

SKATING

March 2014

OUR OLYMPIC FAMILY

PRESENT JOINS PAST IN A GOLDEN MOMENT
AT THE 2014 SMUCKER'S SKATING SPECTACULAR



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

CLUTCH SKATING, HIGH DRAMA PLAY OUT IN BOSTON
AT THE 2014 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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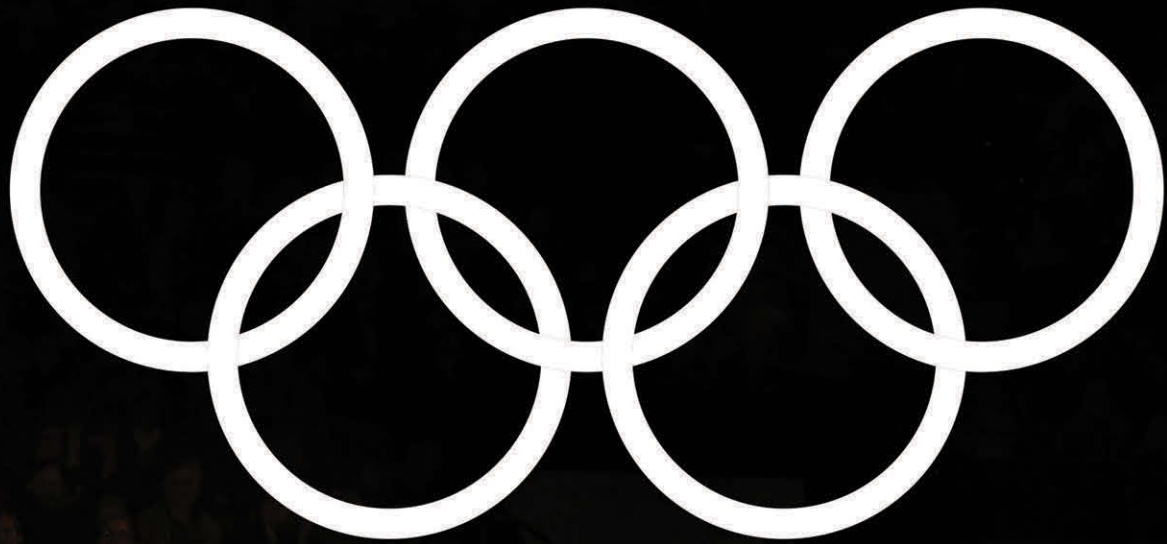


CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

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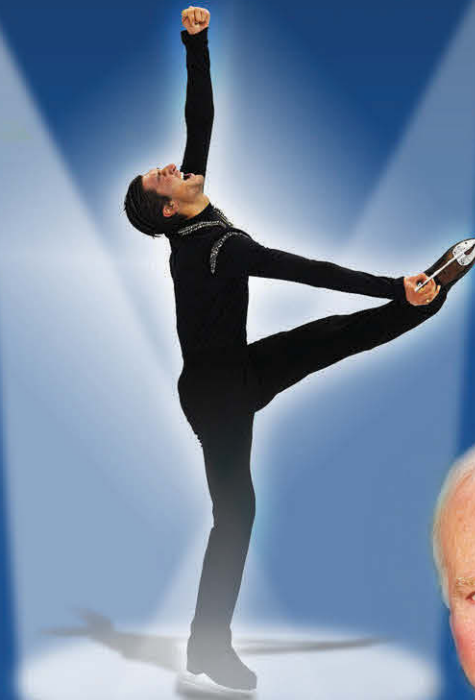
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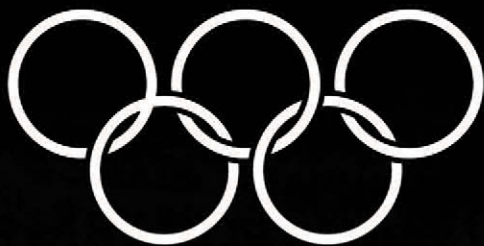
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On the cover

Jay Adeff/U.S. Figure Skating

Twelve U.S. Olympic champions were joined on the ice by the 2014 U.S. Olympic Team during an inspiring moment at the Smucker's Skating Spectacular in Boston. The U.S. Olympic Team was selected on the final day of the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. The event marked the 100-year anniversary of the prestigious event. Pictured in this special foldout cover are (l-r) Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Dick Button, Tenley Albright, Evan Bates, Hayes Jenkins, Madison Chock, Carol Heiss Jenkins, Alex Shibutani, Maia Shibutani, David Jenkins, Peggy Fleming, Gracie Gold, Dorothy Hamill, Polina Edmunds, Scott Hamilton, Brian Boitano, Ashley Wagner, Kristi Yamaguchi, Simon Shnapir, Marissa Castelli, Tara Lipinski, Nathan Bartholomay, Felicia Zhang, Jeremy Abbott, Sarah Hughes and Jason Brown.

SKATING



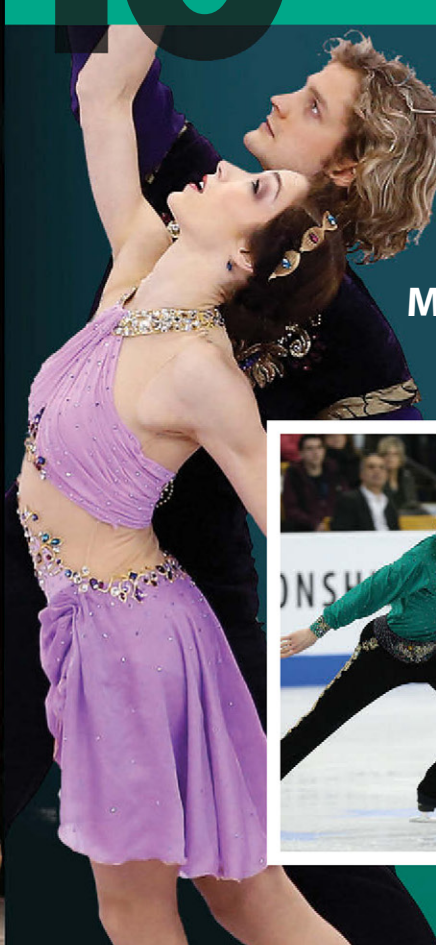
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Hubbell and Donohue win Four Continents title.



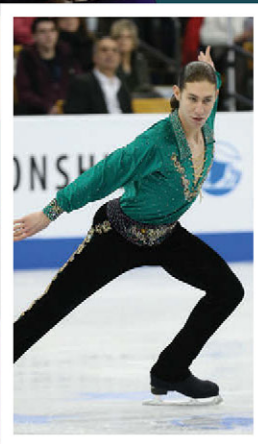
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Boston sends off Olympic Team in style.



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Meryl and Charlie rewrite the record books.



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Cain, Brown, Wylie to appear at S.T.A.R.S. Combines.

Boston produces unforgettable U.S. Championships

The Skating Club of Boston President Joe Blount was happily exhausted at the conclusion of the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. The weeklong competition couldn't have gone any better from his point of view, as all the hard work and planning paid off in an exciting and drama-filled event that commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. Championships.

Positive comments, he said, were reported from people at all of the venues.

"Our main goal was to provide an environment that was comfortable for the officials, the skaters and the people who were working here on a regular basis," Blount said. "We received great cooperation from both facilities (the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center [BCEC] and TD Garden."

Blount heaped praise on his 430 volunteers, who showed up like clockwork, provided invaluable help and worked seamlessly with the event team from U.S. Figure Skating.

"We have a lot of tired people right now, but I think we are happy it went off as well as it did," Blount said.

The performances of the skaters ultimately made the competition one to remember. The athletes at the five levels delivered programs that the seasoned Boston fans appreciated and rewarded with loud applause and frequent standing ovations.

The bleachers at the BCEC were filled for most of the juvenile, intermediate, novice and

junior (short program) events, while nearly 14,000 people watched the thrilling ladies free skate at TD Garden.

Competition for berths on the U.S. Olympic Team put figure skating fans, and sports fans, in general, on the edge of their seats, both at home watching live on NBC and icenetwork and at the venerable TD Garden.

The excitement and drama in each of the four senior disciplines, Blount said, were felt by everyone at the arena, including the TD Garden staff.

"It was funny, the setup people at the Garden here were kind of like, 'We have to do this for figure skating.' All of a sudden, they are following the kids, they are reading the (result) sheets and they are out there cheering for them. It's a positive sign for the sport, it's a positive sign for U.S. Figure Skating and a positive sign for us. The Skating Club of Boston has positive publicity coming out of its ears right now."

U.S. pairs champions Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnafir, members of The Skating Club of Boston, couldn't thank the fans enough for their support. They remained on the ice for an extra minute following their free skate, soaking up the moment.

"I just said let's stay out here and enjoy this moment, because who knows if we'll ever have an opportunity like this again in Boston," Shnafir said. "Worlds will be here in a couple of years and maybe that will be a great opportunity, but we are going to enjoy every moment we can to take in the crowd and fans and the energy in the building."

Pairs coach Jim Peterson said he was reminded of the "Michelle Kwan days" in regard to the deafening noise in the building as Castelli and Shnafir ended their program and his team of Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay took the ice.

There was also excitement on the course, with dozens of past U.S. World and Olympic champions taking in the action and mingling with the fans. Legends Dick Button and Brian Boitano met hundreds of admirers during their book signings. Fans were also treated to autograph signings by the event medalists.

The most awe-inspiring moment occurred during the Smucker's Skating Spectacular, when 12 U.S. Olympic champions were introduced at center ice. Seconds later, the 2014 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team joined their heroes in a moment that tugged at the patriotic heartstrings of everyone in the building.

The buzz from the U.S. Championships, Blount believes, will help The Skating Club of Boston's efforts as host of the 2016 World Figure Skating Championships, as well as its work in getting a multimillion dollar facility built soon.

"I'm hoping we can start construction in the summer and get that built for the kids and give them an environment that they can be the best that they can be in," Blount said.



Ross Miner, a member of The Skating Club of Boston, takes in the moment following his stirring "Boston Strong" free skate, a tribute to the city of Boston and its courage following the marathon bombings.



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

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U.S. Figure Skating Executive DirectorDavid 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) (Issue: Vol. 91 No. 3) 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. 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 ©2014 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 KIDS Spotlight, email 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 KIDS Spotlight as you want, and we might feature you.

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U.S. Figure Skating joins downtown Olympic celebration

U.S. Figure Skating joined other Olympic sports in downtown Colorado Springs, Colo., on Feb. 7 to celebrate the opening ceremony of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Thousands of fans turned out for the festivities, which included a U.S. Olympian lighting a ceremonial cauldron to commence the XXII Winter Olympiad. A broadcast of the Olympic opening ceremony was broadcast on a 17-foot-long LCD TV screen.

Festivities included snowmobile jumping, trampoline performances, a one-mile fun run, dogsled demonstrations and ice climbing demonstrations. Everyone was encouraged to dress in red, white and blue to show support for the U.S. Olympic athletes.

At the U.S. Figure Skating booth, Snowplow Sam entertained the children. Working at the booth were (l-r) Ingrid Benson, Wallis Romzek, Lindsay McAllister, Erin Schopf and Kelli Evers. They handed out hundreds of items, including cowbells with the Destination Sochi logo, Snowplow Sam key chains, pencils and Post-its. Full-size cutouts of Olympic champions Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton and Dick Button were also on display.

Essex Special Skaters receive Theisen grant

The Essex Special Skaters (ESS) program is the recipient of the first Elaine Theisen Fund award, which provides grants to Special Olympics and Therapeutic Skating programs.

The mission of ESS is to offer training and athletic competition in ice skating-related programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities, empowering them and giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other disabled individuals and the community.

The program, formed in 2004 as a division of the Essex Skating Club of New Jersey, will use the \$500 grant to provide scholarships, consisting of two to three 15-minute supplementary private lessons, for up to 10 athletes.

The Elaine Theisen Fund is also open to member clubs which wish to enhance or expand their operations to attract, involve and encourage new generations of skaters.

Governing Council meeting scheduled

The 2014 Governing Council presented by Hilton HHonors will be held in Seattle, May 1-3. Information can be found at <http://www.usfsa.org/shell.asp?sid=49843>. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Drevs at kdrevs@usfigureskating.org.



Sjoukje Dijkstra

World Hall of Fame inductees Kwan, Dijkstra honored in Boston

Michelle Kwan, the most decorated athlete in U.S. Figure Skating history, was recognized for her 2012 election to the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame during an on-ice ceremony at the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston. Sjoukje Dijkstra, the 1964 Olympic champion from the Netherlands, was also honored for her election, last spring, to the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

From 1995 to 2005, Kwan won an unprecedented 43 championships, including World championships in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2003. She earned the silver medal at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games and the bronze at the 2002 Olympics. She is a nine-time U.S. champion, winning eight consecutive titles from 1998 to 2005. In the nearly 100-year history of U.S. Figure Skating, no American man or woman has won more World titles, Olympic medals and U.S. titles. Kwan will long be remembered for her mastery of the 6.0 judging system. She received 57 perfect 6.0 marks in major competitions, the most of any skater in history. She was awarded at least one 6.0 at her last five U.S. championships. At the 1998 U.S. Championships, Kwan earned a record 15 perfect 6.0 marks out of a possible 18.

"Michelle continues to be a role model through her many contributions both on and off the ice," Dr. Lawrence Mondschein, chair of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame Nominating Committee, said. "On behalf of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, we join Michelle and her many admirers throughout the world in celebration of this great honor."

Dijkstra is a three-time Olympian (1956, 1960 and 1964) and two-time Olympic medalist, earning the gold in 1964 and silver in 1960. She won six consecutive Dutch titles, five consecutive European Championships and three consecutive World titles.

"This is a wonderful completion to my skating career," Dijkstra said.

"In the early 1960s, Sjoukje completely dominated ladies figure skating and became the first Dutch athlete to earn an Olympic Winter Games gold medal," Mondschein said. "She has been recognized by the government and sports federations of the Netherlands on many occasions and remains a national treasure."



Michelle Kwan

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FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hubbell and Donohue finish on top

U.S. pewter medalists Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue secured the gold medal in ice dance at the 2014 Four Continents Championships in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei, January 20-26.

The team from Detroit rallied past short program leaders Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier of Canada with a personal-best free dance to "Nocturne" and "Bohemian Rhapsody." Their free dance score of 97.20 was almost five points better than their previous best. They finished with an overall score of 158.25 points.

The victory caps a successful campaign for the duo, who also took top honors at Nebelhorn Trophy and the bronze medal at Skate Canada.

"It means a lot," Hubbell said. "We've learned a tremendous amount about our partnership this season. We had a pretty stellar year our first year together, and since then, it has been a little

bit of a struggle to find our way. I feel that we finally have proven ourselves as a strong, consistent team that deserves to be at the top. We can't wait until next season and keep pushing higher."

Their Detroit-based teammates, Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton, won the bronze

medal with 144.95 points.

"We couldn't ask for much more, this being our first season as a senior team," Aldridge said.

The U.S. pairs teams also fared well.

Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea, making their debut at an ISU championship, earned the

silver medal with 181.45 points. The Florida-based team collected medals at each of their three senior B events last fall.

"To come here and medal again, it feels good to show what we can do," O'Shea said. "Hopefully there's more to come in the future."

U.S. pewter medalists Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim won the bronze medal with 170.35 points. The team from Colorado Springs was second after the short program.

"Overall it was an OK event for us," Knierim said.


World Junior champions Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier, who train in Florida, finished fourth.

Richard Dornbush, Joshua Farris and Adam Rippon all finished in the top 10 in the 27-man field. Courtney Hicks, Samantha Cesario and Mirai Nagasu all finished in the top 10 in the field of 21 ladies.

MANDY CHENG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES







Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue perform their event-winning free dance.




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'Raise a toast'

PHOTOS BY LOIS ELFMAN

SC of New York celebrates its history

by LOIS ELFMAN

Despite frigid temperatures in New York City, it was a packed house when the Skating Club of New York's past, present and future gathered to celebrate at the New York Athletic Club 150 years of skating in New York. Not only is SCNY the only club to boast three Olympic ladies gold medalists — Carol Heiss Jenkins, Dorothy Hamill and Sarah Hughes — but its present remains vibrant.

"Tonight not only are we honoring our legends — and we have many — we are also celebrating all of our Skating Club of New York members," club president Terri Levine said.

Red balls served as centerpieces, a tribute to New York skating history. In the days of pond skating, a red ball was hoisted to the top of the flagstaff of the old Arsenal (in Central Park) to advise that the ice on the ponds was safe for skating.

"After my mom died (when she was 16), the SCNY and several people were really a support system for me," Heiss Jenkins said. "It was my mom who took us to the rink and traveled with me and really knew my passion for skating. These people really helped me for the next four years."

"I basically grew up at the SCNY, doing patch next to Carol and all the great skaters that were there at the time," said Scott Allen, a SCNY member whose 1964 Olympic bronze medal reenergized U.S. skating after the devastating 1961 plane crash. "To be part of that was such an inspiration to me."

What Levine and SCNY veteran judges Lucy Brennan and Anne Gerli didn't realize is that they were among the honorees. As the "planned" honorees Heiss Jenkins and Hughes took to the podium (Hamill was unable to attend), they revealed they weren't there to accept awards, rather to present them.

"We the skaters, the officials, the competitors, the fans and the sport are the lucky ones," Hughes said. "We're fortunate that Lucy Brennan discovered a passion for figure skating and that she chose to spend her time, her talents, her caring on us. ... I'm a better skater because of Lucy Brennan and I'm a better person."

Elaine Zayak, a SCNY member when she won her U.S. and World titles, choked up with emotion when she spoke about Gerli, who judged her senior figure and freestyle tests.

"If anyone knows Anne Gerli, she's a perfectionist," Zayak said. "Skating in the Olympics with 20 million people watching me, I think the scariest moment of my life was taking my senior figure test. I have the papers to prove it. I see she failed me on my paragraph loops, but I still passed. ... My relationship with the SCNY and Anne Gerli helped me accomplish my goal of being World champion."

Shawn Rettstatt, who judged ice dance in Sochi, joined SCNY two decades ago when he moved to New York to attend New York University. He was mentored as a judge and learned the club's history from Brennan and Gerli and went on to become SCNY president from 1995 to 1999.

"Like everybody else who comes to New York, you're a bit of an outsider at the beginning," Rettstatt said. "They helped me become a New Yorker."

Young skaters from the club spoke about Levine and her tireless work on behalf of the club and its skaters. She's created new competitions, including showcase and solo dance. They said she stresses like a mother over their performances, lifts them up after disappointments and celebrates their successes.

"It's about the skaters. It's about a love and a passion," Levine said. "I'd like to raise a toast to those who have contributed to our history so far and also to those stories that have yet to be written."



(Front row, l-r) Anne Gerli, Lucy Brennan and Terri Levine, with (back row, l-r) Elaine Zayak, Sarah Hughes, Carol Heiss Jenkins and Timothy Goebel were the honorees at the Skating Club of New York's 150th anniversary celebration.



(l-r) Nicole Bobek visits with past Skating Club of New York president Ken Shelley and former ice dance competitor Robert Shmalo.



(l-r) Scott Allen, Dick Button, Kyoko Ina, Carol Heiss Jenkins and Hayes Jenkins share a few stories. Allen, Ina and Heiss Jenkins represented the SC of New York during their competitive days.



1972 Olympic teammates Jolo Starbuck and Suna Murray get reacquainted. Murray represented the Skating Club of New York.



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The 2014 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team is introduced at the Olympic Team reception on the final night of the Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. (l-r) Ashley Wagner, Polina Edmunds, Gracie Gold, Jason Brown, Jeremy Abbott, Felicia Zhang, Nathan Bartholomay, Marissa Castelli, Simon Shnapir, Maia Shibutani, Alex Shibutani, Madison Chock, Evan Bates, Meryl Davis and Charlie White

‘MORE THAN A FEELING’

Boston rocks TD Garden during action-packed competition

by TROY SCHWINDT

Boston, known as a big-time sports city with its many beloved championship teams, hit it out of the park as host of the 100-year anniversary edition of the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Gracie Gold displays athletic elegance during her event-best short program.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Fans flocked to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and the historic TD Garden for all of the drama and excitement of this Olympic-year competition. A total of 108,946 fans skipped through the turnstiles Jan. 5–12 to witness the best in the juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior ranks.

“As host of the event you always want to see operations go smoothly, but what truly made these U.S. Championships outstanding were the quality of the skating and the enthusiasm of the audiences,” Doug Zeghibe, executive director of The Skating Club of Boston, said.

“The competition could not have been more exciting, and the Boston audiences showed their appreciation for every great performance with a standing ovation. They also clapped and cheered when a skater ran into problems. This is a city that loves great sport and great competition, and it was clearly evident throughout the week. I think everyone in our club was very proud of that.”

Competition at the TD Garden offered many compelling story lines and subplots, as well as more than its share of pressure-packed skating.

Gracie Gold laid claim to the ladies title and earned a trip to the Olympics with two beautifully skated programs, while last year’s U.S. junior

champion, 15-year-old Polina Edmunds, surprised nearly everyone by winning the silver medal. Off the ice, spirited debate ensued after bronze medalist Mirai Nagasu was left off the Olympic Team in favor of Edmunds and pewter medalist and two-time U.S. champion Ashley Wagner. The selection made national news and exploded on social media.

A crowd of 13,980 for the senior ladies free skate was the largest single-session crowd at a

Jeremy Abbott pumps his fist after hearing his record-breaking short program scores.



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/BETTY IMAGES

U.S. Championships since the ladies free skate at the 2002 U.S. Championships in Los Angeles (18,035).

Jeremy Abbott secured his fourth title with a U.S. record-shattering short program that threatened the 100-point mark. His seamless blend of artistry and technique brought the fans to their feet. His riveting performance also helped to lock up his second Olympic Team berth. Jason Brown took a page from the performer Abbott with his masterpiece free skate to music from *Riverdance*, which also earned him a ticket to the Olympics.

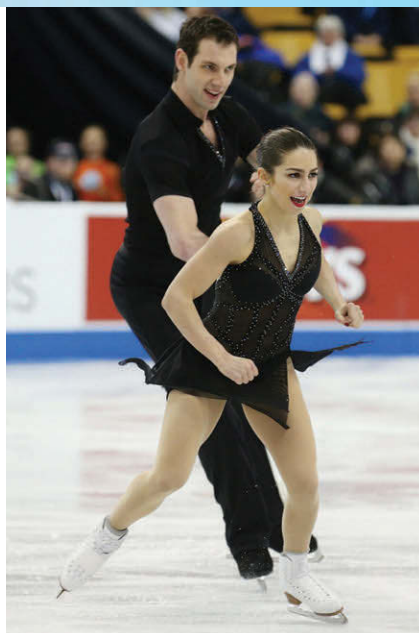
Hometown favorites Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir realized a dream by securing their second U.S. pairs title and qualifying for the Olympics in front of family and friends. Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay saved their best for last with a classic, mistake-free free skate that earned them the silver medal and Olympic berth by less than one point.

Now regarded as the most decorated ice dance team in U.S. history, Meryl Davis and Charlie White notched their record sixth consecutive title. They went to Sochi, Russia, last month with their friends and longtime competitors, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, and Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, looking to capture the coveted gold medal.

The dramatic event enjoyed solid ratings on NBC and on icenetwork, and received unprecedented coverage from media outlets throughout the country.

From a logistical standpoint, the event couldn't have gone any better, organizers said.

"We had very positive comments up and down the line from all venues," Skating Club of Boston President Joe Blount



Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir ignite the crowd at the TD Garden.

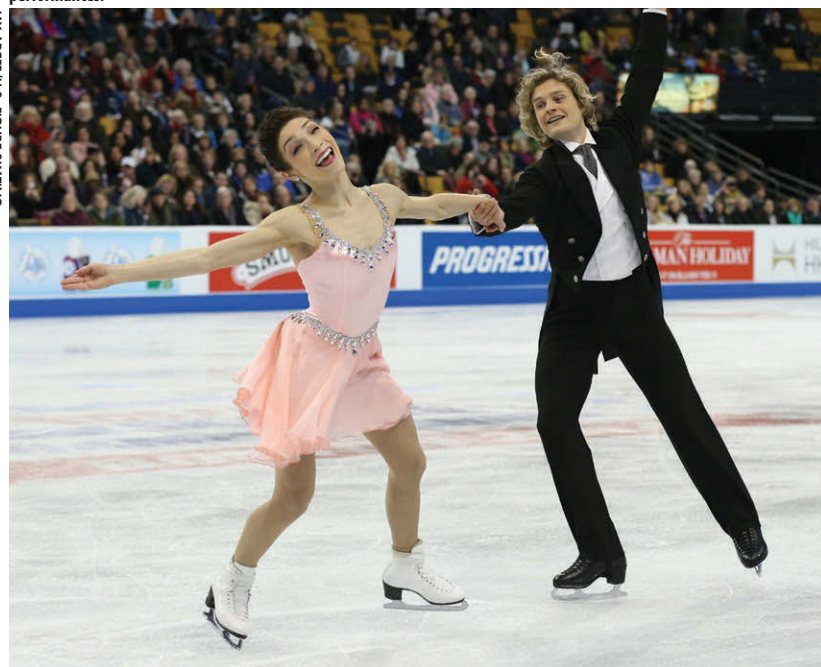
said. "I can't say enough about our volunteers. We had 430 volunteers and they did an outstanding job.

"The skating was great. The kids stepped up to the plate. There were some people who came to the event who said they would be coming back for Worlds in 2016."

U.S. Figure Skating was equally pleased with the outcome of the event.

"The experience our athletes, coaches, officials, staff and, most importantly, our fans had in Boston was overwhelmingly positive," U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith said. "Great crowds, especially during Saturday's championship ladies, ice dance and pairs free skates, created a backdrop for great skating."

Meryl Davis and Charlie White put an exclamation point on their record sixth U.S. ice dance title with two magnificent performances.



U.S. WORLD TEAM SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

At the conclusion of the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Figure Skating announced the athletes who will represent Team USA at the 2014 World Figure Skating Championships March 24–30, in Saitama, Japan; and the World Junior Figure Skating Championships March 10–16, in Sofia, Bulgaria.

2014 U.S. WORLD TEAM

LADIES

- Polina Edmunds
- Gracie Gold
- Ashley Wagner
- Alternate No. 1 – Mirai Nagasu
- Alternate No. 2 – Samantha Cesario
- Alternate No. 3 – Courtney Hicks

MEN

- Max Aaron
- Jeremy Abbott
- Alternate No. 1 – Jason Brown
- Alternate No. 2 – Joshua Farris
- Alternate No. 3 – Richard Dornbush

PAIRS

- Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir
- Caydee Denney and John Coughlin
- Alternate No. 1 – Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay
- Alternate No. 2 – Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim
- Alternate No. 3 – Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier

ICE DANCE

- Madison Chock and Evan Bates
- Meryl Davis and Charlie White
- Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani
- Alternate No. 1 – Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue
- Alternate No. 2 – Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton
- Alternate No. 3 – Lynn Kriengkrairut and Logan Giulietti-Schmitt

2014 U.S. WORLD JUNIOR TEAM

LADIES

- Karen Chen
- Amber Glenn
- Tyler Pierce
- Alternate No. 1 – Hannah Miller
- Alternate No. 2 – Leah Keiser
- Alternate No. 3 – Ashley Cain

MEN

- Nathan Chen
- Jordan Moeller
- Shotaro Omori
- Alternate No. 1 – Jimmy Ma
- Alternate No. 2 – Chase Belmontes
- Alternate No. 3 – Nicholas Vrdoljak

PAIRS

- Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege
- Kaitlin Budd and Nikita Cheban
- Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini
- Alternate No. 1 – Aya Takai and Brian Johnson

ICE DANCE

- Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker
- Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter
- Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons
- Alternate No. 1 – Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber
- Alternate No. 2 – Elliana Pogrebinsky and Ross Gudis
- Alternate No. 3 – Chloe Lewis and Logan Bye

'DREAM COME TRUE'

Gold wins first title, secures Olympic berth with Edmunds, Wagner

BY AMY ROSEWATER

Gracie Gold played the role of Sleeping Beauty on the ice, and ever since she has been in a dream-like state.

Gold skated strong enough to win the U.S. title, her first at the senior level, which in any other year would be something to savor on its own. But this is an Olympic year, and the day after she won her crown, she was named to the 2014 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team, which competed in Sochi, Russia, in February.

"This night was a dream come true," Gold said. "It is one of the best nights of my life."

Gold, 18, made her selection to the Olympic Team easy, winning both the short and free skate programs at the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships at TD Garden in Boston. Although no one was guaranteed a spot on the team, not even the U.S. champion, Gold knew she had pretty much cemented her spot on the squad the moment she landed her double Axel toward the end of her free skate. She pumped both her fists in celebration and closed the program with a layback spin and a smile on her face.

"On my layback, I was thinking I have a re-

ally great chance to go to the Olympics," Gold said. "Maybe it was a bit premature ... but it was definitely there."

The international committee chose the three American ladies to compete in Sochi the following day, using results from several major competitions to determine the Olympic Team.

In addition to winning the U.S. crown, Gold had also placed sixth at the 2013 World Championships, and her placement there (combined with a fifth-place showing by Ashley Wagner) secured three spots for the American women in Sochi. Gold also earned a bronze medal at Skate Canada and finished fourth at the NHK Trophy in Japan last fall.

The committee also selected Polina Edmunds and Wagner to the U.S. Olympic Team. The decision to put them on the team, however, was much more involved. At 15, Edmunds was making her senior debut and she

LADIES

GOLD
Gracie Gold
211.69

SILVER
Polina Edmunds
193.63

BRONZE
Mirai Nagasu
190.74

PEWTER
Ashley Wagner
182.74



(l-r) Polina Edmunds, Gracie Gold, Mirai Nagasu, Ashley Wagner



JAY ADERF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JARED WICKHAM/GETTY IMAGES



a delight to watch in both segments of the competition, finishing second overall.

Some wondered, however, if her lack of competition experience at the senior level would hinder her chances of making the team, but it did not. The U.S. junior champion in 2013, she made her senior international debut in Sochi. The last U.S. lady to jump from being U.S. junior champion to the Olympics the following year was Tina Noyes, who achieved that feat exactly 50 years ago in 1964.

Sitting in the stands for the ladies free skate was none other than Noyes, a longtime coach in the Boston area.

“U.S. Figure Skating needs to showcase its best talent,” said Noyes, who finished eighth in Innsbruck in 1964 and then placed fourth in Grenoble in 1968. “We need to look at and encourage these young kids, and if they have the talent, let them go. How are the skaters skating today? If the kids show their talent at nationals, send them. If it’s not about these Olympics, then certainly it’s for the next Olympics.”

Edmunds was especially excited about competing in Sochi since her mother, Nina, is Russian. Nina, who coaches Polina along with David Glynn, is from Tver, Russia, and was a singles skater who also landed triples in her day.

“My mom’s brother and her uncle live in Tver,” said Polina of the Russian city located about 100 miles northwest of Moscow. “I’m sure they are very excited. They’re

probably contacting my mom right now.”

Wagner, meanwhile, had the most credentials entering these nationals. She had won the two previous U.S. titles and was coming off of a bronze-medal performance at the Grand Prix Final. But she struggled in the short program, missing her planned triple-triple, and fell twice in the free skate to finish fourth overall.

“I’m so sorry,” Wagner told fans while in the kiss and cry following her free skate.

She met with reporters moments later and added, “It’s embarrassing as a two-time national champion to put out a performance like that,” Wagner said. “Luckily, I had a decent season that definitely helps my case.”

U.S. Figure Skating’s international committee agreed.

“If you look at Ashley Wagner’s record and performance, she has got the top credentials of any of our female athletes,” U.S. Figure Skating President Patricia St. Peter told reporters. “She has delivered consistently over the past year.”

