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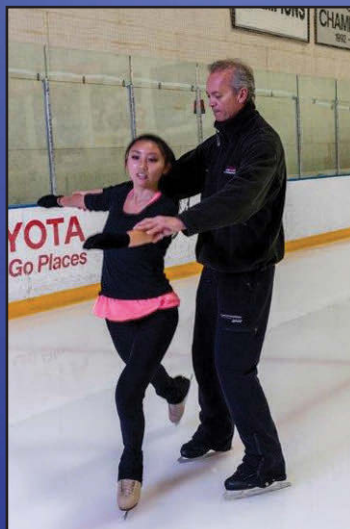


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On the cover

Jay Adeff/U.S. Figure Skating

The 2015 U.S. champions celebrated their monumental achievement by taking part in the traditional SKATING magazine photo shoot with the U.S. Championship Trophy. The name of every senior-level U.S. champion throughout history is inscribed on the Tiffany sterling silver trophy. Pictured are (l-r) Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim (pairs), Jason Brown (men's), Ashley Wagner (ladies), and Madison Chock and Evan Bates (ice dance). Each champion also took some fun individual photos with the trophy, which appear on the lead page of the U.S. Championships coverage on page 8. The Actable video on the cover features the 2015 U.S. World Team.

SKATING

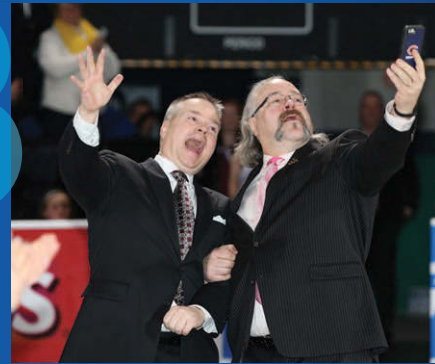


U.S. World Team takes a bow.

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Trio inducted into U.S. Hall of Fame



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Synchronized skating teams report from Mozart Cup.



Greensboro serves up Southern hospitality

One morning before I caught the shuttle to the Greensboro Coliseum, I stopped by the café in the host hotel lobby and had a nice conversation while waiting in line with a lady from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jean Spooner and her husband, Robert Fisher, were in town to watch the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. They had met up with Jean's brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Marti Spooner, from Jacksonville, Florida.

"We bought our tickets 18 months ago," Jean told me. "We're excited to be here."

Jean and her family had just arrived the day of the men's championship short program, and the thrill of watching that competition was fresh in her mind.

"Well, Jason Brown was pretty amazing and second place (Josh Farris) had a beautiful style," Jean said. "It was a lot of fun."

The Spooner family experience played out countless times during the week, with fans arriving from all over the country enthusiastic to watch the best figure skaters in the land compete on the biggest of stages.

The show that took place behind the scenes, however, was equally impressive.

One woman that I met during my media duties at the Greensboro Coliseum hailed from Alabama. She came up on her own dime to volunteer for the event. Her job was to monitor the athlete locker rooms and check credentials. I could tell she loved being there because she was friendly and took her job seriously.

Kim Strable, president of the Greensboro Sports Commission, has helped woo and work many major sporting events in Greensboro for several years, including ACC basketball tournaments and PGA events. He headed up some of the volunteer efforts and jumped in wherever he was needed. During the Friends of Figure Skating breakfast, for example, Strable walked around the room to make sure there was plenty of food and place settings for everyone.

"Most of the athletes, coaches, officials and U.S. Figure Skating staff were very receptive to how we do things," Strable said. "We like to make eye contact, we like to be friendly, we like to be engaging if they want to be engaged. From what I could see, things were mutual. People felt good about being welcomed and people cared that they were there."

Local organizing committee chair Hill Carrow, who brought the event to Greensboro for the first time in 2011 and again this year, gushed about how things went.

"We received numerous positive comments from athletes and U.S. Figure Skating officials regarding the quality of the venue, hotel accommodations, event setup, operations, volunteers and en-



thusiastic crowds," Carrow said.

"As a whole, our local organizing committee took all those areas up several notches from 2011, including the Coliseum and host hotel renovations and our enhancements to both FanFest and the WFMY News 2 Rink (secondary rink). Our volunteers were warm and welcoming, our sponsors provided great support, our media partners were over the top, and the performances by the skaters were record-breaking.

"The most ringing endorsements came from Jason Brown, who proclaimed on NBC's broadcast that he loves Greensboro, and from Tara Lipinski, who stated during the national coverage that the Championships ought to be held in Greensboro every year. We couldn't ask for better than that."

One of the biggest changes for fans attending the senior events was the enhanced production and presentation that was seen throughout the arena. Utilizing the Greensboro Coliseum's new HD video board, each athlete had his or her own mini-feature shown during the group's six-minute warmup. To take full advantage of the state-of-the-art video board, U.S. Figure Skating used social media aggregator Tagboard to feature fan and athlete posts, which elicited joyous reactions from many of the competitors as they awaited their scores in the kiss and cry.

Credit for this goes to U.S. Figure Skating's staff members, who collaborated on the in-arena presentation. They spent the week hunting down athletes to create dozens of videos onsite that were on display throughout the event.

This entire production truly enhanced the in-arena experience. Ideas are already being formulated to make next year's U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota, even more entertaining for spectators.

Also, Prudential gave away 12,000 "Skate Radios" to fans as they walked into the Greensboro Coliseum. There were three channels to choose from, including one that provided technical commentary of what was taking place during each skater's performance. This boosted the fans' experience immensely; hats off to Prudential for making this major contribution.

I need to also give props to all the local media, which provided blanket coverage of the event, from before we arrived in Greensboro through the Smucker's Skating Spectacular on the final night. Very impressive.

Once again, for the second time in five years, Greensboro stepped up to the plate and launched U.S. Figure Skating into the next Olympic quadrennium with a memorable U.S. Championships. Congrats to everyone!

Hill Carrow

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The Scott Hamilton Skating Academy hosted a U.S. Figure Skating SkateFest at the Ford Ice Center in Antioch, Tennessee, on Jan. 31. The event was a huge hit with young and old skaters alike. The majority of the attendees were first-time skaters, stepping out with courage and trying something new. The Skating Academy team, headed by Hamilton, Olympian Bill Fauver and PSA master-rated coach Paula Kaye Trujillo, provided a dynamic and upbeat energy and team approach to teaching participants the joy of ice skating.



SNAP SHOT ACTION SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

LEXETTES, SKYLINERS TO REPRESENT TEAM USA

The Lexettes and the Skyliners were chosen to represent the United States at the 2015 ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, March 13-14.

The World Junior Team Selection Event was held February 6-7, 2015, in Marlborough, Massachusetts. As the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships occurs about two weeks prior to the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships, this annual event is held to determine the U.S. representatives.

The Lexettes of Hayden Recreation Centre FSC won the event for the third year in a row. They finished second in the short program, which put them at a four-point deficit going into the free skate. Their free skate to music from *My Fair Lady* bested the rest of the competition by almost 10 points, earning them 103.43 points.

The Skyliners of The Skating Club of New York, winners of the short program, finished in second place. They placed fourth at the selection event last year and last competed at the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships in 2013.

Chicago Jazz finished third and the Hockettes were fourth.

Davis and White receive Thurman Munson award

Olympic ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White were among the honorees at the 35th annual Thurman Munson Awards, given annually for success on the field of play and philanthropic works off the field.

The awards were presented at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City on Feb. 3. In addition to Davis and White, New York Yankees four-time world champion center fielder Bernie Williams, Yankees all-star rookie relief pitcher Dellin Betances, New York Mets 1986 world champion center fielder Mookie Wilson and Giants Super Bowl champion punter Steve Weatherford were recognized.

Davis and White were awarded for their outstanding 2013–14 season, which included their sixth consecutive U.S. title, fifth consecutive Grand Prix Final title and the first U.S. ice dance Olympic gold, as well as their amazing work off the ice. Their philanthropic work included their support of the Classroom Champions program, which connects students in high-need schools with top performing athletes to help them recognize their potential, set goals and dream big. Davis and White are also honorary chairpersons for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit and have supported many charities in the past, including the American Cancer Society, Make-A-Wish, March of Dimes, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Humane Society.

Since its inception, the Thurman Munson Awards Dinner has raised more than \$13 million for programs that serve New York City children and adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Meryl Davis, Charlie White with "Today" show's Hoda Kotb at the Thurman Munson Awards

Aldridge and Eaton end partnership

Two-time U.S. junior ice dance champions Alexandra Aldridge and Daniel Eaton announced in January they have ended their partnership. Both skaters have expressed interest in finding new partners.

Aldridge and Eaton began their partnership six years ago. Last season, they trained in Canton, Michigan, under coaches Marina Zoueva, Massimo Scali, Johnny Johns and Oleg Epstein. They previously trained in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, under coaches Pasquale Camerlengo and Angelika Krylova.

Aldridge and Eaton won the U.S. junior ice dance titles in 2012 and 2013 and won World Junior bronze medals those same years. They are the reigning Four Continents bronze medalists.

"I am going to continue to skate and I am looking for a partner with whom I can reach new goals," Aldridge said. "I thank all of our coaches for welcoming us with open arms and for standing by us through this season. I am grateful for all of the success that Daniel and I had together and wish him the best."

"I can't begin to thank U.S. Figure Skating enough for all of the support over the years," Eaton said.

"I also want to thank our many fans whose support drove Alex and me to our success. I am excited to find another partner and hope to return to the U.S. stage next season."



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LOS ANGELES SPORTS COUNCIL HONORS GOLD

The Los Angeles Sports Council named 2014 U.S. champion and 2014 Olympic team event bronze medalist Gracie Gold 2014 Sportswoman of the Year.

Gold, who resides in Redondo Beach, California, and trains at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo, California, with coach Frank Carroll, will be honored during the 10th annual LA Sports Awards on March 15 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

The LA Sports Awards are presented annually by the Sports Council to celebrate the greatest moments of the year in sports in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. The ceremony also will feature the presentation of the Sportsman, Coach and Sports Executive of the Year awards, plus a countdown of the year's Top 10 moments.

The Sportswoman of the Year award is given to the local female athlete whose performance and character best exemplified the ideals of sportsmanship during the 2014 calendar year. Previous honorees include beach volleyball players Kerri Walsh Jennings and Misty May-Treanor (2005, '12) and track star Allyson Felix (2007, '09).

The star-studded awards dinner and gala will be televised on Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket and will include special appearances by some of the athletes and coaches whose achievements helped make 2014 such a memorable sports year.

During the 2014 calendar year, Gold was true to her name, winning her first U.S. title, propelling her to the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, where she helped Team USA win a bronze medal in the inaugural figure skating team event with an exquisite free skate. She also claimed her first Grand Prix Series gold at NHK Trophy in Osaka, Japan, in November.



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Jamiesen Cyr, Colonial FSC Photo by Snapshot Sports Photography

HQ Profile: JAMES AITKEN

I am the coordinator of video production at U.S. Figure Skating headquarters. I am responsible for filming and editing video in-house, including social media projects, highlight videos and live events. I also conduct interviews, shoot backstage footage and produce various graphic animations.

What is your favorite part about this job? "I get a lot of creative freedom. Every video is an opportunity to try something unique and show a different side of the athletes. The footage I get at events like the U.S. Championships is very personal, and I have awesome access to the skaters. It's cool to get to know them and talk about video ideas with them."

What do you like to do in your spare time? "I just moved to Colorado and can't get enough of it. I'm out exploring the mountains, hiking, biking, running, skiing. I want to see and do it all. Adventure time!"

What would people be surprised to know about you? "I grew up on a farm in Nebraska. During summers as a kid I'd sell fresh sweet corn on the side of the highway in the back of my dad's truck."

What would be your ideal vacation? "I have family in Fiji and I got to visit once for Christmas. I went spear fishing with natives in the open ocean and it was life-changing. I've got to go back. It was paradise."

Tell us a little bit about your family "I have a fraternal twin brother, but also a younger set of siblings — a boy and a girl — who are also fraternal twins. Two sets of twins."



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A THRILLING SEQUEL

SKATERS DELIVER SUPERB PERFORMANCES IN GREENSBORO

U.S. Figure Skating launched itself into the next quadrennium with an epic competition at the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, Jan. 17–25.

The high level of skating throughout the event and the drama that unfolded in the championship division are still being talked about today.

“I can’t recall a U.S. Championships where the quality and competitiveness of the skating was so high, from the juvenile through senior levels,” U.S. Figure Skating President Samuel Auxier said. “Every event saw great performances. I was blown away by the huge audience for juvenile dance, the depth of our novice ladies and the performances of the junior men and ladies.

“The senior events, however, were truly amazing.”

Indeed.

Ashley Wagner silenced her critics by putting out two stunning programs that lifted her to a third U.S. title in four years. A newcomer to the senior ranks, Karen Chen provided fans with a complete performance filled with technical skill and personality en route to the bronze medal.

Fan-favorite Jason Brown continued on his

upward trajectory by winning his first U.S. title. But it wasn’t easy. Adam Rippon fired up the big crowd at the Greensboro Coliseum with a record-setting free skate (187.77 points) that secured him his second U.S. silver medal (His first was in 2012). And there was Joshua Farris, who endured injuries this fall but saved his best for the U.S. Championships and won the bronze medal.

In the pairs ranks, Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim hit the moon with their quad twist, winning their first U.S. title in record fashion. And in dance, Madison Chock and Evan Bates took the baton from six-time U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White to claim their first title, edging the veteran sister-brother team of Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, who were within a fraction of a point of the lead heading into the free dance.

While the skaters kept the crowds cheering,



Jason Brown basks in the moment in Greensboro.

the teamwork of U.S. Figure Skating, the Greensboro Coliseum staff and the local organizing committee could best be described as seamless and efficient. The three entities, of course, worked together for the first time at the 2011 U.S. Championships in Greensboro.

Chief referee Doug Williams heaped praise on the overall efforts of everyone involved.

“From preplanning to the final Smucker’s exhibition, there was great teamwork and camaraderie to make this event an event that would be enjoyed by both the athletes and also the great fans from the Greensboro area.”

Kim Strable, president of the Greensboro Sports Commission, helped direct many of the volunteers. He said the athletes, coaches and officials were all receptive to the friendliness and helpful nature of the volunteers, adding that it’s one of his favorite events.

In addition to the major renovations to the Greensboro Coliseum, the fan experience was elevated to new heights via social media, the arena’s new video board and experiences in FanFest.

U.S. champions (l-r) Ashley Wagner, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, Jason Brown, and Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim have some fun with the U.S. Championships Trophy.



U.S. WORLD TEAM SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

At the conclusion of the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Figure Skating announced the athletes who will represent Team USA at the 2015 World Figure Skating Championships March 23–29, in Shanghai; and the World Junior Figure Skating Championships March 2–8, in Tallinn, Estonia.

2015 U.S. WORLD TEAM

LADIES

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

MEN

Jason Brown
Joshua Farris
Adam Rippon
Alternate No. 1 – Max Aaron
Alternate No. 2 – Jeremy Abbott
Alternate No. 3 – Ross Miner

PAIRS

Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier
Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim
Alternate No. 1 – Tarah Kayne and Daniel O’Shea
Alternate No. 2 – Madeline Aaron and Max Settlage
Alternate No. 3 – Jessica Noelle Calalang and Zack Sidhu

ICE DANCE

Madison Chock and Evan Bates
Madison Hubbell and Zach Donohue
Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani
Alternate No. 1 – Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker
Alternate No. 2 – Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin McManus

2015 U.S. WORLD JUNIOR TEAM

LADIES

Karen Chen
Tyler Pierce
Alternate No. 1 – Bradie Tennell
Alternate No. 2 – Hannah Miller
Alternate No. 3 – Leah Keiser

MEN

Nathan Chen
Kevin Shum
Andrew Torgashev
Alternate No. 1 – Paolo Borromeo
Alternate No. 2 – Spencer Howe
Alternate No. 3 – Shotaro Omori

PAIRS

Caitlin Fields and Ernie Utah Stevens
Chelsea Liu and Brian Johnson
Alternate No. 1 – Olivia Allan and Austin Hale
Alternate No. 2 – Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon

ICE DANCE

Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter
Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons
Elliana Pogrebinsky and Alex Benoit
Alternate No. 1 – Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber
Alternate No. 2 – Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko
Alternate No. 3 – Emily Day and Kevin Leahy

GREENSBORO, N.C.



SOCIAL MEDIA

From the casual fan to the biggest names in figure skating, it seemed everyone was sharing the Championships via social media. Using the hashtag #NC2015, hundreds of tweets were shown on the Greensboro Coliseum’s video board, eliciting great reactions.

Olympic champion Brian Boitano and friends made the arena chuckle. Fan selfies with Team USA skaters past and present made the crowd cheer. Even Michelle Kwan, who was unable to attend, tweeted her frustration at missing part of the ladies event as she ran through New York’s Times Square trying to find a TV.

And with the Championships held in the South, of course NASCAR got in on the action. Joey Logano — who drives Team Penske’s No. 22 car — tweeted a photo of the crowd shot through the windshield of the car he and his dad drove around the ice during the Opening Ceremony.

Outside the arena, thousands of fans joined the action. Throughout the eight-day event, #NC2015 was shared 25,000 times. In the final four days alone, the hashtag was seen by more than 5.2 million people 121 million times! #NC2015 and “JasonBSkates” (Jason Brown) trended worldwide, while Brown, Rippon, Chen and Gracie Gold trended nationwide.

After being seen by well over 2 million people, U.S. Figure Skating’s social media accounts gained thousands of followers. For a look at some of the best #NC2015 tweets, visit the Social Scene at USFigureSkatingFanZone.com.

TV RATINGS

More than 7 million people tuned in to NBC’s eight hours of live coverage from the Championships, lifting the network to the No. 2 spot Saturday night behind CBS. Viewership peaked for the conclusion of the ladies free skate (10:30–11 p.m. ET), which saw defending champion Gold and two-time champion Wagner squaring off for the title, with more than 4 million viewers watching.

On Sunday, the men’s final proved a hit with those watching at home as well. More than 3 million fans tuned in to watch Brown earn his first U.S. title

in a tightly contested event that featured Rippon’s record-setting free skate.

ATTENDANCE

More than 118,000 people experienced the U.S. Championships inside the Greensboro Coliseum. Of those, more than 99,000 people watched competitions in the Coliseum or on the secondary ice surface. Like the TV audience, the ladies free skate drew the largest audience, with 11,416 fans. That set a record for single-session figure skating attendance in Greensboro, which also hosted the 2011 U.S. Championships. An additional 19,000 people visited FanFest, a free and interactive hub for fans of all ages that featured a mini-ice sheet, *Frozen* sing-a-longs, historical figure skating exhibits and the WFMY News 2 television remote set.

SKATE RADIO

The arena literally was buzzing all Championships weekend, as Prudential gave away 12,000 Skate Radios, allowing fans an insider’s perspective on what was happening on the ice. The Prudential Skate Radios were so popular that their murmur could be heard in the background of the arena as the ladies awaited their free skate scores.

Realizing the challenges fans face in understanding the scoring system, Prudential and U.S. Figure Skating teamed up to provide the unique experience. Using the Prudential Skate Radio, fans had the opportunity to listen to one of three live commentaries:

For a technical perspective, fans tuned in to Charlie Cyr — one of the world’s most experienced and highest-rated technical experts. Commentators also included David Santee, Meryl Davis and Judy Blumberg. PSA President Jimmie Santee explained in real time how each skate was being called and scored by the judges’ panel.

For a play-by-play feel, fans chose the live feed of icenetwork.com, which featured commentary from former U.S. champions and special guest appearances at the Ice Desk by America’s best, past and present.

For those who enjoy NBC’s broadcasts, fans inside the Coliseum could listen and watch Johnny Weir and Tara Lipinski work from the NBC booth.

2015 U.S. World Team (l-r, bottom row) Haven Denney, Alexa Scimeca, Polina Edmonds, Gracie Gold, Ashley Wagner, Madison Chock, Maia Shibutani and Madison Hubbell; (l-r, top row) Brandon Frazier, Christopher Knierim, Joshua Farris, Adam Rippon, Jason Brown, Evan Bates, Alex Shibutani and Zachary Donohue.





Redemption!

Wagner quiets critics with third title; Gold, Chen delight crowds

by AMY ROSEWATER

Ashley Wagner was well aware that some people had written her off. They said that at 23, she was too old. They said she couldn't land a triple-triple combination. And there were those who argued that she shouldn't even have been named to the Olympic Team, having finished fourth at the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston.

It was time, the naysayers believed, that she should hang it up.

There was just one problem: Wagner wasn't buying it.

Not only did she win both the short and free skate programs in Greensboro to claim her third U.S. title, she also incorporated a combination in both programs that she had never landed before in competition: a triple Lutz-triple toe. Her score of 221.02 points bested top rival and defending U.S. champion Gracie Gold by 15.48 points and was 26.65 points better than her previous personal-best U.S. score, set back in 2013.

Not since the days of Michelle Kwan, who won nine U.S. championships between 1996 and 2005, had a woman won three U.S. titles. Wagner, who won in 2012 and 2013 but relinquished her crown to Gold in 2014, relished her moment in Greensboro.

"This one tastes the sweetest; this one means the most to me," said Wagner, who lives and trains in Los Angeles but continues to represent the Skating Club of Wilmington. "Because this one shows every single person who doubts me, every single person who says I'm too old, every single person who says I'm not capable of being a leading lady — this shows them that they need to shut their mouths and watch me skate."

Earlier in the season, Wagner admitted she was "mentally fried" after the intense scrutiny she was under following the Olympic Games in Sochi, but with help from coach and noted technician Rafael Arutunian and close friend and training mate Adam Rippon, she was able to regroup and rekindle her love for the sport.

Although Wagner had medaled in both of her Grand Prix events this season, she was continually being called for underrotating her jumps. At Skate Canada, she was second to 16-year-old Anna Pogorilaya, and at Trophée Eric Bompard, she finished behind Elena Radionova, who was 15 at the time, and Julia Lipnitskaia, a gold medalist in the team event in Sochi who is 16.

Still, Wagner qualified as one of six women for the Grand Prix Final in Barcelona. Four of the six hailed from Russia, and Wagner found herself in last place after the short program. She rallied, however, in the free skate, and even landed a clean triple-triple in the process. It was that program that got her rejuvenated for the U.S. Championships.

"I'm viciously competitive," said Wagner. "I will always admit to that. I don't like to get beat, and I do not like to get beat by girls."

In Greensboro, Wagner backed up her big talk with her short program. Skating to "Adagio" from the ballet *Spartacus*, she unleashed a clean triple Lutz-triple toe and sailed through to a U.S. personal-best 72.04 point score. She gave the crowd two thumbs-up from the kiss and cry, and was relieved afterward to talk about her strong performance with reporters.

"First of all," she said, "I'm glad to be standing in front of you guys and I don't have to explain myself."

Rippon, who choreographed programs for Wagner and Mirai Nagasu, said it was more difficult to watch Wagner skate than to compete himself.

"Definitely it was more nerve-racking," he said. "You have no control."

For Arutunian, who has been working with Wagner for the past couple of seasons, it was imperative that Wagner continue to push the envelope technically. Even though he knew the U.S. Championships would be a pressure-cooker environment for her, he wanted to challenge her with the triple Lutz-triple toe because he knew she would

JAN AHERF/US FIGURE SKATING



LADIES

GOLD Ashley Wagner, 221.02
SILVER Gracie Gold, 205.54
BRONZE Karen Chen, 199.79
PEWTER Polina Edmonds, 192.62



SENIOR LADIES

(l-r) Gracie Gold,
Ashley Wagner, Karen
Chen, Polina Edmunds





Gracie Gold

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

need it to be competitive on the international stage.

“We must move on,” Arutunian said. “We cannot stop. If we do then somebody will come along and beat you up.”

Although Gold did not skate her best in the short program, a Lori Nichol-choreographed routine to a piano concerto by Edvard Grieg she had used in Sochi a year ago, she still had a strong showing — especially since she was coming off a stress fracture in her left foot. Gold said she first began experiencing some pain in her foot while in Japan for the NHK Trophy. She won that event only to come home to California and receive the stress fracture diagnosis. The injury forced her to withdraw from the Grand Prix Final.

Gold, a member of the Wagon Wheel Figure Skating Club, turned a planned triple-triple in her short program into a triple-double but overall skated well enough to place second.

“It would be extremely easy to say the mistake on the toe loop was because of the recovery from the foot fracture,” said Gold, 19. “However, it was not, because I’d been skating very well.”

Polina Edmunds, a member of the Peninsula Skating Club who made the Olympic Team with Wagner and Gold in Sochi, was third after the short.

Edmunds, 16, who skated to selections from “Flamenco Fantasy” by Gustavo Montesano, opened her routine with a triple Lutz-triple toe loop and earned 66.04 points.

Meanwhile, Nagasu, a 2008 U.S. champion and 2010 Olympian, received a warm response from the Greensboro crowd. Nagasu, a member of the Pasadena Skating Club, finished third at the 2014 U.S. Championships but was left off the Olympic Team in Sochi. The 21-year-old performed her short program to “Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini” by Rachmaninoff and earned 65.28 points for her effort.

Nagasu was the first skater in the final group of the free skate to perform, and although she looked as if she was going to get off to a solid start, she got too close to the boards and hit the wall early in her program. She somehow managed to regroup and continue skating, but it was obvious the fall had rattled her. She later fell on a triple Salchow and in the kiss and cry she was sobbing in pain.

She had hoped and trained for a spot on the World team this year since she came so close and missed out a year ago, but wound up 10th overall.

A newcomer to the senior scene named Karen Chen quickly brightened the crowd’s spirits. At 4-foot-10, Chen dazzled with her “Godfather Suite” program. Although she underrotated the second jump in her triple Lutz-triple toe combination, she reeled off four more triples and included a double Axel-double toe-double loop at the end of her routine.

Not many in the skating world predicted the 15-year-old would contend for a medal at these U.S. Championships, but Chen, a member of the Peninsula Skating Club, did just that with a bronze (199.79 points). Chen’s coach of about two years, Tammy Gambill, however, did have the podium as a goal.

“I really did think it was possible,” Gambill said. “She is like a sponge. She will try anything I ask her do, and she always wants to do more. I continually have to tell her to stop.”

Chen definitely was a bright spot, but it was Wagner who once again stole the show. Wearing a red dress and skating to selections from the soundtrack of *Moulin Rouge*, she landed a clean triple Lutz-triple toe and included a second triple Lutz late in the routine. From start to finish, she kept the crowd in Greensboro mesmerized.

“This was the first competition in a while where I’ve been able to put out two totally solid performances,” Wagner said. “And it’s also the first competition in a while where I’ve said I’m going to put out two solid performances and then do that.”

Gold, who felt the pressure of having to skate after Wagner’s virtually flawless performance, skated to “Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again,” from *The Phantom of the Opera*. Elegant but somewhat tentative, Gold opened with a triple Lutz-triple toe but later fell on a triple flip. Still, she finished with 205.54 points and a silver medal, and earned a spot on the team that will compete at the World Championships in Shanghai in March.

The 1-2 finish from Wagner and Gold only

makes their on-ice rivalry that much stronger. Gold relayed a quote that said, “Those that stay together, stay together.”

“We will be the friendliest U.S. rivals,” Gold said, “but it makes for great TV.”

Edmunds was the final skater to compete in the free skate. Performing to music from *Peter Pan*, she struggled a bit in her routine, falling on a triple Lutz. She finished fourth with 192.62 points but was named to the World team, making all three Olympians from a year ago competitors to watch out for in Shanghai.

Chen missed the International Skating Union’s age cutoff to compete at Worlds by about six weeks, as skaters must turn 15 by July 1 of the previous year. (Chen’s birthday is Aug. 16, 1999.) She will represent the United States at the World Junior Championships in Estonia in March and is eligible to compete in the senior Grand Prix Series in the fall.

As for Wagner, Gold and Edmunds, who will now prepare for Worlds, they know they have their work cut out for them with the red-hot Russians, but they believe their performances in Greensboro are a sign of good things to come in Shanghai. The last U.S. woman to win a World title was Kimmie Meissner in 2006.

“I think the U.S. ladies showed that we’re a force to be reckoned with,” Wagner said. “We’re coming in hot and the world better watch out.”

Just some words of advice for anyone thinking of writing them off.

Karen Chen





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Brown dazzles crowd en route to title; Rippon, Farris simply sensational

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Some say there is no formula for charisma. You're either born with it, or you aren't.

Jason Brown would disagree — politely, of course, and with a big smile. His ability to touch every person in a 15,000-seat arena doesn't come naturally. Long hours in a cold rink, attention to the smallest detail and endless program run-throughs let him hone his muscle memory, wrap it in exuberance and pour it over the ice.

"For Jason, the formula is about his hard work and his training," Kori Ade, Brown's coach of 15 years, said. "The reason he can go out there with such confidence and be such a showman is because that's what he does every day."

In the 30 days leading up to the U.S. Championships, Ade challenged Brown to perform 40 clean routines, short program or free skate, at their rink in Monument, Colorado. He did her three better, hitting 43 clean programs.

The 20-year-old Highland Park, Illinois, native, who won U.S. silver last season and placed in the top 10 at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, took inspiration from another Chicago area skater: 2010 Olympic champion Evan Lysacek.

"Every time he took the ice he was ready to fight, ready to do the best he could do," Brown, who represents Skokie Valley FSC, said. "It's cool to look at his values when he [competed] and try to learn from that. He's definitely been a big inspiration."

In Greensboro, Brown built a lead with a virtuoso performance of his swinging short program, choreographed by Rohene Ward to Little Walter's "Juke." He snapped off a fine triple Axel, triple flip-triple toe loop combination and Tano triple Lutz (one arm bent over head) along the way.

His dynamic free skate, set to Maxime Rodriguez's "Tristan et Iselt," had one minor blemish: a two-footed landing on his second triple Axel, which was judged underrotated. But he hit two tough triple-triple combinations in the program's second

half, and his choreographic steps built effectively to climactic double Axels and a fast closing combination spin. His 274.98 point total set a new U.S. record and edged Adam Rippon by 2.50 points.

"I'm so honored and humbled," Brown said. "I was just checking [elements] off the list, enjoying the audience and every single moment out there."

Ade has coached Brown since the day the skater's mother, Marla, took his older sister to a local rink for lessons and decided to enroll her overactive son as well. The partnership moved to Monument in the spring of 2013, after Brown graduated from Highland Park High School.

"When it all pays off in a big way like this, it's hard not to get emotional," Ade said. "My reaction is really about his reaction. This is what every skater dreams of, being national champion."

Greensboro was sweet redemption for the silver and bronze medalists, both of whom battled their share of demons earlier in the season.

After disappointing performances in his two Grand Prix events, Rippon, a member of the SC of New York, arrived in Greensboro with a new short program he choreographed himself to Hans Zimmer's Latin-themed "Nyah" from the *Mission: Impossible II* soundtrack.

"I said, 'OK, I need to get my life together; I need to do the quad Lutz again.' I needed rejuvenation," Rippon, 25, said. "I needed music that would inspire me to land the quad, something intense. 'Nyah' sounds like the music of a champion."

Rippon's quad was judged underrotated in the short program, but his newfound aggression — plus a pristine triple Axel — helped him stand fifth heading into the free skate. There, he delivered a mesmerizing program to Franz Liszt's "Piano Concerto No. 1," choreographed with Tom Dickson. The quad Lutz was again short of rotation, but everything else — two triple Axels, his own "Rippon" Lutz (arms straight up) in

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



MEN
GOLD Jason Brown, 274.98
SILVER Adam Rippon, 272.48
BRONZE Joshua Farris, 267.98
PEWTER Max Aaron, 259.19



SENIOR MEN

(l-r) Adam Rippon,
Jason Brown, Joshua
Farris, Max Aaron



JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING



PHOTOS BY JAY ADER

Adam Rippon

combination with a triple toe, and a triple flip-half loop-triple Salchow combination — was stellar, and he earned 187.77 points, a new U.S. record for a free skate. He finished with 272.48 points.

