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On the cover

Photo by Jay Adef/U.S. Figure Skating

Three first-time titlists and one two-time winner were crowned champions at the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 15–24. The free skate portion of the competition was filled with excellent skating and high drama. As is tradition, the champions' names will be added to the coveted U.S. Championships Trophy. Pictured are 2016 U.S. champions (l-r) Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea (pairs), Adam Rippon (men), Gracie Gold (ladies) and Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani (ice dance). Complete coverage of the event starts on page 10.

SKATING



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'All aboard'

For fans, traveling by railway is half the fun

SKATING magazine contributor Joanne Vassallo Jamrosz attends most of U.S. Figure Skating's marquee events with husband Gregory.

A resident of upstate New York, she can usually be found on the concourse signing the latest book in her *Skating Forward* series.

Joanne emailed me the other day, pitching a story about skating fans (including herself and Gregory) who use the railways to travel to U.S. Figure Skating's main events.

I thought it was a cool idea, giving readers a glimpse inside yet another unique group of skating friends. Enjoy!

Greg Schwind

By Joanne Vassallo Jamrosz

When the conductor of Amtrak's westbound Empire Builder called "All aboard," little did he know that he was welcoming some pretty excited skating fans on their way to the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

For these fans, getting there is half the fun, and many wouldn't think of traveling any other way than by rail.

Liz and Lew Larson of Columbia, Maryland, first traveled by train to the 2007 U.S. Championships in Spokane, Washington. They enjoyed it so much that they took the train to the 2009 ISU World Championships in Los Angeles and 2012 U.S. Championships in San Jose.

"We travel by train to skating events when the distance is greater than we have the time or energy to drive, usually more than one night on the road," Liz said.

Liz, who no longer chooses to travel by plane, admits she's always loved traveling by train.

"I have loved trains all my life, even when I was still flying," Liz said. "I would routinely take the train from Maryland to Boston to visit my parents and friends. For me it was incredibly relaxing and a great escape."

Photographer Leah Adams lives on the Western Slope of Colorado. She finds any time on Amtrak is an adventure. Admittedly a somewhat nervous flier, Adams says just staying on the ground is a reason to celebrate.

"Train-ing is the most relaxing method of travel because of the wide seats — complete with drop-down tray tables and electrical outlets to set up my laptop — the convenience of bringing extra luggage without fees, an observation car offering scenic views only available from the rails and a



Joanne Vassallo Jamrosz prepares to board a train in Utica, New York, for the 2016 U.S. Championships in Saint Paul. She and husband Gregory have been taking the train to skating events since 2010.

PHOTO BY GREGORY JAMROSZ

host of other features," said Adams, who traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, by train for the 2013 U.S. Championships.

Margaret Harboy of Water Mill, New York, remembers San Jose as her exciting "nationals by rail."

"Clear across the country, it took three days," Harboy said. "It was amazing to see the changes in the countryside, countless mountains and rivers and streams. I especially enjoyed the huge evergreens touched with glistening snow. It was truly one of the most thrilling experiences of my life."

The Larsons have had two favorite trips: the Empire Builder to Spokane and the Southwest Chief to Worlds in Los Angeles. The Spokane championships took place two weeks after Liz Larson's retirement.

"It was very emotional as I felt I was beginning a whole new life and had always wanted to take the train across the U.S.," Liz said.

The Larsons enjoyed everything, including a cozy sleeper car, food prepared by a chef who only travels that route, wine and cheese parties, an observation car, and the thrill of passing through three feet of snow in Whitefish, Montana.

"The journey provided days without pressure, unlimited and varied beautiful scenery and total relaxation," Lew said.

There is also plenty of skating talk on board. Many of the steady train travelers have connected as friends, and many find themselves on the same train heading to championship destinations. Friendships are renewed and dinner conversation usually revolves around favorite skaters and the exciting upcoming event.

"I would say that the single most important and meaningful event resulting from all our trips was meeting Margaret," Liz said. "She is a joy to know and we love getting together at skating events."

With the 2016 World Championships quickly approaching, the group is already planning get-togethers on destination trains and on-site at Boston's TD Garden.

"I enjoy the relaxing movement of the train, being able to read, getting to see parts of America that I have never seen, and chatting and meeting so many interesting people over coffee and a meal," Harboy said. "It is especially enjoyable to know that there are other folks who enjoy figure skating and the train, too."

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

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U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director ... David Raith

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

SKATING (USPS 497-800) (ISSN: 0037-6132)

(Issue: Vol. 93 No. 3) is published 11 times per year in January, February, March, April, May, June/July, August/September, October, November, Basic Skills Edition and December by U.S. Figure Skating, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Subscription rates: United States, one year \$32.50 (U.S.); Canada, one year \$42.50 (U.S.); Foreign, one year \$52.50 (U.S.). Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs and at additional mailing offices. Copyright ©2016 by United States Figure Skating, Colorado Springs, Colo. Phone: 719.635.5200. SKATING magazine assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Postmaster: Send address corrections to SKATING, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Canadian return address: Station A, P.O. Box 54, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J5. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from the editor.

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KOSÉ title sponsor of 2016 Team Challenge Cup

U.S. Figure Skating and Van Wagner Sports & Entertainment (VWSE) announced in January that Japan-based cosmetics company KOSÉ will serve as the title sponsor of 2016 KOSÉ Team Challenge Cup set for April 22-24 in Spokane, Washington.

A partnership between U.S. Figure Skating and VWSE, Team Challenge Cup (#TeamChallengeCup) is an ISU-sanctioned three-day event that will feature 42 of the top figure skaters in the world competing in a continental team competition (Team North America vs. Team Europe vs. Team Asia).

"We are thrilled to have KOSÉ come on board as title sponsor of this event," VWSE Executive Vice President Chris Pearlman said. "Team Challenge Cup is a truly global event and the signing of KOSÉ as our title sponsor illustrates the importance of this event around the world."

Each of the three teams will consist of three ladies, three men, two pairs teams and two ice dance teams. ISU World Standings (as of Jan. 1, 2016) were used to determine the first invitees.

Team Challenge Cup will air domestically on CBS from 1 to 3 p.m. ET on Sunday, April 24. 2006 Olympic silver medalist Tanith White and 1984 Olympic champion Scott Hamilton will provide coverage on CBS. The entire event will be streamed live on icenetwork.com.

Team Challenge Cup will feature two days of competition. Friday's Singles Short Program will feature the ladies and men performing short programs for the distinction of Singles Short Program champion (team and individual). Saturday's Singles and Team Free Skate segments will feature an aggregate scoring format to determine the 2016 Team Challenge Cup champion.

All-event ticket packages and single-session tickets, starting at \$25, remain available for this inaugural event at all TicketsWest outlets, charge by phone at 800.325.SEAT, online at www.teamchallengecup.com or with no ticketing fees at the Spokane Arena box office. Visit www.teamchallengecup.com for more ticketing information and event details.

Donlan, Bartholomay end partnership

Gretchen Donlan and Nathan Bartholomay have ended their partnership. Bartholomay has expressed interest in finding a new partner, while Donlan will weigh her options and continue to work toward her college degree.

They began their partnership in 2014. The duo trained in Ellenton, Florida, with coaches Jim Peterson, Amanda Evora and Lyndon Johnston. They placed seventh in their debut at the 2015 U.S. Championships and represented Team USA at three ISU Challenger Series events, winning the pairs title at 2015 Challenge Cup.

"Although the end of our partnership was unfortunate, I will always cherish the experiences we had together," Donlan said. "I support Nate in his future skating endeavors and wish him the very best. My sole focus now is directed toward making a full recovery from my illness and returning to the sport I love."

"I want to thank Gretchen along with my coaches for all of their time, effort and energy in working together to make us a better team," Bartholomay said. "It's always hard to separate from a partnership but I am looking forward to continuing in competitive skating and starting a new chapter. I wish Gretchen all the best in her recovery and all the best in her future with figure skating."



Chen withdraws from World, World Junior Championships

Nathan Chen, the 2016 U.S. bronze medalist, underwent left hip surgery on Jan. 27. The surgery was performed by Dr. Catherine Robertson, assisted by Dr. Alexandra Schwartz, at UC San Diego Health, which is a member of the United States Olympic Committee's National Medical Network.



Chen suffered an avulsion injury to his left hip during a jump attempt in the exhibition following the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships on Jan. 24 in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Chen was performing in the Skating Spectacular after having earlier won his first championship-level medal.

Chen's rehabilitation will begin in San Diego and is tentatively scheduled to continue at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Chen is expected to make a full recovery and return to the ice with restrictions in eight to 10 weeks.

Chen, the 2015 Junior Grand Prix Final champion, was expected to compete at the 2016 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Cham-

pionships and the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Tomoki Hiwatashi, the 2016 U.S. junior champion, is the first alternate to the World Junior Team and will compete March 14–20 in Debrecen, Hungary. Grant Hochstein, who finished fourth at the 2016 U.S. Championships, will make his World Championships debut March 28–April 3 in Boston.

Dillon named director of high performance development

Justin Dillon, a former coach and choreographer who has served on various athlete and coaching committees, is the director of high performance development at U.S. Figure Skating.



Dillon began his duties at headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Feb. 8.

"I'm excited about continuing the strong tradition at U.S. Figure Skating of cultivating great athletes and creating quality programs for them and their coaches," Dillon said. "I look forward to working with the people here to maximize the opportunities for our athletes around the country and around the globe."

A former member of Team USA, Dillon has worked with many of the country's top singles athletes, served on the faculty of programs and camps offered by U.S. Figure Skating, and has been active in the leadership of the organization, including serving as the past chair of the Singles Development Subcommittee and, most recently, as coaching representative on the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors.

Dillon's focus will be on the individual development of the junior international selection pool athletes and their coaches, in addition to identifying and working with the most talented athletes and their coaches below this level, in guiding them toward reaching their potential as future members of Team USA.

The new position will report to Mitch Moyer, senior director of Athlete High Performance; and will also work closely with Kelly Vogtner, senior director of Athlete Development.

Dillon, who has spent the last two decades in the Bay Area, said he's looking forward to working and living in Colorado Springs, but admits he's still getting used to what the cold weather brings.

"I'm a little bit nervous about driving on the ice and not slipping," he joked. "Definitely different than skating, where I feel I have much more control than operating my car."

"I'm just looking forward to being part of a really good team and to try to use the skills and experience that I have to best serve the association."

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PHOTO BY JENNY ANDERSON/WIREIMAGE



Meryl Davis and the girls from Figure Skating in Harlem attend last year's Skating with the Stars Benefit Gala in New York City.

Figure Skating in Harlem to honor Davis and White, Tyson

Figure Skating in Harlem has announced it will honor legendary actress and activist Cicely Tyson and Olympic ice dance gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White at its 11th annual Skating with the Stars Gala. The benefit, celebrating the program's recent expansion, will be held at 583 Park Ave. in New York City, Monday, April 11, at 6 p.m.

The evening will celebrate Figure Skating in Harlem's one-of-a-kind education, health and leadership programs for underserved girls while offering guests the rare opportunity to dance and mingle with some of the country's best skaters, including Michelle

Kwan, Evan Lysacek, Sarah Hughes, Sasha Cohen, Tanith White and Ben Agosto, Paul Wylie, Timothy Goebel, JoJo Starbuck and 2016 U.S. champions Maia and Alex Shibutani, and Adam Rippon. The event will also feature a special performance by Dance Theatre of Harlem in tribute to the honorees.

Tracie and Scott Hamilton, and Michelle Kwan will serve as this year's honorary chairs; Mary Wilson of the Supremes will host the event.

Contents of Wayfair Lounge to benefit local community

Throughout the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the Wayfair Lounge accommodated countless athletes, coaches and staff backstage at the Xcel Energy Center. In addition to serving as a resting place for competitors, the

lounge also played host to icenetwork and NBC backstage interviews, making the area's décor a focal point in broadcasts throughout the week.

Following the competition, furniture from the lounge, provided by Wayfair, was donated to the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ReStore, a home improvement outlet that sells items such as furniture and appliances for a fraction of the original cost, and all revenue supports Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's work: building, rehabbing and repairing homes for local families.

This year, proceeds from the Twin Cities ReStore will sponsor the construction of four homes for low-income Twin Cities families. Wayfair has served as a national partner of Habitat for Humanity since 2011, contributing more than \$600,000 to help families build stability, security and self-reliance through affordable housing.



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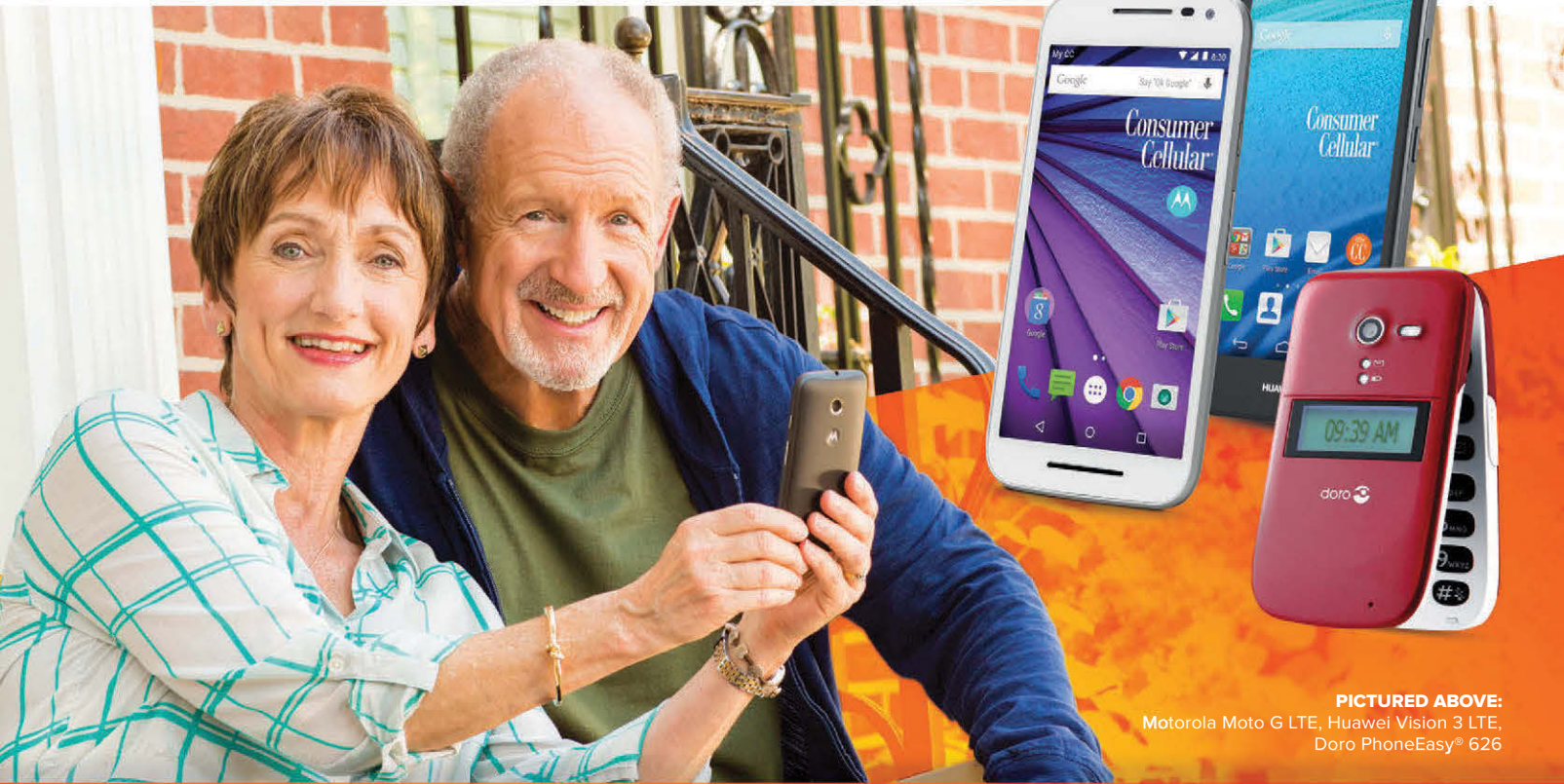


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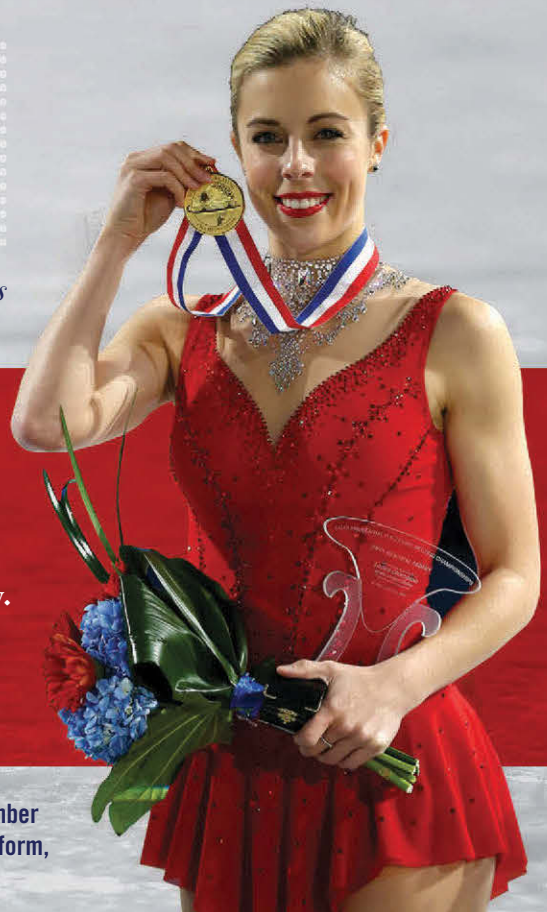
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— Ashley Wagner, 2015 U.S. champion



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Clutch performers

Skaters rise to the occasion in Saint Paul

Gracie Gold delivers a powerful and elegant free skate to an enthusiastic crowd at the Xcel Energy Center.



Adam Rippon is overcome with emotion after vaulting into first place during the men's final.

PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

With national titles and World berths on the line, U.S. Figure Skating's finest senior competitors exceeded the challenge with technically sound, emotionally packed, crowd-pleasing performances at the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 15–24.

In the end, new champions were crowned in each discipline; three of them earned first-time U.S. titles.

Gracie Gold, who last year lost her title to three-time champion Ashley Wagner, came determined to earn back her crown. She delivered with a magnificent free skate routine to Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, which will be remembered as one of the event's finest moments.

Adam Rippon, who at age 26 was the most senior man in the field, put his stunning performance qualities on display during his Beatles medley free skate to earn his first senior-level gold medal. His California training mate, 16-year-old Nathan Chen, showed a glimpse of U.S. figure skating's future by landing two quads in the short program and four quads in his free skate to earn the bronze.

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani celebrate their first U.S. senior title with coaches Marina Zoueva and Massimo Scali

PHOTO BY HANNAH FOSIEN/GETTY IMAGES



Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea proved that they are a pairs team to be reckoned with, delivering two clean and impactful performances en route to their first title.

And Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, who have worked tirelessly for more than a decade honing their craft, captured their first U.S. championship ice dance crown thanks to two sterling performances.

The juvenile- through junior-level skaters also shone on the big stage. The Bloomington Ice Garden, about a 30-minute drive from the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, served as the ideal venue for the juvenile and intermediate competition, with three sheets of ice and the far side of the competition venue routinely filled with fans.

The novices and juniors showed that the future of U.S. figure skating is bright, with individual and team performances drawing rave reviews from fans and officials.

Chief referee Peggy Graham called the event a "huge success."

"The skating was fantastic, culminating with four electrifying championship events," Graham said. "The local organizing committee, led by Nancy Kaufmann and Michelle Schmidt, was incredible. They anticipated every need and provided an army of well-trained, Minnesota-nice volunteers. A special thank-you goes to Saint Paul and the Xcel Center for being extraordinary hosts of a very memorable Championships."

Skating fans flocked to U.S. Figure Skating's social media channels leading up to, during and after the event. More than 50,000 tweets used the #USChamps16 hashtag, reaching more than 16 million people.

During Saturday night's exciting ladies free skate, Gold and Wagner trended nationally on Twitter as fans watched with anticipation to see which rival would win the coveted ladies title.

In addition to Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, the U.S. Championships were featured on Snapchat Live for the first time, welcoming millions of followers across the United States.

Fans at home were watching, too. The ladies free

skate, broadcast live on NBC, had a whopping 23 percent ratings increase over the previous year. And icenetwork provided a top-notch second-screen experience, delivering on-demand and live coverage of all the events.

In the arena, fans enjoyed listening to the action on Skate Radios, given away at the door for a second-straight year by event title sponsor Prudential. Fans could listen to one of three channels: the live feed from icenetwork, NBC's broadcast, or a feed with several of the sport's leading technical specialists, experts and special guests.

The Xcel Energy Center, home to the 2008 U.S. Championships, and the city of Saint Paul were once again outstanding hosts.

"As an organization, Xcel Energy Center is committed to hosting national sporting events that showcase our facility as one of the best in the country and which provide significant economic impact to the city of Saint Paul," Xcel Energy Center Vice President and General Manager Jack Larson said. "We could not be more pleased with the week of competition. The ice was in perfect condition for the competitions, attendance was strong by local and national skating fans, and Saint Paul was able to showcase its top-notch hospitality to a national audience."

Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea share a special moment.

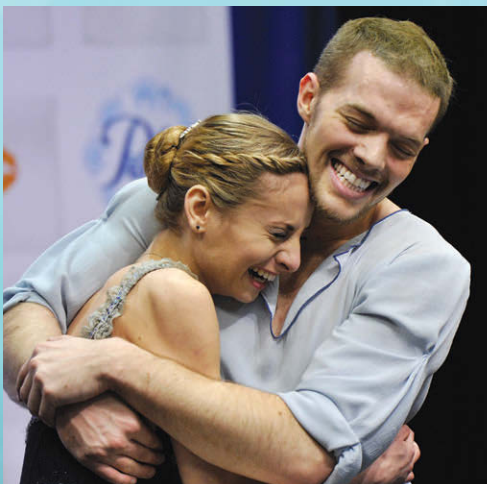


PHOTO BY HANNAH FOSIEN/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. WORLD TEAM SELECTIONS

At the conclusion of the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Figure Skating announced the athletes who will represent Team USA at the 2016 World Figure Skating Championships March 28–April 3 in Boston and the World Junior Figure Skating Championships March 14–20 in Debrecen, Hungary.

2016 U.S. WORLD TEAM

Ladies

Polina Edmunds
Gracie Gold
Ashley Wagner
Alternate 1 – Mirai Nagasu
Alternate 2 – Tyler Pierce
Alternate 3 – Hannah Miller

Men

Max Aaron
Nathan Chen
Adam Rippon
Alternate 1 – Grant Hochstein
Alternate 2 – Ross Miner
Alternate 3 – Alexander Johnson

Pairs

Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea
Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim
Alternate 1 – Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran
Alternate 2 – Madeline Aaron and Max Settlage
Alternate 3 – Jessica Calalang and Zack Sidhu

Ice dance

Madison Chock and Evan Bates
Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue
Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani
Alternate 1 – Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin McManus
Alternate 2 – Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker

2016 U.S. WORLD JUNIOR TEAM

Ladies

Tyler Pierce
Bradie Tennell
Alternate 1 – Emily Chan
Alternate 2 – Vivian Le
Alternate 3 – Megan Wessenberg

Men

Nathan Chen
Vincent Zhou
Alternate 1 – Tomoki Hiwatashi
Alternate 2 – Kevin Shum
Alternate 3 – Aleksei Krasnozhan

Pairs

Chelsea Liu and Brian Johnson
Joy Weinberg and Maximiliano Fernandez
Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon
Alternate 1 – Gabriella Marvaldi and Cody Dolkiewicz
Alternate 2 – Jacquelyn Green and Rique Newby-Estrella
Alternate 3 – Ai Setoyama and David-Alexandre Paradis

Ice dance

Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter
Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons
Elliana Pogrebinsky and Alex Benoit
Alternate 1 – Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko
Alternate 2 – Julia Biechler and Damian Dodge
Alternate 3 – Chloe Rose Lewis and Logan Bye

SENIOR LADIES

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

MEDALISTS

GOLD

Gracie Gold

SILVER

Polina Edmunds

BRONZE

Ashley Wagner

PEWTER

Mirai Nagasu

Good as gold

Stunning free skate solidifies Gold as two-time champ; Edmunds, Wagner grab silver, bronze

By Mimi McKinnis

Twenty-one skaters had already performed. She was eight points behind after the short program. She wore bold red lipstick and spectators could hear a pin drop in Saint Paul's Xcel Energy Center when Gracie Gold took her opening pose to close the senior ladies free skate at the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Three-time U.S. champion Ashley Wagner had left the door open after a fall in her short program and an uncharacteristic popped Lutz in her free skate, and 17-year-old Polina Edmunds had just turned in her second clean performance of the event. Two new champions had already been crowned in pairs and ice dance, and there was just one thought on everyone's mind as the music of Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird* began echoing through the arena — could Gold do enough to live up to her name?

"I knew she could do it," Gold's coach Frank

Carroll said. "I knew she could do it because I know how consistently and fabulously she's been skating. The short program was a little disappointing, because she's been doing that so well in practice, but I knew that if she did her best, she could win. She was behind by several points, so she had to make up quite a bit, but she was wonderful in the free skate and she did it easily."

Skating a spectacular free skate, which included seven triple jumps and no negative Grades of Execution, Gold (Wagon Wheel FSC) reclaimed her U.S. title, adding a second gold to the title she won in 2014. Her free skate score of 147.96 not only stands as Gold's personal best, but as the best ladies free skate score in U.S. history, en route to her total score of 210.46.

"I am just over the moon," Gold said. "I was so happy with how I skated. Obviously to win another U.S. title means so much to me, especially after last year; however, being second after the short program wasn't what I wanted. I knew that I had trained so hard for this competition and couldn't let anything go. I needed to be the best firebird I could be. I am really so happy, so thankful and so blessed."

Making the moment even more special, as she concluded her post-win interview from the Puffs kiss and cry, Gold was congratulated by her twin sister Carly, who qualified to compete at the U.S. Championships for the first time.

"I think this was an extra special nationals because not only did I get to share it with Carly, but we both got to compete and I took back the title, which was one of my main goals for this season," Gracie said. "After it was all over, I had asked my coaches, 'Where's Carly?' but it's such a whirlwind after you win that I wasn't really expecting

Carly Gold embraces Gracie after the dramatic event.



Gold puts herself into title contention with her short program to "El Choclo."

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

SENIOR LADIES

JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Gold performs to rousing applause during her event-best free skate to Stravinsky's *The Firebird*.

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SENIOR LADIES

to see anyone between NBC swooping in, the award ceremony, the interviews and it being so late at night. But then I saw Carly and I was so happy. It was such a blur, but it was a blur of great things.”

“I was in the stands watching the free skate with our parents, so as soon as the scores came up and they said she had won, I knew I had to find her and give her the biggest hug,” Carly said. “I ran as fast as I could. I went down the elevators backstage and they told me she was in the kiss and cry, so everyone led me out by the ice. As soon as I made eye contact with her, I dissolved into a puddle of tears. I told her ‘You did it!’ If I thought about this championships and how everything would go, this is exactly how I would have wanted it. It was an amazing experience to watch her take home her second title.”

Edmunds (Peninsula SC), the 2013 U.S. junior champion who made her senior international debut at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, proved she deserved to be included in the conversations about contenders in Saint Paul. Where both Gold and Wagner faltered in the short program, Edmunds turned in a steady performance to Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata,” putting her

Polina Edmunds



in first place at the U.S. Championships for the first time in the senior ranks. Completing an equally solid free skate, Edmunds finished as the only ladies medalist to execute two perfect performances, which ultimately earned her the silver medal, matching her highest U.S. finish, first earned in 2014.

“I think that’s what every competitor needs to do at nationals if they want to make the podium,” said Edmunds, a senior at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, California. “I’m very glad to have shown that example and I think I can be a champion skater with that kind of mentality. When I got to Saint Paul, there was a bunch of hype, but I knew that if I put out two clean performances, that’s what would be in my best interest to make the international teams. I know that I’m consistent and I’m strong mentally, so I knew that doing what I was able to do on the ice would break through the hype and prove myself as a potential champion.”

Edmunds, who trains under the direction of David Glynn, set personal-best scores across the board, earning a total score of 207.51.

Wagner (SC of Wilmington), although crowned ladies champion in 2012, ’13 and ’15, entered the free skate in fourth place, a position she hadn’t experienced since 2014. Revising her free skate from last season to music from *Moulin Rouge!*, Wagner rallied for her fifth career top-three finish in the senior events at the U.S. Championships, taking the bronze with 197.88 points. Although she popped a triple Lutz into a single, an unusual mistake for the three-time Grand Prix Final medalist, Wagner turned in an otherwise clean free skate.

“Anyone who knows me knows that my mistakes are two-footing or underrotation,” Wagner said. “I don’t pop jumps. The mistake caught me off guard. I was so excited for the program and then just didn’t think through the very end. The program was by far my best one yet and that shows that I’m still building and that this is a two-part game. I am a long program competitor.”

Though unable to defend her title, Wagner ultimately wasn’t disappointed to walk away with bronze, leaving with renewed confidence in coach Rafael Arutunian’s plan for improving her technical consistency and having accomplished her major goal for the week: earning a trip to the 2016 World Championships in Boston.

“Of course I would love to be the champion again, but at the same time, I’m a three-time U.S. champion and I think that that has staying power,” Wagner said. “Internationally, Gracie and I are the leading ladies, so I think that my main goal here was to get on the World Team. Mission accomplished, and I am moving on.”

“I’m really happy, honestly, with how I skated. On the outside looking in, it looks a little bit messy, but this year I am competing differently and I am committing so much more to my jumps. If I’m going to have a year that’s kind of messy, this is the year to have it. I’m happy with the way that I competed and I’m looking forward to Worlds.”

Mirai Nagasu fought through equipment issues to round out the U.S. podium in fourth place with 188.84 points. Nagasu (Pasadena FSC), who

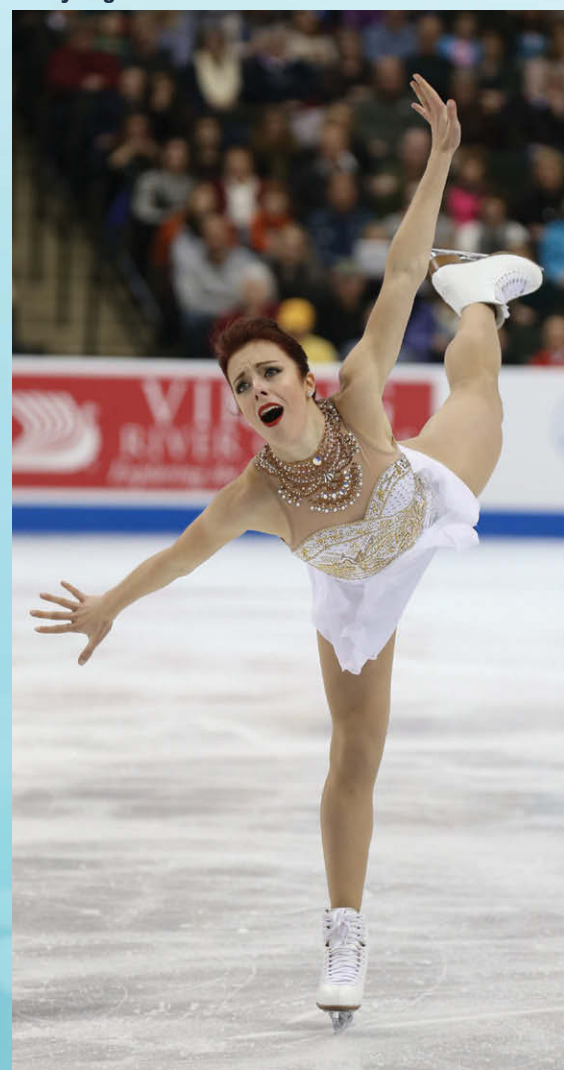
won the ladies title the last time the Championships were held in Saint Paul, in 2008, suffered a tear in her landing foot’s boot during her short program, leaving her in fifth place and unsure if she’d be able to continue.