Meanwhile, Mirai Nagasu, a 2010 Olympian, who proved to be one of the biggest surprises of the event and won the bronze medal, left Boston disappointed that she would not earn a return trip to the Winter Games. She had come to these U.S. Championships without a coach and without placing on the U.S. podium the last two years, but skated two strong programs to make the decision-making process for Sochi more dramatic than expected.

Although she did not achieve the ultimate goal of making the Olympic Team, she returned to the

ice about eight hours afterward for the Smucker’s Skating Spectacular and received standing ovations before and after her exhibition routine.

“I’m disappointed in the decision,” Nagasu said in the statement released by U.S. Figure Skating. “Though I may not agree with it, I have to respect the decision the federation made. And I’m grateful to everyone who has supported me and look forward to what comes next in my skating career.”

The path to the Olympics is never easy, and Gold’s road was one of the bumpiest. She left her longtime coach, Alex Ouriashev, in the fall. She headed to Southern California, along with her mother and twin sister, Carly (also a senior-level skater), to work with Frank Carroll, the coach who guided Evan Lysacek to the Olympic gold medal four years ago in Vancouver.

Carroll admitted it wasn’t an easy decision for him to take on Gold as a skater. When she contacted him about training with him, he had his hands full, working with Lysacek and Denis Ten, the 2013 World silver medalist from Kazakhstan. Yet he took her on and said he told himself, “You can help this girl.”

Although they have only been working together for several months, it is evident Carroll’s handwriting is already made its mark on Gold’s skating. Perhaps more importantly than helping fine tune her triple-Lutz-triple toe loop, Carroll has helped with Gold’s mental approach to the sport.

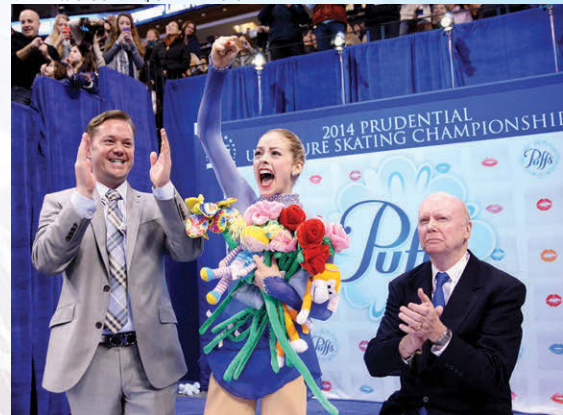
While both have high expectations, Carroll has tried to tone down her perfectionist ways. Whereas in

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Gracie Gold celebrates following her event-best free skate to *Sleeping Beauty*.

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Gold basks in the moment after hearing her scores in the kiss and cry, with coaches Scott Brown and Frank Carroll by her side.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Gracie Gold gives fans at TD Garden a performance to remember.

the past she might have gotten rattled with a mistake, Carroll said one of the best things about her skating at the U.S. Championships came in the free skate after she put her hand down on the landing of a triple flip.

"She didn't go down," Carroll said. "I have tried to teach her that you don't have to be perfect to be the best."

Scott Brown, who has been in Gold's camp for a few years as a coach and choreographer, credits Carroll for his impact on the young skater.

"Frank has done an outstanding job with Gracie over the past five months," Brown said. "She has always had a wonderful support system around her, however, Frank has really made a huge difference."

What also was impressive about Gold's run to the U.S. title was that she debuted a new short program in Boston.

After using George Gershwin's "Three Preludes" in her two Grand Prix events this season, Carroll decided to have choreographer Lori Nichol craft a new program for Gold for the U.S. Championships. Carroll said Gold's original music sounded "like cats fighting" and opted for a piano concerto by Edvard Grieg instead. It was somewhat of a risk to have a skater use a new program at nationals but it was a risk that worked. Gold said she had tested it at her training rink's two holiday shows and at a made-for-TV event in New Jersey.

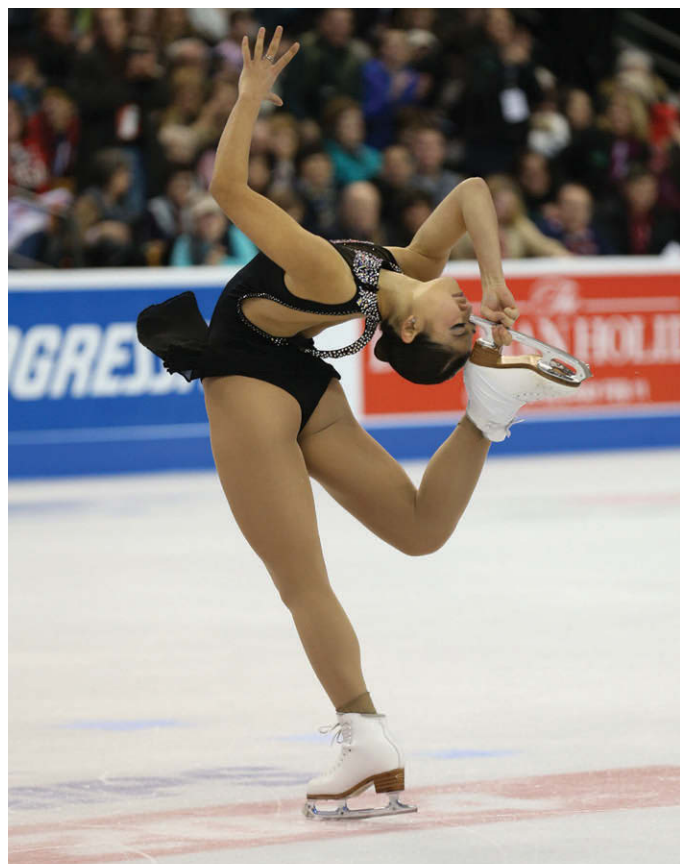
And from the moment she stepped on the ice for that program, wearing her signature red lipstick and a brand new red competition dress, until the moment she glided off as Sleeping Beauty in the free skate, she looked ready for Sochi.

Ready, that is, to go for Gold.



Polina Edmunds bursts onto the scene with her powerful yet effortless skating.

Mirai Nagasu delivers an entertaining and solid program to music from James Bond.



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'MAGICAL MOMENTS'

Abbott, Brown create lasting memories; Aaron takes home bronze medal

BY MIMI WHETSTONE AND TROY SCHWINDT

Jeremy Abbott had guaranteed he wouldn't go quietly into competitive retirement.

"I plan to be in Sochi no matter what," the Colorado native said following his bronze-medal finish at the 2013 U.S. Championships in Omaha, Neb. "It will be my last season and I'm going to come back next year with better programs and I'm going to come back with quads. There's not going to be any question about it."

Abbott, 28, delivered on his bold prediction in Boston, winning his fourth U.S. title with a magical, record-shattering short program and an emotion-filled, finely nuanced, final U.S. Championships free skate that was vintage Abbott.

His monster overall score of 274.27 points sent the Detroit-based skater to his second Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. He finished ninth at the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

Abbott's teammate in Sochi, Jason Brown, served up his own attention-grabbing performances in Boston, including his event-best, so-

cial-media phenomenon free skate to *Riverdance* to claim the silver medal with 270.08 points. Defending U.S. champion Max Aaron won the bronze medal with 260.44 points and was named to the U.S. World Team with Abbott. World Junior champion Joshua Farris earned the pewter medal with 248.06 points.

"Being able to say I'm a four-time national champion is crazy," said Abbott, who began his competitive career in 1996 when he placed third at the Southwestern Regionals as a juvenile. "I'm just a small-town boy and I never thought that I would be here. After my 2012 season, we kind of revamped everything, putting all the cogs in place and making sure all the mechanisms around me are all working properly and that they're all working in sync. We made a strong plan and a strategic plan and we've been working slow and steady at it from the beginning.

(l-r) Jason Brown, Jeremy Abbott, Max Aaron, Joshua Farris

MEN	
GOLD	Jeremy Abbott 274.27
SILVER	Jason Brown 270.08
BRONZE	Max Aaron 260.44
PEWTER	Joshua Farris 248.06





We've been seeing the progress. Sometimes the audience doesn't see it, but at home we see it, and I see it mentally and physically every day."

Abbott joins some elite company that includes Olympic champions Brian Boitano, Scott Hamilton, David Jenkins and Hayes Jenkins as four-time U.S. champions.

The men's field wasted little time in creating a buzz at the TD Garden. Richard Dornbush, skating second in the 19-man field, posted a huge score of 92.04 points to seize the lead in the short program. The 22-year-old's "Sons of Italy" program started with an opening quad Salchow and was followed by a triple Axel and triple Lutz-triple toe combination. His other elements were fast and crisp.

"I knew it was in my cookbook, and it was time to cook it up," Dornbush, the 2011 U.S. silver medalist, told icenetwork.

Brown, 19, inserted his name into the medal conversation midway through the event with a beautifully detailed program to Prince's "The Question of U" that flowed across the ice and held the crowd captivated. His score of 87.47 points, generated without an attempt of a quad jump, moved the Illinois native into prime position for a medal entering the free skate.

Abbott's golden moment of the Championships came about a half hour after Brown's sterling performance.

Skating to Jun Miyake's "Lilies of the Valley," Abbott grabbed the audience by the hand and led them through nearly three minutes of exquisite skating. He started by perfectly landing a quad toe-triple toe combination and then nailed a triple Lutz and triple Axel, all the while weaving in his gorgeous signature spins and footwork. His score of 99.86 destroyed the U.S. record broken earlier in the evening by Dornbush and edged the world record held by Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu at the 2013 Grand Prix Final.

"This is a night I'm never going to forget," he said. "It's magical, it's special, especially for me. What a great way to end my U.S. Championships short program career."

Aaron, 21, also positioned himself for the free skate showdown and a chance at earning one of the two Olympic berths with a solid program that tallied 86.95 points and put him in fourth place.

In the final group of the national-

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Jeremy Abbott gives a memorable, record-breaking short program performance.

ly televised free skate on NBC, Aaron grabbed the lead momentarily with his revamped program to *Carmen*. He landed his opening quad Salchow-double toe loop, but wasn't clean on the subsequent quad Salchow and a jumping combination in the middle of the program.

Although his technical score ended up being the best of the free skate, his overall score failed to hold up for long, as Brown and Abbott made it a two-person race with their through-the-roof program component scores.

"I'm a little bummed," Aaron said. "That second [quad] Sal got away from me. The Lutz-half loop-[triple] Sal is something that I can really pull plus-two grades of execution on and I let that slip away. It's been a fight. I've had a great season and I'm disappointed that it had to end like this. I'm really proud of all the men here, everyone is skating so well and the crowd is amazing."

Brown, who with his coach Kori Ade moved to Monument, Colo., this year to train, grabbed the lead from Aaron with a spectacular free skate to *Riverdance*, which has amassed more than 3.5 million viral views and had the audience on its feet with 20 seconds left in the performance.

Abbott thanks the appreciative crowd at the TD Garden.





Abbott bids farewell for the last time at a U.S. Championships.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," Brown said. "I went out there so trained and I was ready to fight for whatever I could. That's just what I did and I enjoyed every moment. The crowd couldn't have been more responsive and more generous; I can't thank them enough."

Brown, who like Abbott is a master at performing and connecting to an audience, delivered the program created by choreographer Rohene Ward with precision, tempo and edge mastery. While he didn't attempt a quad, he landed a triple Axel-triple toe and four more clean triples to win the free skate with 182.61 points.

"I've worked so hard to be able to put out that type of program, to play to the audience," Brown told icenetwork. "I work hard every day toward calming my nerves, so I can go out and skate in these situations."

Having two solid programs to perfect throughout the year, Brown said, helped with his confidence and allowed him to eventually believe that he belonged with the country's elite skaters.

"I think that Jason had to go through his own sort of self-worth discovery and realize that he does belong here," Ade said. "His skating is worthy of being among the top in the country. This year he came to the conclusion that he's working on everything else that he can possibly work on to make his skating be a full

package, and the jumps will come when they come. He's definitely in this for the long run."

Dornbush, who turned a lot of heads with his short program, hit a few speed bumps in his free skate and fell back to fifth place, setting the stage for Abbott and his quest for a fourth title and an Olympic berth.

The veteran, who grew up in Aspen, Colo., and was inspired by the great performer Robin Cousins, once again captivated the audience with a free skate to "Exogenesis Symphony Part 3 (Redemption)" by Muse, a program he revived from his 2011-12 season.

He started by landing a quad toe loop and a triple Axel-double toe loop before turning an intended triple-triple combination into a pair of doubles. A second triple Axel was underrotated, but Abbott finished with three triples, one in combination, and showcased his signature spins and footwork. The audience rewarded him with deafening applause.

Abbott remained on the ice for a minute following his emotional performance, absorbing the moment.

"Because the short program night was so magical, there's always a period of coming back down," Abbott's coach, Yuka Sato, said. "The energy, all that adrenaline, it has to drop at some point. I knew he was going to have a bit of a struggle coming back into the free skate, but he managed himself so well. Making the Olympic team was important, but more than that, I think it was more emotional for him than usual because it was his last U.S. Championships performance. I could see all of his emotions and that he was drinking it all in while he was getting the business done. It was hard for him, but he did a great job and I'm proud of him."

"I've been skating since I could walk and I love this sport more than I can say," Abbott said. "I've given my mind, my body, my blood, sweat and tears and everything I have for it. There's something so magical about this event. I really relied on my grit and my experience and my age and my knowledge out there. I did what I came here to do and I just enjoyed the rest."

JAN ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Jason Brown's free skate to *Riverdance* was simply electric.



Max Aaron lands one of his big jumps en route to the bronze medal.

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A GARDEN PARTY

Castelli, Shnapir deliver in front of home state fans; Zhang and Bartholomay save best for last

BY TROY SCHWINDT

After winning their first U.S. pairs title a year ago in America's heartland, Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir had a year to imagine what it was going to be like to compete in their hometown of Boston, in front of all of their family and friends, with a trip to the Olympics on the line.

No pressure, right?

"At first we were a little concerned about it, but a couple of months ago we got the chance to skate here and started to feel the hype and energy building up and we were ready to use it to our advantage," Shnapir said.

So instead of wilting under the bright lights of the TD Garden, the veteran team took a page from the regular tenants of the venerable building — the Boston Celtics and Boston Bruins — and delivered two championship-quality programs en route to their second U.S. title and an Olympic berth.

"This was for Boston," Shnapir, a big Boston sports fan, said. "This is for everyone in this city. The crowd here was unbelievable, so spectacular, such great energy. Love it, just love it."

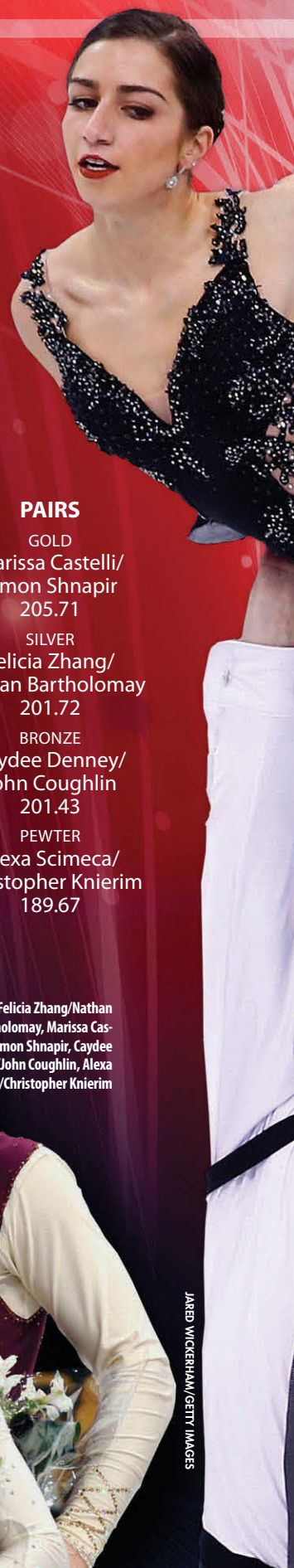
Joining Castelli and Shnapir last month at the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, were Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay, who performed two beautifully skated, clean programs in Boston to claim the silver medal, edging 2012 U.S. champions Caydee Denney and John Coughlin by less than a point.

For Castelli, 23, and Shnapir, 26, it's been an eight-year journey full of ups and downs. They almost called it quits after back-to-back frustrating seasons of finishing fifth in 2011 and 2012. But their perseverance and guidance from coaches Carrie Wall and Bobby Martin helped them to stay the course.

"It's been extremely fulfilling," Martin said of the team's journey. "From a human standpoint, forget them as athletes doing what they are doing. It's awesome, it's such a great story."

"It's amazing to watch an athlete go from the very beginning and stay together for eight seasons and reach the pinnacle of the sport," Wall added.

Members of The Skating Club of Boston, Castelli and Shnapir ignited the crowd at the



PAIRS

GOLD

Marissa Castelli/
Simon Shnapir
205.71

SILVER

Felicia Zhang/
Nathan Bartholomay
201.72

BRONZE

Caydee Denney/
John Coughlin
201.43

PEWTER

Alexa Scimeca/
Christopher Knierim
189.67

(l-r) Felicia Zhang/Nathan Bartholomay, Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, Caydee Denney/John Coughlin, Alexa Scimeca/Christopher Knierim



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES



Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir put out a spectacular, record-breaking short program to music from Carlos Santana.

TD Garden with their record-breaking short program to Carlos Santana's "Black Magic Woman" and "Smooth."

Their score of 73.13 points was 6.59 points better than the previous best mark posted at the U.S. Championships.

"Wow," Shnapir said, looking at the monitor. "Look at that technical."

The two started with a huge triple twist followed by side-by-side triple Salchows. And things only got better from there.

"Today was a great day. I thought we came up to the challenges," Castelli said

Zhang, 20, and Bartholomay, 24, who train under coach Jim



Peterson and his staff in Ellenton, Fla., also enjoyed success in their revamped short program to "The Carousel Waltz." Peterson had convinced his team after Cup of China in early November to go with a more lyrical piece at the beginning of the "Carousel" program before transitioning into the original piece of music.

"I think they are better when they start with a more adagio piece and finish strong. We also changed the costumes. Sometimes you need a haircut to feel better about yourself," Peterson joked.

Zhang and Bartholomay, the 2013 U.S. bronze medalists, came through with a program that was technically strong and compelling in the performance department. Above all, it was clean and the best short program that they had performed all season, Peterson said.

Their score of 66.50, while impressive, left them less than two points ahead of the fifth-place team heading into the free skate. On their heels were DeeDee Leng and Timothy LeDuc, Denney and Coughlin, and Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim.

In the final group of the free skate, Denney, 20, and Coughlin, 28, threw down the first big score with their electric performance to *The Phantom of the Opera*.

"All Caydee and I talked about since the short program was making sure that we were in the moment every second of our free skate," Coughlin said. "I think we did that and we had a lot of fun. We wanted to let the crowd in and get everybody excited for us. I remember every moment of it, including my consecutive single toe loops at the Olympic trials."

Boston's Castelli and Shnapir celebrate after receiving their winning scores.



Denney and Coughlin, who missed the chance to defend their U.S. title in 2013 because of a hip injury and surgery to Coughlin, sat in first place with 201.43 points with only Castelli and Shnapir, and Zhang and Bartholomay left to skate.

The defending champs took the ice, ready to perform their program to music from the *Skyfall* soundtrack. Riding the energy of the crowd, they started with a nice triple twist. On their ensuing side-by-side triple toe loops, Castelli doubled the jump. Next, Castelli fell attempting their signature throw quad Salchow. Unfazed, they attacked their side-by-side spins and cruised home from there.

Last year in Omaha, Shnapir caught himself from falling right before the team's side-by-side spins and simply watched Castelli finish the element before they moved on.

"I got a high-five from Mitch (Moyer, senior director of Athlete High Performance at U.S. Figure Skating) on the side-by-side spins," Martin joked. "Go back one year, it was an omitted element."

"It wasn't that they just did them, they did them really well," Wall said. "They've been working so hard for so many years to do that."

"And they did them after two minor mistakes," Martin added. "That was what really started them back on the rest of that long program."

Their score vaulted them into first place with 205.71 points.

With the crowd still roaring, Zhang and Bartholomay prepared to

take the ice and perform their program to music from *Les Misérables*.

"I literally thought to myself in that moment, we can only do so much," Bartholomay said. "If we can't beat that, we can't beat that. That put our minds at ease a little bit, at least for me anyway."

Peterson said it was so loud that it reminded him of the "Michelle Kwan days."

Despite the overwhelming atmosphere, Zhang and Bartholomay focused on the task at hand. They started with a crisp triple twist and proceeded to land their side-by-side triple toe loops. They continued to move seamlessly through the rest of the program, showing great finesse on their throws, lifts, spins and jumps. Every element received a positive grade of execution.

"I felt like we didn't leave anything on the table," Bartholomay said. "I felt like we floated through that program."

Upon hearing their scores, Zhang and Bartholomay jumped up and celebrated with an ecstatic Peterson and coach Amanda Evora. They had barely finished second and put themselves in a position to be considered for an Olympic berth.

"What I'm so proud about is a clean short and a clean long," said Peterson, who guided both U.S. pairs teams to the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. "As a coach, I can go to bed very easily tonight and sleep well knowing my kids did their job and they were prepared and peaked at the right time. I thought they did a great job at Skate America, skating a clean long there and nearly a clean



Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay float through their free skate to *Les Misérables*.

long at Cup of China as well. The short was giving us problems so we reworked it and took advice from officials and it obviously paid off here."

Peterson credited Zhang and Bartholomay for sticking to their convictions when it came to their free skate music from *Les Misérables*.

"I've said it over and over, I

didn't want them to skate to *Les Mis* and I'm so glad they did," Peterson said. "They pushed it, because they feel passionate about it and they love the story and I think it comes out in their skating."

One of the first people to congratulate Bartholomay was one of his bosses from the Italian restaurant Gio Fabulous, where the skater has worked as a waiter to help pay the bills.

"Nick was one of the first people to shoot me a text and say, 'Phenomenal, congratulations.' That was special. I'm sure I'll be working there again this summer," Bartholomay said.

The team of Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim earned the pewter medal.

"It's nice to come back, just like we did last year, from a disappointing short and put out a solid long program. We are really happy," Knierim said.



Caydee Denney and John Coughlin perform an event-best free skate to music from *The Phantom of the Opera*.



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BY JOSH ELLIS

Perfect.

That's what Meryl Davis and Charlie White were during their captivating free dance set to Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.

Legends.

That's what the duo have become after winning a sixth consecutive title at the 100-year anniversary edition of the U.S. Championships.

With 200.19 points, the highest total ever for an ice dance couple at the U.S. Championships in the modern scoring era, Davis and White stand alone as the only six-time champions in the history of the sport.

"We are really proud of our consistency," White said. "We've been lucky to be injury-free and we've worked our butts off. Marina (Zoueva) has worked us. It's just a huge collective effort. Our families have played such a big role. We are definitely going to enjoy this moment."

Davis and White's victory sewed up their second U.S. Olympic Team berth. They competed at the Games last month in Sochi, Russia, representing the U.S. alongside Madison

Chock and Evan Bates, and Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, who finished with silver and bronze at the TD Garden in Boston.

Their partnership, which began in 1998, has experienced many triumphs and a few challenges, but culminated in the "City of Champions" as the veteran team from Michigan achieved the highest possible score in a free dance, lifting fans from their seats as the music ended in a dramatic crescendo.

After a new U.S. record 80.69 points for their *My Fair Lady* short dance, Davis and White received a perfect score of 60 for their program components, achieved the highest base value possible for their eight elements (43.20) and the best possible grade of execution of their elements, for a total of 119.50 points for their free dance.

"We work hard every day on the ice and off the ice," White said. "We have a great athletic trainer, who pushes us to where we think we couldn't go. And then on the ice, we have Marina (Zoueva) who every second is pushing us both mentally and physically. We are lucky

ICE DANCE

GOLD

Meryl Davis/
Charlie White
200.19

SILVER

Madison Chock/
Evan Bates
181.44

BRONZE

Maia Shibutani/
Alex Shibutani
170.44

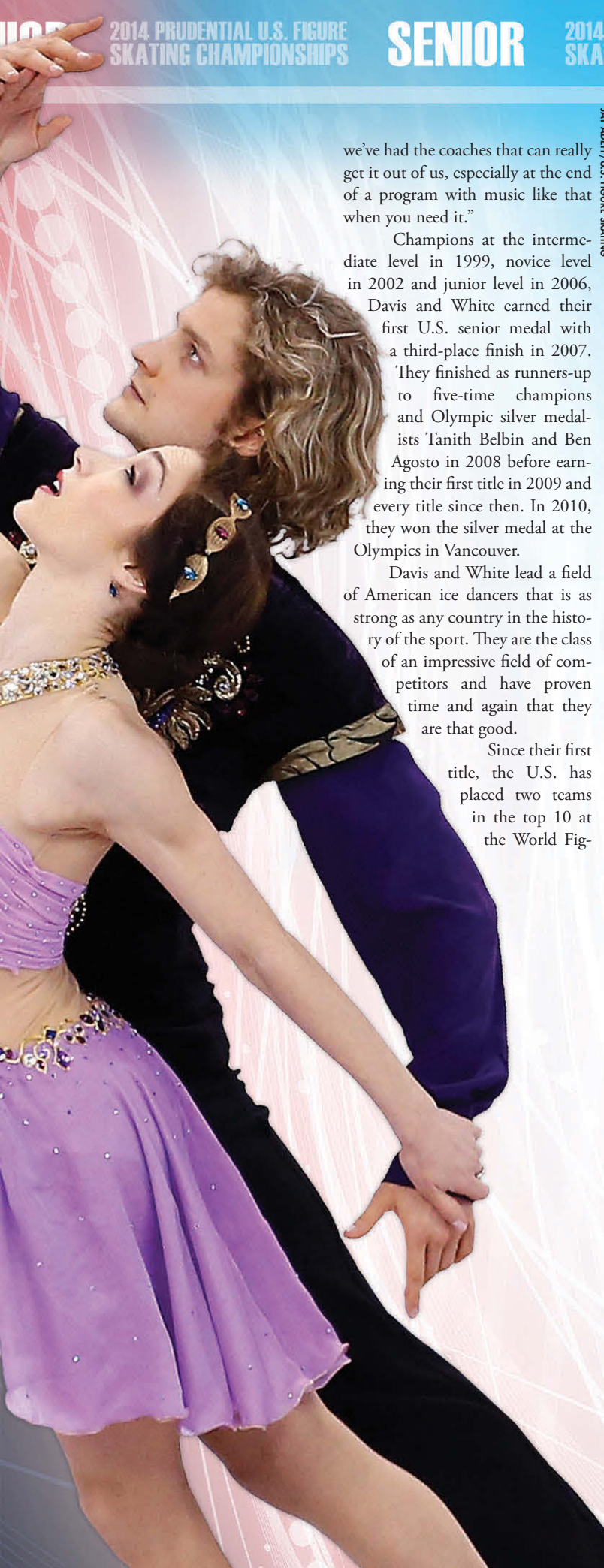
PEWTER

Madison Hubbell/
Zachary Donohue
168.27

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

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JARED VICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES



we've had the coaches that can really get it out of us, especially at the end of a program with music like that when you need it."

Champions at the intermediate level in 1999, novice level in 2002 and junior level in 2006, Davis and White earned their first U.S. senior medal with a third-place finish in 2007. They finished as runners-up to five-time champions and Olympic silver medalists Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto in 2008 before earning their first title in 2009 and every title since then. In 2010, they won the silver medal at the Olympics in Vancouver.

Davis and White lead a field of American ice dancers that is as strong as any country in the history of the sport. They are the class of an impressive field of competitors and have proven time and again that they are that good.

Since their first title, the U.S. has placed two teams in the top 10 at the World Fig-

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Meryl Davis and Charlie White deliver a powerful performance of their free dance to selections from *Scheherazade*.

ure Skating Championships all five years and all three teams have placed in the top 10 each of the past four years. Davis and White keep pushing the envelope, always getting better with every performance.

"We expect more from ourselves," Davis said. "We hope each performance is more and more, and better and better."

For the past three years, Chock and Bates have been on a quest to be one of the three ice dance teams the United States sends to the Olympics. After finishing fifth in 2012, Chock and Bates have shown impressive improvement each year. They finished second in 2013 and second again in 2014, a year in which they earned three international medals, including two bronze medals on the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series. At the end of their *Les Misérables* free dance, they knew all of their hard work had paid off.

"We skated a great free dance," Bates said. "It's the best we've ever skated. This has been the best competition we've ever had together,

and it's just at the perfect time."

They earned 108.03 points in their free dance and 181.44 points overall. The skaters, who are coached by Igor Shpilband in Novi, Mich., earned Level 4s for every element except one in their free dance.

When the Olympic Team announcement was made, Bates, who finished 11th at the 2010 Olympics with former partner Emily Samuelson, and Chock, who narrowly missed out on the Olympics in

Davis and White, with coach Marina Zoueva, receive the team's winning free dance scores in the Puffs kiss and cry.



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Madison Chock and Evan Bates entertain the TD Garden crowd with their captivating free dance to selections from *Les Misérables*.

2010, were elated.

"I'm so over the moon and completely thrilled," Chock said. "This has been a lifelong dream. We're so happy and we couldn't be in better company. We're just so thrilled."

Once the music ended in their Michael Jackson-themed free dance, Maia Shibutani pumped her fists toward the sky, while her brother Alex Shibutani went down on his knees to the ice. In a word, it was jubilation for the siblings who knew their Olympic dreams were going to come true. It was an event, they admit, that was 10 years in the making.

Holding a slim advantage over fourth place after the short dance, Shibutani and Shibutani earned 170.44 points overall to secure their fourth consecutive senior medal and repeat as bronze medalists at the U.S. Championships.

"We had to work really hard for that one today," Alex said. "Yesterday we were disappointed, not with our effort, but with the way it ended up. Today was a study in rebounding, picking yourself up,

coming together as partners, as siblings, really pushing through to accomplish what our dream is."

They earned 68 points for their

Michael Bublé short dance before skating to a recently modified selection of songs from Michael Jackson.

When the Olympic Team was

named, Alex Shibutani summed it all up.

"This has been the craziest, most amazing journey," he said. "Ten years ago we started in this sport, but moments like this you don't really prepare for, you only dream of. I'm just so happy that we're here together and I wouldn't be here with anyone else."

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue overcame a lot this season, including many injuries, but their lasting impression is two solid performances in Boston. They finished with 168.27 points and the pewter medal.

"I'm so proud of my partner," Donohue said. "She's gone through a lot this year: concussions, torn body parts, bruises, cuts, scrapes. She really pulled through and I think we had the best skate of our lives so far. We are really thrilled with our programs."

Medalists at each of the last three U.S. Championships, including bronze in 2012, Hubbell and Donohue were less than two points behind third after the short and less than one point behind third in the free dance, keeping their medal streak alive.

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani take a page from the King of Pop during their free dance to a medley of Michael Jackson music.



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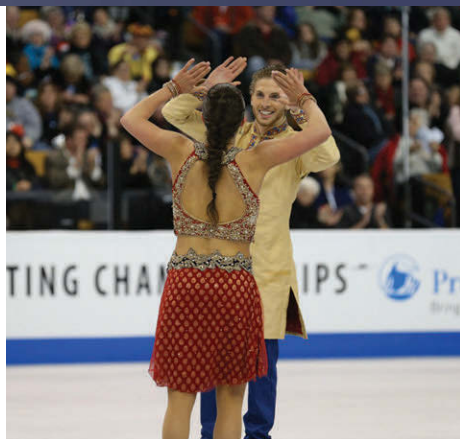
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Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton congratulate each other on a job well done.

'We belong'

After winning back-to-back U.S. junior titles, Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton knew it was time to make the jump to the senior level. After a bit of a learning curve to start the year, the duo, who train at the Detroit Skating Club, ended the year strong.