It was a stunning turnaround for Rippon, a two-time World Junior champion who won U.S. silver in 2012 but faded to eighth in the U.S. last season. He gave full credit to his coaching team in Artesia, California, headed by Rafael Arutunian.

“I wanted to come here and show not only I am ready for the national championships, but ready to fight for the World podium,” Rippon said. “I came into this week feeling like I had been written off, and I wanted to change that talk about

me. I wanted people to see me as the champion, and I feel like a champion today.”

For bronze medalist Josh Farris, a member of the Broadmoor SC, the turnaround was even more profound. The 20-year-old, fourth in the U.S. the past two seasons, struggled with a sprained right ankle and lack of confidence this fall. He withdrew from his first Grand Prix assignment and placed 11th (last) at his second event, NHK Trophy, where he failed to land a fully clean jump element.

“He told me on the bus in Japan that this would never happen again,” said Damon Allen, who, with Christy Krall, coaches Farris in Colorado Springs. “Sometimes you learn so much when things like that happen. It made him say, ‘I want to fight for this.’ He’s been a new man ever since.”

Jeffrey Buttle choreographed the skater’s short program to Ed Sheeran’s “Give Me Love,” and it was the most contemporary, heartfelt routine of the event, including a superb triple Axel. Although Farris turned out of the landing of the second jump of a triple flip-triple toe combination, he still earned 90.40 points for second place entering the free skate.

“This whole year I felt self-deprecating and defeated, so the fact that I can even step out of a jump and still get that score is nice to know,” Farris said.

The Colorado Springs skater continued his stunning turnaround with a poignant free skate to music from *Schindler’s List*, opening with a fully rotated quad toe loop with a step out on the landing. The rest of his elements, including two triple Axels, were near-perfect, and he earned 267.98 points.

In fact, Farris did too much: His third combination, a triple Lutz-double toe loop, was ruled invalid, because it included his third double toe. The miscue may have cost him the title.

“I fought through the whole program; I was terrified,” Farris said. “I was so nervous I would skate like [garbage]. I was talking to (sports psychologist) Dr. Caroline Silby and we figured out I just need to fight, and it’s going to be really, really hard, and that’s what I did. I fought as hard as I could and I think it paid off.”

Max Aaron, also a member of the Broadmoor SC and the 2013 U.S. champion, landed two quadruple Salchows, the second in combination with a triple toe, as well as two triple Axels and four other triples in his free skate to the *Gladiator* soundtrack. But his program components score was lower than that of the top three, and he settled for fourth place with 259.19 points.

Four-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott, third after the short, skated a stirring free skate to Barber’s “Adagio for Strings” but fell on a quad toe loop and the second jump of a triple flip-half loop-triple Salchow combination. A member of the Detroit Skating Club, Abbott placed fifth with 258.29 points, his lowest finish in nine trips to the U.S. Championships as a senior man.

“I wanted to be in the top three and have a chance at going to the World Championships,” the 29-year-old said. “For me, it’s really difficult because I get a lot of criticism for peaking this

time of the year, but when I don’t peak at the U.S. Championships, I don’t make the World team. Then, when I have the trajectory to peak at the right time, I don’t get the ability to continue. It’s such a double-edged sword.”

Brown, Rippon and Farris were named to the U.S. team for the 2015 World Figure Skating Championships in Shanghai, held March 23–29. There, they will contend with a battery of skaters — including World and Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu; three-time European champion Javier Fernandez; and Olympic silver medalist Denis Ten, among others — who include multiple quadruple jumps in their programs.

Brown, who has yet to attempt a quad in competition, won’t be rushed into the jump just to satisfy a timetable.

“I’m going to focus on what I can do, and do it well,” he said. “I want to get consistent with what I have. As soon as it is ready, it will go into the program.”

Rippon and Farris both plan quads — Rippon, the Lutz; Farris, the toe loop — in both of their programs in Shanghai.

To Rippon, it is a risk worth taking.

“Doing the quad Lutz, it makes me threatening,” he said. “It’s the hardest quad, and no one else is doing it.”

Now that Farris’ ankle injury has improved, his coach doesn’t think the quad will be an issue.

“His numbers are getting better all the time,” Allen said. “He’s hitting five or six a day. It’s more consistent than it’s ever been. I feel he can succeed with it.”

Joshua Farris



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Blast off!

Scimeca and Knierim launch quad twist in victory Denney and Frazier, Kayne and O'Shea land on podium

by TROY SCHWINDT

While their full attention is on preparing for the World Championships later this month, 2015 U.S. pairs champions Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim look forward to being able to savor and enjoy the title they earned in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"I think I'll feel different when we go to shows and are introduced as national champions," Scimeca said.

The 23-year-old Chicago-area native, who trains with her 27-year-old fiancé in Colorado Springs, Colorado, has also thought about what it will be like when they see their U.S. Championships banner hanging from the rafters at the World Arena Ice Hall, next to such greats as Olympic champions Hayes Jenkins, David Jenkins and Peggy Fleming.

"I told my little friend who came to watch us skate last summer that my goal was to get a banner," Scimeca said. "So it's going to be really cool. I even asked our rink manager if I could rhinestone the banner."

Receiving their World Team jackets and seeing their names inscribed on the coveted Tiffany sterling silver U.S. Figure Skating Championship Trophy also mean a great deal to Scimeca and Knierim.

"When our names get placed on the trophy, make sure you call us so we can come right over," Scimeca said.

Their enthusiasm and genuine joy for their accomplishment is easy to appreciate when one looks back at their spectacular and nearly flawless performances at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Their short program, performed to the music "El Tango de Roxanne," set a new record for a pairs short program at the U.S. Championships with a score of 74.01. They landed their side-by-side triple Salchows — their nemesis element all season — as well as executed an impressive triple twist, smooth reverse lasso lift and monster throw triple flip.

"Finally, huh? Geez, we've all been waiting," Knierim said, referring to the

team's blemished performances during the Grand Prix season.

With a lead of 5.63 points, Scimeca and Knierim put an exclamation point on their weekend with a program that started off with fireworks — a towering quad twist.

The daring element received 10.53 points, including 2.43 points for its grade of execution. It marked the first time that a U.S. pairs team had executed the quad twist in competition.

They talked about putting the risky element into the program immediately following their Grand Prix event in France in November.

"I got the phone call from them saying, 'We want to get back to trying the quad twist,'" coach Dalilah Sappenfield said. "They had watched the Chinese and felt, 'We can do this.' I had some conditions, though."

Sappenfield, who has guided four senior teams to five titles in the past eight years, had a professional from the sports medicine department at the Olympic Training Center come to the rink.

"For me, Chris had to do an injury prevention plan, because there's more pounding on the man because you are catching a little later and the pressure is a lot different."

They also took it one week at a time, making sure that the twist wasn't going to affect any of the other elements.

"We had worked so hard on unison, choreography, skating skills, making the jumps consistent, the throws more technically sound that we didn't want the quad to be the only thing," she said.

The plan worked beautifully in Greensboro, as Scimeca and Knierim moved past the quad twist to their side-by-side triple Salchows, which they again landed soundly. They continued stringing together element after element in their free skate to *An American in Paris*. They finished with a U.S. Championships record free skate score and a U.S. Championships record overall total of 210.49 points.

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



PAIRS

GOLD	Alexa Scimeca/ Chris Knierim, 210.49
SILVER	Haven Denney/ Brandon Frazier, 199.92
BRONZE	Tarah Kayne/ Daniel O'Shea, 185.31
PEWTER	Madeline Aaron/ Max Settlage, 175.74



SENIOR PAIRS

(l-r) Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier, Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim, Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea, Madeline Aaron and Max Settlege



JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING



The victory was extra sweet for the couple, who became engaged in April 2014. Knierim broke his fibula before last season and the team struggled to place fourth at the U.S. Championships and missed out on making the Olympic Team.

"The Chris and Alexa you saw last year wasn't the team that I knew they could be," Sappenheim said. "It was really good for everyone to see what they are capable of and the strength they really have."

Sappenheim, Scimeca and Knierim credited their team of coaches at the Broadmoor Skating Club for their success. Eddie Shipstad, Ryan Jahnke, Janet Champion and Larry Ibarra each bring something unique to the team, they said.

Florida-based Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier emerged with the silver medal, while Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea, who also train in Florida, secured the bronze medal.

Denney and Frazier finished second in both segments of the event, and had to skate right after the electric performance of Scimeca and Knierim.

"There were a couple of little things here and there, but overall, coming after such a historic program, I thought they held their heads up very well and stayed zeroed in on what they had to do," said coach John Zimmerman, who directs the team in Coral Springs.

Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier



The 2013 World Junior champions entered the U.S. Championships having placed second at Hilton HHonors Skate America and barely missed a place on the podium at the Rostelecom Cup in Russia.

"Coming here we had a lot of extra attention on us than what we are used to," Frazier said. "People might think that finishing second isn't good for us, but I was very proud of my partner and me. We did very well. We know we have a lot to improve on and we just want to keep climbing for Four Continents and Worlds."

For their short program to the theme from *The Godfather*, Denney and Frazier received all positive grades of execution on their elements. Their most exciting moment came when Denney landed a throw triple loop just inches from the boards.

"I yelled, 'Wall!'" Frazier said. "I'm sure the judges heard that."

In their free skate to music from *The Lion King* soundtrack, the team once again was solid. They did receive a negative GOE for their throw triple loop (Denney put a hand on the ice), but the rest of the program went off well.

Denney, 19, and Frazier, 22, finished with a total score of 199.92 points.

"I think with the long, that's the most we had to fight this season so far," Frazier said. "But we still put out a good performance and we're proud of that."

Kayne and O'Shea capped a season of frustration and the unknown by finishing on the podium. A lingering hip injury and subsequent surgery to Kayne put the team's season in limbo, as they withdrew from their two Grand Prix Series events in the fall.

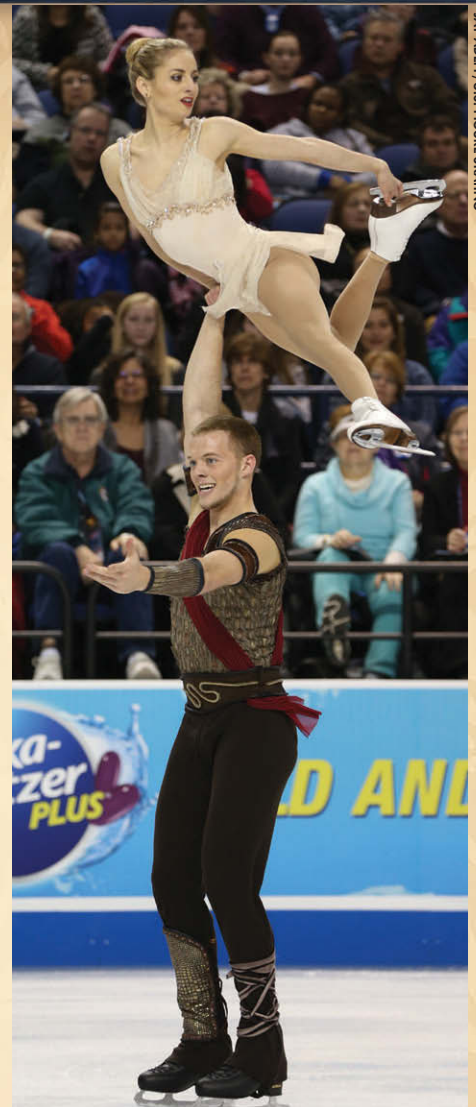
But they pushed on starting in November, training smarter, not harder, staying the course and believing in their coach Jim Peterson's message.

"One of the greatest things Mr. Peterson said to us this season was to have confidence in ourselves without having the repetitions of the elements," O'Shea said. "He really pushed that we have the ability to do every element, even if we don't do them every day."

For Kayne, Peterson's words struck a chord that helped her during the most frustrating times.

"One thing he would tell me every day and what he told me the first time I spoke to him after I had my surgery was that I was one step closer to a clean program," Kayne said.

"That's something I said to



Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea

myself every day to get through it. I tried to keep in mind it's a work in progress and to be patient with myself."

In Greensboro, Kayne, 21, and O'Shea, 23, started with an inspired short program to "Your Song" from *Moulin Rouge*, which put the team from Ellenton in fourth place with 61.56 points.

"The big goal we had was not only to accomplish the elements but tell the love story of *Moulin Rouge*, and they skated, I thought, with joy and passion," Peterson said.

For their free skate to selections from *Spartacus*, Kayne and O'Shea put together another crowd-pleasing program that was judged third-best overall. Their only major mistake came from a fall on the throw triple loop. The team finished with a total of 185.31 points.

"We just took it one day at a time, one week at a time," O'Shea said. "Each step of the way we pushed ourselves and became closer and stronger as a team because of the whole situation. Tarah said it best, 'Adversity makes you stronger.'"

The 2014 U.S. junior champions, Madeline Aaron, 20, and Max Settlege, 22, earned the pewter medal in their senior debut.

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'On a good path'

Chock and Bates take baton, win first title; Shibs, Hubbell and Donohue show grit, improvement

by MIMI WHETSTONE

Seventeen teams, an empty sheet of ice and a vacant throne. The stage was set for an epic ice dance showdown in Greensboro.

Following the reign of six-time U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, America's top spot was up for grabs. When the couples took the ice for the free dance, more than 7,000 spectators watched on the edge of their seats.

After a fierce battle, the crown was claimed by 22-year-old Madison Chock and 26-year-old Evan Bates, who won the event with 185.06 points in their fourth season together.

"We've definitely come a long way since we first started skating together," Chock said. "That first year was tough. We just kind of threw everything together and it was such a whirlwind. I don't even remember it. Even though we may not have as many years together as most teams, we've known each other so long, we have great coaches and we're both really hard workers. We make it work."

Steadily climbing the ranks since a fifth-place finish at their first U.S. Championships in 2012, Chock and Bates, of the All Year and Ann Arbor Figure Skating Clubs, respectively, have already left their mark in the world rankings, winning both of their Grand Prix assignments and earning silver at the Grand Prix Final earlier this season.

Still, victory did not come easily in Greensboro. Chock and Bates, and Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani were virtually tied after the short dance, when both teams skated near-flawless routines to paso doble and flamenco rhythms.

"That's no surprise, we know very well that the Shibutanis are tough competitors and I think our rivalry is nothing new to anybody," Bates said.

Chock and Bates gave a commanding performance to Minkus' *Don Quixote*, marked with flair and attack. But their footwork elements — including the two paso doble patterns and midline steps — earned Level 3. They brought 73.95 points into the free dance, and led by just .11.

The couple's coach, Igor Shpilband,

changed the partial pattern and midline steps after disappointing marks at the Grand Prix Final. He expects his skaters to perform the footwork elements even better as the season progresses.

"I want them to win, I want them to be the best," Shpilband said. "They want to be the best, they want to be World champions. You just can never stop making things better."

The Shibutanis delivered an inspired routine, highlighted by a stunning twizzle sequence that earned +3 grades of execution from eight of the nine judges. The siblings gained three Level 4s and the higher technical score, but their program components score was a point lower. Even so, they won the crowd, which leapt to its feet to deliver a sustained standing ovation.

"The highlight of that performance for us was how the audience was responding," Maia, 20, said. "Right away, we could feel their energy. They were with us every step of the way, and that really motivated us." Chock and Bates rose to the challenge in the free dance, earning a U.S. personal-best 111.11 points for their fresh, modern take on George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, featuring complex and dramatic lifts.

"We have some big goals and we want to be the best that we can possibly be," Chock said. "Hopefully that will lead us to an Olympic medal and many World medals. We have some great competitors keeping us on our toes, so we have to be working as hard as we can, as hard as we have been, and I think we're on a good path right now."

The Shibutanis delivered a superb routine to a medley of Strauss waltzes, drawing oohs and aahs for their three-part twizzles and fast rotational lift. They finished less than four points behind the victors to claim their fifth U.S. medal and highest U.S. finish since 2012.

"We're always trying to develop and top our own achievements," Alex, 23, said, reflecting on the team's 2011 World bronze medal. "2011 was a historic year for ice dance and for us. I don't think a team had ever gotten into podium position in their first year competing as a senior team. We're still very proud of that accomplishment and we'll always have

JAY ABERNETHY/US FIGURE SKATING



ICE DANCE

- GOLD** Madison Chock/
Evan Bates, 185.06
- SILVER** Maia Shibutani/
Alex Shibutani, 181.31
- BRONZE** Madison Hubbell/
Zachary Donohue, 164.74
- PEWTER** Kaitlin Hawayek/
Jean-Luc Baker, 162.45



SENIOR ICE DANCE

(l-r) Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker



that honor. Now we're trying to get back to that. Not bronze medal position at the World Championships, per se, but back to the top. We've been climbing back and improving every year."

The SC of New York and Arctic FSC representatives set U.S. personal-best scores, finishing with an overall total of 181.31 points. Their free dance earned 107.47 points.

"This is our 11th year skating together," Maia said. "We've been through so many different experiences and learned a lot about ourselves and what we really want out of all this. Our next big goal is 2018, but we've learned that a lot of this is about the journey and the everyday experiences — how you approach every single opportunity that you have. Maybe our standings haven't been the same since 2011, but we know that we've improved so much since then."

The two teams train less than 16 miles apart in metro Detroit — Chock and Bates heading up Shpilband's camp in Novi, Michigan, while the Shibutanis work with Marina Zoueva's team in nearby Canton. With both 2010 Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada and 2014 Olympic



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue

champions Davis and White out of the picture this season, the competitiveness among the U.S. skaters is proving to be beneficial for the sport as a whole.

"It's great for ice dance to have a domestic rivalry like we have with the Shibutanis," Bates said. "It benefits fans, the sport, us — it keeps everyone motivated. We expect that the next three years are going to be that same kind of jostling for who's going to come out on top."

"Dance all around the world is extremely strong right now," Maia said. "We don't think of the internal rivalry — maybe because we want to be the best in the world. We're really pushing ourselves every day."

Among the fierce competitors battling to better the sport are Madison Hubbell and Zach Donohue, who earned bronze with 164.74 points. The Detroit SC representatives performed a free dance with a new approach to music from *The Great Gatsby* soundtrack, steering clear of the classic 1920s flapper style and highlighting an edgier, more contemporary look on the ice.

"If it has the word 'classic,' then it's been done before," Donohue, 24, said. "I think the world is kind of sick of seeing

the same thing over and over again. We want to be noticeable and push the sport forward. I think we're all motivated to do that and I think that's a huge advantage to American ice dance, especially since we have so many top teams now."

Earning the pewter with 162.45 points were 2014 U.S. junior champions Kaitlin Hawayek of the Detroit SC and Jean-Luc Baker of the Seattle SC.

"The jump from junior to senior is very difficult, and I think we not only handled it well, but we don't look like a junior team on the ice," Baker said. "On all of our practices and our warm-ups, we didn't feel like rookies. We're really proud of ourselves to be able to feel that way."

Hawayek and Baker, just 18 and 21 years old, respectively, won the 2014 World Junior title and burst onto the senior scene this year, winning the bronze medal at NHK Trophy last fall. Training alongside Hubbell and Donohue under Pasquale Camerlengo in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, the team feels confident about its future among the top teams.

"We want to be the faces of U.S. ice dancing," Baker said. "And we feel like we can say that because we're young."



Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani

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CESARIO SHOWS RESILIENCE



Samantha Cesario did not expect to record a U.S. personal-best score in the short program (59.21 points) and hear the crowd boo because they thought that the marks were too low. Even after Cesario returned home from Greensboro to her training rink in Long Island, New York, she was still finding herself trying to explain it all.

"I was really emotional after the short program," said Cesario, who lost key points on a triple loop-triple loop that was downgraded, to place 11th. "It's really disappointing in skating when you put out a program that you think was worth more and then wonder, 'Why was my score so low?'"

Cesario was able to turn her disappointment into fuel for the free skate, which featured her own dramatic twist on Carmen. Even though the music from the opera has been used by many in skating, Cesario's version managed to draw in fans and it was a routine that Cesario said she will no longer perform at the season's end.

The performance, which featured six clean triples, elevated her to fifth place overall and helped earn her a trip to the Four Continents Championships in South Korea.

"I told myself before the free skate, 'You know what, let's give it what we have,'" Cesario said. "I was really prepared for that program, and I knew if I skated it really well I could move up."

— Amy Rosewater



OLYMPIC SKATERS EYE FUTURE

While the three 2014 Olympic pairs skaters competing in Greensboro didn't finish on the podium with their new partners, all signaled that the best is yet to come.

Marissa Castelli, who won two U.S. titles with former partner Simon Shnapir, debuted with Canadian-born Mervin Tran. They skated well in the short program, finishing third in that segment. They didn't fare as well in the free skate and placed sixth overall.

"We got here, did the best we could have in the short and we love the potential," Castelli said. "It wasn't our best today, but we'll definitely be back with more."

Shnapir and his new partner, DeeDee Leng, finished eighth overall but weren't disappointed considering what they went through in the fall.

Leng endured a hip injury, which prevented the pair from practicing as they wanted to during the season.

"Just the fact that we're here competing, feeling as good as we can be at this point in the season, we're happy with it," Shnapir said. "DeeDee's a trooper for working hard through the season with this injury, and I thought she was a rock star out there. She skated great."

Nate Bartholomay, who competed at the Olympics with Felicia Zhang, finished seventh with new partner Gretchen Donlan.

Bartholomay had bone spurs and a cyst surgically removed from his right ankle three months before the U.S. Championships. The team wasn't able to practice until a month out from the event.

"We can't wait for us to have a full year of me being pain-free, and then with the work we have already done, bring our A-game next year," Bartholomay said.

— Troy Schwindt



Daniel Kulenkamp

LYRICS GONNA MAKE YOU GROOVE

Many skaters took advantage of a new rule permitting vocal music in singles and pairs programs this season, but no one embraced it like Daniel Kulenkamp (Coyotes SC of Arizona), who placed eighth in junior men.

For his short program, Kulenkamp and his coaches and choreographers, Doug Ladret and Steven Cousins, picked Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog," the hard rock anthem with lyrics describing — well, let's just say it has lyrics.

Skating fans, especially those of a certain age, have a reputation for conservatism, so we asked a few how

they felt about "Black Dog."

"I loved it! I thought his choreography was absolutely perfect for the music, and he attacked it with the kind of energy you need to do that type of song," Emily Batista, 60, said.

Well, OK. Maybe Zeppelin conjured up memories of Batista's youth. So we turned to Jane O'Connor, 85, who wore a sweatshirt from the 1998 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, where

Michelle Kwan skated an unforgettable program to "Lyra Anjelica" — a far cry from "Black Dog."

"I thought of Ryan Bradley. It had a lot of energy, and he skated to the music," O'Connor said. "It was something that was skateable and he did a wonderful job. A steady diet of it, I don't know."

Would O'Connor take "Black Dog" over another Carmen?

"Oh my gosh, yes," she said.
 — Lynn Rutherford

NAGASU ENDURES MORE 'BATTLE SCARS'

Mirai Nagasu came to Greensboro with hopes of reclaiming a lost opportunity a year ago. Although she finished third at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston, she was not selected to compete at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. She tried to channel her disappointment into newfound promise, and she appeared on her way in the short program, where she placed fourth — just .76 points out of third place.

"Sometimes you get cut in life, and you bleed," said Nagasu, trying to put her prior disappointment into words. "My coach (Tom Zakrajsek) taught me this. But you heal over time, and they make you as a person because you still have these scars. I like to think of scars as warrior wounds and battle scars. They don't define who

you are. The way you overcome them makes you who you are."

With her warrior wounds somewhat healed, Nagasu took the ice to perform her "Madame Butterfly" free skate. After a strong start, however, she was doing crossovers and came too close to the boards. Her blade got caught in the base of the board and she fell on her left knee. She managed to complete the program, but the fall certainly took its toll. She sat in the kiss and cry with blood on her knee, which an event physician later said was hyperextended. Nagasu finished 10th. When contacted a week after the U.S. Championships, Zakrajsek said Nagasu had still not been able to skate.

— Amy Rosewater



AMERICAN DANCE LEGACY

When it comes to American ice dance, where there's one title, several more follow. The last four U.S. ice dance champions each topped the podium at least four times, dating back to 1991 when Elizabeth Punsalan and Jarod Swallow won gold for the first of five times.

This year, Madison Chock and Evan Bates took their first turn atop the U.S. ice dance podium, marking the first time a new champion had been crowned since Meryl Davis and Charlie White's six year reign began.

"Filling those shoes is such a daunting task that we don't really put it upon ourselves," Bates said. "I think this is a great start and I'm

ecstatic about it, but we're not thinking about a big chunk or an era like ice dance has been in the past. I think in ice dance these days, whoever skates well on that day can win."

Since the first U.S. Championships in 1914, 11 ice dance teams have won three or more titles, with Davis and White holding the record at six. The last time a U.S. ice dance team stopped at one title was when April Sargent-Thomas and Russ Witherby took top honors 23 years ago in 1992.

— Mimi Whetstone



FAMILIAR FACES

During the senior dance event, some familiar faces took the ice in an unfamiliar way.

Charlotte Maxwell, who last competed in 2009 with Nick Traxler, and Ryan Devereaux, who last competed in 2008 with Shannon Wingle, both returned to the U.S. Championships in Greensboro, this time, skating with each other.

"I ran a marathon in May of 2012 and it didn't do anything for me," Devereaux said. "The people I was training with were really inspired and I was like, 'I feel nothing.' That's when I thought maybe I should go back to skating so I can feel that passion again, and I do."

"I was missing my outlet of creativity," Maxwell added. "Ryan and I had kept in touch through all the years, and we were both thinking about coming back. The tim-



ing was right."

The 25-year-olds had each missed multiple seasons, Maxwell skipping five U.S. Championships, Devereaux sitting out six. The duo now trains in Canton, Michigan, with Marina Zoueva, and placed ninth in Greensboro with 122.50 points.

— Mimi Whetstone

SCIMECA IS A QUOTE MACHINE

U.S. pairs champion Alexa Scimeca emerged as one of the best quotes of the 2015 U.S. Championships. The 23-year-old Chicago-area native kept reporters with plenty to write about over the weeklong competition with her spontaneous wit.

At the free skate press conference, she answered a question about how her partner and fiancé, 27-year-old Christopher Knierim, had changed in terms of his demeanor and approach from last year to this year.

"I wear the pants in the relationship," Scimeca said. [Chris leaned in and said, 'It's not true'] I think Chris is the leader on the ice, and then in our personal life, I like to take control. I think maybe if Chris came off uninterested last year, he had a really tough recovery from his foot. Looking back he said he may have rushed it. It was just a really tough mental battle for him throughout the whole season. So coming to nationals he had a lot on his shoulders and once he got the metal removed from his foot, he has been ready to go and he's let the tiger out."

— Troy Schwandt



FARRIS STRUMS HIS WAY TO PODIUM

With three skaters left in the men's event, the tension was palpable.

Back-to-back performances by crowd-favorites Jason Brown and Jeremy Abbott seemingly shook the Greensboro Coliseum. Backstage, athletes huddled to watch the monitor while NBC camera crews zipped up and down the corridor.

Separated from the frenzy was the competition's final skater, Joshua Farris, who with coach Christy Krall found a private haven enclosed by glass. There, instead of stretching or visualizing his "Schindler's List" program, the shy, 20-year-old skater strummed his guitar and serenaded his coach with Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud."

As the crowd roared inside the arena, Farris' voice reverberated from the space's high ceiling and wrapped around him like a child's favorite blanket. Krall, meanwhile, swayed gently with the music.

"This is the first time that I did this at a competition," said Farris, who just four months ago began taking guitar and vocal lessons. "I think it actually helped me open up a little bit and share the same feelings that I have with the music I have in my program. It really got my mind away from competing, so it calmed me down a lot."

The unique warm-up sat well with Krall, too.

"I want you to know it was the best 15 minutes of my life," she said. "I just sat there and said, 'This is wonderful.' It was very peaceful for me, too. He's very talented."

Farris, who appeared calm and centered as he took the ice, performed a beautiful, athletic program to earn the bronze medal and a spot on the Four Continents and World teams.

But now, traveling abroad creates a new problem.

"I'm terrified of taking my guitar because I don't know what the airlines are going to do," Farris said. "I've talked with my guitar teacher and other musicians and they say there is no guarantee it will get through."

When asked how the guitar will get to competitions, Krall quickly said, "Under my arm. You can count on it being there."

— Barb Reichert



PHOTO BY BARB REICHERT



NICOLE AGRESTO SWIRLS & TWIRLS

Artist Nicole Agresto won the People's Choice Award for her skating artwork titled "Swirls & Twirls" that appeared on the cover of the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships event program. Agresto was one of 40 area artists who took part in the contest, which featured 44 pieces of skating art on the cover. The voting ended on Jan. 25, the final day of the U.S. Championships. Agresto received a \$750 prize for winning the award.

AUTOGRAPHS

U.S. pairs champion Alexa Scimeca signs the cast of a young fan. Members of Team USA took turns on the Greensboro Coliseum concourse penning autographs and meeting their legions of fans.



HERSHBERGER AWARD

U.S. junior ladies champion Bradie Tennell is the recipient of the 2015 Ron and Gayle Hershberger Award. The fund was established through gifts made in tribute to Ron's long-term service to U.S. Figure Skating and to Gayle's support of her husband. Winners are chosen based on the combined total of their short program and free skate component marks at the U.S. Championships. The award rotates among the four disciplines annually. Hershberger served as U.S. Figure Skating president from 2005 to 2009. He also sat on the Board of Directors from 1990 to 2014. He and Gayle presented the award in Greensboro. For more information on available scholarships and awards, visit www.usfigureskating.org/funding.



ICENETWORK

Samantha Cesario is interviewed by two-time U.S. pairs champion and icenetwork correspondent John Coughlin in the icenetwork Athlete Lounge. Senior athletes stopped by just minutes after stepping off the ice for interviews.



Members of U.S. Figure Skating's Scholastic Honors Team are honored during an on-ice ceremony. Ten outstanding student-athletes were recognized for their efforts in the classroom, in their communities and as competitive figure skaters. Scholastic Honors Team recipients received scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Honors Team letter jackets. The Scholastic Honors Team is funded through the generosity of the Pioneer Fund, the legacy of the late Helen McLoraine. Pictured are (l-r) National Vice Chair of Scholastic Honors Jonathan Geen, Aya Takai, Eric Stinehart, Jacob Simon, Ananya Nandy, Vivian Luo, Jessica Lin, Lyra Katzman, Maureen Cowhey and U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier. Not pictured are Olivia Barbulescu and Zachary Milestone.



DISBROW AWARD

Carolyn Haman, a member of the Dallas Figure Skating Club for more than 50 years, is presented with the 13th annual Disbrow Award during a competition break. Haman has served as president and adviser for the club, offering wisdom, guidance and encouragement to skaters

and officials at all levels. She's also worked tirelessly on many U.S. Figure Skating committees. The Disbrow Award is presented in honor of the late Jimmy Disbrow, who was an integral part of the skating community for more than four decades. He was a competitor, coach, Olympic Team Leader, national and World judge and president

of U.S. Figure Skating from 1998 to 2000. Established in 2003, the Jimmy Disbrow Award has recognized members in the figure skating community who exhibit a passionate spirit of dedication, selflessness and volunteerism, just as Jimmy throughout his life to the sport. Jimmy's wife, Dede, presented the award.

FANFEST

Olympic silver medalist and North Carolina resident Paul Wylie visits with fans at the FanFest rink inside the Greensboro Coliseum. Wylie, the honorary chairman of the 2015 U.S. Championships, provided a skating demonstration and signed autographs. Thousands of people took a break between the skating sessions to tour FanFest, which included food vendors, an inflatable zone, photo opportunities with Disney's Frozen characters and the U.S. Championship Trophy, TV and radio live broadcasts, live music performances, a chance to see a NASCAR race car and meet members of Team USA. A U.S. Figure Skating Museum exhibit featuring the evolution of dresses and skates was also on display, and people could skate for free on the main practice rink on the last Sunday morning of the event.