“Halfway through [my program], my boot ripped, but I think I continued on to the best of my ability and hopefully it wasn’t noticed,” Nagasu said.

Ultimately, the on-site staff from Jackson Ultima worked through the night to repair Nagasu’s custom boot, doing their best to fix the rip while making arrangements to have a replacement boot and blade sent to Saint Paul, if needed. In the end, Nagasu’s boot was repaired in time to practice the next day, and she executed a sassy free skate to music from the soundtrack to *The Great Gatsby*, good for a personal-best free skate score of 129.20 points.

“This feeling that I get after I compete, whether it is bad or good, to be able to work up to this moment and to show everybody the hard work I’ve been doing, I still love that feeling,” Nagasu said. “Because of that, regardless of what people say about me, I still keep skating and for that I am so grateful to everyone who supports me.”

Ashley Wagner



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SENIOR MEN

(l-r) Max Aaron, Adam Rippon, Nathan Chen and Grant Hochstein

PHOTOS BY JAY ADERFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

MEDALISTS

GOLD

Adam Rippon

SILVER

Max Aaron

BRONZE

Nathan Chen

PEWTER

Grant Hochstein



‘Eight years is the charm’

Rippon re-creates magic in Saint Paul; Aaron, Chen finish on podium

By Amy Rosewater

When Adam Rippon last competed in Saint Paul, Minnesota, he won the 2008 U.S. junior crown. He was just 18 and could not have imagined then that it would take him eight years to win another U.S. title. Nor could he have envisioned that he would do so in the same arena.

Yet eight years after claiming the U.S. junior title, Rippon (The SC of New York) again reached the top of the podium, claiming his first U.S. senior title at the 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Saint Paul.

“Eight years is the charm,” a smiling Rippon told NBC’s Andrea Joyce. “Isn’t that the saying?”

For Rippon, it was worth the wait. He has had a difficult journey back to the top, changing everything from his coaches to the country he lives in. He missed out on a chance to compete in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, contemplated retirement and made the bold decision to publicly announce his sexual orientation as gay.

So when Rippon, at age 26, finished his free skate in the Xcel Energy Center to roaring applause, he had the emotions of his long travels back to Saint Paul running through his mind. He had come close to winning the title twice before, settling for silver in 2012 and in 2015.

“To be sitting here eight years after I won my junior title, I can only say that it has been a really long road filled with ups and downs,” said Rippon, who burst into tears when his winning scores were announced.

“Winning a national title was important to me,” he said. “It’s been a dream of mine ever since I started skating. I wanted to show the best I could do today, and I’m 26. I think it

says you should never give up on yourself. Just because you can’t do one element that your competitors can do more proficiently than you, it doesn’t mean you should hang up your skates and give it up.”

The men’s competition was dramatic, and it was filled with discussion about artistry versus technical prowess, and about skating’s past, present and future. Quads versus no quads. Rippon became the champion without landing a clean quad, while the silver and bronze medalists each landed quads.

Rippon, third after the short program, vaulted to the title after a riveting performance to a medley of Beatles music. His programs were beautiful and full of creative style and artistic positions, but neither of them featured a clean quad. In his short program, he opted to perform a triple instead of a quad; in his free skate, he underrotated and fell on his opening quad Lutz.

Yet Rippon’s maturity and flair gave him the edge over Max Aaron, 23, and Nathan Chen, 16, who made history by becoming the first skater to land four quads in one program at the U.S. Championships. Aaron (Broadmoor SC) finished second with 269.55 points, and Chen (Salt Lake City FSC), who also entered the record books by landing two quads in his short program at these U.S. Championships, placed third with 266.93 points.

Rippon, who trains alongside Chen at the East-West Ice Palace in Artesia, California, under coach Rafael Arutunian, knew well what Chen had the potential to achieve. So Rippon focused his training to highlight what he does best — showcasing his style and artistry. It paid off as Rippon garnered 270.75 total points, 90.58 coming from free skate compo-

nents scores — the highest in the men’s field.

On the flip side, Chen garnered the highest total element score at the U.S. Championships with 100.24 points for his free skate. His long program, skated to “Symphony No. 3” by Camille Saint-Saens, featured a quad Salchow-double toe-double loop, a quad Salchow, a quad toe-double toe and a quad

Adam Rippon delivers an entertaining short program.



PHOTOS BY JAY ADERFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

SENIOR MEN

PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Rippon captures the crowd with his electric performance to a Beatles medley.

SENIOR MEN

toe. He fell on the triple Axel, the one nemesis in his otherwise explosive jumping arsenal.

"I see Nathan nail quads all the time," Rippon said. "If Nathan does four quads or if Max does five, I am not going to do six. I know that's not what's going to happen. The only thing I can do is make sure that I am aggressive on everything. I know that I am one of the best performers in the world, and I remember that, and I remember to spin for my life or my coach is going to kill me that I didn't get my levels or I didn't do something to the best of my ability."

Aaron, the leader after the short program and the skater many had predicted would win the title based in part on his victory at 2015 Skate America, had a strong technical showing and impressed with his artistic improvement, but it was not enough to win a second U.S. title. Even though Aaron nailed a quad Salchow-triple toe and a quad Salchow in his free skate, he turned a planned triple Salchow into a double and lost points on a footwork sequence.

"Today was a step in the right direction," said Aaron, who trains with coach Tom Zakrajsek in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "I fought through the performance. It wasn't what I trained. I'm glad I've stuck with my process and again came close to a clean performance. That triple Salchow — that was a tough one. That was a mistake on my part, and I think I could have performed the footwork a little better."

Zakrajsek credited choreographer Phillip Mills for the improvement in Aaron's overall performances.

"Phillip really has given him two great programs and he has a great belief in Max," Zakrajsek said. "What Max showed is that he has to go for every point. In his short program, he received positive [grades of execution] on everything."

Chen, however, was the talk of the event. Not since Tim Goebel, who landed three quads in

his free skate at the 2000 U.S. Championships in Cleveland, had a U.S. skater landed three quads in a program, let alone four. Chen's goal is to be mentioned in the same category as 2014 Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu, the Japanese skater who produced five quads at the 2015 ISU Grand Prix Final.

"This is an awesome step for me as a senior skater," said Chen, who made his senior debut at the 2015 U.S. Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he placed eighth. "Throughout the season, I've only been putting myself up as a junior skater and I'm glad that I was able to show off what I'm capable of as a senior skater."

"It's a huge honor to score that high," Chen added. "I was honestly not planning that going into the competition [to do four quads in his free skate]. After the short program, I figured I was totally capable of doing it, and I was ready to do it, so I decided that I should just go for it. I had nothing to lose at that point."

"I was so excited to see a young man do four quads, and I was so excited for the big step," Arutunian said. "And hopefully, the message would be sent to everybody that this is the future of U.S. figure skating."

"Maybe we should start to think [about] changing the rules, and if somebody puts out four quads, he must get [a bonus] on the second, and then another reward for the third, and then the fourth. That would be smart."

Well after the event ended, the drama continued. In addition to the discussion about quads and lack thereof, there was heated discussion about which skaters would be named to the World Team that will compete in Boston March 28–April 3. The international committee selected Rippon, Aaron and Chen to the U.S. World Team.

Jason Brown, the 2015 U.S. champion and the highest U.S. finisher at 2015 Worlds, with a fourth-place showing, did not compete in Saint Paul because of a strained back. Brown had filed for a petition to be considered for the World Team but the petition was denied.

As if that wasn't enough for one day, just a couple of hours after the men's free skate, Chen went onto the ice to perform his exhibition program. Less than 20 seconds into his routine to Aerosmith's "Dream On," Chen was visibly bothered on a triple toe loop and put his hand on his right hip. He stopped skating, came off the ice and soon found himself sitting in a wheelchair.

Three days later, on Jan. 27, Chen underwent hip surgery at UC San Diego Health. Although U.S. Figure Skating officials said he is expected to recover fully, his hopes of winning the World Junior title and competing at his first senior World Championships were dashed. He is expected to be sidelined for eight to 10 weeks.

Grant Hochstein, the pewter medalist, was named to the World Team in Chen's place. For Hochstein (The SC of New York), who had never finished higher than seventh in six previous trips to the U.S. Championships at the senior level, the chance to compete at Worlds is a huge step.

His free skate, performed to a medley of

music from *Les Misérables*, edited by his girlfriend and former U.S. competitor Caroline Zhang, brought the crowd in Saint Paul to its feet. It was a program that coach Peter Oppegard said "matured" Hochstein as a skater.

"I skated the program a little better at NHK, but nationals is such a difficult beast," said Hochstein, 25, who was high-fived by fans as he skated off the ice following his free skate. "I've always loved this program, and I really wanted it to reach a larger audience."

Now the U.S. men's contingent hopes to show the world that it can hold its own in Boston. The World Championships are being held on U.S. soil for the first time since 2009, when Evan Lysacek claimed the crown in Los Angeles. The following year, Lysacek went on to win the Olympic gold medal. Lysacek was in Saint Paul to be inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. His shadow, as the last U.S. men's World champion, loomed large.

But Rippon, with renewed enthusiasm for the sport and new confidence in his skating as the U.S. champion, is eager to lead the men's team into Boston.

"I feel that to make a well-rounded competition it takes all sorts of competitors," he said. "I feel that there is room for everybody. If everybody could skate like Yuzuru, then the competition would be boring. You have people who are great spinners, you have people who are great performers, you have people who are great jumpers. It's not just a one-trick competition. It's not a jump competition. It's not a choreography competition. And it's not a spin competition. It takes a little bit of everything."

As of now, Rippon is America's man of the hour. And if the future is anything like what the audience witnessed in Saint Paul, it's pretty bright, too.

Max Aaron



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Nathan Chen





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SENIOR PAIRS

(l-r) Alexa Scimeca/Chris Knierim, Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, Marissa Castelli/Mervin Tran, Madeline Aaron/Max Settlege

MEDALISTS

GOLD

Tarah Kayne/
Danny O'Shea

SILVER

Alexa Scimeca/
Christopher Knierim

BRONZE

Marissa Castelli/
Mervin Tran

PEWTER

Madeline Aaron/
Max Settlege



'They skated with heart'

Kayne, O'Shea win gold with record performance; Scimeca and Knierim claim silver, Castelli and Tran earn bronze

By Troy Schwandt

Minutes after winning the senior pairs title, Danny O'Shea jumped in an elevator at the Xcel Energy Center and headed up to the main level where his parents, Don and Judi, were sitting.

"How does it feel, champ?" his dad asked as the family embraced.

Tarah Kayne, his partner since 2012, called her mother, Lynn, in Florida, where she watched the event on NBC.

"Everyone was running around. I could barely hear her on the phone," Kayne said. "She was kind of like screaming."

The one person not there to share in this special moment was Kayne's father, Terry, who passed away from cancer a short time after the two made their U.S. Championships debut in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2013.

Doctors told him he was too ill to attend the Omaha event, but he was determined to watch his daughter skate one last time and made the trip to America's Heartland.

"I wish he could have watched me skate today," Kayne said. "I know he would have been really, really proud of me."

There's no doubt about that.

Kayne and O'Shea (Southwest Florida FSC), the 2015 U.S. bronze medalists, who train in Ellenton, Florida, put together two performances that were emotionally packed, technically sound and the best that they had produced all season.

Their free skate to "The Music of The Night"

from *The Phantom of the Opera* was performed with unbridled passion, speed and unison. The segment score of 142.04 and overall total of 211.65 were U.S. qualifying score records.

"I felt really confident throughout the whole program," Kayne, 22, said of the free skate. "Once I landed my first jump and I fell really deep into my knees, I just felt confident. The rest of the program didn't have much thought, which is a good thing."

Their free skate scoresheet included all positive grades of execution (GOEs) for the 12 elements. They landed their side-by-side triple Salchows, the two throw triples were rock-solid and the lifts were dynamic, with compelling entries and exits.

The team's event-best program components were equally impressive, with a range of 8.54 to 9.18.

"Our coach [Jim Peterson] always says this program fits us like a well-worn glove, so we go out and do what feels comfortable," Kayne said.

Kayne and O'Shea's beautifully skated and flawless performance of their brand new short program — to "Take Me To Church" by Irish singer-songwriter Hozier — set the tone for the magic that followed.

They nailed all of their elements, receiving positive GOEs across the board, while skating with raw emotion and power. Their personal-best score of 69.61 points gave them a 2.26-point lead over defending champions

Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea display passion in their new soulful short program to "Take Me to Church."

PHOTOS BY AJAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



SENIOR PAIRS

PHOTO BY HANNAH FOSLIE/GETTY IMAGES

Kayne and O'Shea land their side-by-side triple jumps en route to their first title.



SENIOR PAIRS

Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim heading into the free skate.

Changing their short program music just six weeks out from the U.S. Championships was something they felt needed to happen after receiving lukewarm component marks during the Grand Prix season.

"There was nothing wrong with our short program," Kayne said. "No official or judge told us that we needed to change it. We just felt there was something off about it. It felt forced and I wasn't able to skate it how I wanted to skate it, and I wasn't excited."

Telling Peterson about their feelings was a little uncomfortable, she admitted.

"He knew there was something up," Kayne said. "He looked at me and was like, 'What do you want to say that you are not saying?' I said this program isn't working for us and I feel we should maybe look into other options. He was like, 'I will look at other options, but I can't promise you anything.'"

The day after the team returned from competing in Zagreb, Croatia, on Dec. 8, Peterson had a couple of pieces of music cut for them.

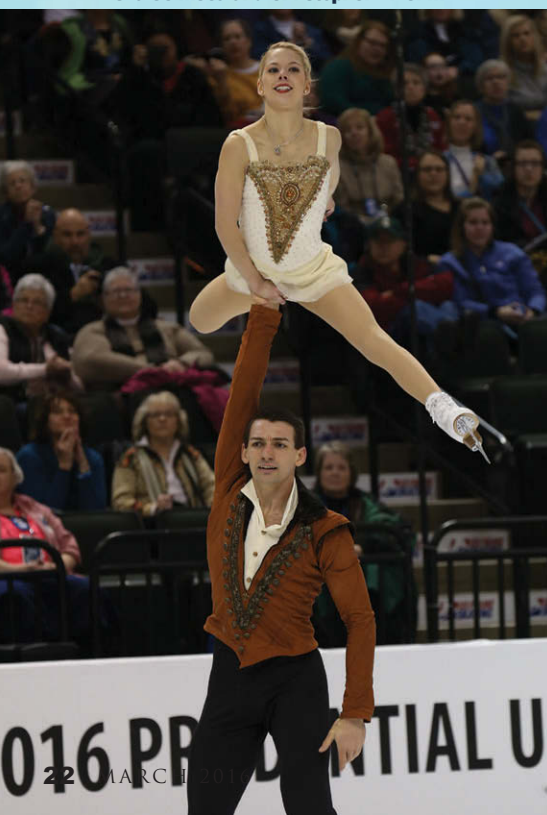
"Everyone was in agreement on what it was going to be when we all heard it," O'Shea, 24, said. "We took that day off and the next day we went back to work. The program really came together quickly, like four days. It's the quickest program we've ever done."

The team's conviction to change music, Peterson said, is something to be respected.

"They are the two most important people," Peterson said of making a musical choice. "If they believe it, understand it and love it, they'll convince everyone else with their skating."

The team's victory comes a year after Kayne returned late in the season following hip surgery to win the bronze medal.

Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim



"Because of the hip surgery, we all really had to learn patience," Peterson said. "It has literally taken us 18 months. I am so proud of them. Beyond skating well, they skated with heart."

The victory earned Kayne and O'Shea their first Worlds berth.

"That was the goal this season; make it to Worlds," O'Shea said. "I'd like to be part of earning three U.S. slots at Worlds. That would be something special to be part of. It's going to be tough, because the field is very stacked. We are going to keep pushing. It's not a time to rest on your laurels."

Kayne and O'Shea's title gave Peterson's "Team Florida" the pairs hat trick, with titles coming at the novice, junior and senior levels. Since 2009, Peterson has had a top-three team on the U.S. podium every year, with three of those teams earning Olympic berths.

So what's the key to his success?

"A lot of physical preparation," he said. "I think we have a very strong team. We support each other. We have a lot of simulated competitions and a supportive community that comes and watches them, so they feel almost weekly that they are giving a little competition. We have a great staff that looks at the entire package."

Peterson also credited his work with famed Russian pairs coach Tamara Moskvina for three days last summer.

"We looked at the finite details," Peterson said. "I love being taught by a master like Moskvina. She's been in my head the whole year."

Scimeca (DuPage FSC) and Knierim (Broadmoor SC) arrived in Saint Paul with Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the favorites to repeat, with a towering quad twist and a Grand Prix Final berth on their side.

Their hard-edged short program to Metallica's "Nothing Else Matters" had been golden for the duo, who plan to marry in June. But things simply didn't click for them, with Knierim falling on a triple Salchow and Scimeca experiencing a wardrobe malfunction during their normally reliable triple twist.

"It's a bit of a bummer," Scimeca, 24, said. "We felt really prepared. We actually felt really good out there. We just got off the ice and really wanted to get back out there and do it the way we can. We're accepting of it, because we want to do it lights out at the World Championships."

On the triple twist, Scimeca provided the details of the mishap.

"When he caught me, my dress fell down, and I think I flashed the audience," Scimeca said. "So, it really startled me when he went to catch me, because I could feel in the air my breast was out. I don't know if you could see it, because I was rotating, but it really distracted me."

Their free skate to music from *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* was much improved over their performance at the Grand Prix Final, but it still contained a couple of errors — a fall on the jump combination and a hand down on the landing of a throw triple Lutz.

"It's still not up to where it needs to be or can be," Knierim, 28, said. "Hopefully we can step it up at Worlds."

Scimeca and Knierim finished with 196.80

points and the silver medal. They scored 210.49 points in winning the title last year in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Knierim said they didn't feel any additional pressure because they were defending their title.

"I think last year was harder for me," he said. "This year we came in at a little bit of a low since the Grand Prix Final, but getting the experience there was great and just wanting to improve from that. We had a shot at regaining another title, but we opened a door for other teams to take advantage in both the short and long and they just waltzed right through it. We're happy and disappointed at the same time."

Capturing the bronze medal with 179.04 points, Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran, both 25, continue to build a foundation.

They placed third in both the short program and free skate, bettering the overall score from their rookie year together at the U.S. Championships by 10 points.

In their free skate to a Journey medley, Castelli and Tran (The SC of Boston) got the audience charged up, but a couple of mistakes after the midpoint of the program impacted the outcome. Tran fell on a jump and Castelli fell on a throw triple Salchow.

"It wasn't exactly what we wanted today, but I definitely think we fought through the whole program," Castelli said. "We had an uncharacteristic mistake on our throw, but you know what? We are technically still babies. This is our second year together, so we are still growing. We are competing against two teams that have been together for a while, so we are really happy with where we are and what we are able to put out there."

Madeline Aaron (Coyotes SC of Arizona) and Max Settlege (Broadmoor SC) repeated as pewter medalists with 157.81 points. It was a strong accomplishment for the veteran team, with Settlege out for most of the fall with a back injury.

Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran



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SENIOR ICE DANCE

(l-r) Madison Chock/Evan Bates, Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

MEDALISTS

gold

Maia Shibutani/
Alex Shibutani

silver

Madison Chock/
Evan Bates

bronze

Madison Hubbell/
Zach Donohue

pewter

Anastasia Cannuscio/
Colin McManus



At long last, Shibutanis are golden

Chock and Bates, Hubbell and Donohue also headed to Worlds

By Lynn Rutherford

For Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, the realization didn't sink in all at once.

"For us, it kind of came in waves," Maia said.

They felt something special happening during the final 90 seconds of their free skate to Coldplay's "Fix You" when a flawless twizzle series, followed by a dazzling rotational lift, set the Saint Paul crowd cheering. The feeling likely grew as they began building speed for their closing step sequence, pouring a dozen years of shared triumph and disappointment into each movement. When they ended, exactly on the music's final note and perfectly together, they knew they had given it all they had.

"I think we were very ready for that moment to happen," Alex said.

In the kiss and cry, when a monster 115.47-point score popped up, Alex was first to react, throwing his arms up in joy a split second before embracing Maia. After 12 seasons of competition and five consecutive senior-level medals (2011–2015), they had won the U.S. title with a total score of 190.14 points, defeating defending champions Madison Chock and Evan Bates by 3.21 points.

"Both of us knew 100 percent as soon as we finished our performance that we had done our very best for that day," Maia, who like her brother represents The SC of New York, said. "I know we can perform even stronger as we go along in the season, but it was just a



Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani entertain the crowd with their short dance to selections from the comedic ballet Coppélia.

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

SENIOR ICE DANCE

HANNAH FOSLEN/GETTY IMAGES

The Shibutanis clinch their first senior title with their event-best free dance to Coldplay's "Fix You."



SENIOR ICE DANCE

very special moment.”

More waves of recognition soon arrived, from family, friends and many of the people who helped them along the way.

“That first 24 hours was the largest barrage of texts and email I’ve received in my life,” Alex said. “People all over the skating world reached out to us: friends we grew up with, who compete for other countries; people we’ve met more recently. This is a special community that we’re a part of, and they all sort of witnessed us go through a lot of different things.

“It’s a very special feeling,” he added, and then laughed. “I feel like I’m saying *special* a lot.”

The siblings’ first national medal came in 2005, when they took silver in the juvenile division. Since then, they’ve won gold at every level: intermediate (2006), novice (2007), junior (2010) and now senior.

Thus far, their international career has been a success by any measure, with three appearances at the Grand Prix Final, two medals at the Four Continents Championships and the 2011 World bronze medal. Still, there have been speed bumps: a pair of eighth-place World finishes (2012, 2013); not always getting marks they wanted.

“Our career has been a little bit different from a traditional trajectory of progress,” Alex said. “That may have been challenging for us to deal with a few years ago, but we’ve kind of come through that difficult point, that difficult period, and it’s really going to pay off in the next couple of years.”

Marina Zoueva, who has coached the sib-

lings in Canton, Michigan, since 2007, knows better than anyone the dedication and love of skating that has fueled the Shibutanis’ climb.

“They won World bronze right after juniors, then fell down to eighth place and couldn’t get up close to the third spot,” Zoueva said. “But they still worked, they still believed, they still dug energy from their bodies. It is a difficult road to touch judges’ hearts (but) they worked to get better, better, better and finally they did it.”

In Saint Paul, Maia and Alex’s charming short dance, set to Delibes’ comic ballet *Coppélia*, gained 74.67 points, just .47 point less than Chock and Bates’ elegant ballroom routine. That set the stage for “Fix You,” choreographed by five-time U.S. ice dance champion Peter Tchernyshev in a fresh, contemporary style, with emphasis on flowing movements and organic expression.

“We are putting more of ourselves into our skating, and that’s something that comes with time and experience,” Maia said. “We have really figured out what our identity is.”

The Shibutanis gained Level 4 for all five elements in their short dance, and all seven elements in their free dance.

“That was exciting, because notably earlier this season we had struggled to see some of the levels we were hoping for,” Alex said. “We were confident in our technique, but they just weren’t showing up on the page at the competitions, so it was validating to see those marks.”

It took every one of those Level 4s to defeat Chock (All Year FSC) and Bates (Ann Arbor FSC). After changing their short dance a few weeks before Skate America, and revamping portions of their free dance to Rachmaninoff’s “Piano Concerto No. 2” prior to the Grand Prix Final, the couple arrived in Saint Paul feeling confident and energized.

“After the Grand Prix Final, we took a break, a couple of weeks off, and came back rejuvenated,” Bates said. “We knew we pushed really hard to survive our Grand Prix events. We came to nationals relieved, knowing we had our programs set for more than a few weeks, which was not the case for our Grand Prix.”

The Novi, Michigan, team glided through a waltz and foxtrot medley in their short dance and created new depths of feeling and drama in their free dance. But a small bobble dropped their free dance spin to a Level 2, and their diagonal steps earned Level 3. That was just enough to yield the title to their longtime rivals.

“This has been our best week so far in terms of putting out two of our best skates,” Bates said. “This free dance, in particular, has been the most challenging thing we’ve ever done and it’s taken us up to this point to feel as comfortable as we are with it, and still we have until the end of March to improve it (for the World Championships).”

“We’re very proud of how we skated today and this has been the best we’ve competed this season so far,” Chock said after the free dance. “We definitely still have room to improve and we will improve going into Worlds.”

Madison Hubbell (Lansing SC) and Zachary Donohue (Lansing SC) had put power and

passion on ice with both their short dance to k.d. lang’s “Hallelujah” and free dance to Daft Punk’s “Adagio for Tron.” They won their third bronze medal with 178.81 points.

A coaching change from Detroit Skating Club, to Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon in Montreal, Quebec, is paying dividends for the tall, charismatic couple, whose chemistry is shown to great advantage in Dubreuil’s choreography.

“We’re trying to create a moment that’s not a program, that’s not an element, that’s not anything technical or component-based,” Donohue said after the free dance. “It’s just a moment to take everyone in and make them feel something, and I think we got a glimpse of that today.”

“I think we feel the most confident we’ve ever felt in how we can control our performance every time, our consistency, and it’s a great feeling,” Hubbell said. “I think we’re in the right place to reach all of our dreams.”

Anastasia Cannuscio (University of Delaware FSC) and Colin McManus (SC of Boston) skated career-best programs to place fourth with 160.46 points, their best finish in five trips as seniors to the U.S. Championships.

“We feel so validated,” McManus said after the free dance. “We’ve just been in Delaware kind of trucking along, doing our own thing. I think that ends up working out better for us sometimes, because we just stay so focused on ourselves and making ourselves better every day. This weekend is kind of a testament to that work ethic. We couldn’t be happier.”

Madison Chock and Evan Bates



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue



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NOTEBOOK



Olympian Zhang enjoying coaching role

By Troy Schwandt

2014 Olympic pairs skater Felicia Zhang was on the other side of the boards in Saint Paul, helping coach the senior pairs team of Elizaveta Usmanseva and Matej Silecky.

Zhang and her former partner Nathan Bartholomay finished 12th in Sochi, Russia. After those Games, she decided to retire from competitive skating and pursue her education. Zhang is a junior at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, where she's pursuing a degree in exercise science.

"It's great to be back," she said. "I was in

Saint Paul when I was a novice skater. Everything is familiar, but I'm not tying up my skates anymore."

Zhang assisted head coach Daniel Raad in Saint Paul.

After earning her degree, she would like to use her professional skills as a physical therapist in her coaching role.

In Saint Paul, she reunited with her coaches Jim Peterson and Lyndon Johnston, as well as with 2010 Olympic pairs skater and coach Amanda Evora.

It was a Florida reunion of sorts in Saint Paul, with Felicia Zhang, Daniel Raad, Jim Peterson, Amanda Evora and Lyndon Johnston spending some time together between sessions.



Yamaguchi, Edmunds make San Jose connection

By Lynn Rutherford

Kristi Yamaguchi remembers when fellow San Jose, California, native Polina Edmunds performed as Tinker Bell between periods of an NHL San Jose Sharks game.

"She was a tiny little skater," Yamaguchi said. "To watch her win the short program in Saint Paul, to see the growth in maturity even just from last year's nationals, was incredible."

In 2014, Edmunds performed in Yamaguchi's Golden Moment show, held to benefit the 1992 Olympic champion's Always Dream Foundation that promotes early childhood literacy. So Yamaguchi was doubly thrilled when Edmunds offered to stage a group number at another Always Dream event, held Jan. 31 at San Jose's seasonal outdoor rink.

"I'm doing a book reading (of *Dream Big, Little Pig*) and we had word Polina wanted to bring a group of skaters," Yamaguchi said. "I said, 'Oh my gosh, of course!'"

Edmunds created a Disney group number for the annual holiday show at her San Jose rink, Shark Ice, featuring 20 skaters under age 13. The group reprised its routine at Yamaguchi's event.

"I gave them 30 seconds to do their own solos, and then I wove it all together and created a group ending," Edmunds said. "All the skaters worked hard. Performing it for Kristi is such a reward."



Secondhand sparkles

By Mimi McKinnis

When Mariah Bell came to the 2016 U.S. Championships, she was missing two members of her usual support system — training mates from Kori Ade's camp in Monument, Colorado, Jason Brown and Jordan Moeller — who both withdrew from the senior men's event due to injury.

When she took the ice, however, she had a piece of both friends with her, taking a rhinestone from each of their costumes and adding them to both her short program and free skate dresses.

"My mom actually came up with the idea," Bell said. "I asked them if they'd be willing and they each gave me a stone from their costumes. I feel like they're here with me this way. It's a cool little way they can be here."

Bell placed 11th in the senior ladies event with 160.03 points.

The 2016 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships were a homecoming for choreographer Rohene Ward. The Minnesota native, who trained with coach Page Lipe in the state for 18 years, returned to the Land of 10,000 Lakes for these U.S. Championships as a choreographer. Ward now works with skaters at his home base in Monument, Colorado, most notably crafting Jason Brown's programs.

Ward was rinkside in Saint Paul, as opposed to the last time the U.S. Championships were held in the city back in 2008 when he was a competitor. The 2008 nationals in Saint Paul marked Ward's fourth and final trip to the U.S. Championships.

"I had lots of family come to these nationals," Ward said. "Aunts and uncles came and my cousin, Julie Gartrell, is a freelance makeup artist for MAC, and she did makeup for my skaters."

Ward was in town for about a week and a half, and extended his time there; he stayed at his sister's home for a couple of days after the U.S. Championships ended. He also went out to Parade Ice Garden, where Lipe still guides skaters. And he hit all of his favorite hangouts, namely Kincaid's, Red Dragon and Ruth's Chris restaurants.

"It was good to be back but it was very different," Ward said. "It was much more relaxed this time."



Homecoming for Rohene

By Amy Rosewater

NOTEBOOK

Home sweet home

By Michael Terry

Alexander Johnson came home to compete. Johnson, who was born in Minneapolis and left in 2010 to train in Colorado Springs, Colorado, finished sixth overall after a seventh-place short program and fifth-place free skate. It was his best finish ever in the senior division, where he was making his sixth appearance.

Johnson estimates he had about 40 family and friends in the stands, but he recognized plenty of others he had skated with over the years in Minnesota.

"When I first took the ice, I didn't really know what to expect," Johnson said. "I didn't know if people would be super loud because I was a hometown kid or if they'd be a little quieter. The energy was amazing though. I felt great even though I was scared I might feel a little more pressure. Everyone was so supportive."

And they were supportive on and off the ice. Johnson said that he still treated the experience like a business trip and remained focused and kept his off-ice activities to a minimum.



HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES



Fuji TV interviews U.S. greats

By Barb Reichert

Fuji Television Network of Japan was in Saint Paul interviewing competitors and the biggest names in U.S. figure skating for its supplemental coverage of the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships.

In addition to speaking with athletes who will compete in Boston, Fuji TV plans a feature on how the U.S. rebuilt its figure skating program after the crash of Sabena Flight 548 that claimed the lives of the entire 1961 U.S. World Team.

With an interpreter in tow, the Japanese-language network sat down for in-depth interviews with Olympic champions Dorothy Hamill and Kristi Yamaguchi and Olympic champion coach Frank Carroll.

Carroll shared memories of his coach, nine-time U.S. ladies champion Maribel Vinson Owen, who died when the plane crashed in Brussels, Belgium. Carroll, a U.S. and World hall-of-famer best known for coaching such American greats as Michelle Kwan, Evan Lysacek and currently 2016 U.S. ladies champion Gracie Gold, told Fuji that Owen had a profound influence on his approach to coaching.

