

SKATING

March 2017



U.S. FIGURE SKATING
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 CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

ICE DANCING

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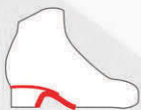
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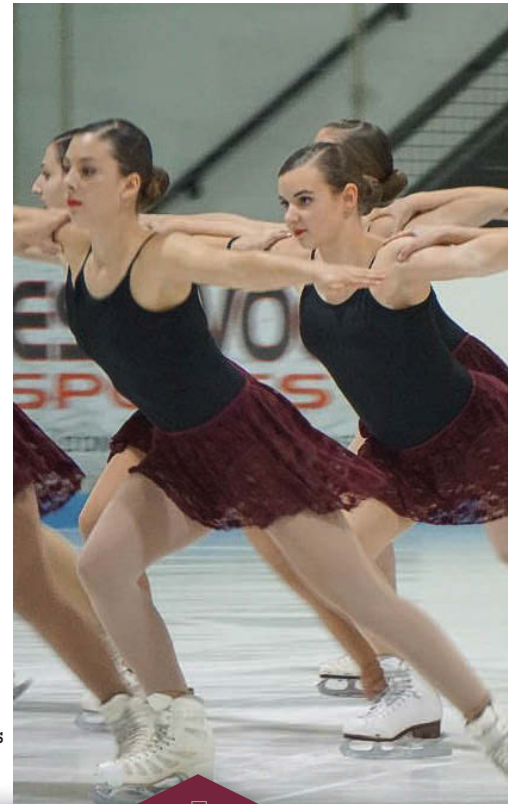
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On the cover JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Three first-time titlists and one repeat winner were crowned champions at the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Kansas City, Missouri, Jan. 14–22. Men's champion Nathan Chen electrified everyone with his record free skate that included five quadruple jumps and an overall score of 318.47 points. As is tradition, the champions' names will be added to the coveted U.S. Championships Trophy. Pictured are 2017 U.S. champions (l-r) Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier (pairs), Nathan Chen (men), Karen Chen (ladies), and Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani (ice dance). Complete coverage of the event starts on page 10.

Kansas City steps up for an exciting U.S. Championships

I don't think it will be 32 years again before U.S. Figure Skating comes back to Kansas City for a major competition. As it did in 1985, Kansas City delivered an exciting U.S. Championships that had that big-time feel and the hospitality and warmth America's Heartland is known for.

From Nathan Chen's historic performance to the friendly confines of the Sprint Center to being able to walk across the street for a bite to eat in the Power & Light District, the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships had it all.

"Kansas City did a great job," U.S. Figure Skating President Samuel Auxier said. "Everything went seamlessly. Both arenas are beautiful, especially the Sprint Center. The hospitality was wonderful and the fans have been supportive, which is really important to us. I'm sure we'd think highly of coming back someday."

Chen's incredible feat will forever be linked to the Kansas City championships. He landed two quadruple jumps in his short program and a record five in his free skate. The 17-year-old shattered every U.S. qualifying scoring record, posting an overall mark of 318.47 points, 43 more than the standard set by Jason Brown in 2015.

It was cool to see some of the sport's most veteran reporters, such as Phil Hersh and Christine Brennan, take in this historic moment after all they've seen in this sport over the last three-plus decades.

"At some point, as my jaw dropped to the floor, I found myself chuckling at just how easily he was doing what would be considered incredible by any standard of any sport you choose," Hersh wrote of Chen's free skate in one of his icenetwork articles.

Kim Heim, the referee of the championship men's event, called it "an honor" to be a member of the panel of such a historic event.

"Having attended practices all week as the event referee, I had a front row seat to Nathan Chen's amazing and consistent arsenal of quad jumps being completed at the practices," Heim said.

It was also awesome to witness the happiness and pride of the event's two cochair, Ryan Bradley and John Coughlin. Watching their hometown step up and deliver an outstanding event is all they could have asked for.

"I always knew what Kansas City is and the culture and support for sports that was here," Coughlin said. "But to have people coming up to me and telling me what a great event it is, means a lot. From the way the local organizing

committee ran it to what's available for entertainment when the action of skating was on pause was really special.

"Audiences were really strong and supportive. I spoke to a spectator who said they appreciated that the fans cheered from the first skater all the way to the stars in the last warm-up. That's one of the things I'm most proud of that I heard all week, is the kindness and hearts of the people here in Kansas City."

Kansas City's warm reception for the event wasn't lost on the athletes, who enjoyed regular rousing applause and the opportunity to meet their adoring fans during autograph sessions on the concourse.

"I think the crowd was phenomenal," pairs pewter medalist Nathan Bartholomay (with Deanna Stellato) said. "Hopefully we can come back to Kansas City, because that was fantastic and fun."

"I actually love the people here," Stellato said. "Everywhere we go, they ask, 'Are you skaters?' I'd say yes. I really feel the city is behind this competition. It feels they are individually behind me, too. So I really like Kansas City."

For me and the rest of the media, the Sprint Center offered the perfect setup. We were able cover each skater at nearly ice level from the media seating that was positioned at the end of one side of the arena. The interviewing area for the athletes was within a few feet of the media seating, which allowed the media to get their information and hit their deadlines.

"Best ever" was what I heard from many in the media in terms of their accommodations.

When there was a break in the action, it was so nice to be able to walk across the street and get something to eat at any one of the dozens of restaurants in the Power & Light District. I hit the Whopper Bar twice (Burger King).

The only hiccup of the entire week occurred just into the start of the juvenile and intermediate events at the Silverstein Arena in Independence, Missouri, when the local weather forecast called for an ice apocalypse that was going to paralyze Kansas City. Fortunately, it never materialized.

"We had put a Plan B in action to house some of our officials in Independence for the night, and the NFL even moved the Steelers-Chiefs game back seven hours on Sunday," Heim said.

Without a doubt, Kansas City certainly met — and then exceeded — its reputation as one of the country's best sports cities.

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To be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to mterry@usfigureskating.org and include action and non-skating photographs of yourself. Include in your submission your name, address, home phone number (not for publication) and U.S. Figure Skating member number. Answer as many of the questions that you see printed in the KIDS Spotlight as you want, and we might feature you.

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Inaugural National Get Up Day celebrated Feb. 1

U.S. Figure Skating invited people around the nation on Feb. 1 to participate in the inaugural National Get Up Day, a celebration of those who embody the Get Up spirit. Officially declared by the registrar at National Day Calendar, National Get Up Day will now be celebrated annually on Feb. 1.

The Get Up campaign, launched by U.S. Figure Skating in Oct. 2016, is a long-term, multiplatform awareness and engagement initiative with the goal of creating a movement that people can relate to, get involved in and stand behind. Among the first things taught in every skating lesson is how to fall down, and more importantly, how to get back up again. It's a lesson all participants can apply across every aspect of their lives.

U.S. Figure Skating and people all over the country participated in the inaugural National Get Up Day by sharing their inspirational stories at WeGetUp.com, on social media using #GetUpDay and by contacting local media outlets with their personal stories or stories of good work done by a friend or organization in their community.

2015 U.S. champion Jason Brown appeared on NBC's "Today" show to promote the event and nearly 400 people bolstered the event through Thunderclap.it. The spirit of human resilience echoed across social media among skaters and nonskaters alike with the hashtag #GetUpDay appearing in the top 10 trending topics in the U.S. throughout the day.

Home to the U.S. Olympic Committee, U.S. Figure Skating and dozens of other national governing bodies of sport, the city of Colorado Springs, with the help of 2015 U.S. pairs champions Alexa Scimeca Knierim and Chris Knierim, officially proclaimed Feb. 1, 2017, as "Get Up Day in Colorado Springs," to recognize the inspirational spirit of athletes from across America who come to train in "Olympic City USA."

The Get Up campaign will continue to build momentum leading up to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, with additional extensions of the program to be announced in the coming months.

For more information on National Get Up Day and the Get Up campaign, visit WeGetUp.com.





Chen given Best of January honors by USOC

A record-breaking performance at the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Kansas City earned Nathan Chen Best of January honors for the United States Olympic Committee's Team USA Awards presented by Dow.

As a monthly finalist, Chen, along with January's other honorees — tennis player Serena Williams and the U.S. men's national junior ice hockey team — is among a growing list of more than 40 athletes and teams that are eligible for Best of the Year honors in 2017.

"Thanks everyone for voting for me this month," Chen (@nathanwchen) tweeted after the announcement. "Honored to be amongst these athletes!"

