 11, 12, 11

Juvenile girls

Pl. Name, TS

1. Karolina Calhoun, 49.25
2. Maxine Marie Bautista, 46.76
3. Akari Nakahara, 46.66
4. Krystal Edwards, 44.12
5. Pooja Kalyan, 43.11
6. Ella Ales, 42.14
7. Ashley Lin, 41.97
8. Selina Shi, 41.71
9. Gabriella Izzo, 41.68
10. Emilee Zhang, 41.29
11. Amalia Friess, 40.91
12. Tori Rotella, 39.85

Juvenile boys

Pl. Name, TS

1. Maxim Naumov, 46.59
2. Kendrick Weston, 46.28
3. Sasha Lunin, 46.11
4. Dinh Tran, 45.77
5. Camden Pulkinen, 41.67
6. Ken Mikawa, 39.93
7. Ryan VanDoren, 39.64
8. John Farres, 39.45
9. Billy Stone, 38.81
10. Luke Ferrante, 38.72
11. Ryan Bedard, 38.61
12. Mikhail Gumba, 30.29

Juvenile pairs

Pl. Name, TS

1. Joanna Hubbart/William Hubbart, 48.16
2. Cate Hawkins/Eric Hartley, 39.91
3. Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi, 38.84
4. Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, 38.43
5. Laiken Lockley/Ryan Bedard, 35.49
6. Megan Griffin/Andrew Civiello, 35.09
7. Jade Esposito/Nathan Rensing, 33.59
8. Jessica Guo/Davis Tong, 28.95
9. Cecilia Wright/William Wright, 26.98
10. Sarah Kuhlman/Callen Zarozny, 26.30
11. Taylor Hliebaj/Jacob Schenten, 26.11
12. Toby Evett/Nathaniel Dennler, 25.51

Juvenile dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 85.83, 1, 1, 1

2. Alina Efimova/Kevin Kwong, 78.68, 6, 3, 2
3. Elizabeth Addas/Jonathan Schultz, 77.68, 2, 2, 4
4. Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, 76.07, 5, 5, 3
5. Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 72.76, 3, 4, 6
6. Gianna Buckley/Caleb Niva, 69.13, 8, 10, 5
7. Kimberly Wei/Ilias Fourati, 67.66, 4, 6, 8
8. Josephine Hagan/JT Michel, 64.00, 12, 7, 7
9. Ashley Klotz/Vincent Kirov, 60.30, 7, 8, 10
10. Kaytlin Smith/Alain Sandraz, 58.10, 10, 11, 9
11. Meredith Kent/Palmer Middlekauff, 55.47, 9, 9, 12
12. Amanda Miller/Nikolay Usanov, 53.17, 11, 12, 11

LEON LURJE TROPHY

Gothenburg, Sweden, Jan. 26-27

Novice

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Diamond Edges, FIN, 93.60, 1, 1
2. Chicas Del Amor, FIN, 79.90, 4, 2
3. Team Limelight, SWE, 78.88, 2, 3
4. Team Karisma, SWE, 76.01, 3, 4
5. Team Harmony, SWE, 71.60, 5, 5
6. Team Together, SWE, 70.74, 6, 6
7. Team Seaflowers, SWE, 68.92, 7, 7

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Team Convivium, SWE, 133.82, 1, 1
2. Team Spirit, SWE, 127.08, 2, 3
3. **Synchroettes, USA, 126.07, 3, 2**
4. Festa Aboensia, FIN, 110.68, 4, 4
5. Wight Jewels, GBR, 88.91, 5, 5
6. Team Rhapsody, SWE, 78.93, 6, 6
7. Team Moonlights, SWE, 70.76, 7, 7

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Marigold IceUnity, FIN, 174.48, 3, 1
2. Team Surprise, SWE, 172.85, 1, 2
3. **Miami University, USA, 148.33, 2, 4**
4. Boomerang, SWE, 147.62, 4, 3
5. **Crystallettes, USA, 133.45, 5, 5**

FRENCH CUP

Rouen, France Jan. 30-Feb. 2

Novice Basic

Pl. Name, Country, Points

1. Silhouettes, GBR, 28.78
2. Wight Crystals, GBR, 24.04
3. Team Tentation Novice, BEL, 23.98

Novice Advanced

Pl. Name, Country, Points

1. Team Dynamique, FIN, 58.64
2. Finettes, FIN, 57.15
3. Blue Arrows, FIN, 52.54
4. Sunrise 2, RUS, 39.88
5. Shadows, GBR, 39.24
6. Magic Crystals, FRA, 37.06
7. Les Comètes, FRA, 34.74

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Musketeers, FIN, 163.36, 1, 1
2. Team Mystique, FIN, 152.04, 2, 2
3. Team Convivium, SWE, 143.06, 5, 3
4. **Skyliners, USA, 139.84, 7, 4**
5. Stella Polaris, FIN, 137.04, 4, 7
6. **Team Braemar, USA, 136.86, 3, 8**
7. Spartak Junost, RUS, 134.62, 6, 5
8. Les Supremes Junior, CAN, 131.12, 8, 6
9. Sunrise 1, RUS, 123.56, 9, 9

10. Sun City Swing, FIN, 121.36, 10, 10
11. Black Diam's Junior, FRA, 93.90, 11, 12
12. Cool Dreams, SUI, 87.86, 12, 11
13. Wight Jewels, GBR, 80.82, 13, 13
14. Skating Grace Junior, GER, 76.66, 14, 14

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Team Unique, FIN, 214.58, 1, 1
2. Paradise, RUS, 206.26, 2, 2
3. Rockettes, FIN, 199.92, 3, 4
4. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 194.50, 6, 3
5. Les Supremes Senior, CAN, 193.02, 10, 10
6. Nexxice, CAN, 189.00, 7, 5
7. **Haydenettes, USA, 183.32, 5, 7**
8. Team Boomerang, SWE, 154.86, 8, 8
9. Revolutions, FIN, 146.70, 9, 9
10. Skating Graces Senior, GER, 139.50, 10, 10
11. **Ice'Kateers, USA, 131.52, 11, 11**
12. Zoulous, FRA, 128.30, 12, 12
13. Atlantides Senior, FRA, 107.48, 13, 13
14. Team Synchro Energie, FRA, 101.68, 14, 15
15. Ex'L Ice, FRA, 100.44, 15, 14
16. Team Temptation Senior, BEL, 75.72, 16, 16

Adult

Pl. Name, Country, Points

1. Last Steps, FIN, 38.02

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Zagreb, Croatia, Jan. 21-27

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Carolina Kostner, ITA, 194.71, 2, 2
2. Adelina Sotnikova, RUS, 193.99, 1, 3
3. Elizaveta Tuktamysheva, RUS, 188.85, 4, 1
4. Valentina Marchei, ITA, 171.06, 3, 4
5. Viktoria Helgesson, SWE, 155.72, 6, 7
6. Nikol Gosviani, RUS, 154.41, 12, 5
7. Sonia Lafuente, ESP, 152.29, 11, 6
8. Joshi Helgesson, SWE, 150.40, 5, 9
9. Nathalie Weinzierl, GER, 147.52, 8, 10
10. Mae Berenice Meite, FRA, 147.14, 13, 8
11. Lenaëlle Gilleron-Gorry, FRA, 143.74, 7, 14
12. Kerstin Frank, AUT, 143.56, 15, 12
13. Elena Glebova, EST, 143.45, 9, 13
14. Elene Gedevanishvili, GEO, 142.71, 16, 11
15. Monika Simancikova, SVK, 137.47, 14, 15

(36 ladies competed)