Hamill, the 1976 Olympic champion, reflected on her career and her admiration of two-time World champion Janet Lynn, who won the 1972 Olympic bronze medal. Yamaguchi spoke of the strength and inspiration of the American program.

Fuji Television is a broadcasting rightsholder for the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships, which will be competed in Boston March 28–April 3.

Chen x 2

By Amy Rosewater

Karen and Jeffrey Chen

The 2016 U.S. Figure Skating Championships were a busy time for the Chen family. Early in the event, Jeffrey Chen and his ice dance partner, Layla Karnes, won the juvenile dance title in Bloomington, Minnesota, about a 30-minute drive from Saint Paul. Later, Chen's older sister, Karen, the 2015 U.S. bronze medalist, competed in the senior ladies event. Karen placed eighth, but was excited about her brother's title.

"I was thrilled for him," Karen said. "He just started ice dancing six or seven months ago. I had tried to help him with his jumps and suggested ice dance. At first, he didn't want to try it but now he has fallen in love with it."

The switch to ice dance has meant their mother has been spending a lot of time at various rinks in Southern California. Karen's home base is in Riverside, and Jeffrey trains about 40 minutes away.

"My mom is driving to the rink at 5 a.m. with him and then she comes back and gets me. Sometimes the traffic is just terrible," Karen said. "But it's been good. They've (Layla and Jeff) trained really hard. They worked their butts off and now they won."

In conjunction with Visit Saint Paul, U.S. Figure Skating celebrated the first Taste of the Championships during the nine days of the 2016 U.S. Championships. Olympic champion and celebrity chef Brian Boitano, along with several celebrity judges, took a foodie tour to nine restaurants around downtown Saint Paul to sample local fare. The menu items, which were judged on flavor, creativity and nutritional value, were inspired by the U.S. Championships and featured figure skating-related monikers.

Boitano and fellow judges, including Kristi Yamaguchi, Meryl Davis, Michael Weiss, Caryn Kadavy, Brent Bommentre, in-arena host Rusty Kath and others, selected the winners as follows: Pazzaluna for its Triple Jump Bell Pepper Risotto (flavor), Kincaid's for the Signature Move Seared Ahi (creativity) and Rival House for its Season's Best Citrus Broiled Salmon (nutritional value).

Simply delicious

By Renee Felton



A figure skating cast of (l-r) Brent Bommentre, Brian Boitano, Rusty Kath, Caryn Kadavy, Michael Weiss and Michael Buckley sample the tasty dishes at Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub.



Internet celebrity Michael Buckley keeps things light and fun while interviewing Olympic ice dance champion Charlie White in the Wayfair Lounge.



Hershberger Award

U.S. junior men's champion Tomoki Hiwatashi received the Ron and Gayle Hershberger Award. Hiwatashi is the sixth recipient of the Hershberger Award, which was created from the Ron and Gayle Hershberger Fund. The fund was established through gifts made in tribute to Ron's long-term service to U.S. Figure Skating and to Gayle's support of her husband. Winners are chosen based on the combined total of their short program and free skate component marks at the U.S. Championships. The award rotates among the four disciplines. Hershberger served as U.S. Figure Skating president from 2005 to 2009. He also sat on the board of directors from 1990 to 2010. He and Gayle presented the award in Saint Paul. For more information on available scholarships and awards through U.S. Figure Skating, visit www.usfigureskating.org/funding.



Left, Sharon Cohen (center), founder and executive director of Figure Skating in Harlem, and FSH Program Director Darline Lalanne (right), receive the Prudential Skating Fund Building Block Award in Saint Paul from Prudential's Peggy Grundt. FSH plans to use the money to open a new chapter in the Detroit area, which will mirror the educational and skating program in Harlem. "We want to impact as many young people as possible," Cohen said. "We want to bring them into the sport of figure skating and create new opportunities for them." Olympic champion Meryl Davis and Jerod Swallow from the Detroit Skating Club have helped make this project a reality, she said. Right, Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club's Mary Johanson (right) receives the Prudential Skating Fund Enrichment Award of \$10,000 from Prudential's Linda Brnicevic. The money will be used for the club's National Skating Month (NSM) event, as well as the purchase of equipment to accommodate its special-needs athletes. The club's NSM event took place in late January. "We want to bring the community in to show the diversity of our special-needs athletes," Johanson said. "We have our Special Olympics sendoff exhibition and our national Hockette teams coming to skate." The club also wants to use the money to purchase walkers and other specific physical therapy equipment in order to work with skaters who face extensive physical challenges.

Members of clubs representing the Twin City Figure Skating Association perform in the opening ceremony. The Minnesota winter skating-themed program was choreographed by Minnesota native Rohene Ward and produced by Barb Yackel and Rose Esteb.



Disbrow Award

Kathy Slack, who has tirelessly supported U.S. Figure Skating from the local level to the Olympic Winter Games, is presented with the 14th annual Disbrow Award during a competition break. Slack, known for her warmth, enthusiasm and compassion, has held several committee appointments, served as a judge and official at many national championships, and has been the team leader for international competitions, including the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia. She continues to advocate for grassroots skating programs and mentor young judges and skaters. Established in 2003, the Jimmy Disbrow Award has recognized members of the figure skating community who exhibit a passionate spirit of dedication, selflessness and volunteerism, just as the late Jimmy Disbrow did throughout his life in the sport. Jimmy's wife, Dede, presented the award.

EXTRAS

Skating greats honor 'Tommy' Collins

PHOTO BY JOE LENKE



Readers' Choice Award

SKATING magazine Editor Troy Schwindt presented the Michelle Kwan Trophy to Readers' Choice Award winners Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim during a break at the Smucker's Skating Spectacular.



(l-r) Dorothy Hamill, Tom Collins, Michelle Kwan and Christine Brennan pose for a star-studded selfie, taken by none other than Brian Boitano.

It was a true who's who of U.S. figure skating elite, all gathered in one room to honor one man: Tom Collins.

Collins, the skating impresario whose Tom Collins Enterprises produced decades of top-quality skating shows, was the honored guest at the annual Alumni Association Reception, which also recognized the 40th anniversary of the 1976 Olympic Team.

Hosted by Alumni Committee Chair Brian Boitano and Linda Leaver, Collins was surrounded by friends, family and more Olympic and World medals than you could count. To even attempt to name-drop would do a disservice to those who packed a large bar inside the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul.

But even with such star power in the room, the brightest star was a man everyone calls "Tommy."

Taking the lectern to praise/roast Collins were Boitano, Scott Hamilton, *USA Today* columnist Christine Brennan, Dorothy Hamill, Michelle Kwan and Collins' longtime executive assistant, Sandy Reed. Each shared stories of his generosity, and thanked Collins for a lifetime of memories while touring with his shows.

When it was Collins' turn to speak, the lively crowd grew quiet as they hung on every word. Nods and winks were shared among the stars as Collins gave a brief history of his life and openly thanked all who made *Champions on Ice* one of America's most beloved skating shows.

U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier and Executive Director David Raith presented Collins with a trophy of appreciation. The Minnesota Wild presented Collins, a Twin Cities resident, with a personalized jersey.



Colledge Awards

Haley Beavers and Eric Sjoberg, the novice singles champions, received the Cecilia Colledge Memorial Fund Award. The Colledge Award is presented annually to the novice lady and novice man who achieve the highest combined program components score of the U.S Championships. The award was established by Ms. Colledge's estate following her death in 2008. She enjoyed a successful skating career, winning the silver medal at the 1936 Olympic Winter Games and the 1937 World title while representing Great Britain. She relocated in 1952 and joined The Skating Club of Boston's coaching staff, where she taught until 1977. Gloria Minor, board member of The Skating Club of Boston, presented Beavers and Sjoberg with an award certificate.

Scholastic Honors Team

Members of the Scholastic Honors Team were honored following the senior pairs competition on Jan. 23. Ten outstanding student-athletes were recognized for their efforts in the classroom, in their communities and as competitive figure skaters. They received scholarships and U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team letter jackets. The program is funded through the generosity of the Pioneer Fund, the legacy of the late Helen McLoraine. Pictured are (l-r) Olivia Yao, Cindy Yang, Harrison Wong, Amber Wolf, Benjamin Shou and Kelvin Li. Not pictured are Ariel Hannum, Caroline Leadmon, Layne Williams and Amanda Zhou. U.S. Figure Skating President Samuel Auxier and National Vice Chair of Scholastic Honors Jonathan Geen presented the awards.





Trial judging a 'stringent' process

By Colette House

At the U.S. Championships, 12 aspiring trial judges mock judged senior and junior events, hoping to receive recommendations for national judging appointments.

"It's a really stringent process and we do that because it's only fair to the skaters," said Karen Terry Perreault, vice president of JETS, U.S. Figure Skating's Judges Education and Training Subcommittee. "That's our job, just to make sure they judge them fairly."

U.S. Championships week keeps volunteer trial judges busy. They attend pre- and post-event meetings, trial singles, pairs or ice dance, and take an element identification exam.

"We evaluate their knowledge of the skating elements," Perreault, who oversaw trial judging in Saint Paul, said. "We evaluate their knowledge of how to assess the quality of all of the elements, the Grades of Execution [GOEs] and also their knowledge of the components and how they arrive at the components."



John Coughlin, Ryan Bradley, Brian Boitano and Tanith White provide expert analysis of the U.S. Championships on the Ice Desk.

Trial judges have significant experience prior to the U.S. Championships, having first judged on the regional and sectional levels. It's recommended they become national judges if their skill levels prove adequate during the U.S. Championships.

Once recommended, trial judges submit records of their judging history and letters of recommendation to their respective sectional vice chair for judges. The chair of the judges committee then vets applications before the Board of Directors vote on whom to appoint.

"You can start trial judging at 16," Perreault said. "We definitely encourage young skaters who are interested to start judging and see if they like it. "The more young judges that we get, the better for the sport."



U.S. silver medalist Polina Edmonds signs a fan's T-shirt during the senior ladies autograph session.

Members of the 1976 Olympic Figure Skating Team were the guests of honor at the Friends of Figure Skating (FOFS) Breakfast on the final morning of competition. Celebrating their 40th anniversary, team members of the 1976 Games were in Saint Paul for a reunion anniversary held the night before. Jim Millns, a bronze-medal-winning ice dancer from those Games, served as the keynote speaker, recounting many of the team's adventures in Innsbruck, Austria. FOFS members were introduced to Olympians Linda Fratianne, William Fauver, Judy Genovesi-Whaling, David Santee, and Susan Kelley and Andrew Stroukoff. A record number of Team USA members also attended the breakfast, including 2016 champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, Gracie Gold, and Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea.



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- Chris Knierim, 2015 U.S. pairs champion



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U.S. HALL OF FAME

The U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame Class of 2016 basks in the moment during its on-ice induction ceremony. (l-r) Evan Lysacek, Ben Agosto, Tanith Belbin White, Sasha Cohen and Cristina Lussi, who represented her late grandfather Gustave Lussi

PHOTO BY JAY ADER/ U.S. FIGURE SKATING



‘I feel so fortunate’

Lysacek, Cohen, Belbin White and Agosto, Lussi inducted into Hall of Fame

By Barb Reichert

Years after hanging up their competitive skates, members of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame Class of 2016 were as elegant off the ice as they were on.

Evan Lysacek, Sasha Cohen, Tanith Belbin White and Ben Agosto were reunited as they joined the late Gustave F. Lussi as the newest inductees into the Hall. In a private pre-event meeting, the longtime friends greeted each other with hearty hugs accented by playful banter.

As athletes, Lysacek, Cohen, Belbin White and Agosto grew up together through competitions and later, ice shows. They shared the biggest stage as members of the 2006 U.S. Olympic Team in Torino, Italy. At one point, Lysacek and Cohen were even roommates in Los Angeles.

“I think it’s rare that so many inductees are from the same generation of skating, so I feel fortunate to be part of the Class of 2016,” Lysacek said.

“I myself didn’t have a ton of friends in skating. Most of them came from outside of skating, but I can honestly say that all the people at this table are very, very close friends of mine. We grew up together.”

The team had much success in Torino, as Cohen earned the silver medal and Belbin White and Agosto became the first American ice dancers to earn an Olympic silver medal. Lysacek, who battled the flu and finished fourth in 2006, battled back in 2010 to become Olympic champion.

And just as old friends were reunited in Saint Paul, Minnesota, so were coaching greats. Lysacek asked his coach, Frank Carroll, to present him into the Hall of Fame on Jan. 22. Cohen, 31, sheepishly asked her coach, John Nicks.

“At first, I didn’t even think to ask Mr. Nicks because I didn’t think he would come,” Cohen said. “He’s retired. He spends most of his time on his boat, in the sunshine, so I thought it would be

a long shot to get him to come to Saint Paul in January.”

Nicks said he couldn’t miss seeing his star pupil’s induction into the Hall. However, while presenting Cohen at the Hall of Fame reception, he noted that his life is much more calm now that they have both retired.

“I am on the West Coast,” he told a gathering of 170 people, “and when Sasha moved some 3,000 miles away to the East Coast, my blood pressure dropped considerably.”

Cohen’s respect and love for her coach were obvious.

“I’ve shared so much of my life and my figure skating career with Mr. Nicks, and he’s always maintained the most wonderful sense of humor and perspective of where exactly skating fits in the spectrum of life,” she said. “It meant the world for him to be there and to know that our time together and our relationship was a special part of

U.S. HALL OF FAME



Coach Frank Carroll and Evan Lysacek



Ben Agosto, Tanith Belbin White and Charlie White

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

his coaching career as well.”

Lysacek, known for his eloquent speaking, made no apologies for exceeding the time limit allotted for acceptance speeches. Reading from pages of notes, the 31-year-old shared how training under Carroll helped shape him as an athlete and as a man.

“Frank always told me to honor those who came before us,” Lysacek said with a sly smile. He was joined at the ceremonies by his parents, Tanya and Don Lysacek, sister Christina Metzger and brother-in-law Ryan Metzger.

Cohen, who was accompanied by fiancé Tom May and mother Galina Cohen, also admitted to having a pinch-me moment.

“I remember watching so many greats before me — Scott Hamilton, Dorothy Hamill, Kristi Yamaguchi — and it was just a dream to reach that level, to compete in the Olympics,” she said. “Then, to become one of those names that lives on, I couldn’t imagine that when I was starting off in the sport as a little girl.”

Belbin White and Agosto, who trained as a team for 12 years in Michigan, not surprisingly

shared similar feelings as they reflected on their induction. When asked to select someone to present them into the Hall, they did not hesitate in choosing their former training mate, rival, friend and 2014 Olympic ice dance champion Charlie White, who also is Tanith’s husband.

Like Cohen, Belbin White, 31, expressed being a bit starstruck as she looked out into the crowd filled with so many hall-of-famers she has admired since youth. Then she paused and looked at her parents, Michelle and Charles Belbin, and shared a more personal reaction.

“I’ve just been so fortunate that way in my entire life and career — to stand on the Olympic podium with my best friend, to be inducted into the Hall of Fame by my husband, to have my costumes made by my mother,” she said. “Figure skating is intertwined into my life in such a loving and exquisite way.”

“Obviously there are times in a skater’s career where you feel like that’s smothering, but as I’ve become older and more multifaceted myself, I’ve embraced the involvement of skating in every aspect of my life because it’s truly brought me the

most joyous moments I’ve ever experienced.”

Agosto, 34, who was accompanied by his longtime partner Merrie Schultz and parents Miriam and Angel Agosto, was simply thankful.

“The biggest thought I had last night was just an overwhelming sense of gratitude, for being in the position that we are, for having the wonderful career we had and for the support of everyone who wanted us to be a part of this wonderful group,” Agosto said.

“Standing at the podium and giving a speech last night, I looked out at the audience and there were all my heroes — Brian Boitano, Paul Wylie, Liz Punsalan and Jerod Swallow — all those people that really made an impact on my skating career as a young skater. All of a sudden, here they are and we’re inducted into the Hall of Fame with them. It’s extremely special and I’m extremely grateful for it.”

Lussi, who was inducted posthumously, was presented via video by his most famous pupil, Dick Button. Accepting the award on behalf of the Lussi family were granddaughter Cristina Lussi and close family friend and 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie.



Coach John Nicks and Sasha Cohen

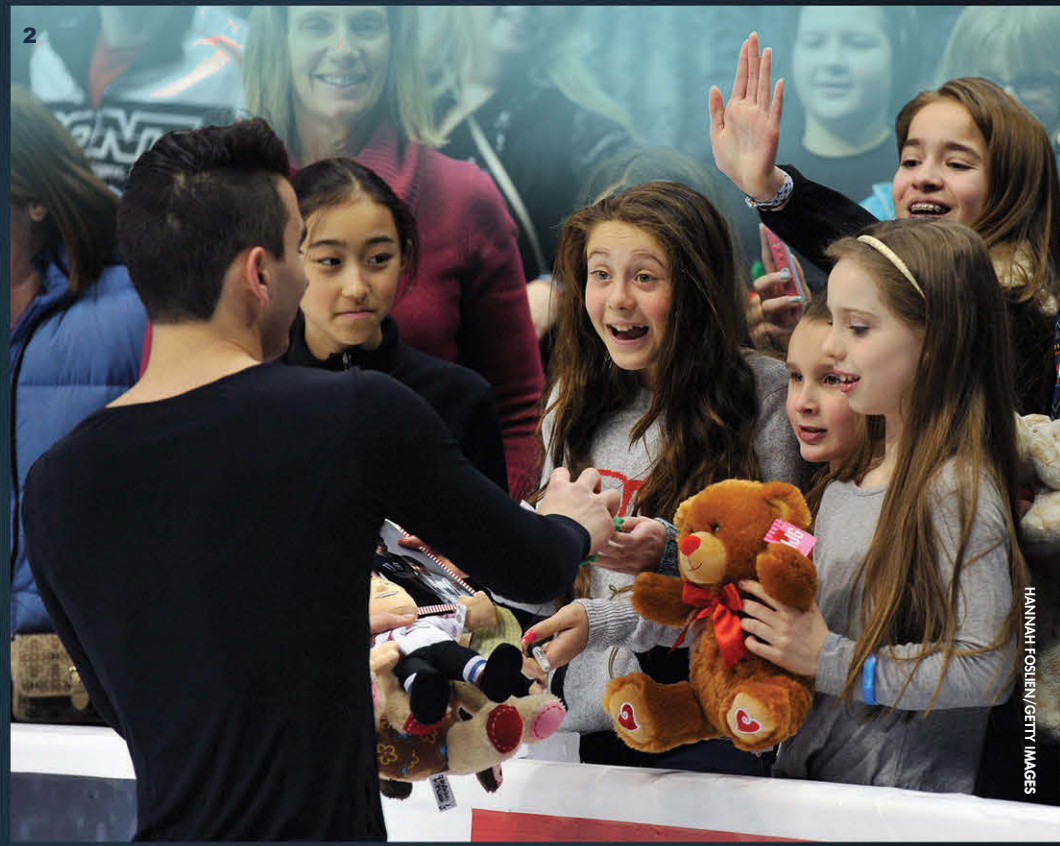


Gustave Lussi’s granddaughter Cristina Lussi and skating great Paul Wylie

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HANNAH FOSLEN/GETTY IMAGES

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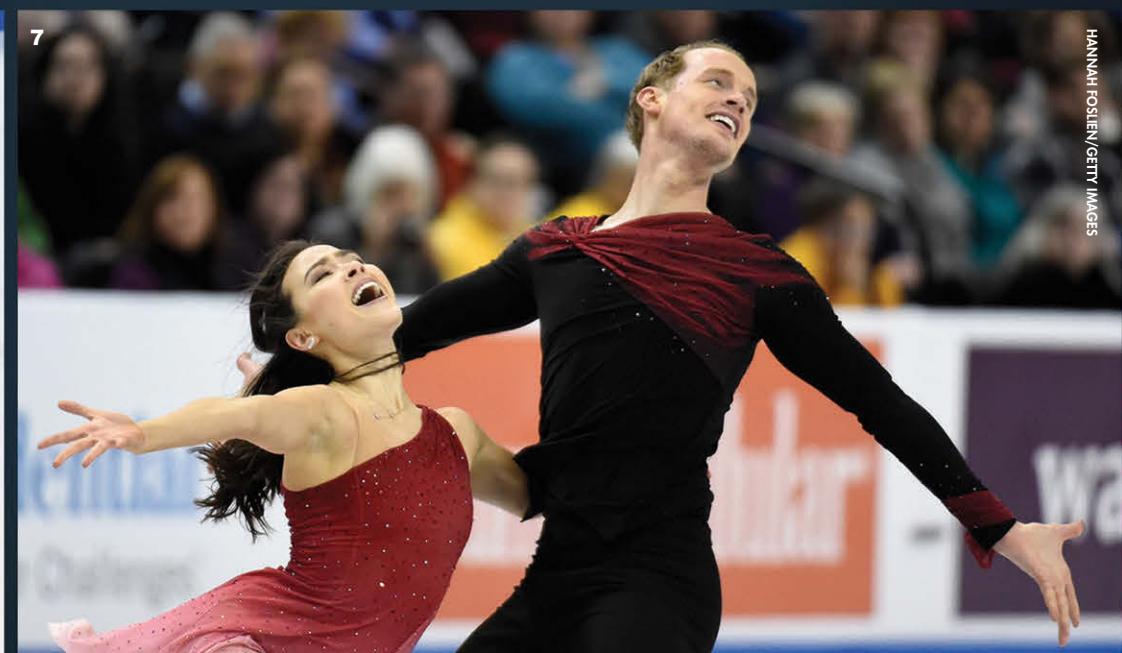
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HANNAH FOSLEN/GETTY IMAGES



- 1) U.S. bronze medalist Ashley Wagner displays raw emotion in her *Moulin Rouge!* free skate.
- 2) U.S. silver medalist Max Aaron greets his excited young fans.
- 3) Coach Jim Peterson and his U.S. champion pairs team of Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea celebrate their winning short program scores.
- 4) Choreographer Rudy Galindo shares a proud moment with U.S. silver medalist Polina Edmunds after her short program.
- 5) A fan gives U.S. champion Gracie Gold a gift following her event-best free skate.
- 6) Christopher Knierim launches pairs partner Alexa Scimeca high into the air to open their Metallica short program. They earned the silver medal.
- 7) Madison Chock and Evan Bates, the U.S. silver medalists in ice dance, give an outstanding performance during their free dance.
- 8) U.S. champions (l-r) Danny O'Shea and Tarah Kayne, Gracie Gold, Adam Rippon, and Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani gather for a photo before the Smucker's Skating Spectacular. After the Spectacular, they took part in a photo shoot with the U.S. Championships Trophy.

JUNIOR

'It was fantastic'

Major praise heaped on ice dance event

Technical controller Bob Horen couldn't say enough good things about the junior ice dance event as he walked off of the officials stand.

"It was fantastic," said Horen, a former World and Olympic judge in ice dance, and member of the ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee. "The last group was as good a junior group as you are ever going to get anywhere. We gave a couple of Level 4 step sequences, which you don't find very often, especially in juniors."

The top two teams, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, and Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons, performed dynamic programs, full of energy, storytelling and intricacy.

"It's probably the best junior dance event that I can remember as far as depth, as far as talent," Mitch Moyer, senior director of athlete high development at U.S. Figure Skating, said after the short dance. "We are looking at two teams that have the potential to medal at the World Junior Championships."

The rest of the junior disciplines received similar praise.

Emily Chan, the novice champion last year, performed two mature, technically challenging programs to claim the ladies crown. She finished ahead of her Dallas FSC training mate, Vivian Le, who won the silver medal. Le, a great jumper, struggled with her triple-triple opening combination in Saint Paul.

Chan spent four years at the novice level and now appears to be coming into her own as she moves up the ranks.

"She's a lady and she skates like that," Moyer said of the 18-year-old Chan. "It's nice to see."

"Vivian let nerves get the best of her in this competition, but when she's on she's brilliant," Moyer added.

Pairs: (l-r) Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon, Joy Weinberg/Maximiliano Fernandez, Meiryla Findley/Austin Hale, Madeleine Gallagher/Justin Highgate-Brutman; **Ice Dance:** (l-r) Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko

ed. "I think it's part of her development of understanding what she has to do and how she has to approach competition."

On the men's side, Tomoki Hiwatashi celebrated his 16th birthday by landing his triple Axel for the first time in competition and winning the men's title. Kevin Shum, a freshman at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was also electric with six triple jumps, including a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, en route to the silver medal. Aleksei Krasnozhon fell on his triple Axel in the short program, but rebounded nicely in his free skate, landing two triple Axels — one in combination — and attempting a quad loop.

"He fought back, which is always good to see, Moyer said of Krasnozhon. "I think he was surprised missing that triple Axel; it's probably his best jump. He's one of our up-and-coming athletes."

The top two pairs teams also showed great promise. Joy Weinberg and Maximiliano Fernandez joined forces on Mother's Day 2015 and quickly developed chemistry and a growing technical arsenal that included a triple twist in both programs. They edged another up-and-coming team, Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon, who finished with the event's best components marks.

"The winning team has been together a short time but has a great look on the ice," Moyer said. "Give them a few years under their belts and they are going to be one of our better teams. Weinstein and Simon really stepped it up in the last couple months, even. Things started to come together for them. There was a swagger there. They were ready for this competition and skated well."

Ladies: (l-r) Vivian Le, Emily Chan, Rebecca Peng, Megan Wessenberg
Men: (l-r) Kevin Shum, Tomoki Hiwatashi, Aleksei Krasnozhon, Paolo Borromeo

MEDALISTS

LADIES

gold | Emily Chan
silver | Vivian Le
bronze | Megan Wessenberg
pewter | Rebecca Peng

MEN

gold | Tomoki Hiwatashi
silver | Kevin Shum
bronze | Aleksei Krasnozhon
pewter | Paolo Borromeo

PAIRS

gold | Joy Weinberg/
Maximiliano Fernandez
silver | Lindsay Weinstein/
Jacob Simon
bronze | Meiryla Findley/
Austin Hale
pewter | Madeleine Gallagher/
Justin Highgate-Brutman

DANCE

gold | Lorraine McNamara/
Quinn Carpenter
silver | Rachel Parsons/
Michael Parsons
bronze | Elliana Pogrebinsky/
Alex Benoit
pewter | Christina Carreira/
Anthony Ponomarenko

JUNIOR LADIES

Chan delivers powerful performances

By Troy Schwindt

One of the most memorable moments of the 2016 U.S. Championships unfolded in the short program of the junior ladies event.

Emily Chan, the U.S. novice titlist in 2015, took the ice for her performance to Whitney Houston's 1992 megahit "I Will Always Love You" from the movie *The Bodyguard*. Moving elegantly and effortlessly to the beautiful and powerful anthem, Chan captivated the audience.

"I just felt the emotion with Whitney Houston, and *The Bodyguard* is an amazing movie so I wanted to perform it the way it should be performed — to touch people," Chan (Dallas FSC), who received a standing ovation, said.

Chan's exquisite performance included an opening triple toe loop-triple toe loop combination, as well as spellbinding spins and footwork. Her unforgettable program vaulted the 18-year-old to a nearly 10-point lead, which she built upon with a stellar free skate en route to the title and a total score of 180.83 points.

"She put her heart into that performance," coach Olga Ganicheva said. "She focused on the story and not on the jumps. Her ideal short program coming in was to make some people cry, but she made a lot of people cry."

For her free skate, Chan performed with delicacy and speed to "Chopin" by Edvin Martin. She missed her opening triple toe loop-triple toe loop combination, but after the mistake, her program was clean and well presented.

"I really didn't have a good warm-up on that jump and I just wanted to trust myself and go for it," Chan said. "I attempted it and it didn't go as planned, but I stayed on my feet and just continued with the program."

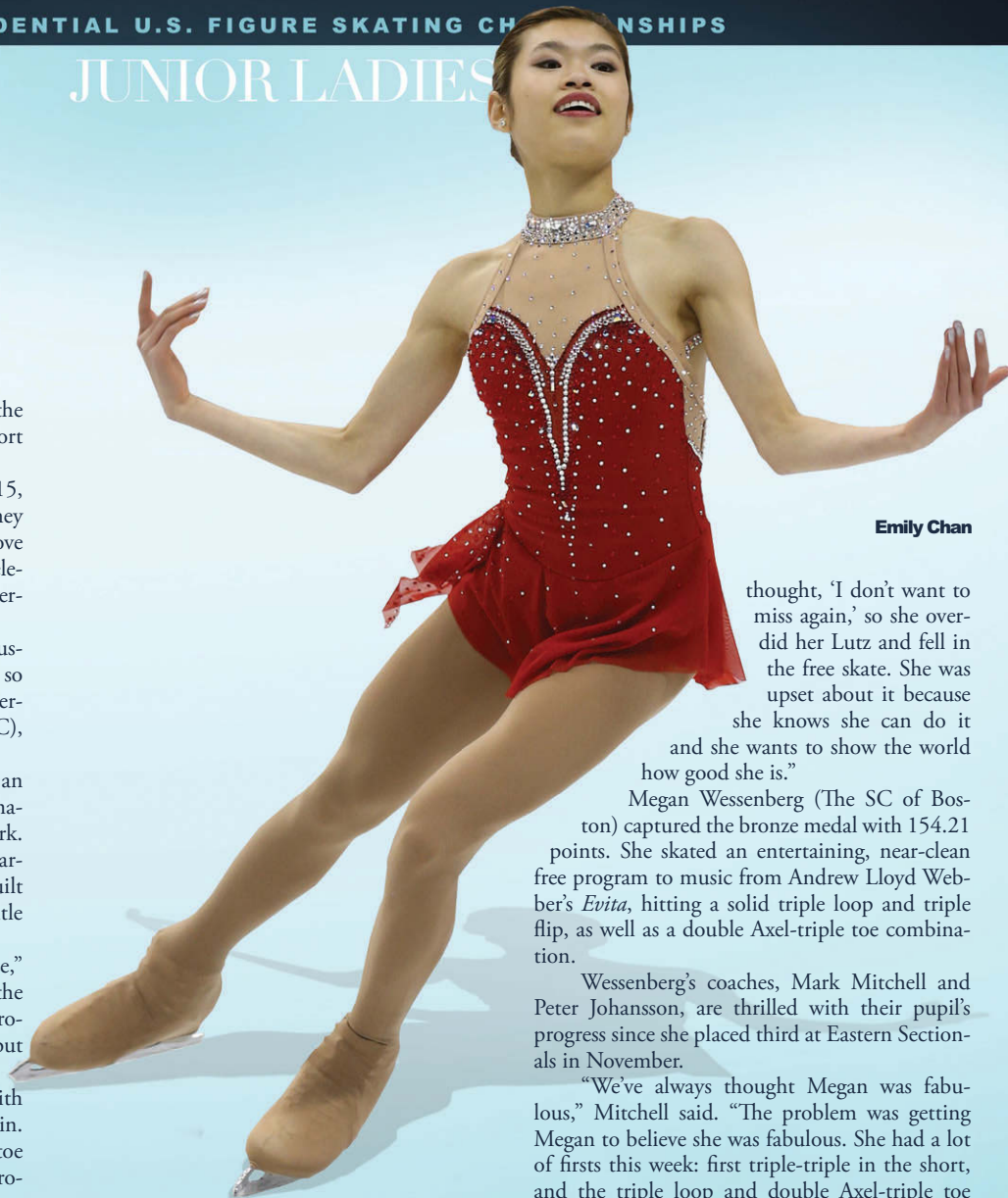
In comparing novice and junior titles, Chan said it's a different feeling because she upped the ante on her technical elements this season.

"Last year I only had a triple Salchow and triple toe, and this year I added three new jumps to the program to make it harder," Chan said. "And having two different styles in my free skate — soft and pretty, and aggressive — was my goal in addition to the new technical (difficulty)."

Chan's training mate at the Dr Pepper StarCenter in Plano, Texas, Vivian Le, earned the silver medal with a score of 166.36.