"It was a hard start," Aldridge said. "It was very different from junior and a bit of a culture shock for us but now having put out two great programs at the U.S. Championships we feel more confident than ever that we belong at this level."

Skating to music from *The Mask*, Aldridge and Eaton were fifth after the short program and made a huge impression with a skillful free dance to a Bollywood dance medley. They earned a total of 160.26 points, a fifth-place finish and a positive outlook on the future.

"We feel great," Eaton said. "When we went out on the ice in Boston, we looked at each other and we knew that we belong here. It was such a great experience and we hope that more is yet to come."

— Josh Ellis

Kerrs impressed with U.S. Championships

Two-time European bronze medal ice dancers Sinead and John Kerr enjoyed their first visit to the U.S. Championships in Boston. Asked how the competition compared with their own national championships in Great Britain, the two laughed.

Coaches Sinead Kerr and John Kerr with Scottish senior competitor Jamie Wright (left)



"It's not even a comparison!" Sinead said. "This is more like Europeans. I found it really inspiring. It's a great atmosphere, a great buzz."

"Sometimes people would say U.S. nationals was as big as Europeans, and we would always be snippy about that idea," John added. "But when you're here, it is about the same size. It's pretty cool."

The brother and sister choreographed the free dance of Gabriela Morrell-Zucker and Andrejs Sitiks to the music of Coldplay.

"We've been doing bits and pieces of choreography, because we've been busy doing shows," Sinead said. "It's our big passion. It works great because we're brother and sister, we're very close."

— Sarah S. Brannen



Scott Hamilton provides his expert opinion at the U.S. Championships.

Olympians give high marks to talented ladies

The ladies free skate received high praise from a group of former Olympians, who were impressed with the quality and depth of the field.

"It was a phenomenal night of skating," 2002 Olympic champion Sarah Hughes said. "It was unpredictable. You felt the pressure that the skaters were under. You saw some of the skaters falter under it and then you were able to appreciate when the skaters did perform."

"We saw the rising of Polina Edmunds. She has a light, wispy quality about her skating and the music choice and program were so suited to her style of skating. She didn't worry about anything and just went out there and played her own game. It was nice to watch."

Scott Hamilton, the 1984 Olympic champion and NBC figure skating analyst, had a similar take on Edmunds.

"I think she is brilliant, I think she is fresh, I think she has a solid foundation to build on and I think she is lovely artistically," Hamilton said. "I know there's the maturation that will come from experience and just getting a lot of feedback as how to take it to the next level. I thought for her age and experience, she was beyond, beyond wonderful."

Hamilton called it a great event and beauti-

fully skated.

Emily Hughes, who competed at the 2006 Olympics, enjoyed the athleticism of the ladies and how they handled the pressure.

"There were a lot of triple-triples out there, which is exciting to see," Emily said. "Every time at nationals when it's an Olympic year there are always people who rise up to the pressure, which makes the competition even better."

Kimmie Meissner, who competed alongside Emily Hughes at the 2006 Olympics, called it a tough competition.

"I think the judges got it right," she said after the free skate.

— Troy Schwandt

Martin: 'It takes a village'

Coaches Bobby Martin and Carrie Wall agree that pairs champions Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir started to gain momentum about a month out from the U.S. Championships.

"You could just see it, you could feel it as it got closer," Martin said of the Boston-based team. "I think the fact that all of this happened in Boston was extremely fortuitous for us, having the people in our building (The Skating Club of Boston), the local media; they started thriving on that stuff. That can be a distraction, but it was a good distraction for them."

Martin credited The Skating Club of Boston and others for helping get Castelli and Shnapir to the top of the podium.

"It takes a village," he said. "There's a long list of people who are involved in this, and it starts with The Skating Club of Boston. I'm proud of the culture that's been created here."

— Troy Schwandt



Coaches Carrie Wall and Bobby Martin applaud their team's triumph.

Sweeping the nation

Throughout the U.S. Championships, each performance's conclusion was met with emotion, applause and, of course, a shower of gifts thrown onto the ice. During the men's free skate, the ice was cleared by a cast predominantly composed of boys, clad in matching tuxedos, who almost stole the show.



A group of distinguished young men helped keep the ice clear in Boston.

The sweepers were greeted enthusiastically by the each of the competitors backstage as a multitude of high-fives and hugs were exchanged. One sweeper, 10-year-old Mika Amdour, said it was a night he'd never forget.

"Giving the gifts to the skaters is my favorite part," Amdour said. "It's fun to see it up close."

"I remember watching skaters like Paul Wylie and Brian Boitano before they went to the Games," 2006 Olympic silver medalist Ben Agosto said of the sweeping team. "It made me want to keep skating. Hopefully with this chance, these boys will be inspired to do the same."

— Mimi Whetstone

PSA announces performance awards

The Professional Skaters Association (PSA) selected its EDI Awards for the best performances of the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston.

A formal presentation of these awards will

The PSA recognized Gracie Gold's short program with an EDI Award.



take place during U.S. Figure Skating's Champs Camp in August. The EDI Awards are named after the late World and Olympic coach Edi Scholdan, who died in the 1961 World Team plane crash. Scholdan was the first president of the PSA and inspiration for the Education and Dedication International (EDI) Awards.

One winner was chosen from each category: ladies, men's, pairs and ice dance. The award is based on the total performance, with an eye to costuming, presentation, music selection, choreography, style and technique. Winners were determined by a committee present at the competition that reviewed all short and free programs at the junior and senior levels for each discipline.

Ladies: Gracie Gold (championship short program); coaches Frank Carroll and Scott Brown; choreographer Lori Nichol; music "Piano Concerto" by Edvard Grieg; costume designer Josiane Lamond

Men: Jason Brown (championship free skate); coach Kori Ade; choreographer Rohene Ward; music "Reel Around the Sun" from *Riverdance* by Bill Whelan; costume designer Rohene Ward

Pairs: Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay (championship free skate); coaches Jim Peterson, Lyndon Johnston, Amanda Evora; choreographer Jim Peterson; music symphonic pieces from *Les Misérables* by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; costume design Jim Peterson and Dawn Imperatore

Ice dance: Meryl Davis and Charlie White (championship free dance); coaches Marina Zoueva, Oleg Epstein, Johnny Johns; choreographers Marina Zoueva, Oleg Epstein; music selections from *Scheherazade* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Kirov Theatre Orchestra; costume designer Meryl Davis

From Babilonia to Yamaguchi to Andrews

Starr Andrews is only 12 but she's already famous. A video of Andrews skating to Willow Smith's "Whip My Hair" is a genuine viral sensation with more than 15 million views.

Andrews left Boston with a pewter medal in the juvenile ladies event, and she also has another piece of precious hardware. She competed wearing a gold hoop earring with a crystal heart dangling from it, which Kristi Yamaguchi wore when she won the gold medal at the 1992 Olympics. Tai Babilonia gave the earring to Yamaguchi; Yamaguchi later gave it to Katia Gordeeva, who eventually gave it back to



Babilonia. After she saw Andrews skate, Babilonia gave the earring to the young skater for luck.

"Like millions of people, I saw the video of Starr," Babilonia said. "I called her mom and said I wanted to learn more about Starr, because she has something special. We've become really great friends."

— Sarah S. Brannen

Always grateful

Jason Brown's world was changing by the second. With the echoes of a crowd on its feet still ringing in his ears, he tried to navigate the media stations that awaited him once he came off the ice.

With coach Kori Ade by his side, Brown carried two teeming bags of tossies, which made him waddle even more as he walked on his skates. Ade and a U.S. Figure Skating staff member each grabbed a bag as Brown was led to his first interview, eventually placing the bags on the floor near the AT&T Athlete Lounge.

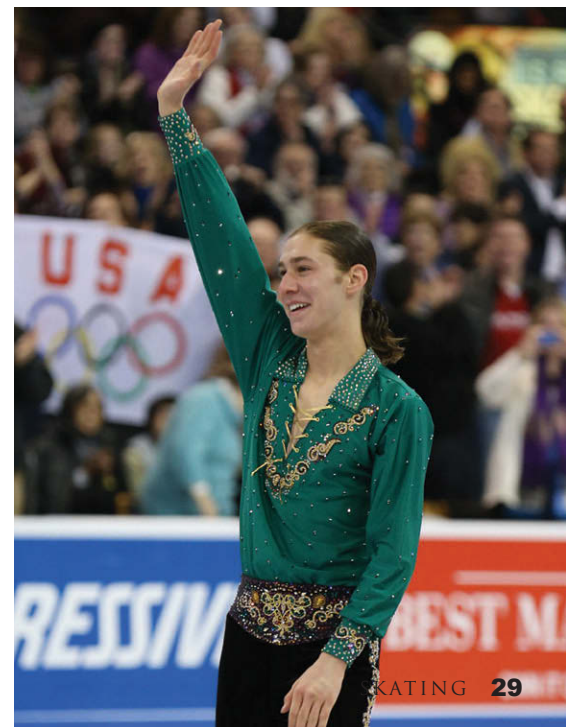
Brown, smiling and sweating, repeated in each interview, "I just can't believe this!"

More than an hour later, after all media requests had been filled, Ade was looking for the tossie bags, which had been stored by a Boston volunteer.

"Have you seen them?" she asked. "Jason really needs to find them because he writes a letter to everyone who leaves their address on a note or stuffed animal."

More than 3.5 million YouTube views later, Brown hasn't changed a bit. He appeared on the "Arsenio Hall Show," has been a favorite of Chicago media and made his Olympic debut. Popular with fans and skaters alike, expect Brown to be writing a lot more thank-you notes.

— Barb Reichert





JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

U.S. ice dance bronze medalists and 2014 Olympians Maia and Alex Shibutani get to know their fans at the Friends of Figure Skating Breakfast. More than 200 FOFS members shared eggs, bacon and conversation with dozens of Team USA athletes. Each breakfast features a keynote speaker and this year's event featured 1948 and 1952 Olympic champion Dick Button. Button was in Boston all week promoting his new book *Push Dick's Button*. He shared anecdotes and excerpts from the book with FOFS members.

The 2014 Memorial Fund luncheon provided attendees with a new perspective on how the Memorial Fund provides support to skaters with the parent perspective. Allen and Allison Scott, parents of four-time and reigning men's champion Jeremy Abbott, spoke to a crowd of 65 about the financial hardships that figure skating families often face. Allen and Allison shared personal anecdotes and touched on the cost of equipment, such as costumes and skate blades on top of coaching fees and ice time, and stressed how impactful Memorial Fund support can be in defraying those costs. To close, Allen and Allison took questions from the audience. Pictured are Allison Scott and Allen Scott, with Susan Bonn, chair of the Memorial Fund Committee.



PHOTO BY ALICIA GOULD



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Fans could relax and refresh at the P&G Salon services area. Make-up artists provided mini makeovers using CoverGirl, Pantene and Olay products.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Smucker's displayed a large wooden skate on the TD Garden concourse for patrons at the Championships to write messages to the competitors.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

U.S. pairs silver medalists and Olympians Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay sign a Team USA cap for a young fan during one of the Prudential autograph sessions on the concourse of the TD Garden.

Members of the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team are honored during a break in the action. The 10 standout student-athletes were recognized for their contributions 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 name 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) Rachel Chang, Daniel Kulenkamp, Hannah Miller, Spencer Simon, Yasmin Siraj, Maddie Staff, Christine Wang, Maria Yang. Not pictured are Jordan Weiss and Jessica Zhu.



PHOTO BY ALICIA GOULD

That Athletes Advisory Committee held the annual Athlete Alumni reception at the TD Garden. Former senior-level competitors enjoyed the reunion, hearing from host Brian Boitano as well as 1984 Olympic team leaders Janet Gerhauer Carpenter and Barlow Nelson. Guests also enjoyed a slide show marking the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Olympic Games in Sarajevo.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

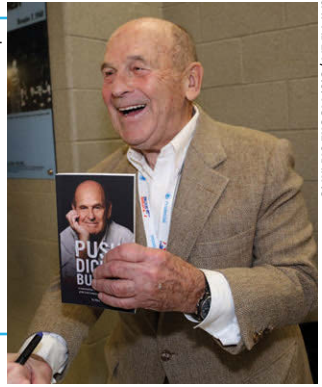
Pairs skaters Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege received the 2014 Ron and Gayle Hershberger Award. The 2014 U.S. junior champions won the \$1,000 grants for having the highest short program and free skate component marks. The award, now in its fourth year, rotates among the four disciplines. Ron Hershberger served as U.S. Figure Skating president from 2005 to 2009. In addition, U.S. novice singles champions Vivian Le and Paolo Borromeo received the Cecilia Colledge Memorial Fund Award (\$500 each), 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.

The family of the late Marlys Larson accepted the 12th annual Jimmy Disbrow Award on her behalf. Larson, who passed away unexpectedly last fall, was a U.S. Figure Skating judge for 30 years, president of the Twin City Figure Skating Association, chairperson of several major sporting events held in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and was the cochair of the first World Synchronized Skating Championships in 2000. The Jimmy Disbrow Award honors members of the figure skating community who exhibit the selfless passionate spirit of dedication and volunteerism that Disbrow contributed to the sport throughout his life. Larson was a mentor to many in the skating community. She would frequently visit rinks to critique skaters, and then depart for a board meeting, before leaving town to judge a competition. She was a problem-solver and "passionate perfectionist." Jimmy's wife Dede Disbrow (left) presented the award to Larson's daughters Loni Kennan and Lynette Barba, and Larson's husband, Lyle Larson.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Two-time Olympic champion Dick Button signs his new book titled *Push Dick's Button* on the TD Garden concourse. Brian Boitano, the 1988 Olympic champion, was also on hand in Boston signing his cookbook titled *What Would Brian Boitano Make?*



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Paul Wylie, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, was the guest speaker at the annual Novice Team Prep Seminar Breakfast. Nearly all of the novice skaters who competed at the U.S. Championships in Boston attended the event, where Wylie talked about his career and provided insight into what it takes to climb the competitive ladder and be successful both on the ice and in the classroom.

SKATING magazine Editor Troy Schwindt presents the Readers' Choice Award (Michelle Kwan Trophy) to six-time U.S. ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White following the the Smucker's Skating Spectacular in Boston. SKATING magazine readers voted online for the skater or team they felt accomplished the most during the 2012-13 season. It is the second time in three years that the Michigan team has won the honor.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



PHOTO BY ALICIA GOULD

PHOTO BY ALICIA GOULD



Friends and colleagues of Al Beard have some fun during his induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Beard was responsible for bringing computerized scoring to U.S. Figure Skating events. He was inducted alongside synchronized skating coaching great Lynn Benson and U.S. champion, Olympian and national technical specialist Terry Kubicka.

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



PHOTO BY ALICIA GOULD

Olympic champion Dorothy Hamill and fashion designer Vera Wang catch up during the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame induction reception. Both women are members of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.



Icenetwork's Tanith Belbin interviews U.S. pairs silver medalists and Olympians Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay in the AT&T Athlete Lounge.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Representatives of Brooklyn Ice in New York and Paramount Iceland in California receive checks for \$12,500 from the Prudential Skating Fund, whose mission is to provide financial support to underserved groups and communities within the sport of figure skating.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi and 2014 Olympian Ashley Wagner enjoy the festivities at the Olympic Team reception, held at the Renaissance Hotel on the final night of the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Meryl Davis and Charlie White, six-time and reigning U.S. ice dance champions, visit with fans at the Puffs kiss and cry on the concourse.

PHOTO BY ALICIA GOULD

Al Beard, Lynn Benson and Terry Kubicka are honored for their many contributions to the sport of figure skating at the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame reception in Boston.

Class of 2014

Beard, Benson, Kubicka feted at reception

More than 130 people gathered to welcome the three newest members of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame at a reception in Boston on Jan. 10. Albert Beard, Lynn Benson and Terry Kubicka admitted being awestruck and humbled in their acceptance speeches. But their presenters told a different story. Lainie DeMore elaborated on how Beard's innovation brought computerized scoring to the sport, engaging fans along the way. Benjamin Wright shared stories of Benson's tireless efforts to help develop and grow the then young discipline of synchronized skating. And Evy Scotvold shared how a still gracious Kubicka prevailed with help from his grandparents.



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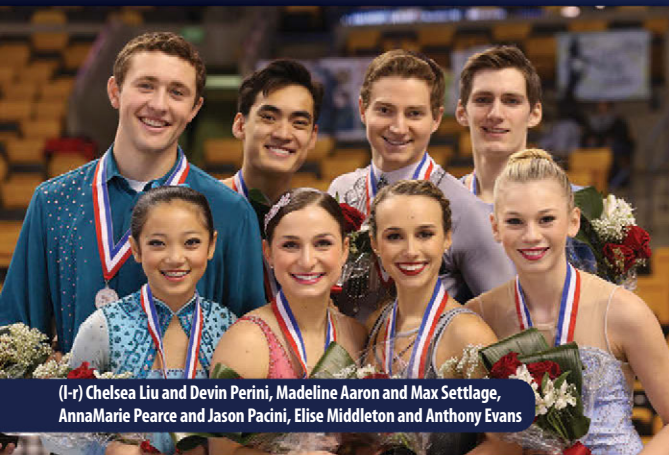
JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



(l-r) Tyler Pierce, Amber Glenn, Ashley Shin, Bradie Tennell



(l-r) Jordan Moeller, Nathan Chen, Jimmy Ma, Chase Belmontes



(l-r) Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini, Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege, AnnaMarie Pearce and Jason Pacini, Elise Middleton and Anthony Evans



(l-r) Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker, Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons, Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber

MEDALISTS

LADIES

GOLD
Amber Glenn
186.51

SILVER
Tyler Pierce
175.07

BRONZE
Ashley Shin
155.18

PEWTER
Bradie Tennell
141.99

MEN'S

GOLD
Nathan Chen
223.93

SILVER
Jordan Moeller
191.66

BRONZE
Jimmy Ma
182.73

PEWTER
Chase Belmontes
177.19

PAIRS

GOLD
Madeline Aaron/
Max Settlege
160.67

SILVER
Chelsea Liu/
Devin Perini
144.82

BRONZE
AnnaMarie Pearce/
Jason Pacini
139.32

PEWTER
Elise Middleton/
Anthony Evans
136.64

ICE DANCE

GOLD
Kaitlin Hawayek/
Jean-Luc Baker
152.26

SILVER
Lorraine McNamara/
Quinn Carpenter
147.50

BRONZE
Rachel Parsons/
Michael Parsons
145.78

PEWTER
Holly Moore/
Daniel Klaber
136.66

Tomorrow's stars deliver goods in famous sports town

The juniors provided fans a glimpse of who could be on the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team with their high-level skills and performance qualities.

Amber Glenn and Nathan Chen dazzled audiences with their big jumps and showmanship. The pairs team of Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege proved they are a team of the future, while second-year team Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker demonstrated once again the supremacy of U.S. ice dance.

The junior contingent performed their short programs in front of a packed house at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and their free programs at the famous TD Garden, home of the Boston Celtics and Boston Bruins.

"The future of U.S. Figure Skating looks very bright," Todd Bromley, the event's chief referee, said. "The skating exhibited was outstanding. The depth of talent in all disciplines was remarkable. The younger athletes demonstrated superior technical skills, executing the most difficult elements with ease. Their programs received great component scores that rivaled that of some of our senior-level athletes. Overall, the events were a true joy to watch and judge."

The past is a great indicator that at least several of the competitors at this year's junior competition will represent the U.S. at the Olympics in 2018.

At the 2010 U.S. Championships in Spokane, Wash. — the final qualifying event for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver — Jason Brown, Maia and Alex Shibutani, Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay competed in the junior ranks. All of those skaters went on to win medals at the 2014 U.S. Championships in Boston and qualify for the Olympics.

"There's a tradition of strong junior events at the U.S. Championships, and this year was no exception," Mitch Moyer, senior director of Athlete High Performance at U.S. Figure Skating, said. "We'll absolutely be talking about some of these skaters in this next Olympic cycle."

Triple-triples vault Glenn to top of podium

BY AMY ROSEWATER

Although most everyone in Boston for the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships was focused on which skaters were heading to Sochi, there were plenty of folks taking a close look at the junior-level skaters who might be on the U.S. Olympic Team four years from now.

After all, the junior champions have made quite a name for themselves in the senior ranks.

Two of the skaters who were on the ladies podium in Boston competed last month in Sochi: Gracie Gold, the 2012 U.S. junior champion, and Polina Edmunds, the 2013 junior titlist.

Those are big figure skates to fill, but Amber Glenn, who was crowned the 2014 U.S. junior champion, certainly plans on fitting in them soon.

Glenn sailed to the top of the junior class and sent a message to the ladies at the senior level as well with her performances in Boston. She landed three triple-triples in the event to win both the short and free skate programs and post a record total of 186.51 points, a score that would have put her in fourth place at the senior level. Glenn said she will make the move up to the senior ranks next season.

"I still can't believe that was a record-breaking performance,"

Glenn said. "I skated the program with the most effort I possibly could. I really tried to put it all out on the table."

Glenn did that in both routines, nailing a triple flip-triple toe combination in the short program and then unleashing another one in the free skate in addition to a triple Lutz-triple toe, landing more triples in the first half-minute than some skaters complete in their entire programs. She tallied 21.80 points on the triple-triples in her free skate alone.

"I felt like the adrenaline was really kicking in," said Glenn, who trains with coaches Ann Brumbaugh and Ben Shroats in McKinney, Texas. "I really tried to skate fast so I could land the jumps nicely."

Tyler Pierce, the 2013 novice champion, won the silver medal with 175.07 points, and Ashley Shin, who, like Glenn, hails from the Dallas area, finished with 155.18 points and the bronze medal.

"I'm really happy I was able to keep my focus on each jump I did, and not get too excited when I landed a jump or too upset when I missed a jump," said Pierce, who trains in Southern California with coach Tammy Gambill.

It is evident in Pierce's skating that she regularly takes ballet classes

as her movements on the ice were precise and elegant. She did not have a triple-triple in her program but landed a triple Lutz and a double Axel-triple toe combination.

"I'm working toward it," said Pierce of the triple-triple combinations. "It was too soon to put it in for competition."

Shin performed a program to Puccini's *Turandot*, and opened her program with a triple Lutz-double loop and a triple flip-double toe loop.

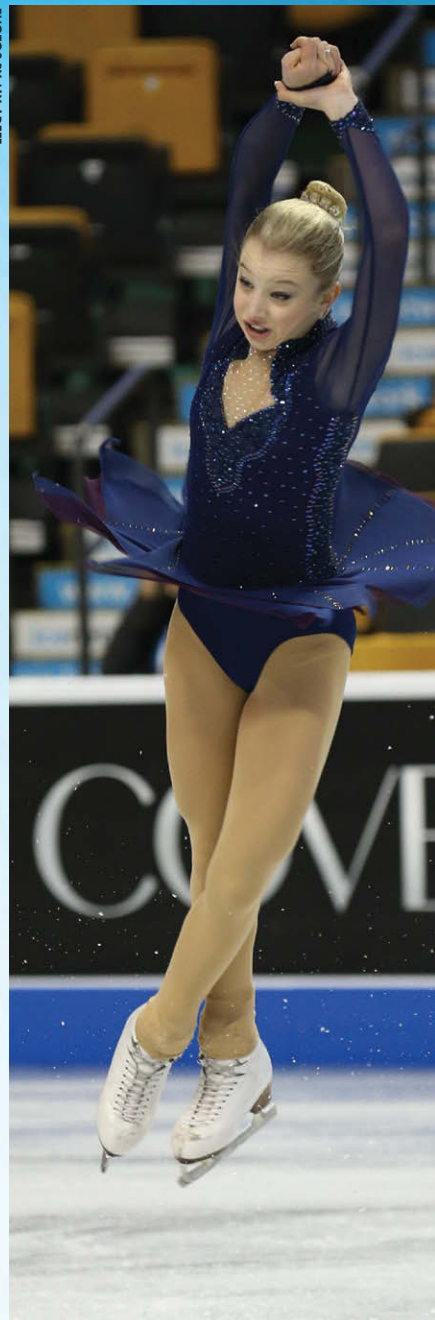
Glenn and Pierce were named to represent the United States at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships March 10–16, in Sofia, Bulgaria, along with Karen Chen. Chen came to Boston on the mend from a broken bone in her landing foot and managed to finish fifth in the short program, but the injury proved to be too much, and she withdrew at the start of the free skate.

Gambill, who also coaches Chen, said her skater had permission from a doctor to compete in Boston but in the end, their biggest competition was time.

"I was just really worried about her reinjuring it," Gambill said. "If she had had just about two more weeks, she would have been on fire."

Brandie Tennell, the 2013 novice bronze medalist, captured the

PHOTOS BY LAV ADERF



Amber Glenn

Tyler Pierce



Ashley Shin



pewter medal. The Illinois' skater finished fourth in the short programs and sixth in the free skate en route to an overall score of 141.99.

After the free skate, the junior skaters could rest on their newly earned laurels and take in the senior-level competition. And what they got to see were two former junior champions earn their tickets to Sochi.

"That gives everyone hope," said Olga Ganicheva, who coaches Shin along with Aleksey Letov. "Polina is opening the doors for these young girls."

Chen turns in dynamite programs, runs away with second junior crown

BY BARBARA HUEBNER

Performing his free skate to classic American favorites of the past, Nathan Chen proved that he is a dynamic American favorite of the future.

Skating to “Chattanooga Choo Choo” and selections from *Porgy and Bess*, the youngest competitor on the ice, listed as just 4-foot-9, impressed the crowd with an outsized sophistication, dominating both the short program and free skate to easily win his second junior men’s title.

En route to the top of the podium, the 14-year-old native of Salt Lake City, Utah, amassed a record-setting 223.93 points, breaking the mark of 213.76 set by one of his training partners, Adam Rippon, in 2008. Both programs were choreographed by Nadia Kanaeva.

“I felt pretty good,” Chen said afterward. “I made a little mistake after the first jump, but overall I thought I had a good time out there and skated really well.”

Vaulting from sixth place after a disappointing short program, Illinois’ Jordan Moeller, 18, finished second in the free skate with 191.66 points overall to earn the silver medal, while Jimmy Ma of Great Neck,

N.Y., also 18, won the bronze with 182.73. Another 18-year-old, Chase Belmontes of Colorado Springs, Colo., took home the pewter with 177.19 points.

After a flawless short program to “The Four Seasons” that left his forehead dripping with perspiration and his rivals far behind, Chen began the free skate with a 16.15-point lead over the second-place Ma. But just 18 seconds into his free skate, the express train to history nearly went off the rails when Chen under-rotated a triple Axel-double toe loop and plunged to the ice.

“You fall and you’re like, argh, and then you kind of put it aside and go on from there,” Chen said.

Rafael Arutyunyan, who coaches Chen in California, said that he was no more concerned than was his skater.

“I knew he would stand up and get it done,” Arutyunyan said.

That he did. The quick-thinking youngster added a double toe loop to his next jump, a planned triple Axel, and from then on everything stayed on track. Exuding maturity and confidence, Chen earned Level 4 marks for step sequences and high-quality

spins, and attempted seven triple jumps, including two triple Axels.

“Basically coaches try to avoid changing anything before nationals,” Arutyunyan said. “But we could take [a] risk, so I put two Axels in for the first time.”

Becoming more at ease with taking some risks is Moeller, the 2011 U.S. novice silver medalist, who staged an impressive recovery from a short program that saw him struggle mightily in the second half. Skating to “Milonga del Angel/Tanguera,” Moeller opened by executing a triple Lutz-triple toe loop followed by a triple flip and triple Salchow, all of which resulted in positive marks and growing confidence.

Moeller acknowledged that he has sometimes “crumbled” after a subpar short program, and said that he has been working with a sports psychologist to get him “in the right place, and today it really showed through.”

Ma, the 2013 pewter medalist, had to deal with a training setback coming into Boston after a skate blade cracked and snapped the sole of his skate in early December, but appeared unfazed — even shooting his arms into the air with joy after completing a vibrant short program. Going out to warm up for the free skate, he said, “It was hard getting my legs under me, but I had to get my head in the game and it turned out OK, I guess.”

While Moeller left the ice elated after his bounce-back from the short, Chen mustered only the faintest hint

of a smile during his bow.

“He was not that happy,” said his coach, alluding to the fall at the outset on the routine. “But I was happy.”

Now a four-time U.S. champion, including the junior title in 2012 as a 12-year-old and novice crowns in 2010 and 2011, Chen plans to move up to the senior ranks after competing this month at the World Junior Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. The goal there, Arutyunyan said, is to go out in style, with a finish in the top three. Despite giving away an age advantage to many of his competitors, Chen could be in the running, based on the bronze medal from the 2013 ISU Junior Grand Prix Final that earned him a bye to the U.S. Championships.

He gets plenty of help and inspiration, he said, from training partners Ashley Wagner and Rippon, from whom he has learned to “stay calm, stay focused, don’t overthink too much.”

Wagner, a two-time U.S. champion who skated in Sochi, said that she’s learned a few things from Chen, too.

“Nathan Chen is always in my way, so I have to learn how to skate around him,” Wagner began, her eyes twinkling with playful affection. “Nathan is an incredibly hard worker and he is what ... 13, 14, 8 years old? So it’s easy for him to do that. But watching him, the repetitions, the programs, over and over and over again, I could do his program at this point. It’s definitely something that I admire.”

Nathan Chen



PHOTOS BY JAN ADERF

Jordan Moeller



Jimmy Ma



Aaron and Settlege put it all together, win second U.S. title

BY TROY SCHWINDT

For Arizona natives Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege, winning their second U.S. pairs title in Boston was the culmination of hard work, perseverance and the ability to remain calm and cool when things go south.

"I felt like we really worked hard for this one," said Settlege, who with Aaron claimed the 2011 novice title, but have experienced ups and downs since then in the junior division. They finished sixth in 2012 and third in 2013.

"It's definitely been a journey," Aaron added. "Every year has been a learning experience."

Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini of California continued to improve, finishing with the silver medal. Their rink mates in California, AnnaMarie Pearce and Jason Pacini, earned the bronze medal, and Elise Middleton and Anthony Evans secured the pewter.

Aaron, 19, and Settlege, 21, arrived in Boston trying to move past a disappointing finish at the 2013 U.S. Championships in Omaha, Neb., where they led after the short program only to make some key mistakes in the free skate and settle for the bronze.

This season has been about them remaining calm when things don't go well, having fun and performing. The Colorado Springs-based team did just that in Boston.

Skating to "Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia" by Khachaturian, Aaron and Settlege demonstrated good speed and flow throughout the program, but did hit a couple of speed bumps early on when she put a hand down on a throw triple loop and he stepped out of the landing on a side-by-side triple Salchow.

"It was an accomplishment in itself that we were able to make mistakes and keep going and recover quickly and just fight on everything," Aaron said.

The team won both segments of the competition, finishing with 160.67 points.

"We were most pleased with our presentation," Aaron said. "A huge factor in our success was in how we really took the time to perform the programs in terms of the

choreography. We had two personal-best scores."

Dalilah Sappenfield, who has coached five U.S. junior pairs champions, credited sports psychologist Suzie Riewald with helping the team overcome their mental demons.

Aaron and Settlege also gave props to Aaron's brother, Max, the 2013 U.S. champion who trains at the same rink as they do.

"We draw from the energy he gives off," Settlege said. "We'll see him do multiple programs and that will inspire us to work just as hard and match that effort."

Aaron and Settlege hope to receive an international assignment next season, with a goal of qualifying for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, in South Korea.

"With some hard work and attention to detail we can be successful in the senior ranks in the U.S. and the world," Aaron said.

Liu, 14, and Perini, 20, pewter medalists in the junior ranks last year, placed second in both segments and finished with a score of 144.82 points. Their free skate was to "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen.