Men

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Javier Fernandez, ESP, 274.87, 2, 1
2. Florent Amodio, FRA, 250.53, 1, 3
3. Michal Brezina, CZE, 243.52, 4, 2
4. Brian Joubert, FRA, 232.47, 3, 5
5. Maxim Kovtun, RUS, 226.57, 7, 4
6. Alexander Majorov, SWE, 211.88, 8, 6
7. Sergei Voronov, RUS, 210.18, 5, 7
8. Viktor Pfeifer, AUT, 194.77, 10, 9
9. Chafik Besseghier, FRA, 189.67, 11, 10
10. Peter Liebers, GER, 187.96, 17, 8
11. Tomas Verner, CZE, 177.41, 9, 19
12. Kim Lucine, MON, 175.61, 12, 16
13. Pavel Ignatenko, BLR, 171.18, 14, 15
14. Alexei Bychenko, ISR, 171.12, 18, 12
15. Yakov Godorozha, UKR, 170.29, 15, 14

(29 men competed)

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Tatiana Volosozhar/Maxim Trankov,

- RUS, 212.45, 1, 1
2. Aliona Savchenko/Robin Szolkowy, GER, 205.24, 2, 2
3. Stefania Bertone/Ondrej Hotarek, ITA, 187.45, 3, 3
4. Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, FRA, 178.81, 4, 4
5. Yuko Kavaguti/Alexander Smirnov, RUS, 175.48, 5, 5
6. Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov, RUS, 167.23, 8, 6
7. Daria Popova/Bruno Massot, FRA, 157.12, 7, 7
8. Mari Vartmann/Aaron Van Cleave, GER, 141.79, 6, 10
9. Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise, ITA, 140.89, 9, 8
10. Stacey Kemp/David King, GBR, 131.51, 10, 11
11. Julia Lavrentieva/Yuri Rudyk, UKR, 128.79, 11, 9
12. Elizaveta Makarova/Leri Kenchadze, BUL, 115.96, 13, 12
13. Stina Martini/Severin Kiefer, AUT, 112.29, 12, 13
14. Maria Paliakova/Nikita Bochkov, BLR, 103.13, 14, 14
15. Magdalena Klatka/Radoslaw Chruscinski, POL, 99.65, 15, 15

Ice Dancing

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SD, FD

1. Ekaterina Bobrova/Dmitri Soloviev, RUS, 169.25, 1, 2
2. Elena Ilinykh/Nikita Katsalapov, RUS, 169.14, 2, 1
3. Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte, ITA, 165.80, 3, 3
4. Ekaterina Riazanova/Iliia Tkachenko, RUS, 157.77, 4, 4
5. Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland, GBR, 152.95, 6, 5
6. Nelli Zhiganshina/Alexander Gazsi, GER, 147.28, 7, 6
7. Julia Lobina/Alexei Sitnikov, AZE, 144.83, 5, 10
8. Tanja Kolbe/Stefano Caruso, GER, 142.54, 9, 7
9. Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri, ITA, 142.48, 8, 8
10. Pernelle Carron/Lloyd Jones, FRA, 140.00, 10, 9
11. Irina Shtork/Taavi Rand, EST, 132.90, 14, 11
12. Siobhan Heekin-Canedy/Dmitri Dun, UKR, 129.36, 11, 13
13. Alisa Agafonova/Alper Ucar, TUR, 127.59, 12, 12
14. Lucie Mysliveckova/Neil Brown, CZE, 124.62, 13, 15
15. Sara Hurtado/Adria Diaz, ESP, 124.26, 15, 14

(25 teams competed)

2013 PACIFIC COAST SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONALS

Greater Kalamazoo SA Kalamazoo, Mich., Jan. 24-26

Competition officials: Aleandra Mahler-Haug, Bette Todd, Caren Kirsch, Carla Golubski, Carolyn McGree, Daren Patterson, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Barrow, Elizabeth Harty, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Jo Ann Hall, Joyce Burden, Lauren O'Toole, Lauren Whittaker, Lisa Marsocci, Marilyn Whelan, Mary Lou Rothman, Pamela Pangle, Rita Cerny, Robin Greenleaf, Steve Wolkin, Tiffani Shipley

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. ICE'kateers, 46.69
2. Rose City Crystals, 45.08

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Del Sol, 60.67
2. Tremors, 52.13
3. Denver Synchronicity, 50.23
4. EPIC EDGE, 44.61
5. California Gold, 41.86
6. Fusion, 39.47
7. Sierra Storm, 38.03
8. ICE'kateers, 35.23

Juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Team Del Sol, 9/1
2. Epic Edge, 9/2

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 53.23

Masters free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Denver Synchronicity, 7/1
2. Capital Ice, 4/2
3. La Furia, 7/3
4. Cold Fusion, 7/4

Open juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Denver Synchronicity, 7/1
2. Silver Stars, 7/3
3. Fusion, 6/3
4. The Rockers, 5/3
5. Everett Silver Blades, 9/5

Pre-juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shining Blades, 5/1
2. Tremors, 6/2 TOM 8
3. Glacial Magic, 6/2 TOM 12
4. Fire Crystals, 8/4
5. Epic Edge, 9/5
6. Pikes Peak Firecrackers, 9/6

Preliminary free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Fusion, 9/1

2013 MIDWESTERN

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONALS

Greater Kalamazoo SA

Kalamazoo, Mich., Jan. 24-26

Competition officials: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Bette Todd, Caren Kirsch, Carla Golubski, Carolyn McGree, Daren Patterson, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Barrow, Elizabeth Harty, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Jo Ann Hall, Joyce Burden, Lauren O'Toole, Lauren Whittaker, Lisa Marsocci, Marilyn Whelan, Mary Lou Rothman, Pamela Pangle, Rita Cerny, Robin Greenleaf, Steve Wolkin, Tiffani Shipley

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Starlights, 127.44, 1, 1
2. Western Michigan Univ., 98.40, 2, 2

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Miami University, 122.52, 1, 1
2. Chicago Jazz, 114.82, 2, 2
3. Saint Louis Synergy, 106.62, 3, 3

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Chicago Jazz, 65.59
2. Crystallettes, 63.56
3. SwanSyncSation, 59.59
4. Starlights, 57.14
5. Saint Louis Synergy, 56.08
6. Cleveland Edges, 54.27

7. Team Du Coeur, 51.90
8. Phoenix, 51.74
9. Hockettes, 45.71

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Fond du Lac Blades, 56.43
2. Dazzlers, 54.90
3. Capital Ice Chips, 54.17
4. Starlights, 53.14
5. Chicago Radianc, 50.62
6. Ice Diamonds, 49.73
7. Chicago Jazz, 43.77
8. Synchro Panache, 43.56
9. Team Braemar, 43.34
10. Crystallettes, 40.01
11. Saint Louis Synergy, 39.66
12. Synchro St. Louis Diamond Edges, 39.02
13. Kansas City Illusion, 38.11
14. Hockettes, 36.57

Juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Chicago Jazz 8/1
2. Crystallettes, 7/2
3. Fond du Lac Blades, 6/3
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/4
5. Starlights, 6/5
6. Team Du Coeur, 6/6
7. Phoenix, 6/7
8. Cleveland Edges, 6/8
9. Hockettes, 6/9 TOM 48
10. Silver Leafs, 6/9 TOM 49
11. SwanSyncSation, 5/10

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Miami University, 79.10
2. U of Michigan SST, 67.36
3. Western Michigan Univ., 60.56
4. U of Wisconsin - Madison, 59.54
5. Spartan Synchronized Skating, 58.98
6. Adrian College, 57.64
7. Illinoiskating, 53.26

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Crystallettes, 63.14
2. Western Michigan Univ. Alumni, 57.26
3. Hockettes, 56.32
4. Starlights, 49.46
5. Goldenettes SST, 48.96
6. Allegro!, 48.83
7. Leather and Laces, 44.96
8. Synchro Panache, 41.65
9. Ice Connect, 38.62

Masters free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Allegro!, 7/1
2. Eclipse, 6/2
3. Ice Connect, 6/3
4. Team Glace, 7/4