Le (Dallas FSC), regarded as one of the sport's best jumpers, failed to land her opening triple Lutz-triple toe loop combination in both of her programs. Le won the inaugural Freezer Aerial Figure Skating Challenge jump event last summer in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"Today was really off," Le said after the free skate. "I guess it was rushed again, like yesterday. It's a jump that I usually don't miss. It's unfortunate. I guess I was a little uptight."



Emily Chan

thought, 'I don't want to miss again,' so she overdid her Lutz and fell in the free skate. She was upset about it because she knows she can do it and she wants to show the world how good she is."

Megan Wessenberg (The SC of Boston) captured the bronze medal with 154.21 points. She skated an entertaining, near-clean free program to music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, hitting a solid triple loop and triple flip, as well as a double Axel-triple toe combination.

Wessenberg's coaches, Mark Mitchell and Peter Johansson, are thrilled with their pupil's progress since she placed third at Eastern Sectionals in November.

"We've always thought Megan was fabulous," Mitchell said. "The problem was getting Megan to believe she was fabulous. She had a lot of firsts this week: first triple-triple in the short, and the triple loop and double Axel-triple toe were new in the long."

Rebecca Peng (The SC of Boston) won the pewter medal with an expressive program to music from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, hitting two triple flips and a triple Lutz. Peng moved to Colorado Springs in September to train in Tom Zakrajsek's group. She generated 146.14 points.

Megan Wessenberg



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

The rest of her short program was solid, though she fell late in her free skate on a triple Salchow attempt.

"Vivian is an amazing, hardworking child who commits to this sport," Ganicheva said. "It's not possible to skate and work harder than Vivian. She does everything 100 percent. The triple Lutz-triple toe is always consistent. When she missed it in the short program, of course she was a little bit shocked, but she managed to do everything else and stay strong. I guess it was pressure. She

Vivian Le



JUNIOR MEN

Hiwatashi claims crown on 16th birthday

By Mimi McKinnis

As the music of Charlie Chaplin filled the Xcel Energy Center, Tomoki Hiwatashi approached the first element of his free skate — a triple Axel, which had eluded him in the short program, and in every other competition of his career. In the end, Hiwatashi not only landed the jump when it counted, he won his fourth U.S. title, and did both on his 16th birthday.

"I think he made a great present for himself," Hiwatashi's coach, Alexander Ouriashev, said. "His first triple Axel and an almost clean program, a gold medal for his birth-

day. I think this will be a great memory for him for the rest of his life."

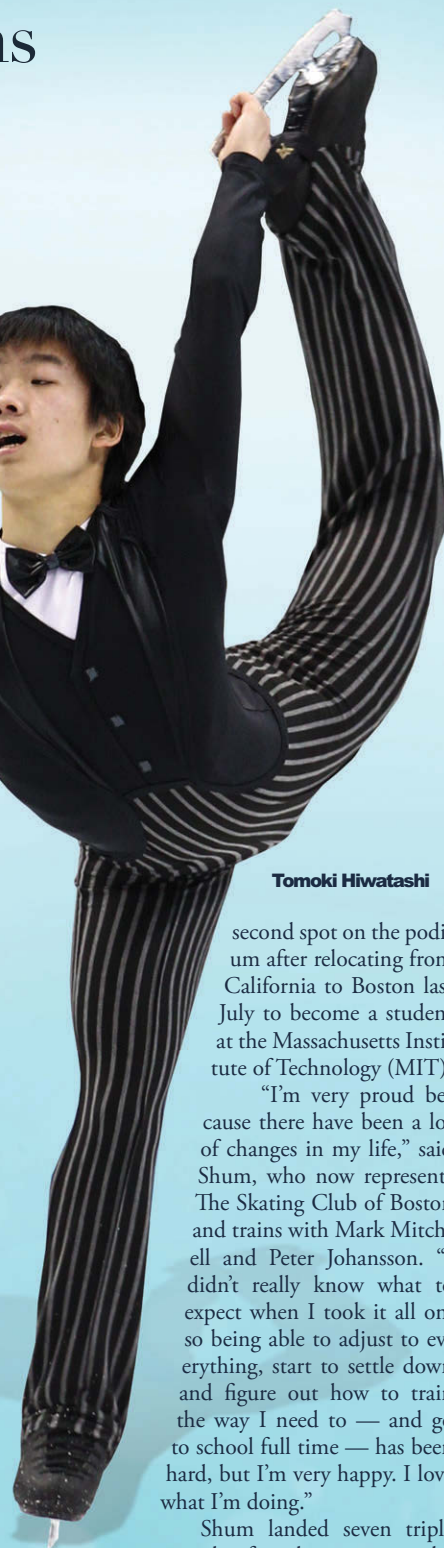
Three years prior, Hiwatashi (DuPage FSC) was on a perfect upward trajectory. He won consecutive titles at the juvenile, intermediate and novice levels from 2011 through 2013, and was named to Team USA, receiving an assignment to compete at the 2013 Junior Grand Prix Series event in Mexico City. While practicing at his international debut, Hiwatashi suffered a fractured left ankle — an injury that cost him the chance to compete for his fourth-straight U.S. title.

"I had sprained it in practice and was off the ice for two weeks while it healed," Hiwatashi said. "About two months later, I sprained it again. When I fractured it in Mexico, I was off the ice for three months, so that ankle basically kept me out for half the year."

Forced to regain his momentum, Hiwatashi, who trains in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, returned to competition under the direction of Ouriashev at the 2015 Midwestern Sectional Championships, where he placed third, before concluding his season with a fifth-place finish in the junior ranks at the 2015 U.S. Championships. This season, Hiwatashi placed fifth and third at his JGP assignments and qualified for the 2016 U.S. Championships by way of a silver medal at the Midwestern Sectional. He reclaimed his place atop the podium in Saint Paul with a personal-best score of 202.73 points.

"It's been really hard to fight my way back," Hiwatashi said. "I'm just trying to do my best right now and come back little by little."

Kevin Shum earned the silver medal, maintaining his place on the junior men's podium for a second straight year. He was happy to reclaim the



Tomoki Hiwatashi

second spot on the podium after relocating from California to Boston last July to become a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"I'm very proud because there have been a lot of changes in my life," said Shum, who now represents The Skating Club of Boston and trains with Mark Mitchell and Peter Johansson. "I didn't really know what to expect when I took it all on, so being able to adjust to everything, start to settle down and figure out how to train the way I need to — and go to school full time — has been hard, but I'm very happy. I love what I'm doing."

Shum landed seven triple jumps in his free skate to music by Sergei Rachmaninoff, pulling himself up from a third-place short program with 187.95 total points.

Aleksei Krasnozhan came to Saint Paul hungry for a medal, having set personal-best scores across the board en route to the 2016 Midwestern Sectional title. Winning the event by more than 34 points over silver medalist Hiwatashi, Krasnozhan (Dallas FSC) was surprised to find himself in seventh place after the short program,

having fallen on both his triple Axel and Lutz combination.

"For the free skate, I just told myself, 'I'm going to do it for my family, and I'm going to do it for myself,'" Krasnozhan, who finished fourth in juniors last season, said. "You can't ever give up. Sometimes things go quite differently than you expect them to go, but those are the times you have to get stronger and learn. Every failure is a new experience. You have to take them and continue working until you reach your goals."

Krasnozhan, coached by Peter Cain and Darlene Cain in Euless, Texas, fought for every point in his "Bolt" free skate, landing two triple Axels — one in combination with a double toe — to win the bronze medal with 176.21 points.

Paolo Borromeo (Los Angeles FSC), the 2015 U.S. junior bronze medalist, finished fourth with 170.78 points.

Kevin Shum



Aleksei Krasnozhan



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JUNIOR PAIRS

Weinberg and Fernandez
take express lane to title

By Troy Schwindt

Although they have been together only since Mother's Day 2015, Joy Weinberg and Maximiliano Fernandez share a chemistry that has placed them on the fast track to success.

Skating to the strong and powerful ballet *Le Corsaire*, the team from Ellenton, Florida, demonstrated advanced technical skills and a storytelling maturity en route to the pairs title, edging short program leaders Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon 139.24 to 138.90. Both teams locked up World Junior Championships berths.

"This is a new partnership and we look forward to even better things ahead," Fernandez said.

Their victory helped the Ellenton camp, under coach Jim Peterson, win the novice, junior and senior pairs events in Saint Paul.

"That piece of music is very special to me," Peterson said of *Le Corsaire*. "I think they understand it. He's playing a slave and she's playing a princess, and he's trying to woo her. It's taken directly out of the ballet.

"They have an artistic edge that I find sets them apart. They feel music a little bit more naturally, have good flexibility and they understand ballet."

Weinberg (Skokie Valley SC), 19, and Fernandez (Miami FSC) 20, entered the free skate .74 point behind Weinstein (DuPage FSC) and Simon (Skokie Valley SC). Their event-best technical score included an opening triple twist followed by a throw triple Salchow. Their lifts and forward inside death spiral also were rewarded nicely.

"The exciting thing is they've only been together nine months," Peterson said. "They have already been to two Junior Grand Prix [second at JGP USA and seventh at JGP Poland] and they've done well at a national championships.

"Looking at the international scheme of things, we knew we had to have a triple twist because everyone in the world at the high levels is doing a triple twist. In both programs they hit it well. There are little things, and that comes from the newness. They also have a side-by-side double Axel that they are going to add for World Juniors."

The energy and upside of this team isn't lost on their senior champion training mates Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea.

"They always have such a positive attitude on the ice," Kayne said. "They will always brighten your day; they are always joking around and having fun. I can only see their partnership going up from here. They are gaining new skills every day. I'm excited to see where their partnership goes because every day they are getting better and better."

Weinstein, 15, and Simon, 18, also showed major improvement since finishing fourth in the junior ranks at the 2015 U.S. Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina. They moved from Chicago to Colorado Springs last June to train

under coach Dalilah Sappenfield and her team at the Broadmoor World Arena Ice Hall.

Together since 2014, they displayed a strong connection while performing to music from *An American Tail*. Their component scores topped the field, which was a point of emphasis for them entering the competition.

"We wanted to get everyone feeling our program as we felt and skated it, and I think we did that," Simon said.

The team hit a couple of snags with a downgraded double Axel and a negative grade of execution on their throw triple Salchow.

"We know we can execute it better, but coming in first in the short and skating a strong program today was really good for them," Sappenfield said.

Meiryly Findley, 14, and Austin Hale, 19, (Fort Wayne ISC) jumped up from fifth place after the short program to claim the bronze medal with 129.01 points.

The skaters came together last summer simply by chance.

Hale went on a family vacation in Vancouver and decided to skate one day at a local rink. Findley, who lives nearby in Washington state and trains at the same rink Hale visited, wasn't planning on skating that particular day.

Fortunately, she changed her mind.

"I had my team jacket on from last year, and basically her mom and my dad started talking in the bleachers," said Hale, who won the junior bronze medal last year with Olivia Allan.

"I wasn't even expecting to start pairs," Findley said. "He actually messaged me on social network and asked me, 'Do you want to try out for pairs?' I was like, 'No, I like singles.' But then my coach now, Alexa Lunin, contacted my mom and talked to her. I just decided to come and have a tryout, and now I love pairs skating."

Madeleine Gallagher and Justin Highgate-Brutman won the pewter medal with a score of 120.91.

Joy Weinberg
and Maximiliano
Fernandez

Meiryly Findley and Austin Hale



Lindsay Weinstein and Jacob Simon



PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JUNIOR ICE DANCE

McNamara, Carpenter win second straight dance crown

By Lynn Rutherford

When defending junior champions Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter decided to perform their free dance to *Carmen*, they knew they were taking a risk. Some pretty big names — including, most recently, 2010 Canadian Olympic ice dance champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir — had delivered memorable routines to Bizet's classic opera.

But the World Junior silver medalists, who train at the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA) under Alexei Kiliakov, Elena Novak, Dimitri Ilin and Ramil Sarkulov, never shy away from a challenge if they think there's an interesting story to tell.

"Carmen and Don José have such big personalities, and one of the things Quinn and I love most about skating is showing our characters," McNamara said.

"Part of the challenge that inspired us to pick *Carmen* was trying to show our own interpretation of it, and how what we felt about it was different than other teams who have skated to it before," Carpenter said.

In Saint Paul, McNamara (Peninsula SC) and Carpenter (Washington FSC) showed a subtle and emotionally diverse interpretation that ended with *Carmen* triumphant over her lover. It was filled with finely crafted elements, four of which gained Level 4, and earned 96.62 points. Combined with the 70.29 points earned by their character-driven original dance to Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King," they finished with 170.04 points, nearly 15 points over last season's winning total.

"We had a few bobbles, but our ultimate goal for this competition was to show our maturity in the performance aspect of our program, and I think we did a really good job of doing that," McNamara said.

Now it's on to the 2016 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Hungary, where the Maryland-based couple is expected to fight for gold.

"Today was a dry run to see how far we could go, and I think based on this performance, we learned we can go even farther with it," Carpenter said. "Of course we will also look at the levels and pick apart the finer details with our coaches."

McNamara and Carpenter's training mates at WISA, Rachel Parsons (Washington FSC) and Michael Parsons (Washington FSC), showed an entrancing waltz to music from Prokofiev's *Cinderella* for their short dance, and a dramatic tango to a medley from Medialuna Tango Project for their free dance. They won silver with 165.46 points, more than 20 points over last season's silver-medal tally.

"There were a few little things we would change, but overall we were able to show all of the

progress we've made over the past year," Rachel said.

All four skaters joined WISA around 2006 and climbed the ranks together. Rachel and former partner Kyle MacMillan won U.S. juvenile and intermediate titles before Rachel teamed up with Michael. Together, the Parsons siblings won the 2011 U.S. novice crown. McNamara and Carpenter's first U.S. title came in juniors last season, when the Parsons won their first silver.

Kiliakov thinks training together is a big plus for the two teams.

"They understand if they didn't have such a strong team (practicing) next to them, they wouldn't be as strong as they are now," Kiliakov said. "They appreciate that



Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons



Elliana Pogrebinsky and Alex Benoit

and are very friendly. They have grown up together from 6 years old, they are very good sportsmen, and they have healthy competition and appreciation for each other."

Two teams training in Igor Shpilband's group in Novi, Michigan, repeated as bronze and pewter medalists.

Elliana Pogrebinsky (Peninsula SC) and Alex Benoit (Skokie Valley SC) showed connection and chemistry in their short dance to Eugene Doga's "My Sweet and Tender Beast." Their free dance to a medley of *Romeo and Juliet* soundtracks capitalized on their long lines and striking on-ice presence, and they ended with 155.94 points.

"In the last year we've been together, I think we've really tried to focus on each other as partners," Benoit said. "We're doing what we love and we have to enjoy the moment, and what better way to enjoy the moment than with your best friend."

"It's natural up to a certain point, but we also work with our ballroom coaches (Susan and Steve McFerran) and a mime coach (Michael Lee)," Pogrebinsky said of their acting talents.

Christina Carreira (The SC of New York) and Anthony Ponomarenko (The SC of San Francisco) skated a lively free dance to selections from Yugoslav musician Goran Bregovic to win the pewter medal with 152.79 points.



Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter



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NOVICE



Bonus action

Skaters taking more risks under rule changes

A new scoring wrinkle, in place since July, made its U.S. Championships debut in Saint Paul: Singles competitors in the juvenile, intermediate and novice ranks earned bonus points for including more-challenging jumps in their programs.

For novice skaters, each triple-triple jump combination, including fully rotated or under rotated (" $<$ ") jumps, gained two bonus points. Each different triple jump that was fully rotated or underrotated earned a one-point bonus.

Ann Barr, a national technical specialist and chair of U.S. Figure Skating's singles committee, conceived the bonus points initiative after watching several seasons of declining numbers of U.S. singles entrants in the Junior Grand Prix Final.

"In 2014, I was team leader for a Junior Grand Prix in Japan, and just standing there throughout the whole week of the competition, I saw what some skaters from other countries were doing," Barr said. "I came home and got to work. I collected research from Japan, China, Russia and Canada, on what they were requiring of their emerging skaters, and developed a bonus structure."

Kim Heim, chair of the athlete development committee; Alex Chang, former chair of the

coaches committee; and Kelly Vogtner, senior director, athlete development at U.S. Figure Skating, helped Barr fine-tune the proposals. The key was finding a way to encourage skaters to get more comfortable taking risks, at an earlier age.

"We had created a culture of playing it safe," Barr said. "We all want to see clean, nice programs, but I frankly believe it's better to make your mistakes earlier than later. We need to have our athletes become accustomed to taking risks at lower levels, because then it's far less intimidating when they get to the junior level."

Based on protocols in Saint Paul, the initiative is working. Some 49 bonus points were awarded to novice ladies, and 66 bonus points went to novice men. Every skater did, at a minimum, one triple, with most doing at least two. Novice men's champion Eric Sjoberg hit triple Lutz-triple toe loop combinations in both his short program and free skate, while ladies champion Haley Beavers did five different triples including a triple Lutz.

"I thought it would be long-term before we saw some results, but it's been pretty gratifying to see how the triple jump numbers have gone up," Barr said. "There are more triple jumps being done by more skaters."

LADIES

gold | Haley Beavers
silver | Alexia Paganini
bronze | Sierra Venetta
pewter | Ashley Lin

MEN

gold | Eric Sjoberg
silver | Peter Liu
bronze | Maxim Naumov
pewter | William Hubbart

PAIRS

gold | Elli Kopmar/
 Jonah Barrett
silver | Isabella Gamez/
 Griffin Schwab
bronze | Sapphire Jaeckel/
 Matthew Scoralle
pewter | Emma Coppess/
 Robert Hennings

ICE DANCE

gold | Caroline Green/
 Gordon Green
silver | Emma Gunter/
 Caleb Wein
bronze | Sophia Elder/
 Christopher Elder
pewter | Gianna Buckley/
 J.T. Michel

ABOVE: Ladies: (l-r) Alexia Paganini, Haley Beavers, Sierra Venetta, Ashley Lin; Men: (l-r) Peter Liu, Eric Sjoberg, Maxim Naumov, William Hubbart; BELOW: Pairs: (l-r) Isabella Gamez/Griffin Schwab, Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, Sapphire Jaeckel/Matthew Scoralle, Emma Coppess/Robert Hennings; Ice Dance: (l-r) Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, Caroline Green/Gordon Green, Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, Gianna Buckley/J.T. Michel



NOVICE LADIES

Beavers enjoys breakthrough competition

By Michael Terry

Haley Beavers said after her short program in Saint Paul that she had been looking for a breakthrough.

And a day later, she got it.

Beavers (Washington FSC), who trains in Riverside, California, captured the title after putting together the competition's top short program and free skate. She finished sixth in the novice ranks in 2015.

"I really focused on making all of my jumps more consistent and being more precise," Beavers said. "I didn't want to have a perfect skate, but I wanted to do the best I can. I know what I've done in practice is what I can do in competition."

In her opening stanza, Beavers skated to "Leningrad" by William Joseph, portraying a young girl reintroducing herself to the world after war.

"I wanted to portray the cycle of recognizing the past and moving on to the future," Beavers said.

In her free skate set to "Quidam" from *Cirque du Soleil*, Beavers awed the crowd with her performance that included five triple jumps. The Delaware native opened with a triple flip, followed by a triple Lutz and a triple loop-single loop combination. The end of her program featured two Level 4 spins and a double Axel-double Axel sequence.

One of Beavers' strongest performances of the season came on the biggest stages, where she totaled 150.93 points.

"This venue is one of my all-time favorites," she said. "It's so big and it's surreal that I got to skate in it. It's something you dream about as a little girl."

"Haley is a bundle of joy," coach Tammy Gambill said. "She's fun to work with and she's very positive. To see her go out and perform the way that I know she can was fun for us to see."

Alexia Paganini, who took gold over Beavers at Eastern Sectionals in November, earned the silver medal, generating 142.88 points. The SC of New York member was in visible shock — the "good" kind, she said — when she realized she'd be on the podium.

"This is unreal," Paganini said. "I can't believe that I did a program like that. I'm relieved."

Both her short program and free skate were second-best at the competition. Skating to "The Carnival of the Animals" for her short program,

Haley Beavers



Alexia Paganini



Sierra Venetta

I'm really happy about my skate and think I can grow from this."

Pacific Coast Sectional winner Sierra Venetta secured the bronze medal with the competition's third-best short program and free skate for a total 129.04 points.

Venetta (SC of San Francisco), who landed six triple jumps and was awarded four Level 4 elements through both skates, was happy with how she performed.

"I came here ready and I felt prepared," Venetta said. "It's great to skate well and have all of that work pay off."

Her *Pocahontas*-themed short program gave her confidence headed into the free skate.

"It helped me skating on the big ice and in front of more people," she said.

Ashley Lin (Stars FSC of Texas) won the pewter medal with 126.09 points.

she overcame an opening fall to put together a solid program that included a triple loop, Level 4 spin and double Axel in the back half.

In her free skate to Astor Piazzolla's "Libertango," Paganini pleased the crowd, landing six triple jumps, including three in combination. The highlight of her program was a triple Salchow-half loop-triple Salchow combination that netted her 12.73 points. She also tallied two Level 4 spins.

She's already thinking about next year.

"I feel really confident now," Paganini said. "Earlier this season I felt like I was struggling a little bit, but this turned things around for me.

NOVICE MEN

Third time's the charm for Sjoberg

By Lynn Rutherford

Not many skaters win the silver medal in a novice event, place 11th the next season, and then win the title on their third try. With talent and determination, plus a revamped off- and on-ice training regimen, Eric Sjoberg did just that in Saint Paul.

When he won his silver medal in 2014, Sjoberg (Los Angeles FSC) was just 12, the youngest skater in the event, and barely 5 feet tall. An eight-inch growth spurt over the next 18 months or so threw off his jumps so much he considered sitting out the 2015–16 season. But his coach, Rafael Arutunian, had other ideas.

“(Eric) grew up a lot; two years ago he was a very tiny little guy,” Arutunian said. “This year we hired a very nice guy from Russia, Denys Petrov, and he helped us with off-ice training and strength, for (better) rotation on the ice.”

Petrov, a former principal skater with Holiday on Ice, soon had Sjoberg running sprints and doing hurdles.

“I think I almost spend more time off-ice training than on,” Sjoberg said. “(Denys) uses that spinner thing (portable vestibular simulator); it’s like a disc on a rotating machine. He has me rotate on it and go into the air on a harness to work on my jumps.”

It worked. Sjoberg hit solid triple Lutz-triple toe loop combinations in both of his programs, plus every other jump he tried, to win the novice title by nearly 20 points. In his free skate to a dramatic piano concerto by the late Leonard Pennario, Sjoberg reeled off seven triples, including a second triple Lutz, to earn 117.15 points.

Combined with his first-place short program, it gave him 171.68 points total.

“That was my best program of the season in competition,” Sjoberg said after the free. “It was like what I do every day in practice. I think the only pressure is what I put on myself, so I think I did well considering everything that happened.”

“I didn’t start training my programs until maybe July or August,” he continued. “I think I kind of even surprised myself.”

Sjoberg plans to compete at the junior level next season. To prepare, he is again focusing on jump technique with Arutunian and Petrov.

“Right now, we’re working on triple Axels off ice, and then exercises on ice for triple Axel and quad,” he said.

“We’re working on my toe loop entrances, just doing a lot of them off ice, and working on my rotating positions.”

Silver medalist Peter Liu (SC of Wilmington) also made a comeback of sorts. After several fine summer competitions, the skater took a bad fall in practice, injuring his hip. He was still in pain when he placed third at Eastern Sectionals in late November.

“It took him three months to recover,” Viktor Pfeifer, the skater’s coach, said. “He couldn’t walk for a little bit. He couldn’t do many jumps in practice at Sectionals, he just did a bunch of jumps in the program. But now we’re here and he did it.”

After a solid short program, Liu showed fine musicality in his free skate to music from the *Frida* soundtrack, hitting five clean triple jumps, three in combination. He earned 99.67 points and ended with 151.90 points.

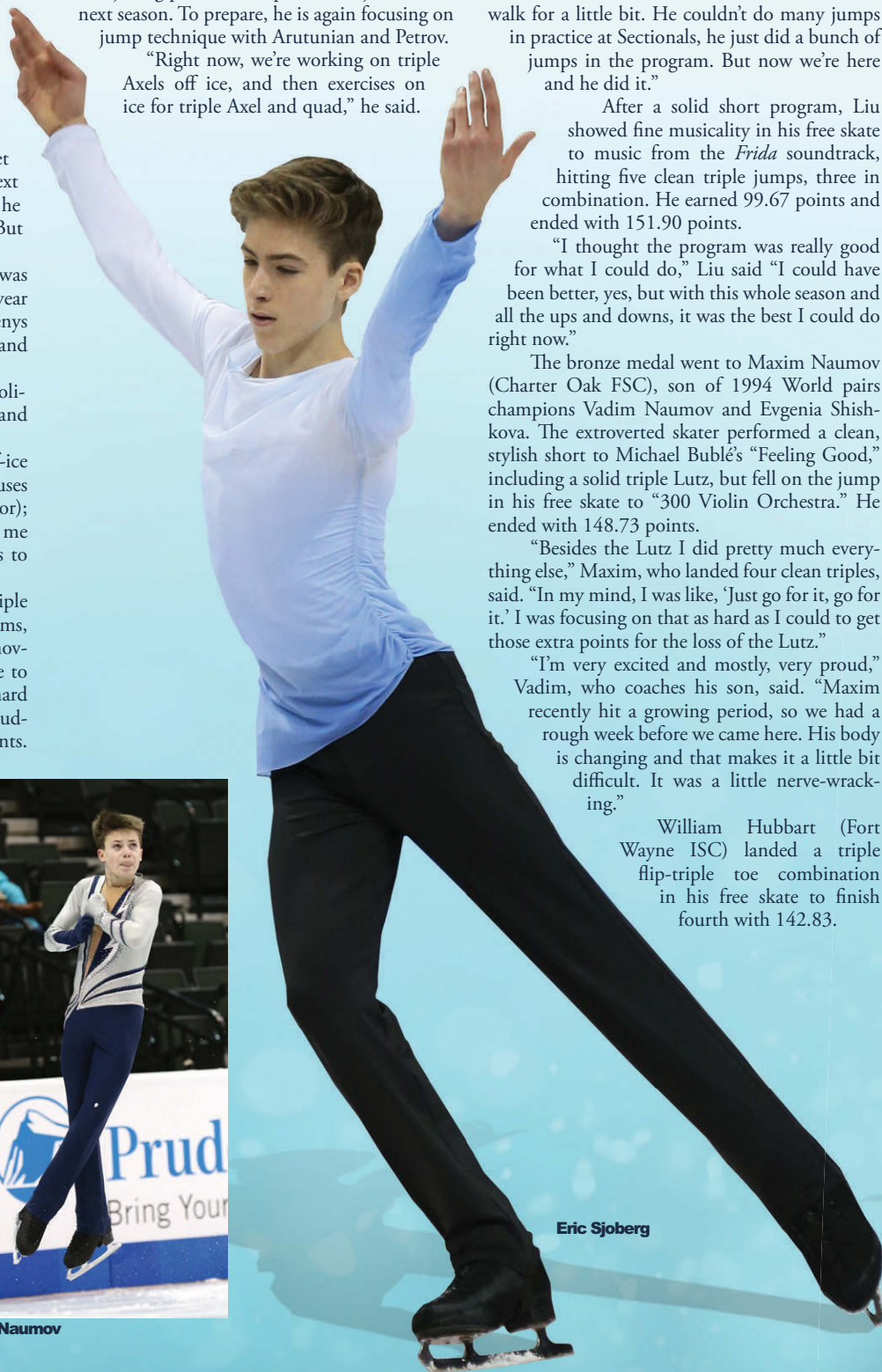
“I thought the program was really good for what I could do,” Liu said. “I could have been better, yes, but with this whole season and all the ups and downs, it was the best I could do right now.”

The bronze medal went to Maxim Naumov (Charter Oak FSC), son of 1994 World pairs champions Vadim Naumov and Evgenia Shishkova. The extroverted skater performed a clean, stylish short to Michael Bubl e’s “Feeling Good,” including a solid triple Lutz, but fell on the jump in his free skate to “300 Violin Orchestra.” He ended with 148.73 points.

“Besides the Lutz I did pretty much everything else,” Maxim, who landed four clean triples, said. “In my mind, I was like, ‘Just go for it, go for it.’ I was focusing on that as hard as I could to get those extra points for the loss of the Lutz.”

“I’m very excited and mostly, very proud,” Vadim, who coaches his son, said. “Maxim recently hit a growing period, so we had a rough week before we came here. His body is changing and that makes it a little bit difficult. It was a little nerve-wracking.”

William Hubbart (Fort Wayne ISC) landed a triple flip-triple toe combination in his free skate to finish fourth with 142.83.



Eric Sjoberg



Peter Liu



Maxim Naumov

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

NOVICE PAIRS

Kopmar and Barrett repeat as titlists

By Michael Terry

"Two for two!"

That's what Jonah Barrett said as he came off the ice after the novice pairs medal ceremony in Saint Paul.

Barrett and his partner Elli Kopmar (Southwest Florida FSC) followed up on last year's intermediate pairs championship with the novice pairs title.

"It's a great feeling," Barrett said. "Honestly, it's one of the few times that I'm not really sure what to say. We're really happy and we couldn't have asked for a better performance."

The duo led after their short program, skating to Georges Bizet's "L'Arlesienne Suite, No. 2" after receiving positive Grades of Execution (GOE) on all seven elements.

The performance, which was highlighted by a throw triple Salchow and a Level 4 lift, earned 41.66 points.

But it was their 84.47-point, *ET*-themed free skate that sealed the deal.

They skated clean, landing five jumps, including a throw double loop and side-by-side double Lutzes in the back half of their program.

The duo's free skate was adjusted following sectionals to give the ending more of a punch, coach Jim Peterson said.

"It had more of an emotional push at the end with the choreographed sequence," Peterson said. "We put a few of their stronger elements closer to the end so it had more of a stronger finality to it."

The pair wants to work on another throw triple Salchow, triple twist, more difficult lifts and improve their skating skills as they jump to the junior level, Kopmar said.

"They did a great job. I was really pleased with how they did, given the lateness of the event," Peterson said of the 9:25 p.m. local start time. "It wasn't their best, but they got the job done and I think that their quality and GOE on the smaller elements, like the spins, the death spirals and the choreographed sequence, really held them up, and the lifting was improved. I think they have a very easy skating style together and that's been their forte from the beginning."

The win started an impressive stretch for Peterson's pairs teams, which captured junior and championship-level titles as well.

"The junior- and senior-level teams at our rink help us to step up our game," Kopmar said. "They're a great example for us and show us what we're capable of."

Isabella Gamez and Griffin Schwab took home the silver medal, earning 117.70 points. The duo put together a focused and fierce short program, and they followed up with a stellar free skate by bringing parts of *West Side Story* to life.

"The love story between Maria and Tony is just a beautiful part of the movie," Gamez said. "I love acting, so I really like to be Maria and [Schwab] does a great job of being Tony. On and off the ice we have a good relationship, so it's not that hard to translate that to the ice."

For their free skate, Schwab (SC of New York) and Gamez (Los Angeles FSC) earned 6.50 points for a Level 3 lasso lift and closed their program with a throw double Salchow, Level 2 lift and Level 2 death spiral.

This is Gamez's first season skating pairs. The pair has been together since June, and are now coached by Jenni Meno and Todd Sand.

"They are super fun to teach," Meno said, standing next to a giggly Gamez. "This what you see right now is what we get every day, and they also work so hard."

Schwab agreed: "(Our free skate) was awesome. It's the same thing that we've been doing every day. Just working hard, attacking it and doing our thing."

Another team coached by Meno and Sand took home the bronze medal with 113.69 points.