"There were a couple of hiccups in there, but I thought we've improved upon the program as a whole with another year together," Perini said. "One of our goals was to make Junior Worlds and I think we might have done that. We have continued to build a connection, which is a huge thing."

Liu and Perini have spent the last four seasons together, winning the novice title in 2012.

"It's a process," coach Todd Sand said. "We've talked to them about the building blocks of becoming a strong senior team. Sure, they would have loved to have won, but that wasn't really a goal. The goal was to show that they've improved and to skate a good, strong program. There's a lot of potential there for the future."

Pearce, 20, and Pacini, 23, finished fifth in the free skate but held on to claim the bronze medal with 139.32 points. They had falls on their double Axel and throw triple Salchow.

The two though, were happy

PHOTOS BY JAY ABEFF



Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege

to have been able to compete this season considering a rash of injuries that prevented them from practicing a lot.

"Just being able to go out there and attempt everything was a big accomplishment for us," Pacini said.

Pacini, who broke his ankle last summer, underwent the first of two hip surgeries in January.

"I'll probably be taking next year off," he said.

Middleton, 14, and Evans, 21, finished fourth in both segments of the competition, scoring 136.64 points.

Chelsea Liu and Devin Perini



"We didn't have any expectations coming into the event," Evans said. "We just wanted to go and have fun and we finished fourth. We're excited and happy about that."

Evans, who moved last year to California from Dallas to train with Middleton, will undergo surgery for a torn labrum in the next several weeks, he said.

"I tore it this summer and we talked about calling it quits and getting a headstart on next year, but I wanted to push and not miss the season."

AnnaMarie Pearce and Jason Pacini



Hawayek and Baker painting a picture of success

BY SARAH S. BRANNEN

Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker have accomplished a great deal in only their second season together. In Boston, last year's silver medalists climbed to the top with two entertaining and polished programs.

They won both segments of the competition en route to a score of 152.26 points. Last year's bronze medalists, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, grabbed the silver medal with 147.50 points. Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons generated 145.78 points to secure the bronze medal, while Holly Moore and Daniel Klüber captured the pewter with 136.66 points.

"We're really happy with where we are," Baker said. "We wanted to push the boundaries and see where our skating could take us."

"We have a great connection and relationship on the ice," Hawayek added. "We always say that our coaches and choreographers are the frame-makers, and we paint the picture."

They train in Detroit with a team of coaches: Pasquale Camerlengo, Angelika Krylova, Massimo Scali, Elizabeth Swallow and Natalia Annenko-Deller.

As they prepare for this month's World Junior Championships, Baker said the team will concentrate on speed, power, footwork and edge quality.

"We never take a training session for granted," Hawayek said. "We're one of those teams that are always on the ice first, always pushing our hardest every day, trying to find something else we can improve on."

The U.S. Championships, split between the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and TD Garden, was filled with athletic skating and the generally high level expected in the current era of U.S. dance excellence. Olympians Madison Chock and Evan Bates, senior competitors Alexandra Aldridge, Daniel Eaton, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue cheered, and good crowds turned out for both parts of

the event.

Hawayek, 17, channeled Ginger Rogers to 20-year-old Baker's Fred Astaire in their ebullient and elastic short dance to "Happy Feet," "It Had To Be You" and "Sing Sing Sing." Their levels were all 3s and 4s and the segment score was an impressive 65.30.

"It was a strong, energetic performance that we felt happy with technically," Hawayek said.

Baker added that the team worked with ballroom dancers to perfect their quickstep and foxtrot.

In the free dance skated to *Amelie*, the team received 86.96 points, with 7s and 8s for components. Apart from a fall by Hawayek on a twizzle, the couple was clean and smooth, mature and sophisticated. Highlights included a dance spin in both directions and great speed on the midline step sequence.

"And we have fun, too!" Baker said. "It's not, 'We have to go train,' it's, 'We get to go train.'"

McNamara, 14, and Carpenter, 17, train in Maryland with Alexei Kiliakov and Elena Novak, and they have been skating together since they were only 5 and 8 years old.

Their 62.28-point short dance to Russian folk songs was ethereal, showing off the team's smooth and silky edges. Their dramatic free dance represented Sherlock Holmes and his adversary Irene Adler, "The Woman." Great twizzles and fast rotational lifts with interesting positions culminated in a mock fight at end.

McNamara and Carpenter received 85.22 points for their free dance, getting Level 4s on their combination spin, rotational lift and twizzle sequence, with components in the mid-7s.

"Quinn and I thought we had a really great skate," McNamara said. "It was really clean, the best we could have asked for. It's always good to know that we have things to improve on, something to work toward."

"We try to tell a story in all



Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker

our programs," Carpenter said. "We wanted to do something powerful. I'm definitely happy with the short dance. The free dance as a performance was solid; it wasn't perhaps the best that we've done, in terms of the footwork or technicality."

McNamara and Carpenter's training mates in Maryland, the Parsons, missed last season due to injury. They were the 2011 U.S. novice champions.

Their fancy-free short dance to *Funny Girl* included technically sound quickstep patterns and received a score of 59.32 points.

"We felt energy, fun," Michael, 17, said. "We try to make everyone want to dance."

Their emotional free dance to music from *Twilight* movies achieved a score of 86.46, second in the free dance. The dance was notable for graceful, seamless position changes in lifts and fast twizzles. They received positive grades of execution on every element, and Level 4s on five elements.

"We accomplished what we came here to do; we had two clean skates," Michael said.

"Because we're siblings, we can't pull off the romantic aspect of love, but we are brother and sister; we do love each other," Rachel, 16, said.

Moore, 18, and Klüber, 19, also train in Detroit with the same

team as the champions. They performed a hot and jazzy *Chicago* short dance that excited the crowd. Their exuberant free dance, a Perez Prado mambo medley, also got a great response from the audience.

The top three teams will represent the U.S. this month at the World Junior Championships.



Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter



Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons



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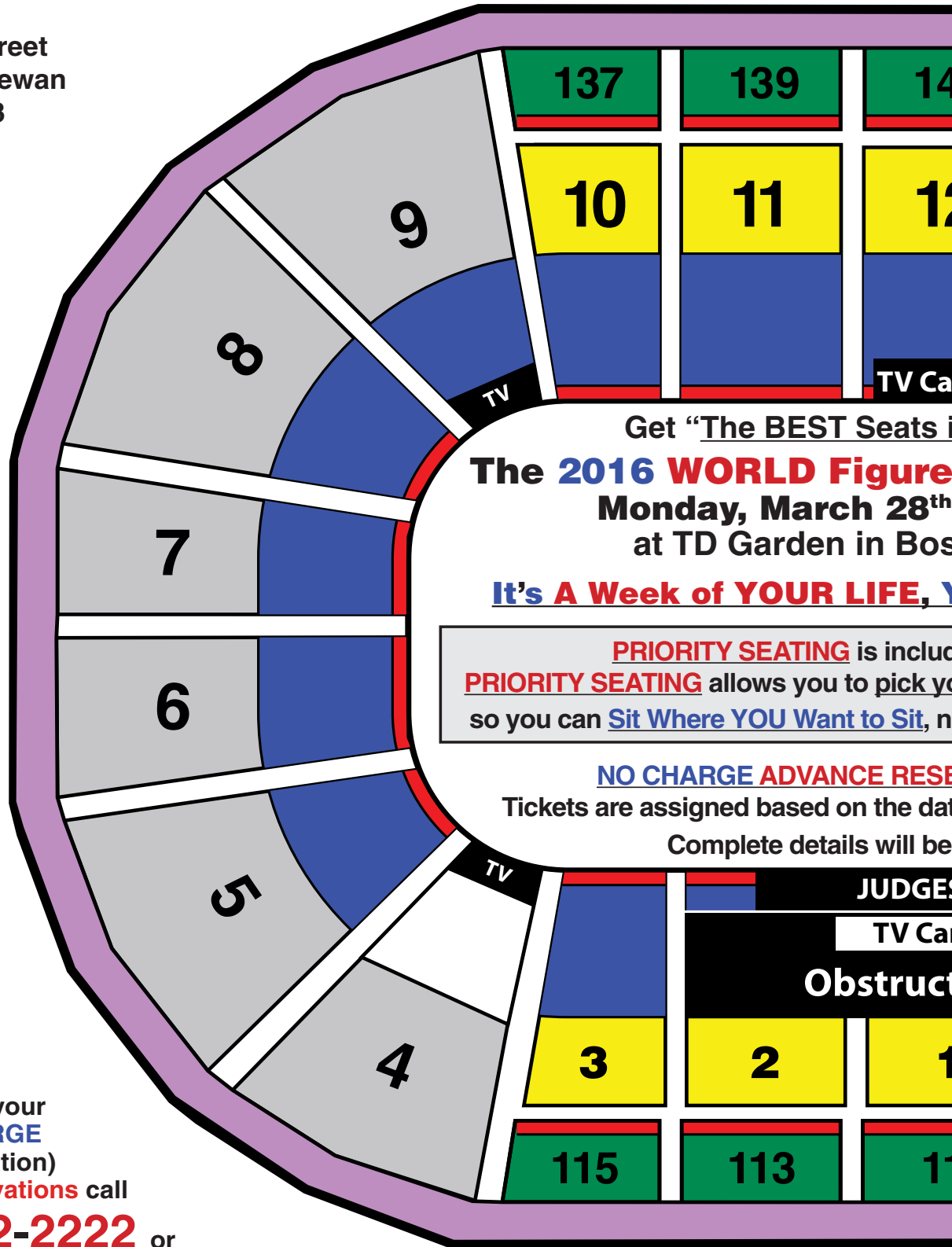
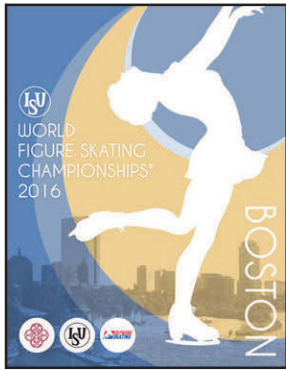
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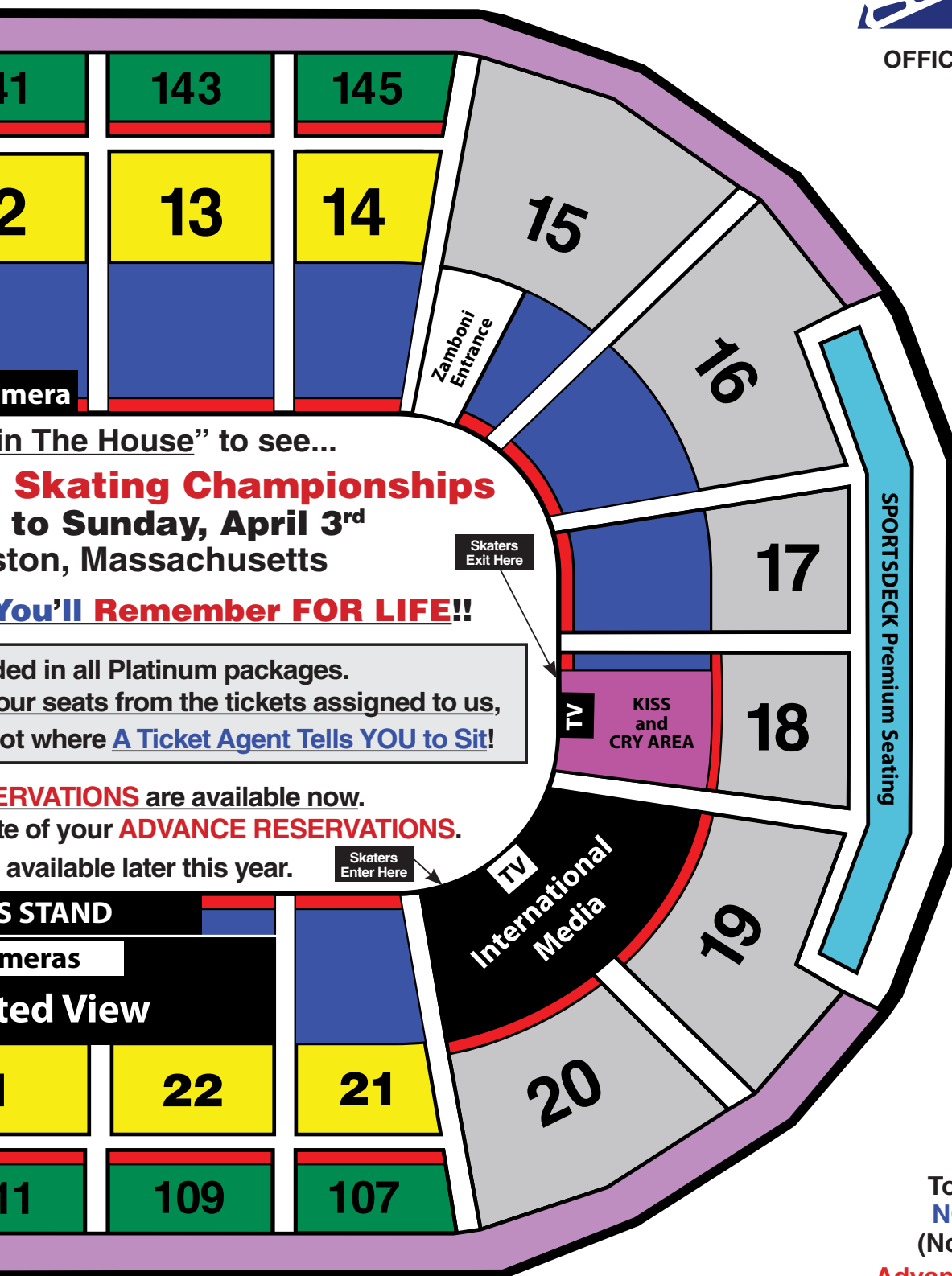
This map shows the seating areas used for the 2016 World Figure Skating Championships.
The seating areas for the 2016 World Championships
 This seating chart only shows the sections in the arena.

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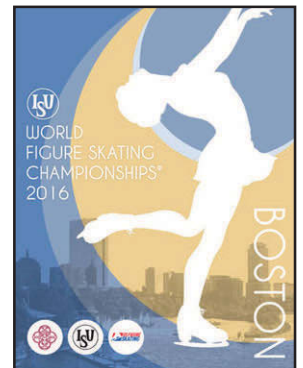
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(l-r) Paige Rydberg, Vivian Le, Rebecca Peng, Carly Berrios



(l-r) Eric Sjoberg, Paolo Borromeo, Luke West, Andrew Torgashev



(l-r) Cirinia Gillett/Maximiliano Fernandez, Ai Setoyama/David Botero, Jessica Lee/Robert Hennings, Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon



(l-r) Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, Gigi Becker/Luca Becker, Sarah Feng/Anthony Ponomarenko, Danielle Thomas/Alexander Martin

MEDALISTS

LADIES

GOLD

Vivian Le
138.06

SILVER

Paige Rydberg
125.66

BRONZE

Rebecca Peng
125.04

PEWTER

Carly Berrios
122.49

MEN

GOLD

Paolo Borromeo
168.27

SILVER

Eric Sjoberg
139.82

BRONZE

Luke West
136.86

PEWTER

Andrew Torgashev
132.04

PAIRS

GOLD

Ai Setoyama/
David Botero
129.18

SILVER

Cirinia Gillett/
Maximiliano Fernandez
121.90

BRONZE

Jessica Lee/
Robert Hennings
121.45

PEWTER

Lindsay Weinstein/
Jacob Simon
108.59

ICE DANCE

GOLD

Gigi Becker/
Luca Becker
128.45

SILVER

Eliana Gropman/
Ian Somerville
120.28

BRONZE

Sarah Feng/
Anthony Ponomarenko
117.14

PEWTER

Danielle Thomas/
Alexander Martin
110.12

Athletes pump up the crowds with electric programs

The novice skaters opened the centennial anniversary of the Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships performing their entertaining and technically challenging programs in front of a packed house at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

Records fell and stars rose as this talented group regularly demonstrated their advanced skills and ability to captivate an audience with their musicality and stage presence.

Singles champions Vivian Le and Paolo Borromeo rewrote the record books. A new pairs team, Ai Setoyama and David Botero, turned some heads, while ice dance siblings Gigi and Luca Becker continued on their successful course by winning their second U.S. title in three years with a record score.

Skaters and fans alike raved about the venue, which hosted all juvenile, intermediate and novice events, as well as all the junior short programs.

When the novice competition ended on Jan. 6, the skaters were treated to some words of wisdom by 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie during the Team USA Prep Seminar Breakfast.

"Paul provided insightful experience and knowledge that were particularly effective for this level of athlete," said Mitch Moyer, senior director of Athlete High Performance at U.S. Figure Skating. "The information he shared will undoubtedly serve these athletes well as they climb the competitive ladder."

Wylie, a Harvard graduate who coaches in North Carolina, talked on many subjects, including the importance of being coachable and succeeding both on the ice and in the classroom.

It's important, he said, to listen to your coach and use his or her expertise to get better.

The skating great reflected on his career and some of the adversity he faced as he attempted to qualify for the Olympics.

Lastly, he said it's important for skaters to surround themselves with people who matter most to them, especially during those inevitable difficult times.

Le shines with record-breaking performance

BY JOSH ELLIS

The future is bright.

Vivian Le, third after the short program, was the first lady to perform her free skate in the final group of six, but when she hit her final pose to Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," it had to be gold.

"I'm really shocked, I'm just trying to take it all in," Le said. "That was one of the best free skates I have ever had. I am really proud of it."

Not only was it one of the best for Le, but it was the highest-scoring novice ladies free skate ever at a U.S. Championships. Opening with a triple Lutz-double toe, the tone was set for a skate that earned 93.88 points and included four triple jumps, two of which were the difficult Lutz.

After a disappointing eighth-

place finish at the intermediate level at the 2013 Midwestern Sectional Championships, Le got to work.

"She has the best preparation," Le's choreographer Olga Ganicheva said. "She has extremely positive self-discipline and she works hard for three to four hours a day."

Le finished with a total of 138.06 points, nearly 20 points more than her winning score at the Midwestern Sectional Championships. She came ready to deliver in Boston.

"I think it was the way my mind was set," Le said. "I felt really confident."

First after the short program, Paige Rydberg earned the silver medal and was the only lady to complete all of the 16 elements in the short program and free skate

with positive grades of execution.

"My goal here was to skate clean and I accomplished that, so I'm happy," Rydberg said.

Third at the 2014 Midwestern Sectional Championships, Rydberg did each of her jumps, including her triple Salchow-double toe, in the second half of her short program. She earned 45.16 points in that segment and finished with 125.66 points overall.

Rydberg opened her free skate with a solid double Axel-double toe-double loop combination, but ultimately, did not have enough firepower to maintain her lead. Despite finishing third in that segment, Rydberg looks forward to the future.

"I'd like to get the rest of my triple jumps to be more consistent and hopefully compete junior next year," Rydberg said.

A hometown girl, Rebecca Peng was the first representative of The Skating Club of Boston to bring home a medal at the 2014 U.S. Championships, and the atmosphere provided by her family, friends and members of the host club helped her to the bronze medal.

"It was great, I love skating in front of my family and friends," Peng said. "They showed me so much support and I thank them for that."

Second after the short program, Peng also turned in the second-best free skate but fell short of silver by less than a point. She earned a total of 125.04 points.

"I did better than I did at both regionals and sectionals, which I'm happy about," Peng said.

Showing versatility, Peng attempted three different triple-double combinations in her two skates at the BCEC but admitted she may have lost some points on her spins. She received Level 4 on one of her five spins.

If it's potential you're looking for at the junior level, fourth-place finisher Carly Berrios has it in spades. Berrios had the top qualifying score entering the U.S. Champi-

PHOTOS BY JAY ADREFF



Paige Rydberg



Rebecca Peng

Vivian Le



onships but fell behind in the short program and couldn't make up the points in the free skate.

"It's been a great week; I have loved the experience," Berrios said. "I have had a great time."

Worthy of mention, Berrios was the lone novice lady to attempt all five different triple jumps in her free skate. She had the highest base value for her elements in both performances among her competitors but fell three times over the course of the weekend.

This year there were two more finishers who earned more than 120 total points than last year, and this year's winner earned nearly 10 more points than last year.

No-show cabbie can't stop Borromeo from record-setting effort

BY SARAH S. BRANNEN

A pair of 12-year-olds turned in big performances, but the competition was dominated by 15-year-old Paolo Borromeo, who won the title with a U.S. novice record score of 168.27 points.

His stylish flamenco short program was delivered in an unhurried style, which was undoubtedly difficult, given that Borromeo barely made it to the rink after the cab he and his mother had ordered didn't show up. He landed a double Axel, triple Lutz-double toe and triple flip and received 54.07 points.

In his free skate to Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor," Borromeo was fast, dramatic and strong, delivering centered spins and seven triple jumps. He received slight minus marks on only two jumps and was rewarded with a standing ovation from a full house at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. His segment score of 114.20 was also a U.S. novice record.

"I'm relieved that all my training has paid off and that I did it when it counted," Borromeo said. The diminutive Borromeo, who finished seventh in the event in 2013, is coached by Derrick Delmore, Ivan Dinev and Angela Nikodinov in Los Angeles.

Borromeo will move up to the junior ranks next season.

"He probably surpassed what we expected," Delmore said. "He's consistent in practice, but we were thrilled. This is his personal best and we're excited for great things in the future."

Eric Sjoberg, 12, won the silver medal. The tiny athlete skates big, and he sold his performances, getting a great response. His fluid 50.35-point short program to "Besame Mucho" included a nice camel position in his combination spin and a fast change-foot sit spin.

In the free skate to the *Snow White and the Huntsman* score, Sjoberg executed a confident skate that included five triple jumps, although the Salchow was under-rotated and the triple flip-double

toe-double loop was downgraded. He received plus marks on his triple Lutz and scored 89.47 points for a total of 139.82.

"I felt pretty good while I was in the program, but I was upset about the Salchow, because it was such a strange mistake," Sjoberg said. "I'm so excited that I got silver. I was completely happy with my short program. I'll probably stay novice next year, and hopefully I can come back and win, skate my best, get good jumps and the whole package."

Sjoberg is coached by Rafael Arutyunyan in Artesia, Calif.; Irina Romanova designs his programs.

"We are working on technical stuff, mostly to get the jumps," Arutyunyan said. "We are not ready to perform and get some special program, because he is a young kid, he just got his triples. I hope next year we already have some stuff which we can put together and think about performance."

Colorado Springs-based Luke West earned the bronze medal. The 17-year-old's "Lady Caliph" short program, choreographed by Phillip Mills, was sophisticated and mature and held the crowd spellbound. Two major jump mistakes held his score to 43.22.

West rebounded with his tango free skate to "Ojos Negros," showing off smooth skating, soft knees, great speed and fast spins. He landed five triple jumps and a double Axel, getting pluses on his triple Lutz-double toe combination, but fell on his second triple flip. The program scored 93.64 points for 136.86 total.

He's coached by Tom Zakrajsek, Becky Calvin, Drew Meekins and Becky Bradley.

"I was more confident in trusting my training and I stayed in the present more," West said. "I wish the short program had gone better, but I wasn't thinking about the outcome too much."

"Luke is the kind of skater who really strives to be the whole package," Meekins said. "He's equally fo-

PHOTOS BY JAN ADERF



Paolo Borromeo

ocused on perfecting his jump technique and refining his movement and skating skills. We're so proud of him for learning how to work through the issues he had in the short program. Even with two errors, he was second in components."

Andrew Torgashev, the 2013 intermediate champion, popped two jumps in the short program and sat 10th. He rebounded with a second-place free skate score of 97.98, finishing with 132.04 points and the pewter medal.

"My parents helped me a lot," he said. "They told me that tomorrow is a new day, just regroup. I learned that even if I make a mistake, I have to keep going and not let it affect me."

Torgashev, 12, is coached by his father, Artem, in Coral Springs, Fla.

"He's a perfectionist in his mind," Artem said. "He doesn't like bad programs. I told him, 'You don't have to be perfect, you just need to do whatever you can. If it doesn't work, just keep on trying. The program doesn't stop after the first mistake; you have to stay focused until the end of the program.'"



Eric Sjoberg



Luke West

Results come quickly for Setoyama and Botero

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Last summer, coaches Jenni Meno and Todd Sand matched up 20-year-old David Botero with pairs newcomer Ai Setoyama, 13, with the notion that if they worked hard they could meld quickly and become a successful team.

Their hunch proved spot-on as the California-based team breezed to the pairs title in only their second competition together, winning both segments of the 12-team event with a score of 129.18. Two other new teams — Cirinia Gillett and Maximiliano Fernandez of Florida and California's Jessica Lee and Robert Hennings — secured the silver and bronze medals.

"We were laughing earlier because Ai had never skated pairs, so she had to take her pairs tests (at the start of the partnership)," Meno said. "Todd took them to do their tests. They had planned on doing two: the pre-juvenile and the juvenile. They walked away doing the pre-juv, the juv, the intermediate and the novice all in the same day after they skated together for about a week. So from the beginning they've been strong, worked hard and they communicate well on the ice, so they've been able to do well quickly."

Having Botero, who turned 21 at the U.S. Championships in Boston, as the team's anchor allowed Setoyama to feel secure about skating pairs while showcasing her natural talents as a figure skater, Meno said.

"They have a great quality of skating — very neat and clean," Meno said. "They have fun and they

love to skate."

Setoyama and Botero performed their free skate to "Singin' in the Rain" by the Boston Pops Orchestra. They received all positive grades of execution except on one jumping pass. One of their lifts generated 8.15 points.

"I felt like we just went out there and did what we try to do every single day," Botero said. "We train hard programs; we want to compete clean programs. It's nice to know that we can do it under pressure."

Gillett and Fernandez, who began skating together in February 2013, placed second in both segments en route to a score of 121.90.

"That was really awesome, nothing I've ever felt before," Gillett, 11, said after the free skate to Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers." They achieved Level 4 for their combination spins and on one lift.

Gillett and Fernandez credited their coaches Jim Peterson and Amanda Evora, as well as Olympians and U.S. silver medalists Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay for helping them progress so quickly.

"We just look up to them," Fernandez, 18, said. "They are such great people, nice people. Felicia is the nicest person I've ever met. We practice with them every day, look up to them and want to get up to their level."

Peterson, who coached both Olympic pairs teams in 2010 and guides the careers of Zhang and Bartholomay, said the partnership of Gillett and Fernandez clicked from the start.

"They are really strong in their knee action and the way they move together," Peterson said. "They have similar body builds and they also have a very similar mental process when it comes to day-to-day training. They are very aggressive. They work as hard as they can when they are on the ice and that's why I feel that it's taken such a short amount of time to get to this level. It usually takes some teams years to get to that level. I just think they are really built well and have a great point of view with their training."

Lee, 14, and Hennings, 17, finished less than one point behind the silver medalists, with a score of 121.45 points.

"They put out two clean programs, handled the pressure and did a great job," said Naomi Nari Nam Poor, who coaches the team with her former pairs partner Themis Leftheris.

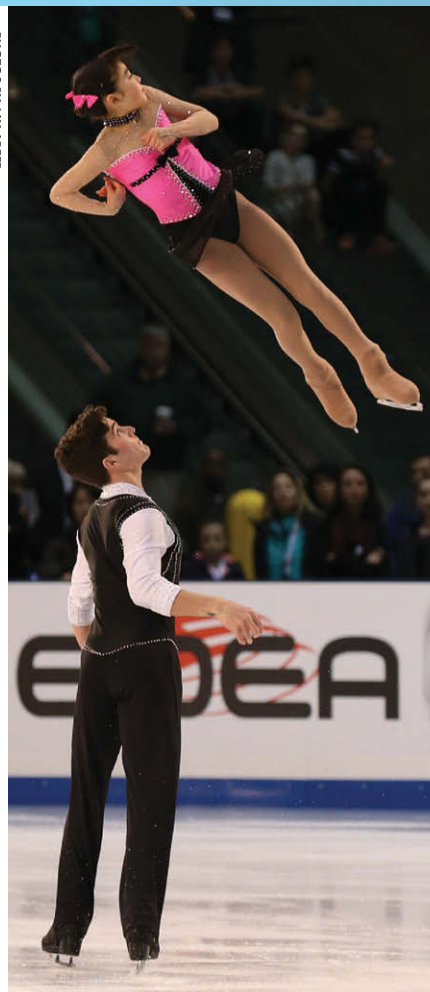
Hennings placed third at the novice level in 2013 with Elise Middleton.

"I'd been working just a little bit with Themis, learning some simple lifts and stuff," Lee said of how she and Hennings crossed paths. "I knew when Robert was available and looking for partner, so they set us up for a tryout."

Having coaches who competed at the highest level, Hennings said, is a big help for the rookie team.

"With them having skated together before, they know what it's like being in a partnership and how to handle the good times and bad times," Hennings said. "They help us through a lot of things in terms

PHOTOS BY JAY ADERF



Ai Setoyama and David Botero

of how to connect."

Leftheris, who with Poor won the U.S. bronze medal in 2007, said their close relationship was vital to their success.

"One of the amazing things about our partnership was we were always best friends," Leftheris said. "We've retained that friendship and have a great coaching relationship, and we try to instill that in our students. As you can see, they are close and they get along and it just shows that there's going to be longevity there, which is refreshing, because it's something that the U.S. is lacking in pairs skating."

Lee and Hennings performed their free skate to music from Cirque du Soleil's "Iris." Two spins and two lifts received Level 4. They received positive GOEs on all but one element.

Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon collected the pewter medal with 108.59 points.

Cirinia Gillett and Maximiliano Fernandez



Jessica Lee and Robert Hennings



Attention to detail helps Beckers claim second U.S. title

BY RENEE FELTON

What a difference a year made for Gigi Becker and Luca Becker, moving from the bottom step of the novice ice dance podium to the top. The Washington, D.C.-based team now has two U.S. titles to its credit after winning the intermediate crown in 2012.

Did we mention that all of this has happened for Gigi before reaching her 12th birthday?

Becker and Becker came to the U.S. Championships with the goal of improving their scores from earlier in the season and their placement from a year ago.

"I really wanted to get back that feeling I had two years ago when we won the intermediate championship," Luca said. "This feeling of winning is so amazing and we are so happy."

The duo, one of 11 teams competing in Boston that trains with coaches Alexei Kiliakov, Dmytri Ilin and Elena Novak, took a slim lead into the free dance after performing a pair of pattern dances to open all competition at the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Their gold-medal effort, which

featured a novice record overall score of 128.45, was solidified with an energetic Bee Gees free dance.

Gigi explained that in all segments of competition, she and Luca had been paying special attention with their coaches to the finer points of their skating.

"Part of the reason we did so well is that with our coach Alexei, we've been working on our edges in the footwork," she said. "I think that put us up about three or four points."

How Kiliakov and his counterparts at the boards have time to concentrate on any of the finer points with so many teams filling their time might seem like a novel concept, but as he explains, they have a system that works, thanks to the cooperation of everyone involved.

"We all work as one big unit of skaters, coaches and parents," Kiliakov said. "We have meetings with the kids and parents and they know what we are aiming for and how they are supposed to behave on and off the ice. There is a lot of work done before competition starts. Competition is probably the easiest part."

Specifically referring to his young champions, Kiliakov notes that while their accomplishments are great, there is work to be done.

"We will probably go to juniors next year to get experience and see how they progress," he said. "This is a great achievement for these guys but they realize it's the first step to a longer-term goal."

Not only did Eliana Gropman and her partner Ian Somerville have the support of their 10 closest training mates when they took the ice, but also that of much of Gropman's extended family — both of her parents have roots in Boston, so the crowd at BCEC was rife with aunts, uncles, cousins and family friends.

"It's really nice to have my family supporting me at competitions and that they can actually watch, not just see it on the Internet," Gropman said.

And the first-season novice team didn't disappoint, winning an unexpected silver medal with a total score of 120.28 points. Expecting the season to be a growing one, the intermediate champions from a year ago had no podium hopes considering, according to Somerville, "Most of the teams in this competition have been in novice for two years."