Open collegiate free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Fighting Irish, 4/1
2. Miami University, 4/2
3. Ohio University, 3/3
4. Lindenwood University, 4/5
5. U of Minnesota-Duluth SST, 3/5
6. Grand Valley State, 3/6 TOM 12
7. Northwestern University Purple Line, 3/6 TOM 15
8. The Ohio State Univ., 3/6 TOM 17
9. Illinoiskating, 4/9
10. Spartan Synchronized Skating, 4/10
11. U of Wisconsin SST, 5/11

Open juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Dazzlers, 6/1
2. Northern Lights, 5/3
3. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 6/5

4. Cleveland Edges, 5/5
5. Chicago Skates, 6/6 TOM 21
6. Shoreline Blaze-Red, 6/6 TOM 29
7. Kicks, 6/7 TOM 32
8. Oxford Ice Crystals, 6/7 TOM 33
9. Ice Kicks A, 8/8
10. Louisville River Stars, 6/8
11. Starlights, 5/9
12. Precicettes Elite, 9/12

Open juvenile free skate Group A (QR)

1. Cleveland Edges, 5/1
2. Starlights, 6/2
3. Shoreline Blaze-Red, 7/3
4. Precicettes Elite, 6/4
5. Eclipse, 7/5
6. Chicago Skates Pink, 5/6
7. Chicago Radianc SSC, 7/7
8. Ice Connect, 5/8 TOM 35
9. Team Diamond, 5/8 TOM 40

Open juvenile free skate Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Cleveland Edges, 5/1
2. Starlights, 6/2
3. Shoreline Blaze-Red, 7/3
4. Precicettes Elite, 6/4
5. Eclipse, 7/5
6. Chicago Skates Pink, 5/6
7. Chicago Radianc SSC, 7/7
8. Ice Connect, 5/8 TOM 35
9. Team Diamond, 5/8 TOM 40

Open juvenile free skate Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Dazzlers, 8/1
2. Northern Lights, 8/3
3. Kicks, 7/4 TOM 20
4. Chicago Skates, 7/4 TOM 21
5. Silver Leafs, 9/5
6. Synchro St. Louis Ice Gems, 6/6
7. Ice Force, 8/7
8. Team Amore!, 7/8
9. Shoreline Blaze-Blue, 9/9

Open juvenile free skate Group C (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 8/2
2. Ice Kicks A, 5/2
3. Louisville River Stars, 5/3
4. Oxford Ice Crystals, 7/4
5. Metallites, 6/4
6. Lucky7 SST, 9/6
7. Ice Sculptures, 7/8
8. Sheboygan Lakers, 6/8
9. Southern Magic, 5/8

Pre-juvenile free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Crystallettes, 9/1
2. Icestars, 5/2
3. Starfire, 6/3
4. Silver Leafs, 5/4 TOM 16
5. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 5/4 TOM 19
6. Hockettes, 5/6
7. Chicago Radianc, 7/7
8. Synchro St Louis Jade Blades, 9/8

Pre-juvenile free skate Group A (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Starfire, 8/1
2. (tie) Hockettes, 6/3
Kalamazoo Kinetic, 6/3
4. Synchro St. Louis Jade Blades, 6/3 TOM 16
5. Precicettes Elite, 5/5
6. Revolution, 9/6
7. Ice Connect, 9/7

Pre-juvenile free skate Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Crystallettes, 9/1
2. Icestars, 6/2
3. Silver Leafs, 5/4 TOM 16
4. Chicago Radianc, 5/4 TOM 19
5. Allegro!, 7/6
6. Dazzlers, 6/6
7. Oxford Ice Crystals, 7/7
8. Cleveland Edges, 5/7

Preliminary free skate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Starlights, 5/1
2. Fond du Lac Blades, 7/2
3. Saint Louis Synergy, 6/3
4. Chicago Jazz, 6/4

5. Phoenix, 5/4
6. Chicago Radianc, 5/6 TOM 26
7. Crystallettes, 5/6 TOM 27
8. Evolution, 5/7
9. Cleveland Edges, 7/10
10. Ice Kicks, 6/10
11. Team Diamond, 5/10

2013 EASTERN SYNCHRONIZED SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SC of Lake Placid & ORDA

Jan. 31-Feb. 2

Competition officials: Ann Buckley, Ann Fauver, Ashleigh Renard, Barbara Shostak, Carylyn Landt, Colette Nygren, Deborah Neiman, Elizabeth Lee, Evelyn Minter, Felicia Han-ning-Miller, Jacqueline Addis, Judith Edmunds, Laura Days, Lauren Neidig, Leonard Colarusso, Martha Rasmussen, Matthew O'Toole, Nancy Marron-Asti, Patricia Lynch, Sara Stephens, Shirley Holdsworth, Susan Haugh, Susan McInnes, William Beharrell

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Excel, 84.80, 1, 1

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Synchroettes, 123.19, 1, 1
2. Team Delaware, 97.94, 2, 3
3. Capitol Steps, 95.13, 3, 2
4. Precisely Right, 75.22, 4, 4
5. Florida Sunations, 50.56, 5, 5

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Ice Mates, 65.12
2. Skyliners, 59.72
3. Synchroettes, 57.91
4. Team Delaware, 49.88
5. Team Esprit, 48.12
6. Philadelphia Symmetry, 47.35
7. Team Image, 46.42

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Star Mates, 55.85
2. Chesapeake Sailors, 51.40
3. Team Delaware, 48.28
4. Skyliners, 47.41
5. Carolina Ice Synchro, 41.30
6. Team Excel, 39.80
7. Team Ashburn, 39.66
8. Richmond Synchro, 38.94
9. The Colonials, 36.13
10. Synchroettes, 36.06
11. National Blades, 34.96
12. Team Reflections, 34.02
13. Capitol Steps, 33.82
14. Florida Sunations, 33.30

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Skyliners, 7/1
2. Mini Mates, 4/2
3. Synchroettes, 4/3
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/4
5. Team Image SST, 5/5
6. Team Delaware, 4/5
7. Capitol Steps, 5/7
8. Team Excel, 4/8
9. Team Ashburn, 6/9
10. DC EDGE, 7/10

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Excel, 69.94
2. University of New Hampshire, 62.54
3. University of Massachusetts, 49.60
4. Oswego State Ice Effects, 47.93
5. Cornell University, 42.22

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Esprit de Corps, 60.28
2. Team Delaware, 58.42
3. DC EDGE, 57.68
4. The Colonials, 52.59
5. Carolina Ice Synchro, 35.25

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE, 6/1
2. Esprit de Corps, 6/2
3. Essex Blades, 4/3
4. Team Delaware, 5/4
5. Gotham City Synchro, 7/5

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Boston University, 6/1
2. U. of Maryland, 5/3
3. Boston College Eagles, 6/4
4. UD, 4/4
5. Princeton, 5/5
6. Catamount Blades, 4/7 TOM 23
7. Liberty U. Radiance, 4/7 TO 49
8. Colgate University, 4/7 TO 52
9. Comwlth, 4/8
10. Hamilton College, 7/10
11. Iced Brew, 7/11

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Cutting Edge, 4/1
2. Ocean Blades, 6/2
3. Mystic Ice, 6/3
4. Team Carolinas, 4/4
5. Esprit De Corps, 4/5
6. DC EDGE, 6/6
7. Philly Spirit, 7/7
8. The Colonials, 7/8

Open Adult QR - A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Cutting Edge, 6/1
2. Esprit De Corps, 7/2
3. DC EDGE, 5/3
4. The Colonials, 6/4
5. Precisely Right, 7/5
6. Team Delaware Dazzle, 7/6

Open Adult QR - B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Ocean Blades, 5/1
2. Mystic Ice, 5/2
3. Philly Spirit, 4/3
4. Team Carolinas, 5/4
5. Iceline of Richmond, 4/5
6. Nor'easters, 4/6
7. Team Reflections, 7/7

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Mirror Images, 5/2
2. Superettes, 4/3
3. Wallace Synergy, 4/4 TOM 10
4. Sparklers, 4/4 TOM 12
5. Shadows, 4/5 TOM 12
6. CNY Blizzard, 4/5 TOM 16
7. Munchkins, 5/7
8. Saratoga Stars, 4/8
9. Island Waves, 4/9 TOM 32
10. Carolina Ice, 4/9 TOM 33
11. Team Esprit, 4/10
12. Nor'easters, 7/12