SOCIAL SCENE

U.S. pairs bronze medalists Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea ham it up in the "Social Scene" with Internet celebrity and comedian Michael Buckley. The show aired on icenetwork.



Emily Chan and Jonah Barrett, the novice singles champions, receive the Cecilia Colledge Memorial Fund Award in Greensboro. The Colledge Award is presented annually to the novice lady and novice man who achieve the highest combined program components scores. The award was established by Ms. Colledge's estate following her death in 2008. She enjoyed a successful skating career, winning the silver medal at the 1936 Olympic Winter Games and the 1937 World title while representing Great Britain. She relocated in 1957 and joined The Skating Club of Boston's coaching staff, where she taught until 1977. Joe Blount, president of The Skating Club of Boston, presented Chan and Barrett with a scholarship certificate.

Top, Ty Newberry, executive director of Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena in Washington, D.C., second from right, and Leticia Moreno Enos, right, receive the Prudential Skating Fund Enrichment Award from Prudential representatives Kimberly Turner, left and Evan Hunter. Bottom, Jackie Woodland, hockey/ice skating recreation specialist at Idaho IceWorld in Boise, receives the Prudential Skating Fund Building Block Award. Presenting the check to Woodland, center, are Prudential's Kimberly Turner, left and Robert Kinney. The Prudential Skating Fund's mission is to provide financial support to underserved groups and communities within the sport of figure skating. A story about Friends of Fort Dupont and Idaho IceWorld's plans for the awards can be found in the February issue of SKATING magazine.



Grains of Time, North Carolina State's music department-sponsored male a cappella group, perform during breaks in the ladies free skate. The Grains have been part of NC State's campus life for more than four decades and have a loyal following on campus and throughout the state.





Attendees of the Friends of Figure Skating (FOFS) breakfast were treated to a first hand account of how U.S. pairs skaters Vivian and Ronald Joseph were officially recognized as the 1964 Olympic bronze medalists last fall. U.S. champions Ashley Wagner, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, and Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim made an appearance, as well as more than 45 Team USA athletes who mingled with the FOFs members. On a side note, FOFs members donated 82 2015 U.S. Championships tickets to the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Greensboro.



Fans receive a fresh look at the COVERGIRL & Olay Make-over Station on the concourse.



Four-time U.S. champion and two-time Olympian Jeremy Abbott received the Readers' Choice Award Michelle Kwan Trophy during the Smucker's Skating Spectacular. SKATING editor Troy Schwindt presented the trophy to Abbott before Abbott skated in the show.



Several members of the senior men's judging panel join for a photo after the competition's final event. (l-r) Lisa Erle, Steve Winkler, Linda Chihara, Larry Kriwanek, Doug Williams, Jessica Bussgang, William Smith, Jaclyn Ward Vargo, Whitney Luke and Gayle Tanger.



Olympic ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White light the cauldron during the opening ceremonies. Davis and White rode in an official NASCAR race car during the exciting program, produced by Danielle Logano of the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail, North Carolina.



A 'MAGICAL' NIGHT

SANTEE, GERLI, HARRIS, INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

by BARB REICHERT

At each U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame induction, there comes a moment when those being honored look up at the arena crowd with the same expression: humility and awe.

The Class of 2015, inducted Jan. 23 during the Prudential U.S. Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, was no different. Two-time Olympian and 1981 World silver medalist David Santee (outstanding competitor) and organizational innovator Anne Gerli (outstanding contributor, nonathletic) grew quiet as their moment drew near. Choreographer Ricky Harris (outstanding contributor, creative impact), who was unable to attend due to a recent hip replacement, relied on friends to share the experience.

For the first time in the hall's history, the

"Being inducted is the ultimate honor. It means that I have made a lasting contribution to our sport. It is an amazing fact that I am the fourth hall-of-famer in my era in the men's event. That is tough competition!"

— DAVID SANTEE

inductees were escorted onto the ice by those who later would present them at a late-night reception.

In Harris' absence, Olympic champion Scott Hamilton walked onto the ice in her honor. After receiving the hall-of-fame medal from U.S. Figure Skating President Samuel Auxier, Hamilton raised it to the video board, which featured a picture of a radiant Harris, who turns 93 this month.

Hamilton, who earned the 1984 Olympic gold medal with choreographer Harris and coach Don Laws at his side, simply said, "This is for

you, Ricky."

Later at the reception, Hamilton read Harris' acceptance speech, which in part said: "Recently, I realized that I have choreographed for a dozen skaters who are hall-of-famers; of course, this now includes David Santee. I have derived great pleasure from that, knowing a little part of me is with all of them."

Waiting for their turn in the off-ice shadows, Sarah Hughes smiled fondly at Gerli.

Hughes, who has known Gerli since she was a little girl, offered her arm before the two stepped into the arena's spotlight. As Gerli's name was being announced, Hamilton walked to join Hughes in escorting the 92-year-old inductee — but Gerli would have none of it. Holding her head high, she boldly stepped forward, prompting the two Olympic champions to smile at each other and fall in behind her.

In response, the crowd jumped to its feet.

"To look around at a whole arena standing there looking at us, that stood out the most," Gerli said.

"You mean the standing ovation?" Gerli was asked.

"Well, no," she said. "We both know they were just stretching."

Moments before being introduced, PSA President Jimmie Santee joked with brother David Santee, who was fighting back tears while

"No matter how many champions I worked with, to be acknowledged and remembered is a wonderful thing. To be honored by your peers is very rewarding. From my first coach, Gene Turner, to the many kindnesses I've received through the years, I am very humbled and thankful."

— RICKY HARRIS

(l-r) David Santee, left, and his brother Jimmie Santee ham it up with a selfie prior to David's on-ice induction; Anne Gerli receives a standing ovation as she walks onto the ice to be honored, with Olympic champion Sarah Hughes applauding her special moment; Olympic champion Scott Hamilton represents choreography great Ricky Harris, holding up her hall-of-fame medal to the cheers of the crowd; Ricky Harris.

feeling the enormity of the moment. When his name was called, David and Jimmie took each other's arm, stepped onto the ice and posed for an exaggerated selfie.

"It was actually my idea to take the selfie,"

"With all those people who are in [the hall], I just don't feel like I should be there. There are such good people, such good skaters. I feel like I'm out of my league."

— ANNE GERLI

David said. "I was feeling a bit nervous and wanted to lighten the mood."

The crowd loved it, perhaps because the Santee boys, both U.S. medalists, have been known for their hijinks since their competitive days. Coincidentally, those early days included skating with the man who now would place the medal around David's neck.

"Having Sam Auxier as president present me with the hall-of-fame medal was, in his words, 'surreal,' because we grew up skating together in Chicago," David Santee said.

It was a full day of events for the inductees and their families, culminating in a celebratory reception that stretched well into the early morning.

"The on-ice induction ceremony and reception were magical, taking you back in time as though you were literally there," said Dr. Larry Mondschein, the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame nominating committee chair. "What was made clear throughout the presentations and acceptance speeches was the love and devotion each new inductee has for figure skating."

Get excited!

Juniors prove they are the real deal

All four of the disciplines in the junior ranks boasted deep, talented fields, and the winners showed impressive performances that will only improve with time.

Mitch Moyer, senior director of athlete high performance at U.S. Figure Skating, praised the efforts turned in by many of the future U.S. stars of the sport.

“The highlight from a developmental standpoint was our ladies and dance teams,” Moyer said of the junior division. “I think from top to bottom, they were exceptionally strong. Some of ladies didn’t perform up to their capabilities, but it was a good event, with good athletes who have bright futures.”

Chicago-area’s Bradie Tennell paced the field, winning the event by more than 16 points. She hit six clean triple jumps in her free skate, two in combination, and also showed outstanding spins.

The ice dance competition featured two veteran junior teams, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, and Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons, who have trained alongside each other for 10 years at Maryland’s Wheaton Ice Skating Academy.

“Those are two experienced teams that we expect to do well at World Juniors,” Moyer said. “There were also many young teams behind them that showed promise in Greensboro.”

Andrew Torgashev, at 13 the youngest competitor in the men’s field, broke two-time U.S. junior champion Nathan Chen’s overall scoring record en route to the title. The youngster showed impressive musicality and fine skating skills, as well as a solid triple flip-triple toe combination.

“There are a lot of things that Andrew has that take years to develop,” Moyer said. “His quality of skating, his showmanship, presentation, components are exceptional. The big thing for him will be getting the technical elements to compete at the top in the junior and senior ranks internationally. I see a bright future for him.”

In pairs, champions Caitlin Fields and Ernie Utah Stevens, and silver medalists Chelsea Liu and Brian Johnson grabbed the spotlight. These two new teams demonstrated chemistry and unison that is usually reserved for more veteran teams. They will only become stronger once they have more time together and gain more experience.

“The big surprise was Caitlin and Ernie,” Moyer said. “They are one of those teams that come together and match well; there is some chemistry right from the start and that is a team of the future for us. Everything they did was done quality-wise at a level you don’t see from a first-year team. Chelsea and Brian made it to the Junior Grand Prix Final and had a strong free skate. I see both teams being strong representatives in their first Junior Worlds.”

LADIES	GOLD Bradie Tennell, 176.36
	SILVER Olivia Serafini, 160.00
	BRONZE Vivian Le, 148.17
	PEWTER Elena Taylor, 145.31
MEN	GOLD Andrew Torgashev, 225.24
	SILVER Kevin Shum, 193.36
	BRONZE Paolo Borromeo, 190.30
	PEWTER Alexsei Krasnozhon, 190.22
PAIRS	GOLD Caitlin Fields/Ernie Utah Stevens, 155.41
	SILVER Chelsea Liu/Brian Johnson, 150.84
	BRONZE Olivia Allan/Austin Hale, 130.60
	PEWTER Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon, 123.02
ICE DANCE	GOLD Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 155.39
	SILVER Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 144.98
	BRONZE Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, 141.55
	PEWTER Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, 133.07



Men (l-r) Kevin Shum, Andrew Torgashev, Alexsei Krasnozhon, Paolo Borromeo



Pairs (l-r) Chelsea Liu/Brian Johnson, Caitlin Fields/Ernie Utah Stevens, Olivia Allan/ Austin Hale, Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon



ICE DANCE (l-r) Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber



Ladies (l-r) Olivia Serafini, Bradie Tennell, Vivian Le, Elena Taylor

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PHOTO BY MELANIE HOLT



Bradie Tennell

Tennell joins elite company as champion

by AMY ROSEWATER

Bradie Tennell, who hails from suburban Chicago, has been on training sessions with Gracie Gold; Tennell's coach, Denise Myers, guided Megan Hyatt to the U.S. junior title back in 2006.

After competing at the 2015 U.S. Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, Tennell, a member of the Wagon Wheel FSC, can lay claim to another common bond with those women: Tennell now joins them in the record books as a U.S. junior champion.

The list of junior champions is filled with skaters who went on to achieve bigger honors, such as Sarah Hughes, who won the 2002 Olympic gold medal; Mirai Nagasu, who went on to win the 2008 U.S. title and become a 2010 Olympian; and Gold and Polina Edmunds, who represented Team USA at the 2014 Olympics in Sochi.

Tennell, who won both the short and free skate programs with 176.36 points — 16-plus points ahead of silver medalist Olivia Serafini — hopes her junior title is just a stepping stone to further achievements in the sport. Tennell, who was fourth at the U.S. Championships last year, will move up to the senior level next season.

All of which made for an excellent early birthday gift for Tennell, who won her title on Jan. 23 and turned 17 on Jan. 31.

When asked if there was anything else she could want for a birthday present, Tennell smiled and shook her head.

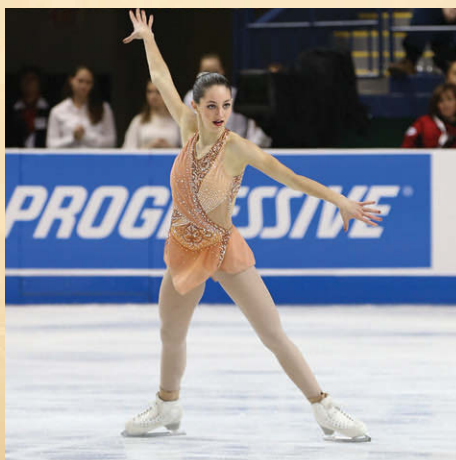
"No," Tennell said. "I don't think so. I don't

think it's sunk in. It really feels amazing. This was the icing on the cake."

Tennell built a lead of 6.04 points in the short program, a routine she performed to "Infinity" by Hungarian pianist and composer Balasz Havasi. Her program, choreographed by Scott Brown (one of Gold's choreographers) was highlighted by her opening triple toe-triple toe and a triple Lutz, as she carried herself with speed and grace throughout.

Tennell kept her foot on the pedal in the free skate, putting out a virtually flawless program to music from the movie *Far and Away* by

Olivia Serafini



John Williams to secure the title. Although the free skate did not include a triple-triple, something Tennell said she hopes to include in the future, she executed a double Axel-triple toe, a triple Lutz-double toe and a solo triple Lutz.

"I thought it went really well," Tennell said. "It went exactly how I trained it."

Serafini, who won the 2014 U.S. Novice and Junior Challenge Skate in Salt Lake City in September, continued to show that her work with coach Rafael Arutunian has been worth the cross-country move. Serafini, who hails from Niskayuna, New York, and continues to represent the Skating Club of New York, moved to Los Angeles in mid-April.

For Serafini, the switch to California has been a game-changer as she now trains alongside three-time U.S. champion and Olympian Ashley Wagner, two-time and reigning U.S. silver medalist Adam Rippon and Nathan Chen, who made his senior debut in Greensboro.

"I was not used to skating with senior-level skaters," Serafini said. "I never had anyone to look up to in my old rink."

Serafini placed third in the short program with a routine that included a triple toe-triple toe and moved up to second after the free skate. Like Tennell, Serafini did not feature a triple-triple in the free skate, but noted that including one will be key to compete with the Russians. Serafini, who skated to music from *The Lord of the Rings*, finished with 160.00 points.

Taking the bronze was Vivian Le, the 2014 U.S. novice champion of the Dallas Figure Skating Club. The 14-year-old from Plano, Texas, was seventh after the short program, fifth in the free skate and finished with 148.17 points. She was the lone competitor in the field of 12 skaters to attempt a triple-triple (a triple Lutz-triple toe) in the free skate.

"The short program was not the best skate," said Le, who performed to *East of Eden* in the short program and to music from the movie *On Golden Pond* in the free skate.

"All I did was try to skate for myself," she said.

Le's clubmate, Elena Taylor, claimed the pewter medal with a total score of 145.31 points. Taylor trains in Long Beach, Calif., under coach Derrick Delmore.

Vivian Le





Andrew Torgashev

Torgashev feels at home en route to crown

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Like most 13-year-old skaters, there are times Andrew Torgashev would like nothing better than to go home and tell his parents about how tough his coaches are making life at his rink in Coral Springs, Florida.

But Andrew can't do that. His parents, Iлона Melnichenko and Artem Torgashev, are his coaches.

It's a situation that works pretty well, most of the time.

"There are hard days and easy days; it depends on the mood," said Artem, a two-time World Junior pairs medalist for the Soviet Union. "We try not to bring parenting to the coaching,



Paolo Borromeo



Kevin Shum

and coaching back to the home. We try to find a medium comfortable zone for training."

"It's hard to separate parents from coaches, but we find a way to do it," Andrew said. "It's not always perfect, but we always communicate in the end and it always comes together."

The two worlds collided in the kiss and cry after Andrew performed a pristine free skate to Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez." Melnichenko's role as coach and choreographer melted away. The proud mom kissed Andrew on the cheek. Like many another teenage boy, he vigorously wiped the kiss away.

A moment later, Andrew's score — 149.63 points — was announced. All business, he turned to shake hands with dad, and then with mom. His total, 225.24 points, was a new U.S. junior record, eclipsing Nathan Chen's 2014 total by about two points. This is his third U.S. title, after winning juvenile and intermediate crowns.

"Setting a new standard is just incredible," Andrew, a member of Panthers FSC, said. "I don't even have the words to explain it. ... I kind of do it every day in practice; it was nothing special. It's what I've been practicing for the last four weeks."

Torgashev, who led the field by more than 10 points after the short program, hit two triple Lutzes and two triple flips in his free skate, as well as an impressive double Axel-half loop-triple Salchow combination.

The skater's steps — including intricate twizzles, leaps and kicks — were smoothly done, and he earned Level 4s for his spins. All was delivered swiftly and easily, belying Torgashev's young age: born May 29, 2001, he was the youngest skater in the field.

"We worked a lot on his skating skills to be competitive with the junior boys, because he is the youngest in the group and we want him to look big," Melnichenko, the 1987 World Junior ice dance champion, said.

California Bay Area native Kevin Shum, second after the short, claimed the silver medal with a commanding free skate to music from the soundtrack of *Thor: The Dark World*.

Skating with good attack, Shum, a member of the St. Moritz ISC, opened with a triple flip-triple toe combination and hit five other triples, including two triple Lutzes. He ended the

event with 193.36 points.

"There was just that one fall, on my last double Axel, that was kind of unfortunate," the 17-year-old said. "This season, I'm performing a number instead of skating through the elements. My programs are kind of a showcase for all of the things I can do."

Shum's coach, Justin Dillon, is pleased with the skater's ability to tell a story on the ice.

"He has learned to become a competitor and be both expressive and aggressive," Dillon said. "That's made a big difference."

The bronze medal went to Paolo Borromeo, a member of the Los Angeles FSC, who stood third after the short. Skating to music from *Don Juan*, the 16-year-old landed five clean triples, including double Axel-triple toe and triple Lutz-double toe combinations. He earned a total score of 190.30 points.

Borromeo is coached by a group including Rafael Arutunian, Derrick Delmore and Nadia Kanaeva in Artesia, California. There, he shares the ice with three-time U.S. champion Ashley Wagner, two-time U.S. silver medalist Adam Rippon and two-time U.S. junior champion Nathan Chen.

"It's good motivation, watching them," Borromeo, the 2014 U.S. novice champion, said. "You can kind of compare yourself and at the same time learn from what they are doing."

"He is a consistent skater, he steps it up in competition and I think he showed that again here," Delmore said. "It was exciting to see that after winning the novice title, he could come back and skate so strong again."

Torgashev, Shum and Nathan Chen were named to the 2015 U.S. junior world team.

Aleksei Krasnozhon, a member of the Stars FSC of Texas, was the only skater to execute a triple Axel, and he did three: one in the short and two in his second-place free skate to music from violinist Edvin Marton. Remarkably, the first of the triple Axels in his free was done in combination with a triple flip. He earned 190.22 points to win the pewter medal.

Krasnozhon, who was born in Moscow, competed for Russia internationally in 2013. His coach, Peter Cain, said he will be released by the Russian Skating Federation on July 1, and will then be eligible to compete for the U.S.



Caitlin Fields and Ernie Utah Stevens

Fields and Stevens show great promise in victory

by TROY SCHWINDT

Caitlin Fields and Ernie Utah Stevens arrived in Greensboro with a sparse résumé together and without expectations.

They left Tar Heels country as junior pairs champions and with a quiet confidence for the future.

"This is just one stop in the road," Stevens said. "We came in trying to do our job, walk in very casually and walk out very casually."

Fields, 19, of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Stevens, 21, of Louisville, Kentucky, won both segments of the competition with an overall score of 155.41 points. Their unison, flow, speed, choreography and execution of elements resembled that of a veteran team.

Remarkably, it was only their third competition after joining forces in late August.

"We both had partners who had suffered injuries," Stevens told icenetwork. "We both thought we were done with skating."

In Greensboro, the team representing the Indiana World Skating Academy FSC moved to the lead with a strong and complete short program performance to Maksim Mrvica's powerful "Nostradamus."

With an advantage of 2.22 points over the California-based Chelsea Liu and Brian Johnson, Fields and Stevens capped their week by performing a nearly clean free skate to Minkus' *Don Quixote*.

"We are not at our peak with this program," Stevens said. "We've only had it for four months, so the choreography isn't even solid, but the facility and ice were amazing, our competitors pushed us to new extremes, the best that we could be, so that's all we could really ask for."

The team has been working with a ballet instructor, which paid dividends with the perfor-

mance to the balletic *Don Quixote*. The program component scores for both programs were tops in the field.

"I feel like all of our competitors are so strong technically that the only way we could move ahead is by our second marks, so we focused on that this year," Stevens said.

Fields, who did an outstanding job landing the team's huge triple throws, said "respect and maturity" fuel the partnership.

"With every competition they've shown improvement," their coach Serguei Zaitsev added. "We look forward to continuing on this journey and the next competition should be better. That's our goal."

Liu and Johnson, who competed at two Junior Grand Prix Series events and at the JGP Fi-

nal, also skated two strong programs and finished with 150.84 points and the silver medal.

Like the champions, they came together just last summer and had to expedite their partnership. In Greensboro, they showcased the only triple twist in the field and high-level lifts. The only major blemish on their free skate to "Yellow River Concerto" occurred when Liu fell on the team's side-by-side double flips.

"We just wanted to come here and have fun, and that was accomplished," said Liu, who earned the silver medal last year in junior pairs with former partner Devin Perini. "Performance-wise, it was a great (free) program, one of the best we've sold to the audience."

Their coaches, Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, said they were happy with the team's performance and look forward to what's ahead.

"We are taking a big-picture approach with them," Sand said. "That's the way we are constructing their progression and they are right on track."

Liu, 15, of the Saint Paul FSC, and Johnson, 19, of the Detroit SC, earned the highest technical scores of the event.

"I think the thing with Chelsea and Brian is that they show a little bit of everything," Meno said. "They've only been skating together since June, so we just see them progressing."

The team of Olivia Allan and Austin Hale, fourth after the short program, finished with 130.60 points and the bronze medal.

Allan, 15, a member of the DuPage FSC, and Hale, 18, of the Fort Wayne ISC, enjoyed a successful free skate to music from the movies *1492 Conquest of Paradise* and *Dragonheart*.

"We started out pretty strong," Allan said. "I was really happy. It was the first time landing the throw triple loop in competition. Everything was really good until the last elements, including our Group 4 lift. I think I just got too excited, because I thought we were going to be clean on everything, so then we started bobbling a little at the end."

Third after the short program, Illinois-based Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon claimed the pewter medal with 123.02 points.

Olivia Allan and Austin Hale



Chelsea Liu and Brian Johnson





Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter

McNamara, Carpenter pace strong field

by MIMI WHETSTONE

Four years ago, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter came to Greensboro to compete as juniors for the first time. Then just 11 and 14 years old, they skated with precocious flair and creativity, finishing ninth.

Since then, they've won a pair of U.S. bronze medals (2012, 2013) and a U.S. silver medal last season in Boston. That steady climb up the competitive U.S. junior ice dance ranks made victory in their second trip to Greensboro all the sweeter.

"We're so happy and excited," Carpenter, 18, said. "To win where we started has felt great for both of us."

"We started in juniors at a really young age, and we grew up and learned so much from the older skaters we were competing against," McNamara, 15, said. "We saw how to act, and what maturity looks like on the ice. It gave us a lot of time to have a lot of great experiences."

McNamara, a member of the Peninsula SC, and Carpenter, a member of the Washington FSC, won both segments of the competition, earning a total of 155.39 points. Their short dance, skated with speed and attack to Nature Lounge Club's "Heart of Africa," gained Level 4s for its two Silver Samba patterns and for an inventive straight-line lift.

"We love interesting lifts," McNamara said. "We always want to show something people have never seen before."

The young couple chose music from *The Phantom of the Opera* for their free dance, and set about interpreting the oft-used music in a way uniquely their own. Interesting transitions, a stunning combination spin and a well-synchronized three-part twizzle sequence highlighted the routine, which gained four Level 4 elements.

The skaters traveled to New York City twice to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's long-running hit on Broadway.

"We don't believe that if music is used once, that means it is used up," Carpenter said. "We love this music with as much passion as we did the first time we heard it."

All told, McNamara and Carpenter won the U.S. junior ice dance title with 155.39 points, defeating longtime training partners Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons by more than 10 points.

The Parsons siblings, who both represent the Washington FSC, sat second after the short dance, losing a bit of ground when both of their Silver Samba sections earned Level 3. They skated a dramatic free dance to selections from *Notre Dame de Paris*, highlighted by an impressive straight-line lift. The performance was tainted only by a bobble on their last stretch of footwork, and they finished with 144.98 points.

"I caught a heel in the ice and I almost went down, but thankfully he caught me," Rachel, 17, said. "I think it was a great performance, other than that."

For the last decade, the top two teams have trained alongside each other at Maryland's Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA), where they are coached by Alexei Kiliakov, Elena Novak and Dmytri Ilin.

"Quinn and Lorraine are huge motivators for us," Michael, 19, said. "We really push each other every single day on the ice. I think it's one of the best training situations you could ever ask for."

WISA was represented by 10 teams in Greensboro at the juvenile, novice and junior levels, and skaters from its ranks won six medals, including the titles at all three levels. McNamara and Carpenter's victory was its first at the junior level.

"Our goal is to treat everybody equally," Novak said. "Everybody has their own strengths and weaknesses, and training every day togeth-

er really helps all of them a great deal. They can overcome any difficulties that they have together. They see what the others are doing and they work harder in the areas where they think they're falling behind."

In a bit of a surprise, Elliana Pogrebinsky, 16, and Alex Benoit, 19, won bronze after skating together for just nine months.

The tall, well-matched couple began with a showy samba short dance with an authentic ballroom feel, courtesy of dance teachers Susan and Steven McFerran. They placed third in that segment and entered the free dance with 58.92 points.

"It was definitely one of our better skates," Pogrebinsky, 16, said. "We were living it – that's what Susan and Steve told us to do, and that's my new motto."

The team went the classical route in an elegant free dance to Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, where their long lines were shown to good advantage in their spin and lifts. They earned 144.51 points overall.

Pogrebinsky, who represents the Peninsula SC, and Benoit, a member of the Skokie Valley SC, train in Novi, Michigan, in Igor Shpilband's school. Shpilband, who brought four junior teams to Greensboro, coaches 10 teams representing five nations.

Another Shpilband team, 2012 U.S. novice champions Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber of the Detroit SC, climbed from fifth place after the short dance to claim the pewter medal with 133.07 points.

Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons



Elliana Pogrebinsky and Alex Benoit



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Big ice = big performances

The novice skaters cherished the opportunity to compete in the main arena at the Greensboro Coliseum, where they set the stage for their junior and senior counterparts with programs that thrilled and delighted the audience in the middle of the week.

“It was exciting and I was really happy to skate on the ice,” novice ladies silver medalist Akari Nakahara said.

“Skating in that big arena for the first time was an experience for her to build on going into next year,” Nakahara’s coach, Angela Nikodinov, added.

Outstanding performances were not in short supply from this division of skaters. Dallas-based Emily Chan showed she is ready to become a household name with her exquisite repertoire of skills and elegance en route to the ladies title.

If there was an all-around champion, novice men’s titlist Jonah Barrett would have walked away with the crown. The Florida-based skater also claimed the gold medal in intermediate pairs with partner Elli Kompar.

Kate Finster and Eric Hartley showed their Colorado Springs teammates and role models, Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim, that they are paying close attention at practice by claiming the novice pairs title.

And siblings Caroline Green and Gordon Green, of the Washington, D.C., area, showed that the future of ice dance is in good hands, with their third consecutive title.

In addition to the skating, athletes, coaches and parents could attend the High Performance Education Series conducted by U.S. Figure Skating.

The novice contingent was the best represented of the five skating divisions.

The series included seminars conducted by 2014 Olympic ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, and their mothers Cheryl Davis and Jacqui White; United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Senior Sport Dietician Susie Parker Simmons; USOC Senior Sports Psychologist Alexander Cohen; sport psychologist Caroline Silby; and U.S. Figure Skating Director of Sport Science and Medicine Peter Zapalo.

Topics ranged from “The Rise to the Podium: The Role of Athletes, Coaches and Parents” to “The Top 10 Myths of Performance Nutrition.”

“U.S. Championships are one of the few times of the year where we have all of our high-performance athletes in one place,” Zapalo said. “It’s a great opportunity to network sports science and medicine professionals with our developing and elite athletes and their parents. We truly appreciate the time Meryl and Charlie and their moms have devoted to passing along their insights to our developing high-performance athletes. We also want to thank the USOC for dedicating sports science and medicine support to our athletes and coaches.”



LADIES: (l-r) Akari Nakahara, Emily Chan, Nina Ouellette, Anna Grace Davidson

LADIES	GOLD Emily Chan, 149.25
	SILVER Akari Nakahara, 134.63
	BRONZE Nina Ouellette, 128.55
	PEWTER Anna Grace Davidson, 118.82
MEN	GOLD Jonah Barrett, 142.48
	SILVER Justin Ly, 139.56
	BRONZE Kendrick Weston, 133.20
	PEWTER Daniil Shamis, 131.16
PAIRS	GOLD Kate Finster/Eric Hartley, 112.91
	SILVER Sarah Rose/Joseph Goodpaster, 109.66
	BRONZE Jacquelyn Green/Rique Newby-Estrella, 106.26
	PEWTER Vanessa Chen/Robert Przepioski, 105.05
ICE DANCE	GOLD Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 111.30
	SILVER Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, 101.03
	BRONZE Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, 98.19
	PEWTER Rebecca Lustig/Zachary Milestone, 95.70



MEN: (l-r) Justin Ly, Jonah Barrett, Kendrick Weston, Daniil Shamis



PAIRS: (l-r) Sarah Rose/Joseph Goodpaster, Kate Finster/Eric Hartley, Jacquelyn Green/Rique Newby-Estrella, Vanessa Chen/Robert Przepioski



ICE DANCE: (l-r) Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, Caroline Green/Gordon Green, Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, Rebecca Lustig/Zachary Milestone

JAY ADEFF/ U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Emily Chan

Chan embraces new start, wows crowd

by TROY SCHWINDT

A change of scenery was all Emily Chan needed to propel herself to the top of the novice ranks in Greensboro.

Chan, who competed for the fourth season at the novice level, demonstrated a quiet confidence during her soft and romantic free skate to “Meditation” from Thais performed by Joshua Bell. The 17-year-old moved seamlessly from her opening combination jumps through her Level 4 ending spin.

Ninth last year at the U.S. Championships, Chan finished with a score of 149.25 points, nearly 15 points better than the silver medalist. She recorded the top program components score of 48.55.

“I had a coaching change and I moved up here to Dallas from Houston,” Chan, a member of the Dallas FSC, said. “I started training with a big group of amazing skaters who helped motivate me and inspired me to work harder.”

Chan trains at the Dr Pepper StarCenter in Plano, Texas, under coach Aleksey Letov and choreographer Olga Ganicheva. Her mother, a dress designer, makes her costumes.

Chan, who also won the short program, changed her free skate halfway through the season. “I wanted to try something more soft and pretty, to help keep pace and tempo throughout the program,” she said.

She landed four triple jumps, including the first two in combination. Level 4 spins and Level 3 footwork helped weave a spellbinding program that was rewarded not only by the judges but by the appreciative fans at the Greensboro Coliseum.

The footwork sequence, she said, was her favorite part of the program.

“I feel like I get to tell a story through the footwork and that kind of transfers my emotions to the audience,” Chan said.

Chan’s sterling performance wasn’t a surprise, according to her coaching team.

“She has great self-discipline, does everything right and this is the result,” Letov said.

Chan will advance to the junior level next year, where Ganicheva predicts big things from the young star.

“She can do the triple toe-triple toe, and the loop and flip,” Ganicheva said. “She needs to learn the Lutz. We feel she is going to be a strong junior skater next year based on her everyday work and what she did today.”

Chan also competed in novice pairs with Misha Mitrofanov, where they finished eighth.

California dynamo Akari Nakahara, a member of the All Year FSC, seized the moment during her free skate to music from the *Spirited Away* soundtrack. The 12-year-old, who claimed bronze at the juvenile level in 2013, landed five triple jumps — two in combination — and executed three Level 4 spins.

Her overall score of 134.63 points included the event’s second-best free skate.