Chen landed a record seven quadruple jumps — five in his free skate — to win the men's event and set a new scoring record with 318.47 points.

Each national governing body (NGB) may nominate one female, one male and one team per discipline. An internal nominating committee selects five nominees from both the male and female categories and three from the team category to advance to the voting round. Votes received from NGB representatives and select members of the media account for 50 percent of the final tally, with the other half determined by online fan voting via TeamUSA.org/Awards.

The five monthly men's and women's finalists and three team finalists automatically qualify for consideration for the 2017 Team USA Awards presented by Dow Best of the Year. Visit TeamUSA.org for a complete list of monthly finalists from the 2016–17 qualification period, which runs from October 2016–September 2017. The 2017 Best of the Year Awards will be held in December.

Farris announces return to competitive skating

Joshua Farris, the 2015 U.S. bronze medalist, announced in February his return to competitive skating. Farris, who won silver at the 2015 ISU Four Continents Championships, retired in July 2016 after a long battle with concussion recovery.

"I wasn't thinking about coming back to competing, but I was just thinking about getting back to skating and doing shows and that kind of stuff. I thought about it a lot ... probably a little bit too much," Farris said.

Farris, who spent his time coaching while away from competing, will resume training with his former coaches in his previous stomping grounds at the Broadmoor World



Arena in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"I'm going to continue to work with Christy Krall and Damon Allen," Farris said. "They've helped me through a lot and I think they can continue to help me. Since I have become a coach, I have learned the frustrating things and stubborn things that I did as a skater. I think they can push me even further than what I was able to do before my concussion."

Farris is a two-time U.S. pewter medalist (2013–14), the 2013 World Junior champion, and has won U.S. titles at the juvenile (2006), intermediate (2008) and novice (2009) levels.



This issue in SKATING history

In May 2013, U.S. Figure Skating launched the SKATING Magazine Archive, a fully searchable digital database that allows members and subscribers to access every story and photo published in the magazine since the inaugural December 1923 edition.

Here's a look at what was happening in the March issue from 25, 50 and 75 years ago:

1992

U.S. Championships: New Champions Crowned in Orlando's Magic Kingdom

"This was a championship of records. It was the first time ever that four new champions were named at a U.S. Championships in an Olympic year. Last year's champions did not fare better than third place in any of the skating disciplines this year. Evidence of the direction the sport is taking was seen especially in the singles events, where more triple jumps were performed than ever before, and the ratio of injuries to triples also became apparent."

1967

United States Championships: Omaha, Nebraska, January 18-21 "Superb Midwestern Hospitality"

"Strong skating, perfect organization and Omaha's enthusiasm marked one of the most successful United States Championships in years. Two years of planning by the FSC of Omaha made the four-day competition, held in the modern, blue-and-turquoise Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, an outstanding event in Nebraska's centennial celebration. Omahans went out of their way to ease the arduous days of compe-

tion for competitors and officials. Signs in stores and restaurants welcomed skaters, the Joslyn Art Museum had a special exhibition of 19th-century skating prints and newspapers, radio and television gave complete coverage. By Saturday night, 20,000 Omahans had witnessed the best figure skating in the country and were not disappointed by what they saw. Every class had both its stars and strength below the top."

1942

United States Championships

"DUE TO ADVERTISING and circulation commitments, it was impossible to delay the printing and mailing of this issue for the full story on the 1942 United States Championships. The following results were telegraphed from Chicago and rushed into type at the last moment. The complete story, with marks and pictures, will appear in the April Issue, which will be mailed to you about April 8. Ladies' Senior—won by Mrs. Jane Vaughn Sullivan, Philadelphia S. C. & H. S.; second, Gretchen Merrill, The S. C. of Boston; third, Phebe Tucker, The S. C. of New York; fourth, Ramona Allen, Oakland F. S. C."

To read these articles and more in their entirety, visit the SKATING Magazine Archive under the Members Only section of USFigureSkating.org.

Gold announces coaching change

Gracie Gold announced in February that she will train in Canton, Michigan, under the direction of Marina Zoueva and Oleg Epstein. Gold parted ways with her previous coach, Frank Carroll, after the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I've known Oleg for a long time, and Marina Zoueva choreographed my 2014 Olympic free skate," Gold said during a Facebook Live session on the NBC Olympics Facebook page. "I'm real excited to be training there with Maia and Alex Shibutani, who are great friends of mine, and Patrick Chan. I think it's going to be super amazing."

Gold began working with Carroll in 2013; she won two U.S. titles (2014, '16) while training with him. Prior to working with Carroll, Gold trained in the Chicago area under the direction of Alex Ouriashev.





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Together forever

Predictable, boring and couldn't be happier

by LOIS ELFMAN

Without a doubt, at 5 feet 9 inches tall and 6 feet 5 inches tall, U.S. senior ice dancers (1982–85) Susan Jorgensen and Robert Yokabaskas stood out from the competition. They were elegant, emotional and skillful at portraying love and romance. Turns out, they weren't acting.

After leaving the competitive scene following the 1985 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, they decided on a life together, getting married in June 1986.

"We were so used to each other, we didn't know what to do without each other," Susan said.

It was kind of incredible that they got together in the first place. Susan grew up skating singles at the Genesee Figure Skating Club in Rochester, New York, and then moved to Buffalo to train. She quit before her junior year of high school, but after her freshman year of college, a friend called about this really tall guy from Connecticut looking for an ice dance partner because the girl he was skating with had snapped her Achilles tendon.

"My parents did not want me to do it; they wanted me to go back to Wellesley," she recalled. "My grandparents drove me to Lake Placid to try out with Robert. I took a temporary leave from college that wound up being permanent."

"She was so shy I had to ask her stupid questions to keep the conversation going," Robert recalled. "Now she's the one who keeps the conversation going and I shut up."

For the past 23 years, Susan and Robert Yokabaskas have lived in Cape Elizabeth, Maine (south of Portland), where they maintain a tie to skating as part-time coaches. They moved to Maine when Robert's job transferred him there, and it has turned out to be just the right place for them.

"We like Maine because there's an eclectic mix of people here — artistic types," Susan said. "We built a house on this dead-end road that ends at this little cove. We just love it. We walk down to the water. It's very quiet and peaceful."

All their kids love the water — surfing, body surfing and boogie boarding. Their sons were also cross-country skiers. Robert even used some of his skating skills to coach the middle school cross-country skiing team.

Susan, 54, and Robert, 58, said their kids — Lauren, 28, Bobby, 25, and James, 22 — say they're boring. They do prefer a quiet, fami-



Susan Jorgensen and Robert Yokabaskas perform at the U.S. Championships.

ly-centered life, but perhaps one of their most boring characteristics is actually a big positive left over from skating — they love keeping a careful schedule.

"You keep those skills you developed skating at 6 a.m., going to school every day and doing homework in the car," Susan said.

The lessons learned in a skating partnership, such as working together as a team, knowing how to weather highs and lows and compromise, have served them well in their three-decade marriage.

"We knew we could conquer anything after skating," Robert said.

They joked that although they didn't really teach their kids to skate, they all skate fairly well. Clearly they have a skating gene, but none pursued the sport, and instead keeping their skating to a nearby pond. Robert's late father, Vin Yokabaskas, was a basketball legend at the University of Connecticut, so Robert stayed away from the sport to avoid comparisons. Similarly, he didn't want their kids to be compared to them and, in

general, he preferred that the kids stayed away from subjective sports.

Today, Lauren is living in New York City and studying opera. Both sons still live in Maine, working and going to college.

Until all three kids were in school for the full day, Susan was a stay-at-home mom. Then she was a substitute nursery school teacher, and from that became a part-time nanny/babysitter for one of the families, and has been with them for nine years. That, along with teaching skating, keeps her busy.

Robert works as a packaging salesman, traveling around Maine, New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts, selling ink jet systems to all the major mills. He also teaches skating part-time. It's mostly about hockey in the local rinks, but he and Susan are happy to share their knowledge of the sport during the limited number of figure skating sessions.

"When we moved here, we didn't have any intention of teaching here," Robert said. "We decided we were going to raise our kids. We



The Yokabaskas family: Robert, James, Lauren, Bobby and Susan enjoy the beach near their home in Maine. Photo courtesy of Susan and Robert Yokabaskas

didn't think about figure skating. We were out of it for 10 years. Then they built this new rink in Falmouth with this 'outdoor' pond they call it. It reminded me of Sun Valley. Susan said, 'We've got to go skate.' So we did one day and the skating director at the rink saw us."