Sapphire Jaeckel and Matthew Scorallo (All Year FSC) placed sixth following their *The Sound of Music*-themed short program. They performed their free skate to music from the movie soundtrack of *Kung Fu Panda*. It featured five jumps and five elements that were awarded Level 3 or 4.

The duo is already looking forward to next season.

"We really wanted to go out and skate a personal best and show the judges how much we've improved and just skate for ourselves," Jaeckel said. "This has been a really good experience. We're really happy and proud of our accomplishments this season and we can't wait for next season."

"Both of the teams work really hard and train really well together," Meno said. "They both came here and skated well. It's really very exciting."

Emma Coppess (All Year FSC) and Robert Hennings (Los Angeles FSC) took home the pewter medal, earning 112.89 points.



Elli Kopmar and Jonah Barrett



Isabella Gamez and Griffin Schwab



Sapphire Jaeckel and Matthew Scorallo

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFI/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

NOVICE ICE DANCE

Green siblings set new standard with second novice crown

By Lynn Rutherford

Another season, another U.S. title for Caroline Green and Gordon Green.

Maryland-based siblings first took to the ice at ages 5 and 7. Gordon, who wanted to play hockey, entered the U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program at a local rink. When he made it to the Basic 3 class, Caroline was enrolled in the class below him. Elena Novak and Dmytri Ilin, coaches at the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA), taught those classes and approached Mary Green about having her children join WISA. Three months later, the siblings were an ice dance team.

The rest is a bit of skating history. After placing third in their first-ever competition at the 2010 Lake Placid Ice Dance Championships, the siblings (Washington FSC) have hardly lost since, winning consecutive U.S. titles at the juvenile (2013), intermediate (2014) and novice levels (2015 and 2016).

Their second novice title in Saint Paul was their most satisfying victory yet.

"I don't think I've ever been happier," Gordon said. "This was the best moment. It sums up our novice career great."

After building a 12-point lead with pristine outings of the Westminster Waltz and Kilian pattern dances, Gordon and Caroline performed an effervescent free dance to the overture of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, gaining Level 4 for four elements and earning 62.30 points. Their winning total, 144.37 points, is some 33 points more than they earned in 2015. It sets a new standard for U.S. novice ice dance, crushing the previous record by nearly 16 points.

"I feel like our first year at novice we were a little bit nervous," Caroline said. "Now that we've had all of this experience, we just really try to push it up every single competition."

Despite their devotion to ice dance, school comes first for the siblings, who both attend Julius West Middle School in Rockville.

"Sometimes if we have a competition coming up we stay a little later (at the rink) in the morning, and we get out of school earlier," Gordon said. "Other than that, we try not to miss any school. We make it a priority."

WISA qualified 11 teams to compete at the 2016 U.S. Championships, including top juniors Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, and Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons.

"Caroline and Gordon

watch older friends and teammates, and see what they need to reach," Alexei Kiliakov, who founded WISA in 2003, said. "I say to them, 'Right now, it's a little less stressful for you at the novice level. You develop performance, get confident, create your own style. Before you step up to juniors, you will already have everything, you won't need to build it year to year.'"

Another WISA team, Emma Gunter and Caleb Wein (Washington FSC), improved on last season's bronze medal to win silver with a graceful performance to Romanian composer Ion Ivanovici's "Anniversary Song." The team executed their step sequence with unison and flair, and closed with a strong rotational lift. They finished with 122.10 points.

"We've really been working on connecting to each other during our free dance, and I think we're really excited to show that," Gunter said.

"(The free dance) is flamenco music, something I personally enjoy performing to," Wein said. "We took some flamenco lessons."



Emma Gunter and Caleb Wein



Sophia Elder and Christopher Elder

Sophia Elder and Christopher Elder (Louisville Skating Academy) were disappointed with a mistake on twizzles in their Big Bad Voodoo Daddy free dance, but impressed judges with two eye-catching Level 4 lifts.

Their 99.21 points earned them the bronze medal.

"I am happy with the medal, not so much with the performance we put out there today," Christopher said. "The way I look at the big picture of our skating career, this is just a little piece. The puzzle piece by itself doesn't look so good but when you put it all together, you create something cool."

"They had their mishaps, but they kept fighting through the whole thing," Kelley Morris-Adair, the team's coach, said.

After skating together for just seven months, Gianna Buckley (Seattle SC) and J.T. Michel (Louisville Skating Academy) won the pewter medal with 90.26 points.

Caroline Green and Gordon Green





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JUVENILE



‘The programs were wonderful’ Juvenile, intermediate skaters put on a show

Kim Heim, chair of U.S. Figure Skating’s Athlete Development Committee, called the juvenile and intermediate fields at the U.S. Championships the “deepest” of all the levels when it came to producing quality and entertaining programs.

“I thought the programs were wonderful this year,” she said, adding that her favorite of the entire event came out of the juvenile ranks. “It was a very original, masterful program,” Heim added.

The juvenile and intermediate qualifiers competed on the first two days of the event at the Bloomington Ice Garden, about a 20-minute drive from the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul. The three-sheet ice facility provided the ideal venue for the competition, with spectators filling up one side of the main arena.

Heim, also an assistant referee at the event, said the skaters at these starter levels have upped the ante when it comes to trying more difficult

elements due to new incentives in the rules.

“You see a lot more triples being tried,” Heim said. “We have the fall deductions decreased from -1 to .5 and I think that’s made a difference as well this year.”

The creativity and entertainment value of the performances were certainly on display, which Heim attributes greatly to U.S. Figure Skating’s springtime annual Program Components Camp.

“I think it’s really helped these skaters,” Heim said. “I’ve seen in the last five years the programs really evolve into some great, entertaining programs. The vocals have helped open up new music choices for the skaters and I think that will continue to evolve.

“We also have a new jump camp this spring through athlete development. It will be a pioneer program, which will be kind of modeled after the components camp with a different staff.”

ABOVE: Girls: (l-r) Hanna Harrell, Stephanie Ciarochi, Reagan Scott, Jill Heiner; Boys: (l-r) Samuel Mindra, Ilia Malinin, Maxim Zharkov, Philip Baker; BELOW: Pairs: (l-r) Julia Curran/Franz-Peter Jerosch, Isabelle Martins/Ryan Bedard, Cate Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell, Jenna Gordon/Ian Meyh; Ice Dance: (l-r) Maria Soldatova/Faddey Soldatov, Layla Karnes/Jeffrey Chen, Claire Cain/Andrei Davydov, Shin Lei Case/Maxim Zharkov

MEDALISTS GIRLS

gold | Stephanie Ciarochi
silver | Hanna Harrell
bronze | Reagan Scott
pewter | Jill Heiner

BOYS

gold | Ilia Malinin
silver | Samuel Mindra
bronze | Maxim Zharkov
pewter | Philip Baker

PAIRS

gold | Isabelle Martins/
Ryan Bedard
silver | Julia Curran/
Franz-Peter Jerosch
bronze | Cate Fleming/
Jedidiah Isbell
pewter | Jenna Gordon/
Ian Meyh

ICE DANCE

gold | Layla Karnes/
Jeffrey Chen
silver | Maria Soldatova/
Faddey Soldatov
bronze | Claire Cain/
Andrei Davydov
pewter | Shin Lei Case/
Maxim Zharkov

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING AND MELANIE HOYT/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



JUVENILE

PHOTO BY JAY ADER/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Stephanie Ciarochi

GIRLS

By Lynn Rutherford

A year ago, Stephanie Ciarochi never dreamed she would win the juvenile girls title, at least not this season. When she started training under husband-and-wife coaches Aleksey Letov and Olga Ganicheva in the Dallas area 10 months ago, she had no double jumps and limited competitive experience. What she did have was a strong work ethic.

"She is like a working machine," Ganicheva said. "This girl has goals and I'm sure she's going to reach them. I have to go on the ice and say, 'You need to take a rest now, you are going to overtrain and hurt yourself.' And she will say, 'But

I want to do more.'"

The athletic Ciarochi (Dallas FSC) showed good speed and hit two big double Axels in her free skate to "Danse Macabre." She notched 54.62 points, edging training partner Hanna Harrell for the title by less than a point.

"I think it went well, but on my death drop I kind of stumbled and lost my balance," Ciarochi said. "It was just nerves. Everything else went pretty well."

Harrell (Dallas FSC) landed the first double Axel in her free skate to Russian Gypsy guitar music, but fell on her second. She also showed two Level 4 spins to win the silver medal with 53.90 points.

"I love dressing up in costumes and doing girly stuff," Harrell said. "It's really fun to hang out

with my friends in the stands and cheer each other on. That's my favorite thing about competitions."

"Hanna is our little firecracker," Ganicheva said. "She's a very athletic, emotional and exciting child. Every day working with her is fun and challenging. She doesn't want to work on doubles, she wants to work on triples."

Letov and Ganicheva train a large group of skaters at Dr Pepper StarCenter in Plano, Texas, including 10 athletes who qualified for the 2016 U.S. Championships. Their juvenile girls often share the ice with junior champion Emily Chan and junior silver medalist Vivian Le.

"You know you have someone there to train with, you're not doing it by yourself," Ciarochi said. "That's what motivates me. I try to keep up, but sometimes I can't."

Letov thinks she is keeping up just fine.

"Stephanie already has a triple Salchow, and she is working on her triple toe," he said. "She will have all of her triples next season for sure."

Reagan Scott didn't hit the opening double Axel in her "Cotton-eyed Joe" program, but sparkling performance quality and other solid double jumps gave her 53.33 points and the bronze medal.

"The program is fun to do," Scott, who competes for Hershey FSC, said. "I get to express my feelings to the judges and to the audience. I tried to up my score by having more fun and impress the judges with my smile and energy."

Scott did land a double Axel in the six-minute warm-up.

"My legs were just a little bit shaky in the program," she said.

"It was the first time she tried the Axel in competition," Scott's coach, Maria Pocheykina, said. "Overall the level of performance was really, really high. I'm proud of her."

Jill Heiner (FSC of Southern Maryland) won the pewter medal with 52.82 points.

BOYS

By Renee Felton

U.S. juvenile champion Ilia Malinin makes the most of his days, juggling fifth grade, skating and simply getting from place to place. The Woodbridge, Virginia-based athlete makes a one-hour trek daily with his parents (who are also his coaches) Tatyana Malinina and Roman Skorniyakov to Reston, Virginia, to train.

A typical day includes a 4:30 a.m. wake-up call, skating from 6 to 8 a.m. and then heading to school. Due to scheduling and ice time, two hours is the average amount he can train per day.

"As his coach and as his mother, I'm doubly proud of him because he's working so hard when he is on the ice," Malinina said. "We try to get on the ice as much as possible but usually we are only training in the morning."

Despite those less-than-ideal conditions, the spitfire Malinin (Washington FSC) was prepared and poised in his second U.S. Championships.

His *JFK* free skate featured two double Axels, including one in combination; both earned positive grades of execution. He finished with a total of 58.06 points.

"My favorite part was when I landed both of my Axels," he said. "I've been working on it for six months."

JUVENILE

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Iliia Malinin

Also shining on the big stage, Samuel Mindra claimed the silver medal with 54.41 points in his first trip to the U.S. Championships. Like the champion, Mindra has come by his double Axel in the last year.

His coach, Kehaunani Malama, explained that in addition to conquering his Axel, Mindra (Portland ISC) has moved up four levels in the U.S. Figure Skating qualifying structure.

"He started competing last year, so his first competition was in pre-preliminary," she said. "In one year he moved up to juvenile and landed his double Axel. He's very talented."

Talented, and humble.

Coming off the ice, he noted things to work on (flying spin and facial expressions) and couldn't quite believe he was as strong as his fellow competitors.

"It's fun competing against people who might be better than me so I want to see if I can do better," he said. "I thought everyone was as good as me and I figured everyone improved like that but then my coach told me they didn't."

Added Malama of the "Dark Eyes" performance, "I thought he was great. He is expressive and he's good at showing how he feels when he skates."

Maxim Zharkov was a medalist twice over on the first weekend of the U.S. Championships. In addition to securing the juvenile boys bronze medal with 51.92 points, Zharkov (Dallas FSC) earned the juvenile dance pewter medal with partner Shin Lei Case.

"My free skate was easy and good; I landed everything and did all choreography right," he said. "My goal was to win a medal. In ice dance, it was to get between first and fourth."

Zharkov is relaxed about his skating and training in two disciplines, but his parent-coach, Andrei, quickly set the record straight on the challenges of competing as a two-discipline athlete.

"It's hard to split the time because he's skating about three hours," Andrei said. "Most mornings he's doing ice dance and in the afternoons I train him in freestyle. He goes to private school and at 2 p.m. they let me take him from school. This way, we can have about an hour to train."

Philip Baker (The SC of Boston) finished fourth with 50.99 points.

PAIRS

By Troy Schwindt

Rockne Brubaker and his bride of seven months, Stefania (Berton), accomplished a lot during their competitive careers, including winning national and international pairs titles.

As first-year coaches at the U.S. Championships, they got to experience victory on the other side of the boards when Isabelle Martins (Chicago FSC) and Ryan Bedard (Northern Ice SC) skated to victory at the Bloomington Ice Garden on the opening day of competition.

"I thought the performance was better than sectionals," Bedard said. "The performance, the smiling, the elements were all better."

"And we had fun," Martins added.

Having fun is exactly what Martins and Bedard did in their racing-themed performance to music from the soundtrack to *The Cutting Edge*, which earned 42.37 points. The Chicago-area skaters opened with a strong throw Axel, followed by an attractive lift and solid double Salchow-Axel sequences.

Martins and Bedard came together in June after the skaters' mothers, who both coach at an area rink, decided that their children, ages 9 and 15, should give a pairs partnership a try.

"They've known each other for a long time," Brubaker said. "We were working with Ryan on his singles and the subject kind of came up in conversation. We said, 'Let's try it and if it works we'll

Isabelle Martins and Ryan Bedard



JUVENILE

PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

keep going, and if not, nothing lost.' They skated once together and we said, 'We should do this.'

"I think they really work well together. Issy is full of life, always smiling and telling jokes. Ryan does a great job of taking care of her like a big brother. The most important thing is we work hard but we keep it fun. They enjoy each other's company and I think it shows on the ice."

Two teams representing The Skating Club of Boston, Julia Curran and Franz-Peter Jerosch (40.60) and Cate Fleming and Jedidiah Isbell (40.53), claimed the silver and bronze medals.

Curran and Jerosch, who live in Maine but train in Boxborough, Massachusetts, under coaches Bobby Martin and Carrie Wall, performed a solid skate to music from *Man of La Mancha*. The skaters, together 10 months, improved their Eastern Sectionals score by five points.

"They are two very strong skaters individually," Martin said. "I think they have made so much progress just from sectionals. They put in an overhead loop lift and throw Axel. They came back from that competition (sectionals) and they are little workers. They are coachable with great attitudes. They'll go skate on their own for a few days, then come back and whatever we've been working on, you can see they've taken it in and do it better."

Fleming and Isbell, coached by Fred Palaschak and Melanie Lambert at The Skating Club of Boston, performed to "Jumptown."

Together since August 2014, they improved dramatically over their 10th-place finish at the 2015 U.S. Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"I had been having trouble with the double flip, so I was really happy I landed that," Fleming said.

"Landing the throw Axel was a really big step for us," Isbell said. "We've been having some trouble with it all year and it has become consistent."

Jenna Gordon and Ian Meyh (SC of Southern New Jersey) earned the pewter medal (40.52).

ICE DANCE

By Mimi McKinnis

Nine months ago, Layla Karnes and Jeffrey Chen skated together for the first time. In Saint Paul, they rallied after the pattern dances to claim the title by four points.

"Well, I saw him at the rink and he saw me at the rink," Karnes said. "Then his mom talked to my mom and the next thing we know, we're a team."

Karnes (All Year FSC), the 2015 National Solo Dance champion at the novice level, had been training ice dance by herself for three years before teaming up with Chen (Peninsula SC), who had only dabbled in the discipline enough to test pattern dances and improve his singles skating. The duo began training under coaches Christine Fowler-Binder and Vitaliy Novikov, and seven months later, they were Pacific Coast Sectional champions.

"Honestly, it was the parents who came to us to put them together," Fowler-Binder said. "Layla really wanted a partner and Jeffrey was free skat-



Layla Karnes and Jeffrey Chen

ing. He was kind of leery about ice dance at first, but I think he's really enjoyed this process."

Performing their free dance to music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*, a selection chosen by Karnes, the team earned a Level 4 on four of their five elements, including the highest-scoring element of the event — a combination spin worth 5.94 points. They earned a segment score of 44.17 and a total score of 95.60 points.

The next two steps on the podium belonged to members of the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy, with Maria Soldatova and Faddy Soldatov taking silver with 91.71 points, and Claire Cain and Andrei Davydov winning bronze with 83.48 points. The teams, coached by Alexei Kiliakov, Elena Novak and Dmitry Ilin, placed seventh and eighth, respectively, in this event last year. All four skaters represent the Washington FSC.

"We train with a lot of teams — juniors, intermediates and novices," Soldatov said. "We know what we need to do by watching them. Quinn (Carpenter, the Junior Grand Prix Final champion with partner Lorraine McNamara) even gives us corrections sometimes. He helped

us with our twizzles."

"It's even good for us that we skate with our competitors," Davydov said of training with Soldatova and Soldatov. "We're working on the same pattern dances, so we can learn from each other's corrections. At the same time, it makes us a little bit nervous to compete against each other, because we know they have put in the same amount of hours and hard work that we have."

Shin Lei Case and Maxim Zharkov earned 76.20 points to finish fourth. Both skaters balance public school with training in two disciplines. Zharkov (Dallas FSC) was crowned U.S. juvenile bronze medalist in Saint Paul, while Case (Dallas FSC) placed ninth in the intermediate ladies event at the 2016 Southwestern Regional Championships.

"They have to start at 6 a.m. every day," Maxim's father Andrei Zharkov, who is also the team's coach, said. "Otherwise, it wouldn't be possible for them to get everything done. It's not easy to do what they do. They're good kids."

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INTERMEDIATE



Tiny Liu earns big results with Addams Family program

By Troy Schwindt

An electric personality and strong skating skills carried pint-sized Alysa Liu to the title in Bloomington, a Saint Paul suburb.

Liu (St. Moritz ISC) delivered two entertaining programs, including her free skate to the soundtrack of *The Addams Family*, en route to a total score of 110.24. She edged 2015 juvenile champion Sophia Chouinard by less than one point (109.97).

"I like the 'Addams Family' program because it brings out some of my personality; it's not just cute but more spooky," Liu, who dressed in black as Wednesday Addams, said. "With 'Addams Family' you can really play to the judges, too. I like the way the program is set up and organized."

Liu landed all of her jumps, although she underrotated a triple Salchow. Her two spins received Level 4, including a fast, program-ending combination spin. She glided by the judges during her step sequence and blew a kiss.

Seventh at regionals in 2015 in the juvenile

division, Liu finished fourth in the free skate but her combines scores gave her the win.

"I have had a lot of experience throughout the years and the difference this year is I worked harder, gained a lot of my jumps, skated faster and brought out more of my personality," she said after her winning short program to "Puttin' on the Ritz."

Her coach, Laura Lipetsky, started coaching Liu at Sharks Ice Fremont and Sharks Ice Oakland in tot classes when she was 5.

"One of the first things that attracted me to her was that she has this passion for skating," Lipetsky said. "She's been working hard on developing her style as well as her jumps and spins and having the whole package. She really wants to be a champion."

Chouinard, wearing a white dress, performed an elegant and clean free skate to *The Nutcracker pas de deux*. Her presentation and overall component marks were an event-best.

LADIES

gold | Alysa Liu
silver | Sophia Chouinard
bronze | Alyssa Rich
pewter | Angelina Huang

MEN

gold | Joseph Kang
silver | Alex Wellman
bronze | Jordan Evans
pewter | Lucas Altieri

PAIRS

gold | Jasmine Fendi/
Joshua Fendi
silver | Eliana Secunda/
Blake Eisenach
bronze | Berit Cummings/
Jabe Roberts
pewter | Isabelle Goldstein/
Keyton Beringer

ICE DANCE

gold | Elizabeth Tkachenko/
Alexei Kiliakov
silver | Avonley Nguyen/
Maxwell Gart
bronze | Isabella Amoia/
Cory Fraiman
pewter | Jordan Lin/
Morgan Sletten

ABOVE: Ladies: (l-r) Sophia Chouinard, Alysa Liu, Alyssa Rich, Angelina Huang; Men: (l-r) Alex Wellman, Joseph Kang, Jordan Evans, Lucas Altieri; BELOW: Pairs: (l-r) Eliana Secunda/Blake Eisenach, Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi, Berit Cummings/Jabe Roberts, Isabelle Goldstein/Keyton Beringer; Ice Dance: (l-r) Avonley Nguyen/Maxwell Gart, Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, Isabella Amoia/Cory Fraiman, Jordan Lin/Morgan Sletten



INTERMEDIATE

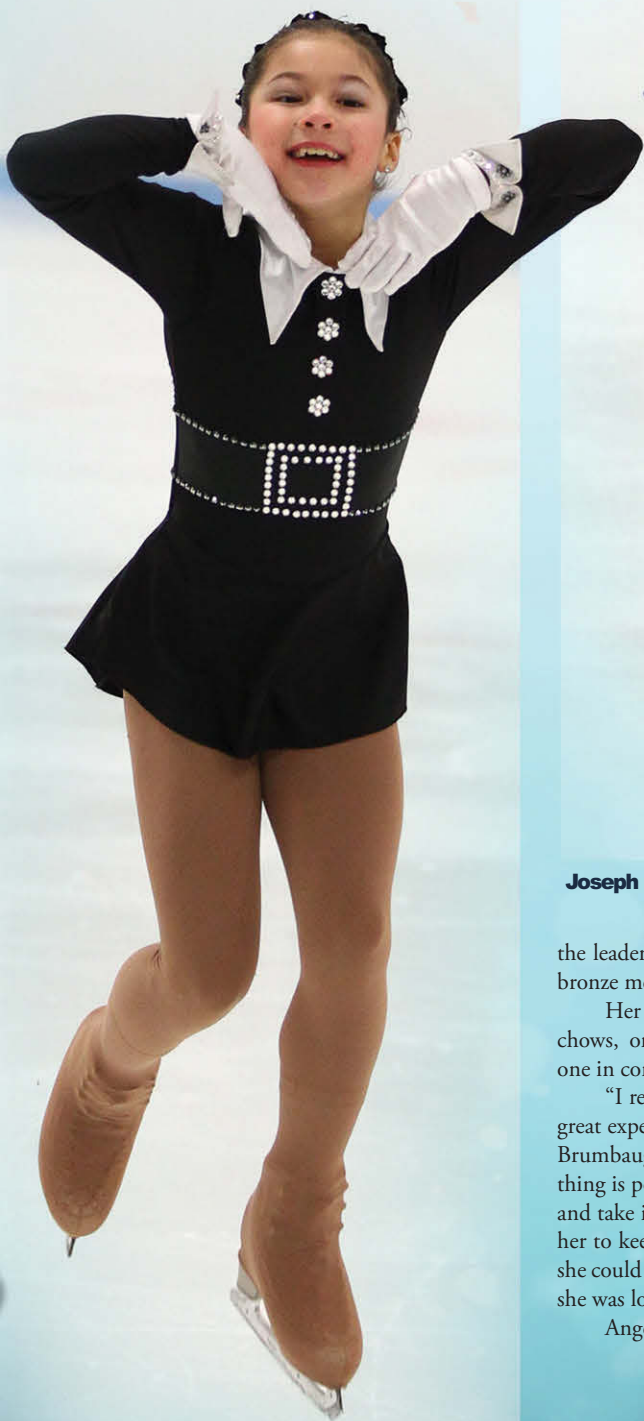
"She's improved her skating skills and is even more graceful," coach Artem Torgashev said. "We need to improve the technical difficulty in her program, but whatever she was capable of doing as of today, she did perfectly."

Chouinard, who trains in Coral Springs, Florida, alongside 2015 U.S. junior champion Andrew Torgashev, received all positive grades of execution on her nine elements, which didn't include any triple jumps.

"I was pleased that I did everything that I could and performed up to what I can possibly do," Chouinard said.

Alyssa Rich (Dallas FSC), 11th after the short program but less than four points behind

Alysa Liu



Joseph Kang

the leader, won the free skate and finished as the bronze medalist with a score of 108.96.

Her performance included two triple Salchows, one in combination, two double Axels, one in combination, and two Level 4 spins.

"I really believed she could do this and it's a great experience for her to pull from," coach Ann Brumbaugh said. "She will always know that anything is possible when you go out there every day and take it one day at a time. We just tried to tell her to keep her head up and go out and do what she could do today and it would get her the results she was looking for."

Angelina Huang (St. Peters FSA) claimed

the bronze with 108.18 points. She had the top technical score of the free skate.

MEN

By Renee Felton

Newly minted champion Joseph Kang has a thoughtful approach to his craft. Kang (University of Delaware FSC) is confident in his ability, but acknowledges the time and financial commitments that come with the sport. And those factors drive him to train hard and dictate his decisions as an athlete.

"I may or may not be looking for a career

INTERMEDIATE

in this sport, so I feel goals make me feel more accomplished," he said. "I spend so much money and time in the sport that it's important for me to feel that I achieved something in the end, that it doesn't go to waste. This win will help me when I move up to novice."

Those are mature sentiments from a 12-year-old seventh-grader whose aforementioned goals rested solidly on improving from his performance at the 2016 Eastern Sectional Championships in November.

"I wanted to land the triple toe," he said. "I fell on it at sectionals so I wanted to conquer it. I wanted to skate stronger than I did at sectionals, because I didn't really change my program. I felt I could have, watching myself at sectionals, skated a lot stronger."

Skate stronger indeed.

Kang won Easterns with 104 points plus change. He won his first U.S. title with a score of 123.61, 12 points more than silver medalist Alex Wellman.

Another thing that helps motivate Kang — a friendly rivalry. Kang has trained the last two years at the University of Delaware alongside bronze medalist Jordan Evans.

"I'm pretty competitive by nature so sometimes I see Jordan and I want to do better than him," Kang said.

Evans and coach Pam Gregory agree.

"You always perform better when you have rivalry in the rink," Evans said. "It pushes you and makes you a better skater. Having that extra little push gets it to the next level."

Added Gregory, "The rivalry is terrific in the rink. They have camaraderie but push each other to be better on a daily basis."

Evans didn't have an easy road to nab his podium spot this year, as the 14-year-old developed

an offseason hip injury from which he had to recover.

"I was injured earlier in the summer, so getting back into everything was tough," he said. "I'm healed now and my goal was to make nationals. I thought overall I did pretty well and skated to my potential."

Wellman (Central Illinois FSC) also had some of his own adversity to overcome. He struggled with the disappointment of finishing seventh at the 2015 Midwestern Sectional Championships, grew several inches, and ultimately sacrificed other activities to focus on figure skating. His desire to be at the 2016 U.S. Championships has driven him to this point, and with good results.

Wellman's coach, Madalyn Brook, summed up her student's struggles and achievements in a few words.

"Last year was a crusher. We had to set some goals," Brook explained. "I told him last year he needed triples. Now he's got them. He kind of had triple toe and triple loop but he didn't feel secure in them so he's worked very hard this year to be where he is. I think he skated fantastically."

Lucas Altieri (Panthers FSC) rounded out the men's podium, finishing fourth with 105.25 points.

PAIRS

By Troy Schwindt

A year ago at the U.S. Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, Jasmine Fendi and her twin brother Joshua led the intermediate field after the short program.

But the next day, the 12-year-olds discovered that they couldn't match the strength and power of their older competitors in the free skate, settling ultimately for the pewter medal.

In Saint Paul, the Fendis (Los Angeles FSC) showed up bigger, stronger, faster and ready to take on all challengers.

The ninth graders at Los Alamitos High School breezed to the short program lead and clinched the title (101.48) with their winning free skate to *West Side Story*. They featured overhead press lifts, strong jumps, synched-up spins and outstanding ice coverage.

"They've really worked hard on the physicality of the work and trying to get the flow and the power and the execution," coach Peter Opegard said.

"We just got the press lift recently and we successfully did it in the program," Joshua said. "We've been working on it all year long. We do a lot of off-ice work with our trainer. It felt pretty solid, the whole lift."

For the free skate, the team started with the overhead press lift followed by a throw that Jasmine fought to land. She did fall on their side-by-side double flips, but they rallied to land the rest of the jumps and throws.

"I think maybe I just lost a little bit of focus," Jasmine said of the fall.

"Jasmine doubted herself a little bit today on the jumping; she's been doing really well jumping all week," Opegard said. "She just has to go out there and believe in what she's been doing, but I'm really liking where their heads are at, and their ability to handle the competition and the improvement they are making each year. I think they sometimes move as one, which I really like to see."

The Fendis won the juvenile title in Boston in 2014; this is their fifth time at the U.S. Championships.

Another team making a big move, Eliana Secunda and Blake Eisenach (Rocky Mountain FSC) of Colorado, captured the silver medal with a score of 97.48.

Jasmine Fendi and Joshua Fendi



INTERMEDIATE

In 2015, they placed ninth in the juvenile division.

"We've had a lot more experience with the competitions," Eisenach said. "We've grown a lot together as not only a pairs team but as friends. We've learned how to communicate with each other immensely, so it's been great the past season."

"We definitely worked a lot on off-ice and our coaches have been amazing," Secunda added. "They don't let us give anything less than our best every day, which has helped us grow and we learned to train better."

In Saint Paul, the high school sophomores performed to music from the James Bond movie *Skyfall*. They demonstrated strong lifts, throws, footwork, jumps and a combination spin.

Enjoying some hometown hospitality, bronze medalists Berit Cummings and Jabe Roberts made Minnesota proud. Performing to "Seventy-six Trombones," a march from *The Music Man*, they produced an entertaining program that generated 97.23 points.

"It's amazing. I never thought I'd ever be here," Cummings (Lake Minnetonka FSC) said. "We started skating together just five months ago. I have so many friends here today. It's amazing to have nationals right here in my hometown."

Roberts (Atlanta FSC) relocated to try pairs for the first time.

"After a lot of hard work, they should be very proud to say that they are the 2016 intermediate pairs bronze medalists," coach Trudy Oltmanns wrote on her Facebook page.

Isabelle Goldstein and Keyton Bearinger (Detroit SC) earned the pewter medal with 89.52 points.

ICE DANCE

By Mimi McKinnis

Elizabeth Tkachenko and Alexei Kiliakov had a lot to live up to when the free dance began at the Bloomington Ice Garden. They were leading after the pattern dances by more than four points. And they train at the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy alongside teams such as Caroline and Gordon Green, who won consecutive U.S. titles at the juvenile, intermediate and novice levels, including their second-straight novice title just one day later in Saint Paul.

With a final score of 98.09, nearly seven points higher than their closest competitor, Tkachenko and Kiliakov proved they're following in the footsteps of their training mates, winning the intermediate title just one year after being crowned U.S. juvenile champs.

"It feels exciting," Kiliakov said. "It took a lot of practice and effort on all of our sessions."

In addition to training in a successful hub of ice dance teams, Tkachenko and Kiliakov (Washington FSC) are taught by a team of proven coaches, including Elena Novak, Dmytri Ilin and Kiliakov's father, Alexei Kiliakov. In all, the camp, based in Rockville and Wheaton, Maryland, trains 16 ice dance teams, 11 of which competed at the 2016 U.S. Championships.

"It's hard work for everyone — for the skaters, the coaches and the parents," the senior Kilia-



Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov

kov said. "We work as a team for our teams. For Elizabeth and Alexei, it's better that we have a lot of coaches. He's not their son, so I can watch from the sidelines a bit more. Today I am very proud of them as a parent, but as a coach, I know this is just the beginning. There's a lot of work, success and maybe failure ahead of them, but they're definitely off to a great start."