“It was really exciting and I was happy to skate on the (main arena) ice,” said Nakahara, who placed fifth in the intermediate division at sectionals in 2014.

Her coach of 18 months, Angela Nikodinov, praised her young pupil’s efforts.

“She’s a hard worker, dedicated, consistent, self-motivated,” Nikodinov said. “She’s just been working on getting the triples, getting her body strong and she just excels at what she does.”

Nina Ouellette, sectional champion from the Pacific Coast, finished second in the short program and third in the free skate en route to a total score of 128.55. The 12-year-old, who represents the St. Moritz ISC and trains in Oakland, Calif., showed great resilience and the ability to think on her feet.

“I was pretty confident about how she was going to perform today, and she peaked at the right time,” coach Diana Miro said.

“She learned how to be a competitor this year,” Justin Dillon, her choreographer/coach, said. “She does clean programs for Diana every day, so to come here and do that was a matter of also knowing how to compete well. That combination was why she was successful this year.”

Anna Grace Davidson, 13, and a member of Salt Lake Figure Skating, secured the pewter medal with 118.82 points.

“She’s fought back,” coach Lisa Kriley said. “She was intermediate champion (in 2013), and she wasn’t able to compete for almost two years. She was dealing with Osgood-Schlatter disease (a painful knee condition) and other injuries. I’m so happy for her getting back out there and doing so well in novice.”



Akari Nakahara



Nina Ouellette

JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Jonah Barrett

Barrett feels golden — twice

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

Jonah Barrett, a member of the Southwest Florida FSC, did something no other skater did at the 2015 U.S. Championships: He brought home two gold medals.

The 17-year-old, who trains in Ellenton, Florida, under Jim Peterson, Lyndon Johnston and Amanda Evora, won the intermediate pairs title with partner Elli Kopmar. A day later, his free skate to *West Side Story's* "Maria" lifted him from third place after the short program to novice men's gold.

"When I came here, I was actually more focused on the pairs title," Barrett said. "That seemed slightly more attainable. When my partner and I took the pairs, I really got motivated to work harder for the singles and go for that as well, because I thought that was a cool goal to set."

After Barrett placed third at Eastern Sectionals, Peterson decided to scrap the skater's free skate in favor of "Maria." The move paid off: The

yearning love ballad inspired Barrett to land four solid triple jumps, including a loop and a spread eagle into a triple Salchow combination. The near-clean program earned 95.76 points, and he won the title with 142.48 points.

"Leading up to the competition, my run-throughs were getting more and more consistent," Barrett said. "Honestly, I just went out on the ice, skated with feeling and took every element one at a time. I did the jumps like I do them each day in practice. I think that really helped."

Barrett moved from Delaware, to Florida, about a year ago when his previous coach, Priscilla Hill, retired from coaching.

"I had heard all kinds of great things about Ellenton and the skaters who came out of there, and I wound up going there and trying it out, and I loved it," he said.

Johnston thinks Barrett's greatest asset is his ability to focus and get the most out of every lesson and practice session.

"When it comes down to it, that is what will take you to the top," Johnston said. "You may not be the most talented one out there, but if you put your game face on each day, you'll come out ahead."

Next season, Barrett plans to compete in junior men and novice pairs.

"Doing both disciplines is making him a stronger skater," Peterson said. "He has landed a (triple) flip and Lutz in practice and makes a great attempt at a triple Axel. As these become more consistent, we will put them in the programs."

Justin Ly, who led after the short program, showed fine musicality in his dramatic free skate to Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and also hit a triple Lutz-double toe combination. He lost ground when he fell on a triple loop, but still won the silver medal with 139.56 points.

The 17-year-old, who represents Salt Lake Figure Skating, wasn't too happy about skating last in the final group.

"At sectionals, I drew last, too, and I kept my skates on and my feet got numb," Ly said. "Here I had a different strategy. I took off my skates and then put them back on. That helped a little bit."

Ly, who is coached by Lisa Kriley, showed clean, crisp positions in his spins, both of which rated Level 4.

"I focus on spins quite a bit; they are a strength," he said, adding that next season, he wants to compete as a junior and add triple toe and triple flip to his programs.

Another Kriley student, 14-year-old Kendrick Weston, of Salt Lake Figure Skating, won bronze with a solid performance to music from *The Expendables* soundtrack that included two triple toes and a triple Salchow. Weston showed off a clean, uncluttered style, but lost points when he doubled an intended triple flip. He finished with 133.20 points.

"I thought it went pretty well," Weston said. "I don't like being super fancy. I kind of like keeping it simple."

Weston is undecided on whether to move up to juniors, but plans to work on his spins and

choreography next season.

"He had the flip most of the season, but then he grew, so we're dealing with that a little bit," Kriley said. "He also rotates the triple Lutz, and he likes the loop so we'll start that one, too. If we capitalize on what he already has, that long line and clean look, I think he can go a long way next season."

Daniil Shamis, a 13-year-old student of Tammy Gambill and Justin Dillon in Riverside, California, was fourth with 131.16 points. He landed three clean triples, but fell on a triple toe late in his program.

"It was OK, except for the one jump I fell on," Shamis said. "I really like this program. It's two years old so I feel very comfortable with it."

Shamis, who represents the All Year FSC, was born in Moscow and moved to California with his family several years ago. According to Gambill, he idolizes the senior men skating at his rink, including 2011 U.S. silver medalist Ricky Dornbush.

"I look at them and try to do the same," Shamis said.

Kendrick Weston



Justin Ly



Kate Finster and Eric Hartley



Finster, Hartley shine in free skate, win crown

by TROY SCHWINDT

When first-year team Kate Finster and partner Eric Hartley rallied from third place after the short program to claim the novice pairs title, two of their biggest supporters were right there to congratulate them.

Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim, who later in the week would win the senior pairs title, train on occasion with this upstart team in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"We watched them, congratulated them," Knierim said. "They skated great, and they did the same for us. They don't live in Colorado, so we don't see them too often. I think, though, they plan to come here more next year."

Scimeca and Knierim do, however, see a lot of themselves in the 11-year-old Finster, who hails from Louisville, Kentucky, and is a member of the Louisville Skating Academy, and 16-year-old Hartley, who calls Cincinnati home and is a member of the Queen City FSC.

"This year when Kate and Eric went to sectionals, we were in France (for Trophée Bompard) the same week," Scimeca said. "We competed our

long programs at the same time, just in different time zones, and it was really funny that Kate and I had the exact same reaction to our scores. Somebody did a side-by-side photo of us. She has become a Mini-Me, because she's like this little, blonde peanut and she is full of charisma.

"Eric is similar to Chris, very calm and relaxed. Kate is just off the wall, bouncy. They have kind of the same dynamic as us. It's cute."

Finster and Hartley, who are coached by John Coughlin and Dalilah Sappenfield, hit a snag in their short program when Finster failed to perform her part of a combination spin.

Instead of letting the mistake keep them down, the duo came out determined and relaxed in their free skate to *La Strada* by Nina Rota, performing a nearly flawless program, which included an opening Level 4 double twist and positive grades of execution (GOEs) on all but one element. They also garnered the highest program component marks.

"That's something that Dalilah preaches to her little kids all the way up to the seniors," Coughlin said. "Each program is its own individual event, so put the short program behind you and go out and commit to that free skate."

Another first-year team, Sarah Rose and Joseph Goodpaster, from the Southwest Florida FSC in Ellenton, rallied from sixth place after the short program to earn the silver medal with 109.66 points.

They performed their free skate to music from *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

"*Harry Potter* is one of my favorite movies, so just playing him within the skating is like my peanut butter and jelly," Goodpaster said. "It's the two best things you can think of to combine. Once the character got into play, it was amazing."

"I enjoy acting out Hermione, and it was a lot more fun to be clean on top of that with a solid performance," Rose said.

Clean is right. Each of their 11 elements received positive GOEs, including a Level 4 lift and a Level 4 spin.

Coach Jim Peterson is excited about his young team.

"Her lift positions are junior level; our twist was great today — big, high," Peterson said. "I like the flow out of the throws. I was watching element to element, because at this level you don't know what you are going to get. They were solid

and I could tell they had the look in their eyes before they took the ice."

Fifth after the short program, Jacquelyn Green and Rique Newby-Estrella climbed onto the podium with their dramatic free skate to music from the movie *Rudy*.

Their overall score of 106.26 earned the first-year team a bronze medal.

"They have strong skating fundamentals; they have strong jumps," said Ethan Burgess, who coaches the team with Craig Joeright at the Detroit Skating Club. "They can do the throws. As the months have gone by, they've gotten better and better — and stronger and stronger — so I think we are going to have a good, solid junior year next year and for years to come."

In their free skate, the duo landed their nemesis throw — the throw triple Salchow.

"We've been struggling a bit with the throw triple Salchow," Joeright said. "It's not like she hasn't landed it — it's been a gorgeous throw all year. In competition, we've had some issues where we've popped it, or did a single or didn't even attempt it. So this was the first time all year that she went for it. It was a gorgeous throw, so I jumped about six feet in the air when she landed it. It was pretty amazing."

Vanessa Chen and Robert Przepioski, another first-year team, claimed the pewter medal with 105.05 points.

Chen, 14, and Przepioski, 25, train in San Jose under coach Richard Alexander and choreographer Doug Mattis. They performed their free skate to a medley of Motown music.

"They worked very hard," Alexander said. "I'm so proud of them. Now they will have the experience."

Jacquelyn Green and Rique Newby-Estrella



Sarah Rose and Joseph Goodpaster





Caroline Green and Gordon Green

Green siblings make it three consecutive titles

by MIMI WHETSTONE

When 11-year-old Caroline Green thinks about winning her third U.S. title in as many years with her brother, 13-year-old Gordon, she is quick to credit longevity, hard work and a supportive environment.

"Working hard every day, committing to progressing over time and our bond with each other — that's what makes the difference on the ice, especially at competitions," Caroline said.

"We've been with our coaches for five years. Training under them and with such a big group of ice dancers, they can train us to follow in the footsteps of the teams in the levels above us."

The sibling duo, who train in Rockville and Wheaton, Maryland, under coaches Alexei Kiljakov, Elena Novak and Dmitri Ilin, were joined by 10 of their training mates at the 2015 U.S. Championships, spanning the levels from juvenile to junior. As novice competitors, the Greens credit their superiors for paving the way and showing them what it takes to win at the next level.

"At our level it's more competitive, but we keep our eyes on the older, higher-level teams," Gordon said. "We like to see how they train and how they present their dances. It really inspires us."

Now champions at the juvenile, intermediate and novice levels, the Washington FSC representatives dominated all three of the novice segments in Greensboro, earning a total of 111.30 points. Leading the field by more than seven points heading into the free dance, the Greens ultimately won the title by a 10.27-point mar-

gin with a final performance set to music from *The Addams Family* and *Addams Family Values* soundtracks.

Katherine Grosul and Cameron Colucci, of the Philadelphia SC & HS, pulled up from a seventh-place finish in the Starlight Waltz to fourth place after the pattern dances before ultimately earning the silver medal with 101.03 points.

"I think for the Starlight they were just too excited to get out on the ice," coach Slava Uchitel said. "They were a little bit rushed and ahead of the music, because they were so eager to compete. Before the Paso, they settled down and felt calm. They did what they needed to do in the free dance, too."

Grosul, 12, and Colucci, 13, performed their free dance to the music of *Swing Kids*, completing three Level 4 elements, including a set of synchronized twizzles that earned positive grades of execution across the board.

"We always work hard and hope that it pays off," Colucci said. "I think we showed how hard we can work here."

As the 2014 U.S. intermediate silver medalists, Grosul and Colucci placed second for the second-straight year, behind the Greens, one spot ahead of Emma Gunter and Caleb Wein, completing an exact repeat of the 2014 U.S. intermediate ice dance podium at the novice level in 2015.

Gunter and Wein, the training mates of the Green siblings at the Washington FSC, secured bronze with 98.19 points.

"Of course having great teams at a level

above them shows them what they need to do," Novak said. "But they also have training mates who compete at the same level. Some things one team does better, some things the other team can do better, so they learn from each other and they push each other. On an everyday basis, that challenge helps all of the teams."

Gunter, 12, and Wein, 13, performed their free dance to music from the ballet *Coppelia*, and earned a Level 4 on four of their six elements. With less than a point separating silver and fifth place heading into the final segment, Gunter and Wein were able to secure the bronze, despite a fourth-place finish in the free dance.

"I think we all push each other in really positive ways," Gunter said. "It's really great to train with Caroline and Gordon. They push us and we push them, taking all of us to the next level."

"It really helps me to have so many other people here and at home," Wein added. "We all know each other and we're all such good friends. Being able to see and hear our teammates in the audience cheering us on is such a huge inspiration. It really helps me out a lot."

Placing fourth, Rebecca Lustig of the University of Delaware FSC and Zachary Milestone of the Princeton SC earned 95.70 points. After a fluke fall toward the beginning of their Beatles medley free dance, the duo, aged 16 (Rebecca) and 17 (Zachary), recovered nicely to finish strong, earning a Level 3 on their step sequence for the first time.

The pair is coached by Yovanny Durango and Adrienne Koob-Doddy.

Katherine Grosul and Cameron Colucci



Emma Gunter and Caleb Wein



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'Experience of a lifetime'

Juvenile, intermediate skaters soak it up

For the intermediate ladies and men's winners, getting to skate on the big sheet of ice at the venerable Greensboro Coliseum and in front of a large crowd in the intimate WFMY News 2 Rink was exciting and unforgettable.

The 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships marked the third consecutive year that the juvenile and intermediate skaters performed at the same championship venue as the novice, junior and senior athletes.

"It was very different but it motivated me," Kassandra Carpentier, the intermediate ladies gold medalist, said. "I like performing and showing people what I can do."

TJ Nyman, who won his second consecutive U.S. title, said he thrives performing in front of big audiences and enjoyed the opportunity to skate in the primary arena.

"I love being at U.S. Championships," Nyman said. "I love the way it's set up. I love all of the people that came to watch. The bigger the crowd, the bigger and better I skate."

Those same feelings were expressed in the juvenile ranks.

"Just being here, in this environment, has been an experience of a lifetime," juvenile pairs silver medalist Paige Ruggeri said.

Jonathan Cassar, a member of the Athletes Advisory Committee, said it's beneficial for the younger skaters to compete at the same arena as their senior counterparts.

"I think they are very inspired by it," Cassar said.

Cassar, who competed at the U.S. Championships five times at the senior level, said the depth of quality skating in the juvenile and intermediate divisions has improved dramatically.

"It's so funny to see how generations have changed," he said. "There used to be a group of skaters and one or two would stand out. Now you go to an event and there are nine or 10 who all do nice jumps, good spins and skate to the music. It's nice to see what's happening with the future of the sport."

Pilar Bosley, the chair of the Athletes Advisory Committee, agreed.

"It's wonderful to watch these up-and-coming skaters," Bosley said. "The quality of skating is phenomenal."

2015 U.S. silver medalist Gracie Gold wishes she could have had that opportunity coming up through the ranks.

"They still have their own competition, but it's at a big nationals and they can see the levels ahead of them," Gold is quoted in the Greensboro *News & Record*.

GIRLS	GOLD Sophia Chouinard, 52.81
	SILVER Emilia Murdock, 50.01
	BRONZE Jacqueline Lee, 49.72
	PEWTER Isabella Miller, 49.22
BOYS	GOLD Daniel Turchin, 47.48
	SILVER Chase Finster, 46.62
	BRONZE Joseph Kang, 45.50
	PEWTER Henry Privett-Mendoza, 45.46
PAIRS	GOLD Altice Sollazo/Paul Yeung, 39.12
	SILVER Paige Ruggeri/Steven Rossi, 37.86
	BRONZE Dana Vulaj/Keyton Bearinger, 36.18
	PEWTER Jessica Sassano/Ethan Hall, 34.29
ICE DANCE	GOLD Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 87.50
	SILVER Byrdee Darling/Rebel Rodriguez Avellan, 80.69
	BRONZE Juliette Shadid/Lucas Shadid, 77.32
	PEWTER Jordan Lin/Morgan Sletten, 75.57



BOYS: (l-r) Chase Finster, Daniel Turchin, Joseph Kang, Henry Privett-Mendoza



PAIRS: (l-r) Paige Ruggeri/Steven Rossi, Altice Sollazo/Paul Yeung, Dana Vulaj/Keyton Bearinger, Jessica Sassano/Ethan Hall



ICE DANCE: (l-r) Byrdee Darling/Rebel Rodriguez Avellan, Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, Juliette Shadid/Lucas Shadid, Jordan Lin/Morgan Sletten



GIRLS: (l-r) Emilia Murdock, Sophia Chouinard, Jacqueline Lee, Isabella Miller

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JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

PHOTO BY MELANIE HOYT



Sophia Chouinard

GIRLS

by RENEE FELTON

Juvenile competitors arrive at the U.S. Championships, often for the first time, in awe of where they are and using buzz-words such as *amazing*, *awesome* and *I guess*. It's more often the looks on their faces or their reactions when asked to give their first autographs — smiling from ear to ear and bouncing anxiously around — that tell the stories.

"It feels amazing," Sophia Chouinard said after winning the gold medal. "This is what I've worked for this entire year."

She and coach Artem Torgashev seemed almost surprised that the 12-year-old posted

the top score in her performance to music from the *Black Swan* soundtrack. Chouinard's 52.81 points came as a result of her performing seven of eight elements with a positive grade of execution (and the eighth receiving a -0.04), two Level 4 spins and a double Lutz-double loop combination.

"That was unexpected," Torgashev said.

Not because of how his pupil skated, but more because of the field she faced and the fact that in her last competition, Eastern Sectionals, Chouinard was the fourth of four to qualify for the U.S. Championships.

"That was one of the best performances," Torgashev said. "Score-wise it was the best for her. From her training, that's a usual performance but it was very good today in competition. We

see it every day, so it didn't surprise us much that what happened, happened today. My expectation was that she would be in the top half."

Chouinard, a member of the Panthers FSC in Florida, credits much of her recent upswing to her two years in Torgashev's camp. Torgashev and his coaching team have singles entries at every level except senior, and his son, Andrew, is the 2015 U.S. junior champion.

"I've been training with Artem for two years," Chouinard said. "My overall skating quality has improved — my technique, jumps and choreography. Winning means a lot to me, because this is what I have wanted since I started."

Twelve-year-old silver medalist Emilia Murdock trains alongside Samantha Cesario, often on the same ice, and brings with her a similar mindset as the veteran Team USA member. Murdock, a member of the SC of New York, sets her daily alarm for 3:30 a.m. to make the hour-long drive to Long Island, New York, and starts her training day at 5:30.

"When I get to the rink at 6, she's already been on the ice a half hour," coach Mary Lynn Gelderman said. "She's already been working. It's amazing."

"Like Samantha, she's one with that work ethic. Samantha had the same thing. She would appear at 5:30 after a long drive, I would walk in at 6 and Sam would have already done a run-through. This one has that nature. She comes in and gets the job done."

Murdock finished with 50.01 points; her program to the song "Malagueña" included an opening double Lutz and an ending Level 4 combination spin.

The nerves were evident as Jacqueline Lee began her long wait after opening the girls event with 49.72 points, skating to the song "Illumination."

"I feel like I'm an international skater being here," Lee, 11, of the All Year FSC, said, as she peeked around the corner to see the next skater's score. "And my goal is to become an international skater."

Isabella Miller, 12, of the Murray Silver Blades in Murray, Utah, earned the pewter medal with 49.22 points.

BOYS

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

At 12 years old, Daniel Turchin has already developed quite the critical eye.

When asked how he felt about his winning free skate, he didn't pull any punches.

"It wasn't my best, it wasn't my worst," he said. "I think the double Axel I did really saved me. If I hadn't done it, I don't think I would be at the top of the podium, honestly."

Turchin, a student at Meridian Middle School and member of the Skokie Valley SC, is probably right. His program earned 47.48 points, winning the title by less than a point over silver medalist Chase Finster. He needed that double Axel, plus his double Lutz and double flip combinations and a couple of snappy spins.

When it came to selecting music, Turchin teamed his critical eye with a critical ear. He and his mom selected two Cirque du Soleil pieces, "Innocence" and "Zydeko," after watching a video of three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir skating to them back in 2003.

"His program inspired me, and my coach (Alexander Vedenin) liked the music," Turchin said. "I thought it showed a side of me that was intense and dark, and another side that just wants to skate fast and show what I've really got."

Finster, who performed to Kevin Spacey's take on Bobby Darin's jazzy pop ballad "Beyond the Sea," was the only skater of the event who used vocal music.

"It's easier to express something if you can really understand it with the words," the 13-year-old, who represents the Louisville Skating Academy, said.

The skater opened strong with a double Lutz-double toe loop combination, and although he faltered on the landing of his double Axel, he hit four other double jumps as well as two Level 4 spins for 46.62 points.

"I thought I skated great," Finster said. "That

Daniel Turchin



JAY JAY ADER/US FIGURE SKATING



Altice Sollazo and Paul Yeung

was my highest score ever. I'm happy with it, even though I didn't get first. For next season, when I'm an intermediate, I want to work on triples and getting my double Axel more consistent."

Finster's coach, Jessica Mills Kincade, thinks the training atmosphere at Louisville Skating Academy plays a big part in her student's success.

"There are about 130 kids in the club, and we have 12 skaters at nationals this year," Mills said. "It's a growing program."

One of those skaters is Chase's sister, Kate, who placed first in novice pairs with partner Eric Hartley.

Joseph Kang, of the University of Delaware FSC, burst out of the gate first, skating to the theme from *Rocky*. He had the event's cleanest routine, hitting seven double jumps including a solid double Axel and a double loop-double loop combination. His 45.50 points gave him the bronze medal.

"Skating first wasn't my first choice, but it wouldn't have been my last, either," the 11-year-old said. "At sectionals I skated worse and got a better score, but that doesn't matter to me. I'm happy with my medal."

Kang, who attends Garner Middle School, has trained under Pam Gregory for the last year and a half. He has ambitious plans for next season.

"I'm going to move up a level and head to-

ward triple Salchow, triple toe and triple loop," he said.

Henry Privett-Mendoza, of the Pasadena FSC, was fourth with 45.46 points, just four one-hundredths of a point out of third. The 12-year-old credits his modern dance and ballet-jazz classes for the flexible positions he shows on the ice.

"It was the cleanest program I ever did, so I'm happy about that," he said.

PAIRS

by TROY SCHWINDT

Altice Sollazo and Paul Yeung put their twist on the epic *Star Wars* movies, and dressed as Princess Leia and Han Solo, glided their way to the juvenile pairs title on the first day of competition.

Skating first in the 12-team field, the duo from the All Year Figure Skating Club in California opened with successful side-by-side double flips, a Level 4 lift and Level 3 combination spin. Their only hiccup came late in the program when Yeung fell on the team's footwork element.

Their score of 39.12 points was short of their sectional total of 41.61, but still good enough to claim the gold medal.

"They are a pair who reminds me of (three-time U.S. champions and two-time Olympians)

Kenneth Shelley and JoJo Starbuck,” their coach Perry Jewell said. “They get along great; they have fun with it. They are so teachable. I’m so proud of them.”

New Jersey-based Paige Ruggeri and Steven Rossi claimed the silver medal with 37.86 points, while Detroit Skating Club’s Dana Vulaj and Keyton Bearinger secured the bronze medal with 36.18 points.

Sollazo, 12, and Yeung, 15, stalled out at sectionals last year before enjoying their breakout season. Their choreographer, Brianna Weissmann, said the concept for the “Star Wars” program came one night while watching the original epic space movie with her husband.

“I thought they were perfect for it,” Weissmann, who has coached Sollazo since she was 3, said. “We encouraged them to try to get a little backstory on it so they were familiar with what they are doing.”

Ruggeri, 13, and Rossi, 15, who started training together last June in Princeton, New Jersey, performed well to “Je Crois Entendre Encore” from the opera *The Pearl Fishers*.

“Most of our elements were good, but our jumps could have been better,” Ruggeri said. “We landed everything but just popped a couple of jumps.”

Highlights from their program included a Level 4 combination spin and a throw double loop.

“I was happy that they produced what they had been working on and they were rewarded,” coach Roland Burghart said.

Vulaj, 13, and Bearinger, 15, finished on the podium after being on the ice together for only the last seven months.

Skating to “Reflections of Passion” by Yanni, the team from the Detroit Skating Club delivered a program that they and their coach were proud of.

“It’s her first year doing a big qualifying competition in pairs and she held it together, and I was really pleased with him taking a leadership role,” coach Gabe Woodruff said. “He’s a little older, more experienced and I was pleased with the fight. They had a couple of bobbles and they continued and kept fighting until the end.”

One defining moment came after Vulaj fell on a throw Salchow.

“They both got right up and did beautiful side-by-side double Salchows,” Woodruff said. “In practice, sometimes they make a mistake and become discombobulated.”

Bearinger, who lives in Midland, Michigan (about two hours away from Vulaj), is planning to move to Detroit soon to continue training.

Jessica Sassano and Ethan Hall, of the Winterhurst FSC in Cleveland, earned the pewter medal with 34.29 points.

seven points.

“We wanted to get a really high score today, so if we mess up a little bit in the free dance, we’re still in good shape,” Kiliakov said after the compulsory (pattern) dances. “The compulsory score is like the backup for the free dance.”

First after the pattern dances at last year’s U.S. Championships, the Washington FSC representatives ended up in fifth place; they were determined to stand on the podium this year. After a fall on the footwork sequence during their free dance to *The Nutcracker* that left both skaters on the ice, a mandatory two-point deduction, their comfortable lead served its purpose.

“I think they’ve improved a lot since last year,” the team’s coach and Alexei’s father, Alexei Kiliakov, said. “They did a wonderful job recovering from the fall and they should be proud of themselves, just like I’m proud of them.”

Despite placing third in the free dance, Tkachenko and Kiliakov finished with 87.50 points and the gold medal.

Third after the pattern dances, Byrdee Darling and Rebel Rodriguez Avellan, of the Memorial FSC of Houston, rallied with a powerful free dance to music from *Pirates of the Caribbean* to win the segment and take home silver with 80.69 points.

Coached by Darling’s mother, Kaia, and eight-time Israeli ice dance champion Roman

Zaretsky, the duo qualified for their first U.S. Championships this season; Rodriguez Avellan stepped on the ice for the first time just three years ago.

“This year we didn’t know what to expect,” Zaretsky said. “Our mindset was that we were all just happy to have made it here. Now they’ve won a medal. We’re happy and I’m proud of them.”

Darling, 14, and Rodriguez, 16, spent the rest of their time in Greensboro cheering on their siblings, Cricket Darling and Racer Rodriguez Avellan, who placed 12th in the intermediate dance event. Son of award-winning film director Robert Rodriguez, Rebel has appeared in several films including *Shorts*, *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl*, and *Spy Kids 2 and 3*.

Fifth after the pattern dances, Juliette and Lucas Shadid of the All Year FSC placed second in the free dance to earn the bronze in their first competitive season together.

“We nailed the twizzles and the spin, which was our main priority,” Lucas said. “I think that made the difference today.”

Skating to music selections from *The Cotton Club* soundtrack, the siblings, aged 11 and 12, respectively, earned 77.32 points.

Ten-year-olds Jordan Lin and Morgan Sletten, of the Washington FSC, skated a playful free dance to music from *Monsters Inc.* to win pewter with 75.57 points.

Elizabeth Tkachenko and Alexei Kiliakov

PHOTO BY MEANIE HOYT



ICE DANCE

by MIMI WHETSTONE

When 8-year-old Elizabeth Tkachenko and 9-year-old Alexei Kiliakov took the ice for their free dance, they enjoyed a cushion of more than

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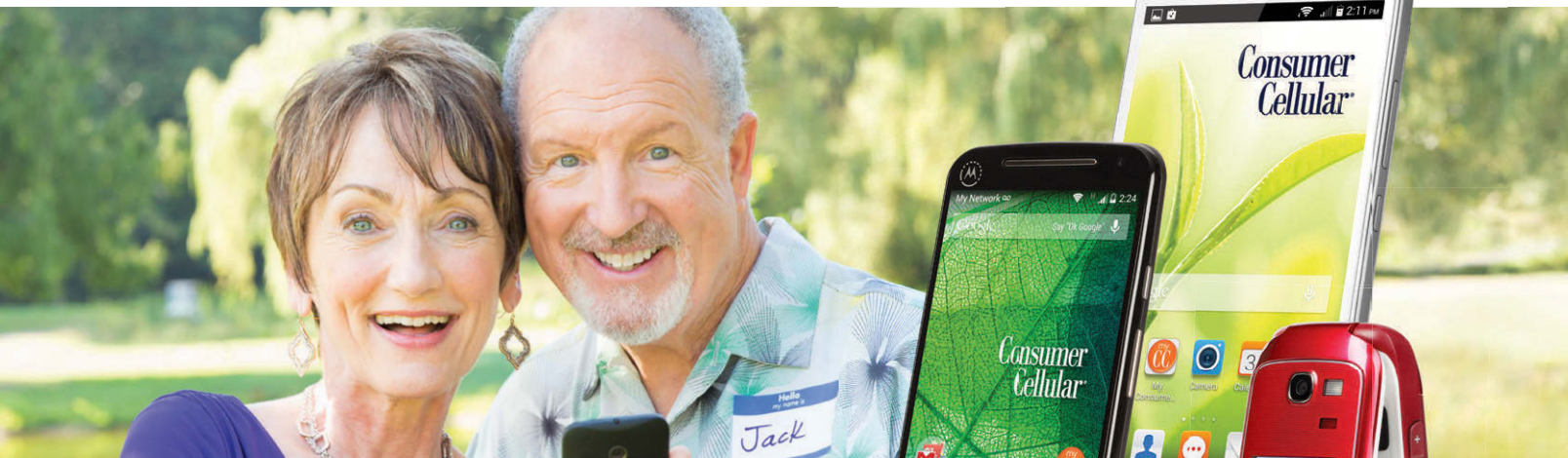
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LADIES

- GOLD** Kassandra Carpentier, 112.24
- SILVER** Maxine Marie Bautista, 105.84
- BRONZE** Gia Kokotakis, 99.43
- PEWTER** Ting Cui, 95.30

MEN

- GOLD** TJ Nyman, 104.70
- SILVER** Dinh Tran, 100.41
- BRONZE** Alan Wong, 89.50
- PEWTER** Ryan Dunk, 89.09

PAIRS

- GOLD** Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, 97.52
- SILVER** Sydney Cooke/Nathaniel Dennler, 96.29
- BRONZE** Joanna Hubbart/William Hubbart, 95.16
- PEWTER** Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi, 93.78

ICE DANCE

- GOLD** Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 103.53
- SILVER** Jillian Moyer/Jarred Druzynski, 89.25
- BRONZE** Molly Cesanek/Maxwell Gart, 83.14
- PEWTER** Cherri Chen/Edward Jahoda, 83.09

LADIES

For Carpentier, dreams do come true

by MICHAEL TERRY

Kassandra Carpentier fulfilled a dream by winning the intermediate ladies title in Greensboro.

"This has been an amazing experience," Carpentier, a member of the Colonial FSC in Boxborough, Massachusetts, said. "It's everything I thought it would be and more. The hard work pays off."

Last year, Carpentier, 12, finished sixth at the juvenile level at the Eastern Sectional, missing out on a trip to the 2014 U.S. Championships.

"This was quite upsetting to her as her goal for the year was to make it to nationals, especially with it being held close to home in Boston," her coach and mother, Genevieve Coulombe, said. "I believe, though, that everything happens for a reason, and this made Kassandra work even harder to fulfill her dream of competing at the national level."

Carpentier, who manages a genetic disorder of cystic fibrosis on a daily basis, also showed her determination by learning a completely new free skate (including music) following sectionals.

"She works extremely hard every day, treating every practice as if it were a competition," Coulombe said. "It made it that much more exciting to see it all come together in that moment."

Carpentier's free skate, set to *Notre Dame de Paris*, picked up where she left off the night before with her sterling, clean short program. She connected on all nine jumps, including a double Axel-loop-double loop combination to start off the second half of her program. She landed a triple Salchow, which received a minor deduction. Out of 16 total elements through both programs, she received positive grades of execution on 15 en route to a total score of 112.24.