"We were trying to remember the steps to the Yankee Polka and he noticed," Susan said. "We wanted to try and skate as date nights because at that point our youngest was in first grade. I finally had some time and we thought we'd go skate one day a week for fun."

People came out from the main arena next door and asked them to teach. It's been more than 15 years since that fateful night, and they said they still love sharing their knowledge and experience with people who love skating. Coaching wasn't new to them, as they had done it full-time for a couple of years after they retired, first in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and then at the Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society.

While they don't want to coach full-time,

they enjoy staying connected to the sport. Over the years, they've taken a few students to competitions, but most of the serious skaters head off to Boston or other rinks in New England where there is more ice time.

They're surprised there isn't local interest in ice dancing, given the international success of U.S. teams over the past 12 years, but the young skaters are enthralled with jumping and spinning.

Looking back on their skating career, both say two National Sports Festivals (later called the Olympic Festival) were favorite events because there were athletes from many sports and an Olympic-like opening ceremony. Part of a large group of ice dancers training in Wilmington, Delaware, they thrived as competitors. Thanks to choreographer Jill Cosgrove, they became quite an expressive duo, and at the Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colorado, they skated last. Their Spanish free dance in 1983 showed them off to perfection and the audience gave them a standing ovation.

"It was like walking on air," Robert said.

"They put a cartoon of us in the newspaper," Susan said.

Of the current ice dancers, they enjoy Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje of Canada, appreciating their long lines, as well as the explosive twizzles of two-time and reigning U.S. champions Maia and Alex Shibutani. They're very complimentary of Marina Zoueva's choreography and said they loved Meryl Davis and Charlie White's Olympic free dance.

Facebook reconnects them with old skating friends.

"It's fun to see where people's lives have gone — some into coaching, some into judging — kind of cool," Susan said.

As of a few months ago, Susan and Robert became empty nesters. They've taken on a number of home repair projects, such as painting, that keep them quite busy every weekend.

"That's our excitement, the ceiling in the dining room," Robert said. "We're predictable. Our kids know where we are all the time."

318.47!

Nathan Chen's heroics leave K.C. in awe

BY BARB REICHERT

When the score was posted on the Sprint Center video board, the rafters shook.

318.47 points.

Fans jumped out of their seats. Reporters slapped each other on the back. Kansas City's Power & Light District felt a surge of energy.

Sitting in the kiss and cry, Nathan Chen simply mouthed the word *wow*.

The new U.S. men's champion didn't just *make* U.S. history, he *obliterated* it by more than 43 points.

Nathan Chen's five quadruple jumps on the final day of the 2017 Prudential U.S. Championships (Jan. 14–22) quickly became the talk of figure skating — all of figure skating. As the Canadian Championships ended, and with Europeans set to begin, all eyes were on the 17-year-old American, who served the world notice by earning silver at the 2016 Grand Prix Final in December.

The Salt Lake City native led the youth movement as one of three first-time U.S. champions.

Karen Chen, also 17 (and no relation to Nathan), skated two clean programs to

end the Gracie Gold–Ashley Wagner five-year tussle for the ladies crown. And fittingly, Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier came back from extensive knee surgery to win the gold amid an injury-riddled pairs field.

Maia and Alex Shibutani defended their ice dance title, narrowly defeating U.S. and World rivals Madison Chock and Evan Bates by 1.01 points. The Shibutanis are the reigning World silver medalists, while Chock and Bates own the World bronze medal.

It was a special week of skating, and not just on the big stage.

The juvenile- through junior-level skaters heated things up earlier in the week, competing at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena in nearby Independence, Missouri. The smaller venue hosted some big performances as juvenile, intermediate and novice skaters reaped the rewards of a bonus system that awards extra points for double Axels, triple-triple combinations and triple jumps.

In its second year, the bonus system has increased technical levels to help athletes achieve more as they move through

the U.S. Figure Skating pipeline.

"We have a really strong group of young athletes who are meeting and pushing the technical demands of the sport," said Justin Dillon, U.S. Figure Skating's director of high performance development. "I'm very encouraged by their progress and commend their coaches for raising performance levels."

Kansas City proved to be the perfect host. Behind the efforts of the Kansas City Sports Commission, Sprint Center and Visit KC, fans and athletes were treated to a first-rate experience in a city both vibrant and welcoming. The sport gained some fans, too.

"Many local fans commented on how excited they were to witness in person the power and grace of this sport," said Kathy Nelson, president and CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission. "We have not hosted a figure skating championship of this level since 1985, almost skipping a generation of fans. Many were thrilled to experience this sport up close. I think we have converted many local fans to become passionate figure skating fans who might consider traveling to other cities to follow the sport."

And while Nelson raved about the friendliness and fan accessibility of such stars as Scott Hamilton, Meryl Davis, Tara Lipinski and Johnny Weir, one name continued to be on everyone's mind.

"Of course, everyone, including our staff, is still talking about witnessing history with Nathan Chen," Nelson said. "We're proud that Kansas City will always be home to Nathan's first senior title."

(l-r) Ice dance champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani take a bow following their record-breaking short dance. Karen Chen and her coach Tammy Gambill bask in the moment upon finding out her record short program scores. Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier salute family and friends after winning the U.S. pairs title.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Nathan Chen soaks up the applause following his record-breaking, five-quad free skate.

U.S. World Team Selections

At the conclusion of the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Figure Skating announced the athletes who will represent Team USA at the 2017 World Figure Skating Championships, March 29–April 2 in Helsinki, Finland, and the World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei, March 15–19.

2017 U.S. WORLD TEAM

Ladies

Mariah Bell
 Karen Chen
 Ashley Wagner
 Alternate 1 – Mirai Nagasu
 Alternate 2 – Gracie Gold
 Alternate 3 – Caroline Zhang

Men

Jason Brown
 Nathan Chen
 Alternate 1 – Vincent Zhou
 Alternate 2 – Grant Hochstein
 Alternate 3 – Max Aaron

Pairs

Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier
 Alexa Scimeca Knierim and Chris Knierim
 Alternate 1 – Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc
 Alternate 2 – Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran
 Alternate 3 – Deanna Stellato and Nathan Bartholomay

Ice dance

Madison Chock and Evan Bates
 Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue
 Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani
 Alternate 1 – Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker
 Alternate 2 – Elliana Pogrebinsky and Alex Benoit
 Alternate 3 – Julia Biechler and Damian Dodge

2017 U.S. WORLD JUNIOR TEAM

Ladies

Amber Glenn
 Bradie Tennell
 Alternate 1 – Starr Andrews
 Alternate 2 – Ashley Lin
 Alternate 3 – Megan Wessenberg

Men

Alex Krasnozhon
 Andrew Torgashev
 Vincent Zhou
 Alternate 1 – Camden Pulkinen
 Alternate 2 – Kevin Shum
 Alternate 3 – Tomoki Hiwatashi

Pairs

Chelsea Liu and Brian Johnson
 Nica Digerness and Danny Neudecker
 Alternate 1 – Alexandria Yao and Austin Hale
 Alternate 2 – Gabriella Marvaldi and Daniel Villeneuve
 Alternate 3 – Laiken Lockley and Keenan Prochnow

Ice dance

Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko
 Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter
 Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons
 Alternate 1 – Chloe Lewis and Logan Bye
 Alternate 2 – Eliana Gropman and Ian Somerville
 Alternate 3 – Emma Gunter and Caleb Wein

'PASSION, FIERCENESS'

Chen puts it all together to win title
Wagner, Bell collect silver and bronze

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Huge triple jumps, dizzyingly-fast spins, gorgeous spirals, superb edge work and a serene but attacking performance quality helped lift 17-year-old Karen Chen (Peninsula SC) to the top of the podium at the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Kansas City.

But what wasn't visible to those who packed the Sprint Center for the championship ladies final on Saturday night, Jan. 21, is something that's deeply rooted in this diminutive Bay Area phenom.

"There's always been something special about her that you just can't teach," her coach at Riverside Icetown in Riverside, California, Tammy Gambill, said. "It's something inside her. She has that passion and fierceness in her. That's something that comes across whether she's having a good day or a bad day."