Fourth after the pattern dances, the new team of Avonley Nguyen and Maxwell Gart turned in a solid free dance to win the second segment and leave Saint Paul with the silver medal. After teaming up last April, the duo stood on the podium in their first season together, earning 91.25 points.

"Our personalities match really well," Gart (Washington FSC) said.

"I was looking for someone with a sense of humor," Nguyen (Charter Oak FSC) added. "This is my first year ever skating with a partner, so I wanted to skate with someone I was comfortable with. We get along really well."

Bronze medalists Isabella Amoia and Cory Fraiman also teamed up less than a year before the 2016 Championships, never thinking they would finish the season as U.S. medalists with 90.46 points. Amoia (SC of Novi) competed in the 2015 qualifying season with Cole Yolman, but the team failed to qualify for the U.S. Championships after placing fifth at the Eastern Sectional Championships. Fraiman (Philadelphia SC & HS) spent his time on the ice playing hockey.

"I was taking lessons from a couple of figure skating coaches to improve my skating skills," Fraiman said. "They kept on watching me skate and telling my dad, 'He'd make a great ice dancer.' At first I was like 'No way!' But then I tried it and I fell in love. It's a lot of fun."

Tkachenko and Kiliakov's training mates, Jordan Lin and Morgan Sletten (Washington FSC), won the pewter medal with 85.98 points. The duo repeated as pewter medalists, after placing fourth in the juvenile ranks at last year's U.S. Championships.



'ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS'

Boston primed for an epic competition

by TROY SCHWINDT AND LYNN RUTHERFORD

The best figure skaters in the world will showcase their vast talents in arguably the best sports city in America when Boston hosts the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships, March 28–April 3.

Home to the NHL's Boston Bruins and NBA's Boston Celtics, the venerable TD Garden will be the site of this prestigious international competition. The event marks the first time since 2009 that the United States has hosted the World Championships. That year, Evan Lysacek earned the gold medal in Los Angeles before going on to win the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

"These World Championships are shaping up to be one for the record books," Doug

Zeghibe, executive director of The Skating Club of Boston, said. "The interest from international fans has been phenomenal, and Boston's own skating fans have been responding with great enthusiasm. The U.S. is competitive in both the ladies and the dance competitions, and the technical level of the quadruple jumps in the men's event has never been higher."

While this is the first time Boston will host the World Championships, the city is no stranger to figure skating. With deep roots in the sport, and home to Olympic champions Dick Button and Tenley Albright, Boston was selected to host the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, which celebrated the 100-year edition of the U.S. Championships and determined the 2014 U.S. Olympic Team that competed in Sochi, Russia. Almost 109,000 spectators walked through the TD Garden turnstiles to watch that riveting competition.

"The crowd was unbelievable, so spectacular, such great energy," said Simon Shnafir, who with former pairs partner Marissa Castelli represented The Skating Club of Boston and earned a U.S. title and Olympic berth at that historic event.

That same electricity will be present for the World Championships, where large crowds are expected throughout the event. Many current Olympic and World champions and medalists are primed to thrill audiences with their skyrocketing jumps, mind-boggling spins, intricate footwork and daring lifts and throws.

The international field includes a roster of men whose athleticism has pushed the sport's limits, with scores of more than 300 points. The ladies, led by strong contingents from Russia and Japan, have mesmerized audiences this season with their technical prowess and artistry. Russia

continues to dominate in pairs, while the United States has two of the world's top ice dance teams.

LADIES

It's been 10 years since a U.S. lady ascended the medal podium at the World Championships, and many are betting the trio of Gracie Gold, Polina Edmunds and Ashley Wagner will end the drought in Boston. To do it, one or more of them will have to overcome formidable teams from Russia and Japan.

Russia's ladies field is so deep, 2015 World champion Elizaveta Tuktamishva didn't even make it to Boston, having placed eighth at the Russian championships. Evgenia Medvedeva has been nearly flawless this season, winning Skate America over Gold in October and claiming the Grand Prix Final and European titles. The elegant Russian teen packs her free skate with difficult jump combinations, and does many in the program's second half, earning valuable bonus points. Medvedeva's only loss this season came to her equally precocious teammate Elena Radionova at Rostelecom Cup in November. Radionova, a fierce competitor, placed second to Medvedeva at the European Figure Skating Championships.

Gold won her second U.S. title with a record-setting free skate to Stra-

insky's *The Firebird*, with technical elements and choreography every bit as challenging as those performed by the Russians. But at the U.S. Championships in Saint Paul and other events this season, she did not perform a clean short program, which will likely be essential for a medal in Boston.

"Obviously, I feel way better going into the Boston World Championships now that I have won this and qualified for it," Gold said after her stellar free skate in Saint Paul. "I feel better than after the short program, opening with a single. I just need to keep my nose down and keep training."

Edmunds had her best programs ever at the

EVENT SCHEDULE

(All Times Eastern)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

10 a.m.-3:15 p.m. – Short dance
5-5:45 p.m. – Opening ceremony
6-10:55 p.m. – Men's short program

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

12:15-5:55 p.m. – Ladies short program
7:30-10:50 p.m. – Free dance

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

1:15-4:45 p.m. – Pairs short program
6:45-10:50 p.m. – Men's free skate

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

12:54-3:55 p.m. – Pairs free skate
7-10:55 p.m. – Ladies free skate

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

2-4:15 p.m. – Exhibition



Gracie Gold

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



DANIEL KOPRITSCH - ISU/SU VIA GETTY IMAGES

Evgenia Medvedeva



Adam Rippon

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

U.S. Championships, placing a close second to Gold. Will international judges in Boston award the Northern California teenager the same respect? Like Gold, Wagner has had difficulty putting two clean programs together this season. Still, the three-time U.S. champion arrives in Boston full of confidence, calling her free skate in Saint Paul one of her best ever despite a miss on a triple Lutz.

"I am committing so much more to my jumps this season," Wagner said. "I'm happy with the way I competed and I'm looking forward to Worlds."

The U.S. and Russian squads face strong competition from defending World silver medalist Satoko Miyahara of Japan, a delicate, lyrical skater who nevertheless packs a technical punch and placed second to Medvedeva at the Grand Prix Final. And while Mao Asada has had difficulty finding her footing this season, placing sixth at the Grand Prix Final and third at the Japanese Championships, the three-time World champion will likely be the only lady in the field to include a triple Axel in her programs. You can never count her out.

MEN

Men's figure skating has skyrocketed to new heights in recent years thanks to a handful of skaters who have conquered multiple quadruple jumps. Two of those men — Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu and Spain's Javier Fernandez — have put up record scores in recent months.

Any score over 280 points is considered outstanding.

Hanyu, the 2014 Olympic and World champion, scored 330.43 points at the Grand Prix Final in December. One of his choreographers was quoted as saying, "It's like he's from another planet." Fernandez is also running white hot, having won his fourth consecutive European title in January with a score of 302.77 points.

Both are coached in Toronto by two-time Olympic silver medalist Brian Orser. Besides being epic jumpers, they are also regarded as premier performers and are favorites for the gold medal in Boston.

Canada's Patrick Chan and Kazakhstan's Denis Ten are also strong leapers and medal contenders. Chan is the 2014 Olympic silver medalist

and three-time World champion, while Ten is the 2014 Olympic bronze medalist and a two-time World medalist.

On the American side, veteran Adam Rippon arrives having just won his first U.S. title. While not equipped with a full arsenal of quads, his ability to perform and connect with an audience is equally lethal. Rippon will perform his free skate to a Beatles medley, which was a big hit at the U.S. Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He attempted a quad Lutz in the program, falling on it, and may add another quad or two to his routines for Boston.

"I stayed true to my plan at nationals," Rippon, who trains in Southern California, said. "I think my next step is to refocus and reevaluate what kind of things I want in my programs. I'm really looking forward to getting down and getting all the work done."

One of his U.S. teammates, Max Aaron, is cut from the same cloth as those great jumpers mentioned above. Aaron, who trains in Colorado Springs, Colorado, incorporates multiple quads into his free skate, and has developed his performance quality under the watchful eye of choreographer Phillip Mills. The 2013 U.S. champion and 2016 U.S. silver medalist is considered more than capable of making a run at the podium.

Grant Hochstein, the third U.S. men's entry, will make his Worlds debut. Hochstein, who trains in Southern California, finished fourth in Saint Paul but was awarded a Worlds spot when bronze medalist Nathan Chen suffered a hip injury during an exhibition performance following the U.S. Championships. Hochstein had his best results ever this fall and plans quadruple jumps in both his short program and free skate in Boston.

PAIRS

This event will have it all: opposing styles, longtime rivalries, technical fireworks and, for good measure, a five-time World champion returning to the competitive ranks with a new partner.

Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, the athletic Canadians whose side-by-side triple Lutz and quadruple throw jumps led them to an undefeated 2014–15 campaign, will be challenged to defend their World title against a two-team



Yuzuru Hanyu

ASUSHI TOMURA/GETTY IMAGES



Tatiana Volozozhar and Maxim Trankov

DANIEL KOPATSCH - ISU/ISU VIA GETTY IMAGES

Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Russian juggernaut: Olympic champions Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov, who married last August, and Olympic silver medalists Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov.

Volosozhar and Trankov, who took last season off, won their fourth European Championships in January by nearly 22 points. Powered by Trankov's fiery temperament and anchored by Volosozhar's calm under pressure, they arrive in Boston with two strong programs, including a dramatic free skate to music from the soundtrack of *Bram Stoker's Dracula* by Wojciech Kilar. The 2013 World champions' soaring triple twist, interesting lifts and dependable side-by-side triple jumps make them the favorites.

After a slow start at Skate America, Stolbova and Klimov won the Grand Prix Final in December in Barcelona with a near-World-record free skate score. A shoulder injury to Klimov prevented them from competing at the European Championships, but their avant-garde style and consistent elements make them medal contenders in Boston.

Five World titles and two Olympic medals were not enough for Germany's Aliona Savchenko. When former partner Robin Szolkowy retired after the 2014 World Championships, she teamed with Bruno Massot. In their first international season, Savchenko and Massot are enjoying instant success, winning the silver medal at the European Championships.

China's Wenjing Sui and Cong Han, the 2015 World silver medalists, have a quadruple twist and quadruple throw in their arsenal, but have struggled with injuries this season. Still, they figure to be in the medal chase.

Into this competitive maelstrom step two improving U.S. teams. Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea, who train in Ellenton, Florida, performed two outstanding programs to win the 2016 U.S. Championships with a record score. Together since 2012, they blend sound technique with an appealing, audience-friendly style.

"I'd like to be part of earning three U.S. pairs slots for the 2017 Worlds," O'Shea said. "It's going to be tough, because the field is very stacked. We are going to keep pushing; it's not a time to rest on your laurels."

This season, 2015 U.S. champions Alexa Scimeca and Christopher Knierim earned the first U.S. pairs entry to the Grand Prix Final since 2007. Watch for the Colorado Springs, Colorado, team's edgy short program to Metallica's "Nothing Else Matters," as well as the huge quadruple twist in their free skate.

Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman earned the last Worlds medal for the U.S., claiming bronze in 2002 in Nagano, Japan.

Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron



ICE DANCE

Twenty years ago, most fans could accurately anticipate World ice dance podiums. In the years leading up to the 2014 Olympics, Americans Meryl Davis and Charlie White, and Canadians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir dominated the ranks. Those days of predictability are gone.

In Boston, six or seven couples will fight for the top three spots, including two U.S. teams: newly crowned U.S. champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, and defending World silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates, who placed a close second to their long-time rivals in Saint Paul.

With their free dance to Coldplay's "Fix You," the Shibutani siblings have shown a more emotional and personal side of themselves this season, and audiences — and judges — have responded. Boston will be a homecoming of sorts: Alex was born in the city, and he and Maia spent many of their formative years in New England.

"Growing up, many things that inspired me as an athlete were Boston-related," Alex said. "Having Worlds in Boston in the middle of this Olympic cycle has me feeling like we're gathering momentum. Obviously, we're looking ahead to the 2018 Olympics."

Chock and Bates won a silver medal at the Grand Prix Final, where the Shibutanis placed fourth. After changing their short dance early in the season and making numerous tweaks to their free dance to Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2," the skaters arrive in Boston with great confidence in their material.

"I don't think there is anything to recover from," Chock said after their loss in Saint Paul. "This has been the best by far that we have competed this season. We definitely have room to improve, and we definitely will improve before going to Worlds."

U.S. bronze medalists Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, 10th in the world in 2015, plan to move up the ranks. The tall, charismatic couple moved from the Detroit Skating Club this

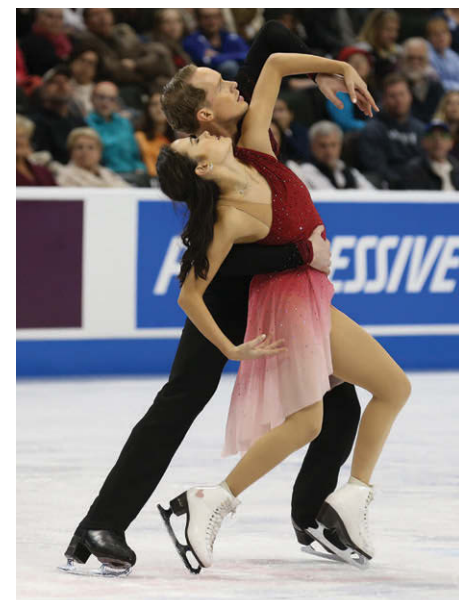
Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani



summer to a new coaching center in Montreal, Quebec, reinventing their training regimen in the process.

None of the U.S. teams are considered favorites. That title goes to World champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France, who rebounded from Papadakis' concussion in September to handily win the European title. The couple's liquid skating has mesmerized fans and judges alike. In the French team's absence, Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje won the Grand Prix Final, and their short dance has gained the highest marks of the season. They, too, are a significant threat for gold.

2014 World champions Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte of Italy, second to the French at Europeans, have returned to the lighthearted, romantic style that worked so well for them in the past. Russia is traditionally strong in ice dance, and Ekaterina Bobrova and Dimitri Soloviev, third in Europe, carry the banner in Boston.



Madison Chock and Evan Bates

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The Cottonwood Heights Figure Skating Club (CHFSC) in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, awarded the first Merribeth Anderson Award to juvenile skater Alexus Jensen at its Oktoberfest competition. Jensen received the honor by being named the "Most Memorable Dramatic Showcase Skater" at the event. Merribeth Anderson was a member of the CHFSC and gave more than 25 years to the Utah skating community as a skating parent, volunteer and judge. Her extensive background as a professional ballerina for Ballet West gave her the artistic knowledge and insight to become a gold-level test judge in free skate and moves in the field, a silver dance test judge and a regional competition judge. Her passion for skating combined with her attention to details of the skaters' extension, lines, posture and musicality made her a true asset. Merribeth's husband, Steve Anderson, presented the award to Jensen. A plaque will also be displayed at the rink with a description of Merribeth's contributions to both the skating and ballet communities, and the name of the award's recipient will be added to the plaque each year.



Gate City babysits to help families at the holidays

The Gate City FSC (New Hampshire) Junior Activities Committee participated in its first "Drop and Shop" event on Dec. 12. The committee babysat 30 children to raise funds for Christmas gifts for a family in need that was adopted through Nashua's Front Door Agency.

From 2 to 6 p.m., the girls assisted the children with crafts, entertainment and skating during the public skate session. Putting on and taking off skates for 30 kids made for quite a production line. The girls skated with their charges, kept track of them on and off the ice, and fed them pizza, snacks and hot chocolate. Santa even paid a visit and posed for pictures.

The girls met at the mall the next day to shop for their adopted family (and for two other families, with additional funds supplied by the agency). Four hours later, they had collected carts of games, toys, snow boots, jackets, pajamas and other clothing. They learned about the cost of toys and about shopping on a budget while still trying to fulfill the kids' wish lists and get quality and trendy stuff, especially for the teenagers on the list.

The grand finale of the event was dropping off three huge "Santa" bags of gifts at the Front Door Agency, along with a bicycle. The Junior Activities Committee also delivered piles of toiletry items and diapers, which had been collected from the club's holiday show participants.

The Northfield Skating School (NSS) in Northfield, Minnesota, celebrated its 10th birthday on Dec. 20. There was skating, a skating cake, a visit by Santa, a raffle, design-your-own party hats, a station to write your favorite memories of NSS and an in-person registration promotion. "Many coach and skating alums came back for the celebration, which meant a lot to our team," Carey Tinkelenberg, owner and executive director of the NSS, said.



The Columbus Figure Skating Club enjoyed a record test session with six gold medalists on Jan. 9. Vivian Chen, Chi Yamakawa and Rachel Bachman earned their senior free skate gold medals; Katelyn Fetherolf and Kendall Hackler successfully completed their senior moves-in-the-field gold tests; and Jacqueline Tu secured her gold medal in gold pattern dances. The skaters were recognized with their coaches and peers at the conclusion of their respective tests.



(l-r) Free skate medalists Vivian Chen, Chi Yamakawa; coaches Svetlana Khodorkovsky, Kristen Izzie; free skate medalist Rachel Bachman



(l-r) Moves-in-the-field medalist Katelyn Fetherolf, coach Svetlana Khodorkovsky and moves-in-the-field medalist Kendall Hackler



(l-r) Coaches Annette Schaefer and Tim McKernan and gold dance medalist Jacqueline Tu



Members of the U.S. Figure Skating staff organized a learn-to-skate day for the Colorado Springs- and Denver-based marketing firm Vladimir Jones. Vladimir Jones has been hired by U.S. Figure Skating to assist with the rebranding campaign of the Basic Skills Program.

Skating great Paul Wylie and a few of his friends and students put on an ice show at the foot of Sugar Mountain, North Carolina, on Dec. 18. The annual event is part of the SugarFest winter celebration. This year, SugarFest was postponed a week due to a month of unseasonably warm weather. For the ice show, it was 19 degrees, with a windchill of 1 degree. "Paul put on his usual dazzling performance with his students. It was so much fun and the ambiance as always was breathtaking. It surely felt like Christmas was only a week away," Wendy Thompson, president of the Carolinas FSC, said. (l-r) Sarah Thompson, Paul Wylie, Kyra HECTOR and Ivy Liu



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The Fond du Lac Blades shared a plane trip to Switzerland with Olympic ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

SWITZERLAND PROVIDES MEDALS AND MEMORIES

PHOTO BY SARAH PALINES



by LESLIE GRAHAM

U.S. synchronized skaters had a solid international showing, earning two junior medals and a fourth-place senior finish at the Neuchâtel Trophy, Jan. 30–31, in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

In the junior competition, the Chicago Jazz (Chicago FSC) earned the gold medal, while the Fond du Lac Blades (Fond du Lac FSC) captured the bronze. The Skyliners (The SC of New York) were just shy of making the senior podium, finishing fourth.

SKATING magazine asked members of each team to share their thoughts about the trip to this renowned international competition and destination.

How did your team prepare for the Neuchâtel Trophy?

Lily Brouwer, Skyliners

We practiced every weekend, with extra ice leading up to our departure. We worked extremely hard to perfect the technicality of our elements to ensure that they would get called at the international level, as well as competed nationally in Anaheim, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, to practice performing and competing. We arrived early to Neuchâtel to get ready for the time difference and familiarize ourselves with the rink we would be skating in.

What did you do to pass time on the flight to Europe?

Pam Palines, Fond du Lac Blades

We flew out at night, so most of the team slept for the majority of the flight. When we were awake we worked on homework, read books, listened to music, watched movies and knitted and crocheted. Meryl Davis and Charlie White were on our plane. Everyone was pretty

The Fond du Lac Blades celebrate their first international competition and podium finish since 2006.



PHOTO BY JEN SAIS

The Skyliners show their team spirit while waiting to board a plane at JFK International Airport in New York City.

star-struck, including myself, because they are two of my favorite skaters of all time, so that was pretty amazing. They wished us luck and we were able to get a photo with them once we got off the plane before heading our separate ways.

How did you overcome the jet lag?

Olivia Johnston, Chicago Jazz

When we travel internationally, we take an overnight flight to make the transition easier. On the morning of our arrival in Zurich, we drove to the capital of Switzerland, Bern, and did a walking tour of the city to walk off our jet lag. On our tour we learned a lot about the city of Bern and the country of Switzerland.

Did the team prepare differently at this competition compared to an event held in the United States?

Ana Kostovic, Fond du Lac Blades

Throughout the entirety of our time in Switzerland, especially on competition day, we tried to stay in the mindset that this was just another competition and our goal was the same as for any other domestic competition. We came to skate two strong and clean programs, and to do so, we proceeded as we normally would at U.S. competitions. We ate our meals together, ran our programs off ice, did our hair and makeup together, and warmed up with our usual warm-up routine. This helped keep us calm and focused on our goal.

What did you think of the city of Neuchâtel?

Jessica Neuman, Fond du Lac Blades

When we finally got to Neuchâtel, after exploring Lucerne and Bern in a desperate attempt to fight jet lag, it was already quite dark. Not seeing the city upon arriving, though, was worth it. I woke up to a pinkish-orange sunrise behind the Alps, with a view of a lake silhouetted by the Alps behind it due to the fog on my left and a cluster of houses and buildings scattered up the hillside to my right. Every building captured the beauty of the new and the old. The colors varied so much and each building featured immense detail that is sometimes now lost on the more commercial areas of our world. The alleyways and connecting streets that held all the little

shops were absolutely mesmerizing. Switzerland captured my heart in more ways than one.

Giving good luck gifts is a tradition at international events. Did you receive any fun gifts?

Amanda Angulo, Chicago Jazz

We love to get postcards and little candies from other teams. It's usually difficult to visit with the teams we compete against because of scheduling, so getting a postcard with a photo and a good-luck message from our competitors means a lot to our team. We look forward to checking the mailboxes at the competition rink every day to see the candies and little gifts from countries all over the world.

Do you have any traditions or superstitions at competitions?

Lily Brouwer, Skyliners

We all listen to "Defying Gravity" on the bus on the way to the competition. Since we didn't have a bus, we played it on our boom box as we walked. We also listen to an inspirational Nike ad to pump us up. Individually, I need to put one skate on before my dress and one after. I

did it accidentally before a good skate and I have done it ever since.

What was it like being a first-time Team USA member competing abroad?

Tessa Ostermann, Fond du Lac Blades

I don't think I was able to grasp the idea of representing the United States until my team was about to go on the ice for our short program, and I was looking up into the stands where our parents were sitting. Instead of seeing "Blades" everywhere, I saw the American flag — little handheld ones and even a huge full-size flag. It was then that it finally hit me. I was no longer the 8-year-old trying to catch up to her friends by passing her pre-juvenile moves in order to join a team; I am an athlete that is competing on behalf of the United States of America. I felt proud, dedicated, accomplished and surprisingly calm. I felt I had a job to do, but it was one I could not only handle but I could embrace.

Did you try any new food in Switzerland?

Casey Ouellette, Skyliners

Overall, the food was very good. Because I am gluten-free, I have to try new foods at internationals instead of sticking with pizza or pasta as a "safe food." I ordered horse steak and it was amazing. Most of my teammates tried it and ordered it later. I also tried rosti, which was like a giant tater tot.

How does competing at Neuchâtel compare to other international events?

Eri Lee, Chicago Jazz

Every international event is a different experience because of the people, the food and the culture of the country. Neuchâtel is an amazing city and venue to compete at because the people are kind and the atmosphere of the city is uplifting, especially with the beautiful view of the lake. Competing in Switzerland is one of my favorite international competitions because of this and we are excited to have had this opportunity.

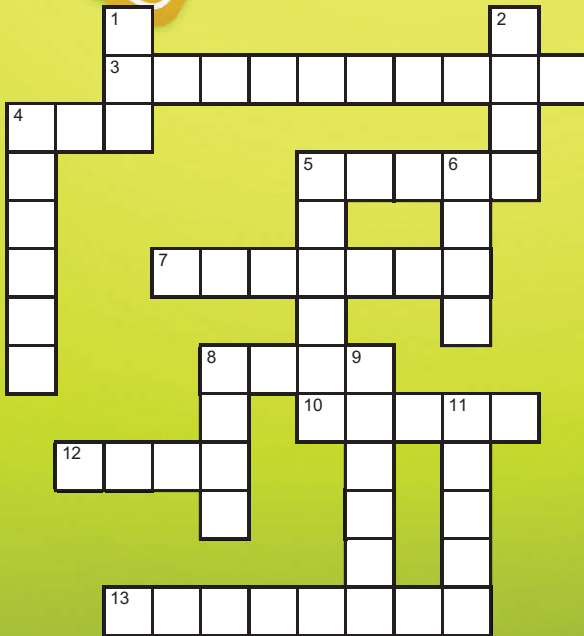
The Chicago Jazz perform their short program to selections from Chicago.



PHOTO BY MARISSA OLARTE

Answers to the crossword puzzle and word find appear on page 84.

Puzzles by Joel Kaplow



ACROSS

- 3 He was the "old man" of the competition at age 26. Who grabbed his first U.S. Championships gold medal in Saint Paul? (2 wds.)
 - 4 Nathan Chen *destroyed* the record books in Saint Paul by landing a total of ___ quads between his short and free skates on his way to the bronze medal.
 - 5 Noticeably absent from the U.S. Championships was 2015 men's champ Jason ___, due to a back injury.
 - 7 Despite missing out on a gold medal in Saint Paul, Ashley Wagner proved she was still happy she reached her goal of making the U.S. World Team when she said, "___ accomplished." (See the Senior Ladies article for help.)
 - 8 Mirai Nagasu had an unexpected equipment glitch halfway through her short program; her right ___ split open. She managed to finish as gracefully as possible, and with the help of an emergency repair crew, all was well for her pewter-winning free skate.
 - 10 In April, a new international skating competition called the KOSÉ Team Challenge Cup will happen in Spokane, Washington. Participants will be Team Asia, Team Europe and Team ___ America.
 - 12 In Saint Paul, four accomplished figure skaters and a coach were inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating ___ of Fame.
 - 13 Five levels of skaters were represented at the U.S. Championships: senior, junior, novice, intermediate and ___.
- 2 After her record-breaking come-from-behind win, Gracie Gold bubbled, "I am just over the ___." (For help, see the Senior Ladies article.)
 - 4 Among the many surprises at Saint Paul, Tarah Kayne and Daniel O'Shea landed on top of the pairs podium. The defending champs, Alexa Scimeca and Chris Knierim, ended up with the ___ medal.
 - 5 At the end of this month, the U.S. is hosting the World Figure Skating Championships for the 13th time. The action will take place in the capital of Massachusetts. Can you name it?
 - 6 For her free skate music, Polina Edmunds performed to the soundtrack of the 1939 classic film *Gone with the ___*.
 - 8 Mariah ___ came to Saint Paul minus her two training mates who were nursing injuries, so she took a rhinestone from each of their costumes and attached them to her short and free skate outfits. That way they were still "together." (See the Nuggets page for help.)
 - 9 Due to Nathan Chen's unfortunate, ill-timed injury, Grant Hochstein will be taking his place at Worlds, and ___ Hiwatashi will fill in for him at World Juniors. (See the Juniors article for help.)
 - 11 Maia and Alex Shibutani have finished just behind Madison Chock and Evan Bates for the previous ___ U.S. Championships in a row. This year, they finally ice danced their way to the gold, leaving Madsion and Evan to settle for silver.

DOWN

- 1 With his podium finish in Saint Paul, ___

WORDS ON ICE

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

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 | JUNIOR WORLDS |
| BOSTON | MAIA AND ALEX |
| DANIEL OSHEA | MAX AARON |
| GRACIE GOLD | POLINA EDMUNDS |
| HAIRCUTTER SPIN | TARAH KAYNE |

Go Figure

by Gene Browning



KIDS SPOTLIGHT



INOLA ROJAS

Age: 10
Club: Dallas Figure Skating Club
Level: Pre-juvenile
Hometown: Grand Prairie, Texas
Coaches: Peter and Darlene Cain
Favorite skaters: Jason Brown, Ashley Cain, Debi Thomas
Memorable moment: Landing my double Salchow
How I got started skating: My mom signed me and my siblings up for learn-to-skate classes when I was 5 years old.
Hobbies: Running, playing video games, playing outside with my siblings

HARMONY KRAUSE

Age: 7
Hometown: Temecula, California
Club: San Diego FSC
Level: Pre-juvenile moves in the field
Goal: To land an Axel and master a Biellmann spin before turning 8
Coaches: Geoffry Varner, Courtney Moebs
Favorite skaters: Yuzuru Hanyu, Mariah Bell, Rika Hongo, Gracie Gold, Brendan Kerry, Patrick Chan, Mao Asada
How I started: I watched Mao Asada competing at the 2012 World Championships and I wanted to copy her. The first time I got on the ice at 5, I suddenly felt like a real figure skater. I fell in love with skating.
Favorite moves: Biellmann spin (I am still working on it), haircutter, cannonball spin, split jump
Memorable moment: Meeting Gracie Gold and Mariah Bell at the 2015 Glacier Falls Summer Classic
MORE FAVORITES
Colors: Blue and red
Hobbies: Playing board games, rock climbing, cooking
Actor: Charlie Chaplin
Food: Pizza



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.



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(subject to change)

- April 15 | Geneva, IL
- April 23 | Charlotte, NC
- April 24 | West Palm, FL
- May 1 | San Diego
- May 13 | Colorado Springs, CO
- May 15 | Los Angeles
- May 22 | Plano, TX
- June 4 | Jacksonville, FL
- June 11 | Cleveland
- June 12 | Stockholm, NJ
- June 12 | Fort Wayne, IN
- June 18 | St. Louis
- June 25 | Laurel, MD
- June 26 | Seattle
- June 28 | Colorado Springs, CO
- July 10 | Ashburn, VA
- July 10 | Kansas City, MO
- July 30 | San Diego
- Aug. 13 | Detroit
- TBA | Boston

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Skating helping to shape lives, install confidence

Editor's note: Learning to skate later in life has proven beneficial in a multitude of ways for these three adult skaters. Their desire to improve and compete is a testament to what the sport of skating has to offer.

CAROLYN BERTOLINO, 45

Bettendorf, Iowa, FSC of the Quad Cities, Adult pre-bronze

Carolyn Bertolino credits skating with shaping her life.

"I get exercise without having to do boring gym workouts," Bertolino said. "It also keeps me occupied by thinking all the time of what's next."

Bertolino began taking group lessons 17 years ago with her sister at a local mall. She's become serious about the sport in the last 18 months, crediting her coach with pushing her to take on new elements.

"She breaks them down to be more understandable," Bertolino said.

Bertolino trains five hours a week and is most proud of achieving her back spin.

"It took me so long to learn," Bertolino said. "I'm glad I never gave up on it."

Taking a page from her coach, Bertolino is also adept at pushing herself.

"I discovered my mind can force my body to do some pretty cool things," said Bertolino, who engages unique strategies in readying herself to compete.

Her off-ice preparation includes spirals, which Bertolino has difficulty with when nervous. She pays attention to her upper body, because her legs will shake.

"I practice frequently and envision an audience watching me to psych myself into feeling nervous," Bertolino said.

Her objective is to practice completing her program, feeling something similar to how she expects to feel at competition. Closer to competition, she opens her practice sessions with a program run-through.

Bertolino is just beginning to take her adult skating tests, with long-term goals of passing her adult silver and adult gold moves-in-the-field tests.

"I'd like to also be competitive at adult bronze," said Bertolino, an insurance representative. "Skating means fun, excitement and challenge."

DAVID ROGALA, 46

Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Wasatch FSC, Adult silver free skate

Dave Rogala has developed a healthy perspective on his skating since taking up the sport five years ago.

An Air Force master sergeant in the avionics field, he simply wants to be a better skater than he was last week and, in the long term, become as good a skater as he can be.

"Anything else is subordinate," Rogala said. "Skating is great for constant self-challenge, expression and escape from anything going on in my life. My greatest achievement is being married to a wonderful woman for over 19 years and watching our two sons develop into men. No individual accomplishment can top that."