DuPage (Illinois) Figure Skating Club's Maxine Marie Bautista, seventh after the short program, generated the competition's top free skate score of 75.10. Performing to "Over the Rainbow," Bautista opened with a triple Salchow-double toe loop combination and landed a triple toe loop and triple Salchow before finishing with a Level 4 change-foot combination spin.

"It felt good to get out on the ice and put together a strong performance, especially after how my short program went," said Bautista, who racked up 105.84 total points. "I'm happy to get a medal. I put in a lot of work for this so it feels good. I wish that I had skated better yesterday, though."

Gia Kokotakis, 13, and a member of the All Year FSC, skated to a bronze-medal finish, capping an exciting weekend for the Southern California native.

After placing third in the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships, Kokotakis finished strong in Greensboro, earning a total 99.43 points.

"I did what I was meant to do," Kokotakis said. "I created my first U.S. Championships moment. I clawed through my region, I clawed through my section and now I'm here and skating like I knew I could. This (competition) becomes something else ... something more than

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



LADIES: (l-r) Maxine Marie Bautista, Kassandra Carpentier, Gia Kokotakis, Ting Cui

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



MEN: (l-r) Dinh Tran, TJ Nyman, Alan Wong, Ryan Dunk

PHOTO BY MELANIE HOTT



PAIRS: (l-r) Sydney Cooke/Nathaniel Dennler, Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, Joanna Hubbart/William Hubbart, Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi

PHOTO BY MELANIE HOTT



ICE DANCE: (l-r) Jillian Moyer/Jarred Druzynski, Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, Molly Cesanek/Maxwell Gart, Cherri Chen/Edward Jahoda



Kassandra Carpentier

just another competition. It's a feeling like no other."

Twelve-year-old Ting Cui, a member of the Baltimore FSC, finished fourth with a total score of 95.30, besting her Eastern sectional score by nearly seven points.

MEN

by LYNN RUTHERFORD

For TJ Nyman, it's all about the show.

"The bigger the crowd, the better I like it," said the 14-year-old freshman at Viera High School in Melbourne, Florida. "I skate mostly for the audience."

Nyman, a member of Space Coast Iceplex FSC, brought the drama with his free skate to Bizet's *Carmen*, using big movements and showy steps to set off his jumps, including triple toe and double Axel combinations. His 67.35 points were added to his winning short program, and he won the intermediate title with 104.70 points.

"The program's story is about a matador who has lost his true love and then gains her back at the end," Nyman said. "It was a little shaky, but I'm happy I won the title. But myself, I think I could have done better."

Nyman, the 2014 U.S. juvenile champion, comes by his on-ice flair naturally. His mom, Katie McGovern, is director of the Space Coast Iceplex Theatre on Ice program.

"TJ is originally a showcase skater; that's where he gets his performance skills," McGovern said. "His coaches, Artem Torgashev and Ilona Melnichenko, pushed him to this (technical) level. TJ won National Showcase in 2010 and 2013, and he's a member of my junior Theatre on Ice team in Rockledge, Florida, the East Coast Hurricanes, going to the world championships in Paris in April."

The intermediate title isn't the only thing Nyman and McGovern are celebrating. Both became U.S. citizens shortly before the U.S. Championships.

Nyman now has triple citizenship. Mom Katie hails from London, and Nyman began skating in Isle of Wight, England, before moving to the U.S. at age 3. His father is Swedish.

"It's definitely exciting, America is such a great country," he said.

The skater plans to move up to the novice or junior ranks next season.

"I have all of my triples, I just need to get them more consistent and put them into the pro-

grams," he said.

Dinh Tran, a member of the SC of San Francisco, was second in both the short program and free skate to claim the silver medal. His free skate to music from *Man of La Mancha* featured a triple toe and double Axel, and he finished with 100.41 points.

"This wasn't the best skate. I popped the triple Salchow, but it was pretty good and I'm very happy with my medal," Tran, 13, said. "I'll work on being consistent in my jumps."

"It was a strong showing, one mistake in there," Tran's coach, Don Corbiell, said. "He put out some solid jumps and really great spins. He is landing triple loops and Lutzes, and trying triple Axel, so it's definitely time to step up to novice."

Skating to "Tango de Roxanne," Alan Wong (Dallas FSC) had a most ambitious free skate, including an opening triple Lutz. Despite two falls on double Axels, he moved up from fifth after the short program to win the bronze medal with 89.50 points.

"I've been working on triple Lutz for quite a while. I actually got it before I got my (double) Axel," Wong, 15, said. "I honestly thought I could have done a whole lot better. I will move up to novice next season."

Ryan Dunk (Baltimore FSC) showed off a strong triple Salchow in his free skate to "Danse Macabre" and placed fourth with 89.09 points.

The 14-year-old thinks playing in the Here-

TJ Nyman



ford Middle School orchestra helps his interpretation on the ice.

"I play the violin, so I enjoy listening to classical music," Dunk said. "When I skate I can feel all the beats."

PAIRS

by TROY SCHWINDT

Elli Kopmar and Jonah Barrett added their names to the growing list of pairs champions at the Southwest Florida FSC in Ellenton, rallying from fourth place after the short program to claim the intermediate crown.

With 97.52 points and the title, they become the first team at the Southwest Florida skating school to win an intermediate title. The school has produced champions at every level now except juvenile.

Sydney Cooke and Nathaniel Dennler, members of the Colonial FSC in Massachusetts, captured the silver medal with a score of 96.29, while Tampa Bay SC's Joanna Hubbard and William Hubbard used the event's second-best free skate to secure the bronze medal with 95.16 points.

"We just went out there like we do every day, had a good time, took it one element at a time and remembered what our awesome team of coaches told us," Barrett said.

Kopmar, 11, and Barrett, 17, both online students, joined forces last summer. In Greensboro, they put it all together while performing their free skate to "Hungarian Rhapsody." Their program highlights included two Level 4 lifts, a double-double combination jump, two double throws and Level 3 footwork and ending spin.

When the scores were read at the end of the event, Barrett said time seemed to stop.

"I don't think there's been a longer five seconds in my life than when the scores were coming out," said Barrett, who also won the novice men's event the next day. "We were so excited to see how it turned out."

Their victory was extra sweet for their coach Amanda Evora, who has served a three-year apprenticeship since retiring from competition under Olympic coaches Jim Peterson and Lyndon Johnston.

"I've been lucky to be mentoring under Jim and Lyndon," Evora, a 2010 Olympic pairs skater with Mark Ladwig, said. "They said this would be a good developing team for you to lead and know how it feels to be a primary coach."

Kopmar also feels lucky to have Evora in her corner.

"I looked back at some of her videos and I try and do the same things she does on the ice," Kopmar said.

Cooke, 12, and Dennler, 17, finished fifth at the U.S. Championships in 2014, but arrived determined to earn a spot on the podium.

In their short time together, Cooke has been able to gain confidence with the throws, while Dennler has improved his jumping. Also, Dennler has been able to adjust his spins and rotations to match Cooke's, which was an issue the team faced early on.

Their coach, Fred Palascak, said he felt con-

PHOTOS BY MELANIE HORT



Elli Kopmar and Jonah Barrett

fident in the programs that he and his wife, choreographer Melanie Lambert, handed their team this season.

"We spent almost 15 years as professional performers and I think that's the one thing that allows us to be good coaches in preparing them for events like this," Palascak said. "They had two great programs choreographed by my wife and I feel like they were really prepared."

The Hubbarts, fourth at the U.S. Championships last year, vaulted to the temporary lead

with their free skate to "Ice Symphony" by Edwin Marton, and finished in third place.

"We came in there with the attitude that we were fifth and had nothing to lose and everything to gain," William, 17, said. "Everything went our way and it felt really good."

"After we landed the first double Axel, I just knew we had the rest," Joanna, 16, said.

The pair, juvenile titlists in 2013, are coached by Alexander Vlassov and Laura Amelina in Tampa.

Sophia Elder and Christopher Elder



The top two teams after the short program, Jasmine Fendi and Joshua Fendi, both 12, and Greta Crafoord and John Crafoord, both 14, finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

"I just thought they were brilliant to come out and win first and second place after the short, up against a really strong intermediate field," coach Peter Oppedard said of his teams from the Los Angeles FSC. "In the long program you have to be physically stronger; the people who ended up beating them were older and stronger. I just wanted my skaters to understand that and have the perspective that they didn't skate poorly at all, that it's just going to take time."

ICE DANCE

by MIMI WHETSTONE

"It feels so good, I can't even put it into words. It's so hard to explain. This is amazing. I'm speechless," Sophia Elder said.

Sophia and her brother, Christopher, won the ice dance title with 103.53 points. At the tender ages of 11 (Sophia) and 13 (Christopher), the siblings have been competing together for the last four years, placing fifth at last year's U.S. Championships in Boston.

"We never gave up on our dreams and we didn't let our other accomplishments go to our

heads," Sophia continued. "We never said, 'Oh, we won this competition or that competition, we can ease up or take a break from working so hard.' We kept pushing ourselves and obviously it paid off here."

Performing their free dance to a medley of Hungarian folk music, the Louisville Skating Academy representatives earned Level 4 on three of their five elements, amassing 55.24 points for the segment.

"They performed the way they've been training," coach Kelly Morris-Adair said. "They were a little tight in the beginning, but they worked through all the elements and the performance level was really enhanced. I'm so pleased they could do that under pressure."

Jillian Moyer, 13, and 16-year-old Jarred Druzynski battled illness early in the week but finished on the podium with silver.

"The last two days I've been sick out of my mind," Druzynski said after the pattern dances. "The fact that I was actually still standing out there, I'm happy about."

Performing their free dance to a swing/blues-themed soundtrack, including "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Dreaming" and "Rock This Town," the duo finished their first U.S. Championships together, and the first of Moyer's career, with 89.25 points.

"It was our goal coming in to try for the po-

dium," Moyer, who represents the All Year FSC, said. "But to actually have done it, feels amazing."

"No matter what happened with the placements, we were so happy to be here," Druzynski, who represents the La Jolla FSC, added. "We're proud of ourselves right now."

Pulling up from a fifth-place finish in the pattern dances, Molly Cesanek, 13, and Maxwell Gart, 12, secured the bronze medal with a "Lion King" free dance worth 48.94 points.

"They're the kind of team who can perform under pressure, so I knew they had it in them," coach Matthew Gates said. "They struggled a little bit in the pattern dance, so they were hoping they would pull up and they did. What can I say? They did a great job."

The duo, who represent the Washington FSC and Charter Oak FSC, respectively, earned 83.14 total points.

A second-place showing in the pattern dances held Cherri Chen (Washington FSC) and Edward Jahoda (Gardens FSC of Maryland) in fourth place, despite placing fifth in the free dance. The 13- and 14-year-old, respectively, executed a performance set elegantly to "Beyond the Sea" and "Mack the Knife" that featured two Level 4 lifts, adding to their overall score of 83.09 points.

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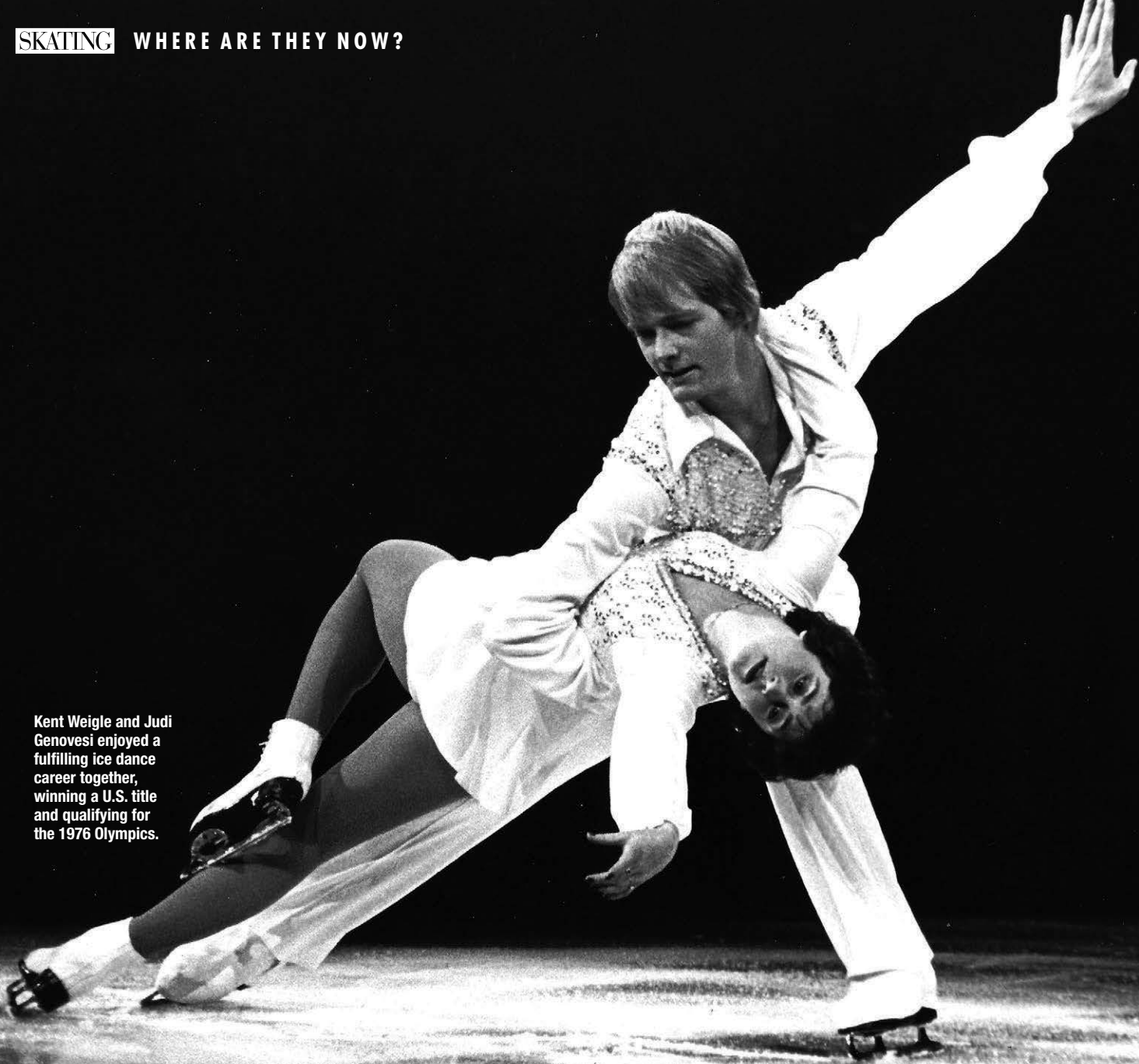
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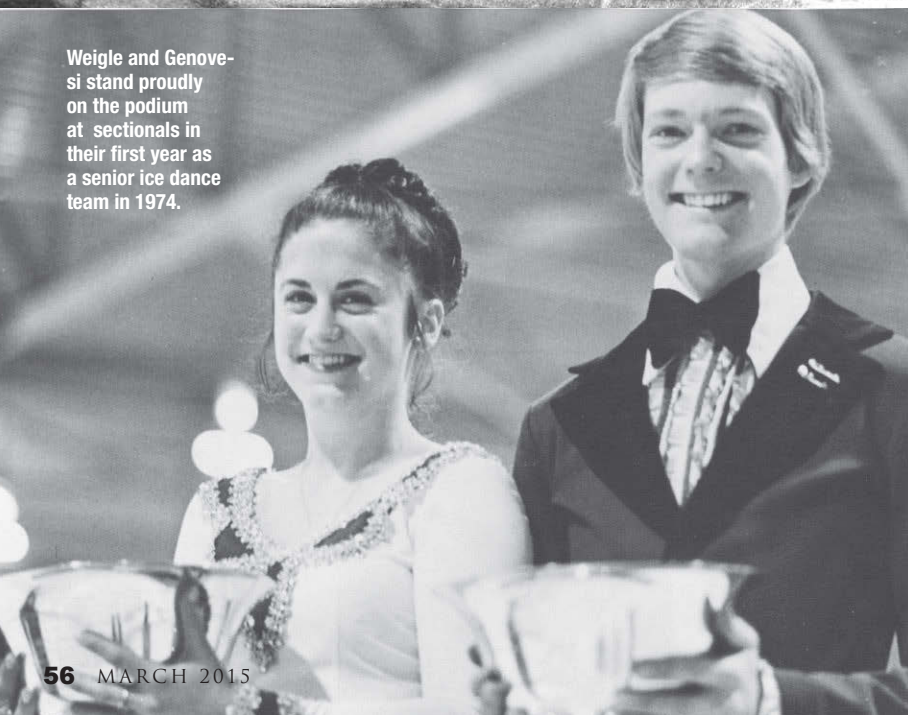
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Kent Weigle and Judi Genovesi enjoyed a fulfilling ice dance career together, winning a U.S. title and qualifying for the 1976 Olympics.



Weigle and Genovesi stand proudly on the podium at sectionals in their first year as a senior ice dance team in 1974.



JUST LIKE OLD TIMES

GENOVESI WHALING AND WEIGLE REUNITE AFTER 37 YEARS

by LOIS ELFMAN

In March 2014, 1977 U.S. ice dance champions Judi Genovesi Whaling and Kent Weigle got on the ice together for the first time in 37 years. Wearing the skates she competed in decades earlier, Whaling asked Weigle, who is a coach, to hold her up if necessary. Within minutes, it was like old times.

"Her fiancé took some videos of us so we could see what we looked like. For not having skated together for 37 years, we did pretty darn well," Weigle said.

"It was amazing how so many details of our dances and routines came back to me while we were skating," Whaling said. "That's what hours of training does for you. You never forget."

Whaling, 57, and Weigle, 60, teamed up as teenagers in Connecticut. Weigle was late coming to the sport — shortly before he turned 14 — so he was steered into ice dance.

"There were some really excellent dance coaches (in Hartford) and I kind of was discovered by Hugh Seaman," Weigle said.

Whaling became interested in skating after watching Peggy Fleming in the 1968 Olympic Winter Games and begged her parents to take her skating. When they finally agreed, she saw a girl on the ice spinning and jumping.

"I was very shy, but I was so anxious to learn to do those things that I approached her and asked her if she took lessons," Whaling said. "She pointed me in the direction of a woman in the stands who was involved with the skating club. She said she would send me some information for the start of the next season. She did send me the brochure a few months later and my skating career took off from there."

Back when they teamed up, ice dance wasn't yet included at the Olympics. They enjoyed what was in front of them and continued to improve, in 1973 becoming U.S. junior champions (then called Silver Dance). After a U.S. silver medal at the senior level and a trip to the World Championships in 1975, and with ice dance being added as a medal sport to the 1976 Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic dream became a real possibility. In 1976, Whaling and Weigle were named to the U.S. Olympic Team and were among the inaugural group of Olympic ice dance competitors.

"The Olympics are like no other competition," Whaling said. "It is big and it is exciting to see the athletes from all the other sports. So much more media and hype. Kent and I knew we weren't going to come close to a medal, but we were hoping for a good showing and continued upward progress."

They didn't have the performances they'd hoped for, but enjoyed seeing teammates Colleen O'Connor and Jim Millns win bronze and Dorothy Hamill skate to gold. With O'Connor and Millns retired, they claimed gold at the 1977 U.S. Championships and finished ninth at the World Championships in Tokyo. Both then decided it was time to retire and go to college full-time.

"We had done three World Championships and the Olympics; we won nationals in senior. We had basically done everything we had set out to do," Weigle said.

"I don't think we ever would have been medal contenders," he continued. "I think we certainly would have improved in our world standing, not to the point where it would have

made the time, effort and expense of continuing the training worthwhile. So we decided, 'Let's go out while we're on the top of our game,' and we did."

Weigle went to the Newhouse School at Syracuse University and earned a degree in broadcast journalism with a minor in psychology. When no jobs in the field materialized, he decided to coach skating for a while. Having lived his whole life on the East Coast, he wanted to explore the West.

A club in Salt Lake City responded to his résumé, and in May 1979, he headed there for the summer figuring if he didn't like it, he'd move on. Utah proved to be a good fit, and 36 years later he's still there.

Over the years, he has taught ice dance, done choreography, worked on moves in the field and helped skaters with stroking and presentation. He's partnered countless girls through their ice dance tests, which he still does today. He thought he'd stop at 60, but he's been working out with a trainer and has bought new skates, so he's likely to continue for a while.

Whaling attended Boston College, where her roommate was Olympic teammate/roommate Alice Cook, and graduated with a business degree. She has two sons — Ian, 28, and Eric, 26 — who were born in Atlanta. They moved to Houston about 16 years ago and she married second husband Graham Whaling last December. After working as an interior decorator for more than 20 years, she took classes and received her landman certificate and went to work in the energy field.

"A landman researches titles for oil and gas minerals, negotiates leases, etc.," Whaling explained. "I now work as treasurer of RGW Interests LLC, which primarily makes oil and gas investments. I love to play golf in my spare time."

She said she doesn't watch a lot of skating on TV, but did attend the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston and watched the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, on TV. Both Whaling and Weigle marveled at the speed and athleticism of Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

"At the time Kent and I were skating, it was pretty solidly Russians at the top," she said. "It was great to see them win. First of all, they're in-

credible to watch. When you see them in person you realize just how fast they're traveling and how fast their spins are."

Weigle said he thinks the international judging system (IJS) has been quite beneficial for ice dance, spurring growth of the sport, both for participants and spectators. He also credits Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva for propelling North American ice dance to its current place in the world rankings.

"It was the perfect storm of great talent, great coaching, at a great time for dance," he said of Davis and White's win. "I watched it in awe."

"I think of the free dance we did when we won nationals in '77," he added. "It was a good free dance for the time, but today that wouldn't even place at sectionals at the intermediate level."

Weigle has no regrets that he has not coached elite dance teams, saying his career has unfolded in a most satisfying way. Both he and Whaling have great memories of their own competitive days.

"I was always a performer," Weigle said. "I loved skating. I enjoyed working toward something. I have always been very goal-driven, motivated. Once I got out there and I was skating, I lit up. It wasn't fake. It was me loving what I was doing."

"I love coaching," he added. "I'm working with people on tests. I love choreography. I love being a secondary coach to the freestyle coaches that defer to my judgment with choreography and moves in the field. It's really been a great developmental arc for me."

While skating isn't a significant part of Whaling's life, parts of it have had a direct impact.

"I loved competition because it was a way to get affirmation of all the progress we made through hard work," she said. "I also liked the adrenaline rush of having to put it all on the line for so few competitions per year. Unlike other sports, where there is always next week, for us we had to wait until next year. It requires a lot of patience, focus and determination."

"I still love to dance and move to music," she added. "Graham and I take dance lessons periodically."

Weigle and Genovesi Whaling reunited again last December, when they shared skating memories.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT WEIGLE

S.T.A.R.S. EXPERIENCE OFFERED AT FANFEST

Athletes and spectators at the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, enjoyed the opportunity to test their athleticism at the S.T.A.R.S. (Standardized Testing of Athleticism to Recognize Skaters) interactive booth inside FanFest.

Fans of all ages participated in some of the same athletic tests that U.S. Figure Skating athletes do as part of the S.T.A.R.S. program, which is designed to promote robust, all-around fitness for young skaters.

Intermediate champion TJ Nyman tests his vertical jump.



Also, participants learned more about the range of athletic abilities that figure skaters are required to have. From sheer power to flexibility to intricate balance, the S.T.A.R.S. experience offered demonstrations and allowed participants to test their vertical jump, perform the hexagon jump, and demonstrate strength and endurance with push-ups and hand presses.



S.T.A.R.S. will begin its fifth annual season of nationwide combines this spring. Athletes can register for combines and find a list of dates and cities at www.starscombine.org. The combine will also feature an educational seminar titled "The Training Game," which will focus on building on- and off-ice training programs based on your athleticism.

Julia Sartori replicates Gracie Gold's flexibility and balance in a Bellmann position.



2015 S.T.A.R.S. SCHEDULE

- March 28 — Artesia, California
- April 16 — Salt Lake City
- April 17 — Chicago
- April 19 — Phoenix
- May 3 — Bay Area
- May 21 — Minneapolis, Minnesota
- May 30 — Dallas
- May 31 — San Diego
- June 6 — Seattle
- June 7 — Boston
- June 7 — Palm Beach, Florida
- June 14 — Fort Wayne, Indiana
- June 20 — Cincinnati
- June 21 — Stockholm, New Jersey
- June 30 — Colorado Springs, Colorado
- July 11 — St. Louis
- July 11 — Cleveland
- July 12 — Washington, D.C.
- July 17 — Chicago
- July 26 — Charlotte, North Carolina
- July 31 — Newark, Delaware
- Aug. 8 — Dearborn, Michigan

For more information, go to: www.starscombine.org



Athletes from Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail, North Carolina, join S.T.A.R.S. coordinator Melissa Vriner to demonstrate some of the assessments at FanFest.

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SUCCESS STARTS AT HOME

Focusing on family, outside activities provides much needed balance and perspective for athletes

Editor's note: Last fall, Cheryl Davis and Jacqui White, mothers of Olympic ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, attended the U.S. Novice and Junior Challenge Skate in Salt Lake City as parent team leaders. This developmental competition is an invitation-only program for athletes who have competed previously at the intermediate through junior levels at the sectional or U.S. Championships. Challenge Skate parents had the opportunity to work with Cheryl and Jacqui and attend their three seminars titled "Success Starts at Home."

Each of the seminars included topics relevant to raising a figure skater. In this final of three installments, SKATING magazine features a recap of their seminar that focused on balance and perspective.



JAY ADIFFE/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Jacqui White and Cheryl Davis presented a parents seminar at the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro.

The experience of success and moving up through the levels of competitive figure skating can be both fun and exciting for skaters and their parents. It can also be easy to lose perspective and watch as skating takes over your whole life.

Our goal as parents is to help our children learn the importance of developing a healthy balance between figure skating and the other activities in their lives. School, music, hobbies, family and friends are part of a well-rounded athlete's life. When they achieve this balance, it helps them gain the confidence and skills to use in other arenas, including creating mental toughness. These skills also help them take on challenges later in life.

When Charlie started playing hockey, I told him that practicing his violin would make him a better hockey player. He gave me a suspicious look when I explained that by using his brain to learn to read music and translate that visual into the physical action of his fingers, playing the notes would help his brain grow. His "better brain" would help him see the plays develop in the game and know how to move his body in the right direction. I didn't go into the technical details I had read about in a book on the neuroscience of our kids' brains and how they develop, but he agreed that the skills he gained from playing the violin and hockey became valuable tools he could use in his figure skating.

Nurture your child's dream, but keep your eye on reality. More and more hours devoted to training can be counterproductive. In fact, participating in other activities and having limited training time can help athletes focus and make more efficient use of their practice time. We can let our skaters know that we put the focus on the learning process, and that we value the progress and the effort they put into their practice. We can help them learn to do the same by appreciating and praising the hard work and perseverance, not just the winning.

For most of the 10 years Meryl and Charlie trained at the Detroit Skating Club, they had an hour practice for freestyle and one and a half hours for dance a day. Meryl would arrive on time and Charlie would come about 30 minutes later because of school. Meryl was part of the gifted and talented program that allowed her to get credit for her skating when she gave a presentation sharing what she had learned from skating that year. Their coach always

understood that school was a priority for them, and he focused on using their time efficiently.

Another key aspect of balance is the time athletes spend with their families. Family life, where the skater and her/his sport are not the focus, supports the grounded values that will instill resilience, "coachability" and humility. These are important traits for every athlete. Making time for the whole family, where the skater can be the sister, son, or grandchild, allows us a chance to demonstrate how much we value all the members, and it gives the skater a chance to take a break from the rink and the limelight. Make every effort to balance life so that it doesn't revolve around the skater, for the benefit of everyone in the family.

Meryl has a brother three years younger. We worked hard at trying to make his sport and interests just as important as Meryl's skating. We tried not to linger on skating conversations, competitions or videos while he was home. When Meryl and Charlie went to the 2010 Olympics, we invited Meryl's brother to come watch them compete. He was excited because he had not seen them compete in many years. Following the competition and their winning of the silver medal, Clay was surprised and stated, "I did not know they were so good." When he went to the celebration following the event, he was shocked at how Meryl was totally immersed in this skating world that he knew so little about.

Competitive figure skating offers so many amazing opportunities for learning life lessons and expanding horizons, and parents can focus on helping their child take advantage of those throughout the journey. At the same time, figure skating, like any sport, has its risk of injury, overtraining, burnout, etc., and sometimes parents, athletes and coaches can lose perspective on what is most important for the long-term outcome. Each competition is just a snapshot in time, and part of the learning process. The outcome of any one event does not dictate, or make or break a skater's career. What matters most is what they learn from it, and how they use that lesson to keep going and improve.

Sometimes we can gain insight from our skater if we listen, like the time I sat in the stands and watched Charlie practice a new jump when he was about 10 years old. He would jump and fall, then jump and fall over and over. When he got off the ice, I asked him how he felt about his

practice. He said it went well, which left me wondering. He said, "Stand back, Mom, and look at this graph." He drew a graph in the air for me. He said, "Today I'm learning a new jump so it's a hard day, but I learned a lot. Tomorrow will be better; then I'll have some more bad days and then better. In the end, even though the days go up and down, the end of the graph is higher than the beginning, and so I feel pretty good about that." I listened and it made a difference when I saw his perspective. It changed how I looked at his skating for the remainder of his career.

Regardless of whether your child wins an Olympic gold medal or focuses on working his or her way through the test system, there are so many things to be learned and gained from figure skating. No one can control the outcome of a competition or many other outside factors that can influence a skater's success, including growth, injuries, coaches or partners along the way. What you can control is your attitude about it, and making sure that your child is learning lessons from the journey that will serve them for many years

to come: goal-setting, focus, perseverance, sportsmanship, confidence, humility and a healthy lifestyle. If your child were to never enter another competition, what would they have learned from the sport that they can carry with them into college or adulthood? Your attitude can help them learn those lessons.

Years ago when Meryl and Charlie were going through a tough spell in their careers, we talked about skating and what made us feel grateful. Meryl and Charlie were grateful for the friends they had made and the cool places they had been, both in the U.S. and in other countries. Cheryl and I knew they had also learned how to manage their time and become responsible and independent. We all agreed that if they had quit competing at any time, they would have gained so much from their skating journey that it would still have been worth it. The value of the life lessons learned are beyond measure.

Kelly Vogtner is the senior director of athlete development at U.S. Figure Skating.

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In its support of U.S. Figure Skating's SafeSport program, the Dallas Figure Skating Club awards a monetary reward to each Dallas FSC Team USA skater assigned to an international competition; the DFSC also offers airline points or airfare assistance money so a parent (or parents) can accompany their skater to international competitions. On Dec. 12, Vivian Le's father, Tam Le, was able to take advantage of this benefit to travel to the Junior Grand Prix Series event in Bratislava, Slovakia, with Vivian and coach Aleksey Letov. The parental support was invaluable to Vivian, who earned the title of junior ladies champion. Parris Case is the DFSC SafeSport chair and supports the program.



Club members in Carolinas participate in thrilling opening show in Greensboro

In an opening ceremony (U.S. Championships) that will long be remembered, 116 skaters ages 6 to 18 filled the Greensboro Coliseum ice with passion and precision. With dra-

matic lighting and well-choreographed numbers, the athletes performed "Through a Skater's Vision," showcasing the struggles and triumphs of an athlete's life.

Skaters representing sev-

en clubs in North Carolina and South Carolina practiced at their regional locations before traveling to Greensboro, where creative director Danielle Logano of Charlotte put together a crowd-pleasing production. Among the many highlights was a fire-and-ice performance, featuring Logano and Ashley Clark twirling fire batons.

Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie, the Championships' honorary chairman, dazzled by speeding down the length of the ice and hitting several jumps as if he were still competing. Then, to the crowd's surprise, NASCAR's Joey Logano and his (and Danielle's) father drove a car onto the ice with America's newest Olympic champions, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, sitting on each

side. After a "victory lap," Wylie skated to Davis and White and handed them a torch, with which they lit a ceremonial cauldron.

Melissa Vriner, who also is U.S. Figure Skating's S.T.A.R.S. program coordinator, joined Logano in choreographing the finale.

"As a skater you always dream of performing in a big arena," Vriner said. "It was such a joy to watch the skaters' faces as they stepped on Coliseum ice for the first time. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that allowed them to perform in front of a huge crowd, watch their idols compete and make new friendships. It was by far one of the best experiences of my coaching career."

Skaters from Hillsborough and Greensboro can't wait to perform.



JAN ADEFF/ U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Club members from Raleigh prepare to take the ice.



Members of the Twin Falls Figure Skating Association, with U.S. Figure Skating mascot Snowplow Sam, help promote the 2016 U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Vulcan Victory Torchlight Parade on Jan. 31.



Candy Cane Clinic

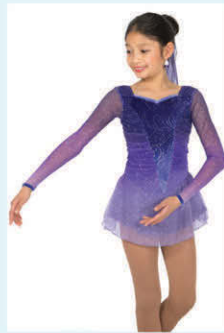
The Westminster FSC of Erie in Pennsylvania hosted a skating camp titled Candy Cane Clinic. It took place on Tuesday evening, Dec. 23, and all skaters, coaches and parents enjoyed a wonderful time. There were lots of stations on-ice and off-ice, and even a nutritious snack was provided. There was also a parent education class and discussion with two local judges, Renee Kloecker and Donna Cerami. Caryn Kadavy, a 1988 Olympian, was the guest of honor. She was born and raised in Erie.



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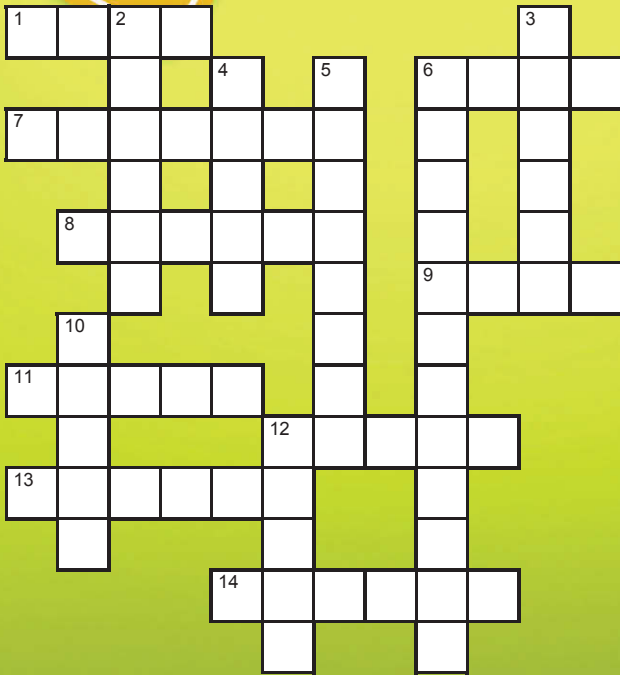
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WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY
MAY 20-23, 2015

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

Puzzles by Joel Kaplow



ACROSS

- The jump with a toe pick-assisted backward takeoff from the back outside edge of one skate and landed on the back outside edge of the other, with one or more full turns in the air.
- ___ Rippon had a higher free skate score than 10-Down in Greensboro, but his short program was lower, so he settled for the men's silver. He has a signature jump which is a 1-Across done with his arms straight up above his head.
- A variation of a sit spin, the ___ spin has the skater tuck in the free leg, with the body hunched over it as flat as possible to resemble a certain breakfast item.
- Gracie Gold missed out on the Grand Prix Final due to a ___ fracture in her foot. This can happen due to repeated jumping, causing small cracks in a bone but not a major break.
- Ice dancer ___ Bates has done a "quad" in a way. He took the gold in Greensboro, which will go with the silver, bronze and pewter medals he's earned at previous U.S. Championships with current partner Madison Chock and ex-partner Emily Samuelson.
- Perhaps the biggest surprise at the U.S. Championships was 15-year-old ___ Chen, who, in her first senior competition, landed on the ladies podium with a bronze medal.
- When a skater finishes a routine that includes all the planned fully rotated jumps (no popping), no falls, no hands touching the ice, and all correct edges used, they have skated a ___ program.
- At U.S. skating competitions, a pewter medal is awarded to the ___-place finishers.

14 When the 2011 U.S. Championships were held in Greensboro, N.C., Maia and Alex Shibutani snagged the ice dance ___ medal. They did a repeat with the same medal in the same arena four years later in January.

DOWN

- The lady you heard doing commentary with NBC's coverage of the ice dance competition in Greensboro was ___ Belbin, five-time U.S. ice dance gold medalist and Olympic silver medalist with partner Ben Agosto.
- The World Synchronized Figure Skating Championships will happen next month in Hamilton, Ontario, ___.
- With big sister Caydee out this season, ___ Denney and partner Brandon Frazier took up the slack by winning the pairs silver in Greensboro.
- When a skater earns more points than ever before in a short or free program or overall score, that is called a ___ best.
- Just before her free skate in Greensboro, she said to her coach, "I'm terrified." After her free skate, in the kiss and cry she said to the camera, "Don't give up on me yet." After the competition was over, she said, "I am a force to be reckoned with." Who is she? (2 wds)
- Grabbing the men's gold, with a 5-Down best in his short program helping him out, ___ Brown wowed the crowd in Greensboro.
- You know them from the cover of the November SKATING issue. Alexa Scimeca and ___ Knierim garnered the pairs gold at the U.S. Championships in January.

WORDS ON ICE

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

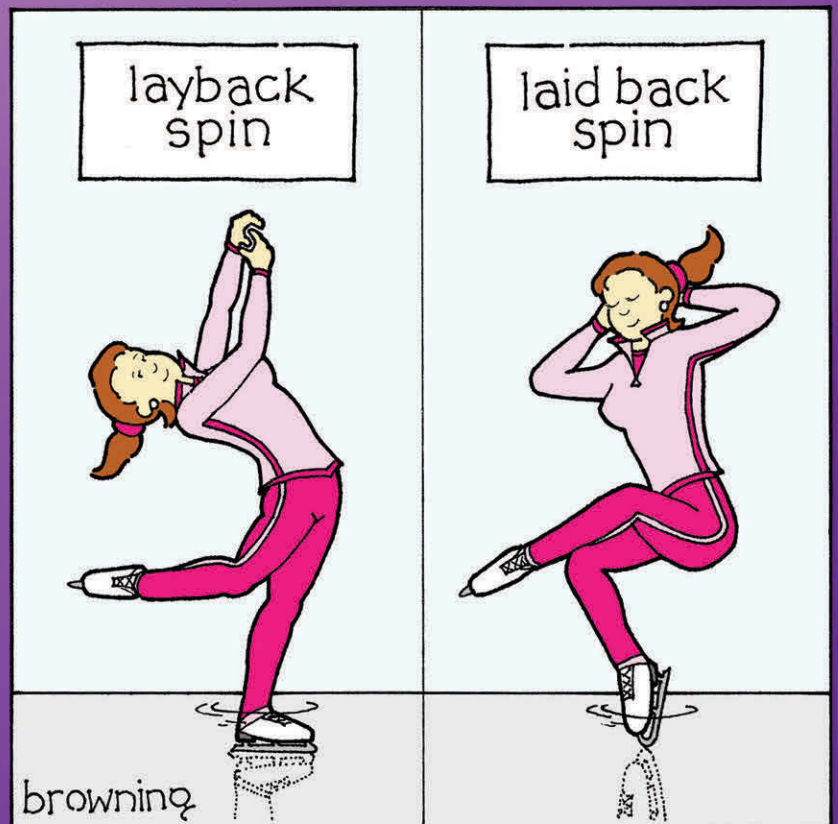
Hi skaters! Try to find and circle the words listed below hidden in the box of letters. The words will appear in a straight line in any direction (up, down, forward, backward or diagonally), and some words may overlap and share letters. Find them all and you'll be on top of the medal podium!

ADAM RIPPON
 ALEXA SCIMECA
 ASHLEY WAGNER
 CHRIS KNIERIM
 EVAN BATES

GRACIE GOLD
 JASON BROWN
 JOSHUA FARRIS
 KAREN CHEN
 MADISON CHOCK

Go Figure

by Gene Browning





CHLOE AVERY

Age: 9
Hometown: Auburn, Washington
Club: Kent Valley FSC
Level: Working on pre-preliminary freestyle
Coach: Tiffany Bailey
Goals: To land my double Salchow before I turn 10 and to become a senior-level skater someday
Favorite skaters: Ashley Wagner, Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Jeremy Abbott
Favorite moves: Axel, catch-foot camel, Y-spiral
How I got started: I started out with roller skating and then wanted to see what ice skating was like. After the first day, I fell in love with it.
Memorable moments: On my 9th birthday, I won first place at the May Blades competition and also got to meet some of my favorite skaters from Stars on Ice that same day.
MORE FAVORITES
Food: Steak and club sandwiches
Singers: Chris Tomlin, Idina Menzel
Animal: Dolphin
Hobbies: Drawing, playing Minecraft, ballet

SOPHIA DAILEY

Age: 8
Hometown: College Station, Texas
Club: Brazos Valley FSC
Level: Pre-preliminary
Coaches: Beth Brown and Ashton Marsh; Megan Jonasson and Amy Kujawa (Theatre On Ice)
Goals: Pass pre-juvenile moves in the field; become an ice skating coach and choreographer
Favorite skaters: Gracie Gold, Ashley Wagner, Elena Radionova
How often I skate: 5-6 days a week
Favorite moves: Axel, camel/sit spin, spread eagle
How I got started: My mom signed me up for group lessons at Spirit Ice Arena when I was 3. I probably fell 35 times in that lesson, but I loved it. I was in the Christmas show a few months later, and I cried when it was over because I had so much fun skating.
Memorable moments: Celebrating with my coaches after landing my Axel, skating at Rockefeller Center, competing at my first Theatre on Ice national competition, taking lessons with Paul Wylie and Todd Eldredge
More to know about me: I am a competitive dancer and have been a mouse and an angel in *The Nutcracker*. I love to travel and have been to 26 states, visited 11 countries and attended the 2012 London Olympics.



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.



TEAMS SHARE EXPERIENCES FROM MOZART CUP

compiled by LESLIE GRAHAM

Four teams — Crystallettes, Miami University, Lexettes and Saint Louis Synergy — traveled to Salzburg, Austria, at the end of January to compete in the Mozart Cup.

The U.S. contingent of teams fared well, with Miami (Oxford, Ohio) and the Crystallettes (Dearborn, Michigan) finishing third and fourth, respectively, in the senior division, while the Lexettes (Lexington, Massachusetts) and Saint Louis Synergy placed second and seventh, respectively, in the junior ranks.

SKATING magazine asked members of each team some questions regarding their trip to this renowned international competition and destination. Below are their answers.

How did your team prepare for the Mozart Cup?

Our preparation was different from our standard training regimen. Besides our normal training, we added hours to our practices to put the finishing touches on an entirely new long program that we changed only four weeks before. It was a difficult, yet rewarding experience.

— Emily Naperkoski, Crystallettes

What did you do to pass time on the plane ride to Europe?

After an early morning practice, a seven-hour nighttime flight to Munich seemed to be the perfect occasion to sleep. Once we boarded the plane I was fast asleep (in which state I remained for the majority of the flight), but some of my teammates were not as lucky. The close quarters on the plane mixed with the excitement for our final destination were not the best recipe for sleep for many. Without our usual homework load we all had to come up with new activities to entertain us, and between knitting, drawing, reading, or the

in-flight entertainment, the long flight passed relatively quickly, and before we knew, it the plane was on the ground again.

— Jennifer Stewart, Miami University

How did the team prepare on the day of competition? Did you do anything different versus an event held in the U.S.?

We did not. As a way to keep us calm, our coach always reminds us that every competition is just another chance to do what we do a billion times in practice. In the warm-up area, we do a couple of Team USA cheers that we only do at international competitions and this helps to get us in the spirit of the international event.

— Gabbie Linehan, Saint Louis Synergy

What did you think of the city of Salzburg?

It was definitely alive with the sound of Team USA. It was such a beautiful city and we enjoyed our time there. One site that made a lasting impression on me was the gazebo from *The Sound of Music*. I grew up watching the movie, so it was truly memorable to see the famous “Sixteen Going on Seventeen” gazebo. One other site that made an impression was the house from *The Sound of Music*. The view of the frozen pond, the house and the mountains in the background was truly breathtaking.

— Chelsea MacIntosh, Crystallettes

Do you have any traditions or superstitions at competitions?

At every warm-up before we compete, our team huddles and wobbles. It is a dance we all know by heart, and it has been a tradition for years. It’s a great way to release some nerves and get excited to compete. Also, some of us on the

team believe that it brings good luck to touch Coach Ramona’s silver-white hair before we compete. Sometimes we will steal a touch in the locker room or right before we get on the ice.

— Lucy Downing, Saint Louis Synergy

How did you feel about your team’s performances?

The team was satisfied. We felt that our programs portrayed energy, technical difficulty and passion for the sport. The pride we felt in representing the United States and bringing home a medal for our country has only fueled us more in practice and for later competitions. We are pleased with our skates but understand that we still have room for improvement. We are working on crafting new goals for the junior world qualifier, nationals and hopefully Junior Worlds.

— Rachel Sokolov, Lexettes





The Crystallettes proudly wave their Team USA flag.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY NAPERKOSKI



PHOTO BY SASHA SCHNEIDER

Miami University kicks off the season on a strong note with a bronze medal.

we enjoyed incredible European breakfasts fully stocked with every yogurt and bread choice you could imagine and even got to try Wiener schnitzel for lunch one day. The food was delicious, but most of all, the city's chocolates were the overwhelming favorites.

— Jennifer Stewart, Miami University

How does this event compare to other international events you've previously competed at?

The atmosphere of the competition, as a whole, was invigorating. With so many teams competing from all around the world, there was a lot of excitement around the rink. We were always being asked to trade pins or the American flag toothpicks we wore in our hair. The competition was also well organized. Lastly, the live stream for this competition was excellent. It provided the opportunity for all of our friends and family to watch even though they could not be there in person.

— Maggie Maier, Miami University

Compared to the U.S. teams, did you notice any differences in the skating style of the teams you competed against?

Yes. It's how they truly go for every movement and fully embody their character throughout the entire program. Many times, they can be just the slightest bit crisper than the U.S. teams, making their programs come off stronger. These are all things that the U.S. teams are easily capable

of and will help us to soar to the next level. It's not about changing ourselves to skate like any other team, but instead, it's all about truly believing in ourselves and just going for it.

— Ashley Mulhern, Miami University

As a first-time Team USA member, what did the experience of competing at an international competition mean to you?

It was so surreal. The whole time I was pinching myself to make sure it was all really happening. During the short program, we were finishing our last element, the traveling circle, and I can remember thinking of what an amazing and exhilarating feeling it was to compete as a member of Team USA. It was an honor to represent my country for the first time with this group of amazing young women. I would not have traded this experience for anything.

— Katey Nyquist, Lexettes

How was the food in Austria? Did you try anything new?

Per Maria Von Trapp's advice in *The Sound of Music*, my team and I were fully prepared for crisp apple strudel and schnitzel with noodles during our time in Austria, but sadly never had the opportunity. With most of our meals at the hotel,



Saint Louis Synergy stands on the Makartsteg Bridge with Old Town, Salzburg, in the background.



The Lexettes show their excitement after winning the silver medal.

PHOTO BY JEFF SOKOLOV

Lexettes - 20



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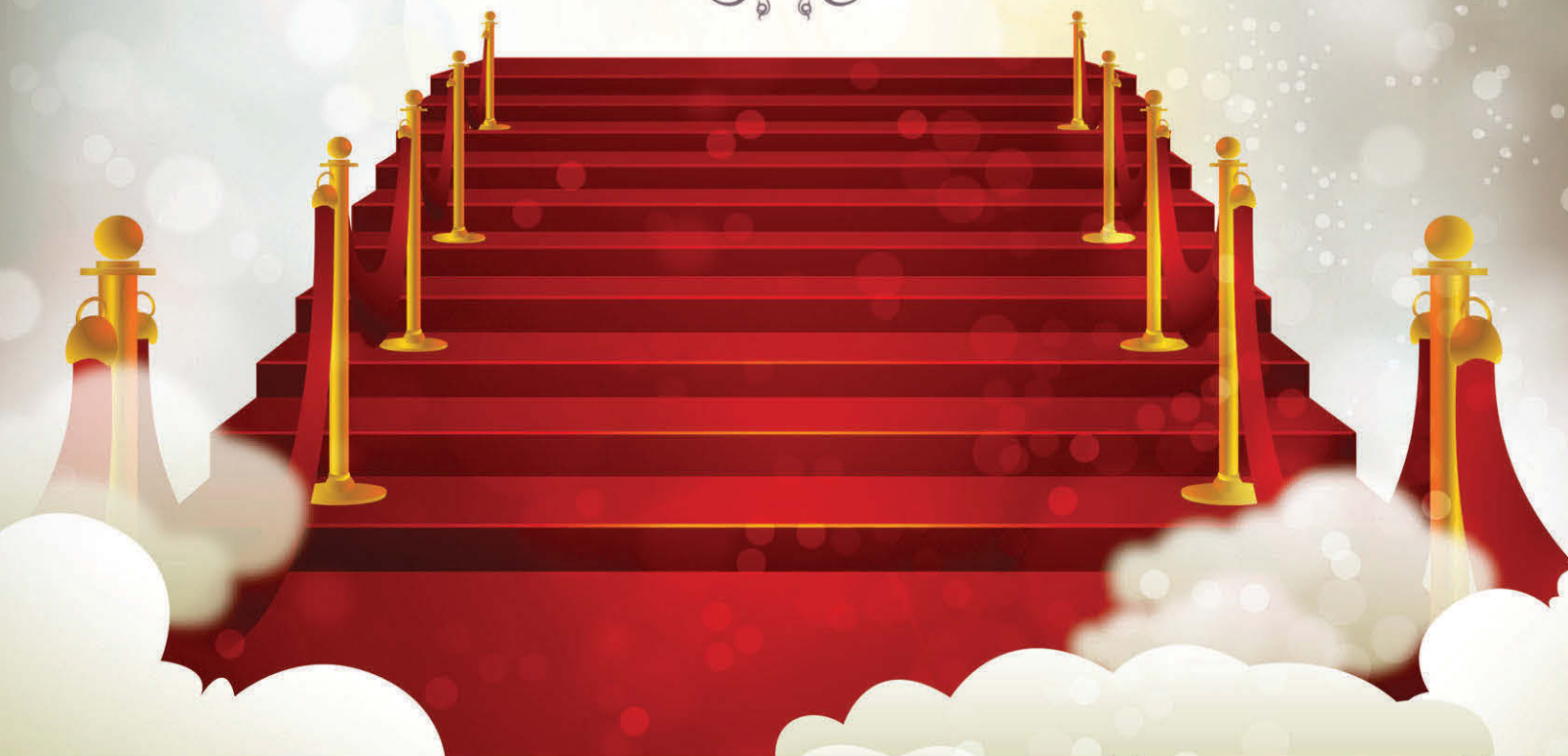
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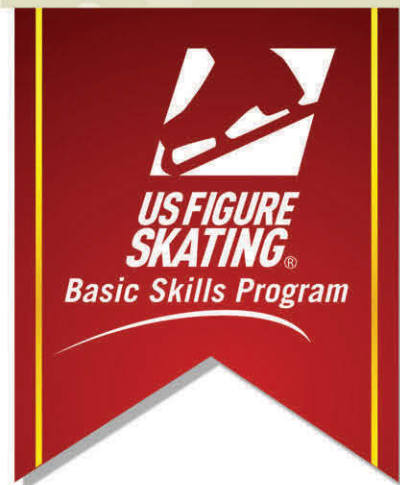


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- Director must have more than three years of experience
- Please include mission of program
- Director must show implementation of two or more U.S. Figure Skating programs.
Example: Bridge, TOI, Synchro, Special Olympics, Adults
- Director must show creativity in the marketing and promoting of his or her Basic Skills program
- Director must show the incorporation of materials from U.S. Figure skating to assist in the marketing of the program

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Deadline: April 17, 2015



by DOUGLAS RAZZANO

Several months ago in the PSA magazine, there was an article featuring Frank Carroll titled "I'm Still Here." Well, I was intrigued with the idea of using the same title for this article for a few reasons. One, I look up to and admire Frank Carroll immensely and two, because yes, I'm still here.

When you've been skating for as long as I have, and to be still skating at my age (26), I've heard all the chatter. "Don't you think it's time to retire?" Or the classic "Why are you still skating?" It isn't always the easiest thing to deal with, and in this day and age of social media, it's often impossible to avoid. They are questions that every skater deals with when nearing the end of his or her career. While 26 may not be old in the grand scope of life outside of skating, in this sport, I could definitely be considered, shall we say, over the hill. Isn't age just a number, though?

Throughout my career my motivations for skating, which, candidly, weren't always the most sound, continually evolved as I did. As a beginner, I skated because I couldn't get enough of it. I tirelessly practiced for hours and hours. As a 10-year-old, I progressed quickly and wanted to win and compete at my first regional championships. As a teenager dabbling in international competitions, I wanted to be assigned again and again, and then a Grand Prix Series debut at Skate America left me hungry for more.

Unfortunately, looking back and reflecting on what I was skating for, international events and winning competitions, are "things," and when I got caught up skating for "things," I wasn't truly focused on the actual skating to get those "things" I so wanted.

It came and went in phases. Some success would bring complacency, and defeat would bring back hard work, which led to success and so on and so forth. I wanted that so-called glamorous life, traveling the world, competing at championship events and winning medals, but didn't always take the necessary steps to get there. I wanted to compete well. I always worked hard, set small goals and worked toward them, but sometimes I got distracted and lost track of why I love to skate and started to skate in the first place. Medals and titles and trophies aren't everything, and while being rewarded for

skating well is always nice, those rewards are rarely in the control of the skater and don't always materialize.

It wasn't until 2013 that I realized this method wasn't working and subsequently made a conscious effort to approach my craft differently. I went into the rink every day with a different purpose than skating for "things." I went into the rink and I pushed my mind and my body harder than ever. I went into the rink to try to be the best skater I could be, regardless of any competition outcome.

Choosing to continue to skate year after year, through ups and downs, all becomes worth it when I have experiences like I did in my free skate at the 2014 U.S. Championships in Boston. No, I didn't win a medal, but those feelings in that moment are unequivocally irreplaceable and it's a moment I will cherish forever. Coincidentally, it also probably isn't too far-fetched to think that my success could be directly related to the shift in my mental approach that occurred months before. The culmination of hard work, dedication, passion and the feelings of that moment are what encouraged me to continue to skate in the 2014-15 season.

In the 17 years that I have dedicated to this sport, I have learned so many invaluable life lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Reading back what I just wrote isn't the easiest thing to do. In fact, I would like to slap myself for seemingly wasting precious time not solely devoted to making myself the absolute best I could be. Unfortunately, it isn't something I can rewind and do over again, but instead I learn and grow from it. The skating world has so much to offer to so many people and especially to those fortunate enough to be able to do it on the grandest stages in the world. Those experiences should never be taken for granted.

To answer the nonsensical questions in the beginning, I am still skating because I love to do it. It may be time for me to retire in others' minds, but at the end of the day, those opinions don't mean anything. I will skate until my heart tells me "no more" but until that time ... yes, I'm still here.

Douglas Razzano, who lives and trains in Arizona, started competing in 2000 at the juvenile level and this year placed seventh at the 2015 U.S. Championships in Greensboro.

CUP OF BERLIN

Berlin, Germany, Jan. 9–10
Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Musketeers, FIN, 156.25, 1, 1
2. Team Mystique, FIN, 135.28, 3, 2
3. Stella Polaris, FIN, 133.84, 2, 4
4. Reflections, FIN, 130.02, 4, 3
5. Team Spirit, SWE, 127.71, 5, 5
6. **Chicago Jazz, USA, 125.96, 6, 6**
7. Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 108.65, 7, 7
8. Starlets, GER, 71.84, 8, 10
9. Ice on Fire, ITA, 70.56, 10, 8
10. Orion Junior, CZE, 70.41, 9, 9

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Marigold IceUnity, FIN, 203.46, 1, 1
 2. Team Unique, FIN, 191.94, 2, 2
 3. Team Berlin 1, GER, 161.03, 4, 3
 4. Revolutions, FIN, 155.29, 3, 4
 5. **Skyliners, USA, 140.65, 5, 5**
 6. Cool Dreams, SUI, 113.55, 6, 6
 7. Skating Graces Senior, GER, 102.05, 7, 7
 8. United Angels, GER, 96.66, 8, 8
- U.S. Officials:** Karin Sherr, Jake Veigel, Colette Nygren, Dann Krueger

MENTOR CUP 2015

Torun, Poland, Jan. 7–10
Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. **Caitlin Fields/Ernie Utah Stevens, USA, 126.15, 1, 1**

Junior Dance

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SD, FD

1. **Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, USA, 144.70, 1, 1**
 2. **Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, USA, 143.18, 2, 2**
- (22 teams competed)

U.S. Officials: Deborah Currie, John Cole

MOZART CUP

Salzburg, Austria Jan. 23–25
Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Crystal Ice, RUS, 155.68, 1, 1
2. **Lexettes, USA, 140.83, 3, 2**
3. Les Pirouettes, CAN, 135.26, 2, 3
4. Dream Edges, FIN, 129.17, 4, 4
5. Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 122.19, 6, 5
6. Hot Shivers Junior, ITA, 116.26, 7, 6
7. **Saint Louis Synergy, USA, 155.30, 5, 8**
8. Team Seaside, SWE, 111.75, 8, 7
9. Cool Dreams, SUI, 100.35, 9, 9
10. Ladybirds Junior, ITA, 87.53, 12, 10
11. Starlets, GER, 86.93, 10, 11
12. Team Darlings, CZE, 81.08, 14, 12
13. Starlets, CZE, 80.24, 13, 13
14. Orion, CZE, 79.78, 11, 15
15. Majestic Ice Australia, AUS, 74.85, 15, 14
16. Mixed Ice Formation, HUN, 65.91, 16, 16
17. Ice Diamonds Junior, ITA, 62.94, 17, 17
18. Team Temptation, BEL, 55.58, 18, 18

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Les Supremes, CAN, 189.13, 1, 2
 2. Rockettes, FIN, 189.00, 2, 1
 3. **Miami University, USA, 169.24, 3, 3**
 4. **Crystallettes, USA, 158.97, 4, 5**
 5. Team Berlin 1, GER, 158.72, 6, 4
 6. Crystal, RUS, 148.25, 5, 6
 7. Hot Shivers Senior, ITA, 133.13, 7, 7
 8. Olympia, CZE, 114.67, 8, 8
 9. United Angels, GER, 109.35, 9, 9
 10. Team Passion, HUN, 101.22, 10, 10
 11. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 93.15, 11, 11
- U.S. Officials:** Lois Long, Colette Nygren, Patrick St. Pierre, Karin Sherr

LEON LURJE TROPHY

Gothenburg, Sweden Jan. 16–18
Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Team Convivium, SWE, 143.25, 1, 1
2. FireBlades, FIN, 137.85, 2, 2
3. Team Spirit, SWE, 134.61, 3, 3
4. **Hockettes, USA, 122.58, 5, 4**
5. Team Estrejija, FIN, 119.94, 4, 5
6. Team Seaside, SWE, 108.52, 6, 6
7. Team Rhapsody, SWE, 86.38, 7, 7
8. Team Moonlights, SWE, 78.92, 8, 8
9. Team Mirum, ESP, 62.06, 9, 9

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Team Surprise, SWE, 177.63, 1, 1
 2. Team Boomerang, SWE, 154.07, 2, 2
 3. **Starlights, USA, 143.13, 3, 3**
- U.S. Officials:** Robert Greenleaf, Stuart Sanders, Jeanette Davey, Kelley Ristau

FRENCH CUP

Rouen, France Jan. 30–31
Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Les Supremes Juniors, CAN, 176.00, 1, 1
2. Junost', RUS, 169.66, 3, 2
3. Team Fantastic, FIN, 167.78, 2, 3
4. Valley Bay Synchro, FIN, 149.88, 4, 4
5. **Skyliners, USA, 136.36, 5, 5**
6. Sun City Swing, FIN, 126.02, 6, 6
7. Ice Steps, FIN, 110.42, 7, 7
8. Black Diam's Juniors, FRA, 90.60, 8, 8
9. Les Cometes Juniors, FRA, 86.02, 9, 9
10. Team Rhapsody, SWE, 82.80, 10, 11
11. NIC Icicles, GBR, 80.70, 11, 10
12. Majestic Ice, AUS, 72.88, 12, 12

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

1. Marigold IceUnity, FIN, 208.24, 1, 1
 2. Rockettes, 202.20, 2, 2
 3. Team Unique, FIN, 196.34, 3, 3
 4. Paradise, RUS, 189.78, 5, 5
 5. Les Supremes Seniors, CAN, 188.84, 6, 4
 6. **Haydenettes, 180.60, 4, 6**
 7. Team Boomerang, SWE, 151.76, 7, 7
 8. Revolutions, FIN, 129.18, 8, 10
 9. **ICE'Kateers, USA, 123.12, 9, 9**
 10. Zoulous, FRA, 119.04, 12, 8
 11. Jingu Ice Messengers Grace, JPN, 118.36, 11, 11
 12. Cool Dreams Senior, SUI, 112.24, 10, 12
 13. Fire On Ice, AUS, 88.82, 14, 13
 14. Atlantides Seniors, FRA, 87.26, 13, 15
 15. Fusion Seniors, ESP, 84.50, 15, 14
 16. Team Spirit Senior, GBR, 75.56, 16, 16
- U.S. Officials:** Robert Bauer, Richard Perez, Kristin Abbott, Wendy Enzmann, Paula Ziegler, Karen Wolanchuk

2015 PRUDENTIAL

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS
Greensboro, North Carolina, Jan. 17–25

Competition officials: Alison Her-

schberger-Filo, Aristeo Brito, Brenda Kickert, Brook Moore, Carol Wooley, Cassy Papajohn, Christy Williams, Coco Gram Shean, Cynthia Stevenson, Dana Graham, Dann Krueger, David Kirby, Dawn Eyerly, Deborah Currie, Deborah Hagenauer, Deveny Deck, Dorian Valles, Dorothy Jamison, Doug Williams, Elyse Matsumoto, Eric Hampton, Gale Tanger, Goleen Samari, Hal Marron, Holly Cole, Jacki Crugnola, Jaclyn Ward Vargo, Janis Engel, Jennifer Marker Johnson, Jenny Mast, Jessica Bussgang, John Millier, Julie Newman, Kathaleen Cutone, Katherine

Conrad, Katherine Specht, Kathleen Harmon, Kerry Jennings-Cooper, Kevin Elvin, Kim Moore, Kristina Lundgren, Larry Kriwanek, Laurie Johnson, Libby Scanlan, Linda Chihara, Linda Leaver, Lisa Erle, Melissa Dillenbeck, Michael Fisher, Nancy Iida, Peggy Graham, Philipp Rey, Richard Dalley, Robert Rosenbluth, Sharon Rogers, Shawn Rettstatt, Stephanie Segien, Steve Winkler, Steven Hsu, Terry Kubicka, Todd Bromley, Victoria Hildebrand, Wayne Hundley, Wendy Enzmann, Whitney Luke, William Smith.