"We are really proud to medal in our first year of novice, especially because we weren't expecting that!" Gropman added.

Sarah Feng and Anthony Ponomarenko grew a lot in the last year, and we're not just talking about the 12 inches combined they've added to their heights. The duo amped up their off-ice training and began taking supplementary lessons from Olympic coach Igor Shpilband. The extras paid off as the team posted the highest free dance score of the competition (71.46) and took home the bronze medal with 117.14 points.

Marina Klimova, Ponomarenko's mom and the team's head coach, said, "The last year was a lot of off-ice work and conditioning to be sure they would grow stronger and build more strength. This is what we

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF



Eliana Gropman and Ian Somerville



Sarah Feng and Anthony Ponomarenko

have been working on. It was a great year. We haven't had any problems so everything was really smooth. We have the great coach Igor helping the children. I see his great insight has added to their performances."

Six weeks of training at Shpilband's home base in Novi, Mich., gave the Bay Area-based team a taste of what elite training means with the opportunity to skate alongside some of the U.S. and world's best.

"We learned a lot from the teams in Michigan," Ponomarenko said. "We saw how to train properly and to always work hard. They are all skating at such a high level and it motivates us to work hard."

Pewter medalists Danielle Thomas and Alexander Martin of Michigan recorded a score of 110.12.



Gigi Becker and Luca Becker

“I am privileged to receive assistance from the Memorial Fund. It gives me the opportunity to continue skating and to honor the skaters, coaches, officials and family members who lost their lives in the tragic plane crash in 1961.”

— Adam Rippon, 2012 U.S. SILVER MEDALIST

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— Max Aaron, 2013 U.S. Champion

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PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF



(l-r) Annabelle Morozov, Iris Zhao, Kaitlyn Nguyen, Starr Andrews



(l-r) Paul Yeung, Tommy-Jo Nyman, Max Lake, Jeffrey Chen



(l-r) Jasmine Fendi (third girl)/Joshua Fendi, Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, Sarah Rose/Tommy-Jo Nyman, Devin Pascoe/Samuel Parks



(l-r) Molly Cesanek/Maxwell Gart, Josephine Hagan/JT Michel, Cheri Chen/Edward Jahoda, Meredith Kent/Palmer Middlekauff

MEDALISTS

GIRLS

GOLD
Iris Zhao
56.36

SILVER
Annabelle Morozov
56.22

BRONZE
Kaitlyn Nguyen
56.18

PEWTER
Starr Andrews
53.88

BOYS

GOLD
Tommy-Jo Nyman
49.48

SILVER
Paul Yeung
48.41

BRONZE
Max Lake
48.40

PEWTER
Jeffrey Chen
46.31

PAIRS

GOLD
Jasmine Fendi/
Joshua Fendi
46.44

SILVER
Greta Crafoord/
John Crafoord
45.89

BRONZE
Sarah Rose/
Tommy-Jo Nyman
44.93

PEWTER
Devin Pascoe/
Samuel Parks
43.93

ICE DANCE

GOLD
Josephine Hagan/
JT Michel
73.82

SILVER
Molly Cesanek/
Maxwell Gart
73.51

BRONZE
Cheri Chen/
Edward Jahoda
71.76

PEWTER
Meredith Kent/
Palmer Middlekauff
69.56

'Bouncing inside'

Juvenile, intermediate skaters feel the excitement in Boston

Like their senior counterparts, the juvenile and intermediate skaters got a taste of performing before a large, enthusiastic crowd when they put out their best efforts Jan. 6-10 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC).

The 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships marked the second consecutive year that the juvenile and intermediate athletes performed at the same championship event as the novice, junior and senior skaters. Before that, they competed weeks before the "Big Show" at their own junior championships.

"Including the juveniles and intermediates in the U.S. Championships is such a great honor and a great experience for all of these young skaters," Athletes Advisory Committee chair and coach Lindsey Weber said. "Not only do they get to compete in a major venue, they also get to learn from the skaters competing in the novice, junior and championship events.

"This year was special. Many of these young skaters got to see the U.S. Olympic Team selected at the U.S. Championships. I think that is something they all strive for, so to see it happening in person was a very special moment for many of them."

Crowds filled the stands at the BCEC for much of the competition, and there were a few events in which people had to stand at one corner of the rink to view the action.

The audience showed their knowledge and appreciation for the young talent with their rousing applause.

"The highlight of the week for me was hearing my score announced after the short program," U.S. intermediate silver medalist Liam Roumila said. "I also really enjoyed watching Jason Brown skate."

"We were both bouncing inside (with excitement)," said Maxwell Gart, who with partner Molly Cesanek, won the silver medal in juvenile ice dance. "We couldn't stop smiling."



Juvenile pairs competitor Jade Esposito congratulates her training mate and best friend, juvenile gold medalist Iris Zhao.

GIRLS

Less than two-tenths of a point separated the gold and bronze medalists.

Iris Zhao won the gold medal with 56.36 points on the strength of her component scores. She skated with good flow and transitions in a pretty program to “Butterfly Lovers,” landing a double Lutz, Axel, double flip, double Lutz-double loop and double flip-double loop.

Zhao was cheered on by a large contingent of her teammates from the Colonial Figure Skating Club in the Boston suburbs.

“I was a little bit nervous getting on the ice, but it disappeared after the music started and I saw all my friends there,” Zhao said. “Everything felt happy and I was just doing what I always do.”

Zhao has been coached by Kristen Weir and Amy D’Entre-

mont-Allen since she started skating at the age of 5; Sheryl Franks and Beth-Anne Duxbury choreographed her program.

“Iris gets very nervous, so she’s trying to learn to take all that energy and use it in a positive way,” Weir said. “Instead of slowing down and stopping herself, she’s learning to skate from her heart and be free. She has a magic; she sprinkles fairy dust when she skates. You can’t teach that.”

Annabelle Morozov won the silver medal. In her strong, jazzy program to *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* Morosov showed off big jumps and lots of personality, even appearing to sing along with the music. She landed seven double jumps, two of which were in combination, scoring 56.22.

“I thought it was one of the best skates I’ve ever had,” Morozov said of the program that her father,

Nikoli, choreographed. “I was really happy with myself. I feel like one of the most important things as a skater is to give facial expressions and really connect with the judges, so I always try to do my best with that.”

Morozov trains at the Ice House of New Jersey FSC with Igor Krokavec, who has coached her since she was 6.

“She could keep her nerves under control; she did a good job,” Krokavec said. “I’m glad she did both double Axels. She was singing the words of the character — I really like the connection with the choreography and the character.”

Colorado Springs’ Kaitlyn Nguyen, 10, won the technical portion of the competition and took the bronze medal with 56.18 points. So small she disappeared beneath the boards on her sit spin, Nguyen skated to *The Red Poppy*, a Russian ballet set in China.

“She got her two Level 4 spins and hit two great double Axels,” her coach Eddie Shipstad said. “I’m very proud of the hard work she’s put in. We need to work on her choreography and maturity on the ice, but she loves her jumping and she’s excited about next year.”

Starr Andrews, of the All Year Figure Skating Club, won the pewter medal with 53.88 points.

— Sarah S. Brannen

BOYS

To hear Katie Nyman — mother and coach of Tommy-Jo Nyman — tell it, her son had no choice but to star in the juvenile boys event.

“It’s in his genes,” she said. “His grandmother was a ballerina. His background in shows goes way back. He’s always been very showy. He has a theatrical background. His grandparents were dancers and musicians.”

Nyman, who also captured the juvenile pairs bronze medal with partner Sarah Rose, is known for his showmanship, taking home several awards for his theatrical skating, including a primary title at 2013 National Showcase last summer.

“It was amazing to be out there today,” Nyman, who hails from Florida, said. “I had a pretty good skate. I got a little carried away at the end, but overall I’m happy with my performance. I did double Lutz-double loop after two spins, which I’ve really been struggling with. I’ve been struggling with edge calls for a while, too.”

Skating to music from Cirque du Soleil, Nyman’s performance opened with a huge double Axel-double loop combination and continued to dazzle with jaunty choreography that delighted the audience at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Nyman earned 23.53 points for his program components, en route to 49.48 points overall.

Taking home his second medal of the event, Nyman sees competing in back-to-back disciplines as both a blessing and a curse.

“The warm-up yesterday felt pretty solid, so I knew how the ice felt and that it was good,” Nyman said. “They’re two different things, different jumps, different elements, but I already had a feel for the at-

Iris Zhao



JAY ABERFELUS, FIGURE SKATING



Tommy-Jo Nyman

mosphere, so I was less nervous today. At the same time, it's definitely easier to have someone out there by your side."

"It's been really hard for him, doing the pairs and the singles," Katie Nyman added. "But he's really kept on top of it."

"He really kept his head in the game, which we're really proud of," Alex Wilfand, a member of Nyman's coaching team, said. "He's been training his butt off all year, so we're happy that he did it."

California's Paul Yeung earned the silver medal with 48.41 points. He demonstrated outstanding ath-

leticism in his Hawaiian-themed program, which included a double Lutz with both arms overhead in the final seconds of the performance.

"My double Lutz is one of my strongest jumps and I like to end the program with something good," Yeung said. "We put the variation on it and it seemed to work. We got the idea from Adam Rippon's triple Lutz. It just kind of happens for me. I go in full steam and my arms just fly up."

Max Lake, who trains in San Diego, generated 48.40 points to secure the bronze medal. Lake performed to an arrangement from

AN ADRIEN/ U.S. FIGURE SKATING

"Paganini 5" by Edvin Marton.

"I felt satisfied with almost everything, but I think the double Rippon Lutz was the best," Lake said. "It was the first one I landed perfectly in competition."

California's Jeffrey Chen claimed the pewter medal with 46.31 points.

— Mimi Whetstone

PAIRS

Two sets of twins who train at the same rink in California emerged as the top finishers.

Jasmine Fendi and Joshua Fendi, 11 years old and third at the juvenile level in 2013, edged their rink mates, Greta Crafoord and John Crafoord, by less than one point — 46.44 to their 45.89. The Crafoords, who turned 13 two weeks

before the Championships, finished fourth in 2013.

"I really like how our elements went," Jasmine said. "At the last few competitions, we had struggled with our side-by-side jumps and I think at this competition we landed them pretty well."

The Fendis, who train at the East West Ice Palace in Artesia, Calif., under coaches Peter Opeppard and Karen Kwan Opeppard, finished with the event-best program component scores.

"They've focused on their skating skills, which is so important these days: quality of spins, quality of jumps, quality of pairs skating tricks," said Opeppard, who was a three-time U.S. pairs champion and an Olympic bronze medalist in the late 1980s with Jill Watson.

The Fendis performed to music

Jasmine Fendi and Joshua Fendi



from the soundtrack of the movie *Brave*.

"That was my daughter's choice," Opegard said. "She saw the movie and she said, 'Dad, do you think you can have one of your pairs teams skate to that?'"

The Fendis delivered a polished program that featured a pair of Level 4 spins, side-by-side double loops and a double flip-Axel sequence.

The Crafoords, competing for the Indiana World Skating Academy, moved to California last year and have been pupils of Opegard and Rafael Arutyunyan. They moved to California because of their father's job.

The team showed a lot of heart in their performance to "Entry of the Gladiators" by Julius Fucik, as John began jumping again just days before the event. He's been dealing with Osgood-Schlatter's disease, a painful swelling of the bump on the upper part of the shinbone just below the knee.

"I'm so proud of him," Opegard said. "He has that knee problem and he hasn't been able to jump. He just put as much of it as he possibly could together in these last couple of days and here he is in second place at nationals. My hat just goes off to him, because he had so much adversity this year and they've managed to grow in their skating skills through all of it. Both are fierce competitors."

Highlights from their program included side-by-side double flips and Level 4 spins.

The Florida-based team of Sarah Rose and Tommy-Jo Nyman earned the bronze medal with 44.93 points. They began skating together just seven months ago.

"We've been training every day," Nyman said. "Making it to nationals was a dream come true."

The team connected well during their "Charlie Chaplin" free skate, with their death spiral and throw double loop as highlights.

Nyman, who also won the juvenile men's title, is a regular on the podium at National Showcase.

"I love to have fun and Showcase lets me do that," he said.

Michigan's Devin Pascoe and Samuel Parks finished with the pewter medal, scoring 43.93 points.

— Troy Schwindt

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Josephine Hagan and JT Michel

ICE DANCE

At just 11 and 13 years old, it's hard to imagine that Josephine Hagan and JT Michel have already spent three years as a team. But when the duo took the ice in Boston, their maturity and unison proved well beyond their ages as they topped the ice dance field with sophisticated style.

"They're the first ones on the ice and the last ones off," Donny Adair, a member of the duo's coaching team, said. "They put so much work into everything."

The team from Kentucky topped the 12-team field with 73.82 points.

"It takes a lot of hard work, and they do work," Susan Caudill, the team's head coach of three years, added. "They are a joy to work with. They work so hard every session, every lesson and that's what it takes."

Second after the pattern dances, the duo performed an elegant free dance, choreographed by Kelley Morris-Adair, to music from *My One and Only*, that received positive grades of execution on each of its five elements, including Level 4 twizzles.

"I tried to explain the whole theme of the program and the style of the movie," Morris-Adair said. "We worked a lot on their presentation and frame and the danceability of the program. I've done two free dances for them now and just love working with them."

"I'm really happy," Michel said. "I want to thank all of our coaches for pushing us so hard to do our best. I've worked a lot on keeping my shoulders down and my arms and chin up. I think that really helps with the overall look and feel of the performance."

The team catapulted from an eighth-place finish at the 2013 U.S. Championships to a gold-medal performance in Boston, a feat Caudill credits to the team's experience.

"To have gone through the experience and to see what it's about and to know what it takes — that's the difference," Caudill explained. "They've learned how to compete like they train."

First-year team Molly Cesanek and Maxwell Gart, whose "Good Golly, Miss Molly" free dance had the audience dancing along to every beat, claimed the silver medal, thanks to a segment-best 41.99

points. The duo, who train primarily in Connecticut, earned a Level 4 on both of their lifts, en route to a total score of 73.51 points.

Their placement on the podium has the team looking to the future.

"I want to go to the Olympics, but I am sure it's everyone's dream," Cesanek said. "Max and I look up to Meryl (Davis) and Charlie (White) and we did find out that they also earned a silver medal in juvenile dance at nationals, so we are hoping we are on the right path."

Finishing with the bronze medal were Cherri Chen and Edward Jahoda, with 71.76 points. Chen and Jahoda, who train at rinks in Maryland and Virginia, performed their free dance to music by Elvis Presley.

"We were most happy about earning the highest component scores in both pattern dances," Chen said.

Wisconsin's Meredith Kent and Palmer Middlekauff rebounded from a sixth-place finish in the pattern dance segment to earn the pewter medal with 69.56.

— Mimi Whetstone

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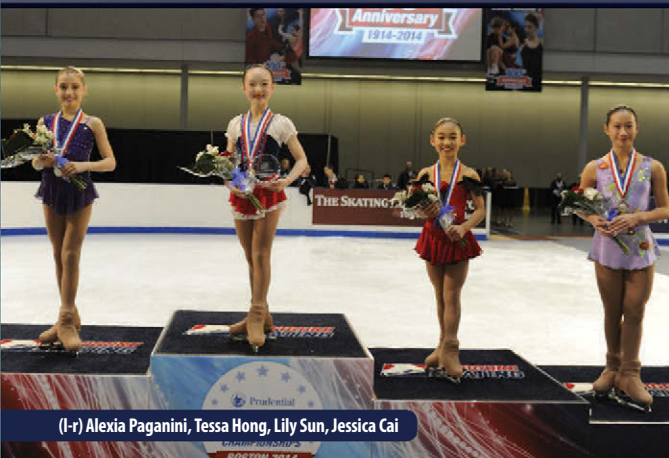
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PHOTO BY CHAD PHILLIPS



(l-r) Alexia Paganini, Tessa Hong, Lily Sun, Jessica Cai



(l-r) Liam Roumila, Kellen Johnson, Justin Wichmann, Peter Liu



(l-r) Alexandria Schmainda/Matthew Scorallo, Megan Griffin/Andrew Civiello, Sophia Pearson/Keenan Prochnow, Joanna Hubbard/William Hubbard



(l-r) Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, Caroline Green/Gordon Green, Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, Eleanor Babaev/Scott Wenner

MEDALISTS

LADIES

GOLD
Tessa Hong
116.93

SILVER
Alexia Paganini
107.63

BRONZE
Lily Sun
101.15

PEWTER
Jessica Cai
98.30

MEN

GOLD
Kellen Johnson
110.11

SILVER
Liam Roumila
105.54

BRONZE
Justin Wichmann
101.70

PEWTER
Peter Liu
101.20

PAIRS

GOLD
Megan Griffin/
Andrew Civiello
93.87

SILVER
Alexandria Schmainda/
Matthew Scorallo
93.65

BRONZE
Sophia Pearson/
Keenan Prochnow
89.43

PEWTER
Joanna Hubbard/
William Hubbard
88.88

ICE DANCE

GOLD
Caroline Green/
Gordon Green
105.76

SILVER
Katherine Grosul/
Cameron Colucci
98.07

BRONZE
Emma Gunter/
Caleb Wein
97.39

PEWTER
Eleanor Babaev/
Scott Wenner
81.84

LADIES

Tessa Hong, who finished sixth at the Southwest Pacific Regional Championships last year, secured the gold medal after claiming both the short program and free skate en route to an overall score of 116.93 points.

Her free skate to Léo Delibes' *Copellia* included a double Axel-double toe combination, two Level 4 spins and program components far above the rest of the 12-skater field.

"I felt I was well-trained and was able to stay focused and really skate from my heart, listening and feeling every beat of the music in my two programs," Hong said.

Hong, who is also the 2011 U.S. juvenile silver medalist, is coached by legend Frank Carroll in Palm Springs, Calif. Carroll describes his young pupil as balletic and musical, and he believes in her potential.

"She's very young," Carroll said. "It's hard to tell how it's going to turn out, but she has all the promise in the world."

Hong's long-term goal is to qualify for the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.

"The 2018 Olympics would be special, indeed, since my parents are both from South Korea," she said. "My short-term goal is to train well for next season and acquire all the jumps I need to compete at the novice level."

New York's Alexia Paganini grabbed the silver medal. Paganini made quite an impression, completing two of the most technically difficult programs, which included a triple Salchow combination and double Axel in her short program, and three triples and two double Axels in her free skate. She finished with 107.63 points.

Paganini also demonstrated her musical range, as her short program was fun and spunky while her free skate was soft and lyrical, a stylistic choice made by her coaches Gilberto Viadana and Michela Boschetto.

"We believe that at this age they have to explore different styles, and so it's a way to help them to grow and to experiment in which way they like to skate," Boschetto said.

"So, it's like one short is more fun and sparkly, and the long program is more quiet and romantic. We work through both styles so she will be ready to go through everything when she's older."

Moving up from fifth after the short program, California's Lily Sun claimed the bronze medal. The tiny dynamo skated larger than life during her "Don Quixote" performance after Justin Dillon, who coaches her along with Tammy Gambill, offered her some words of encouragement.

"I just told her to skate big because she doesn't even meet the boards, so to go up to where the judges are actually sitting is really tough for her because she's so tiny," he said.

In addition to this being her first U.S. Championships, this was also the 9-year-old's first time attempting and landing a triple jump in competition. Although her Salchow was downgraded, Sun did score well on her other elements, which included two double Axels, one of which was in combination with a double toe,



Tessa Hong

"I was satisfied that I was relaxed and really focused on performing both my short and long programs," Sun said.

Sun's training mate Jessica Cai took home the pewter medal in a program that featured a triple Salchow and a double Axel, earning 98.30 points. Cai also trains with Dillon and Gambill.

— Kristin Zinsmeister

MEN

Kellen Johnson returned to Colorado Springs, Colo., late last fall and stepped up training under his longtime coach Tom Zakrajsek.

The result: a gold medal.

"I feel like I worked much

harder this year," said Johnson, who failed to qualify for the 2013 U.S. Championships. "I took my training seriously instead of not focusing and not training the best I can. I think working hard is the hardest thing to do and it's really tough to keep going through hard times, but when you do it, it pays off. I've had lots of changes this year, but now I'm with the coach that I wanted to be with and I'm back."

Johnson, who won the silver medal at the juvenile level in 2012, moved with his mother to California when she took a new job in February 2013. While there, he learned a lot from his new coaches. But sev-

PHOTOS BY CHAD PHILLIPS

eral months later, Johnson decided that his new training environment wasn't working out and he returned to Colorado Springs. Zakrajsek had coached Johnson for three years before his departure.

In Boston, Johnson finished third in the short program before putting everything together in the free skate en route to a score of 110.11. He performed his free skate to Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata."

"Last year, I think he was ready to compete in Omaha but he had a rough skate at sectionals," Zakrajsek said. "I think the main thing that he has going for him this year is the confidence in his triple jumping. He was doing them last year but not as consistently, and he didn't get the results he wanted at every competition. He's really matured and he's a confident skater. Like he said, hard work pays off and it's all coming together."

Kellen Johnson



He landed three triple jumps in his free skate, one of which was in combination.

Short program leader Liam Roulmila of New Jersey secured the silver medal with 105.54 points. A triple toe-double toe combination generated 6.34 points, the highest-scoring element of his free skate, performed to a pair of soundtracks from the Japanese anime series "Bleach." Roulmila finished fifth at the 2013 U.S. Championships.

"I would definitely have preferred to win a gold medal, but I was still happy to win the silver," Roulmila said. "And getting the silver just makes me want to work harder as I move up to novice next year."

Roulmila did have some bad luck in Boston, his mother said. On the final day of the senior competition, he slipped on some standing water in one of the arena's restrooms

and broke his thumb. He was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, where a cast was placed on his hand and arm.

Justin Wichmann, second in the free skate, claimed the bronze medal with 101.70 points. The skater from Sugar Land, Texas, landed two triple jumps, one in combination, and received a Level 4 for his opening combination spin. He entered his “Malaguena” free skate in seventh place.

“Winning a medal at nationals had been my goal for the last couple of years, so finally achieving this goal was a great feeling, one I’ll always remember,” Wichmann said. “I felt like my training had come down to this moment and all my hard work and dedication had finally paid off.”

Delaware’s Peter Liu collected the pewter medal, scoring 101.20 points.

— Troy Schwandt

PHOTO BY CHAD PHILLIPS



Megan Griffin and Andrew Civiello

PAIRS

Together just 18 months, 11-year-old Megan Griffin and 17-year-old Andrew Civiello rallied to secure the pairs title by .022 points. It was a statement win for the team, which finished sixth at the juvenile level in 2013.

The Arizona-based duo, coached by Doug Ladret, overcame some problems with their side-by-side jumps, executing two throw double jumps and a Level 4 lift to capture the free skate and title with 93.87 points. They skated to music from the movie *The Producers*.

“We have improved on the

performing and components side of our skating,” Civiello said. “Our coaches worked on our skating skills going into and coming out of all of the elements. We also worked with a dance instructor to better enhance the dancing aspects of both of our programs.”

Griffin said the chemistry she has with Civiello has improved greatly over last year.

“I think that’s why our component scores were higher this year,” Griffin said. “Andrew treats me like a little sister and is protective of me, and it helps that I think he’s funny.”

Griffin and Civiello finished

second in their short program to “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” which received praise from Ladret for their showmanship and overall performance.

“They really went after that second mark,” he said. “There were a lot of smiles, a lot of pizzazz, good unison.”

The team plans to move up to novice next year.

“I have a lot to learn this season with new lifts and perfecting our double twist, but look forward to the challenges we face,” Griffin said.

Short program leaders Alexandria Schmainda, 14, and Matthew

Scoralle, 16, collected the silver medal with 93.65 points. The California-based team, who completed their third year together, were fourth last year at the intermediate level.

"They've trained so hard this year," coach Themi Leftheris said. "They've made a lot of improvements in their skating skills and worked on getting a double twist. I think we're all really pleased that they went out there and delivered two clean programs. They've been really consistent in practice, but keeping that as you progress through the levels is what's most important."

Performing their free skate to music from the movie *Pearl Harbor*, Schmainda and Scoralle opened with a double twist, a lift and throw double flip, which all received positive grades of execution.

The team credits their coaches, Leftheris and Naomi Nari Nam Poor (2007 U.S. bronze medalists) for teaching them about how to train hard and smart. They also look at the 2014 U.S. Olympic pairs teams of Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir and Felicia Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay as role models.

"Marissa and Simon are such great athletes, have a great attitude and are very personable," Schmainda said. "With Felicia and Nathan, you can see so much sincerity in every program they perform."

The team's goal next year is to move up to novice and show at least one triple throw and work on the triple twist.

Sophia Pearson, 14, and Keenan Prochnow, 16, skated two clean programs and grabbed the bronze medal with 89.43 points.

Performing to music from the movie *The Holiday*, the team from Illinois executed a conservative yet solid free skate.

"We've purposely kept the difficulty down and just worked on the quality of everything," coach Chris Howarth said. "We are going to go home and work on the technical stuff and hopefully be back next year."

The team, Pearson said, has improved in many different ways from last season.

"Our speed across the ice, flow of the program and emotional ex-

ecution helped us improve on our component marks," she said. "For next season, we want to increase our technical score by mastering more difficult elements, specifically the double twist, more advanced lifts and possibly a throw triple jump."

Florida's Joanna Hubbard and William Hubbard seized the pewter medal with 88.88 points.

— Troy Schwandt

ICE DANCE

Siblings Caroline and Gordon Green repeated as U.S. champions, running away with the title by nearly eight points.

The Greens, who were the juvenile titlists in 2013, finished first in both the pattern and free dance segments of the competition, recording an overall score of 105.76 points. They performed their free dance to a slow piece titled "Samba Pa Ti" by Carlos Santana, which transitioned to an upbeat song called "Mambo," performed by Greek singer Helena Paparizou.

"Gordon and Caroline are one of our youngest teams and probably the most promising," said Alexei Kiliakov, who coaches them along with Elena Novak and Dmytri Ilin, in Wheaton, Md.

"They really work hard and they really like to skate, especially Caroline. I think she is a future star. She has something that is not possible to teach. It is a charisma and natural talent and a gift. But what's more important is that they show a mature look."

Gordon described the team's free dance as "the best we've ever done."

"I was most satisfied with our twizzles," he said. "It was an element we had worked hard on improving all season."

They achieved Level 4 for their two lifts, combination spin and twizzles.

"Our coaches have worked with us on how to show feeling and expression with the music," Caroline added. "We've also taken ballroom dance and ballet lessons, which helped us in Boston."

Pennsylvania's Katherine Grosul and Cameron Colucci, the 2013

PHOTO BY CHAD PHILLIPS



Caroline Green and Gordon Green

juvenile pewter medalists, garnered the silver medal. They received Level 4 for their two lifts and spin, generating 98.07 points.

"They really went all out and couldn't have done any better," coach Oleg Fediukov said. "We definitely worked a lot on getting more speed and power. This year, they had a lot more expression on the ice for the compulsories and the free dance. They have improved their lifts and their twizzles. They're so together and so strong that we couldn't have asked for a better outcome."

Slava Uchitel and Ruslan Goncharov also coach the duo in Ardmore, Pa.

The Greens' training mates, Emma Gunter and Caleb Wein, finished second in the free dance and won the bronze medal with 97.39

points.

"This is their first nationals," Kiliakov said. "They are just starting up and they progressed really quickly and they made huge steps and had a great competition."

Gunter and Wein completed two Level 4 lifts and earned a Level 3 for their combination spin and twizzles.

"We did our very best," Gunter said.

Eleanor Babaev and Scott Wenner won the pewter medal with 81.84 points.

"I think today everything fell into place. I was pleased with how they carried the speed through (the program)," coach Yasa Nechaeva said. "The level of performance was strong."

— Kristin Zinsmeister

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Young athlete accomplishes big things!

BY LINDSEY WEBER

In 2011, young skater Avery Wieczorek lost a friend to leukemia.

Dominic was in third grade at the time he was diagnosed, and he passed away only eight months later. His death was hard for her to understand, as he seemed like a normal, healthy and energetic boy who loved hanging out with his brothers, participated in Boy Scouts and played baseball.

Avery had many questions about why this would happen and told her parents she felt helpless. At that time Dominic was undergoing chemo at the University of Michigan. Instead of sitting around, Avery acted. It started with a lemonade stand with her best friend and fellow skater, Claire. They made close to \$75 the first day; they used the money to buy Dominic toys to play with at the hospital.

Avery realized then that even a small gesture could make someone else's world seem that much better. Her desire to make a difference grew.

"One day after my friend Dominic died of leukemia, I saw his younger brother on the playground at our elementary school," Avery, 9, said. "When I came home that day I was sobbing; I couldn't pull myself together. That

Avery Wieczorek and her friend Claire participate in the LLS Light the Night walk to help raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



was the day that I realized that I had to help. I joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) and from then on I have been trying my best to be a part of this cause and do anything I can to stop cancer."

The lemonade stand was cool, but she wanted to do something bigger. After much thought, Avery and her third grade class came up with the "Dominic Dash." Avery and her friends would run a 5K race to raise money for the LLS. The team's motto became "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."

They set a goal of \$2,000 for their first year and, with a lot of dedication, Avery's team raised more than \$10,000. Dominic Dash was named the No. 2 Friends and Family team



Friends of Dominic show their support for their friend with a memory star.

event in southeast Michigan.

That event fueled Avery's imagination for other ways she could raise money. In the spring of 2013 she came up with the idea of hosting a skating fundraiser at her rink. She thought combining fundraising with something she loved would make the event successful. Her rink donated the ice and she and her friends spent days going door to door at local businesses in Rochester, Mich., telling them stories about Dominic and asking for them to pledge their support.

"When I ask people to donate or get involved, it feels amazing to see how much they



Avery accepts an award from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for her fundraising efforts.

care, and I feel like we are doing good for the people who are very sick and in the hospital," Avery said. "It made me feel so good that even strangers understood Dominic's story. When I went into one restaurant and told the manager Dominic's story, he actually started crying. It felt so great to see the goodness in people and how generous they can be."

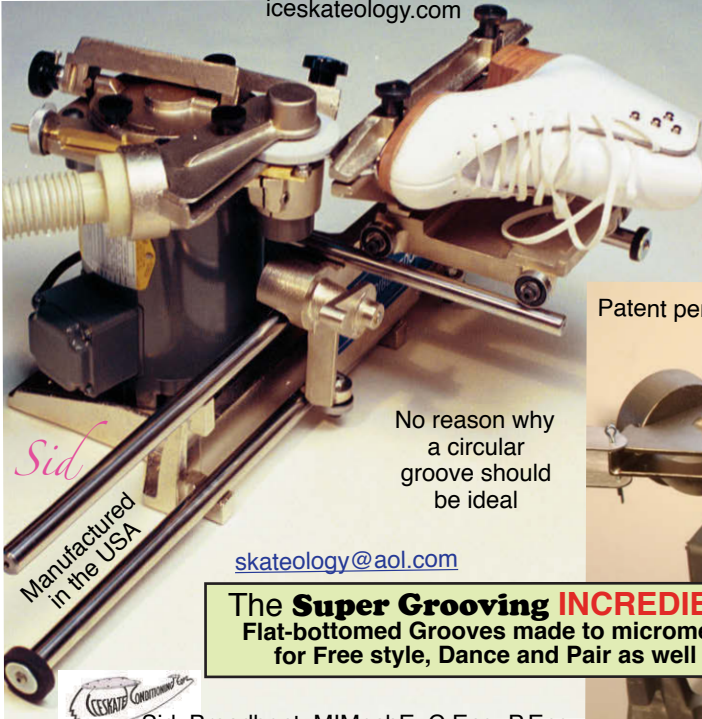
The skating event raised close to \$2,000 in one day. More than 150 people came to the event. Avery's friends enjoyed skating, and she was able to perform her competition program to show everyone what she does best.