One of Rogala's sons began skating five years ago through his youth group, which prompted father and son to begin lessons.

Despite the rigors of military service, Rogala

credits skating with inspiring more focus and discipline than he thought he could achieve.

"Thanks to skating, I now know I have a higher pain threshold, too," Rogala said.

He is friends with his coach, who excels at pushing him, but respects his limits. Rogala also works informally with a woman who helps him quite a bit.

The skating community has been significant to Rogala, who became friends with a skater while stationed in Korea, despite the language barrier.

Competition for Rogala has turned out to be the most exciting part of skating; he didn't realize initially that he was capable of performing in front of judges and spectators. Confidence in program run-throughs are connected to mental and physical preparation. Rogala lifts weights, cycles and runs, reminding himself not to take things too seriously.

"I do this for fun," Rogala said. "The only way I'm going to the Olympics is if someone buys me a ticket!"

MARLA KNIGHT, 54

Columbus, Ohio, Columbus FSC, Adult pre-bronze

In 2010, Marla Knight wanted to find a hobby for her days off work.

"I wanted something that was good for me and I'd previously enjoyed," Knight said. "I remembered skating with my sister and friends and receiving a pair of skates."

Knight, a speech-language pathologist at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, fell hard and slipped often, deciding lessons would help her learn how not to hurt herself.

Knight's husband jokes that skating is her unhealthy obsession, though it has transformed her health and confidence. Never considered the athletic type, Knight now performs daily exercise and stretching routines.

"I'm in better condition than any time in my life," Knight said. "I've also made many new friends."

However, two weeks before her first competition, Knight fractured her knee in a fall. Previously, she would have quit when suffering such a setback. Her first question, though, was, "When can I skate again? I did not want to give up," said Knight, who competed one year later.

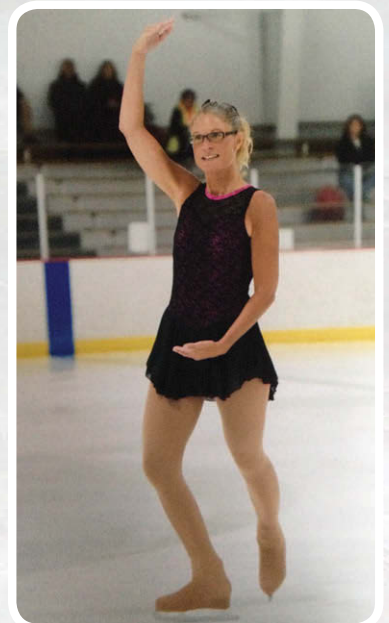
Physical therapy taught Knight strength exercises, and she alternates days of upper and lower body conditioning.

Her coach's advice to keep "getting the miles" is the main reason she remembers everything in her programs.

"Frequent run-throughs help introduce a new level of stress that is important to learn to manage," Knight said. "I also need a skate parent."

Generally a calm person, Knight finds it better to laugh at her mistakes. During competition, she feels no stress from the audience and judges. Her concern is skating well for herself and her coach, Misha Sorochinsky.

"He holds my hand when I need it, but pushes me to remember all the details," said Knight, who recently began figure skates.





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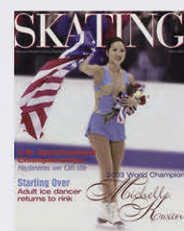
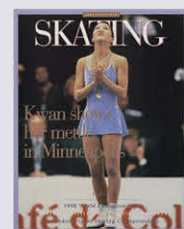
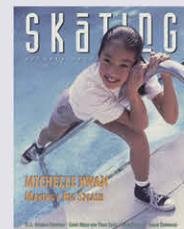
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2016 U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

St. Paul, Minnesota, January 16–24

Competition officials: Alexander Enzmann, Alison Hershberger-Filo, Allison Duarte, Anne Cammett, Anthony Bardin, Cassy Papajohn, David Santee, Deveny Deck, Diana Wisner, Doug Williams, Eric Hampton, Eugene Heffron, Gale Tanager, Gerald Miele, Gregory Cannon, Gregory Rouw, Gretchen Wilson, Hal Marron, Heather Nemier, Janet Ford, Jeffrey Charbonneau, Jennifer Hartley, Jennifer Simon, Jenny Mast, John Cole, Joseph Inman, Julia Rey, Kanae Tagawa, Katherine Conrad, Kathleen Krieger, Kathy Slack, Kelly Davies, Kevin Elvin, Kevin Rosenstein, Kim Moore, Kimberly Heim, Kitty DeLio LaForte, Larry Kriwanek, Laurie Lind, Leslie Gianelli, Lisa May, Lisa-Marie Allen, Lynn Goldman, Lynne Lauer, Marcia Chaffee, Mariam Mohajer-Rahbari, Mary Hiser, Mary-Elizabeth Wightman, Peggy Graham, Richard Dalley, Richard Perez, Robert Horen, Robert Rosenbluth, Roger Glenn, Scott Cudmore, Sharon Rogers, Sharon Watson, Stefanie Mathewson, Stephanie Zastrow, Steven Hsu, Steven Moore, Susan Keogh, Taffy Holliday, Tamie Campbell, William Rowe

Championship Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Gracie Gold, 210.46, 2, 1
2. Polina Edmunds, 207.51, 1, 2
3. Ashley Wagner, 197.88, 4, 3
4. Mirai Nagasu, 188.84, 5, 4
5. Tyler Pierce, 188.50, 3, 5
6. Bradie Tennell, 181.33, 7, 6
7. Hannah Miller, 174.42, 9, 7
8. Karen Chen, 168.75, 12, 8
9. Courtney Hicks, 168.04, 11, 9
10. Angela Wang, 163.17, 10, 10
11. Mariah Bell, 160.03, 6, 11
12. Franchesca Chiera, 140.38, 8, 16
13. Katie McBeath, 133.52, 14, 13
14. Ashley Cain, 131.89, 13, 15
15. Heidi Munger, 131.46, 18, 12
16. Christina Cleveland, 121.81, 17, 17
17. Alexie Mieskoski, 121.27, 16, 18
18. Maria Yang, 120.20, 21, 14
19. Carly Gold, 107.96, 15, 21
20. Avery Kurtz, 107.29, 19, 20
21. Alexis Gagnon, 105.56, 22, 19
22. Elena Pulkinen, 101.65, 20, 22

Championship Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Adam Rippon, 270.75, 3, 1
2. Max Aaron, 269.55, 1, 3
3. Nathan Chen, 266.93, 4, 2
4. Grant Hochstein, 252.84, 6, 4
5. Ross Miner, 248.01, 2, 6
6. Alexander Johnson, 241.94, 7, 5
7. Timothy Dolensky, 236.13, 5, 7
8. Vincent Zhou, 217.23, 8, 8
9. Sean Rabbitt, 192.63, 9, 10
10. Daniel Kulenkamp, 187.34, 13, 9
11. Scott Dyer, 182.10, 12, 11
12. Shotarō Omori, 181.49, 10, 13
13. Emmanuel Savary, 179.32, 11, 15
14. Sebastien Payannet, 172.68, 14, 14
15. Ben Jalovick, 167.33, 19, 12
16. Jimmy Ma, 161.63, 15, 17
17. Robert Przepioski, 160.54, 16, 16
18. Curran Oi, 150.06, 18, 18
19. Eric Stinehart, 141.50, 17, 19

Championship Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, 211.65, 1, 1
2. Alexa Scimeca/Christopher Knierim, 196.80, 2, 2
3. Marissa Castelli/Mervin Tran, 179.04, 3, 3
4. Madeline Aaron/Max Settlage, 157.81, 4, 6
5. Jessica Calalang/Zack Sidhu, 156.77, 7, 4
6. Erika Smith/AJ Reiss, 152.18, 6, 5
7. Jessica Pfund/Joshua Santillan, 133.79, 5, 10

8. Brianna de la Mora/Maxim Kurdukov, 130.09, 9, 9
9. Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, 129.05, 10, 7
10. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyne, 128.39, 11, 8
11. Caitlin Fields/Ernie Utah Stevens, 117.39, 8, 11
12. Elizaveta Usmantseva/Matej Silecky, 105.30, 12, 12
13. Alyssa McDougal/Paul Schatz, 95.04, 13, 13

Championship Dance

Pl. Name, SD, FD

1. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 190.14, 2, 1
2. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 186.93, 1, 2
3. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 178.81, 3, 3
4. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 160.46, 4, 4
5. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 158.86, 5, 5
6. Danielle Thomas/Daniel Eaton, 145.01, 6, 7
7. Karina Manta/Joseph Johnson, 142.70, 7, 6
8. Charlotte Maxwell/Ryan Devereaux, 128.98, 8, 8
9. Alexandra Aldridge/Matthew Blackmer, 121.16, 10, 9
10. Alissandra Aronow/Collin Brubaker, 116.41, 9, 10
11. Kseniya Ponomaryova/Oleg Altukhov, 99.86, 11, 11
12. Tory Patsis/Nathaniel Fast, 91.88, 13, 12
13. Elicia Reynolds/Stephen Reynolds, 85.95, 12, 13
14. Gabriela Morrell Zucker/Andrejs Sitiks, 72.60, 14, 14

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Emily Chan, 180.83, 1, 1
2. Vivian Le, 166.36, 2, 2
3. Megan Wessenberg, 154.21, 5, 3
4. Rebecca Peng, 146.14, 6, 4
5. Alice Yang, 141.44, 4, 5
6. Vanna Giang, 128.54, 8, 8
7. Akari Nakahara, 128.33, 9, 7
8. Shannon Porter, 127.35, 10, 6
9. Anna Grace Davidson, 123.15, 7, 11
10. Paige Rydberg, 121.74, 11, 9
11. Brynne McIsaac, 120.46, 12, 10
12. Carly Berrios, 113.59, 3, 12

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Tomoki Hiwatashi, 202.73, 1, 1
2. Kevin Shum, 187.95, 3, 2
3. Aleksei Krasnozhan, 176.21, 7, 3
4. Paolo Borromeo, 170.78, 4, 5
5. Oleksiy Melnyk, 168.23, 9, 4
6. Tony Lu, 164.39, 2, 9
7. Anthony Boucher, 164.01, 8, 6
8. Sean Conlon, 157.88, 5, 7
9. Justin Ly, 156.85, 6, 8
10. Chase Belmontes, 148.58, 10, 11
11. Camden Pulkinen, 145.39, 11, 10
12. Yamato Rowe, 123.78, 12, 12

Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Joy Weinberg/Maximiliano Fernandez, 139.24, 2, 1
2. Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon, 138.90, 1, 2
3. Meiryla Findley/Austin Hale, 129.01, 5, 3
4. Madeleine Gallagher/Justin Highgate-120.91, 4, 8
5. Jacquelyn Green/Rique Newby-Estrella, 118.95, 8, 5
6. Ai Setoyama/David-Alexandre Paradis, 118.84, 7, 6
7. Gabriella Marvaldi/Cody Dolkiewicz, 118.64, 10, 4
8. Kay Bergdolt/Miles Addison, 117.25, 3, 10
9. Sarah Rose/Joseph Goodpaster, 114.25, 9, 7
10. Jessica Lee/Brandon Kozlowski, 112.40, 6, 11
11. Linde LaChance/Kenneth Anderson, 109.91, 11, 9
12. Megan Griffin/Andrew Civiello, 97.36, 12, 12

Junior Dance

Pl. Name, SD, FD

1. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 170.04, 1, 1
2. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 165.46, 2, 2
3. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, 155.94, 3, 3
4. Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, 152.79, 4, 5
5. Julia Biechler/Damian Dodge, 146.38, 5, 4
6. Chloe Lewis/Logan Bye, 136.45, 7, 6
7. Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, 135.44, 6, 7
8. Gigi Becker/Luca Becker, 126.34, 8, 8
9. Alina Efimova/Kyle MacMillan, 113.99, 10, 9
10. Katherine Grosul/Cameron Colucci, 111.97, 9, 10

11. Aya Takai/Alexander Martin, 103.37, 11, 12
12. Elizabeth Addas/Jonathan Schultz, 95.28, 12, 11
13. Rebecca Lucas/Jacob Schedl, 91.08, 13, 13

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Haley Beavers, 150.93, 1, 1
2. Alexia Paganini, 142.88, 2, 2
3. Sierra Venetta, 129.04, 3, 3
4. Ashley Lin, 126.09, 6, 5
5. Gabrielle Noullet, 124.33, 9, 4
6. Starr Andrews, 122.77, 4, 6
7. Mary-Katharine Mulera, 118.15, 5, 8
8. Marina Capatina, 116.46, 8, 7
9. Gabriella Izzo, 113.94, 7, 9
10. Meiryla Findley, 104.11, 10, 10
11. Nhi Do, 88.28, 11, 11

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Eric Sjoberg, 171.68, 1, 1
2. Peter Liu, 151.90, 3, 2
3. Maxim Naumov, 148.73, 2, 5
4. William Hubbard, 142.83, 4, 4
5. Ryan Dunk, 140.94, 9, 3
6. Derek Wagner, 128.24, 12, 6
7. Sasha Lunin, 127.34, 7, 7
8. Jun-Hong Chen, 126.64, 5, 9
9. Max Lake, 122.13, 8, 8
10. Paul Yeung, 119.05, 11, 10
11. Ryan VanDoren, 113.13, 6, 11
12. Mark Sadusky, 103.44, 10, 12

Novice Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, 126.13, 1, 1
2. Isabella Gamez/Griffin Schwab, 117.70, 2, 2
3. Sapphirae Jaekel/Matthew Scoralie, 113.69, 6, 4
4. Emma Coppess/Robert Hennings, 112.89, 7, 3
5. Laiken Lockley/Keenan Prochnow, 109.96, 3, 7
6. Ashlee Raymond/Misha Mitrofanov, 109.56, 8, 5
7. Nica Digerness/Danny Neudecker, 108.52, 4, 8
8. Ainsley Peterson/Kristofer Ogren, 104.38, 9, 6
9. Katherina Frantz/Nicolas Frantz, 102.43, 5, 9
10. Annabel Kim/Jonathan Kim, 80.40, 11, 10
11. Sabrina Piliero/Nathaniel Dennler, 77.98, 10, 11
12. Cora DeVyre/Jacob Nussle, 62.92, 12, 12

Novice Dance

Pl. Name, P1, P2, FD

1. Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 144.37, 1, 1, 1
2. Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, 122.10, 2, 2, 2
3. Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 99.21, 3, 3, 3
4. Gianna Buckley/JT Michel, 90.26, 5, 5, 4
5. Molly Cesanek/Edward Jahoda, 88.75, 6, 4, 6
6. Jillian Moyer/Jarred Druzynski, 88.63, 4, 6, 5
7. Amanda Miller/Nikolay Usanov, 86.02, 9, 7, 3
8. Allie Rose/Spencer Emerson, 78.88, 10, 9, 9
9. Leah Krauskopf/Caleb Niva, 76.99, 12, 10, 8
10. Rachel Gart/Lance Stanley, 76.72, 7, 8, 12
11. Claire Purnell/Lucas Purnell, 75.09, 8, 11, 11
12. Cherri Chen/YuanShi Jin, 74.11, 11, 12, 10

Intermediate Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Alysa Liu, 110.24, 1, 4
2. Sophia Chouinard, 109.97, 3, 3
3. Alyssa Rich, 108.96, 11, 1
4. Angelina Huang, 108.18, 10, 2
5. Jacqueline Lee, 107.00, 2, 5
6. Audrey Lu, 102.19, 9, 6
7. Wren Warne-Jacobsen, 101.88, 6, 8
8. Isabella Miller, 99.29, 7, 9
9. Vanessa Chen, 98.64, 4, 10
10. Nikolett Albrechtovics, 97.36, 12, 7
11. Paxton James, 97.05, 8, 11
12. Ilana Sherman, 96.47, 5, 12

Intermediate Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Joseph Kang, 123.61, 1, 1
2. Alex Wellman, 112.02, 2, 3

- Jordan Evans, 110.74, 4, 2
- Lucas Altieri, 105.25, 3, 4
- Jonathan Yang, 98.12, 5, 5
- Max Wang, 96.64, 6, 6
- Joshua Fendi, 86.48, 7, 7
- Dylan Hylander, 81.79, 10, 8
- Maxwell Gart, 80.67, 8, 10
- Joshua Simkin, 76.94, 9, 11
- Daniel Argueta, 73.39, 12, 9
- Henry Privett-Mendoza, 69.59, 11, 12

Intermediate Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Jasmine Fendi /Joshua Fendi, 101.48, 1, 1
- Eliana Secunda /Blake Eisenach, 97.48, 2, 2
- Berit Cummings /Jabe Roberts, 97.23, 3, 3
- Isabelle Goldstein /Keyton Beringer, 89.52, 4, 4
- Zoe Larson /Jim Garbutt, 84.50, 5, 7
- Jade Esposito /Nathan Rensing, 84.07, 6, 6
- Paige Ruggeri /Steven Rossi, 83.04, 8, 5
- Altice Sollazo /Paul Yeung, 78.29, 7, 8
- Anika Olson /Mitchel Markkanen, 64.13, 9, 11
- Julia Choi /Aidan Brown, 61.70, 11, 9
- Cecilia Wright /William Wright, 60.78, 10, 10
- Katrina Copeland /Tyler Copeland, 36.82, 12, 12

Intermediate Dance

Pl. Name, P1, P2, FD

- Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 98.09, 1, 1, 2
- Avonley Nguyen/Maxwell Gart, 91.25, 6, 2, 1
- Isabella Amoia/Cory Fraiman, 90.46, 2, 3, 3
- Jordan Lin/Morgan Sletten, 85.98, 4, 5, 4
- Isabel Blahunka/Will Shawver, 85.57, 3, 4, 5
- Angeline Turczyn/James Koszuta, 76.66, 7, 6, 6
- Sara Zhao/Howard Zhao, 74.15, 5, 8, 7
- Katarina Wolfkostin/John Carlson, 68.49, 9, 7, 8
- Juliette Shadid/Lucas Shadid, 62.49, 8, 11, 9
- Rebecca Schapira/Palmer Middlekauff, 58.65, 10, 9, 10
- Reena Wu/Leon Wu, 44.61, 11, 10, 12
- Tia Gore/Benjamin Klusewitz, 39.29, 12, 12, 11

Juvenile Girls

Pl. Name, TS

- Stephanie Ciarochi, 54.62
- Hanna Harrell, 53.90
- Reagan Scott, 53.33
- Jill Heiner, 52.82
- Laura Jacobson, 52.81
- Christina Lin, 52.01
- Katarina DelCamp, 50.42
- Savannah Stroyke, 48.41
- Alexa Binder, 48.39
- Alena Budko, 48.15
- Zoe Parrilli, 45.52
- Karen Lee, 43.80

Juvenile Boys

Pl. Name, TS

- Iliia Malinin, 58.06
- Samuel Mindra, 54.41
- Maxim Zharkov, 51.92
- Philip Baker, 50.99
- Zachary Yaninek, 46.76
- Nicholas Hsieh, 46.15
- Samir Mallya, 44.97
- Levon Davis, 44.46
- Trevor Bucek, 42.28
- Daniel Tioumentsev, 41.94
- Goku Endo, 40.22
- Baltazar Poling, 36.99

Juvenile Pairs

Pl. Name, TS

- Isabelle Martini /Ryan Bedard, 42.37
- Julia Curran /Franz-Peter Jerosch, 40.60
- Cate Fleming /Jedidiah Isbell, 40.53
- Jenna Gordon /Ian Meyh, 40.52
- Erin Song /Eric Song, 39.97
- Taylor Nordquist /Timmy Chapman, 38.84
- Aleksandra Prudsky /Enoch Chen, 37.17

- Kathleen Moser /Chase Finster, 37.00
- Sydney Flaum /Daniel Tioumentsev, 35.92
- Katie Luong /Nathan Luong, 35.08
- Ashley Fletcher /Cayden McKenzie-Cook, 34.63
- Ella-Grace Judd /Ben Spiers, 29.09

Juvenile Dance

Pl. Name, P1, P2, FD

- Layla Karnes/Jeffrey Chen, 95.60, 1, 1, 1
- Maria Soldatova/Faddey Soldatov, 91.71, 3, 2, 2
- Claire Cain/Andrei Davydov, 83.48, 2, 4, 4
- Shin Lei Case/Maxim Zharkov, 76.20, 5, 3, 6
- Paulina Brykalova/Daniel Brykalov, 75.77, 6, 6, 3
- Olivia Sebastiani/Dillon Berry, 74.08, 4, 5, 8
- Nastia Efimova/Jonathan Zhao, 68.91, 7, 7, 7
- Katarina DelCamp/Dylan Hylander, 66.84, 9, 8, 5
- Alice Serbin/Kenan Slevira, 61.35, 10, 10, 9
- Valerie Sroka/Samuel Hodman, 56.87, 8, 9, 10
- Ambrosia Vaske/Davis Ortonward, 43.59, 11, 12, 11
- Ashley Cohen/Camden Rider, 38.17, 12, 11, 12

NEUCHÂTEL TROPHY

Neuchâtel, Switzerland Jan. 29-31

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Chicago Jazz, USA, 148.07, 1, 1
- NEXXICE, CAN, 138.86, 3, 3
- Fond du Lac Blades, USA, 136.24, 2, 4
- Dream Edges, FIN, 135.60, 5, 2
- Ice Steps, FIN, 124.77, 4, 5
- Cool Dreams Junior, SUI, 90.55, 6, 6
- United Blades, SUI, 73.91, 7, 7
- Ice Diamonds, ITA, 65.08, 8, 8

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Paradise, RUS, 213.50, 1, 1
- Les Supremes, CAN, 198.06, 3, 2
- Team Unique, FIN, 198.04, 2, 3
- Skyliners, USA, 146.31, 4, 4
- Cool Dreams Senior, SUI, 129.46, 5, 5
- Skating Graces, GER, 107.10, 6, 6
- Black Diam's, FRA, 78.01, 7, 7

U.S. officials: Jeanette Davey, Lara Salamacha, Wendy Enzmann

MOZART CUP

Salzburg, Austria Jan. 21-24

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Crystal Ice, RUS, 149.57, 3, 1
- Lexettes, USA, 148.23, 2, 2
- Sun City Swing, FIN, 139.90, 4, 3
- Fire Blades, FIN, 139.55, 1, 5
- Les Pirouettes, CAN, 135.62, 6, 4
- Stella Polaris, FIN, 128.48, 5, 6
- Hot Shivers Junior, ITA, 107.79, 7, 7
- Team Berlin Juniors, GER, 106.54, 8, 8
- Team Darlings, CZE, 102.61, 9, 11
- Icicles, GBR, 98.01, 13, 9
- Ice On Fire, ITA, 95.19, 14, 10
- Cometes, FRA, 91.13, 12, 14
- Orion, CZE, 90.69, 10, 15
- Jeanne D'Arc, FRA, 87.54, 16, 13
- Cool Dreams (Junior), SUI, 87.10, 17, 12
- Diamond Laces Frostwork, HUN, 85.69, 11, 16
- Ladybirds (Junior), ITA, 81.92, 15, 17
- Les Zazous, FRA, 70.41, 18, 19
- Zagreb Snowflakes Junior, CRO, 65.72, 19, 18

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 190.31, 1, 1
- Miami University, USA, 165.26, 2, 2
- Team Meraki, CAN, 151.21, 3, 4
- Zoulous, FRA, 145.84, 4, 5
- Hot Shivers (Senior), ITA, 142.06, 5, 3
- Team Passion, HUN, 129.43, 8, 6
- Cool Dreams, SUI, 124.74, 6, 7

- Olympia, CZE, 120.11, 7, 8
 - Kometa, CZE, 100.65, 9, 9
 - Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 86.45, 11, 10
 - Ladybirds, ITA, 83.61, 10, 11
 - Team Temptation, BEL, 71.82, 13, 12
 - Sweet Mozart, AUT, 65.49, 12, 13
- U.S. officials:** Colette Nygren, Selina Shah, Karin Sherr, Dann Krueger

LEON LURJE TROPHY

Gothenburg, Sweden, Jan. 16-17

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Skyliners, USA, 167.23, 2, 1
- Fintastic, FIN, 165.60, 1, 2
- Team Spirit, SWE, 140.43, 3, 3
- Reflections, FIN, 132.26, 4, 4
- Convivium, SWE, 121.50, 5, 5
- Team Nova, SWE, 107.57, 6, 6
- Team Moonlights, SWE, 88.71, 7, 7
- Team Mirum, ESP, 73.08, 8, 8

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Rockettes, FIN, 202.71, 1, 1
- Haydenettes, USA, 200.09, 2, 2
- Team Surprise, SWE, 190.95, 3, 3
- Boomerang, SWE, 158.50, 4, 4
- Revolutions, FIN, 154.24, 5, 6
- Jingu Ice Messengers, JPN, 150.26, 6, 5
- Team Amber, LAT, 87.81, 7, 7

U.S. officials: Lois Long, Thomas Fleeter, Jeanette Davey, Karen Wiesmeier

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bratislava, Slovakia, Jan. 25-31

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Evgenia Medvedeva, RUS, 215.45, 1, 1
- Elena Radionova, RUS, 209.99, 2, 2
- Anna Pogorilaya, RUS, 187.05, 3, 3
- Angelina Kuchvalska, LAT, 176.99, 5, 4
- Roberta Rodeghiero, ITA, 170.76, 4, 5
- Mae Berenice, Meite, FRA, 161.23, 8, 6
- Nathalie Weinzierl, GER, 160.64, 7, 7
- Viveca Lindfors, FIN, 155.49, 11, 8
- Joshi Helgesson, SWE, 153.29, 6, 11
- Laurine Lecavelier, FRA, 152.34, 13, 9

(24 ladies competed in the free skate)

Men

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Javier Fernandez, ESP, 302.77, 1, 1
- Alexei Bychenko, ISR, 242.56, 4, 4
- Maxim Kovtun, RUS, 242.21, 2, 6
- Florent Amodio, FRA, 240.96, 8, 2
- Mikhail Kolyada, RUS, 236.58, 9, 3
- Ivan Righini, ITA, 236.36, 6, 5
- Daniel Samohin, ISR, 232.08, 5, 8
- Alexander Petrov, RUS, 229.69, 10, 7
- Jorik Hendrickx, BEL, 221.39, 7, 9
- Michal Brezina, CZE, 211.81, 3, 13

(24 men competed in the free skate)

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Tatiana Volosozhar/Maxim Trankov, RUS, 222.66, 1, 1
- Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot, GER, 200.78, 2, 3
- Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov, RUS, 197.55, 3, 2
- Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, FRA, 185.55, 5, 5
- Valentina Marchei/Ondrej Hotarek, ITA, 182.61, 8, 4
- Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise, ITA, 178.97, 6, 6
- Kristina Astakhova/Alexei Rogonov, RUS, 174.72, 7, 7
- Mari Vartmann/Reuben Blommaert, GER, 171.30, 4, 8
- Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer, AUT, 149.07, 9, 10
- Tatiana Danilova/Mikalai Kamianchuk, BLR, 147.36, 10, 9

(16 teams competed)

Ice Dance

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SD, FD

- Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron, FRA, 182.71, 2, 1
- Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte, ITA, 178.01, 1, 3
- Ekaterina Bobrova/Dmitri Soloviev, RUS, 176.50, 3, 2
- Victoria Sinititsina/Nikita Katsalapov, RUS, 172.65, 4, 4
- Alexandria Stepanova/Ivan Bukin, RUS, 165.55, 5, 5
- Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland, GBR, 162.75, 8, 6
- Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri, ITA, 162.58, 6, 7
- Federica Testa/Lukas Csolley, SVK, 158.05, 9, 8
- Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen, DEN, 152.79, 10, 9
- Isabella Tobias/Iliia Tkachenko, ISR, 151.67, 7, 12

(20 teams competed in the free dance)

2016 PACIFIC COAST SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Memorial Coliseum Arena

Portland OR, Jan.28-31

Competition officials: Erin Bridge, Charles Cope, Susan Demeniuk, Robin Greenleaf, Audrey Kamm, Caren Kirsch, Dann Krueger, Carylyn Landt, Elizabeth Lee, Lois Long, Lisa Marsocci, Susan McInnes, Hannelore Murphy, Lauren O'Toole, Pamela Pangle, Daren Patterson, Kelley Ristau, Mary Lou Rothman, Tiffani Shipley, Dorothy Tank, Sharon Watson, Hazel Wecal, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Robert Withrow

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Team Del Sol, 139.06, 1, 2
- ICE'Kateers, 131.38, 2, 1

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- California Gold, 119.78, 1, 1
- Rose City Crystals, 79.26, 2, 2
- Silver Stars, 72.22, 3, 3

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

- Team Del Sol, 51.22
- ICE'Kateers, 46.97

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

- Denver Synchronicity, 59.11
- Team Del Sol, 54.63
- EPIC EDGE, 47.45
- Fusion, 46.34
- California Edge, 43.31
- Star Lit Blades, 37.08, 6

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Tremors of San Francisco, 6/2
- California Gold, 4/2
- ICE'Kateers, 5/3
- Cascades, 7/4

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

- Denver Synchronicity, 51.62
- California Gold, 49.94
- Washington Ice Emeralds, 33.84

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Denver Synchronicity, 5/1
- California Gold, 4/2
- Tremors, 7/3

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- The Rockers, 4/1
- San Diego Shining Blades, 4/2, TOM 6
- ICE'Kateers, 4/2, TOM 7
- Rose City Crystals, 4/4
- Star Lit Blades, 4/5, TOM 17
- Fire Crystals, 4/5, TOM 19
- EPIC EDGE, 4/6
- Silver Stars, 5/7
- Washington Ice Emeralds, 6/9
- Flatirons Sparks, 7/10

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Star Lit Blades, 7/1

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Fusion, 6/1
- San Diego Shining Blades, 5/2
- Tremors of San Francisco, 5/3
- Park City Icing, 6/4
- Ice-Cadettes, 4/5
- Denver Synchronicity, 5/6
- ICE'Kateers, 6/7
- EPIC EDGE, 5/8
- Silver Stars, 7/9
- Flatirons Sparks, 7/10

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- San Diego Shining Blades, 7/1
- Park City Icing, 5/2
- Washington Ice Emeralds, 7/3

2016 MIDWESTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Memorial Coliseum Arena,

Portland, OR, Jan.27-31

Competition officials: Erin Bridge, Charles Cope, Susan Demeniuk, Robin Greenleaf, Audrey Kamm, Caren Kirsch, Dann Krueger, Carylyn Landt, Elizabeth Lee, Lois Long, Lisa Marsocci, Susan McInnes, Hannelore Murphy, Lauren O'Toole, Pamela Pangle, Daren Patterson, Kelley Ristau, Mary Lou Rothman, Tiffani Shipley, Dorothy Tank, Sharon Watson, Hazel Wecal, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Robert Withrow

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Starlights, 135.92, 1, 1
- Hockettes, 129.38, 2, 2
- Miami Univ., 120.2, 3, 4
- Crystalletes, 118.46, 4, 3

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

- Crystalletes, 70.06
- Starlights, 66.27
- Chicago Jazz, 59.25
- Dazzlers, 58.08
- Saint Louis Synergy, 54.68
- Allegrol, 52.92
- Hockettes, 44.96
- Braemar Panache, 37.22
- Kalamazoo Kinetic, 34.73

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

- Capital Ice Chips, 73.08
- Teams Elite, 70.84
- Creative Edge, 59.64
- Dazzlers, 55.92
- Starlights, 55.3
- SwanSyncSation, 54.41
- Fond Du Lac Blades, 52.59
- Crystalletes, 52.17
- Chicago Radiance, 52.08
- Ice Diamonds, 51.52
- Braemar Panache, 49.45
- St. Louis Diamond Edges, 49.36
- Chicago Jazz, 46.22
- Phoenix, 45.63
- Chicago Skates, 44.89
- Cleveland Edges, 41.84
- Silver Infinity, 40.63
- Wisconsin Edge, 40.47
- Shattuck-St. Mary's Team Sabres, 40.21
- Starfire, 40.15, 20
- Kansas City Illusion, 39.63
- Windjammers, 38.38