Those intangibles undoubtedly helped Chen capture her first title and halt the five-year run of championships won by Gracie Gold (Wagon Wheel FSC) and Ashley Wagner (SC of Wilmington). Wagner, the World silver medalist, earned her first U.S. silver medal in 10 championship-level appearances, while Gold's season ended with a disappointing sixth-place finish as well as with the announcement that her coaching relationship with Frank Carroll was over. Wagner's new training mate, Mariah Bell (Rocky Mountain FSC), garnered the bronze medal.

Although she came in under the radar in terms of being a title contender, Chen showed in her record-breaking short program that she had turned the corner following a subpar Grand Prix season.

Performing to a self-choreographed short program, set to music from Dave Grusin's *On Golden Pond*, Chen was nothing short of brilliant. She opened with a huge triple Lutz-triple toe loop combination and seamlessly worked her way to a beautiful closing layback spin. Her U.S. qualifying best score of 72.82 broke Gold's



(l-r) Ashley Wagner, Karen Chen, Mariah Bell and Mirai Nagasu.

mark of 72.12 set at the 2014 U.S. Championships. 2008 U.S. champion and 2010 Olympian Mirai Nagasu was also outstanding in the short program, finishing second with 71.95 points.

"I'm very happy with how everything came together," Chen, who won a bronze medal at the 2015 U.S. Championships, said. "I worked this program over and over, and I also choreographed it, so it's just such a special program for me."

It was a monumental performance following a year and a half of uncertainty because of boot problems and nagging injuries, which plagued her all of last season and caused concern early in the current campaign.

"It was definitely a struggle," Chen said. "I went through a lot of obstacles with the boots, resulting in some injuries, but I'm happy I got most of it resolved and I'm feeling good. I've learned from my past mistakes, and I'm just gaining more experience and hopefully will keep improving

and getting better."

Chen's training this season, Gambill said, has been more settled than in the past when she would spend a lot of time commuting to the rink, school and back home.

"She's settled down and gotten into a better routine," Gambill said. "She's been more organized with her training and off-ice training and physical therapy work, so she's very diligent about that. ... She's stable and committed to the extra things she needs to do to stay healthy."

Despite turning in a record short program, less than two points separated her from Nagasu and three-time U.S. champion and 2014 Olympian Wagner heading into the free skate.

In her free skate to "Jalousie Tango," by Jacob Gade, Chen once again commanded the performance with a fast and sure approach over the four-minute program. She landed six triple jumps, including an opening triple Lutz-triple toe loop combination.

MEDALISTS

Gold | Karen Chen

Silver | Ashley Wagner

Bronze | Mariah Bell

Pewter | Mirai Nagasu

SENIOR LADIES

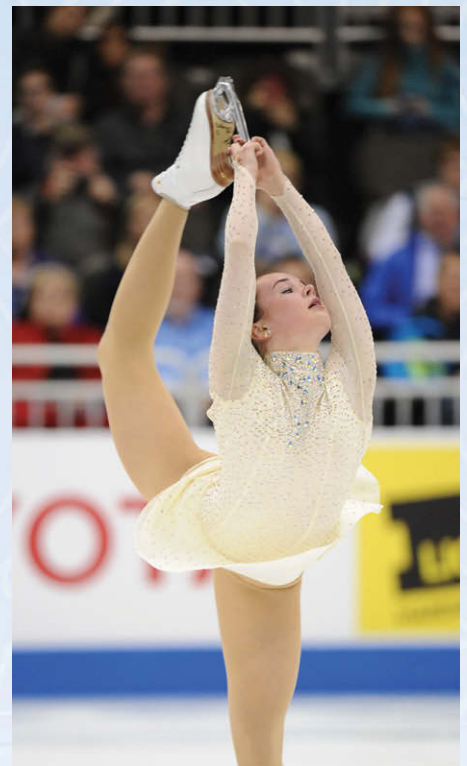
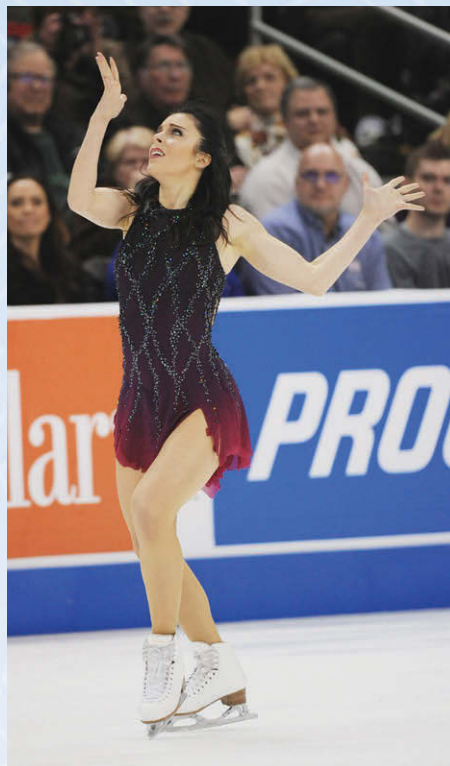
PHOTO BY TISON HANNA/GETTY IMAGES



U.S. champion Karen Chen basks in the moment during her event-best free skate.

2017 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR LADIES



(l-r) Karen Chen gives a superb short program performance to music from *On Golden Pond*. Ashley Wagner earns her first-ever silver medal at the U.S. Championships with solid performances in her two programs. Mariah Bell carries the momentum of her early season success into Kansas City and secures the bronze medal.

All of her elements received positive grades of execution as she posted a score of 214.22. Her only negative moment came on her second jumping pass when she doubled an intended triple Salchow.

Her performance was enough to hold off Wagner, who also performed well in the free skate, and Nagasu, who skated last and fell from second to fourth.

"I'm just completely in shock," Chen said. "All of this just came together for me. ... To be honest, this moment was something that I really dreamed about. In a way it was so far from reality that it was hard for me to believe that this day would come. But this day did come and I'm just so excited and thrilled about it."

Chen's national triumph was celebrated back home at Riverside Icetown, where the Fremont, California, native was a hero to the younger skaters even before winning the title.

"The younger ones, they'll say, 'Karen Chen is here. Karen Chen is in the locker room,'" Gambill said. "She's such a great role model. She's so sweet and kind and helpful to everybody."

For Wagner, claiming the silver medal was a victory in itself following a disappointing showing at Cup of China where she underrotated several jumps and ended up in sixth place, missing the Grand Prix Final for the first time in five seasons.

Wagner performed her free skate to "Exogenesis: Symphony Part III" by Muse with poise and grace, a stark contrast to her edgy and attitude-filled short program to "Sweet Dreams" by Eurhythmics. She landed seven triple jumps, including a triple-triple combination and a tri-

ple-single-triple jump series. Wagner posted the best component scores of the free skate, but was hit with an underrotation deduction on one of her triple-triple combinations. She finished with 211.78 points.

"Today was a huge accomplishment for me," Wagner said. "Today was really solid. That was what I was going for. From the start of this event, I said I was here to get on that World team and I think that I delivered the two solid performances I wanted to here. I left some points out there on the table. I'm totally OK with that because I have something to build on top of and I know exactly where I am now and I'm not planning on peaking here. I'm looking forward to moving on to Worlds."

Wagner, who just missed making the Olympic team in 2010, earned a Team Event bronze medal in the Sochi Games in 2014 and is considered a solid hopeful for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, said she's proud of her staying power in a sport where youth reigns supreme.

"I'm going to get emotional because this is so hard, what I do," Wagner said in the free skate press conference. "I am so proud that I am still here. I was 15 or 16 at my first World Championships and I'm here and almost 25. It's almost 10 years later and that's something you don't see often. I love it and I'm so stubborn and my passion is what fuels me. I'm always here because I work to be here and that's something I'm really proud of."

Bell, who last summer joined Wagner and 2016 U.S. men's champion Adam Rippon in Lakewood, California, to train under two-time

PSA Coach of the Year Rafael Arutunian, arrived in Kansas City as one of the hot prospects to earn a medal following her silver medal performance at Skate America.

The 20-year-old native Oklahoman didn't disappoint, rallying from sixth place after the short program to finish with 197.92 points and the bronze medal. Her sparkling free skate to music from East of Eden showcased Bell's striking spins and footwork. Despite stepping out of her first two jumping passes, she came back strong with a triple flip-loop-triple Salchow series in the middle of her program.

"My goal coming into nationals was just continue building on my personal best that I've grown with during the season," Bell said. "I'm really proud because I was pretty nervous going into the long, but to be able to do that even with the pressure that I had on myself, I feel really pleased and I'm excited for whatever is next."