Open Juvenile QR - A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shadows, 4/1
2. Superettes, 7/2
3. Munchkins, 5/3
4. Carolina Ice, 5/5
5. Rainbow Connection, 4/5
6. Steel City Blades, 5/6 TOM 25
7. Team Ashburn, 5/6 TOM 26
8. Synchro Stars, 7/8

Open Juvenile QR - B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Sparklers, 5/1
2. CNY Blizzard, 6/2
3. Team Esprit, 4/4 TO 32
4. Island Waves, 4/4 TO 39
5. Team Reflections, 5/5
6. Team Winterettes, 6/6
7. DC EDGE Blue, 5/7
8. Pittsfield Pinwheels, 4/7
9. Starcatchers, 6/8

Open Juvenile Teams QR - C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Wallace Synergy, 4/1
2. Mirror Images, 5/2
3. Saratoga Stars, 4/3
4. Nor'easters, 4/4 TOM 13
5. DC EDGE Red, 4/4 TOM 14
6. Central Park Ice, 4/5
7. Icing On The Cape, 5/7
8. Team Achilles Edge, 5/8
9. Harlem Ice, 4/8

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 6/1
2. CNY Storm, 4/3
3. Sparklers, 5/4
4. Shimmers, 5/5
5. Synchroettes, 4/6
6. National Blades, 5/7
7. Mirror Images, 4/7 TOM 17
8. Team Image, 4/7 TOM 20
9. Team Ashburn, 5/8
10. Excel Crystals, 4/9
11. Icing On The Cape, 5/10
12. Chesapeake Skip Jacks, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile QR - A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Sparklers, 4/1
2. CNY Storm, 5/2
3. Chesapeake Skip Jacks, 6/4
4. Team Ashburn, 4/5 TOM 12
5. Skyliners, 4/5 TOM 13
6. Wallace Synergy, 4/6
7. Steel City Blades, 5/7
8. Richmond Twizzlers, 4/7
9. Carolina Ice Synchro, 7/9

Pre-Juvenile QR - B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 7/1
2. Shimmers, 6/4
3. National Blades, 5/4
4. Excel Crystals, 4/4
5. The Colonials, 5/5
6. Synchro Stars, 4/6 TOM 18
7. DC EDGE, 4/6 TOM 21
8. Saratoga Rising Stars, 6/8
9. Philly Spirit, 7/9

Pre-Juvenile QR - C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Team Image, 4/2 TOM 5
2. Synchroettes, 4/2 TOM 6
3. Mirror Images, 4/2 TOM 7
4. Icing On The Cape, 4/3
5. Team Winterettes, 4/4
6. Precisely Right, 5/6
7. Capitol Steps, 6/7
8. Saint Sensations, 5/8
9. Bluewater Blades, 6/9
10. Blazing Blades, 7/10

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1
2. Skyliners Pre, 4/2
3. Team Ashburn, 4/3
4. Shooting Stars, 5/5
5. DC EDGE, 4/5 TOM 13
6. Central Park Ice, 4/5 TOM 16
7. Team Image, 4/7 TOM 20
8. Snowflakes, 4/7 TOM 26

Preliminary QR - A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Team Ashburn, 5/1
2. Skyliners, 4/2
3. DC EDGE, 5/3
4. Team Image, 5/4
5. Synchroettes Red, 5/5
6. Excel Crystals, 5/6
7. Starcatchers, 7/7

Preliminary QR - B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 4/2
2. Central Park Ice, 4/3 TOM 6
3. Skyliners, 4/3 TOM 7
4. Snowflakes, 4/3 TOM 11
5. Team Esprit, 5/4 TOM 15
6. Synchroettes Yellow, 5/4 TOM 16
7. Sparklers, 5/7
8. Iceworks Ice Breakers, 7/8

FOUR CONTINENTS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Osaka, Japan, Feb. 8-11

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Mao Asada, JPN, 205.45, 1, 1
2. Akiko Suzuki, JPN, 190.08, 2, 2
3. Kanako Murakami, JPN, 181.03, 3, 3
4. **Christina Gao, USA, 176.28, 4, 5**
5. Zijun Li, CHN, 170.42, 10, 4
6. **Gracie Gold, USA, 166.66, 5, 6**
7. Kaetlyn Osmond, CAN, 159.38, 8, 7
8. **Agnieszka Zawadzki, USA, 158.99, 7, 8**
9. Amelie Lacoste, CAN, 155.08, 9, 9
10. Kexin Zhang, CHN, 148.34, 6, 11
11. Julianne Seguin, CAN, 146.58, 12, 10
12. Brooklee Han, AUS, 134.90, 11, 12
13. Reyna Hamui, MEX, 123.69, 14, 13
14. Chantelle Kerry, AUS, 118.11, 13, 14
15. Crystal Kiang, TPE, 109.15, 18, 15

(20 ladies competed)

Men

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Kevin Reynolds, CAN, 250.55, 6, 1
2. Yuzuru Hanyu, JPN, 246.38, 1, 3
3. Han Yan, CHN, 235.22, 2, 5
4. **Max Aaron, USA, 234.65, 10, 2**
5. **Richard Dornbush, USA, 234.04, 3, 4**
6. Nan Song, CHN, 228.46, 5, 6
7. Daisuke Takahashi, JPN, 222.77, 4, 8
8. Takahito Mura, JPN, 218.08, 8, 9
9. **Ross Miner, USA, 214.36, 9, 7**
10. Andrei Rogozine, CAN, 201.99, 11, 11
11. Misha Ge, UZB, 201.71, 12, 10
12. Denis Ten, KAZ, 197.26, 7, 17
13. Yi Wang, CHN, 195.01, 13, 13
14. Christopher Caluza, PHI, 186.79, 16, 12
15. Abzal Rakimgaliev, KAZ, 185.81, 15, 14

(23 men competed)

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford, CAN, 199.18, 1, 2
2. Kirsten Moore-Towers/Dylan Moscovitch, CAN, 196.78, 2, 1
3. **Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, USA, 170.10, 3, 3**
4. **Felicia Zhang/Nathan Bartholomay, USA, 167.30, 4, 4**
5. Cheng Peng/Hao Zhang, CHN, 164.82, 5, 6
6. Paige Lawrence/Rudi Swiegers, CAN, 162.30, 7, 5
7. Wenting Wang/Yan Zhang, CHN, 145.56, 6, 7

Ice Dancing

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SD, FD

1. **Meryl Davis/Charlie White, USA, 187.36, 2, 1**

2. Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, CAN, 184.32, 1, 2

3. Madison Chock and Evan Bates, USA, 160.42, 3, 5

4. **Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, USA, 159.97, 4, 4**
5. Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier, CAN, 157.83, 5, 3
6. Nicole Orford/Thomas Williams, CAN, 139.10, 7, 6
7. Cathy Reed/Chris Reed, JPN, 131.04, 6, 7
8. Danielle O'Brien/Gregory Merriman, AUS, 123.88, 8, 8
9. Xiaoyang Yu/Chen Wang, CHN, 108.82, 11, 9
10. Anna Nagornyyuk/Viktor Kovalenko, UZB, 107.02, 10, 10
11. Emi Hirai/Marien de la Asuncion, JPN, 105.56, 9, 11
12. Bryna Oi/Taiyu Mizutani, JPN, 89.80, 12, 12
13. Pilar Maekawa/Leonardo Maekawa, MEX, 85.02, 13, 13

U.S. officials: Jains Engel, Kathy Slack, Galel Tanger, Roger Glenn, Robert Rosenbluth, Jenny Mast, Ed Reisman, Alan Nitake, Steve Winkler, David Santee, Linda Leaver