Championship Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Ashley Wagner, 221.02, 1, 1
2. Gracie Gold, 205.54, 2, 2
3. Karen Chen, 199.79, 6, 3
4. Polina Edmunds, 192.62, 3, 4
5. Samantha Cesario, 182.82, 11, 5
6. Mariah Bell, 180.25, 12, 6
7. Tyler Pierce, 174.90, 9, 7
8. Courtney Hicks, 174.33, 5, 9
9. Hannah Miller, 168.87, 10, 10
10. Mirai Nagasu, 166.63, 4, 12
11. Christina Gao, 160.60, 18, 8
12. Leah Keiser, 160.56, 8, 14
13. Amber Glenn, 159.41, 7, 15
14. Ashley Cain, 158.94, 14, 11
15. Angela Wang, 151.06, 17, 13
16. Franchesca Chiera, 145.73, 16, 17
17. Caroline Zhang, 144.00, 13, 19
18. Katie McBeath, 138.68, 20, 16
19. Maria Yang, 131.40, 22, 18
20. Ashley Shin, 129.81, 15, 20
21. Christina Cleveland, 115.26, 21, 21
22. Madison Vinci, 111.77, 19, 22

Championship Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jason Brown, 274.98, 1, 2
2. Adam Rippon, 272.48, 5, 1
3. Joshua Farris, 267.98, 2, 3
4. Max Aaron, 259.19, 4, 4
5. Jeremy Abbott, 258.29, 3, 5
6. Ross Miner, 249.28, 6, 6
7. Douglas Razzano, 233.42, 10, 7
8. Nathan Chen, 230.99, 8, 8
9. Grant Hochstein, 230.28, 9, 9
10. Richard Dornbush, 222.08, 7, 11
11. Alexander Johnson, 218.27, 12, 10
12. Sean Rabbitt, 211.24, 11, 12
13. Jordan Moeller, 206.00, 14, 13
14. Timothy Dolensky, 193.38, 13, 14
15. Patrick Rupp, 178.42, 17, 15
16. Philip Warren, 172.04, 15, 16
17. Shotaro Omori, 166.41, 18, 17
18. Jimmy Ma, 164.74, 16, 18
19. Robert Przepioski, 144.88, 19, 20
20. Sebastien Payannet, 141.40, 20, 19

Championship Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Alexa Scimeca/Christopher Knierim, 210.49, 1, 1
2. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 199.92, 2, 2
3. Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, 185.31, 4, 3
4. Madeline Aaron/Max Settlage, 175.74, 7, 4
5. Jessica Calalang/Zack Sidhu, 174.32, 6, 5
6. Marissa Castelli/Mervin Tran, 169.14, 3, 8
7. Gretchen Donlan/Nathan Bartholomay, 168.05, 5, 6
8. DeeDee Leng/Simon Shnapir, 160.29, 8, 7
9. Anya Davidovich/AJ Reiss, 142.15, 9, 9
10. Alexandria Shaghnnessy/James Morgan, 131.20, 10, 10
11. Olivia Oltmanns/Joshua Santillan,

116.44, 11, 11

12. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyne, 111.91, 12, 12

Championship Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 185.06, 1, 1
2. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 181.31, 2, 2
3. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 164.74, 3, 3
4. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 162.45, 4, 4
5. Stasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 156.48, 5, 5
6. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 140.11, 6, 6
7. Danielle Gamelin/Alexander Gamelin, 131.28, 7, 7
8. Anastasia Olson/Ian Lorello, 129.20, 8, 8
9. Charlotte Maxwell/Ryan Devereaux, 122.50, 9, 10
10. Ginna Hoptman/Pavel Filchenkov, 120.53, 10, 9
11. Elicia Reynolds/Stephen Reynolds, 102.94, 11, 11
12. Kseniya Ponomaryova/Oleg Altukhov, 97.87, 12, 12
13. Kristen Nardozi/Nick Traxler, 93.68, 13, 13
14. Tory Patsis/Nathaniel Fast, 87.02, 15, 14
15. Ashlyn Gaughan/Cody Lithco, 81.74, 14, 16
16. Gabriela Morrell Zucker/Andrejs Sitiks, 75.73, 17, 15
17. Pauline Bynum/Jason Deveikis, 63.04, 16, 17

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Bradie Tennell, 176.36, 1, 1
2. Olivia Serafini, 160.00, 3, 2
3. Vivian Le, 148.17, 7, 5
4. Elena Taylor, 145.31, 8, 4
5. Amy Lin, 144.52, 4, 6
6. Rebecca Peng, 141.60, 11, 3
7. Brynne McIsaac, 135.82, 6, 8
8. Paige Rydberg, 133.99, 2, 9
9. Megan Wessenberg, 133.52, 9, 7
10. Sarah Feng, 128.93, 5, 10
11. Brianna Brazee, 108.84, 10, 12
12. Hina Ueno, 105.35, 12, 11

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Andrew Torgashev, 225.24, 1, 1
2. Kevin Shum, 193.36, 2, 3
3. Paolo Borromeo, 190.30, 3, 4
4. Aleksei Krasnozhan, 190.22, 6, 2
5. Tomoki Hiwatashi, 186.87, 5, 5
6. Spencer Howe, 181.79, 4, 6
7. Oleksiy Melnyk, 169.82, 7, 7
8. Daniel Kulenkamp, 164.07, 8, 8
9. Anthony Boucher, 152.91, 9, 9
10. Chase Belmontes, 151.15, 10, 10
11. Ben Jalovick, 128.61, 11, 11

Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Caitlin Fields/Ernie Utah Stevens, 155.41, 1, 1
2. Chelsea Liu/Brian Johnson, 150.84, 2, 2
3. Olivia Allan/Austin Hale, 130.60, 4, 3
4. Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon, 123.02, 3, 5
5. Cirinia Gillett/Maximiliano Fernandez, 122.32, 5, 4
6. Gabriella Marvaldi/Cody Dolkiewicz, 115.28, 6, 8
7. Alyssa McDougal/Paul Schratz, 115.24, 7, 6
8. Kay Bergdolt/Miles Addison, 113.51, 8, 9
9. Linde LaChance/Kenneth Anderson,

- 111.03, 10, 7
10. Joy Weinberg/Michael Lueck, 98.18, 9, 10
11. Kailey Matkin/Justin Highgate-Brutman, 94.08, 11, 11

Junior Dance Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 155.39, 1, 1
2. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 144.98, 2, 2
3. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, 141.55, 3, 3
4. Holly Moore/Daniel Klaber, 133.07, 5, 4
5. Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, 131.91, 4, 6
6. Emily Day/Kevin Leahy, 126.23, 6, 8
7. Chloe Lewis/Logan Bye, 125.65, 8, 5
8. Julia Biechler/Damian Dodge, 117.65, 11, 7
9. Gigi Becker/Luca Becker, 115.91, 7, 10
10. Karina Manta/Joseph Johnson, 114.23, 9, 9
11. Danielle Thomas/Alexander Martin, 109.73, 10, 11
12. Maeve Pascoe/Micah Jaffe, 100.38, 12, 12

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Emily Chan, 149.25, 1, 1
2. Akari Nakahara, 134.63, 3, 2
3. Nina Ouellette, 128.55, 2, 3
4. Anna Grace Davidson, 118.82, 4, 4
5. Jin Baseman, 109.04, 5, 6
6. Haley Beavers, 108.44, 8, 5
7. Sarah Nunez, 105.78, 6, 7
8. Alexia Paganini, 104.03, 7, 8
9. Pooja Kalyan, 98.10, 11, 10
10. Lindsay Rosenberg, 97.98, 12, 9
11. Ashlee Raymond, 95.79, 10, 11
12. Meiryla Findley, 83.73, 9, 12

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jonah Barrett, 142.48, 3, 1
2. Justin Ly, 139.56, 1, 2
3. Kendrick Weston, 133.20, 2, 3
4. Daniil Shamis, 131.16, 4, 4
5. Benjamin Shou, 127.15, 7, 5
6. Peter Liu, 122.60, 9, 7
7. Kelvin Li, 122.11, 11, 6
8. William Hubbard, 122.08, 8, 8
9. Colton Johnson, 110.87, 5, 9
10. Ivan Mokhov, 105.66, 6, 12
11. Eric Sjoberg, 102.50, 10, 10
12. Andrew Uhrig, 99.91, 12, 11

Novice Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Kate Finster/Eric Hartley, 112.91, 3, 1
2. Sarah Rose/Joseph Goodpaster, 109.66, 6, 2
3. Jacquelyn Green/Rique Newby-Estrella, 106.26, 5, 3
4. Vanessa Chen/Robert Przepioski, 105.05, 2, 5
5. Darbie Burke/Griffin Schwab, 104.84, 1, 7
6. Megan Griffin/Andrew Civiello, 98.42, 7, 6
7. Alexandra Yao/Connor Fleming, 98.29, 4, 9
8. Emily Chan/Misha Mitrofanov, 98.07, 8, 4
9. Sapphire Jaeckel/Matthew Scoralie, 93.30, 9, 8
10. Hannah Klopstock/Brandon Kozlowski, 86.46, 10, 10
11. Alexandra Iovanna/Matthew Rounis, 84.07, 11, 11
12. Juliette Erickson/Nathan Grundhofer, 77.75, 12, 12

Novice Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 111.30, 1, 1, 1
2. Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, 101.03, 7, 2, 2
3. Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, 98.19, 2, 6, 4
4. Rebecca Lustig/Zachary Milestone, 95.70, 4, 10, 3
5. Cassidy Klopstock/Logan Leonesio, 92.80, 3, 7, 7
6. Eleanor Babaev/Scott Wenner, 92.66, 8, 4, 6
7. Coco Becker/Val Katsman, 90.12, 6, 5, 8
8. Alexis Middleton/Michael Valdez, 88.75, 9, 9, 5
9. Elizabeth Addas/Jonathan Schultz, 82.57, 5, 3, 11
10. Rachel Gart/Lance Stanley, 79.62, 10, 8, 9
11. Kimberly Wei/Ilias Fourati, 72.93, 11, 11, 10
9. Gigi Becker/Luca Becker, 115.91, 7, 10
10. Karina Manta/Joseph Johnson, 114.23, 9, 9
11. Danielle Thomas/Alexander Martin, 109.73, 10, 11
12. Maeve Pascoe/Micah Jaffe, 100.38, 12, 12

Intermediate Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Kassandra Carpentier, 112.24, 1, 2
2. Maxine Marie Bautista, 105.84, 7, 1
3. Gia Kokotakis, 99.43, 2, 3
4. Ting Cui, 95.30, 3, 5
5. Lara Annunziata, 92.84, 4, 6
6. Jenna Shi, 91.59, 5, 7
7. Ashley Lin, 90.81, 11, 4
8. Liza Hayes, 88.05, 9, 8
9. Cheyenne King, 85.94, 10, 9
10. Sierra Venetta, 84.14, 8, 10
11. Nhi Do, 84.12, 6, 11
12. Diana Zhu, 80.31, 12, 12

Intermediate Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. TJ Nyman, 104.70, 1, 1
2. Dinh Tran, 100.41, 2, 2
3. Alan Wong, 89.50, 5, 3
4. Ryan Dunk, 89.09, 4, 4
5. David Shapiro, 83.37, 6, 6
6. Max Wang, 82.08, 8, 7
7. Max Lake, 80.33, 11, 5
8. Ryan Bedard, 79.55, 9, 8
9. Paul Yeung, 78.80, 10, 9
10. Luke Ferrante, 78.38, 3, 12
11. Jordan Evans, 77.36, 7, 10
12. Jun-Hong Chen, 66.17, 12, 11

Intermediate Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, 97.52, 4, 1
2. Sydney Cooke/Nathaniel Dennler, 96.29, 3, 3
3. Joanna Hubbard/William Hubbard, 95.16, 5, 2
4. Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi, 93.78, 1, 4
5. Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, 93.07, 2, 5
6. Jade Esposito/Nathan Rensing, 82.79, 6, 6
7. Devin Pascoe/Samuel Parks, 77.99, 7, 7
8. Annabel Kim/Jonathan Kim, 70.78, 8, 8
9. Sabrina Piliro/Davis Tong, 68.95, 9, 9
10. Carlie Quesada/Adrian Shin, 62.77, 11, 10
11. Cecilia Wright/William Wright, 57.59, 10, 11
12. Danielle Neuberger/Kristion Major, 36.60, 12, 12

Intermediate Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 103.53, 1, 1, 1
2. Jillian Moyer/Jarred Druzynski, 89.25, 3, 2, 2
3. Molly Cesanek/Maxwell Gart, 83.14, 4, 6, 3

4. Cherri Chen/Edward Jahoda, 83.09, 2, 3, 5
5. Allie Rose/Spencer Emerson, 75.57, 6, 5, 7
6. Amanda Miller/Nikolay Usanov, 74.99, 8, 9, 4
7. Josephine Hagan/JT Michel, 72.54, 5, 7, 8
8. Gianna Buckley/Caleb Niva, 70.32, 9, 11, 6
9. Claire Purnell/Lucas Purnell, 69.69, 7, 4, 11
10. Ashley Klotz/Palmer Middlekauff, 65.48, 10, 8, 10
11. Kaitlyn Moshang/Cory Fraiman, 64.89, 11, 10, 9
12. Cricket Darling/Racer Rodriguez Avellan, 53.17, 12, 12, 12

Juvenile Girls

Pl. Name, TS

1. Sophia Chouinard, 52.81
2. Emilia Murdock, 50.01
3. Jacqueline Lee, 49.72
4. Isabella Miller, 49.22
5. Angelina Huang, 48.84
6. Madeleine Weiler, 48.16
7. Audrey Lu, 45.58
8. Nikolett Albrechtovics, 45.35
9. Paxton James, 43.69
10. Kaia Culotta, 42.89
11. Frances Rossiter, 42.16
12. Noelle Rosa, 41.17

Juvenile Boys

Pl. Name, TS

1. Daniel Turchin, 47.48
2. Chase Finster, 46.62
3. Joseph Kang, 45.50
4. Henry Privett-Mendoza, 45.46
5. Jeffrey Chen, 43.07
6. Maxwell Gart, 42.61
7. Nikita Romanov, 42.56
8. Maxim Zharkov, 41.94
9. Iliia Malinin, 40.00
10. Isaac Jun, 39.77
11. Daniel Tioumentsev, 38.99
12. Lawrence Winters, 31.82

Juvenile Pairs

Pl. Name, TS

1. Altice Sollazo/Paul Yeung, 39.12
2. Paige Ruggeri/Steven Rossi, 37.86
3. Dana Vulaj/Keyton Bearinger, 36.18
4. Jessica Sassano/Ethan Hall, 34.29
5. Kristin Lyle George/Jake Pagano, 34.12
6. Erin Song/Eric Song, 32.95
7. Megan Audet/Jacob Wineland, 32.06
8. Lindsey Stevenson/Franz-Peter Jerosch, 31.37
9. Eliana Secunda/Blake Eisenach, 31.21
10. Catherine Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell, 30.13
11. Anastasia Lestina/Benjamin McLemore, 28.29
12. Katie Luong/Nathan Luong, 25.69

Juvenile Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 87.50, 1, 1, 3
2. Byrdee Darling/Rebel Rodriguez Avellan, 80.69, 3, 4, 1
3. Juliette Shadid/Lucas Shadid, 77.32, 5, 7, 2
4. Jordan Lin/Morgan Sletten, 75.57, 2, 2, 8
5. Sara Zhao/Howard Zhao, 74.45, 4, 3, 7
6. Isabel Blahunka/Will Shawver, 73.52, 6, 6, 4
7. Maria Soldatova/Faddey Soldatov, 69.87, 9, 5, 5
8. Claire Cain/Andrei Davydov, 62.04, 7, 9, 10

9. Valerie Sroka/Samuel Hodman, 61.67, 11, 8, 6
10. Paulina Brykalova/Daniel Brykalov, 59.81, 8, 11, 9
11. Shin Lei Case/Maxim Zharkov, 56.25, 10, 10, 11
12. Tia Gore/Benjamin Klusewitz, 39.86, 12, 12, 13
13. Emily Viehouser/Collin Woodall-Williams, 39.41, 13, 13, 12

2015 EASTERN SYNCHRONIZED SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The SC of Lake Placid, Lake Placid, N.Y., Jan. 22-24

Competition Officials: Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Ann Buckley, Ann Fauver, Audrey Kamm, Barbara Shostak, Cheryl Litman, Elizabeth Barrow, Erin Bridge, Hannelore Murphy, Judith Edmunds, Laura Days, Lauren O'Toole, Leonard Colarusso, Lisa Marsocci, Martha Rasmussen, Mary-Elizabeth Wightman, Matthew O'Toole, Michele Blatt, Patricia Lynch, Robin Greenleaf, Sara Stephens, Shirley Hildsworth, Susan Haugh, William Beharrell, William Mein.

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Skyliners, 150.63, 1, 1
2. Team Excel, 115.46, 2, 2

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Synchroettes, 122.22, 1, 1
2. Team Delaware, 109.97, 2, 2

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Ice Mates, 70.35
2. Skyliners, 59.04
3. DC EDGE, 52.15
4. Synchroettes, 51.60
5. Team Delaware, 50.61
6. Team Ashburn, 50.52
7. Philadelphia Symmetry, 45.69
8. Team Image, 45.31
9. Chesapeake Sailors, 42.71
10. Steel City Blades, 38.19

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. DC EDGE, 55.39
2. Skyliners, 52.49
3. Team Delaware, 50.95
4. Star Mates, 50.41
5. Superettes, 47.52
6. Precisely Right, 46.25
7. Team Esprit, 45.83
8. Synchroettes, 44.46
9. Team Excel, 43.09
10. The Colonials, 42.47
11. Team Ashburn, 41.23
12. Philadelphia Symmetry, 40.67
13. Icing on the Cape, 37.51
14. Team Image, 35.00
15. Richmond Synchro, 33.67
16. Team Rinx, 30.05

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Skyliners, 6/1
2. Mini Mates, 4/2
3. Synchroettes, 5/3
4. DC EDGE, 4/4
5. Team Delaware, 4/5
6. Team Ashburn, 4/6, TOM 11
7. Team Excel, 4/6, TOM 23
8. Team Image, 4/8, TOM 27
9. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/8, TOM 29
10. Team Rinx, 4/10, TOM 39
11. Team Liberty, 4/10, TOM 40

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

results

1. UDSST, 84.31
2. Metroettes, 71.08
3. Team Excel-C, 64.68
4. U. of New Hampshire, 64.27
5. U. Of Maryland Terrapins, 58.26
6. U. Of Massachusetts SST, 57.96
7. Chesapeake Captains, 48.29
8. Boston University, 47.23
9. Cornell University SST, 37.67

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. DC EDGE, 60.28
2. Esprit de Corps, 58.25
3. The Colonials, 52.36
4. Team Delaware, 48.46
5. Team Image, 44.53
6. Bluewater Blades, 38.54
7. Ocean Blades, 36.29

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE, 7/1
2. Esprit de Corps, 7/2
3. Essex Blades, 4/3
4. Gotham City Synchro, 6/4
5. Team Delaware, 7/5
6. Philly Spirit, 7/6

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE, 5/2
2. CNY Blizzard Green, 4/3
3. Shadows, 4/4, TOM 10
4. Nor'easters, 4/4, TOM 12
5. Wallace Synergy, 4/4, TOM 13
6. Team Reflections, 4/6
7. Mirror Images Purple, 4/8, TOM 18
8. Synchro Stars, 4/8, TOM 27
9. Munchkins, 5/9
10. National Blades, 4/9
11. CNY Blizzard Blue, 4/10
12. Steel City Blades, 6/12
13. Precisely Right, 7/13

Open Juvenile A-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE, 6/2
2. National Blades, 5/3, TO 19
3. Nor'easters, 5/3, TO 21
4. Mirror Images Purple, 4/3
5. Team Delaware, 5/5
6. Excel Crystals, 4/6
7. Elegant Edges, 5/7
8. Ice Illusion, 6/8
9. Harlem Ice, 7/9

Open Juvenile B-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. CNY Blizzard Blue, 4/1
2. Munchkins, 4/2
3. Wallace Synergy, 4/3
4. (tie) Precisely Right, 4/4, Steel City Blades, 4/4,
6. Chesapeake Skipjacks, 5/5
7. Empire Edge, 6/7
8. Richmond Synchro, 4/8
9. Team Liberty, 6/9
10. Mirror Images Silver, 7/10

Open Juvenile C-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. CNY Blizzard Green, 6/2
2. Synchro Stars, 5/2
3. Shadows, 6/3
4. Team Reflections, 5/4
5. Synchroettes, 4/5
6. Team Winterettes, 6/6
7. Central Park Ice, 4/6
8. SCW Blades, 5/8
9. Rainbow Connection, 7/9
10. Sparklers, 7/10

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Princeton U., 4/1

2. Oswego State Ice Effects, 6/2
3. Catamount Blades, 6/4
4. Liberty U. Flames, 4/4
5. Orange Experience, 5/5
6. Boston College, 4/5
7. Colgate University, 6/7
8. U. of Maryland Terrapins, 7/8

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Cutting Edge, 5/2, TOM 7
2. Team Reflections, 5/2, TOM 9
3. Gotham City Synchro, 4/2
4. Esprit De Corps, 6/4
5. Mystic Ice, 6/5
6. Nor'easters, 7/6

Open Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE, 7/1
2. Precisely Right, 7/2
3. Team Delaware Dazzle, 7/3
4. Colonials, 7/4

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 4/1
2. Skyliners, 5/2
3. Colonials, 4/3, TO 24
4. National Blades, 4/3, TO 30
5. DC EDGE Red, 5/5
6. Team Esprit, 4/6
7. Shimmers, 4/7
8. Synchroettes, 4/8
9. Starcatchers, 5/9
10. Saint Sensations, 5/10
11. DC EDGE Blue, 4/11
12. Central Park Ice, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile A-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Skyliners, 6/1
2. Colonials, 5/2
3. National Blades, 6/3
4. DC EDGE Red, 4/4
5. Shimmers, 6/5
6. Central Park Ice, 5/7
7. Snowflakes, 5/8, TOM 31
8. SCW Blades, 5/8, TOM 37
9. CNY Storm, 4/8
10. Team Ashburn, 6/9

Pre-Juvenile B-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 6/1
2. Starcatchers, 5/2
3. Team Esprit, 5/3
4. Synchroettes, 5/4
5. DC EDGE Blue, 4/4
6. Saint Sensations, 4/6, TOM 23
7. Ice-Lantics, 4/6, TOM 24
8. Island Waves, 4/7
9. Empire Synergy, 6/9
10. Sparklers, 4/9
11. Starlings, 7/11

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE Blue, 4/1
2. Skyliners, 4/2
3. Shooting Stars, 4/4, TOM 12
4. Richmond Synchro, 4/4, TOM 14
5. Synchroettes, 5/5
6. DC EDGE Red, 5/6
7. Team Ashburn, 4/6
8. Icing On The Cape, 5/8
9. Excel Crystals, 7/9
10. Team Image SST, 7/10

Preliminary A-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 5/2
2. DC EDGE Red, 4/2
3. Skyliners, 7/3
4. Richmond Synchro, 5/4
5. Excel Crystals, 4/5

6. Team Liberty, 5/6
7. Chesapeake Topsails, 4/7
8. Team Winterettes, 7/8

Preliminary B-QR

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE Blue, 4/1
2. Synchroettes, 5/2
3. Team Ashburn, 5/3
4. Icing On The Cape, 6/5
5. Team Image SST, 5/5
6. Precisely Right, 4/5
7. Starcatchers, 4/7
8. Team Delaware, 7/8

2015 MIDWESTERN SYNCHRONIZED SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, Edina, MN, Jan.28-31

Competition Officials: Caren Kirsch, Carlylyn Landt, Charles Cope, Dann Krueger, Daren Patterson, Devon Hensel, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Barrow, Elizabeth Harty, Felicia Haining-Miller, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Jo Ann Hall, Kristel Panos, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Lisa Marsocci, Lois Long, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Melissa Delano, Pamela Pangle, Rita Cerny, Steve Wolkin, Susan Haugh

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Adrian College Varsity, 155.48, 1, 2
2. Starlights, 154.34, 2, 1
3. Western Michigan Univ., 126.08, 3, 3

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Chicago Jazz, 142.84, 2, 1
2. Team Braemar, 136.00, 1, 3
3. Crystallettes, 131.26, 4, 2
4. Miami University, 127.26, 3, 5
5. Hockettes, 126.60, 7, 4
6. Fond Du Lac Blades, 123.82, 5, 6
7. Starlights, 117.36, 6, 7

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Crystallettes, 77.97
2. Starlights, 77.47
3. Chicago Jazz, 69.39
4. SwanSyncSation, 61.94
5. Saint Louis Synergy, 61.94
6. Hockettes, 60.53
7. Cleveland Edges, 56.16
8. Chicago Radiance, 51.87
9. Rhythm and Blades, 39.59

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Capital Ice Chips, 65.05
2. Ice Diamonds, 62.38
3. Crystallettes, 56.22
4. SwanSyncSation, 53.16
5. Chicago Jazz, 51.91
6. Fond Du Lac Blades, 51.86
7. Dazzlers, 51.71
8. Starlights, 51.29
9. Synchro Panache, 49.02
10. Creative Edge, 48.20
11. Windjammers, 45.53
12. Phoenix, 44.28
13. St Louis Diamond Edges, 44.23
14. Kansas City Illusion, 43.17
15. Chicago Radiance, 39.75

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Starlights, 6/1
2. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/3
3. Chicago Jazz, 5/4
4. Teams Elite, 4/4, TOM 11
5. Crystallettes, 4/4, TOM 12
6. Dazzlers, 4/5

7. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/7
8. Allegrol, 4/7
9. Chicago Radiance, 6/9
10. Icestars, 7/10

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Miami University, 96.78
2. Michigan State University, 81.56
3. University of Michigan, 79.08
4. Adrian College Varsity, 78.88
5. Western Michigan University, 75.30
6. Univ. of Illinois, 75.26
7. Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 64.94
8. Fighting Irish, 61.52

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Crystallettes, 65.77
2. Starlights, 56.68
3. Goldenettes, 56.68

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Allegrol, 7/1
2. Synchro Panache, 4/2
3. Ice Connect, 4/3
4. Wisconsin Edge, 7/4

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Allegrol, 6/1
2. Chicago Skates, 4/2, TOM 7
3. Capital Ice Chill, 4/2, TOM 8
4. Starfire, 4/5, TOM 16
5. C. Blades, 4/5, TOM 17
6. Hockettes, 5/6
7. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 4/7
8. Dazzlers, 5/8
9. Kicks, 6/9
10. Maplewood Highsteppers, 4/10
11. S. Gems, 7/11
12. Wisconsin Edge, 7/12

Open Juvenile QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Chicago Skates, 6/1
2. Starfire, 5/3
3. Kicks, 4/3
4. Wisconsin Edge, 5/4, TOM 15
5. Metallites, 5/4, TOM 16
6. Cleveland Edges - Ohana, 4/6
7. Revolution, 4/7
8. S. WI, 6/8
9. L. Illinois, 4/9
10. Kansas City Illusion, 7/10

Open Juvenile QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Capital Ice Chill, 5/1
2. Dazzlers, 5/2
3. Hockettes, 5/3
4. C. Blades, 4/4, TOM 13
5. Silver Leafs, 4/4, TOM 14
6. T. Juvenile, 5/5
7. S. Blades, 5/8
8. Sparkling Stars, 4/8
9. Chicago Red, 5/9
10. Windjammers, 4/9

Open Juvenile QR C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Allegrol, 6/1
2. Maplewood Highsteppers, 4/2
3. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 6/3
4. S. Gems, 4/4
5. Evolution, 4/5
6. Team Diamond, 6/6
7. Dazzlers - Silver, 4/6
8. Team Amore, 6/8
9. T. Team, 7/9
10. Sheboygan Lakers, 7/10

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

results

1. Team North Dakota, 5/1
2. M. Team, 7/2
3. L. Team, 5/3
4. U. SST, 4/4
5. N. Team, 5/5
6. O. Team, 7/6

Open Adult Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Eclipse, 7/1
2. U. Alumni, 4/2
3. Phoenix, 5/3
4. Rhythm And Blades, 7/4
5. Team Glace, 7/5

Open Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Allegrol, 7/1
2. Revolution, 7/2
3. Radianc on Ice, 7/3

Pre-Juvenile QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Starlights, 6/1
2. Teams Elite, 5/2
3. Cleveland Edges - Gemini, 4/3
4. Crystallettes, 7/4
5. Hockettes, 4/5, TOM 19
6. Chicago Skates, 4/5, TOM 20
7. Windjammers, 4/7
8. SwanSyncSation, 4/8
9. Synchro Panache, 6/9
10. Team Amore', 4/10
11. Highsteppers, 7/11

Pre-Juvenile QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Capital Ice Crystals, 7/1
2. Ice Kicks, 5/2
3. Evolution, 4/4

4. Starfire, 4/5, TOM 16
5. Allegrol, 4/5, TOM 17
6. Ice Diamonds, 5/6
7. C. Tigers, 4/6
8. Dazzlers, 5/7, TOM 27
9. Fond Du Lac Blades, 5/7, TOM 30
10. T. Pre-Juvenile, 7/10
11. Southern Magic, 6/11
12. Coliseum Comets, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 6/1
2. Capital Ice Crystals, 5/2
3. Starlights, 7/3
4. Chicago Skates, 4/5, TOM 16
5. Hockettes, 4/5, TOM 17
6. Crystallettes, 4/5, TOM 18
7. Allegrol, 5/7
8. Ice Kicks, 5/8
9. Cleveland Edges - Gemini, 4/8
10. Ice Diamonds, 4/9, TOM 27
11. Evolution, 4/9, TOM 34
12. Starfire, 7/12

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Wisconsin Edge, 4/2, TOM 5
2. Chicago Jazz, 4/2, TOM 6
3. Starlights, 6/3
4. Capital Ice Cadence, 5/5
5. Evolution, 4/5, TOM 15
6. Crystallettes, 4/5, TOM 17
7. Icestars, 5/8
8. Starfire, 4/8
9. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/9, TOM 27
10. Magic Laces, 4/9, TOM 32
11. Cleveland Edges, 7/11

2015 Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Braemar-City of Lakes FSC, Edina, MN, Jan.28-31

Competition Officials: Caren Kirsch, Carlyyn Landt, Charles Cope, Dann Krueger, Daren Patterson, Devon Hensel, Dorothy Tank, Elizabeth Barrow, Elizabeth Harty, Felicia Haining-Miller, Hannelore Murphy, Hazel Wecal, Jeanette Davey, Jo Ann Hall, Kristy Panos, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Lisa Marsocci, Lois Long, Mary Ann Wilcox, Mary Lou Rothman, Melissa Delano, Pamela Pangle, Rita Cerny, Steve Wolkin, Susan Haugh

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Del Sol, 144.34, 1, 1

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. California Gold, 115.04, 1, 1

2. ICE'Kateers, 100.06, 2, 2

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Del Sol, 62.82

2. Rose City Crystals, 45.98

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 53.50
2. EPIC EDGE, 48.94
3. The Tremors, 47.82
4. Silver Stars, 38.92

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Team Del Sol, 7/1
2. The Tremors, 5/2
3. ICE'Kateers, 7/3

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 59.52
2. California Gold, 48.87

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Denver Synchronicity, 7/1
2. Tremors Capital Ice, 7/2

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Star Lit Blades, 4/1
2. ICE'Kateers, 4/2
3. T. Team, 4/3
4. Fusion, 7/4
5. California Edge, 4/5
6. Washington Ice Emeralds, 6/6
7. Denver Synchronicity, 7/8
8. Silver Stars, 4/8
9. Fire Crystals, 4/9, TOM 27
10. EPIC EDGE, 4/9, TOM 34

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. San Diego Shining Blades, 7/1
2. Fusion, 6/2
3. EPIC EDGE, 7/3
4. Ice Cadettes, 7/4

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. San Diego Shining Blades, 7/1
2. Denver Synchronicity, 7/2

calendar

MARCH

12-15| 2015 Denver Invitational held in Littleton, CO, sponsored by Denver FSC. Contact lisacmay@gmail.com for more information.

12-15| 2015 Eastern Adult Nonqual held in Pittsburgh, PA, sponsored by Pittsburgh FSC. Contact daveagarber@aol.com for more information.