Nagasu's hopes for making the World team were dashed early on in her free skate. After starting strong with a triple flip-triple toe loop combination, she fell on a triple Lutz and then underrotated a series of jumps to fall out of title contention.

At the post-event press conference, Wagner was asked about Chen and Bell and the future of U.S. ladies skating.

"I think right now you are looking at something that is very exciting for U.S. Figure Skating," Wagner said. "Going into Worlds, the best advice I can give to both of these girls is just tune out the noise and focus on your job. I mean, Karen just has to deliver what she did here and Mariah has to do the same and we'll be set."

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ROCKET MAN!

Chen shatters records, wins title with five quads in free skate
Zhou, Brown garner silver and bronze

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

It was Friday night in Kansas City. The short dance had just ended and some of U.S. Figure Skating's most legendary men — Button, Hamilton, Boitano and Lysacek — were being shown on the big video screen above center ice. The final frame of the video asked, "Who will rise to the challenge?" And with that, thoughts turned to Nathan Chen.

At just 17 years old, Chen (Salt Lake Figure Skating) had already won U.S. titles at the novice (2010–11) and junior (2012, '14) levels; minor injuries and growing pains, though, plagued him as he transitioned to the senior ranks. Still, he had managed a U.S. bronze in 2016, only to suffer an avulsion injury in his left hip during the Smucker's Skating Spectacular — an injury that required surgery and time focused on rehabilitation, not on training his impressive arsenal of jumps.

But Chen, who splits his training time between Rafael Arutunian in Lakewood, California, and Marina Zoueva in Canton, Michigan, came back strong. He qualified for the 2016 Grand Prix Final in his first international season, winning the free skate over Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu and besting two-time World champion Javier Fernandez, and three-time World champion Patrick Chan, for the silver medal.

But short programs hadn't been his strong suit throughout the season, and names from Aaron to Zhou were also eager to take their place among the greats.

As Chen took the ice for his short program, the Sprint Center was abuzz with excitement. Athletes, fans and journalists alike all speculated on what they were about to witness. Questions like "Will he break 100 points?" were in the air. (No U.S. man had accomplished this feat, with the closest attempt being a 99.86 posted by Jeremy Abbott in 2014.) But with Chen's opening combination, a flawless quadruple Lutz-triple toe loop, the question was no longer a matter of if, but by how much.

MEDALISTS

Gold | Nathan Chen
Silver | Vincent Zhou
Bronze | Jason Brown
Pewter | Grant Hochstein



Chen unleashes one of his huge quad jumps in the short program.

PHOTO BY JASON HANNA/GETTY IMAGES

SENIOR MEN



(l-r) Vincent Zhou, Nathan Chen, Jason Brown, Grant Hochstein

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

by more than 43 points. While he appears well on his way to the World and Olympic podium, the calm and confident teen is still training for bigger and better things with a sky's-the-limit attitude.

"How I've progressed as a younger skater is as soon as I land a new jump, I throw it in the program and work it from there [and] try to gain the consistency in the competition," Chen said. "I think that's the same mindset that I've had going into these past few competitions with these big jumps. There really is no end point. You just keep on adding in new stuff and trying new things and try to gain confidence with these big jumps."

Just one year prior, as Chen wore a bronze medal around his neck, Vincent Zhou (SC of San Francisco) found himself as a first-time senior in eighth place. When he left Kansas City, he was the U.S. silver medalist.

"I didn't even expect to be on the podium, to be honest. I just tried to set some modest expectations for myself," Zhou said after the free skate. "This week in practice, I trained well, and

By the end of the first segment, Chen had made his mark and left no doubt — this was his year.

"Finally!" Chen exclaimed after his "Le Corsaire" performance. "This is the program I've been looking for all season. I finally put out a good short program. [A U.S. title] is something I've wanted my whole life. It's definitely a good step for me and I'm really happy to be where I am tonight and hopefully to continue with this in the free skate."

It was Sunday afternoon in Kansas City. Chen brought 106.39 points to the free skate with his nearest challenger posting 88.67. While a title seemed imminent, no one could have predicted the performance Chen would throw down to seal the deal.

"The Polovtsian Dances" by Alexander Borodin began echoing around the arena. Before it would end, history would be made. Four quads were planned, but five were executed perfectly.

Opening with another quad Lutz-triple toe combination, Chen's next element was a quad flip — an element landed for the first time in competition just nine months prior when Shoma Uno of Japan notched the accomplishment. Next up: A quad toe-double toe-double loop jump series and a solo quad toe. Though his planned quads were solidly behind him, halfway through his performance, Chen landed a quadruple Salchow, good for bonus points and his name forever in the record books. Until then, no man, American or otherwise, had ever landed five quadruple jumps in a single performance.

"It was amazing," Chen said of his performance. "That [quad Salchow] is something I've been training for and working toward. I didn't really want to put it out there just yet, since it's been not-so-consistent in practice, but it's something I'm really proud of."

Chen earned 212.08 for his final segment, en route to a total score of 318.47. His personal-best scores marked new U.S. records across the board, breaking the previous-best overall score

Nathan Chen gives a brilliant free skate performance.



JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

2017 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR MEN

tonight I just went out there and I feel like I delivered pretty well. It wasn't my best program, but there's always room to grow and to go back and start working now."

While his overall total of 263.03 was well below Chen's, Zhou's final tally still ranks in the top 15 all-time U.S. scores, topped off by an impressive free skate worth 175.18. Taking the ice to music from "Johnny Staccato" by Elmer Bernstein, the 16-year-old landed two quad Salchows in his program — one in combination with a triple toe — securing his place among the top U.S. men after a tumultuous few years that included injury and training relocation before ultimately returning to coach Tammy Gambill in Riverside, California.

"I'm still kind of in shock that I got second," Zhou said. "Eighth last year with two OK performances to being second this year with a score higher than I would have ever imagined that I would get, I'm really proud of that. And honestly, out there, I thought about having fun. I was confident going into my jumps. Some little

mishaps occurred, but I'm pleased how I did, not just the results but also practices. It hasn't been easy at all."

2015 U.S. champion Jason Brown (Skokie Valley SC), under the direction of Kori Ade in Monument, Colorado, had been nursing a leg injury leading up to the Championships, stating he was 80 percent during his pre-event teleconference. Despite the setback, Brown was able to move up from a fourth-best short program to earn bronze with a total score of 254.23.

"I really tried to take it one step at a time and not overthink it too much," Brown, 22, said. "Attack with the same integrity that I do when I'm fully trained and at the same time, having kind of mental down times in the program where I can slow it down and refocus and really focus step by step. Right now I can't go in based off of feel. I'm not trained enough to go based off of feel. So she's [Kori Ade] like, 'Act like you're an engineer.' You have to just focus on each element, each part of the jump and that's what I

really try to do."

With his injury taking a quad out of his repertoire, Brown's masterful components and skating skills carried him to a medal, and a place on the World team, garnering a program component score of 92.48 — the highest of the event, more than a point above Chen. His performance to music from *The Piano* earned a Level 4 on two spins and a step sequence, en route to a segment score of 175.00.

Repeating as pewter medalist, Grant Hochstein (SC of New York) finished the week with 248.31 points. In fifth place after the short program, Hochstein rebounded with a solid free skate to music from *Pagliacci* that included two quad toes for 169.21 points.

"I've put myself exactly where I need for next season," Hochstein said. "I'm working hard. I know the Grand Prix season didn't go that well, but I'm proud of the work I did to get back to here and we'll see what happens the rest of the season."

Below, Vincent Zhou and Jason Brown win over the judges and fans with their sterling performances in Kansas City.



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WHAT A FEELING

Denney and Frazier overcome 'darkest of times' to win gold
Castelli and Tran, Cain and LeDuc grab silver and bronze

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Although the competition itself could be described as lukewarm, the senior pairs event had some of the most interesting and inspiring story lines in Kansas City.

There was the battle of attrition, in which 15 teams dwindled to just nine by the free skate because of withdrawals, injuries and illness.

There was the emergence of first-year team Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc, whose long lines, talent and experience helped them win the short program and capture the bronze medal.

There was 33-year-old Deanna Stellato, who wiped the dust off of skates that had been sitting in a closet for 16 years and, with Olympian Nathan Bartholomay, inspired all of us with her determination and exuberance on the ice en route to the pewter medal.