In January 2014, Avery accepted the award for the No. 1 Friends and Family team event in southeast Michigan. Avery, along with her team, has raised more than \$25,000 for the LLS. This is proof that little girls can accomplish big things!

For more information on the LLS, visit www.LLS.org.

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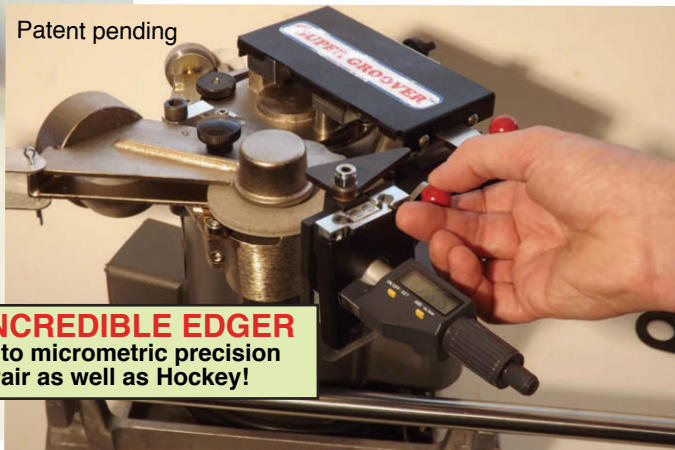
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'Survey says ...'

Input from clubs essential to building strategic plan

by SUSI WEHRLI-MCLAUGHLIN

As the current Olympic quadrennial comes to a close, the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors and the Strategic Planning Committee are busy developing the next four-year strategic plan for the association.

The first order of business was to gather information from our clubs through a brief survey. Club presidents were asked questions on a variety of topics such as membership trends, main reasons why new members are joining their clubs, main challenges each club faces, services clubs are utilizing provided by U.S. Figure Skating, which programs and activities members are taking part in, and to share their opinions in a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis.

We received 244 responses.

1. In the past year, has your club membership increased or decreased?

- 56%** Stayed about the same or close to the same (+/- 5)
- 28%** Increased by more than 5%
- 18%** Decreased by more than 5%

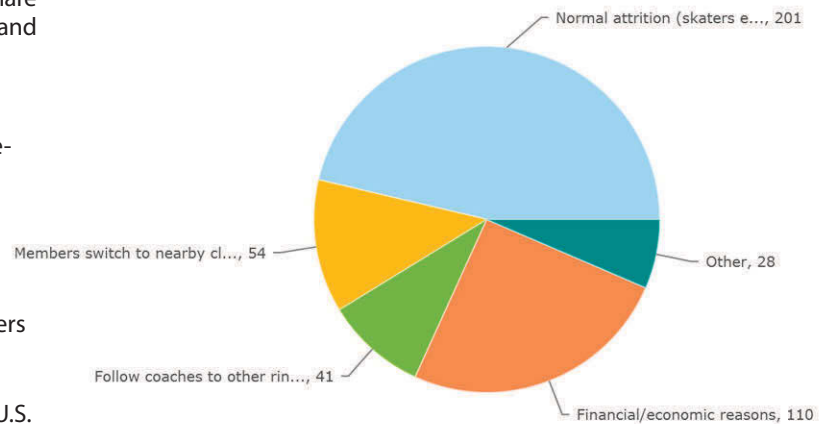
2. What is the main source of new members? Top three answers listed below.

- 36%** U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program
- 22%** Utilizing the new membership categories offered by U.S. Figure Skating (introductory, four-year collegiate, subsequent)
- 13%** Members transfer from other area clubs

3. What are the main challenges your club faces? Top four answers listed below.

- 23%** Revenue generation
- 23%** Finding volunteers
- 18%** Securing enough ice time
- 12%** Working with rink management

4. What are the reasons members leave your club?



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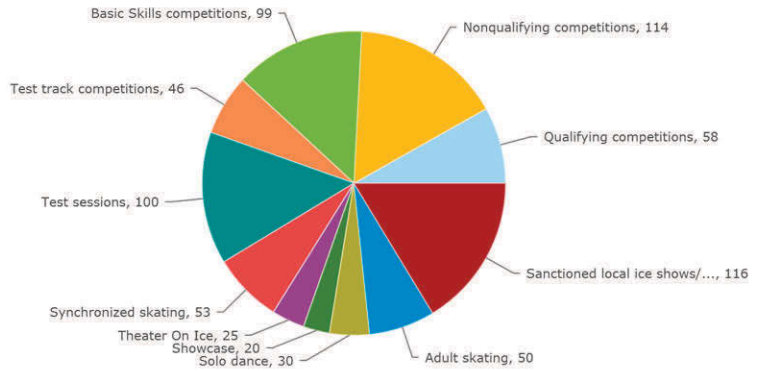
Available Resources: Based on some of the responses received, we want to remind you of all of the resources available to you free on www.usfigureskating.org. Please check back often as we continue to add more information all the time. If you have a question or cannot locate something, please contact memberservices@usfigureskating.org.

5. Please list the services you have utilized offered by U.S. Figure Skating.
33% U.S. Figure Skating website
27% Questions answered by headquarters staff or committee chairs
21% Webinars
15% Participate in the sectional vice-presidents monthly conference calls

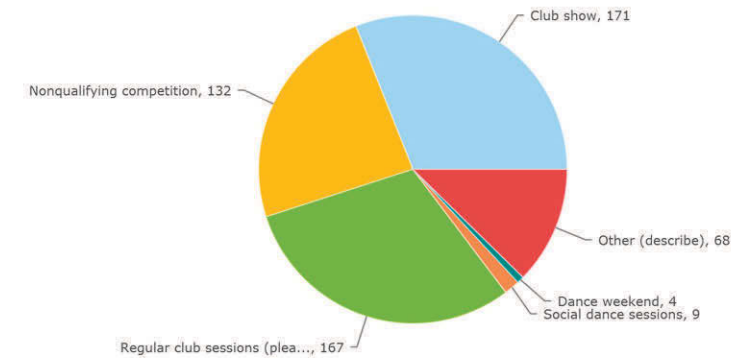
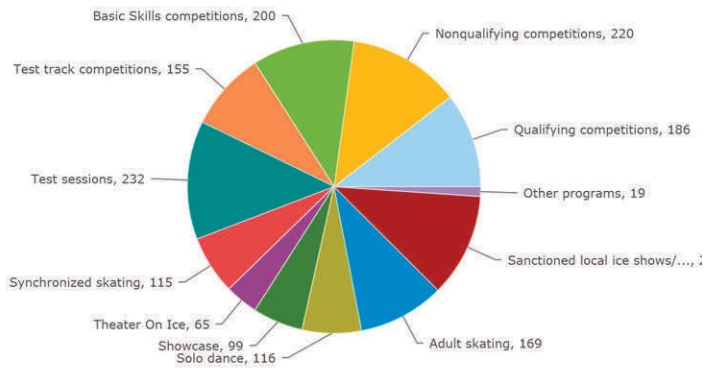
6. How would you describe the image of figure skating in the U.S.?
20% Very positive
51% Positive
24% Neutral
5% Negative

7. Do your club members participate or compete in the following areas? (Check all that apply).

8. Which programs have been the most effective at retaining members?



9. What activities does your club host on an annual basis?



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Next Steps: The information gathered is being used in the development of the strategic plan. The Membership Committee is following up with a more-detailed survey and will share those results in the coming months. Please share your feedback with us, as we'd like to hear from every club.

(l-r) Steven Hsu, Amy Evidente, Doug Williams, Janis Engel, Mariam Mohajer-Rahbari and Jed Hopkins.



PHOTO BY LEXI ROHNER

All Year FSC celebrates 75 years

The All Year Figure Skating Club celebrated its 75th anniversary on Jan. 17 with a diamond jubilee gala at the Downtown on Ice rink at Pershing Square in Los Angeles.

Formed in 1939, All Year FSC has hosted many prominent competitions, including the 2002 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships and its annual Golden West Championships. Its members have won national titles and competed at the Olympics, World Championships and other major international competitions. The club sent 33 skaters to the 2014 Prudential U.S. Championships, where they won nine medals, including a silver medal

by Olympic ice dancer Madison Chock.

Parents, skaters, officials and friends joined to commemorate decades of figure skating in Southern California. The fourth largest U.S. club with more than 500 members, All Year FSC supports all levels from the beginner to the elite competitor.

Club president Janis Engel welcomed attendees. Doug Williams served as emcee for the evening's skating show. Williams recognized special guests, including club firsts: 1970 U.S. junior champion Richard Ewell, Olympian Scott Wendland (1992), and Inoue and John Baldwin, who performed the first throw triple

Axel at the 2006 Olympics. Other honorees included Naomi Nari Nam, Carol Hunt and Danielle Kahle.

Guests were treated to a star-studded skating show featuring many of today's top skaters as well as various greats of the past. Trifun Zivanovic proved he can still do a triple toe. Representing the U.S. 23 years ago, Sharon Carz and Williams reunited for a performance. Baldwin and Inoue thanked Williams for the club's support. Coach Crystalrose Guerra's award-winning

Theatre on Ice group closed the show with an energetic performance to *The Addams Family*. Richard Dornbush and Philip Warren performed side-by-side back flips during one of the curtain calls.

"I have been honored to be the president and part of this great club with wonderful volunteers and a board of directors that passionately care about what we do," Engel said. "It's truly a special evening."

— Lexi Rohner

Culver Ice Arena closes doors

A big piece of skating history disappeared in early February with the closing of the Culver Ice Arena in Culver City, Calif.

For 52 years, the arena served as a training home for skating greats such as Scott Hamilton, Michelle Kwan, Tai Babilonia and the Los Angeles Kings, as well as the place to learn to skate, hang out and have fun for countless others in Southern California. More than 2,000 people showed up for arena's final free skate session on Feb. 2.

The venerable rink has been sold to a developer, who plans to transform the building into a multi-purpose facility that features rock-climbing, yoga and a fitness center.

"Culver City Ice Arena was my second home," Babilonia, a five-time U.S. pairs champion and 1979

World champion with Randy Gardner, said in a Los Angeles Times article. "I know every nook and cranny.... It was the coolest rink."

An online petition drive to save the rink is under way, as the new owners work to meet the zoning requirements. The petition has been signed by more than 20,000 people.

Skater jumps into action during attempted kidnapping

Jennifer Jones, a veteran performer in National Showcase and Theatre on Ice, had a harrowing experience in early February in her native Hawaii.

As reported on CNN, Jones witnessed a sports utility vehicle crash into a concrete barrier. A woman in the SUV was hanging out the passenger window, with blood all over her face. Jones stopped and pulled the lady from the fiery wreckage.

Two men were also in the vehicle, allegedly attempting a kidnapping. The driver left the SUV and climbed into Jones' tiny blue sports car and took off. Jones had left her cellphone in her car, so police were able to use an app to

locate the car less than a mile from the crash.

The woman in the wreck is recovering from her injuries and one of the male suspects was arrested. The man who stole Jones' vehicle remains at large.

"This won't hinder me from helping someone else," Jones told CNN. "I'm not going to let someone else's bad behavior change my good behavior."



SC of Lake Placid has plans for 80th anniversary year

The Skating Club of Lake Placid is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year and plans to host several skating events in conjunction with the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

"We are so proud of our 80 years teaching Lake Placid to skate," club president Christie Sausa said. "The SCLP is an integral part of the community and Lake Placid's skating history, and we look forward to many more years of service."

Based at the Olympic Center, the SCLP includes skaters of all ages and abilities including Basic Skills and adult participants. The club has hosted several major competitions, developed national and international competitors, and encouraged members to continue participating in the sport as volunteers and officials.

The club was formed and operating in 1932 as the Adirondack Skating Club, said Barbara Kelly, the club's historian. However, it wasn't sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating until 1933. In 1936, the club's request to change its name to the Skating Club of Lake Placid was granted.

In honor of the anniversary, a commemorative logo was created by club member and local artist Ann Richardson. The striking image blended the former and current logo to create a unique logo to be used on the new SC of Lake Placid jacket and other items.

An anniversary celebration is planned at the club's annual banquet.

For more information on the Skating Club of Lake Placid, visit www.skatingcluboflakeplacid.org.

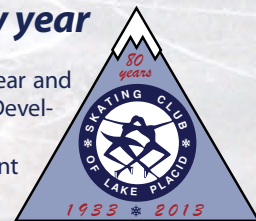


PHOTO BY ROLF JUARIO

New York synchro team rallies to help young boy

The Houstonettes, a synchronized skating team with the Hudson Mohawk Figure Skating Club in Troy, N.Y., partnered with the Adirondack lacrosse team in January to raise money to help a 10-year-old boy named Jay who has a terminal illness.

The two groups took part in a skating fundraiser at the Clifton Park rink in Clifton Park, N.Y., where they raised \$4,000 for research into a genetic illness called Niemann-Pick disease. Jay's family has been trying to enroll their son into experimental treatments since his diagnosis.

Jay's aunt coaches the Houstonettes, while his sister plays lacrosse.

"We are so proud as a community that we could come together as girls helping girls to help a little boy in need," club board member Kathleen Ozsvath said. "We raised awareness in our community as well. The joy of skating was seen on everyone's faces, as they stepped on the ice to skate. Coaches, advanced skaters, children of all ages, moms, dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters all shared in this experience."



SC of Morris helps fight breast cancer

Figure skaters at Mennen Arena in Morristown, N.J., shined a little brighter this fall thanks to the "Pink the Rink" campaign — the Skating Club of Morris' breast cancer awareness fundraiser.

The club sold pink figure skating laces for \$10 a pair — all for the benefit of the Carol & Julius Rippel Breast Cancer Center at the Carol G. Simon Center of Morristown Medical Center.

"Breast cancer is one of the leading cancers in women and unfortunately too many friends, family and club members have been directly affected by it," said Moira Colquhoun, vice-president of the club who conceived of the fundraising idea.

Skaters embraced the idea and the club has raised \$900 through early February.

"We are looking forward to expanding Pink the Rink next year and donating more money to help fight this in our local community," Colquhoun said.

For those interested in purchasing pink laces to help the Skating Club of Morris fight breast cancer, contact the club at scmnj@gmail.com.



From Basic Skills to U.S. Championships

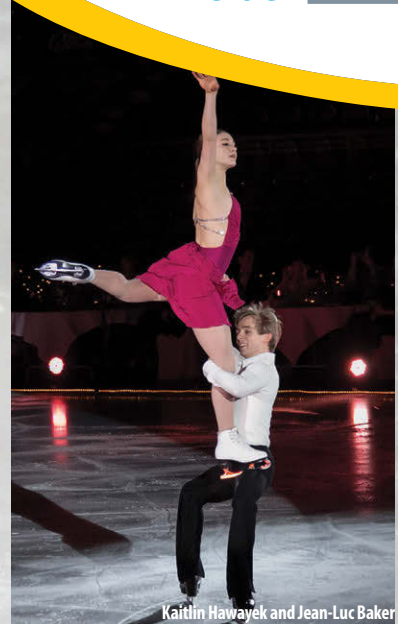
All seven of the skaters representing the Louisville Skating Academy (LSA) at the 2014 Prudential U.S. Championships started in its Basic Skills Program and have been members of the club since they first stepped on the ice.

"LSA was so proud to be represented by these seven skaters at the U.S. Championships," LSA Skating Director Rebecca Hatch-Purnell said. "We also are proud of our great coaches and the programming that supports skaters in achieving their goals. I remember these skaters in our learn-to-skate program and in our summer Basic Skills camp. They all participate in our free skate and power sessions, off-ice conditioning and ballet classes, clinics, competitions and shows."

LSA, based in Louisville, Ky., has approximately 250 members and underwrites 100 percent of training time for all Louisville-area skaters, from learn-to-skate through competitive training. LSA has between 300 and 400 skaters annually in its Basic Skills program.

"We encourage skaters to find their niche and be the best that they can be," Hatch-Purnell said.

(Front row, l-r) Louisville Skating Academy athletes competing at the 2014 U.S. Championships in Boston are Claire Purnell, Sophia Elder, Kate Finster, Josephine Hagan. Back row, l-r Luke Purnell, Christopher Elder, JT Michel.



Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker

TIM MCCORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Intimate evening provided at Winter Ice Gala

U.S. junior champion ice dancers Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker and 1984 Olympic bronze medalist Jozef Sabovcik headlined the second Winter Ice Gala at The Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee, Wash., on Jan. 31.

More than 200 guests were seated at tables at the edge of the ice for the dinner and ice show, which raised more than \$17,000 for the Center's youth enrichment fund. The fund enables local youth to learn to skate or attend a show, who might not otherwise be able to afford to do so.

In its inaugural year, the show's proceeds established an after-school program.

"This is a unique opportunity for students to take ice skating lessons and be introduced to a fun and safe activity that promotes physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle," Brian Flores, superintendent of Wenatchee School District, said.

Baker and Hawayek entertained the intimate audience with their beautiful skating, while Sabovcik showcased his signature back flip. The evening, presented by Numerica Credit Union, also featured the talents of the Wenatchee FSC, singers and a swing band under the direction of Louise Kapeikis, Town Toyota Center's skating director.

— Jennifer Bushong

Registration opens March 3

For more information, exercise guides and how you can become involved with the 2014 S.T.A.R.S. Program, visit www.STARScombine.org.

**EXCITEMENT
BUILDS FOR
2014 S.T.A.R.S.
SEASON**

Paul Wylie, 1992 Olympic silver medalist, will appear at the first S.T.A.R.S. Combine in Hyannis, Mass., on Friday, April 11. The Combine is open to all athletes and will be held in conjunction with the U.S. Adult Championships.

Wylie will participate in the testing, take part in a question-and-answer session as part of the workshop titled "Recovery Nutrition and Competition Day Fueling" and interact with S.T.A.R.S. participants.

This workshop will focus on eating for performance. What and when do athletes need to eat to boost on-ice performance? How can recovery nutrition help you maintain a healthy body composition? What can athletes eat on the run while staying healthy and properly fueled for training?



**Our featured
S.T.A.R.S. athletes
for 2014 are Olympian
Jason Brown and
international medalist
Ashley Cain.**

**JASON
BROWN**

**US FIGURE
SKATING**
S.T.A.R.S. Program

**2014 S.T.A.R.S.
COMBINES**

(subject to change)

APRIL 11

Hyannis, Mass.
(U.S. Adult Championships)

APRIL 25

Charleston, S.C.

MAY 19

Columbus, Ohio

MAY 4

Ontario, Calif.

MAY 31

Dallas

MAY 31

Orlando, Fla.

JUNE 7

Fort Wayne, Ind.

JUNE 7

Denver

JUNE 15

Atlanta

JUNE 22

Laurel, Md.

JUNE 22

Stockholm, N.J.

JUNE 28

Boston

JUNE 28

Rochester, Minn.

JUNE 29

San Jose, Calif.

JULY 13

Chicago

JULY 19

Louisville, Ky.

JULY 25

Charlotte, N.C.

JULY 25

Newark, Del.

DATE TBA

Detroit

DATE TBA

Seattle

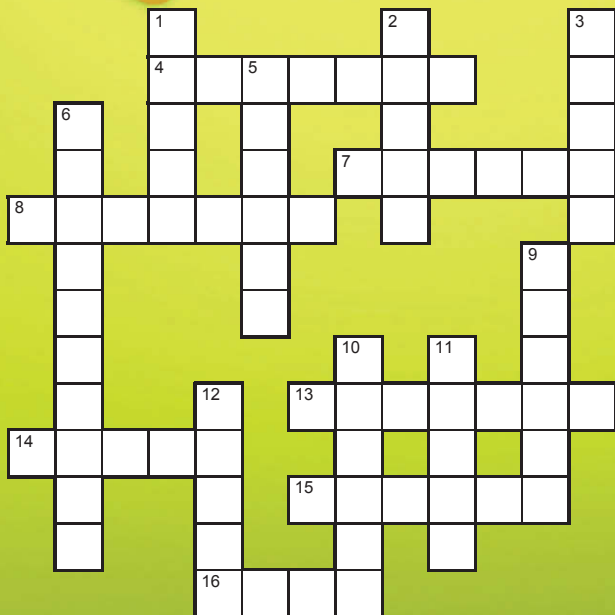
Brown and Cain, the top finishers of the previous year's S.T.A.R.S. campaign, will visit the city with the most participants registered by March 31. Register today at www.STARScombine.org



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Team USA

Answers to the crossword puzzle and word find appear on page 80.

Puzzles by Joel Kaplow



ACROSS

- For the 2013–14 season, Meryl and Charlie ice danced to *Scheherazade* by N. Rimsky-Korsakov, and Gracie Gold skated to P. Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty*. Perhaps these were chosen with Sochi in mind, as both composers are ____.
- Which ladies medal did Mirai Nagasu earn at the U.S. Championships in January?
- Maia and Alex Shibutani's free dance music this past season was a medley of Michael ____ tunes.
- Pairs skaters ____ Zhang and Nathan Bartholomay snagged the silver in Boston. She was so pleased with their free skate, she pumped her arms several times while lifted high in the air — before they were finished!
- The 2014 Olympic venues were divided into two clusters. The Mountain Cluster was located in the Caucasus Mountains, where outdoor sports like ski jumping and snowboarding were contested. The Coastal Cluster, which comprised buildings for indoor sports such as figure skating and curling, was located within the loong city of ____, which takes up 90 miles of Black Sea coastline!
- Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim, Joshua Farris, and Ashley Wagner all grabbed this medal in their respective disciplines at the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.
- ____ Schwindt, SKATING magazine's editor, presented the Readers' Choice Award for the 2013 season to Meryl and Charlie in Boston at the U.S. Championships. It was their second Michelle Kwan Trophy.

DOWN

- Gracie Gold's renowned coach, ____ Car-

- roll, made a bold move and completely changed her short program late in the season. It worked out well when she performed it for the first time in Boston, landing her in first place.
- Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir grabbed the gold for the second time in a row at the U.S. Championships. What is their discipline?
- The first U.S. Figure Skating Championships were held in 1914, with the centennial anniversary happening in Boston this year. The first host city was New ____, Connecticut. (Hint: The answer is also the first name of the 2012–13 World Junior pairs champ with partner Brandon Frazier.)
- This year marked the ____ time ice dancer Evan Bates earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team, this time with Madison Chock.
- In an NBC ad for the Olympics, ____ said, "You're on the ice alone with nothing but knives strapped to tennis shoes. It's so exciting!" (Hint: Her last name matched her medal in Boston. 2 wds.)
- Polina Edmunds made quite a splash in Boston by grabbing the ladies silver, especially since she was skating for the first time ever at the ____ level!
- The men's gold medal went to ____ Abbott at the U.S. Championships in January. He now has four of them in his collection.
- Meryl and Charlie made history at the U.S. Championships when they ice danced their way to the top of the podium for the ____ time in a row!
- Polina Edmunds made her senior debut, and Gracie Gold debuted her short program in Boston. "Debut" (deb-yoo) is derived from French, and it means the presentation of something to the public for the ____ time.

WORDS ON ICE

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

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!

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| ASHLEY WAGNER | JEREMY ABBOTT | POLINA EDMUNDS |
| EVAN BATES | MADISON CHOCK | SIMON SHNAPIR |
| FELICIA ZHANG | MARISSA CASTELLI | THE SHIBSIBS |
| GRACIE GOLD | MERYL AND CHARLIE | US OLYMPIC TEAM |
| JASON BROWN | NATE BARTHOLOMAY | |

Go Figure

by Gene Browning



HANA HUNTER

Age: 9

Hometown: Viera, Fla.

Club: Space Coast Iceplex FSC

Level: Pre-preliminary free skate and pre-juvenile moves in the field

Coach: Katie Nyman

How often I skate: At least nine times a week

Favorite skaters: Gracie Gold, Agnes Zawadzki

Favorite moves: Axel, double loop, camel/catch/backsit spin, split jumps and double Salchow

Goal: To go to the Theatre on Ice World Championships again someday, land all my doubles and triples and, of course, be in the Olympics!

How I got started: My older cousin skated and I loved it because it wasn't hot!

Memorable moments: Going to Spain with my Theatre on Ice team for the World Championships in 2013 and landing my Axel

MORE FAVORITES

Food: All pasta

Hobbies: Art, piano, archery, acrobatics

Movies: *The Smurfs 2*, *Despicable Me 2*, *Frozen*

TV shows: "Jessie," "Dog With a Blog"



ALICIA WU

Age: 12 **Hometown:** Boulder, Colo.

Club: Rocky Mountain FSC **Level:** Juvenile

How often I skate: I skate four days a week and dance ballet off ice.

Coaches: Lauren Thompson, Cindy Sullivan, Debbie Minter

Favorite skaters: Michelle Kwan, Rachael Flatt, Yu-Na Kim

Favorite moves: Biellmann spin, double flip, double toe

Goals: I want to land a double Axel and finish senior moves by the time I graduate high school. I also want to compete with Rachael Flatt someday. I really admire her success on the ice and in school.

How I got started: My sister took me skating when I was 7 just for fun. I got really into it and asked to go to the ice rink all the time. My parents then agreed to get me lessons.

Memorable moments: Getting first place at my first competition and meeting Rachael Flatt

MORE FAVORITES

Interests: I compete in math competitions and love to ski.

Foods: Sushi and chocolate

Singers: Kelly Clarkson and Lady Gaga

Movies: *Despicable Me* and *Frozen*

School subjects: Art and French

TV show: "Cake Boss"



If you would like to be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to rfelton@usfigureskating.org and include action and nonaction skating photographs of yourself. Include in your submission your name, address, home phone number (not for publication) and U.S. Figure Skating member number. Complete as many of the categories that you see printed in the KIDS Spotlight as you want, and we might feature you.

'Age doesn't need to define you' Passing senior tests all about desire

BY LEXI ROHNER

JASON SPICER, 37

RYE FSC
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
MASTERS SENIOR

Jason Spicer admits he lacks natural talent for skating, but his desire to learn, work and persevere has led to a fulfilling career on the ice.

"As an adult, failure can be demoralizing, especially when others doubt you and your goals, or tell you it's too late," Spicer, a graduate student at MIT, said.

One of Spicer's early coaches laughed in his face upon hearing the skater's testing goals, publicly remarking that Spicer was delusional.

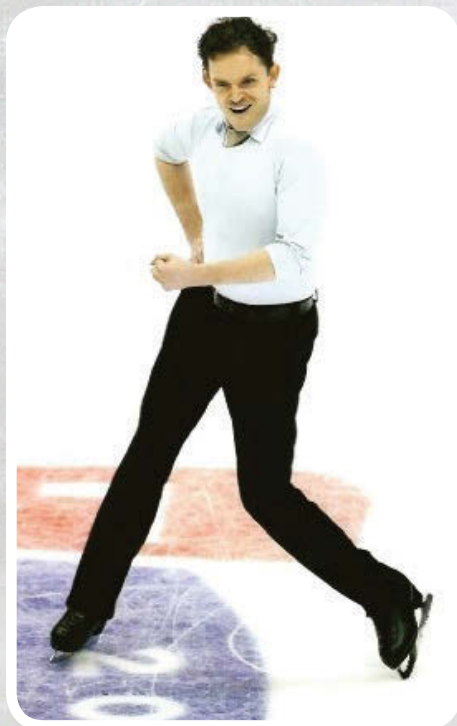
Undeterred, Spicer has passed countless tests over the last decade. He completed his adult moves-in-the-field and free skate tests at age 29, his senior moves-in-the-field test at age 33 and his senior free skate test at 37. In all, he's attempted 28 tests and failed five.

"If I'd given up after failing, I'd have stopped testing in 2004," Spicer said. "I did what I set out to do and it's an amazing feeling."

Spicer, who trains five days a week, credits his former coach and friend Kenny Moir for stressing the importance of figures during his formative years as a skater.

"Figures bring an entirely different aspect to the experience," Spicer said. "I still practice them and find it sad they're dying out."

Spicer, who plans to earn one more test medal in pairs, dance or figures, often finds himself quoting the title of Barbara Sher's book *It's Only Too Late If You Don't Start Now: How to Create Your Second Life At Any Age*.



CHOELEEN LOUNDAGIN, 46

SANTA ROSA, CALIF.
SANTA ROSA FSC
CHAMPIONSHIP MASTERS PAIRS

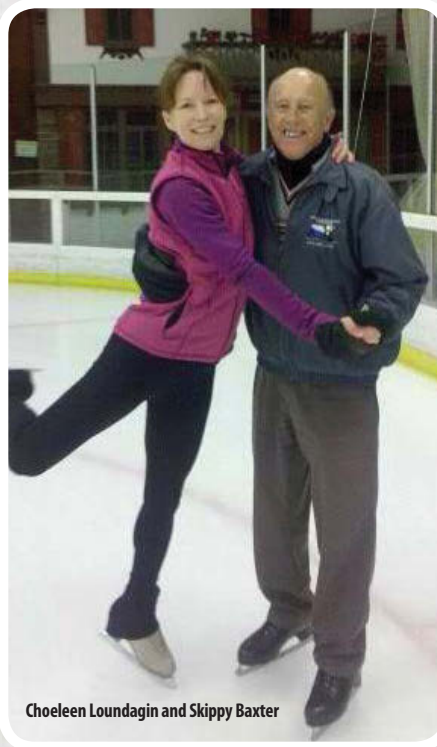
Choeleen Loundagin, the author of *The Inner Champion: A Mental Toughness Training Manual for Figure Skaters*, passed her senior pairs test on her 40th birthday.

"I proved to myself that the techniques I teach work," said Loundagin, who has a private practice as a performance enhancement consultant and has coached several adult skaters to titles at the U.S. Adult Championships. "I had a wonderful example in Skippy (Baxter, a U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame member who was her mentor) that age doesn't need to define you."

Loundagin, a triple gold medalist (figures, freestyle, moves in the field), holds a master's degree in sport psychology and teaches at Santa Rosa Junior College. She and partner William Abel won the inaugural championship pairs event at the 2007 U.S. Adult Championships, followed by silver in 2008. She teamed up with fellow coach Bilal Kheir in 2012 to realize their mutual goal of winning the championship pairs title in 2013, at the age of 46.

Despite serious knee and shoulder injuries, Loundagin is determined to continue challenging her mind and body.

"Adult skating is an excellent way to stay in shape," said Loundagin, who practices with Kheir twice a week. "Most importantly we want to have fun while preserving our bodies."



Choeleen Loundagin and Skippy Baxter

SAM GORDON, 26

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.
SC OF NEW YORK
CHAMPIONSHIP MASTERS SENIOR

Earning his degree wasn't Sam Gordon's only motivation during his collegiate years.

"I passed my senior tests in the spring and summer of 2008," Gordon said. "It was very important to me to complete all my tests before graduating college. At that time I had finished my junior year and wanted to pursue a competition season at the senior level as well."

Passing his senior tests felt the same as when he graduated from high school and college, he said.

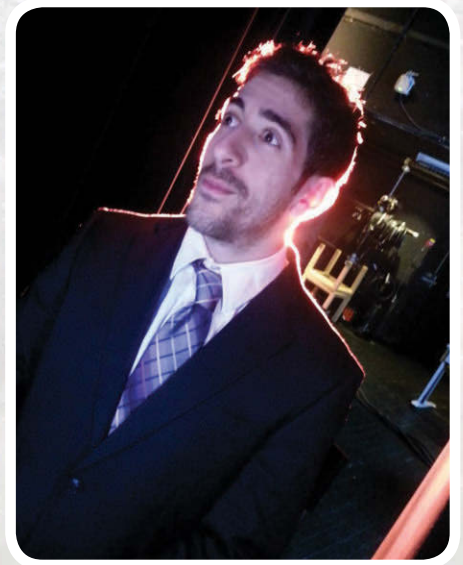
"It's that feeling of 'Hey, we'll let you run wild now in the real world.' There's always room for improvement in skating and the discovery never ends, but passing those tests has given me the satisfaction that I have learned all of the basics of figure skating with a refined quality."