SPRING CUP

Giovanni, Italy, Feb. 8-10

Advanced Novice

Pl. Name, Country, Points

1. Ice Fantasy, FIN, 36.20
2. Ladybirds, ITA, 35.50
3. Cool Dreams, SUI, 31.63
4. Hot Shivers, ITA, 31.22
5. Ice on Fire, ITA, 29.98
6. Ice Diamonds, ITA, 23.40

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Ice Steps, FIN, 130.27, 1, 1
2. Les Pirouettes de Laval, CAN, 126.57, 4, 2
3. Valley Bay Synchro, FIN, 118.86, 2, 5
4. Reflections, FIN, 118.60, 5, 4
5. Team Spirit, SWE, 118.54, 6, 3
6. **Lexettes, USA, 112.66, 3, 8**
7. Crystal Ice, RUS, 111.83, 7, 7
8. **Chicago Jazz, USA, 110.26, 10, 6**
9. Hot Shivers, ITA, 104.41, 8, 9
10. Team Berlin, GER, 97.72, 9, 10
11. Kometa, CZE, 84.41, 11, 13
12. Iceberg, RUS, 84.33, 12, 11
13. Dandelion, ITA, 73.40, 13, 14
14. Cool Dreams, SUI, 71.20, 14, 13
15. Ice Diamonds, ITA, 48.80, 15, 15
16. Shining Blades, ITA, 47.24, 16, 16

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Team Surprise, SWE, 172.45, 1, 1
 2. Team Berlin, GER, 142.36, 2, 2
 3. Hot Shivers, ITA, 136.38, 3, 3
 4. **Skyliners, USA, 132.51, 4, 4**
 5. United Angels, GER, 118.72, 5, 5
 6. Jingu Ice Messenger Grace, JPN, 96.67, 6, 6
 7. Starlight Team, SUI, 81.26, 8, 7
 8. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 72.44, 7, 8
 9. Shining Blades, ITA, 53.84, 9, 9
- U.S. officials:** Lynn Benson, Wendy Enzmann, Lara Salamacha

MARCH

9| 2013 Wallace Spring Synchronized Classic sponsored by the Wallace FSC at Wallace Civic Center, Gaetz Arena, 1000 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420. For more information call Brandi MacDonald at 978.345.7054.

9| 2013 Frog Pond Mayor's Cup Basic Skills Competition sponsored by The Skating Club of Boston at Boston Common Frog Pond, 1240 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, MA 01235. For more information call 617.787.5283.

9| 2013 Springtime Invitational Elite Skating Basic Skills Program at The Forum at Fishers, 9022 East 126th St., Fishers, IN 46038. For more information call Devan Heiber at 317.727.6581.

9| Warwick Figure Skaters 27th Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Warwick Figure Skaters at Thayer Arena, 975 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02889. For more information call Rita Bapties at 401.739.1606.

9| 2013 Chiller Spring Classic at Chiller North, 8144 Highfield Dr., Lewis Center, OH 43035. For more information call Denise Hughes at 614.764.1000.

10| 10th Annual U.S. Figure Skating South Florida Basic Skills Series at Pine Ice Arena, 12425 Taft St., Pembroke Pines, FL 33028. For more information call Rachel Spoto at 954.704.8700, ext. 104.

10| Shamrock Open 2013 Basic Skills and Beyond sponsored by Rockford SC at Carlson Ice Arena, 4150 North Perryville Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111. For more information call Sherry Frew at 815.988.4662.

10| 14th annual Wollman Open sponsored by The SC of New York at Wollman Rink in Central Park, 830 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10065. For more information call Elise Preston at 917.273.5059.

14| 2013 Illinois High School Team Competition sponsored by the Skokie Valley SC at Glacier Ice Arena, 670 Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. For more information call Erin Krentz at 847.224.5335.

15-17| 22nd Annual Love to Skate Competition sponsored by Bremerton FSC at Bremerton Ice Center, 1950 Homer Jones Dr., Bremerton, WA 98310. For more information call Allison Miller at 360.479.7465.

15-17| 10th Annual South Florida Challenge sponsored by Panthers FSC at Savelogy Iceplex, 3299 Sportsplex Dr., Coral Springs, FL 33065. For more information call Elizabeth Stark at 954.345.9948.

15-17| 2013 Cleveland Invitational Championships sponsored by the Wooster FSC at Alice Noble Ice Arena, 851 Oldman Rd., Wooster, OH 44691. For more information call Robert Lapsley at 330.347.1449.

16-17| 2013 Colonial Adult Winter Challenge sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Massachusetts Ave. Route 111, Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information call Cheryl Milroy at 978.263.3450.

16-17| 2013 University of Delaware Intercollegiate Competition at Fred Rust Ice Arena, Gold Ice

Arena, 547 South College Ave., Newark, DE 19716.

16| Third Annual The SC of Boston Basic Skills Competition at New England Sports Center, 121 Donald Lynch Blvd., Marlborough, MA 01752. For more information call 617.787.5283.

16| 2013 St. Patrick's Day Basic Skills sponsored by Triangle FSC at the Polar Ice House at The Factory, 1839 South Main Street, Suite 200, Wake Forest, NC 27587. For more information call Scott Cudmore at 919.302.6151.

16| 2013 Glissad Open sponsored by Glissad Academy at Ice Land, 6 Tennis Court, Hamilton, NJ 08619. For more information call Eleanor Reiss at 732.489.2930.

16| 2013 Showskate 2013/Showskate Basic Skills sponsored by Stars FSC of Texas at Dr. Pepper Star Center, 1400 South Pipeline Rd., Euless, TX 76040. For more information call Melissa Bowman at 972.978.4021.

16-17| 2013 Chicagoland Basic Skills Championship sponsored by Chicago FSC at Hoffman Estates Triphahn Ice Arena, 1685 West Higgins Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. For more information call Kerry Murphy at 847.674.1510.

16| 2013 Philips Academy Basic Skills Competition at The Rinks at Phillips Academy, 254 South Main St., Andover, MA 01810. For more information call Michaela Maione-Balford at 978.273.5482.

16-17| First Basic Skills Series Competition sponsored by the SC of Central New York at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Ct., Cicero, NY 13039. For more information call Shelley Kline at 315.480.8175.

16| Sixth Annual Shore Skate Basic Skills Competition at Howell Ice World, 269 Squankum Rd., Farmingdale, NJ 07727. For more information call Lara Walsh at 732.674.0344.

16-17| 2013 Colonial Classic sponsored by Tidewater FSC at Hampton Roads Iceplex, 401 Village Ave., Yorktown, VA 23693. For more information call Sherrie Clugston at 757.323.3296.

16| 2013 Spring Fever, Inhouse at Extreme Ice Center, 4705 Indian Trail, Fairview Rd., Indian Trail, NC 28079. For more information call Jenny Gwyn at 704.882.1830.

16| 2013 Skate Green Bay Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Greater Green Bay FSC at De Pere Ice Arena, 1450 Fort Howard, De Pere, WI 54115. For more information call Amy Beiderwieden at 920.819.6047.

16| Spring Fling 2013 at Cool Sports, 110 South Watt Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934. For more information call 865.218.4500.

16| 2013 Gold Rush Showcase on Ice sponsored by the Capital City FSC at Skatetown, 1009 Orlando, Ave., Roseville, CA 95661. For more information call Judy Richardson at 916.870.4003.

16| First Ithaca Figure Skating Association Basic Skills Competition at The Rink, 1767 East Shore Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850. For more information call Teresa Van Orman at 716.634.3887.

17| Fourth Annual Skylands Ice World Basic Skills Competition sponsored by North Jersey FSC at Skylands Ice World, 2765 State Highway 23, Stockholm, NJ 07460. For more information call

Rick Breitweiser at 201.696.8046.

17| 2013 Wisconsin High School Figure Skating Competition Series Final sponsored by 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.

21-24| 2013 WIM Competition sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC at Wilson Ice Arena, 4001 South 20th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. For more information call Ralph Dahlman at 414.281.6289.