And there was the punishing fall by defending champion Tarah Kayne during a throw triple flip in their short program, which left everyone breathless and deeply concerned. Although she courageously finished the program, Kayne was later diagnosed with a concussion, forcing her and partner Danny O'Shea to withdraw prior to the free skate.

But the best feel-good story of the competition was delivered by this year's champions, Haven Denney (SC of New York) and Brandon Frazier (All Year FSC), who missed the 2015-16 campaign because of a severe knee injury suffered by Denney during an off-ice practice. She tore her ACL, LCL and meniscus while doing a routine throw double flip. Surgery in April 2015 put the Chicago-based team on the competitive shelf until this past summer.

Their victory in Kansas City — after winning the silver medal in 2015 — was the culmination of months of rehabilitation, ups and downs, hard work and self-reflection. In the end, they said, it was all worth it.

"This is a feeling I haven't had since winning Junior Worlds," Frazier, 24, said. "She did such a tremendous job. We both went through the darkest of times in our



(l-r) Marissa Castelli/Mervin Tran, Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc, Deanna Stellato/Nathan Bartholomay

career and sport to get to this moment, to come to the U.S. Championships and fight. It wasn't perfect — and we know where we need to improve — but being able to still put out a good program and come back from a tough short (program) was ..."

"Brandon and I have worked so hard to just get to the point where we are right now," Denney, 21, added. "We still have so much more room to grow and improve, so I'm happy to know that it was enough today."

Denney and Frazier won silver at Skate America and were fourth at Skate Canada, and were considered the favorites heading into Kansas City. They struggled early in their short program to "Don Juan Est Mort" by Felix Gray when Denney put a hand down on the throw triple loop and underrotated their side-by-side triple Salchows, but they finished strong, posting the second-best score of the segment, 3.94 points behind Cain and LeDuc.

"I think maybe we were just a little bit tight today," Denney said. "It felt like we were testing the waters, so I think we know

the feeling now so we can have even more attack and sureness in the long."

Performing their free skate to "Somewhere in Time," choreographed by Marina Zoueva, Denney and Frazier enjoyed an overall strong performance that included two Level 4 spins, four Level 3 lifts, strong footwork and a smooth inside death spiral. She singled a couple of jumps, one in combination, and they received negative marks on their throw triple Salchow. Denney and Frazier had the second-best program components score behind silver medalists Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran.

Most importantly, however, they were the only team in the top seven not to fall. They finished with a total score of 188.32 points.

"Haven and I, we're perfectionists," Frazier said. "You should see us training. Today was about going out and we had to fight. The results are always a bonus for us, but we are excited to be out here again."

"Sometimes we do elements that are just so easy," said Denney, whose older sister, Caydee, is a two-time U.S. pairs

SENIOR PAIRS

MEDALISTS

- Gold | Haven Denney/
Brandon Frazier
- Silver | Marissa Castelli/
Mervin Tran
- Bronze | Ashley Cain/
Timothy LeDuc
- Pewter | Deanna Stellato/
Nathan Bartholomay



U.S. champions Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier launch a huge triple throw in their short program.

champion and a 2010 Olympian. “So, of course, you want that perfect performance where it feels like that at nationals. Even though I didn’t feel like that, I’m very happy we fought through it.”

The team’s coaches, Stefania Bertone and Rockne Brubaker, have guided the team the last two years. Their job, Stefania said, comes in the small details.

“They train very hard every day,” Bertone

said. “We don’t have to motivate them. When it comes to competing, our job is to keep them in check, remind them of the important things like breathe, smile; everything else is natural.”

Frazier said Bertone and Brubaker have done “an incredible job. Rockne Brubaker has such a good head on his shoulders. He’s a great manager for us.”

Denney and Frazier are the eighth different

pair to win the U.S. title in the last nine years.

Castelli and Tran (SC of Boston) arrived in Kansas City having overcome their own share of adversity this season, missing training time due to a concussion suffered by Tran.

Partners since June 2014, the 26-year-olds got off to a disappointing start in their short program to “Fallin’” by Alicia Keys. Castelli fell on the team’s side-by-side triple Salchows and they received neg-

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SENIOR PAIRS



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Left, Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier execute a difficult lift in their free skate. Middle, Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran take the audience for a ride in their Journey medley free skate. Right, Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc show off their long lines and skating skills in their free skate.

ative marks on their throw triple Salchow.

“It was honestly just nerves tonight,” Castelli said. “We can do everything in the program. We’re just disappointed with it.”

The mistakes left Castelli and Tran in fourth place, 5.04 points behind Cain and LeDuc.

They fared better in their free skate to a Journey medley, a program carried over from last season. It started with a towering triple twist and featured two Level 4 spins, three Level 4 lifts and solid footwork. Tran, though, struggled on both jumping passes, falling on the front end of their triple toe loop-double toe loop combination.

They finished less than one point behind Denney and Frazier in the free skate and with the silver medal overall, scoring 186.28 points. Castelli and Tran earned the bronze last year and were sixth in their first season together at the U.S. Championships.

“We’ve said from the start that we’ve been working really hard on the twist, and the short program clearly didn’t show it,” Tran said. “But today it was like *boom*, we finally did it. That’s what we’ve been doing. We’re happy to get that Level 4 twist.”

“We had a rough go in the short and I think it put us back a little bit because our training had been so good,” Castelli said. “But we are happy with what we put out today. Obviously the jumps were not there, but they have been there in training and in warm-ups. We’re just happy with how the rest of the program came out.”

Despite winning the silver medal, Castelli and Tran were not selected to join Denney and Frazier on the World Team. They are ineligible to

compete at the 2018 Olympics as Tran, born in Canada, is not a U.S. citizen.

Cain, 21, and LeDuc, 26, who joined forces only last summer, got the Thursday afternoon crowd charged up with their winning short program to Annie Lennox’s “I Put a Spell on You.”

Their speed, chemistry and synched-up triple loops produced an exciting and entertaining program that was rewarded with a rousing ovation.

“Our expectations are just to skate together and improve on every competition we are in during the season,” LeDuc said. “Because we are a new team, we have to triage all the things and can’t go too far too fast.”

“We are trying to stay calm right now and pace ourselves, and just stick to what we came here to do,” Cain added.

Cain left pairs skating in 2012 to focus on her singles career, while LeDuc spent the last two years as a show skater on cruise ships. When he decided to return to competitive skating, LeDuc was steered toward Cain by U.S. Figure Skating. Their instant chemistry resulted in LeDuc immediately moving to Dallas to train with Cain, and Cain halting her singles skating and focusing on pairs.

In their more subdued free skate to “The Prayer” by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion, Cain and LeDuc hit some trouble in their only combination jump, with the double Axel being under-rotated and the triple Salchow downgraded. On their next element, Cain fell on the throw triple flip.

They finished third in the segment and won

the bronze medal with a total score of 184.41.

“We were very tired and pretty exhausted by the end,” Cain said. “I don’t think we could have given any more. There are places we can improve, but right now we finished, we are here, we were in the final group and we’ll be on the podium so we can’t ask for much more.”

Cain and LeDuc’s coaches, Darlene and Peter Cain, said it’s been a joy this season to coach their daughter and LeDuc.

“Tim is a fantastic partner,” Peter said. “They are new and I think today the newness showed a little bit; they were a little tired, a little fatigued. I think they have some really good days ahead of them. I think they performed beyond their expectations here, especially in the short program.”

Stellato and Bartholomay (Southwest Florida FSC), together for just six months, finished third in the short program and fifth in the free skate to finish fourth overall with 173.50 points.

“I think the crowd was phenomenal,” Bartholomay said after the free skate. “That’s the big thing we are going to take away from Kansas City. Our performance was fairly strong for us and we just look forward to building on that. It was fun.”

“It’s been amazing being back, and it means so much,” said Stellato, who was the 2001 World Junior silver medalist. “Maybe some think I’m crazy and some think it’s cool, but it’s meant a lot; there’s been a lot of love this week from U.S. Figure Skating and just from all the people of Kansas City.”



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RECORD SHORT LIFTS SHIBS TO REPEAT VICTORY

Chock and Bates, Hubbell and Donohue claim silver, bronze

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

In world-class ice dance, every step, musical note and sequin is scrutinized, again and again. Any overlooked detail may make the difference between gold and silver.

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, and Madison Chock and Evan Bates arrived in Kansas City ready for a beautiful battle. Both teams took advantage of the six-week interval between the Grand Prix Final in Marseilles, France, and the U.S. Championships to enhance their already polished programs.