Gordon, who skates three times a week and goes to the gym three times a week, said skating helps him leave the world behind him. His regular job is as a lighting designer for theatrical productions and other mediums of entertainment.

"Skating for me is a personal way of detoxing from the world," Gordon said. "It doesn't matter if I get on the ice at 6 a.m. before going to work or in the middle of the afternoon, the cold air, and the wind you feel when you skate fast and land jumps is always a refreshing, fun activity for me."

Gordon's skating goals include landing a double Axel and at least one triple jump next season. He added that goals and life are not always about taking the big steps.

"Sometimes it's about baby steps — several baby steps make for one giant one," he said.



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To learn more about the Destination SochiSM Family Tree Program or to purchase your leaf today, visit www.destinationsochi.org.



'AWESOME' PERFORMANCES AT MOZART CUP REIGNITE OLYMPIC CONVERSATION

by EMMELINE WEINERT

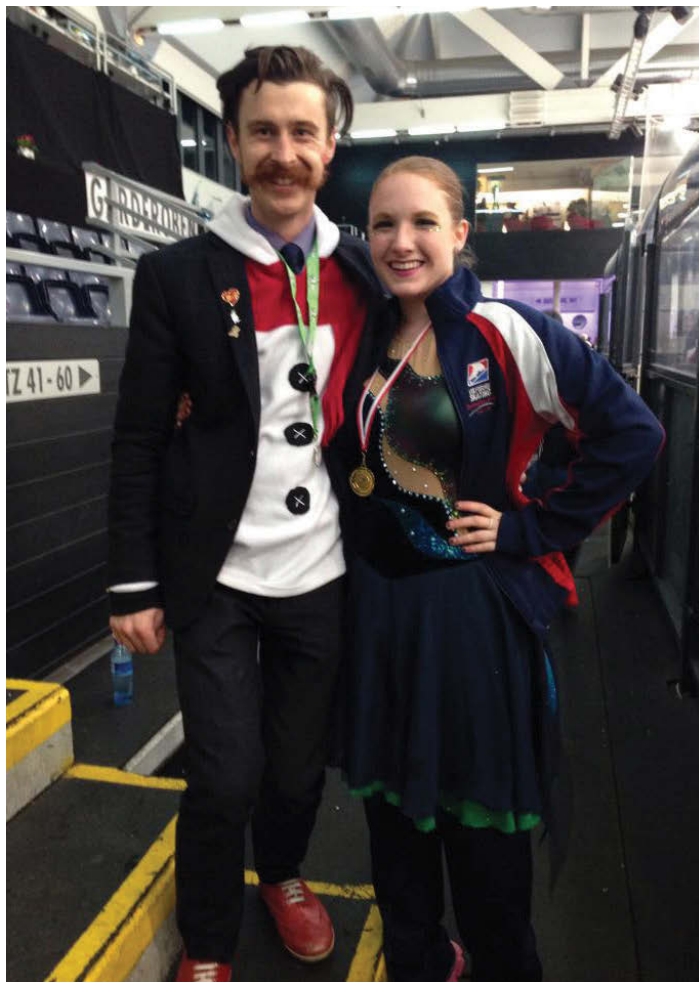
"I don't know a lot about synchronized skating, but I know a thing or two about awesome and that was awesome!"

Livestream commentator Ryan T. Thornton was everyone's favorite person at the Mozart Cup, and he sure got that one right. Synchronized skating is awesome. Traveling with Synchroettes junior, Skyliners junior, Miami University senior and my own California Gold girls, Team USA competed against some of the top teams in the world in Salzburg, Austria. Seeing the best of the sport and enjoying the spirit of international competitiveness was the highlight of the trip for me.

While in Salzburg, California Gold took two days to settle into the new time zone, practicing each morning and touring the area the rest of the day. We took the "Sound of Music" tour, as Salzburg was the home of the historical von Trapp family, as well as the location of many scenes from the beloved musical. That's not the only thing Salzburg can boast. As the competition suggests, it was also home of genius composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and was built around rich salt mines in a beautiful valley tucked between the Alps.

The Mozart Cup had more than its location to recommend it. The true appeal lay in the primary agenda for this overseas excursion: the skating. My passion for the sport of synchronized skating was reignited competing against and cheering for such amazing teams. Team USA was supportive of one another, led by team leaders Robin Greenleaf and Justin Dillon. My team experienced ups and downs with our practices and performances, but our team leaders and coaching staff continued to encourage us. I appreciated the cheering section made up of our other Team USA teams, as well as some die-hard parent fans. The chills I felt hearing "U-S-A" chanted while taking the ice will stay with me for years to come.

But as much as I love skating and competing, there is something about being a fan that brings out that bubbly excitement. My respect for my competitors was out of this world. Miami University represented the U.S. spectacularly, finishing fourth with its complexly choreographed "Cards" free skate. Nexxice of Canada performed its free skate to *West Side Story* which I enjoyed as much as the musical itself. The Rockettes of Finland were wildly



Emmeline Weinert and livestream announcer Ryan T. Thornton have a few laughs off the ice.

All junior and senior teams at the Mozart Cup came together to create the Olympic rings during the awards ceremony.



entertaining as the bad girls of synchro in a rock 'n' roll medley. But in my eyes no one could compare to the fresh approach taken by Marigold IceUnity in their gold-medal winning "Spirits" program. Their rarely seen asymmetric transitions and breathtaking stunts brought me to my feet.

These fantastic performances left everyone at the rink asking the question: "Why not synchro?" at the Olympics.

#WhyNotSynchro2018 was promoted by the Mozart Cup on social media throughout the event.

Almost every young skater dreams of one day going to the Olympics, and when I was young I dreamt that 2014 would be that year. I hope that someday soon a little of the limelight will be shared with the artists and athletes I proudly call my colleagues. Ryan T. Thornton's response bodes well for the world's reaction to synchro: It is awesome!



California Gold enjoys its "Sound of Music" tour in Salzburg, Austria.

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Championship Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Gracie Gold, 211.69, 1, 1
2. Polina Edmunds, 193.63, 2, 2
3. Mirai Nagasu, 190.74, 3, 3
4. Ashley Wagner, 182.74, 4, 5
5. Samantha Cesario, 173.97, 11, 4
6. Courtney Hicks, 168.68, 16, 6
7. Barbie Long, 163.79, 10, 7
8. Christina Gao, 163.03, 6, 10
9. Hannah Miller, 161.41, 7, 8
10. Leah Keiser, 160.33, 8, 9
11. Agnes Zawadzki, 153.16, 13, 11
12. Ashley Cain, 151.64, 5, 16
13. Mariah Bell, 149.44, 9, 15
14. Kiri Baga, 149.17, 14, 12
15. Angela Wang, 148.93, 12, 14
16. Yasmin Siraj, 139.73, 21, 13
17. Franchesca Chiera, 135.72, 15, 20
18. Rachael Flatt, 135.14, 20, 17
19. Caroline Zhang, 133.06, 19, 18
20. Vanessa Lam, 132.21, 18, 19
21. Joelle Forte, 123.60, 17, 21

Championship Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jeremy Abbott, 274.27, 1, 2
2. Jason Brown, 270.08, 3, 1
3. Max Aaron, 260.44, 4, 3
4. Joshua Farris, 248.06, 5, 4
5. Richard Dornbush, 236.38, 2, 8
6. Douglas Razzano, 232.43, 7, 5
7. Ross Miner, 224.81, 8, 6
8. Adam Rippon, 222.19, 6, 7
9. Brandon Mroz, 208.69, 9, 10
10. Stephen Carriere, 203.25, 12, 9
11. Grant Hochstein, 198.50, 10, 12
12. Keegan Messing, 197.45, 14, 11
13. Timothy Dolensky, 184.84, 13, 13
14. Sean Rabbitt, 183.34, 15, 14
15. Lukas Kaugars, 179.32, 11, 15
16. Philip Warren, 169.04, 16, 16
17. Daniel Raad, 161.01, 18, 17
18. Scott Dyer, 156.75, 17, 18
19. Robert Przepioski, 147.34, 19, 19

Championship Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Marissa Castelli/Simon Shnapir, 205.71, 1, 3
2. Felicia Zhang/Nathan Bartholomay, 201.72, 2, 2
3. Caydee Denney/John Coughlin, 201.43, 4, 1

4. Alexa Scimeca/Christopher Knierim, 189.67, 5, 4
5. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 181.59, 8, 5
6. Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, 173.89, 7, 6
7. DeeDee Leng/Timothy LeDuc, 171.94, 3, 9
8. Gretchen Donlan/Andrew Speroff, 170.73, 6, 8
9. Lindsay Davis/Rockne Brubaker, 163.81, 10, 7
10. Jessica Pfund/AJ Reiss, 156.04, 9, 10
11. Jessica Noelle Calalang/Zack Sidhu, 151.65, 11, 11
12. Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, 140.73, 12, 12

Championship Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Meryl Davis/Charlie White, 200.19, 1, 1
2. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 181.44, 2, 2
3. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 170.44, 3, 3
4. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 168.27, 4, 4
5. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 160.26, 5, 5
6. Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, 155.98, 6, 6
7. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 140.96, 7, 7
8. Anastasia Olson/Ian Loretto, 128.77, 10, 8
9. Alissandra Aronow/Collin Brubaker, 127.14, 8, 9
10. Ginna Hoptman/Pavel Filchenkov, 122.83, 9, 12
11. Isabella Cannuscio/Michael Bramante, 118.92, 11, 11
12. Danielle Gamelin/Alexander Gamelin, 112.97, 13, 10
13. Madeline Heritage/Nathaniel Fast, 104.05, 12, 14
14. Elicia Reynolds/Stephen Reynolds, 101.00, 15, 13
15. Kristen Nardozi/Nick Traxler, 98.40, 14, 15
16. Kseniya Ponomaryova/Oleg Altukhov, 82.39, 16, 16
17. Gabriela Morrell Zucker/Andrejs Sitiks, 72.30, 17, 17
18. Pauline Bynum/Jason Deveikis, 64.82, 18, 18

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Amber Glenn, 186.51, 1, 1
2. Tyler Pierce, 175.07, 2, 2
3. Ashley Shin, 155.18, 3, 3
4. Bradie Tennell, 141.99, 4, 6
5. Elena Taylor, 141.62, 6, 5
6. Amy Lin, 137.87, 12, 4
7. Maria Yang, 135.74, 7, 8
8. Olivia Serafini, 132.34, 10, 7
9. Elizabeth Nguyen, 130.92, 8, 9
10. Megan Wessenberg, 129.72, 9, 10
11. Lyra Katzman, 118.83, 11, 11
12. Xylina Rusit, 100.76, 13, 12

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Nathan Chen, 223.93, 1, 1
2. Jordan Moeller, 191.66, 6, 2
3. Jimmy Ma, 182.73, 2, 3
4. Chase Belmontes, 177.19, 4, 5
5. Nicholas Vrdoljak, 174.99, 3, 7
6. Kevin Shum, 172.63, 7, 4
7. Tony Lu, 170.83, 5, 6
8. Spencer Howe, 157.41, 8, 8
9. James Schetelich, 154.37, 9, 9
10. Nix Phengsy, 150.74, 10, 10
11. Ben Jalovick, 135.80, 11, 11
12. Evan Bender, 133.11, 12, 13
13. Daniel Kulenkamp, 124.78, 13, 12

Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Madeline Aaron/Max Settlege, 160.67, 1, 1
2. Chelsea Liu/Devin Perini, 144.82, 2, 2
3. AnnaMarie Pearce/Jason Pacini, 139.32, 3, 5
4. Elise Middleton/Anthony Evans, 136.64, 4, 4
5. Brianna de la Mora/Taylor Wilson, 131.64, 5, 6
6. Olivia Oltmanns/Joshua Santillan, 128.82, 9, 3
7. Aya Takai/Brian Johnson, 124.02, 8, 7
8. Kaitlin Budd/Nikita Cheban, 123.89, 6, 8
9. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyne, 116.80, 10, 9
10. Alyssa McDougal/Paul Schatz, 114.95, 7, 10

Junior Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 152.26, 1, 1
2. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 147.50, 2, 3
3. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 145.78, 3, 2
4. Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, 136.66, 4, 4
5. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Ross Gudis, 129.50, 5, 5
6. Chloe Lewis/Logan Bye, 122.14, 6, 6
7. Julia Biechler/Damian Dodge, 110.28, 7, 7
8. Rachel Brozina/Nicholas Taylor, 102.38, 11, 8
9. Sammi Wren/Alexey Shchepetov, 98.45, 9, 9
10. Emily Day/Kevin Leahy, 95.97, 8, 10
11. Olivia Di Iorio/Alex Benoit, 91.62, 10, 13
12. Tory Patsis/Joseph Johnson, 91.13, 13, 11
13. Marcha Kiatrungrit/Bradley Lawrence, 90.73, 12, 14
14. Kelsey Barnes/Douglas Stevenson, 84.07, 14, 12

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Vivian Le, 138.06, 3, 1
2. Paige Rydberg, 125.66, 1, 3
3. Rebecca Peng, 125.04, 2, 2
4. Carly Berrios, 122.49, 4, 4
5. Elise Romola, 111.92, 6, 5
6. Hina Ueno, 111.27, 7, 6
7. Cheyenne Taylor, 105.79, 5, 8
8. Riley Shin, 98.31, 10, 7
9. Emily Chan, 97.14, 8, 10
10. Selin Kang, 89.98, 12, 9
11. Daniela Dryden, 79.82, 11, 11

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Paolo Borromeo, 168.27, 1, 1
2. Eric Sjoberg, 139.82, 2, 4
3. Luke West, 136.86, 5, 3
4. Andrew Torgashev, 132.04, 10, 2
5. Anthony Boucher, 131.26, 6, 5
6. Harrison Wong, 121.73, 4, 7
7. Sean Conlon, 119.39, 3, 8
8. Eric Stinehart, 115.79, 9, 6
9. Bennett Gottlieb, 108.20, 7, 10
10. Micah Tang, 108.13, 8, 9
11. Colton Johnson, 94.26, 12, 11
12. Justin Ly, 91.79, 11, 12

Novice Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Ai Setoyama/David Botero, 129.18, 1, 1
2. Cirinia Gillett/Maximiliano Fernandez, 121.90, 2, 2
3. Jessica Lee/Robert Hennings, 121.45, 3, 3
4. Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon, 108.59, 4, 4
5. Joy Weinberg/Michael Lueck, 104.54, 7, 5
6. Kailey Matkin/Justin Highgate-Brutman, 103.84, 5, 6
7. Madeleine Gallagher/Jonathon Hor-

- ton, 101.94, 6, 8
8. Gabriella Marvaldi/Cody Dolkiewicz, 97.60, 10, 7
9. Reagan King/Rique Newby-Estrella, 91.25, 11, 10
10. Linde LaChance/Kenneth Anderson, 91.07, 12, 9
11. Grace Knoop/Noah Chinault, 87.81, 8, 11
12. Alexandria Yao/Connor Fleming, 84.30, 9, 12

Novice Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Gigi Becker/Luca Becker, 128.45, 2, 1, 2
2. Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, 120.28, 1, 3, 3
3. Sarah Feng/Anthony Ponomarenko, 117.14, 5, 4, 1
4. Danielle Thomas/Alexander Martin, 110.12, 3, 2, 6
5. Maeve Pascoe/Micah Jaffe, 103.60, 4, 7, 4
6. Payten Howland/Jason Cohn, 103.54, 6, 6, 5
7. Gwen Sletten/Elliot Verburg, 99.28, 7, 5, 7
8. Madison Fox/Val Katsman, 89.28, 8, 8, 10
9. Rebecca Lustig/Zachary Milestone, 87.30, 10, 9, 8
10. Karina Manta/Jonathan Thompson, 79.95, 11, 11, 9
11. Alexis Middleton/Michael Valdez, 77.41, 9, 10, 11
12. Kirsten Sjogren/Justin Curran, 42.17, 12, 12, 12

Intermediate Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Tessa Hong, 116.93, 1, 1
2. Alexia Paganini, 107.63, 2, 2
3. Lily Sun, 101.15, 5, 3
4. Jessica Cai, 98.30, 6, 4
5. Lindsay Rosenberg, 97.20, 3, 6
6. Gabriella Izzo, 93.99, 11, 5
7. Tamia Ellison, 93.92, 4, 10
8. Taylor Morris, 93.51, 7, 8
9. Alice Yang, 93.12, 9, 7
10. Pooja Kalyan, 90.24, 12, 9
11. Julia Budnick, 88.29, 10, 11
12. Tori Rotella, 87.33, 8, 12

Intermediate Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Kellen Johnson, 110.11, 3, 1
2. Liam Roumilla, 105.54, 1, 3
3. Justin Wichmann, 101.70, 7, 2
4. Peter Liu, 101.20, 5, 4
5. Maxim Naumov, 100.98, 4, 5
6. Dinh Tran, 96.13, 2, 9
7. Kendrick Weston, 96.02, 6, 6
8. Benjamin Shou, 89.84, 9, 7
9. William Hubbard, 88.58, 12, 8
10. Ivan Mokhov, 86.02, 11, 10
11. Patrick Frohling, 85.29, 8, 12
12. Eric Hartley, 82.69, 10, 11

Intermediate Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Megan Griffin/Andrew Civiello, 93.87, 2, 1
2. Alexandria Schmainda/Matthew Scorable, 93.65, 1, 2
3. Sophia Pearson/Keenan Prochnow, 89.43, 4, 4
4. Joanna Hubbard/William Hubbard, 88.88, 5, 3
5. Sydney Cooke/Nathaniel Denner, 88.52, 3, 5
6. Remington Bennett/Jacob Nussle, 78.73, 6, 6
7. Cate Hawkins/Eric Hartley, 74.34, 8, 8
8. Kate Finster/Joseph Goodpaster, 73.78, 7, 9
9. Maxine Weatherby/Mickey Sinthawachiva, 73.77, 9, 7
10. Annabel Kim/Jonathan Kim, 63.41, 10, 10
11. Lynzee Moore/Matthew Rounis, 58.90, 11, 11

12. Hannah Eby/Logan Weaver, 47.64, 12, 12

Intermediate Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 105.76, 3, 1, 1
2. Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, 98.07, 2, 2, 3
3. Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, 97.39, 1, 3, 2
4. Eleanor Babaev/Scott Wenner, 81.84, 4, 6, 4
5. Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 80.16, 7, 4, 6
6. Hannah Cook/Jarred Druzynski, 78.12, 8, 7, 5
7. Jordyn Levinsky-Carter/Logan Leone-sio, 73.86, 6, 5, 8
8. Gianna Buckley/Caleb Niva, 73.00, 9, 9, 7
9. Rachel Gart/Lance Stanley, 70.09, 5, 10, 9
10. Kaitlyn Moshang/Todd Gilman, 63.88, 10, 8, 10

Juvenile Girls

Pl. Name, TS

1. Iris Zhao, 56.36
2. Annabelle Morozov, 56.22
3. Kaitlyn Nguyen, 56.18
4. Starr Andrews, 53.88
5. Gabrielle Noullet, 51.71
6. Diana Zhu, 50.93
7. Cheyenne King, 49.65
8. Hannah Jo, 49.39
9. Audrey Shin, 49.27
10. Sadie Shin, 48.50
11. Madalyn Moree, 47.80
12. Aurelia Perkins, 45.89

Juvenile Boys

Pl. Name, TS

1. Tommy-Jo Nyman, 49.48
2. Paul Yeung, 48.41
3. Max Lake, 48.40
4. Jeffrey Chen, 46.31
5. Luke Ferrante, 46.00
6. Joonsoo Kim, 44.59
7. Joshua Fendi, 43.56
8. Franz-Peter Jerosch, 43.23
9. Jordan Evans, 43.22
10. Alex Wellman, 41.54
11. Ryan Dunk, 36.15
12. Daniel Turchin, 34.69

Juvenile Pairs

Pl. Name, TS

1. Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi, 46.44
2. Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, 45.89
3. Sarah Rose/Tommy-Jo Nyman, 44.93
4. Devin Pascoe/Samuel Parks, 43.93
5. Megan Stenman/Albert Zeng, 39.72
6. Jade Esposito/Nathan Rensing, 39.26
7. Katherina Frantz/Nicolas Frantz, 39.23
8. Cecilia Wright/William Wright, 36.44
9. Jaclyn Bozzetti/Steven Rossi, 34.99
10. Pelagia Pamel/Keyton Beringer, 30.33
11. Carlie Quesada/Adrian Shin, 28.07
12. Kristin Lyle George/Jake Pagano, 27.79

Juvenile Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Josephine Hagan/JT Michel, 73.82, 1, 5, 3
2. Molly Cesanek/Maxwell Gart, 73.51, 3, 4, 1
3. Cheri Chen/Edward Jahoda, 71.76, 4, 3, 4
4. Meredith Kent/Palmer Middlekauff, 69.56, 5, 6, 2
5. Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 68.51, 2, 1, 7
6. Angeline Turczyn/Cole Yolman, 63.30, 6, 2, 8
7. Amanda Miller/Nikolay Usanov, 62.22, 8, 7, 5
8. Claire Purnell/Lucas Purnell, 59.75, 7, 8, 6
9. Clare Traeger/Stanley Chang, 55.09, 11, 9, 9
10. Reena Wu/Leon Wu, 49.96, 9, 12, 10
11. Ashley Klotz/Vincent Kirov, 46.30, 10, 10, 11

12. Jennifer Huang/Weipeng Andrew Xie, 43.71, 12, 11, 12

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Budapest, Hungary, Jan 13-19, 2014

Ladies

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Julia Lipnitskaia, RUS, 209.72, 2, 1
2. Adelina Sotnikova, RUS, 202.36, 1, 2
3. Carolina Kostner, ITA, 191.39, 3, 3
4. Alena Leonova, RUS, 178.15, 4, 5
5. Mae Berenice Meite, FRA, 173.37, 5, 4
6. Valentina Marchei, ITA, 165.25, 6, 6
7. Elena Glebova, EST, 155.71, 8, 7
8. Nathalie Weinzierl, GER, 151.88, 10, 8
9. Joshi Helgesson, SWE, 146.45, 9, 10
10. Elene Gedevanishvili, GEO, 141.82, 7, 13

(37 ladies competed)

Men

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Javier Fernandez, ESP, 267.11, 1, 1
2. Sergei Voronov, RUS, 252.55, 2, 2
3. Konstantin Menshov, RUS, 237.24, 11, 3
4. Michal Brezina, CZE, 236.98, 5, 4
5. Maxim Kovtun, RUS, 232.37, 4, 5
6. Peter Liebers, GER, 225.76, 8, 7
7. Tomas Verner, CZE, 223.66, 3, 8
8. Brian Joubert, FRA, 221.95, 9, 6
9. Jorik Hendrickx, BEL, 205.92, 10, 10
10. Alexei Bychenko, ISR, 203.76, 13, 9

(35 men competed)

Pairs

Pl./Name/Country/Points /SP/FS

1. Tatiana Volosozhar/Maxim Trankov, RUS, 220.38, 1, 2
2. Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov, RUS, 207.98, 4, 1
3. Vera Bazarova/Yuri Larionov, RUS, 201.61, 3, 3
4. Stefania Bertone/Ondrej Hotarek, ITA, 195.61, 5, 4
5. Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, FRA, 185.48, 6, 5
6. Maylin Wende/Daniel Wende, GER, 168.32, 8, 6
7. Andrea Davidovich/Evgeni Krasnopolski, ISR, 163.93, 7, 7
8. Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise, ITA, 154.55, 9, 8
9. Mari Vartmann/Aaron Van Cleave, GER, 153.21, 10, 9
10. Natalja Zabuako/Alexandr Zaboev, EST, 149.82, 12, 10

(20 teams competed)

Ice Dance

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte, ITA, 171.61, 1, 1
2. Elena Ilinykh/Nikita Katsalapov, RUS, 170.51, 2, 2
3. Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland, GBR, 158.69, 3, 3
4. Victoria Sinitsina/Ruslan Zhiganshin, RUS, 153.73, 4, 4
5. Ekaterina Riazanova/Iliia Tkachenko, RUS, 150.44, 5, 5
6. Julia Zlobina/Alexei Sitnikov, AZE, 147.78, 6, 6
7. Nelli Zhiganshina/Alexander Gazsi, GER, 145.37, 7, 8
8. Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri, ITA, 144.40, 8, 7
9. Isabella Tobias/Deividas Stagniunas, LTU, 142.31, 9, 9
10. Sara Hurtado/Adria Diaz, ESP, 137.58, 11, 11

(29 teams competed)

FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Taipei City, Taiwan, Jan 20-25, 2014

Ladies

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Kanako Murakami, JPN, 196.91, 1, 1
2. Satoko Miyahara, JPN, 186.53, 4, 2
3. Zijun Li, CHN, 181.56, 2, 3
4. Haruka Imai, JPN, 175.40, 3, 6

5. Courtney Hicks, USA, 169.99, 7, 4

6. Hae Jin Kim, KOR, 166.84, 5, 7

7. Alain Chartrand, CAN, 165.19, 15, 5

8. Samantha Cesario, USA, 164.87, 6, 8

9. So Youn Park, KOR, 162.71, 8, 9

10. Mirai Nagasu, USA, 159.78, 9, 10

(21 ladies competed)

Men

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Takahito Mura, JPN, 242.56, 1, 2
2. Takahiko Kozuka, JPN, 236.38, 4, 1
3. Nan Song, CHN, 236.09, 3, 3
4. Denis Ten, KAZ, 226.37, 5, 4

5. Richard Dornbush, USA, 224.44, 2, 7

6. Joshua Farris, USA, 221.00, 7, 5

7. Jinlin Guan, CHN, 214.26, 9, 6

8. Adam Rippon, USA, 213.20, 8, 8

9. Jeremy Ten, CAN, 208.51, 6, 11

10. Nam Nguyen, CAN, 204.69, 10, 10

(27 men competed)

Pairs

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Wenjing Sui/Cong Han, CHN, 212.40, 1, 1
2. Tarah Kayne/Daniel O'Shea, USA, 181.45, 3, 2
3. Alexa Scimeca/Chris Knierim, USA, 170.35, 2, 4
4. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, USA, 167.10, 4, 3
5. Natasha Purich/Mervin Tran, CAN, 147.80, 7, 5
6. Margaret Purdy/Michael Marinaro, CAN, 139.99, 5, 7
7. Wenting Wang/Yan ZHANG, CHN, 139.95, 6, 6

Ice Dance

Pl./Name/Country/Points/SP/FS

1. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, USA, 158.25, 2, 1
2. Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier, CAN, 153.71, 1, 2
3. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, USA, 144.95, 3, 3
4. Kharis Ralph/Asher Hill, CAN, 137.03, 4, 4
5. Nicole Orford/Thomas Williams, CAN, 133.42, 5, 6
6. Lynn Kriengkrairut/Logan Giulietti-Schmitt, USA, 130.05, 6, 5
7. Danielle O'Brien/Gregory Merriman, AUS, 121.44, 10, 7
8. Yiyi Zhang/Nan Wu, CHN, 116.34, 9, 8
9. Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu, CHN, 115.66, 7, 9
10. Yura Min/Timothy Koletto, KOR, 111.23, 8, 10

(15 teams competed)

2014 MIDWESTERN SYNCHRO SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hoffman Estates, Ill., Jan.22-25

Competition Officials: Carolyn Drzewiecki, Carylyn Landt, Charles Cope, Daren Patterson, Devon Hensel, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Lee, Gale Tanager, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Jo Ann Hall, Lauren O'Toole, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Rebecca Finder, Richard Perez, Rita Cerny, Sharon Watson, Susan McInnes, Tiffany Shipley, Wayne Hundley

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Starlights, 128.58, 1, 1
2. Adrian College, 98.29, 2, 2

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Braemar, 132.28, 2, 1
2. Hockettes, 123.00, 1, 2
3. Fond Du Lac Blades, 114.26, 3, 3
4. Starlights, 108.29, 4, 4

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Crystallettes, 66.82
2. Chicago Jazz, 64.83
3. Starlights, 59.21
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 54.96
5. SwanSyncSation, 53.70
6. Phoenix, 53.68
7. Hockettes, 47.74
8. Team Du Coeur, 42.46
9. Minnesota Monarchs, 36.50

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Capital Ice Chips, 58.24
2. Crystallettes, 54.93
3. Ice Diamonds, 54.91
4. Dazzlers, 54.77
5. Chicago Radiance, 50.46
6. Saint Louis Synergy, 50.01
7. Fond Du Lac Blades, 49.04
8. Starlights, 48.41
9. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 46.83
10. Chicago Jazz, 46.02
11. Cleveland Edges, 45.60
12. St. Louis Diamond Edges, 42.90
13. Rhythm and Blades, 41.80
14. Windjammers, 38.25
15. Northern Lights, 37.89
16. Synchro Panache, 34.75
17. Kansas City Illusion, 34.51
18. Phoenix, 34.11

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Chicago Jazz, 4/1
2. Fond Du Lac Blades, 5/2
3. Starlights, 4/3
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/5
5. Crystallettes, 4/6
6. Chicago Radiance, 5/7
7. Teams Elite, 4/7
8. Team Du Coeur, 6/8
9. SwanSyncSation, 5/9
10. Phoenix, 4/9
11. Allegro!, 5/11
12. Cleveland Edges, 6/12
13. Evolution, 7/13

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Miami University, 97.63
2. Michigan State Univ., 76.37
3. University of Michigan, 76.04
4. University of WI - Madison, 69.86
5. Illinois Skating, 65.68
6. Western Michigan University, 63.96

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Starlights, 51.22
2. Crystallettes, 50.65
3. Goldenettes, 40.74
4. Leather and Laces, 38.69
5. Western Michigan Univ. Alumni, 38.50

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Allegro!, 7/1
2. Ice Connect, 7/2
3. Eble Elite Edgers, 7/3

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Dazzlers, 6/1
2. Louisville River Stars, 7/3
3. Metallites, 5/3
4. Hockettes, 5/5
5. Chicago Skates, 4/5
6. Allegrol, 4/6
7. Wisconsin Edge, 5/7
8. Silver Leafs, 4/7
9. Ice Kicks, 4/9
10. Starfire, 5/10
11. Precicettes Elite, 7/11
12. Icestars, 7/12

Open Juvenile QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Dazzlers, 6/2
2. Allegrol, 5/2
3. Chicago Skates, 5/3
4. Silver Leafs, 5/5 TOM 21
5. Cleveland Edges, 5/5 TOM 22
6. Rhythm and Blades, 4/5
7. Ice Diamonds, 5/7 TOM 31
8. Chicago Radiance, 5/7 TOM 33
9. Ice Force, 7/9

Juvenile QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Louisville River Stars, 6/1
2. Wisconsin Edge, 5/3 TOM 11
3. Ice Kicks, 5/3 TOM 13
4. Icestars, 5/4 TO 27
5. St. Louis Ice Gems, 5/4 TO 28
6. Windjammers, 4/7 TOM 24
7. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 4/7 TOM 25
8. Lucky 7 Illinois, 4/7 TOM 26
9. Sheboygan Lakers, 7/9

Open Juvenile QR C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Hockettes, 6/1
2. Metallites, 6/2
3. Precicettes Elite, 4/3
4. Starfire, 6/4
5. Oxford Ice Crystals, 4/5
6. (tie) Eclipse, 4/6
Dazzlers - Silver
8. Kicks, 4/8
9. Team Amore', 7/9

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. The Fighting Irish, 4/1
2. Team North Dakota, 3/2
3. Miami University Club Team, 3/3
4. Northwestern Univ. Purple Line, 4/4
5. Lindenwood University, 3/6 TOM 15
6. Univ. of Minnesota - Duluth, 3/6 TO 32
7. University of Wisconsin, 3/6 TO 34
8. Grand Valley State, 5/8
9. Ohio University, 5/9
10. Adrian College Varsity, 5/10

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Eclipse, 4/1
2. IllinoisSkating Fighting Alumni, 3/2
3. Revolution, 4/4 TO 19
4. Ice Connect, 4/4 TO 20
5. Texas Chilly Peppers, 3/5
6. The Turning Points, 4/6
7. Team Glace, 3/7
8. Sheboygan Lakers, 3/8 TOM 22
9. Revolution 2, 3/8 TOM 23
10. Radiance on Ice, 5/10

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Crystallettes, 5/1
2. Dazzlers, 5/2
3. Starlights, 5/4

4. Cleveland Edges, 4/4
5. Icestars, 4/6
6. Kansas City Illusion, 4/7
7. Wisconsin Edge, 5/8 TOM 32
8. Allegrol, 5/8 TOM 34
9. St. Louis Jade Blades, 4/8 TOM 18
10. Ice Kicks, 4/8 TOM 26
11. Chicago Skates, 6/11
12. Extreme, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Icestars, 5/1
2. Chicago Skates, 5/2
3. Cleveland Edges, 6/3
4. Wisconsin Edge, 4/3
5. Extreme, 4/5
6. Kansas City Illusion, 6/6
7. Oxford Ice Crystals, 5/7
8. SwanSyncSation, 7/8
9. Precicettes Elite, 5/9
10. Lucky 7, 7/10

Pre-Juvenile QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Crystallettes, 7/1
2. Dazzlers, 4/2
3. Starlights, 4/3
4. Ice Kicks, 7/5
5. Allegrol, 4/6 TO 42
6. St. Louis Jade Blades, 4/6 TO 45
7. Robert Crown Jewels - Emerald, 4/6 TOM 23
8. Glenview Blades, 5/7
9. Southern Magic, 6/8
10. Chicago Radiance, 7/10

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 3/1
2. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
3. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/3
4. Chicago Jazz, 3/4
5. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/5
6. Crystallettes, 4/7
7. Evolution, 3/7 TOM 15
8. Dazzlers, 3/7 TOM 18
9. Hockettes, 5/9
10. Ice Diamonds, 5/10

Preliminary QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Fond Du Lac Blades, 5/2 TO 13
 2. Teams Elite, 5/2 TO 15
 3. Evolution, 5/3
 4. Ice Diamonds, 4/4
 5. Hockettes, 7/5
 6. Icestars, 6/7
 7. Starlights, 5/7
 8. Wisconsin Edge, 6/8
 9. Silver Leafs, 7/9
- ## Preliminary QR B
- ### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker
1. Crystallettes, 5/2
 2. Cleveland Edges, 4/2
 3. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/3
 4. Chicago Jazz, 5/4
 5. Dazzlers, 4/4
 6. Phoenix, 7/7
 7. Starfire, 6/8
 8. Chicago Radiance, 5/8
 9. Team Amore', 7/9

2014 PACIFIC COAST SYNCHRO SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hoffman Estates, Ill., Jan.22-25

Competition Officials: Carolyn Drzewiecki, Carylyn Landt, Charles Cope, Daren Patterson, Devon Hensel, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Lee, Gale Tan-

ger, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Jo Ann Hall, Lauren O'Toole, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Rebecca Finder, Richard Perez, Rita Cerny, Sharon Watson, Susan McInnes, Tiffani Shipley, Wayne Hundley.