22-24| 2013 Cascade Ice Classic sponsored by the Cascade Valley FSC at Castle Ice Arena, 12620 164th Avenue SE, Renton, WA 98059. For more information call Cyndee Evans at 253.631.2320.

22-24| Skate Houston 2013 sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information contact skatehouston@texasgulfcoastfsc.org

22-23| 2013 Glacier Challenge sponsored by Missoula FSC at Glacier Ice Rink, 1101 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801. For more information call Pam Hergett at 406.273.7088.

23-24| 2013 Big River Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Winona FSC at St. Mary's Ice Arena, 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987. For more information call Holly Hammann-Jacobs at 507.951.1538.

23-24| 2013 Maize and Blue Matchup at Yost Ice Arena, 1116 South State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109. For more information call Kate White at 810.730.6890.

23| 2013 Basics and Beyond! sponsored by Charter Oak FSC at International Skating Center of Connecticut, 1375 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070. For more information call Amy Fairchild at 860.651.8299.

23| 30th Garren Invitational Figure Skating Competition sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Houston Field House, 1900 Peoples Ave., Troy, NY 12180. For more information call Ann Seman at 518.235.9362.

23| 2013 Southern Connecticut Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of Southern Connecticut at Terry Connors Rink, 1125 Cove Rd., Stamford, CT 06902. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

23| Sixth Annual Amherst Skating Club Basic Skills Competition at Northtown Center at Amherst, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221. For more information call Lindsay Lessard at 716.634.3887.

23| 2013 Janice Smith Memorial Basic Skills Competition at Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeshore Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075. For more information call Jessica Lauria at 716.580.3458.

23-24| 2013 Skate Cincinnati sponsored by the FSC of Cincinnati at Sports Plus, 10765 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241. For more information call Stacy Brinkman at 513.907.7207.

23-24| 2013 Massena Invitational Competition sponsored by Massena FSC at Massena Arena, Route 37, Hark Haven Shopping Center, Massena,

NY 13662. For more information call Tammy Savage at 315.769.3386.

23-24| Skate Houston 2013 Basic Skills sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC at Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center, 16225 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information call Jennifer Simon at 713.408.0416.

23| 2013 Sunflower Classic sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC at Minnetonka Ice Arena, 3401 Williston, Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. For more information call Nancy Kaufmann at 612.860.7760.

24| Sixth Annual South Shore Open sponsored by South Shore SC at Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rockland, MA 02370. For more information call Katy Hayden at 781.749.3807.

24| 2013 Hop Into Spring Basic Skills Competition at Atlanta Ice Forum, 2300 Satellite Blvd., Duluth, GA 30097. For more information call Ellen Poulsen at 404.579.1699.

24| Hagerstown Second Annual Basic Skills Competition at Hagerstown Ice and Sports Complex, 580 Security Rd., Hagerstown MD 21740. For more information call Scott Powell at 240.818.4406.

30| Fiesta Skate 2013 sponsored by Kingsgate SC at Kingsgate Arena, 14326 124th Avenue NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. For more information call 425.821.7133, ext. 104

30| 13th Annual Ice House Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Ice House of New Jersey FSC at Ice House, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack, NJ 07601. For more information call Edward Vancampen at 973.819.8144.

APRIL

4-7| 2013 Skate KC/2013 Skate KC Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Kansas City FSC at Independence Events Center, 19100 East Valley Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. For more information call Lori Osborne at 913.638.9026.

5-7| 28th Annual Florida Open Championships sponsored by Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information call 407.916.2550.

5-7| 2013 Eastern Iowa Invitational/Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Eastern Iowa FSC at Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 1100 Rockford Road SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. For more information call Susan Blocker at 319.361.4408.

5-7| 2013 Tri-State Memorial Free Skating Championships sponsored by the Kent SC at Kent State University Ice Arena, 650 Loop Rd., Kent, OH 44242. For more information go to www.kentskatingclub.net.

5-7| 2013 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.

5-7| Florida Open Basic Skills Competition 2013 sponsored by Central Florida FSC at RDB Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For more information call 407.426.0513.

5-7| 2013 Fort Collins Classic sponsored by Fort Collins FSC at Edora Pool and Ice Center, 1801 Riverside Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525. For more information call Kathryn Corser at 970.567.2876.

6| Skatequest Reston Blossom 2013 at Skate-Quest, 1800 Michael Faraday Court, Reston, VA 20190. For more information call Christina Coho at 703.709.1010, ext. 1105.

6| 2013 Hodag Skate Classic sponsored by Rhinelander FSC at Rhinelander Ice Association, 2021 Timber Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501. For more information call Angie Harris at 715.360.0878.

6| 2013 Spring Glide Competition at Ashburn Ice House, 21595 Smith Switch Rd., Ashburn, VA 20147. For more information call Shari Trotter at 511.205.0596.

6-7| 47th Annual Worcester Open/Seventh Annual SC of Worcester Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of Worcester at Buffone Arena, 264 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604. For more information go to www.scworcester.org.

6-7| 2013 Philadelphia Area Figure Skating Competition sponsored by the University of Delaware FSC at Fred Rust Arena, 547 South College Ave., Newark, DE 19716. For more information call Dandy Shacklady-White at 484.266.1219.

7| 2013 Colorado Basic Skills Series, EPIC sponsored by Fort Collins FSC at EPIC, 1801 Riverside, Fort Collins, CO 80525. For more information call Kate Corser-James at 970.567.2876.

7| Fourth Annual Kankakee Valley Open at Ice Valley Centre, 1601 River Rd., Kankakee, IL 60901. For more information call Angela Pace-Tousignant at 815.939.1946.

7| 2013 Basic Skills Team Competition at Ice Den, 9375 East Bell Rd., Scottsdale, AR 85260. For more information email mstevens@coyotesice.com.

11-14| 2013 Ladybug Competition sponsored by the Glenwood FSC at Homewood Flossmoor Ice Arena, 187th Kedzie, Homewood, IL 60422. For more information go to www.qfsc.org.

12-14| 2013 Louisville Academy Spring 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.

12-14| 2013 Morris Open sponsored by SC of Morris NJ at William G. Mennen Sports Arena, 161 Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. For more information call Katherine Roekaert Davis at 973.971.9927.

12-14| 18th Biennial Genesee Invitational sponsored by the Genesee FSC at Ritter Arena, Rochester Institute of Technology, 51 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623. For more information contact Lynn Hayes at lghayes@rochester.rr.com.

12-14| 2013 Spring Fever Basic Skills Competition sponsored by the Lakewood Winter Club at Sprinkler Recreation Center, 14824 SC St., Tacoma, WA 98444. For more information call Kathy Wainhouse at 253.798.4042.

13-14| 2013 U.S. Intercollegiate Figure Skating Team Championships at Thompson Arena, South Park Street, Hanover, NH 03755. For more information email Jacki Smith at figure.skating.club@darthmouth.edu.

13| Silver Skate 2013 sponsored by South Dayton FSC at Kettering Ice Arena, 2900 Glengarry Dr., Kettering, OH 45420. For more information call Patricia Lukacs at 937.748.2680.

OH 45420. For more information call Patricia Lukacs at 937.748.2680.

13| 2013 Spring Spectacular at The Steele Ice Center, 320 East 1st St., Bethlehem, PA 18015. For more information call Angela Roesch-Davis at 610.625.4774, ext. 226.

13-14| 2013 Spring Fling Invitational Competition at OBM Arena, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. For more information call Beth Roberts at 440.227.7033.

13| 2013 Spring Funtastics at the Apex Ice Center, 3150 West 72nd Ave., Arvada, CO 80004. For more information call Carol Zeles at 303.979.0802.

13| 2013 Skating Club of Wilmington Spring Skate Competition at the Skating Club of Wilmington, 1301 Carruthers Lane, Wilmington, DE 19803. For more information call John Kauffman at 814.329.6396.

14| 2013 Edge Spring Fling Basic Skills Competition at Edge Ice Arena, 6623 South Ward St., Littleton, CO 80127. For more information call Kimberly Berry at 303.409.2212.