Seeking a fuller sound for their "Evolution" free dance, the Shibutanis (SC of New York), reigning World silver medalists and winners of the bronze medal in Marseilles, traveled to Los Angeles to work with Ryan "Ryanimay" Conferido, the dancer and musician who also created their short dance mash-up of Frank Sinatra and Jay Z.

"We added instrumentation to the track and created a more full sound to help us power through the second half of the program and lead to a stronger ending," Alex said.

"We knew our skating had gotten stronger throughout the season," Maia said. "We wanted our music to match the package."

After placing sixth in Marseilles, Chock (All Year FSC) and Bates (Ann Arbor FSC), who won World bronze last season, worked with coach Igor Shpilband to add more layers to their free dance, choreographed by 1984 Olympic champion Christopher Dean to David Bowie and Queen's rock classic "Under Pressure." They sported colorful purple costumes, replacing the all-black attire in Marseilles.

"The program needed to breathe more," Bates said. "We added more of a slow section, some more tender moments, and more romantic moments to the story. We amp up the drama, if you will."

There was plenty of drama in Kansas City. In the end, the Shibutanis came out on top by a point — 1.01, to be exact — and won their second straight U.S. title, giving



(l-r) Madison Chock/Evan Bates, Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit

them seven U.S. medals, one for each season they have competed as seniors.

A record-breaking score for their "That's Life" blues and hip-hop short dance led the siblings to victory. From the opening Midnight Blues section, to the closing rotational lift, their movements were fast and furious, yet smoothly controlled. Four of their five elements gained Level 4s, and their 82.42 points surpassed the previous standard set by Olympic champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

"I didn't know it was a record (score), but as far as performance, it was our strongest short dance so far this season," Maia said.

Marina Zoueva, who coaches the Shibutanis in Canton, Michigan, credited work done after the Grand Prix Final.

"We got some comments (from judges)," she said. "We made some changes [linking] the first and second parts, and some little changes to transitions. Now, the score and everything else is better."

Chock and Bates' blues and hip-hop routine, choreographed by Rohene Ward

to a medley of "Bad to the Bone" and "Uptown Funk," was a bit harder-edged than the Shibutanis' lighthearted effort, and was also clean, speedy and free. It, too, gained four Level 4 elements, but the judges preferred the Shibutanis' performance. Their 79.96 points put them nearly two-and-a-half points behind entering the free dance.

"We drilled the program over and over again, pushing past the point of comfort," Ward said. "They're taking on the characters and really engraining this kind of style, pushing themselves as artists."

The free dances are a study in contrasts. The Shibutanis take an almost minimalist approach to "Evolution," the first half of which is set to Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's "Spiegel im Spiegel" ("Mirror in the Mirror"), the second half to an original composition arranged by Alex and Conferido. Compelling in its pristine lines and superb execution, it earned 117.63 points, including a one-point deduction for an extended stationary lift. That gave them a 200.05-point total, just .14 under the record held by Davis and White.

SENIOR ICE DANCE

MEDALISTS

Gold | Maia Shibutani/
Alex Shibutani

Silver | Madison Chock/
Evan Bates

Bronze | Madison Hubbell/
Zachary Donohue

Pewter | Elliana Pogrebinsky/
Alex Benoit

The Shibutanis break the U.S. short dance record with their fun and entertaining "That's Life" program.



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SENIOR ICE DANCE



JAY ADERF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Above, Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani embrace the moment in their “Evolution” free dance. Right, Madison Chock and Evan Bates fire up the Sprint Center with their “Under Pressure” free dance. Bottom right, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue’s free dance to a romantic medley captivated the K.C. audience.

The siblings created much of “Evolution” themselves, along with coaches Zoueva, Oleg Epstein and Massimo Scali, and also sought input from Jeff Buttle, Peter Tchernyshev and others.

“This program is truly ours,” Maia said. “[Our coaches] trusted us to take so much on, as well as bring in other people that we think can be inspiring to us.”

Zoueva thinks it only natural that, at ages 22 and 25, the Shibutanis want — and need — to take control of their careers.

“When you go to kindergarten, how many teachers do you have? One,” Zoueva said. “Then you go to a university, and you have many. In our sport you always have to improve and grow, and different people can give the skaters specific things. If I taught everything myself, it would be good, but maybe not the best. It’s my job, and Massimo’s job, to put it all together.”

From the first bass guitar riff of “Under Pressure,” Chock and Bates won over the crowd with their pulsating movements, exciting lifts and passionate attitude. They placed first in the free dance with 119.08 points, just .46 points under the record held by Davis and White, but the couple had to settle for a fourth U.S. silver medal.

“It felt like we gave it our all,” Chock said. “We couldn’t have pushed ourselves any harder.”

“If we get hung up on results it doesn’t truly reflect how our skating has grown and how our partnership has evolved,” Bates said. “This was our best competition, probably, to date. We would

have loved to recapture our national title, but it didn’t happen for us. We were really proud of the performances we put out this week. We’ll be back next year.”

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue (Lansing SC), fifth at the Grand Prix Final, made it clear they weren’t coming to Kansas City for a fourth bronze medal. Since moving to Quebec, Montreal, in April 2015 to train under Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon, their confidence has flourished.

“What we did last season to take a big leap up, to place top six (in the world), was to refine the technical part of our skating,” Hubbell said. “We could skate cleanly and consistently, and not miss levels. This year, we want to bring back what makes us, *us* — free up our range of motion and still not miss the technical levels.”

The team was hot on the top two couples’ heels after their blues and hip-hop short, entering the free dance just .24 behind Chock and Bates. But in their free dance to a romantic medley, Hubbell’s fall on a transition step cost them any chance to move up. They finished third with 191.42 points.

“It kind of takes you out of the moment, when a fluke (fall) like that happens,” Hubbell said. “I was just trying to pay attention to not losing any more ground in our levels. Altogether, it was not a great performance.”

Chock and Bates’ training partners, Elliana Pogrebinsky (Peninsula SC) and Alex Benoit (Skokie Valley SC), made a successful U.S. Cham-



pionships senior debut with a fun and energetic short dance to Elvis Presley hits, paired with a sultry free dance to an exotic medley. They won the pewter medal with 170.29 points.

IN HELSINKI, ALL EYES WILL BE ON CHEN

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

When the World Figure Skating Championships were last held in Helsinki, Finland, in 1999, the U.S. came away with two medals: Michelle Kwan's silver and Michael Weiss' bronze. This season, with solid podium contenders in three events, there's a chance it could equal or surpass the medal haul.

The 2017 ISU World Championships run March 29-April 2 in Helsinki.

Hopes are pinned on Nathan Chen, the 17-year-old who rocketed to his first U.S. title in Kansas City in January. Chen could bring home the first U.S. men's medal — possibly gold — since Evan Lysacek won the World title in 2009, if he can duplicate his performances in Kansas City. There, the teenager landed seven quadruple jumps: a Lutz and flip in his short program, and five quads in his free skate, the first time this has ever been accomplished.

Chen won silver at the Grand Prix Final in December, defeating two-time and reigning world champion Javier Fernandez of Spain and Canada's three-time world champion Patrick Chan. He also bested Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan in the free skate. The base value of his technical elements in Kansas City far outstrips any Fernandez, Hanyu or Chan has posted, and while his program component scores still lag, they're catching up.

"He is growing up, and we are looking forward to doing more and more and more," Chen's coach, Rafael Arutunian, said, adding, "His strongest weapon is his mind."

Another prize on the line: three men's spots at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics. The key may be how well Jason Brown, the 2015 U.S. champion who placed fourth at the 2015 World Championships, performs in Helsinki. In Kansas City, Brown was limited by a stress fracture in his right fibula but still gutted out a bronze medal. The consummate showman will rack up points with his superlative skating skills, and also plans to add the quadruple toe loop to his programs — a jump he said he was landing regularly in practice prior to the injury. To gain three spots, Chen's and Brown's placements must be equal to or lower than 13.

WAGNER LEADS THE WAY

Last season, Ashley Wagner broke a 10-year U.S. ladies drought with her World silver medal in Boston. After an up-and-down international season, the U.S. silver medalist hopes to add clean triple-triple jump combinations and high-value spins to her formidable performance skills in Helsinki.

Wagner is joined by two Worlds debutantes: Karen Chen, who shook off boot problems and confidence issues to win the title in Kansas City with captivating programs and huge triple Lutz-tri-

ple toe loop combinations, and Mariah Bell, a fresh, energetic presence who won silver at Skate America last fall and the bronze medal in Kansas City.