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Chicago Jazz, 5/1
- Teams Elite, 5/3
- Hockettes, 4/4, TO 33
- Dazzlers, 4/4, TO 34
- Crystalletes, 5/5
- Starlights, 4/5
- Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/6
- Icestars, 4/7
- Saint Louis Synergy, 5/9
- Cleveland Edges, 4/9
- SwanSyncSation, 4/10
- Northern Fusion, 4/12
- Evolution, 6/13
- Chicago Skates, 4/13

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

- Crystalletes, 51.69
- Western Michigan Univ. Alumni, 50.99

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

- Western Michigan Univ., 80.22
- University of Michigan, 79.5
- Miami University, 78.56
- Adrian College, 66.26
- Team North Dakota, 56.32
- University of Illinois, 55.2
- Michigan State University, 54.22
- The Fighting Irish, 51.7

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Goldenettes, 4/1
- Allegrol, 7/2
- Wisconsin Edge, 5/3
- Ice Connect, 6/4
- Braemar Panache, 7/5

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Metallites, 4/1
- Dazzlers, 5/3
- Team Diamond, 4/3, TO 22
- Northern Fusion, 4/3, TO 29
- Allegrol, 4/5
- Dazzlers - Silver, 4/6, TOM 19
- Kalamazoo Kinetic, 4/6, TOM 20
- Rhythm And Blades, 5/8
- Starfire, 4/8
- Team Amore!, 4/9
- Hockettes, 7/11

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Univ. of Wisconsin, 5/1
- Miami University Club Team, 7/2
- University of Missouri, 4/3
- Twin Cities, 6/4
- University of Minnesota-Duluth, 4/4

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Eclipse, 5/2, TOM 7
- Austintatious Stars, 5/2, TOM 8
- Hockettes, 5/3
- Phoenix, 4/3
- Revolution, 4/5
- Silver Infinity, 7/6
- Rhythm And Blades, 7/7

Open Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Allegrol, 7/1
- Team Glace, 7/2
- Revolution, 7/3

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Starlights, 6/1
- Crystalletes, 5/3
- Teams Elite, 5/4

- Chicago Radiance, 4/5, TOM 15
- Wisconsin Edge, 4/5, TOM 19
- Saint Louis Synergy, 5/6
- Hockettes, 4/6, TOM 18
- Ice Diamonds, 4/6, TOM 20

Pre-Juvenile QR Group A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Starlights, 7/1
- Ice Diamonds, 7/3
- Teams Elite, 4/3
- Hockettes, 5/4
- Dazzlers, 4/4
- Chicago Skates, 4/5

Pre-Juvenile QR Group B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Crystallettes, 4/1
- Wisconsin Edge, 6/2
- Chicago Radiance, 6/3
- Saint Louis Synergy, 4/4
- Phoenix, 6/6
- Team Amore!, 4/6, TOM 20
- Coliseum Comets, 4/6, TOM 23

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Crystallettes, 5/2, TOM 7
- Chicago Jazz, 5/2, TOM 8
- Starlights, 5/3
- Kalamazoo Kinetic, 5/4
- Starfire, 4/5, TOM 18
- Allegro!, 4/5, TOM 19
- Evolution, 6/6
- Saint Louis Synergy, 7/8

2016 EASTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Va., Jan.28-30

Competition officials: Michele Blatt, Ann Buckley, Martha Buckley, Leonard Colarusso, Laura Days, Judith Edmunds, Ann Fauver, Carla Golubski, Lara Gund, Jo Ann Hall, Susan Haugh, Devon Hensel, Megan Walsh Jackson, Cheryl Litman, Patricia Lynch, Rachael Naphtal, Matthew O'Toole, Richard Perez, Cathleen Renzi, Elliot Schwartz, Barbara Shostak, Thomas Sobell, Thomas Tanger, Rebecca VanDerwall, Mary-Elizabeth Wightman

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Team Excel, 114.83, 1, 1

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Team Delaware, 118.32, 1, 1
- Synchroettes, 105.5, 2, 2

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

- Ice Mates, 69.04
- Skyliners, 65.59
- Team Image, 57.21
- Team Ashburn, 56.87
- DC EDGE, 54.19
- Team Delaware, 53.71
- Team Excel, 51.93
- Synchroettes, 44.73
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 41.38
- Steel City Blades, 34.87

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS, FS

- Team Ashburn, 66.88
- Skyliners, 66.45
- Chesapeake Sailors, 59.35
- Team Image, 58.55
- Team Delaware, 58.42
- DC EDGE, 57.79
- Team Esprit, 52.31
- Team Excel, 49.91
- Star Mates, 49.3
- Synchroettes, 47.49
- Icing on the Cape, 46.81

- The Colonials, 46.71
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 44.47
- Superettes, 44.2
- National Blades, 39.97
- Synchro Stars, 38.84
- Richmond Synchro, 34.47

Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Skyliners, 5/1
- DC EDGE, 4/3
- Mini Mates, 3/3
- Team Delaware, 3/4
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 3/5
- Team Ashburn, 3/6
- Synchroettes, 3/7
- Team Image, 5/8
- Richmond Synchro, 5/9

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

- University of Delaware, 77.14
- Metroettes, 75.12
- University of Massachusetts, 61.88
- Boston University, 50.78
- U. of Maryland Terrapins, 47.96

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

- Esprit de Corps, 59.74
- DC EDGE, 56.6
- Team Delaware, 55.41
- Team Excel, 53.35
- The Colonials, 49.82
- Ocean Blades, 37.66
- Richmond Synchro, 27.65

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- DC EDGE, 5/1
- Team Delaware, 7/2
- Gotham City Synchro, 7/3

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Central Park Ice, 6/1
- Shadows, 4/2
- Nor'easters, 4/4
- DC EDGE, 5/5
- Mirror Images Purple, 4/5
- CNY Blizzard, 6/7
- Mirror Images Silver, 5/7
- Team Ashburn, 4/8
- Precisely Right, 4/9
- Wallace Synergy, 5/10
- Ice Illusion, 4/10
- SC of Wilmington Blades, 7/12

Open Juvenile Team QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- DC EDGE, 6/1
- Team Ashburn, 5/2
- Ice Illusion, 5/4
- SC of Wilmington Blades, 4/4
- Southern Stars Synchro, 5/5
- Ice-Lantics, 4/5
- Synchro Stars, 4/7, TOM 25
- Chevy Chase Elites, 4/7, TOM 26
- Triangle Ice Gliders, 7/9

Open Juvenile Team QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Nor'easters, 4/2, TO 15
- CNY Blizzard, 4/2, TO 18
- Shadows, 5/3
- Mirror Images Purple, 4/3
- National Blades, 5/6
- Rainbow Connection, 4/6, TOM 18
- Sparklers, 4/6, TOM 20
- Team Reflections, 6/8
- West Virginia Synchro, 7/9

Open Juvenile Team QR C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Central Park Ice, 6/2
- Mirror Images Silver, 4/2
- Wallace Synergy, 6/3
- Precisely Right, 4/3
- Synchroettes, 6/6
- Munchkins, 5/7
- Excel Crystals, 4/7
- Team Esprit, 6/8
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/9, TOM 32
- Richmond Synchro, 4/9, TOM 33

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Oswego State Ice Effects, 5/2, TO 13
- Boston College, 5/2, TO 17
- Princeton University, 4/3
- Orange Experience at Syracuse Univ., 4/4
- Cornell University, 4/5, TOM 15
- Mirror Images, 4/5, TOM 19
- Catamount Blades, 4/6
- Liberty University Flames, 6/7
- U. of Maryland Terrapins, 7/9

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Cutting Edge, 5/1
- Gotham City Synchro, 6/2
- Esprit De Corps, 7/3
- Team Reflections, 7/4

Open Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Philly Spirit, 5/1
- DC EDGE, 4/2
- Precisely Right, 7/3
- Team Delaware Dazzle, 4/4
- The Colonials, 7/5

Pre-Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- DC EDGE Red, 5/1
- Shooting Stars, 5/2
- Skyliners, 5/3
- Central Park Ice, 5/5
- Precisely Right, 4/5
- The Colonials, 4/6
- DC EDGE Blue, 6/8
- Team Ashburn, 4/8
- Saint Sensations, 5/9
- Team Delaware, 5/10
- Saratoga Springs Shining Stars, 6/11
- Sparklers, 7/12

Pre-Juvenile Team QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- DC EDGE Blue, 3/1
- Team Ashburn, 3/2
- Saint Sensations, 3/4, TOM 8
- Team Delaware, 3/4, TOM 11
- Snowflakes, 3/5
- Steel City Blades, 4/6
- Shimmers, 3/6, TOM 13
- Philly Spirit, 3/6, TOM 16
- Triangle Ice Gliders, 3/9
- SC of Wilmington Blades, 5/10

Pre-Juvenile Team QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

- Central Park Ice, 3/1
- Skyliners, 5/2
- Sparklers, 3/4, TOM 10
- S. Stars, 3/4, TOM 11
- National Blades, 4/6
- Starcatchers, 3/6
- Valley Forge Cadettes, 3/7
- Beach Blades, 4/8
- Southern Stars Synchro, 4/9
- Raleigh Rockers, 5/10

Pre-Juvenile Team QR C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Shooting Stars, 4/1
- Precisely Right, 4/3

results

3. The Colonials, 3/3
4. DC EDGE Red, 3/4
5. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/5
6. Synchroettes, 4/6
7. Icing on The Cape, 4/7
8. CNY Storm, 3/8
9. Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/9
10. Excel Crystals, 3/9

Preliminary

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Synchroettes, 4/1
2. DC EDGE Blue, 5/2
3. Skyliners, 4/3
4. Synchro Stars, 5/4
5. Excel Crystals, 4/4
6. Shooting Stars, 5/5

7. The Pixies, 4/6
8. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/7
9. Team Image, 5/9
10. Chesapeake Topsails, 4/10
11. Richmond Synchro, 5/11
12. Team Ashburn, 4/11

Preliminary Team QR A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Skyliners, 3/1
2. DC EDGE Blue, 5/2
3. Shooting Stars, 4/3
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/4
5. Richmond Synchro, 4/5
6. Team Ashburn, 3/6
7. Team Delaware, 4/7
8. Chevy Chase Elites, 5/8

9. Sunsations, 5/9

Preliminary Team QR B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie-Breaker

1. Excel Crystals, 4/2
2. Synchroettes, 4/3, TOM 8
3. Synchro Stars, 4/3, TOM 9
4. The Pixies, 4/5
5. Chesapeake Topsails, 3/5
6. Team Image, 4/7, TOM 20
7. Precisely Right, 4/7, TOM 22
8. DC EDGE Red, 3/8
9. N.J. Black Diamonds, 5/9
10. Raleigh Rockers, 5/10

appointments

Bronze Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Jeff Privett, Cincinnati, Ohio

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Jerilyn Felton, Tigard, Ore.; Andrea Miner-Isaacson, Havertown, Pa.; Jill Mueller, Montclair, N.J.

Silver Dance Test Judge

Marilyn Day, Smyrna, Del.; Mary Garwood, Canton, N.Y.; Wayne Hundley, Riverside, Calif.; Dale Kellogg, Santa Fe, N.M.

Sectional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

David Hopson, Sacramento, Calif.

Regional Accountant

Michelle Cohen, Penfield, N.Y.

Sectional Accountant

Veronica Nebb, Petaluma, Calif.

Regional Announcer

Ellen Sendelbach, Onalaska, Wis.

THANK YOU!

U.S. Figure Skating would like to thank the following Friends of Figure Skating members for their support.

Pewter level:

Cheryl Jeffries
Doug Linneman
Karen Hogan
Sheryl Scarborough

Gold level:

Susan Bonn



*Members names were omitted from the 2016 U.S. Championships Event Program. Thank you for your continued friendship!

— Emma Repp, coordinator, Giving Programs

tests passed

Senior moves in the field

Camille Acquatella — Dallas FSC
Rea Banerjee — FSC of Bloomington
Shawna Barber — Individual member
Lily Becker — SC of New York
Arielle Belluck — Springdale FSC
Jillian Belluck — Springdale FSC
Elizabeth Bernardini — Hudson-Mohawk FSC
Alyssa Bleyl — SC of New York
Amy Bruder — Indiana World Sk Acad FSC
Claire Burner — Northern Ice SC
Mia Cordio — Janesville FSC
Chase Donelson — University of Delaware FSC
Michael Edzant — San Diego FSC
Goku Endo — South Bay FSC
Emma Estrada — Great Neck FSC
Victoria Fanelli — Yonkers FSC
Anna Farro — North Jersey FSC
Julia Feng — Stars FSC of Texas
Morgan Franks — Onyx-Suburban SA
Isabelle Goldstein — Detroit SC
Sara Gregoire — Northern Lights FSC
Ashlie Griffith — Moylan Premier SC
Casey Guthrie — Wyandotte FSC
Olivia Harris — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
Megan Hess — Central Pennsylvania FSC
Nina Holloway — IceWorks SC
Jennifer Knotek — SC of Lake Placid
Olivia Kozlevcar — SC of New York
Zoe Krantz — Shaker FSC
Emily Krile — Ann Arbor FSC
Maia Laats — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
Alexandra Levene — Springdale FSC
Sabrina Li — Washington FSC
Sophia Liu — St. Louis SC
Izabella Martin — Hudson-Mohawk FSC
Madeline Martin — Washington FSC
Ambryn Meehan — Chicago FSC
Angela Mercurio — SC of New York
Emily Merole — SC of Southern Connecticut
Lilly Mills — SC of New York

Violet Murray — IceWorks SC
Albertine Neal — Washington FSC
Pelagia Pamel — Detroit SC
Gabrielle Patschull — Illinois Valley FSC
Zoe Pattin — Orange County FSC
Madeline Plank — Central Pennsylvania FSC
Lucia Porosnicu Hopinca — Summit FSC of NC
Joseline Pretto Simmons — Gardens FSC of Maryland
Noa Reisner-Stehman — IceWorks SC
Sydney Reynders — Skating Club of Boston
Kallan Roan — Ann Arbor FSC
Mikayla Sagle — Washington FSC
Sophie Sananikone — St. Joseph FSC
Brittney Schuler — Lakewood Winter Club
Eliana Secunda — Rocky Mountain FSC
Olivia Slack — FSC of Bloomington
Kendra Sparby — Thief River Falls SC
Mia Sparks — Springdale FSC
Amelia Stefan — Center Ice SC
Lauren Stymiest — Stars FSC of Texas
Rozina Taguchi — Dallas FSC
Natalie Tan — SC of New York
Maxine Tan — Springdale FSC
Karina Tjew — Centennial 7k SC
Chloe Tsoi — Rye FSC
Eli Urffer — Penguin FSC
Alessandra Vanigli — Dallas FSC
Dorothy Wilson — Strongsville SC
Natasha Witz — Laurel Ridge SC
Dianna Woodruff — Portland ISC
Jing Jing Wu — Albany FSC
Gabrielle Yakovlev — Detroit SC
Bethany Yeung — Wilmington FSC
Grace Zhang — Individual member
Jessy Zhang — Stars FSC of Texas
Qijia Zhou — Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy
Adult gold moves in the field
Andrea Bergeron — Philadelphia SC & HS
Patty Nuwer — SC of Morris NJ
Mary Ann Strunk — Washington FSC

Katie Termini — Palm Beach FSC
Sandra Wallace — San Diego FSC
Senior moves in the field – adult
Jamie Stuckert — Florida Everblades FSC
Senior free skate
Jacqueline Benson — Coyotes SC of Arizona
Claire Burner — Northern Ice SC
Shoritah Ching — Seattle SC
Cassandra Cole — Colonial FSC
Katie Curran — Rocky Mountain FSC
Carol DiMaiti — North Shore SC
Lauren Ellison — Broadmoor SC
Sonja Konzen — Eau Claire FSC
Olivia Kozlevcar — SC of New York
Evelina Kvasov — Lilac City FSC
Abby McConnell — Rocky Mountain FSC
Rachel Metzner — Panthers FSC
Kindra Soto — All Year FSC
Karina Tjew — Centennial 7k SC
Juliana Welter — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
Gold dance
Emily Day — All Year FSC
Amy Engeler — SC of New York
Cameron Feeley — Saratoga Springs FSC
Gabriela Godin — Wissahickon SC
Charlotte Kuller — Central Pennsylvania FSC
Logan Leonesio — Los Angeles FSC
Joanna Liu — St. Paul FSC
Ashlyn Olson — Ice House Skating Academy
Masters gold free dance
Debby Georges — Capital City FSC
Senior solo free dance
Scarlett Granger — Washington FSC
Choeleen Loundagin — Santa Rosa FSC
Corrine Quail — Cortland FSC
Francesca Smorada — IceWorks SC
Adult solo gold dance
Julie Gidlow — Los Angeles FSC
Adult gold dance
Nancy Quaife — SC of New York

memorial fund

"IN MEMORY OF"

The 1961 Team

Gary Visconti

Bette Biron

Daren Chastain

Annette Cramer

Sandy Hess

Rosemary Haines

Cabray Haines

Doris Heinold

Lainie DeMore and Harry Gleeson

FC Johnson

Worthington Johnson

Greg Kelley, Brad Lord and

Laurence Owen

Steven Mader

Pat Koshowsky

Antoinette Aubert

Lydia Paley-Hume

Deborah Spence

Jess Puyot

Luz Puyot and Jessica

Calalang

Angelica Seror

Sandy Hess

Linda Sheedy

Vance Harper Jones

David Stair

Carole Ann White

Garrett Swasey

Vance Harper Jones

Alan Zell

Carole Ann White

"IN HONOR OF"

Deborah Martin

Noel Gessner

GENERAL DONATION

Christine Rounis

Amy Shapiro

Rodney R. Windsor

Layne Williams

correction

NEW JERSEY

Aspen Ice, Randolph, Linda Keane; the Flyers Skate Zone @ Pennsauken, Pennsauken, Patricia Mudge; Hollydell Ice Arena/Hollydell FSC, Sewell, Karen Beatty; The Jersey Coast FSC, Winding River, Toms River, Lynne Leger; the Jersey Coast FSC, Jersey Shore Arena, Wall, Gail Damiano; the Princeton Skating Club, Princeton, Scott Polk; and the Virtua Flyers Skate Zone, Voorhees, Pam Dreyer were incorrectly listed in the "National Skating Month Participating Clubs and Programs" pages of the January issue. SKATING magazine apologizes for the error.

obituary

LIVINGSTON

Perry Livingston, former U.S. Figure Skating judge in dance and figures, passed away on Jan. 20, 2016. He was 97.

Perry was a member of the South Bay Figure Skating Club (FSC) in Torrance, California, and was instrumental in the start-up of the South Bay FSC in the early 1960s. He held various club positions ranging from president of the club, board of directors, treasurer and chairperson for club competitions.

MARCH

10 | Denver Invitational held in Littleton, CO, sponsored by Denver FSC. Contact lisacmay@gmail.com for more information.

10-18 | Colorado Basic Skills Series held in Colorado Springs, CO, sponsored by Sertich Ice Center. Contact lisa_landon@comcast.net for more information.

11-12 | Fergus Falls Basic Skills Competition held in Fergus Falls, MN, sponsored by Fergus Falls SC. Contact ls_sk8er@hotmail.com for more information.

11-12 | 36th Garden City Competition held in Garden City, MI, sponsored by Garden City FSC. Contact joanneastman@comcast.net for more information.

11-12 | Buffalo Bill Cody Skatestravaganza held in Cody, WY, sponsored by Absaroka FSC. Contact codyfigureskating@gmail.com for more information.

11-12 | 2016 PSC & HS Club Competition held in Ardmore, PA, sponsored by Philadelphia SC & HS. Contact reginabarr@comcast.net for more information.

11-13 | Snowflake Classic held in Tulsa, OK, sponsored by Oilers Ice Center Skating School. Contact Jessie@oilersicecenter.net for more information.

11-13 | Eau Claire Figure Skating Competition held in Eau Claire, WI, sponsored by Eau Claire FSC. Contact southwak@hotmail.com for more information.

11-13 | Third Annual North Star Open held in Westboro, MA, sponsored by North Star FSC. Contact northstareid@aol.com for more information.

12 | 2016 Skate Challenge held in Cicero, NY, sponsored by SC of Central New York. Contact nmartin48@me.com for more information.

12 | Jessamine Open held in Irmo, SC, sponsored by Palmetto Skate Club. Contact michelebowden@hotmail.com for more information.

12 | Twin Ponds Skate Into Spring Basic Skills Competition held in Harrisburg, PA, sponsored by Twin Ponds Ice Skating Complex-East. Contact ice-reinke@yahoo.com for more information.

12 | Spring Basic Skills Competition held in Delmar, NY, sponsored by Albany FSC. Contact heatheralawson@gmail.com for more information.

12 | Chiller Spring Classic held in Springfield, OH, sponsored by Chiller Skating School. Contact dhughes@thechiller.com for more information.

12 | 2016 St. Patrick's Day Competition held in Wake Forest, NC, sponsored by Triangle FSC. Contact scudmore@nc.rr.com for more information.

12-13 | Massena Invitational Competition held in Massena, NY, sponsored by Massena FSC. Contact tsavage2@twcny.rr.com for more information.

13 | Seventh Annual Skylands Basic Skills Competition held in Stockholm, NJ, sponsored by North Jersey FSC. Contact rfskate@optonline.net for more information.

13 | 2016 Diversity Classic Open Basic Skills Competition held in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena. Contact leticia.a.moreno@gmail.com for more information.

13 | Shamrock Open 2016 held in Loves Park, IL, sponsored by Rockford SC. Contact kferrero55@hotmail.com for more information.

13 | Eau Claire Synchronized Skating Competition held in Eau Claire, WI, sponsored by Eau Claire FSC. Contact stevesouthworth@msn.com for more information.

13 | 16th Annual Snowflake Skate Basic Skills Competition held in Falmouth, ME, sponsored by North Atlantic FSC. Contact secretarynafsc@gmail.com for more information.

18 | 2016 Howard E. Van Camp Invitational held in East Lansing, MI, sponsored by Lansing SC. Contact Coriecostello@gmail.com for more information.

18-19 | Glacier Challenge held in Missoula, MT, sponsored by Missoula FSC. Contact mazurkajil@gmail.com for more information.

18-19 | Gold Rush Dance & Showcase on Ice held in Roseville, CA, sponsored by Capital City FSC. Contact denise.soroka24@gmail.com for more information.

18-20 | 2016 Louisville Skating Academy Spring Competition held in Louisville, KY, sponsored by Louisville Skating Academy. Contact hatchpurnell@gmail.com for more information.

18-20 | Pennsylvania Figure Skating Championships held in York, PA, sponsored by White Rose FSC. Contact abugov@msn.com for more information.

18-20 | Magnolia Open held in Alpharetta, GA, sponsored by Atlanta FSC. Contact kittyritz@aol.com for more information.

18-20 | Cleveland Invitational Championships held in North Olmstead, OH, sponsored by Cleveland Edges SC. Contact csdopson@yahoo.com for more information.

18-20 | 13th Annual South Florida Challenge held in Coral Springs, FL, sponsored by Panthers FSC. Contact marianin@floridapanthers.com for more information.

19 | Jackson Hole 2016 Basic Skills Icebreaker held in Jackson, WY, sponsored by SC of Jackson Hole. Contact ssandberg00@hotmail.com for more information.

19 | Big River Competition held in Winona, MN, sponsored by Winona FSC. Contact hhammann@hbc.com for more information.

19 | Southern CT/Terry Conners Rink Basic Skills Competition held in Stamford, CT, sponsored by Terry Conners Skating School. Contact helaine.walker@skatescsc.com for more information.

19 | St. Patrick's Day Basic Skills Competition held in Charlottesville, VA, sponsored by Charlottesville FSC. Contact sdj5u@virginia.edu for more information.

19 | 33rd Garren Invitational Figure Skating Competition held in Troy, NY, sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC. Contact jpalladino2@nycap.rr.com for more information.

20 | Sunflower Classic held in Minnetonka, MN, sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC. Contact cummings55345@gmail.com for more information.

20 | Ninth Annual South Shore Open held in Rockland, MA, sponsored by South Shore SC. Contact jakadra@verizon.net for more information.

20 | Wisconsin High School Series State Final held in Schofield, WI, sponsored by Timberline SC. Contact d2damato@gmail.com for more information.

20 | Spring Fever - 2016 held in Indian Trail, NC, sponsored by X-Ice Skating School. Contact jen-

nyg@xicenter.com for more information.

20 | Sixth Annual Illinois High School Team Competition (South) held in Flossmoor, IL, sponsored by Skating Council of Illinois. Contact mayfsc@aol.com for more information.

20 | International Skating Center of CT Basic Skills Competition held in Simsbury, CT, sponsored by ISCC Learn to Skate. Contact tony.conderino@gmail.com for more information.

25-26 | Basic Skills Team Competition held in Scottsdale, AZ, sponsored by Ice Den Scottsdale. Contact juliep@coyotesice.com for more information.

26 | Challenge Cup 2016 held in Burlington, VT, sponsored by Champlain Valley SC. Contact dmstraw@comcast.net for more information.

26 | Fiesta Skate held in Kirkland, WA, sponsored by Kingsgate Arena. Contact sk8ware@aol.com for more information.

26 | 33rd Garren Invitational Basic Skills Figure Skating Competition held in Troy, NY, sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC. Contact Stacey.b.hills@gmail.com for more information.

31-April 3 | Skate KC 2016 held in Independence, MO, sponsored by Kansas City FSC. Contact Jjordanjr@kc.rr.com for more information.

APRIL

1-3 | 34th Biennial Niagara Invitational & Basic Skills Event held in Cheektowaga, NY, sponsored by Buffalo SC. Contact ahilton98@yahoo.com for more information.

1-3 | Knoxville Invitational held in Knoxville, TN, sponsored by Knoxville FSC. Contact skating@coolsportstn.com for more information.

2 | Ice World's 17th Annual Basic Skills & Beyond Competition held in Abingdon, MD, sponsored by Chesapeake FSC. Contact skating@iceworld.com for more information.

2 | 14th Annual Farmington Springs Festival held in Farmington, MN, sponsored by Farmington Skate School. Contact Janellewall@gmail.com for more information.

2 | Basic Skills Team Competition held in Chandler, AZ, sponsored by Ice Den Scottsdale. Contact juliep@coyotesice.com for more information.

2 | Sugar Skate held in Sugar Land, TX, sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC. Contact ewickmann@comcast.net for more information.

2 | The Rinks at Shelton Spring Classic held in Shelton, CT, sponsored by Upper Fairfield Skating Academy. Contact jmelotto@snet.net for more information.

2 | Winners Circle Basic Skills Competition held in Austin, TX, sponsored by Chaparral Ice Northcross. Contact kathy@chaparralice.com for more information.

2 | Rocket City Junior Classic held in Huntsville, AL, sponsored by The SC of Huntsville. Contact Wendyruich@gmail.com for more information.

3 | USFS South Florida Basic Skills Series held in Miami, FL, sponsored by Kendall Ice Arena. Contact jjsk8johnson@hotmail.com for more information.



ICE SKATING WITHOUT THE ICE



Behaves like an ice skate blade

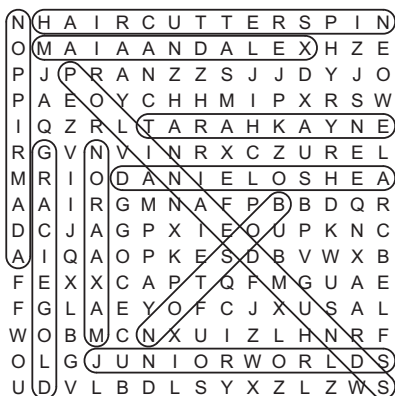
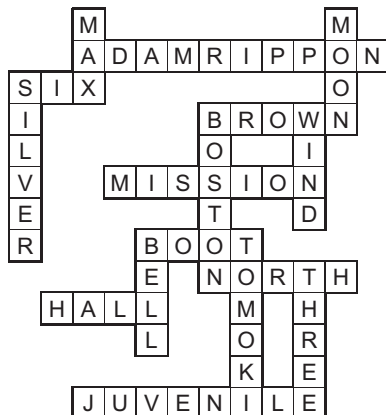
Can be used on any dry surface indoors and out



Photo by Olivier Branjon

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PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 68

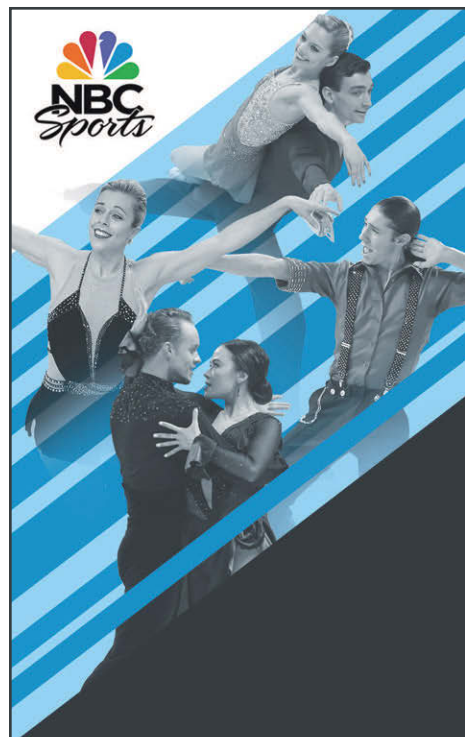


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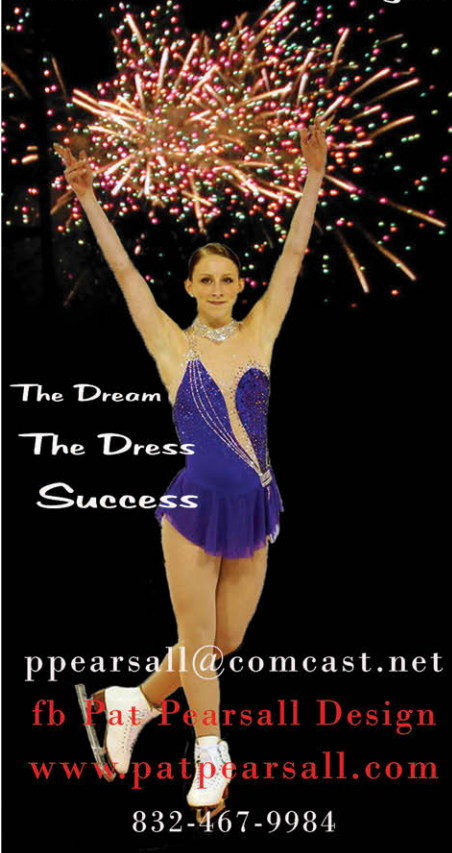
TV SCHEDULE

All times are Eastern. Dates and time subject to change.

Saturday, April 2
World Championships
9-11 p.m. — NBC

Sunday, April 10
World Championships
3-6 p.m. — NBC

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— Dipti Mehta, PhD

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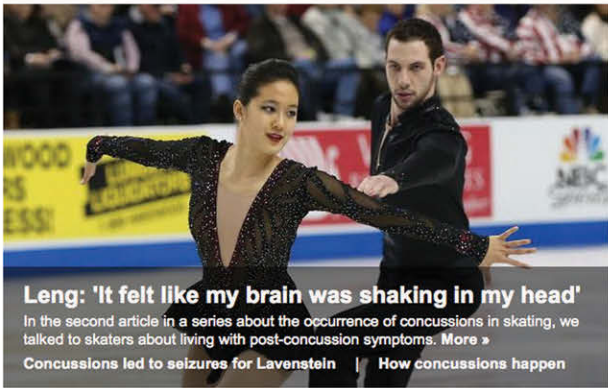
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