12-14| Buffalo Bill Cody Skatestravaganza held in Cody, WY, sponsored by Absaroka FSC. Contact codyfigureskating@gmail.com for more information.

13-15| 35th Annual Garden City Competition held in Garden City, MI, sponsored by Garden City FSC. Contact joanneastman@comcast.net for more information.

13-15| Eau Claire Figure Skating Competition 2015 held in Eau Claire, WI, sponsored by Eau Claire FSC. Contact southwak@hotmail.com for more information.

14| 2015 Blue Line Basic Skills Competition held in Fond du Lac, WI, sponsored by Fond Du Lac FSC. Contact lileenie@hotmail.com for more information.

14| Battle of the Blades & Central MN Competition Series held in Alexandria, MN, sponsored by Alexandria FSC. Contact kjuettner02@gmail.com for more information.

14| Phillips Academy Basic Skills Competition held in Andover, MA, sponsored by Phillips Academy SS. Contact skatingpro@gmail.com for more information.

14| Chiller Spring Classic held in Columbus, OH, sponsored by Chiller Skating School. Contact

dhughes@thechiller.com for more information.

14| 2015 St. Patrick's Day Competition held in Wake Forest, NC, sponsored by Team Triangle. Contact scudmore@nc.rr.com for more information.

14-15| Skate on Wisconsin held in McFarland, WI. Sponsored by University of Wisconsin - Madison. Contact schwalenberg@wisc.edu for more information.

14| Utah Olympic Oval Spring Challenge held in Salt Lake City, UT, sponsored by Utah Olympic Oval. Contact icekate@me.com for more information.

14| Blades in Decatur held in Decatur, AL, sponsored by Point Mallard FSC. Contact heidilangham@gmail.com for more information.

14| Spring Basic Skills Competition held in Delmar, NY, sponsored by Albany FSC. Contact Rachelschiewe@gmail.com for more information.

15| Eau Claire Figure Skating Synchronized Skating Competition held in Eau Claire, WI, sponsored by Eau Claire FSC. Contact stevesouthworth@msn.com for more information.

15| 2015 Springtime Invitational held in Fishers, IN, sponsored by Elite Skating Basic Skills Program. Contact elitesk8ing@yahoo.com for more information.

15| Glacier Falls/Paramount Iceland Basic Skills and Showcase Competition held in Paramount, CA, sponsored by Glacier Falls FSC. Contact donald.rabbitt@gmail.com for more information.

15| The Rinx 2015 Basic Skills Competition held in Hauppauge, NY, sponsored by The Rinx. Con-

tact cathryns@therinx.com for more information.

20-21| Glacier Challenge held in Missoula, MT, sponsored by Missoula FSC. Contact pkhergett@gmail.com for more information.

21-22| 2015 Skate Challenge held in Cicero, NY, sponsored by SC of Central New York. Contact shelleykline@twcny.rr.com for more information.

12-22| Massena Invitational Competition held in Massena, NY, sponsored by Massena FSC Inc. Contact tsavage2@twcny.rr.com for more information.

20-22| 2015 Howard E. Van Camp Competition held in East Lansing, MI, sponsored by Lansing SC. Contact mparisian@suburbanice.com for more information.

20-22| 2015 Louisville Skating Academy Spring Competition held in Louisville, KY, sponsored by Louisville Skating Academy. Contact hatchpurnell@gmail.com for more information.

21| Gold Rush Showcase on Ice held in Roseville, CA, sponsored by Capital City FSC. Contact Gailmarkovich@yahoo.com for more information.

21| 2015 Southern CT Basic Skills Competition at Terry Conners Rink held in Stamford, CT, sponsored by Sono Ice House Skating School. Contact helaine.walker@skatescsc.com for more information.

21| Onyx-Suburban Basic Skills 2015 held in Macomb, MI, sponsored by Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy. Contact jendaskas@aol.com for more information.

21| 8th Annual Amherst Skating Club "In House" Basic Skills Competition held in Wil-

liamsville, NY, sponsored by Amherst SC, Inc. Contact director@amherstskatingclub.org for more information.

21-22| Chicagoland Basic Skills held in Hoffman Estates, IL, sponsored by Figure Skating School Of Skokie. Contact kmmurphy@skokieparks.org for more information.

21-22| Jackson Hole 2015 Basic Skills Competition held in Jackson, WY, sponsored by SC of Jackson Hole. Contact ssandberg00@hotmail.com for more information.

21-22| University of Delaware Collegiate Competition held in Newark, DE, sponsored by University Of Delaware Collegiate SC. Contact kalbach@udel.edu for more information.

21-22| Columbia FSC Annual Spring Production: "Movies and Minions" held in Columbia, MD, sponsored by Columbia FSC. Contact aewills@verizon.net for more information.

22| Sunflower Classic held in Minnetonka, MN, sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC. Contact cummings55345@gmail.com for more information.

22| 8th Annual South Shore Open held in Rockland, MA, sponsored by South Shore SC. Contact katy@winterlandskatingschool.com for more information.

22| 6th Annual Skylands Ice World Basic Skills Competition held in Stockholm, NJ, sponsored by North Jersey FSC. Contact rfb skate@optonline.net for more information.

22| 1st Massachusetts High School Competition held in Peabody, MA, sponsored by Silver Streaks SC. Contact ssscsk8@yahoo.com for more information.

22| Wisconsin High School Series Final held in Schofield, WI, sponsored by Timberline SC. Contact d2damato@gmail.com for more information.

22| Spring Fever 2015 held in Indian Trail, NC, sponsored by X-ICE Skating School. Contact jennyg@xicenter.com for more information.

22| Third Annual Basics and Beyond! Held in Simsbury, CT, sponsored by ISCC Learn To Skate. Contact amymfairchild@gmail.com for more information.

25-29| 2015 Skate Kansas City held in Independence, MO, sponsored by Kansas City FSC. Contact cfoleymitchell@gmail.com for more information.

26-29| 2015 W.I.M. Competition held in Milwaukee, WI, sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC. Contact fourds282@aol.com for more information.

27-28| 2nd Annual North Star Open held in Westboro, MA, sponsored by North Star FSC. Contact northstarenid@aol.com for more information.

27-29| Morris Open 2015 held in Morristown, NJ, sponsored by SC of Morris NJ. Contact Kkd.davis@verizon.net for more information.

27-29| 12th Annual South Florida Challenge held in Coral Springs, FL, sponsored by Panthers FSC. Contact marianin@floridapanthers.com for more information.

28| 32nd Garren Invitational Figure Skating Competition held in Troy, NY, sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC. Contact Stacey.b.hills@gmail.com for more information.

28| 2015 Spring Thaw held in Peoria, IL, sponsored by Heart Of Illinois SC. Contact mrmattbrown@att.net for more information.

28| 13th Annual Farmington Spring Festival held in Farmington, MN, sponsored by Farmington Skate School. Contact JWall@ci.farmington.mn.us for more information.

28-29| North Star Open held in Westboro, MA, sponsored by North Star FSC. Contact littlefootann@yahoo.com for more information.

28-29| Sugar Skate held in Sugar Land, TX, sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC. Contact ewickmann@comcast.net for more information.

29| Basic Skills Team Competition 2015 held in Scottsdale, AZ, sponsored by Ice Den Scottsdale. Contact juliep@coyotesice.com for more information.

29| North Star Basic Skills Competition 2015 held in Westboro, MA, sponsored by North Star FSC. Contact linda@northstarfsc.com for more information.

APRIL

4| Challenge Cup 2015 held in Burlington, VT, sponsored by Champlain Valley SC. Contact dmstraw@comcast.net for more information.

4| Janice Smith Memorial Basic Skills Competition held in Hamburg, NY, sponsored by Skate Great. Contact coachjess51@yahoo.com for more information.

4| Newington Arena Learn to Skate Basic Skills Competition held in Newington, CT, sponsored by Newington Arena Learn To Skate. Contact jeforacause@aol.com for more information.

9-12| 40th Annual Ladybug Competition held in Lake Bluff, IL, sponsored by Glenwood FSC. Contact mayfsc@aol.com for more information.

9-12| Fort Collins Classic held in Fort Collins, CO, sponsored by Fort Collins FSC. Contact katecorsier@yahoo.com for more information.

10-12| Fiesta Skate 2015 held in Peoria, AZ, sponsored by SC of Phoenix. Contact janaskater@cox.net for more information.

10-12| 30th Annual Florida Open Figure Skating Championships and Basic Skills Competition held in Orlando, FL, sponsored by Central Florida FSC. Contact cindyark1998@gmail.com for more information.

10-12| Tri States Memorial Free Skating Championships held in Chelsea, MI, sponsored by Coliseum FSC of Michigan. Contact kayleah.crosby@gmail.com for more information.

11| 2015 Hodag Skate Classic Basic Skills Competition held in Rhinelander, WI, sponsored by Rhinelander FSC. Contact joysk8rmom@yahoo.com for more information.

11| Rocket City Junior Classic held in Huntsville, AL, sponsored by The SC of Huntsville. Contact Wendyruich@gmail.com for more information.

11-12| The Ninth Annual Skating Club of Worcester Basic Skills Competition held in Worcester, MA, sponsored by SC of Worcester, Inc. Contact der303@cs.com for more information.

11-12| 49th Annual Worcester Open held in Worcester, MA, sponsored by SC of Worcester, Inc. Contact jeansk8@charter.net for more information.

12| Spring Preview 2015 held in Vacaville, CA, sponsored by Vaca Valley FSC. Contact marcellshomes@aol.com for more information.

12| 16th Annual Basic Skills Competition held in Cromwell, CT, sponsored by Champions. Contact genovese Kathleen@gmail.com for more information.

12| Pigtail Classic held in Springdale, AR, sponsored by Ozark FSC. Contact coachkatt@yahoo.com for more information.

12| 15th Annual Ice House Basic Skills Competition held in Hackensack, NJ, sponsored by Ice House Skating School. Contact crutherford@ice-

housenj.com for more information.

12| 15th Annual Basic Skills Competition held in Crystal Lake, IL, sponsored by Wagon Wheel FSC. Contact lannyww@sbcglobal.net for more information.

17| High School Final Competition held in Strongsville, OH, sponsored by Greater Cleveland Council Of FSCs. Contact nrksk8@netscape.net for more information.

18| 11th Annual Mountain Town Classic held in Mount Pleasant, MI, sponsored by Mt. Pleasant FSC. Contact gpsk8r@gmail.com for more information.

18| Wallace Figure Skating Club 1st Theatre on Ice Competition held in Ashburnham, MA, sponsored by Wallace FSC. Contact kelleyannlaine@yahoo.com for more information.

18| 2015 Spring Funtastics held in Arvada, CO, sponsored by Mile High Figure Skating Assoc. Contact cmzeles@aol.com for more information.

19| 12th Annual Basic Skills Series Competition held in Lake Worth, FL, sponsored by Palm Beach Skate Zone. Contact audra@pbskatezone.com for more information.

19| Event #3: Arctic Basic Skills held in Canton, MI, sponsored by The Skaters Edge Program. Contact liberatoremom@gmail.com for more information.

23-26| 2015 Skate Dallas held in Plano, TX, sponsored by Dallas FSC. Contact paiofairs@aol.com for more information.

25| Colorado College Cup held in Colorado Springs, CO, sponsored by Colorado College. Contact dschoon499@yahoo.com for more information.

24-25| 2015 Boise Ice Classic held in Boise, ID, sponsored by Boise FSC. Contact nsrados@gmail.com for more information.

24-26| 2015 Cascade Ice Classic held in Renton, WA, sponsored by Cascade Valley FSC. Contact mkjensen@yahoo.com for more information.

24-26| 2015 Southern CT Open held in Darien, CT, sponsored by SC of Southern Connecticut. Contact helaine.walker@skatescsc.com for more information.

24-26| Skate Nashville 2015 held in Franklin, TN, sponsored by Nashville FSC. Contact sherrytull@hotmail.com for more information.

25| SkateQuest Reston Blossom 2015 held in Reston, VA, sponsored by Reston Skating Academy. Contact smcarthur@skatequest.com for more information.

25| Freeport Spring Challenge held in Freeport, NY, sponsored by Freeport Skating Academy. Contact lizeaskate@gmail.com for more information.

25-26| SCOSNJ Spring Invitational held in Mt. Laurel, NJ, sponsored by SC of Southern New Jersey. Contact dmfield@aol.com for more information.

25-26| Spring Fling held in Strongsville, OH, sponsored by The Strongsville SC. Contact Jamp47@sbcglobal.net for more information.

26| Colonial Figure Skating Club Basic Skills Spring Skate held in Boxborough, MA, sponsored by Colonial FSC, contact administration@colonialfsc.com for more information.

26| Skate Princeton 2015 held in Princeton, NJ, sponsored by Princeton SC. Contact scott@polks-generationext.com for more information.

26| Skate Dallas 2015 held in Plano, TX, sponsored by Dallas FSC. Contact jstukwag@outlook.com for more information.

tests passed

Senior moves in the field

Rose Punsky — Individual
Layla Karnes — All Year FSC
Karoline Shechter — Aspen SC
Allyson Kuznia — Bemidji FSC
Dayoon Chang — Skating Club of Boston
Gabiella Eberth — Skating Club of Boston
Katie Rosen — Skating Club of Boston
Paris Baker — Skating Club of Boston
Victoria Xu — Skating Club of Boston
Claire Lively — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
Liesl Schreiner — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
Alyssa Redd — Broadmoor SC
Ashley Talpas — Cleveland Edges SC
Anya Hanitchak — Colonial FSC
Cassandra Cole — Colonial FSC
Emily Stankard — Colonial FSC
Sarah Stankard — Colonial FSC
Victoria Fater — Colonial FSC
Mercedes Jensen — Cottonwood Heights FSC
Emily Young — University of Delaware FSC
Jessica Sharrow — University of Delaware FSC
Margaret Amory — University of Delaware FSC
Alexeia Gorecki — DuPage FSC
McKenzie Liboy — DuPage FSC
Julia Olson — Elk River FSC
Nica Digerness — Fort Collins FSC
Haley Marchese — Fraser FSC
Hayley Lindsey — Fraser FSC
Kiara Romotzki — Great Neck FSC
Amanda Kellogg — Greater Kalamazoo SA
Sarah Moreau — Greater Kalamazoo SA
Sarris Jones — Greater Kalamazoo SA
Katelyn Mamrick — Greenville FSC
Mary Carney — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
Maria Slava Prymak — Hershey FSC
Hannah Tashiro — Highland SC
Kathryn Hoey — Hollydell FSC
Berit Cummings — Lake Minnetonka FSC
Amanda Shadlock — SC of Lake Placid
Emily Beach — Missoula FSC
Paige Kaiser — Mosinee Silverblades
BreAnn Duckett — Murray Silver Blades FSC
Mary-Anne Chen — SC of New York

Sarah Kleinman — SC of New York
Isabel Peredy — North Atlantic FSC
Julia Gilman — North Atlantic FSC
Eliana Schach — North Jersey FSC
Kellie Jamin — North Jersey FSC
Josilyn Dostal — Northern Ice SC
Mary Kate Fee — Northern Ice SC
Caitlin Colsia — SC of Northern Virginia
Selinah Liang — SC of Novi
Averie Brenner — Oklahoma City FSC
Taylor Hliebaj — Onyx-Suburban SA
Aubrey Kortuem — Orlando FSC
Amanda Thomsen — Ozark FSC
Sophie Gaddes — Philadelphia SC & HS
Elizabeth McCormick — Red Rose FSC
Lauren Monahan — Rye FSC
Anna Schmidt — Salt Lake Figure Skating
Astrea Villarreal-Sanchez — San Diego FSC
Rachael Wall — Skokie Valley SC
Jasmine Campbell — Springfield FSC
Gretchen Majerus — St. Cloud FSC
Lauren Peterson — St. Cloud FSC
Veda Seibel — Stars FSC of Texas
Camille Zhang — Vaca Valley FSC
Cassandra Mencini — Washington FSC
Isabella Quintero — Washington FSC
Adult gold moves in the field
Kathleen Sack — Baltimore FSC
Michelle Ashby — Cottonwood Heights FSC
Julie Brinskelle — DuPage FSC
Brenda Boyd — Lakewood Winter Club
Cherrie Yuen — SC of New York
Jennifer Galvin — Skating Club of San Francisco
Jessica Lai — Utah FSC
Senior free skate
Katharine Greene — Ann Arbor FSC
Samantha Brandt — Border Blades FSC
Amber Wolf — Skating Club of Boston
Andrew Mortenson — Broadmoor SC
Julia Steeger — Skating Club of Boston
Terri Hannig — Broadmoor SC
Patrice Martineau — Burnsville-MN Valley FSC
Mollie Boswell — Detroit SC
Yukino Wada — Detroit SC

Hailey Kauls — Eden Prairie FSC
Elizabeth Chen — Fort Collins FSC
Hayley Templeton-Norris — Fort Collins FSC
Jasmine Chen — Georgia FSC
Mikaela Randolph — Lakewood Winter Club
Nina Myrtvedt — Lakewood Winter Club
Julia Gilman — North Atlantic FSC
Naomi Ghebremichael — SC of North Carolina
Angelica Dabrowski — Northern Kentucky SC
Morgen Wheeler — SC of Novi
Jackie Jablon — Panthers FSC
Claudia Collins — Warwick Figure Skaters
Kirsten Seagers — SC of Wilmington
Anya Cockerell — Winterhurst FSC
Brianna Mascia — Winterhurst FSC

Adult gold free skating test

Sharidan Williams-Sotelo — Los Angeles FSC
Renee Chicoine — FSC of Omaha
Jennifer Galvin — Skating Club of San Francisco

Gold dance test

Helena Fisher — Atlanta FSC
Sophie Sholtis — Border Blades FSC
Schuyler Eldridge — Boston University
Amanda Angulo — Chicago FSC
Kathleen Rice — Colonial FSC
Rebecca Vangness — Colonial FSC
Katelyn Mamrick — Greenville FSC
Anne-Marie Feeney — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
River Kynoch — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
Maria Slava Prymak — Hershey FSC
Emily Beach — Missoula FSC
Stacey Tutela — Pittsfield FSC
Shaheen Kazmi — Windy City FSC
Andi Gottfried — Winterhurst FSC

Adult gold dance test

Amy Vecchio — North Shore SC
Erin Sheehan — Smithfield FSC

Solo gold dance test

Amira Miyaji — SC of Morris NJ

Senior solo free dance

Constance Gerstle — Charleston FSC
Tiffany Wu — North Jersey FSC

appointments

Bronze Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Eden Chrostowski, Commerce Twp, Mich.

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Kenneth Ames, Mesa, Ariz.

Gold Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Jennifer Hicks-White, Tulsa, Okla.

Bronze Dance Test Judge

Isabel Aste, Yorba Linda, Calif.; Reed Hastings, Farmington, N.M.; Jennifer Hicks-White, Tulsa, Okla.; Diane Wilder, Ardmore, Pa.

Silver Dance Test Judge

Cynthia York, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Regional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Jed Hopkins, Santa Monica, Calif.

Sectional Singles/Pairs Referee

Kathaleen Cutone, Reading, Mass.; Cassy Papajohn, Englewood, Colo.; Ilana Prusock, New York, N.Y.

Regional Accountant

Kim Herman, Madison, Wis.; Joe Pope, Saint Paul, Minn.

memorial fund

"IN MEMORY OF"

Marianne Ash

U.S. Figure Skating

Frank Balys, Sr.

Joyce Goetchius

Bette Biron

Daren Chastain

Wilfred Burgart

Skating Club of Lebanon

Martha Cogan

Chuck Mlynarczyk

Charles Fetter

Beth and Don Weiner

Sally Jinks

Susan Richardson

Greg Kelley, Brad Lord & Laurence Owen

Steven Mader

Don Laws

Georgia Figure Skating Club

Bertha Randolph

Deloris LeClaire

Carol LeClaire Timm

Valerie Mindle

Andy Depew and

Evelyn Sakoda

Jeffrey A. Rothmund

Lori Rothmund

Leski Terzakis

Martha and Juliet Newcomer

Mary Walston

Claudia Robertson

"IN HONOR OF"

Ruth and Paul Fry

Barbara Meyer

David Santee

Maureen Meier

Cindy Perpich

U.S. Figure Skating Staff

Bill Coyle

U.S. Grand Prix

Final Competitors

Samuel Auxier

"GENERAL"

Rhonda Ainsworth

Kerri Bottorff

Linda Chin

Sarah D. Irvine

Louise Lackerly

Naomi Pais

Ronald Pfenning

David Raith

Carolyn Rodne

Jennifer Simon

Rodney Windsor

"Annual Appeal Fund"

AREA OF GREATEST NEED

Anonymous

Robert Danielski

Scott Hanna

L.A. Dad

Margaret Marsh

Pam Privett and Helen

Mendoza

David Raith

Ms. Carlie Sanders and Dr.

Louisa Sanders

Linda Sheedy

"GENERAL"

Raymond Deeny

Phyllis Lay (Team USA

Designation)

Marie Miller (Team USA

Designation, in honor of

Hannah Millwe)

Joe Middlebrook (Team USA

Designation)

Penny North (Team USA

Designation)

Anne White (Team USA

Designation)

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USFS

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ment Designation)

Southgate Chapter #18 EOS

(Adult Skating Designation

in honor of Century Leigh)

Betty Garvin (Synchronized

Skating Designation)

grievances

Figure Skating Club of Hunterdon v. Robert Daw (1) Figure Skating Club of Hunterdon v. Robert Daw (PSA Grievance)(2) Robert Daw v. Figure Skating Club of Hunterdon (3) Robert Daw v. Stanley Houston (4)

These four cases were consolidated for the hearing. In the first case, the FSC of Hunterdon alleged a violation of U.S. Figure Skating GR 1.02(A) and 1.02(F). In case number two, the FSC of Hunterdon filed a grievance with the Professional Skaters Association alleging a violation of PSA Code of Conduct 1.4 and 7. In case number three, Mr. Daw alleges a violation of U.S. Figure Skating GR 1.01(A), 1.01(B)(4)(a), 1.03(A) and 1.04. In case number four, Mr. Daw alleges a violation by Mr. Houston of U.S. Figure Skating GR 1.01(A), 1.01(B)(4)(a), 1.02(A), 1.03(A) and 1.04.

On November 10, 2014, a telephonic hearing was held in all of these matters.

Witnesses were called and evidence was reviewed. The Hearing Panel unanimously found in favor of Robert Daw and dismissed grievance number one and grievance number two. The Hearing Panel unanimously found in favor of the FSC of Hunterdon and therefore grievance number three was dismissed. The hearing panel unanimously found in grievance number four that Stanley Houston engaged in wrongful ethical conduct consisting of videotaping Mr. Daw and his minor students without their permission or the permission of the students' parents. The remainder of the grievance was dismissed.

Stanley Houston was suspended from membership in U.S. Figure Skating for six months. The six-month suspension of membership will be stayed for that six month period of time. In the event that during the six months stay of the suspension of membership there are no reports of any misconduct by Stanley Houston, then the six-month suspension of membership will be vacated.

obituaries



CRANSTON

The event taking place in Greensboro, North Carolina, was the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, but throughout the concourses in the Greensboro Coliseum, skaters, coaches and choreographers were lamenting the loss of Canadian champion Toller Cranston.

Cranston, who won the Canadian men's title from 1971 to 1976, a World bronze medal and the 1976 Olympic bronze medal, died on Jan. 24, 2015, of a reported heart attack in Mexico at the age of 65.

Scott Hamilton, who grew up marveling at Cranston's dynamic skating and equally eccentric personality, was notified of Cranston's loss while working an NBC broadcast at the U.S. Championships. Hamilton, who toured with Cranston, said he quickly went from feeling sorrow to smiling about the many memories he had of Cranston.

He even recalls Cranston, who was working for Canadian television during the 1984 Olympics, when Hamilton won the gold medal.

"He gave me the thumbs-up, so I knew I did OK," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said that touring with Cranston was unlike anything he has ever encountered.

"Having Toller as a cast member was the greatest experience of all," Hamilton said. "There was no one else like him and there will never be anyone like him. He would go after any type of music, and sometimes people got it and sometimes they didn't. But I always respected him. The man was massively entertaining and flat out hysterical.

"If you earned his respect, you knew you did something special."

Cranston, a painter as well as a skater, gave

Hamilton a painting when he did a retirement show. The painting, of a dragon, hangs on the bedroom wall of Hamilton's sons, Aidan and Jean Paul.

News of Cranston's death spread throughout the skating community that had gathered in Greensboro. Texts and phone calls were being sent all over, and many were connecting with friends and coaches who were at the Canadian Championships, which were held the same week as the U.S. Championships, in Kingston, Ontario.

Rosalynn Sumners, the 1984 silver medalist, was in constant communication with friends who were in Greensboro even though she was at home in Seattle.

She said she exchanged stories, which she dubbed "Tollerisms," with friends who were attending in Greensboro.

"When I was skating and competing he was one of my heroes," Sumners said. "Who knew we'd become such good friends?"

The two even skated together in the early days of Stars on Ice. Sumners recalls doing a trio number with Cranston and another Canadian skater, Brian Pockar.

"He truly helped transition me from a competitor to an artist," Sumners said. "I always loved watching his programs because they were always different. I particularly remember his *Firebird* costume with these elaborate red and orange fire strips hanging everywhere. It never got boring."

— Amy Rosewater

STRONG DAVIS

Susan Strong Davis, a tremendous supporter and friend to generations of figure skaters, died on Dec. 24, 2014, in Palos Verdes Estates, California. She was 90 years old.

Strong Davis impacted the lives and careers of countless figure skaters with her generosity and friendship. She enjoyed helping young athletes achieve their skating dreams.

Her love affair with skating actually began as a young woman, becoming a professional ice skater and touring in the chorus line of Sonja Henie's ice revue.

Years later, after her husband passed away, she returned to a rink to watch how the then-current generation of skaters worked at their craft.

And according to Peter Oppegard, it was the dedication and determination of these athletes that again drew her to the sport.

"It kind of renewed her faith in people and she just wanted to be part of helping these ath-

letes achieve their goals," Oppegard said.

A friend of Susan's, Nora Kirby, helped her to identify a few skaters she could become directly involved with in supporting their careers.

Oppegard was one of those skaters.

"Nora felt that I could do well if I got a little bit of help and that's how it got started," he said. "Susan became a great friend to my family and we to her; she attended all the weddings and family outings. We just became very close and shared the same love of skating."

One of the first skaters that Susan helped was 1984 Olympic silver medalist Rosalynn Sumners.

"She was involved back then and has been involved ever since," Oppegard said.

Susan traveled all over the world to watch figure skating events and support the skaters. She made countless friends along the way.

"She had a wonderful heart and just wanted to help support these athletes; it was such a reward for her to be able to do that," Oppegard said. "There is such a list of people who are so thankful she got involved. All she ever asked was that all these athletes try their best and go out there and work really hard. That was reward enough for her and that's the way it should be."

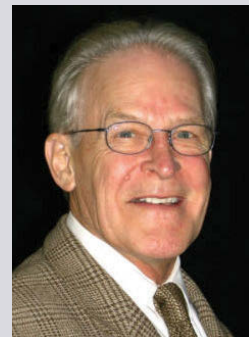
FRASER

Philip (Phil) Fraser passed away on Jan. 26, 2015. Phil worked as a professional figure skating coach at The Skating Club of Wilmington in Delaware since its inception in 1963.

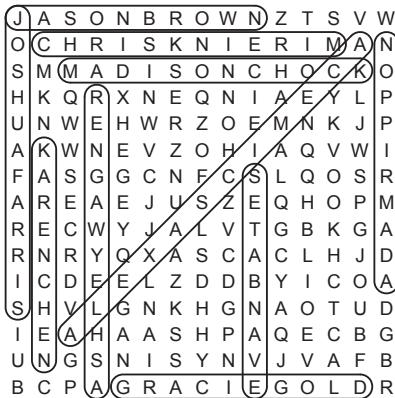
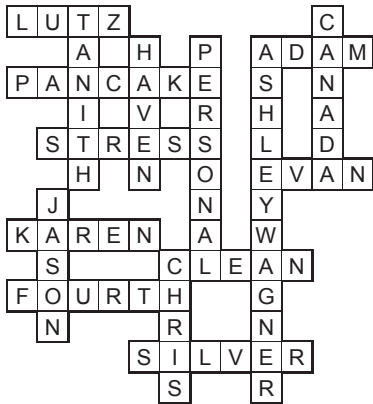
As a Professional Skaters Association master-rated coach, he filled an important place in club activities for more than 40 years, ranging from teaching skaters of all ages to producing and choreographing "Brandywine Blades" ice skating shows.

Born Nov. 11, 1925, in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada, he is survived by his sister, Carroll Wilkinson and her husband, Stuart.

Donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.



**PUZZLE ANSWERS
FROM PAGE 64**

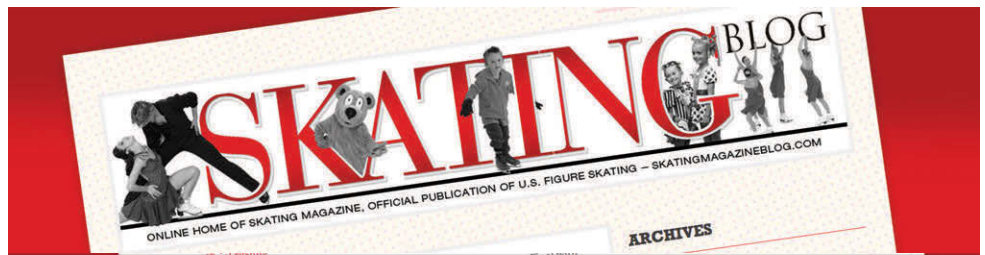


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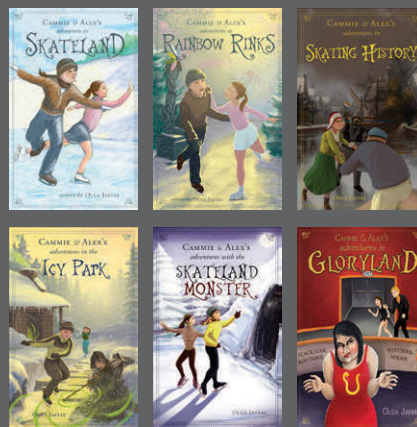
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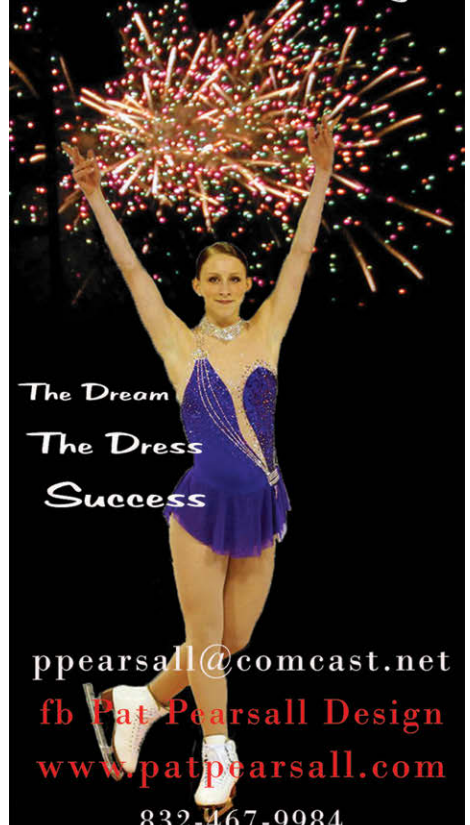
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Lexettes, Skyliners punch tickets to junior worlds

The Lexettes and Skyliners will represent the U.S. at junior worlds after finishing first and second, respectively, at the World Junior Team Selection Competition. [More »](#)

[Results](#) | [Gallery: World Jr. Selection Comp.](#) | [Lexettes' bio](#)



Russian ladies rule the roost in Stockholm



Fernández extends reign over European men

VIDEOS



2015 U.S. Champs - Sr. Ladies FS Presser



Radionova's 2015 Europeans SP



2015 U.S. Champs - Senior Pairs FS (Groups 2 & 3)

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