14| 2013 Coulee Region Basic Skills Figure Skating Competition sponsored by Tri-State Toe Picks FSC at Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650. For more information call Kym Culp at 608.769.4917.

15| 12th Annual Wagon Wheel FSC Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Wagon Wheel FSC at Crystal Ice House, 320 East Prairie, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. For more information call Lanny Nelson at 815.455.6403.

19-21| 2013 Southern Connecticut Open sponsored by the SC of Southern Connecticut at Darien Ice Rink, 55 Old Kings Highway, Darien, CT 06820. For more information call Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

19-20| 2013 Spring Fling Open at Bellingham Sportsplex, 1225 Civic Field Way, Bellingham, WA 98229. For more information call Katrina Stewart at 360.676.1919, ext. 106.

20| 2013 Hardee's Ice Plex Basic Skills "Plus" Competition at Hardee's IcePlex, 16851 North Outer, 40 Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63005. For more information call Melody Carper at 636.537.4200, ext. 3012.

20| Ice World's 14th Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition sponsored by Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, 1300 Governor Ct., Abingdon, MD, 21009. For more information call Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000, ext.101.

20| SkateQuest Reston Blossom 2013 at Skate-Quest, 1800 Michael Faraday Ct., Reston, VA 20190. For more information call Christina Coho at 703.709.1010, ext. 1105.

20-21| 2013 Crystalline Classic Showcase Competition sponsored by the Santa Rosa FSC at Snoopy's Home Ice, 1667 West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information call Andrea Ewing at 707.546.7147, ext. 375.

21| 10th Annual U.S. Figure Skating South Florida Basic Skills Series Palm Beach Skatezone at Palm Beach Skatezone, 8125 Lake Worth Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33467. For more information call

calendar

Audra Leech at 561.963.5900.

25-28| 35th Annual Cherry Blossom Invitational at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22307. For more information call Dorothy Dodson 703.370.5959.

26-28| 2013 Battle of the Blades sponsored by Fort Wayne ISC at Lutheran Health Sports Center, 3869 Ice Way Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46845. For more information call Alexander Lunin at 509.430.2906.

26-28| Skate Nashville 2013 sponsored by the Nashville FSC at A-Game Sportsplex, 215 Gothic

Court, Franklin, TN 37067. For more information call Sherry Tull at 615.772.8399.

27| 2013 Stars and Stripes Skating Competition sponsored by the Colonial SC of Pennsylvania at N.E. Flyers Skate Zone, 10990 Decatur Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154. For more information call Kathleen Campion at 215.736.0071.

27-28| 2013 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 McKe-

on-Hicks at 618.806.3965.

27-28| 2013 Blades on Ice sponsored by the Highland SC at Highland Ice Arena, 18005 Aurora Ave., North Shoreline, WA 98133. For more information call 206.782.3825.

28| 2013 CFSC Basic Skills Spring Skate sponsored by the Colonial FSC at Nashoba Valley Olympia, 34 Mass Avenue Route 111, Boxborough, MA 01719. For more information contact Kathy Boucher at basicskillscomp@colonialfsc.com.

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Peggy DeLio
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Elaine DeMore
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Janet French
Bill Beharrell
Pat French
Lainie DeMore and Harry Gleeson
Charles DeMore
Maggie Iobst
Susan Johnson
Carolyn Kruse
Bobbie and Ken Parkinson
Lou and Shirley Sherman
Betty L. Grabel
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Barbara Ruth Hessenaur
Christine Handt*
Kathe Jacoby
Eileen V. Erlich*
Sally Jinks
Susan Richardson*

Frances M. Claudet Johnson
JWJ Family Foundation
Peter Kalen, Dick Vraa and Noel Ledin
Robert E. James*
MaryJane Truax Killinger
Central Pennsylvania FSC
Beverly Kimes
Mark J. Adams and David Mitchell*
Paul J. Kreppel
Lainie DeMore and Harry Gleeson
Pat French
Anne Gerli
Terri Levine
Chuck Mlynarczyk*
SC of New York
Donna Lang
The Jellison Family
Joan Lucas
Sam Singer*
Carole Ludlow
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Sam Singer*
Rosemary P. Malmen
Michael and Joanne Glatz and Family
Dana Rennoe
Linda, Steve, Gina and Eric Schmidt
C. Dallas Mauk Jr.
Deborah Barnes
Bonnie McLauthlin
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Laurence Owen, Greg Kelley and Brad Lord
Steven Mader
Abbott Peterson
SC of Boston
Ketty Rogal
Lou and Shirley Sherman
Skokie Valley SC
Ardelle Sanderson
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Bill Smith
Patricia Ponticello*
Laurie Smith
Glenwood FSC
Lou and Shirley Sherman
Norm Smith
Claudia Robertson*
Vincent W. Svedise
Tony Tantillo
Howard G. Taylor
Hugh and Jeannie Graham*
Sam Singer*

Stephanie Westerfeld
Rose Elnor Hamman*
Bert Wright
Cheryl Prueher

"IN HONOR OF"

Adult Skating
David and Susan Bakke*
Richard Dwyer
Nancy Meiss^
Wendy Enzmann's Appointment as a World Judge
Nancy Meiss^
Anne Marie Filosa and Rob Rafuse
Johanna Ehrmann*
Carol Haugh Swaim
Carol's Fund
Kaitlin Hawayek
Beverly Lynch
The Judges and Officials of the 2012 Challenge Cup at the Philadelphia SC
Philadelphia SC
Nature's Own Research Association
Maurie D. Pressman^
Lorrie Parker's Appointment as a World Judge
Nancy Meiss^
Gladys Szapary's Birthday
Nancy Meiss^
Gail Ord*
Team USA
Tammy Gambill*
Carolyn Tonidandel
Dr. Kelly M. Dainiak*
Caroline Zhang
Linda Sweatman
GENERAL
Lucy Joyce Brennan*
Patricia S. Cook*
Leo J. and Clara Cote*
Anne and Tom Curzon*
David Fedor*
Homer and Patricia Hagedorn*
Cabray Haines*
Beth Hubbell*
Susan Kennedy-Kalafatis
Sarah Reid*
Amy and David Shapiro
Maida Townsend*

appointments

Bronze Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Jo-Ann Eufrazio, Franklinton, N.C.; James McNab, Tempe, Ariz.; Joseph Sierra, Woodland Hills, Calif.

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Dorothy Bowers, Kailua Kona, Hawaii; Beshara Elmufdi, San Jose, Calif.; Lynn Fox, Morpeth, Ontario, Canada; Elizabeth Miles, Des Plaines, Ill.

Gold Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Nina Peterson, Kirkland, Wash.; Aubrey Samost,

Worcester, Mass.

Sectional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Pamela Pangle, Zeeland, Mich.

Regional Accountant

Jennifer Lyon, Broadlands, Va.; John Noonan, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Sectional Accountant

Marilyn Anders, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Jocelyn Raught, Peoria, Ariz.

Sectional Announcer

Pamela Dawson, Kennewick, Wash.; John Maier, Seattle, Wash.

Regional Music Coordinator

Tom Barnett, St Paul, Minn.