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. The Tremors, 82.80, 1, 1

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Del Sol, 63.18
2. Fusion, 43.02
3. Rose City Crystals, 38.56

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 51.62
2. EPIC EDGE, 50.59
3. ICE'Kateers, 39.57
4. Silver Stars, 32.64

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Team Del Sol, 7/1

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 47.57

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Denver Synchronicity, 6/1
2. Capital Ice, 7/2

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Fusion, 6/1
2. Tremors, 4/2
3. Denver Synchronicity, 5/3
4. EPIC EDGE, 6/4
5. Glacial Magic, 6/5
6. ICE'Kateers, 7/6

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Shining Blades, 5/1
2. Fusion, 7/2
3. EPIC EDGE, 6/3
4. Silver Stars, 6/4
5. IceCadettes, 6/5
6. The Highlanders, 7/6

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Park City Icing, 5/1
2. San Diego Shining Blades, 7/2

2014 EASTERN SYNCHRO SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hershey, Pa., Jan.30-Feb. 1

Competition Officials: Ann Buckley, Ann Fauver, Cathleen Renzi, Cheryl Litman, Colette Nygren, E. Richie Van Vliet, Elizabeth Harty, Erin Bridge, Felicia Haining-Miller, Judith Edmunds, Kim Cool, Laura Days, Leonard Colarusso, Megan Walsh, Michele Blatt, Patricia Lynch, Robin Greenleaf, Sara Stephens, Susan Haugh, Susan McInnes, Thomas Sobell, Wendy Enzmann, William Beharrell, William Mein.

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Skyliners Sr, 154.01, 1, 1
2. Team Excel Sr, 99.05, 2, 2

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Synchroettes Jr, 134.55, 1, 1
2. Team Delaware Jr, 92.89, 2, 2
3. Precisely Right, 75.15, 3, 4

4. Capitol Steps, 73.74, 4, 3

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Ice Mates, 68.33
2. Skyliners Nov, 58.57
3. Synchroettes Nov, 49.08
4. Team Delaware Nov, 45.71
5. Philadelphia Symmetry, 41.80
6. Sparklers Nov, 32.60
7. Team Image SST Nov, 31.61

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Star Mates, 52.33
2. Skyliners Int, 50.22
3. Team Delaware Int, 48.34
4. Team Ashburn Int, 44.48
5. Synchroettes, 44.39
6. Synchroettes Int, 43.30
7. Team Excel Int, 42.64
8. The Colonials Int, 41.62
9. Team Esprit, 41.34
10. Carolina Ice Synchro, 40.25
11. Chesapeake Sailors, 39.44
12. Richmond Synchro, 36.20
13. Team Winterettes, 34.94
14. Central Park Ice, 31.21

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Skyliners, 4/1
2. Synchroettes, 5/2
3. Mini Mates, 5/3
4. Team Delaware, 4/4
5. (tie) Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/6
Team Image SST, 4/6
7. DC EDGE, 6/7
8. Team Excel, 5/8
9. Sparklers Juv, 4/8
10. Team Ashburn, 4/10
11. Capitol Steps, 7/11

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Univ of Delaware, 77.14
2. Team Excel, 67.51
3. Univ of New Hampshire, 64.46
4. Chesapeake Captains, 61.21
5. Univ of Massachusetts, 59.20
6. Oswego State Ice Effects, 52.97
7. Boston University, 48.96
8. Cornell University, 42.22

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Esprit de Corps, 62.18
2. DC EDGE, 57.98
3. Team Delaware, 51.19
4. The Colonials, 49.87
5. Team Image, 44.59

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. DC Edge, 4/1
2. Esprit de Corps, 6/2
3. Team Delaware, 4/3
4. Essex Blades, 7/4
5. Gotham City Synchro, 7/5

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Steel City Blades, 6/1
2. Mirror Images, 4/3
3. Wallace Synergy, 5/4
4. Shadows, 4/4
5. DC EDGE Red, 5/6
6. Team Reflections, 4/6
7. National Blades, 5/7
8. Nor'easters, 4/7 TOM 21
9. CNY Blizzard, 4/7 TOM 25
10. Munchkins, 6/8
11. Saratoga Stars, 4/11

12. DC EDGE Blue, 7/12

Open Juvenile - Group A (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Mirror Images, 4/2 TOM 5
2. DC EDGE Red, 4/2 TOM 6
3. Team Reflections, 4/2 TOM 7
4. Saratoga Stars, 5/3
5. Rainbow Connection, 4/5
6. Carolina Ice Synchro, 5/6
7. Empire Edge, 7/7
8. Team Image SST, 6/8
9. Team Ashburn OJ, 7/9

Open Juvenile - Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Wallace Synergy, 4/1
2. Nor'easters, 6/2
3. DC EDGE Blue, 6/4
4. Munchkins, 4/4 TO 28
5. Synchroettes, 4/4 TO 29
6. Richmond Synchro, 5/6
7. Precisely Right, 6/7
8. Starcatchers, 5/8
9. Excel Crystals, 7/9

Open Juvenile - Group C (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. National Blades, 4/1
2. Steel City Blades, 5/3
3. Shadows, 4/3 TOM 8
4. CNY Blizzard, 4/3 TOM 10
5. Synchro Stars, 4/4
6. Harlem Ice, 4/5
7. West Virginia Synchro, 6/7
8. Blazing Blades, 5/9 TOM 41
9. Beach Blades, 5/9 TOM 42
10. Team Rinx - Island Hurricanes, 4/9

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. University of Maryland, 4/1
2. Princeton Univ., 5/2
3. University of New Hampshire, 4/3
4. Boston College Eagles, 5/4
5. Liberty University Flames, 4/4
6. Catamount Blades, 6/6
7. Orange Experience at Syracuse Univ., 6/7
8. Colgate University, 7/8

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Cutting Edge, 4/1
2. Ocean Blades, 4/2
3. Team Reflections, 5/3
4. Esprit De Corps, 4/5 TOM 16
5. Gotham City Synchro, 4/5 TOM 17
6. Team Carolinas, 4/5 TOM 18
7. Philly Spirit, 6/6
8. Mystic Ice, 5/7
9. Iceline of Richmond, 4/8
10. Nor'easters, 5/9
11. Precisely Right, 4/10

Open Adult — Group A (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Cutting Edge, 5/1
2. Esprit De Corps, 4/2
3. Nor'easters, 6/3
4. Team Carolinas, 5/4
5. Precisely Right, 4/4
6. Capitol Steps, 5/6
7. Chesapeake Admirals, 4/7
8. The Colonials, 7/8

Open Adult - Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Ocean Blades, 7/1
2. Team Reflections, 6/3
3. Mystic Ice, 4/3
4. Gotham City Synchro, 4/4
5. (tie) Iceline of Richmond, 4/5
6. Philly Spirit, 4/5

7. DC EDGE, 4/6

8. Team Delaware Dazzle, 7/8

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/2
2. CNY Storm, 5/4
3. The Colonials, 4/4
4. Chesapeake Skipjacks, 4/5
5. Synchroettes, 6/6
6. Team Esprit, 4/6
7. Shooting Stars, 5/7 TOM 22
8. Shimmers, 5/7 TOM 31
9. Mirror Images, 4/9
10. Icing on The Cape, 5/10
11. Team Ashburn PreJuv, 6/11
12. Sparklers, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile — Group A (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 6/2
2. Mirror Images, 4/2
3. Team Esprit, 4/3
4. Icing on The Cape, 4/4 TOM 11
5. Team Liberty, 4/4 TOM 13
6. So Star Synchronized Skating, 5/6
7. DC EDGE, 7/7
8. Elite Diamondettes, 5/8
9. Snowflakes, 7/9

Pre-Juvenile — Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1
2. The Colonials, 4/2
3. Synchroettes, 6/4
4. CNY Storm, 5/4
5. Steel City Blades, 6/5
6. Team Delaware, 4/6 TOM 22
7. Central Park Ice, 4/6 TOM 24
8. Bluewater Blades, 7/8
9. NJ Black Diamonds, 7/9

Pre-Juvenile — Group C (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Chesapeake Skipjacks, 7/1
2. Shimmers, 5/3
3. Sparklers, 4/3
4. Team Ashburn, 6/4
5. Capitol Steps, 4/5 TOM 16
6. Wallace Synergy, 4/5 TOM 20
7. Philadelphia Symmetry, 5/7
8. Carolina Ice Synchro, 5/8
9. Philly Spirit, 4/9
10. Synchro Stars, 7/10

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 4/1
2. Skyliners, 5/2
3. Synchroettes Yellow, 4/3
4. Team Image, 7/4
5. DC EDGE, 5/7 TOM 31
6. Icing on The Cape, 5/7 TOM 32
7. Team Liberty, 4/7
8. Team Rinx — Island Storm, 5/8
9. Saratoga Springs Shining Stars, 4/8 TOM 24
10. Starcatchers, 4/8 TOM 28

Preliminary — Group A (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Skyliners, 7/1
2. DC EDGE, 4/2
3. Saratoga Springs Shining Stars, 5/4
4. Starcatchers, 4/4 TOM 13
5. Icing On The Cape, 4/4 TOM 14
6. Excel Crystals, 4/5
7. Central Park Ice, 5/7
8. Team Winterettes, 4/7

Preliminary — Group B (QR)

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 5/1

2. Synchroettes Yellow, 5/2

3. Team Image, 6/3

4. Team Liberty, 5/4

5. Team Rinx — Island Storm, 5/5

6. Team Ashburn, 5/7

7. Capitol Steps, 4/7

8. Precisely Right, 6/8

9. Richmond Synchro, 4/8

2014 JUNIOR WORLD TEAM SELECTION COMPETITION

Fond du Lac FSC

Fond du Lac, Wis., January 3-4

Competition Officials: Alexandra

Mahler-Haug, Ann Fauver, Charles Cope, Daren Patterson, Hannelore Murphy, Jeanette Davey, Karin Sherr, Kelley Ristau, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Robert Bauer, Robin Greenleaf, Susan Haugh

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Lexettes, 155.17 2, 1
 2. Chicago Jazz 146.72 1, 3
 3. St. Louis Synergy 146.36 3, 2
 4. Skyliners 138.32 5, 5
 5. Synchroettes 134.06 8, 4
 6. Hockettes 128.67 4, 7
 7. Team Braemar 127.46 6, 6
 8. Starlights 110.17 7, 10
 9. Miami University Jr. Varsity 105.09 9, 9
 10. Fond du Lac Blades 104.14 11, 8
 11. Team Delaware 99.22 10, 11
 12. Capitol Steps 74.42 12, 12
- WD Precisely Right

LEON LURJE TROPHY

Gothenburg, Sweden,

January 18-19, 2014

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Convivium, SWE, 156.45 1, 1
2. Synchroettes, USA, 136.28 3, 2
3. Team Spirit, SWE, 136.07 2, 3
4. Reflections, FIN, 129.04 4, 4
5. Miami University Junior Team, USA, 122.82 5, 5
6. Fireblades, FIN, 119.94 7, 6
7. Chrystal Dreams FIN, 107.07 8, 7
8. Les Miracles, FIN, 96.33 6, 10
9. Team Seaside, SWE, 96.07 9, 8
10. Team Rhapsody, SWE, 87.52 11, 9
11. Team Moonlights, SWE 84.24 10, 11

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Unique, FIN, 199.15 1, 1
2. Team Surprise, SWE, 181.77 2, 2
3. Team Boomerang, SWE 172.19 3, 3
4. Revolutions, FIN, 160.93 4, 4
5. Skyliners, USA, 147.92 5, 5
6. ICE'Kateers, USA, 130.55 6, 6
7. Team Fusion, ESP, 81.25 7, 7

MOZART CUP

Salzburg, Austria,

January 24-25, 2014

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Les Pirouettes, CAN, 154.00 1, 1
2. Crystal Ice, RUS, 145.36 2, 3
3. Sun City Swing, FIN, 142.28 3, 2
4. Nexxice (Junior), CAN, 139.46 4, 4
5. Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 128.92 6, 6
6. Ice Steps, FIN, 128.14 7, 5
7. Skyliners, USA, 126.58 5, 8

8. St. Louis Synergy, USA, 122.12 8, 7

9. Team Estreija, FIN, 107.62 9, 9

10. Team Rhapsody, SWE, 97.34 11, 10

11. Hot Shivers Junior, ITA, 93.64 10, 11

12. Kometa Junior, CZE, 89.46 13, 12

13. Ladybirds (Junior), ITA, 86.74 12, 13

14. Starlets, GER, 72.54 14, 14

15. Sweet Mozart, AUT, 66.14 16, 15

16. Starlets, CZE, 64.80 15, 16

17. Team Temptation, BEL, 56.44 17, 17

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 209.98 1, 1
2. Rockettes, FIN, 201.18 2, 2
3. Nexxice, CAN, 194.64 3, 3
4. Miami University, USA, 165.88 4, 4
5. Team Berlin 1, GER, 149.40 5, 6
6. Hot Shivers, ITA, 143.38 7, 5
7. Team Crystal, RUS, 133.30 6, 7
8. Cool Dreams, SUI, 117.06 9, 9
9. Tokyo SC, JPN, 114.08 8, 11
10. California Gold, USA, 113.76 10, 10
11. Olympia, CZE, 109.04 12, 8
12. Skating Graces, GER, 104.68 11, 12
13. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 95.42 13, 13
14. Starlight Team, SUI, 83.46 14, 14

FRENCH CUP

Rouen, France, Jan. 31- Feb. 1, 2014

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Unique, FIN, 215.30 1, 1
2. Rockettes, FIN, 208.05 3, 2
3. Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 206.07 2, 3
4. Paradise, RUS, 195.63 4, 4
5. Haydenettes, USA, 186.41 5, 6
6. Les Supremes Senior, CAN, 176.58 7, 5
7. Crystalletes, USA, 168.49 6, 8
8. Team Boomerang, SWE, 168.02 8, 7
9. Revolution, FIN, 148.20 9, 9
10. Zoulous, FRA, 125.40 10, 10
11. Jingu Ice Messengers Grace, JPN, 121.14 11, 11
12. Ex'I Ice, FRA, 102.26 12, 12
13. Les Atlantides, FRA, 96.31 13, 13
14. Mozaiks, FRA, 96.31 14, 14
15. Team Spirit, GBR, 68.34 15, 16
16. Tem Temptation, BEL, 67.57 16, 15

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Fantastic, FIN, 171.68 3, 1
2. Team Mystique, FIN, 167.95 1, 2
3. Les Supremes Juniors, CAN, 164.60 4, 3
4. Musketeers, FIN, 158.57 2, 4
5. Stella Polaris, FIN, 147.62 5, 5
6. Team Convivium, SWE, 143.96 6, 6
7. Spartak Unost, RUS, 137.10 7, 7
8. Lexettes, USA, 131.30 9, 8
9. Leaside Synergy, CAN, 130.11 8, 9
10. Chicago Jazz, USA, 126.24 10, 10
11. Sunrise 1, RUS, 113.91 11, 11
12. Black Diam's Juniors, FRA, 98.49 12, 12
13. Cool Dreams Junior, SUI, 96.28 14, 13
14. NIC Icicles, GBR, 94.15 13, 14
15. Jeanne d'Arc Junior, FRA, 88.88 15, 15
16. Les Comètes Juniors, FRA, 79.52 16, 16

appointments

Bronze Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Tori Alexander, Lisle, Ill.; Linda Jackson, Chesterland, Ohio; April Zak, Lakeville, Minn.

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Stacy Brinkman, Oxford, Ohio; Stephanie Gibson, Provo, Utah; Nancy Jehl, Supply, N.C.

Bronze Dance Test Judge

Lori Fussell, Wilson, Wyo.; Amelie Johnson, Dover, Mass.; Ginger Whatley, Atlanta, Ga.

Certification to Judge International Dance Tests

Philipp Rey, Colleyville, Texas; Danielle Selders, Colleyville, Texas

Provisional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Alyssa Linck, Houston, Texas; Jennifer Wu, Sugar

Land, Texas; Keith Yingling, McKinney, Texas

Sectional Dance Competition Judge

Philipp Rey, Colleyville, Texas; Danielle Selders, Colleyville, Texas

Regional Singles/Pairs Referee

Patricia Lynch, Glen Ridge, N.J.

Regional Music Coordinator

Elizabeth Allen, Omaha, Neb.; Jennifer Battat, Louisville, Ky.; Jeffery Buchanan, Lexington, Ky.; Angie Heisterkamp, Omaha, Neb.; Bradley Lockwood, Stratford, Conn.; Kathy Lockwood, Stratford, Conn.

Sectional Music Coordinator

Hayley Pangle, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mary Zastrow,

Forest Lake, Minn.

Ice Technician

Richard Newberg, Natick, Mass.

Sectional Singles Technical Controller

Diana Wisner, Wilmington, Del.

Sectional Singles Technical Specialist

Matthew Lind, Haverhill, Mass.; Sarah Smith, Potomac, Md.

Regional Singles/Pairs/Dance Data Operator

Susan Keogh, Hilton Head, S.C.

Nonqualifying Singles/Pairs/Dance Video Replay Operator

Katrina Hofbauer, Lake Placid, N.Y.

obituaries

WATFORD

Rebecca Heywood Watford, 72, of Canton, Miss., a national accountant with U.S. Figure Skating, peacefully passed away at home Feb. 7, 2014, with her daughters by her side.

Becky was born Aug. 25, 1941, in Jackson, Miss., to Dr. Charles Harold and Willie Heywood. She graduated from Canton High School in 1959. She attended Holmes Junior College, LSU and University of Colorado, culminating in her earning her degree in medical technology from the University of Tennessee.

She was employed by several large hospitals throughout her life. After retiring, she continued her love of learning new things and earned her

real estate license. Most recently, she sold land for Tom Smith Land and Homes.

She raised her two daughters in Mississippi, Texas, Alaska and Washington before returning to Canton. Becky's hobbies included jewelry making, knitting, scrapbooking, traveling and entertaining friends and family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jimmie Fred Watford, who recently passed away.

She is survived by her daughters Dorothy Ruth Medalia and Elizabeth Heywood Brown, sister Marcia Heywood, brother Charles Heywood and great nephews Stratton and Ian Choppala. She is also survived by the numerous friends and family who supported her as she fought cancer with

remarkable pride and strength.

The family requests no flowers, and instead asks for donations to be made to the Grace Episcopal Church at 161 E. Peace St., Canton, MS. 39046. An online guestbook is available at www.breelandfuneralhome.com.

TOBIN

Jim Robert Tobin Jr. passed away Jan. 27, 2014, from complications that started with the flu. He was 72.

Jim was a dedicated and longtime sectional accountant in the Midwest. Cards can be sent to Jennifer Richardson, 38W024 Heatherfield Dr., Elgin, IL 60124.

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MARCH

7-9| 2014 Eastern Adult Nonqualifying Competition sponsored by North Jersey FSC at Ice Vault Arena, 10 Nevins Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470. Contact Richard Breitweiser at 201.696.8046.

7-9| 2014 Eau Claire Figure Skating Competition sponsored by Eau Claire FSC at Hobbs Ice Arena, Menomonie St., Eau Claire, WI 54701. Contact Angie Southworth at 715.577.1755.

7-9| 2014 Midwestern Adult Nonqualifying Sectional Competition at OBM Arena, 15381 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. Contact Nicole Kappenhagen at adultmids2014@gmail.com.

7-9| 2014 Pacific Coast Adult Nonqualifying Sectional Championships sponsored by All Year FSC at Center Ice Arena, 201 S. Plum Ave., Ontario, CA 91761.

7-9| Magnolia Open sponsored by Atlanta FSC at The Cooler, 10800 Davis Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004. For more information, visit this link: <http://www.atlantafigureskating.com/magnolia-open.html>.

8| 2014 Wallace Spring Synchronized Classic sponsored by Wallace FSC at Wallace Civic Center, Fitchburg State University, 1000 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Contact Brandi MacDonald at 978.345.7054.

8| 28th Annual Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Warwick Figure Skaters at Thayer Arena, 975 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02886. Contact Rita Bapties at 401.739.1606.

8-9| 2013 Skate on Wisconsin at McFarland County Ice Arena, 4812 Marsh Rd., McFarland, WI 53558. For more information, call 920.917.7649.

9| Ninth Annual Shamrock Open at Rockford Skating Club, Loves Park, IL. Contact Kathi Ferrero at RockfordSkatingClub@hotmail.com.

13-16| 2014 Denver Invitational sponsored by Denver FSC at South Suburban, 6580 S. Vine St., Centennial, CO 80121. Contact Lisa May at 720.272.0290.

14-16| 2014 Cleveland Invitational Championships sponsored by Forestwood FSC at Ries Rink, 5000 Forestwood Dr., Parma, OH 44134. Contact Corey Gray at 440.842.9541.

15| Fifth Annual Central Minnesota Basic Skills Competition Series — Battle of the Blades sponsored by Alexandria FSC at Runestone Community Center, 802 3rd Ave. W, Alexandria, MN 56308. Contact Michelle Paulzine at 320.491.4253.

15| Fourth Annual The Skating Club of Boston Skating Academy Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of Boston at The Skating Club of Boston, 1240 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, MA 02135. Contact Kiva Leibowitz at 617.787.5283.

15| 2014 Southern Connecticut Basic Skills Competition sponsored by SC of Southern CT at Terry Conners Rink, 1125 Cove Rd., Stamford, CT 06903. Contact Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

15-16| 2014 Skate Challenge sponsored by SC of Central NY at Cicero Twin Rinks, 5575 Meltzer Ct., Cicero, NY 13029. Contact Shelley Kline at 315.480.8175.

15-22| 2014 Arctic Winter Games sponsored by Anchorage FSC at Carlson Center, 2010 2nd Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701. Contact Tina Williams at 907.456.2014.

16| 2014 Greater Chicagoland Basic Skills Championships at Chicago FSC, Hoffman Estates, IL. Contact Kerry Murphy at KMMurphy@skokieparks.org.

21-23| 33rd Biennial Niagara Invitational sponsored by Buffalo SC at Cheektowaga Town Rink, 2600 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. Contact Lynn Sigurdson at 716.875.2161.

22| 2014 Big River Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Winona FSC at St. Mary's Ice Arena, 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987. Contact Holly Hammann-Jacobs at 507.951.1538.

22| 2014 Skate Green Bay Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Greater Green Bay FSC at De Pere Ice Arena, 1450 Fort Howard Ave., De Pere, WI 54115. Contact Annie Nash at 920.327.0890.

22-23| 2014 University of Delaware Intercollegiate Figure Skating Competition sponsored by University of Delaware FSC at Fred Rust and Gold Ice Arena, 547 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19711. Contact Dana Sivak at 630.450.7530.

22-23| 2014 Metro Detroit Skating Council High School (East Lansing) at Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, MI 48823. For more information, call 313.386.7936.

23| 2014 Sunflower Classic sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC at Minnetonka Ice Arena, 3401 Williston Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. Contact Jill Cummings at 952.939.8310.

23| Fifth Annual Skylands Ice World Basic Skills Competition sponsored by North Jersey FSC at Skylands Ice World, 2765 Route 23, Stockholm, NJ 07470. Contact Rick Breitweiser at 201.696.8046.

29| Ice World's 15th Annual Basic Skills and Beyond Competition sponsored by Chesapeake FSC at Ice World, 1300 Governor Ct., Abingdon, MD 21009. Contact Heather Piepenburg at 410.612.1000, ext. 101.

29| SkateQuest Reston Blossom 2014 at SkateQuest, 1800 Michael Faraday Ct., Reston, VA 20190. For more information, call 703.709.1010.

30| Seventh Annual South Shore Open sponsored by South Shore SC at Rockland Ice Rink, 599 Summer St., Rockland, MA 02370. Contact Katy Hayden at 781.336.9228.

APRIL

4-6| 29th Annual Florida Open Championships and Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Central Florida FSC at RDV Sportsplex Ice Den, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. Contact Cindy Arkeilpane at 407.766.1024.

5-6| The Columbia Figure Skating Club announces its spring production of *Frozen in Time – on Ice* at the Columbia Ice Rink, 5876 Columbia Rd., Columbia, MD 21045. Show times on April 5 are 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and April 6 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

5| 2014 Hardee's IcePlex Basic Skills "PLUS" Competition at Hardee's Ice Plex, 16851 N. Outer 40 Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63005. Contact Melody Carper at 636.537.4200 ext. 106.

6| 14th Annual Wagon Wheel Basic Skills at Crystal Ice House, 320 East Prairie St., Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Contact Lanny Nelson at Lannywww@sbcglobal.net.

7| 2014 Ft. Collins Classic sponsored by Fort Collins FSC at EPIC, 1801 Riverside, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Contact Kate Corser-James at 970.567.2876.

11-12| 2014 Spring Fling Open sponsored by Bellingham FSC at Bellingham, WA. Contact Katrina Stewart at 360.201.8444.

11-12| 2014 Edge of the Sound sponsored by Bremerton FSC at Bremerton, WA. Contact Allison Miller at 360.479.7465.

11-13| 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Intercollegiate Team Championships at Arrington Ice Arena, 110 S. Madison St., Adrian, MI 49221. Contact Ashley Carlson at 517.265.5161 ext. 5008.

12| Skate Princeton 2014 sponsored by Princeton SC at Lisa McGraw Rink at Princeton Day School, 650 Great Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540. Contact princetonsc@aol.com.

13| 2014 South Florida Basic Skills Series-Palm Beach at Palm Beach Skatezone, 8125 Lake Worth Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33467. Contact Audra Leech at 561.963.5900.

13| Third Annual Southport Spring Classic sponsored by Southport SC at Rink Side Ice Arena & Family Entertainment Center, 6152 W. Grand Ave., Gurnee, IL 60030. Contact Elaine Johnson at 847.800.8172.

13| Skate Des Moines Spring Classic 2014 sponsored by Des Moines FSC at Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines, IA 50309. Contact Bridget Butler at 515.252.7623.

25-27| 2014 Southern Connecticut Open sponsored by SC of Southern CT at Darien Ice Rink, 55 Old Kings Hwy, Darien, CT 06820. Contact Helaine Walker at 203.423.9007.

26-27| 2014 Riverbend Spring Classic at East Alton Skating Academy, East Alton, IL. Contact Kathryn McKeon-Hicks at ea_skating@yahoo.com.

27| 14th Annual Ice House Basic Skills Competition sponsored by Ice House of NJ FSC at Ice House, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack, NJ 07601. Contact Edward E. Vancampen at 973.819.8144.

Friends of Figure Skating

Listed are those members who have chosen to give at the highest level of the Friends of Figure Skating Program.

Pewter Members

Edward Finneran
Cheryl Jeffries
Sheryl Scarborough
Catharine Soros

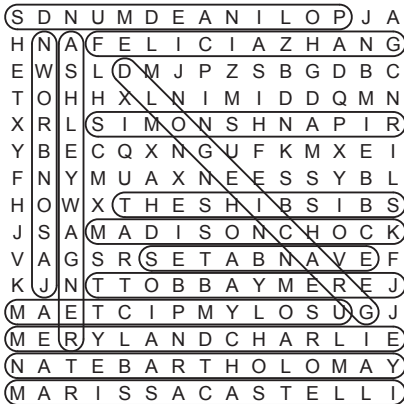
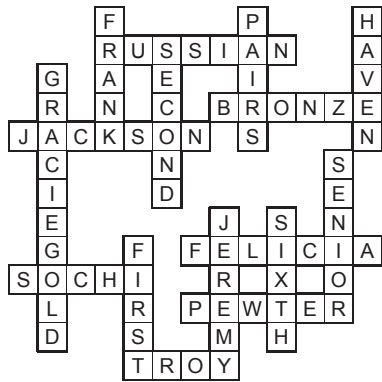
Bronze Members

Mary Jo Rubino
Tela Gatewood

Gold Member

Susan Bonn

**PUZZLE ANSWERS
FROM PAGE 66**



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NATIONAL SPORTS ACADEMY is looking for a Director of Figure Skating for the 2014–2015 school year. To apply or for more information, contact Hannah Babcock at 518.523.3460 or visit our website www.nationalsportsacademy.com.

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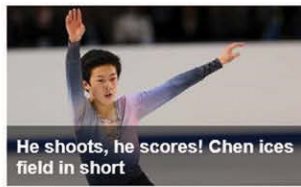


Moby Dick
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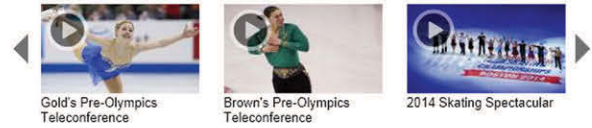


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