Sectional Music Coordinator

Susan LaLone, Lexington, Mass.; Deborah Martin, Rockville Ctr, N.Y.

tests passed

Senior Moves In The Field

Chanel Asuncion — St. Paul FSC
Alex Benoit — Skokie Valley SC
Alicia Bertsch — Ann Arbor FSC
Emily Bonar — Troy SC
Miranda Caruso — St. Clair Shores FSC
Josie Caulfield — Border Blades FSC
Hana Chabinsky — Central Carolina SC
Hannah Christianson — Red River Valley FSC
Madelyn Crawford — Washington FSC
Kristy Dang — St. Moritz ISC
Bethany Davis — Shaker FSC
Alyse Deutsch — Skokie Valley SC
Vanessa Feigenbaum — Panthers FSC
Lauren Florea — FSC of Omaha
Zane Frick — Red River Valley FSC
Emily Gabriele — Coyotes SC of Arizona
Celia Glastris — DuPage FSC
April Goldberg — Essex SC of NJ
Caroline Gordon — The Skating Club of Boston
Libbie Hamner — Richmond FSC
Taylor Harris — Northern Blades NSC FSC
Sasha Hayes — Central Carolina SC
Jessica Heazlett — FSC of Bloomington
Michelle Hedges — FSC of Bloomington
Cassady Konu — Syracuse FSC
Simona Koverman — St. Peters FSA
Brandon Kozlowski — Skokie Valley SC
Jennifer LeChard — Ann Arbor FSC
Clara Liao — All Year FSC
Madison Liedle — Kingsgate SC
Joanna Liu — St. Paul FSC
Samantha March — Connecticut SA at Newington
Emily Martorella — All Year FSC

Kaitlyn Marunda — Yarmouth Ice Club
Kasey Meredith — Valley FSC
Ellie Mikawa — Richmond FSC
Abrianna Percuoco — Desert Ice SC of Arizona
Reshini Premaratne — Richmond FSC
Bridget Race — Detroit SC
Ashlee Raymond — Dallas FSC
Carolina Rodriguez — Miami FSC
Lindsay Rosenberg — Panthers FSC
Isobel Schwob — Moylan Premier SC
Tori Topp — Athens FSC
Chelsey Wang — Los Angeles FSC
Paige Weymouth — Onyx-Suburban SA
Brittney Whitefield — Onyx-Suburban SA
Devon Wilson — Oklahoma City FSC
Charlene Yarema — Onyx-Suburban SA
Katie Yockey — Lake Minnetonka FSC

Adult Gold Moves In The Field

Carol Cooper — Detroit SC
Paul Mata — The New Edge FSC

Senior Free Skate

Vera Barnwell — The New Edge FSC
Marylin Cai — Stars FSC of Texas
Kayla De Groot — SC of San Francisco
Jamie Deese — Coyotes SC of Arizona
Hannah Dowell — Oklahoma City FSC
Matthew Essigmann — Ithaca FSA
Savannah Hanby — Highland SC
Tori Ishino — Highland SC
Hanna Johnson — FSC of Bloomington
Madison Jones — Coyotes SC of Arizona
Kaitlyn Kenyon — Fort Collins FSC
Nicole Kettel — Winterhurst FSC
Jordan Lee — Lakewood Winter Club
Karina Manta — Coyotes SC of Arizona

Lauren Marines — Springfield FSC
Meagan Midkiff — Stars FSC of Texas
Hannah Mines — Washington FSC
Alexandria Miranda — Brooklyn FSC of Ohio
Lauren Muench — Eden Prairie FSC
Rebecca Pozen — Southport SC
Jessica Qiu — SC of Northern Virginia
Jamie Schreffler — The Strongsville SC
Lauren Skaathun — Florida Everblades FSC
Alexander Strupinski — Pond FSC
Katherine Thomas — Miami University
Hailey Tramel — Detroit SC

Adult Gold Free Skate

Gener Dizon — Chicago FSC
Louise Gray — San Diego FSC
Kimberlee Hyp — Las Vegas FSC

Adult Gold Pair Test

Crystal Jugaszek — The New Edge FSC
Paul Mata — New Edge FSC

Gold Dance Test

Ellie Akerlind, Northern Lights FSC
Payten Howland — Detroit SC
Eliana Marostica — Colonial FSC
Alice O'Connor — Pittsfield FSC
Kaitlyn Peterson — Dearborn FSC
Keegan Sawin — Valley FSC

Adult Gold Dance Test

Mary Ann Wilcox — Utah FSC
Michelle Goodnetter, Skokie Valley SC

Solo Gold Dance Test

Emily Rice — Pittsfield FSC

Senior Free Dance Test

Lukas Sotola — Albany FSC

Senior Solo Free Dance

Christopher Davis — Skokie Valley SC

obituaries

FRENCH

Janet Rice French, 97, passed away on Jan. 9, 2013, at her home in the Washington, D.C., area. Janet devoted most of her life to figure skating. As a young woman, she competed at the U.S. Championships. She became a respected judge and was honored by U.S. Figure Skating in 1991 for more than 50 years of volunteer judging. She served several terms on the board of directors of the Buffalo Figure Skating Club. International travels in her later years often related to her lifelong interest in skating events.

Born Janet Cordes Rice on Oct. 22, 1915, Janet and her family were longtime residents of Buffalo, N.Y. She attended the Franklin School and Buffalo Seminary. After graduat-

ing from the University of Buffalo in 1938, she worked in pathology at Buffalo General Hospital. On the eve of World War II, she married Buffalo lawyer Joseph W. French. Janet lived in the Buffalo area for most of their 54 years of marriage, with a four-year interlude in Hawaii where her husband was attorney for Dole Pineapple Company. They returned to Buffalo in 1951 when he became general manager of the Peace Bridge.

She is survived by two daughters, Patricia Staniland French (a World-level figure skating judge) and Barbara French Pace; two grandchildren, Catherine Williamson and James Cameron; and four great-grandchildren, all residing in the Washington, D.C., area.

Contributions in Janet's memory may

be made to the U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund at 20 First Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

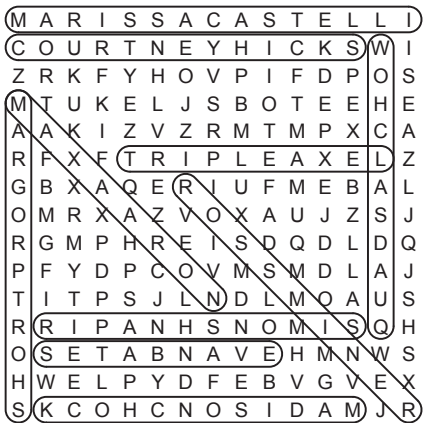
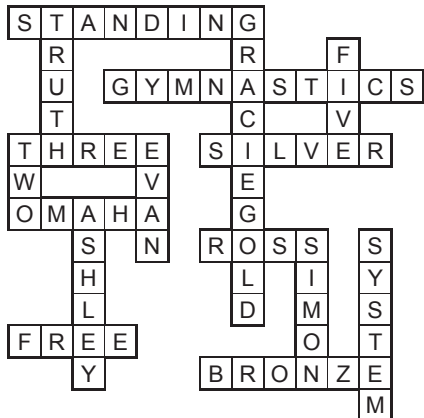
CUNNINGHAM

James A. Cunningham, who volunteered as a music coordinator for many U.S. Figure Skating events, passed away on Dec. 29, 2012. He was 86.

James is survived by his wife Joy L. Cunningham, daughter Denise Joy Cunningham Nolso, MD (Janus) of Faroe Islands; son James B. Cunningham of Delaware, Ohio; and grandchildren Irene and Astrid Andersson.

Donations may be made in James' name to U.S. Figure Skating, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 68



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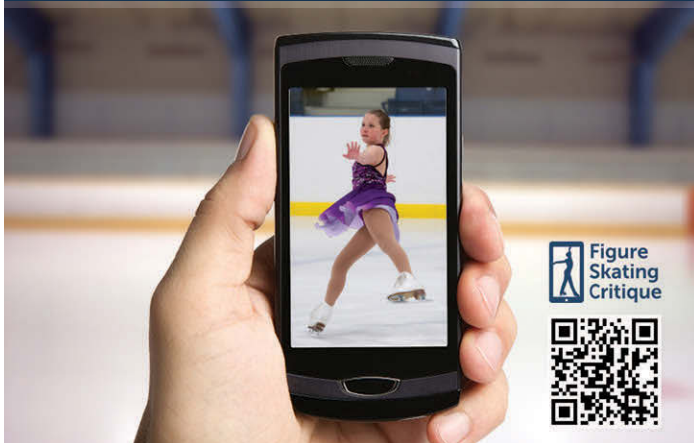
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