With nine victories in 10 senior international events, including the 2017 European Figure Skating Championships, defending champion Evgenia Medvedeva of Russia is heavily favored in Helsinki. Her Russian teammate Anna Pogorilaya, who won bronze last season, will challenge, as will Italy's Carolina Kostner, who returned after two seasons away to place third at the European Championships. Japan will also field a strong team, but their champion, Satoko Miyahara, arrives in Helsinki recovering from a hip injury.

TWO PODIUM POSSIBILITIES IN DANCE

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, and Madison Chock and Evan Bates, will defend World medals — silver and bronze, respectively. Both teams brought their best to Kansas City, where the Shibutanis built a lead in the short dance and survived a defeat in the free dance to triumph by just 1.01 points. By the time the World Championships roll around, they will have had another competition, the 2017 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, under their belts and more chances to fine-tune their programs.

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue are likely still smarting from a costly fall in the free dance in Kansas City, where they settled for their fourth bronze medal. They placed a career-high sixth in the world last season.

The U.S. teams' greatest competition are two couples who train with Hubbell and Donohue in Montreal, Quebec: Canada's 2010 Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, who set a new scoring record at the Grand Prix Final, and two-time defending champions Gabrielle Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France.

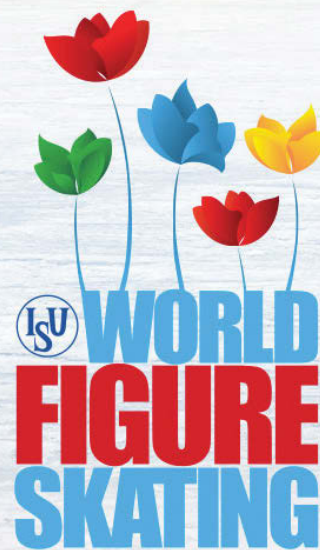
PAIRS HOPE TO PEAK

Newly crowned Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier, and 2015 U.S. champions Alexa Scimeca Knierim and Chris Knierim look to be rounding into peak form for Helsinki.

The Knierims did not compete in Kansas City, due to Alexa's stomach surgery in September, but with three World top-10 finishes to their credit, they were chosen for the World team. They returned to action at Four Continents and planned to show off their greatest weapon, a quadruple twist, a move many teams — including European champions Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov of Russia — have struggled to perfect.

Denney and Frazier made their Worlds debut in 2015, placing 12th. Helsinki will be their sixth planned international competition of the season, a busy schedule after missing the entire 2015-16 season due to Denney's April 2015 right knee injury and year-long rehabilitation. They had a fine Grand Prix season, winning silver at Skate America.

The U.S. pairs will face formidable competition from a host of countries, with defending champions Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada, Tarasova and Morozov, Germans Aliona Savchenko and Bruno Massot and World silver medalists Wenjing Sui and Cong Han of China considered the favorites.



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Nathan Chen

NOTEBOOK



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

'A dream come true'

While the men's free skate was ultimately a record-breaker and landslide victory for Nathan Chen, the event's first standing ovation went to Glacier Falls FSC's Sean Rabbitt.

In 11th place after the short program, Rabbitt was ninth to take the ice in the 21-man field. His playful "Mambo Medley" free skate to music by Perez Prado featured eight triple jumps, including two triple-triple combinations — one of which received bonus points for being executed in the second half of the performance. Rabbitt's playful and exuberant program, choreographed by himself and Cindy Stuart, had the audience clapping along and on their feet before his final element, a Level 4 combination spin, had even finished.

"For me, yes, you have to have the elements but you have to have the skating skills," Rabbitt said. "I've always admired skaters who have the full package, and that's always my goal to have a good balance. To be able to display that tonight and get the whole audience on their feet at the end is a dream come true."

Rabbitt earned a career-best free skate score of 154.61, en route to an eighth-place finish, his highest-ever at the U.S. Championships, with 228.02 points.

— Mimi McKinnis

Johnson jumps Yuri bandwagon

The Japanese anime series "Yuri!!! on Ice," which follows the personal and competitive lives of skater Yuri Katsuki and an international cast of his fellow competitors, is a major hit in Japan, and Joe Johnson rode the wave in Kansas City.

The Colorado Springs-based ice dancer, who with partner Karina Manta placed eighth at the U.S. Championships, mimicked "Yuri" character Jean-Jacques Leroy's trademark "JJ style" pose — crossed arms, with index fingers pointing up — in the kiss and cry. Many of the show's fans quickly drew anime versions of Johnson as JJ, and some went viral.

"My initials are JJ, so I just did the JJ pose,"



Johnson said.

The skater added thousands of followers to his twitter handle, @joejohnsononice, which features lighthearted thoughts on topics ranging from his eyebrows, to the Kardashians, mixed in with more serious notes on the team's training and charitable endeavors. Most of the tweets now get hundreds of likes, thanks to Johnson's new "Yuri!!! on Ice" fan base.

The ice dancer thanked his new followers, but admitted he doesn't have much in common with the anime JJ, who is a singles skater: "Yuri!!! on Ice" fans who thought I'd be a tall Canadian with a triple Axel — I'm not but I love that you guys thought I might be tall."

— Lynn Rutherford



Bring on the constructive criticism

With Olympic champion Charlie White, and Olympic silver medalists Tanith Belbin White and Ben Agosto all working for icenetwork and/or NBC, it's a golden age of ice dance commentary. Great for fans, but how do skaters feel when their heroes offer constructive criticism?

In Kansas City, Elliana Pogrebinsky's idol, Belbin White, praised her elegance, but also thought Pogrebinsky and partner Alex Benoit could produce cleaner edges through their step sequences.

"We use [comments] to our advantage," Pogrebinsky said. "We're thankful they are saying something that we can learn from."

"We have such incredible coaches, but we see them every day," Benoit said. "With Tanith, or any other commentator, it's a completely fresh perspective."

Benoit cites White's comment early this season that the couple's free dance to an exotic medley started strong, but grew a bit labored toward the end.

"I think we absolutely took that as a wonderful opportunity," Benoit said. "That really enlightened us as to where to go next and it made us all the better."

That open attitude served Pogrebinsky and Benoit well, as they won the pewter medal their first year as seniors. They're planning to address all of the feedback next season.

"We're going to build a program around things we need to improve on, and hopefully strengthen them," Pogrebinsky said.

— Lynn Rutherford

Gold, Carroll part ways

Two-time U.S. champion Gracie Gold and coach Frank Carroll parted ways at the conclusion of the ladies free skate in Kansas City.

Gold had been coached by Carroll since 2013, after she left her Chicago-area coach, Alex Ouriashev, about six months before the Sochi Olympics.

She moved to Los Angeles to work with Carroll with whom she won U.S. titles in 2014 and 2016, finished fourth at the 2014 Olympics, and 2015 and 2016 World Championships.

At the 2017 U.S. Championships, she placed a career-low sixth.

Gold announced on Feb. 8 that she would be moving to train with Marina Zoueva and Oleg Epstein in Canton, Michigan.

— Troy Schwandt

Gambill 'still smiling'

The morning after the championship ladies free skate, coach Rafael Arutunian congratulated Tammy Gambill on U.S. champion Karen Chen's major accomplishment. Arutunian, who has coached many champions during his illustrious career, hugged Gambill and commended her for all of her hard work.

"That means so much," Gambill said. "I have so much respect for him. He's done such a great job. I think all the coaches have so much respect for each other. We all work hard and put our heart and soul into this and to have that success is certainly very special."

Chen's gold medal was the first at the championship (senior) level for Gambill in her 30 years of coaching. She's guided countless other skaters to titles and medals at the other competitive levels. In 2011, she led Ricky Dornbush to the silver medal at the championship level, and in Kansas City, she directed Vincent Zhou to a silver-medal finish at the highest level.



NOTEBOOK

Gambill began coaching Chen after the 2013 U.S. Championships when she got a call from one of her former coaches, Gilley Nicholson, who said he wouldn't be able to travel with her, and asked Gambill if she would take over as her coach. Nicholson and Sherri Krahné-Thomas coached Chen for six years.

"Of course, I said yes," Gambill said. "He's still a part of the picture when she goes up to Northern California. He works with her. He's always her biggest supporter and biggest fan."

On the night of the free skate, Gambill said she thought to herself, "Just let her skate and whatever happens, happens, but I just want her to skate well for herself because I know it's in her. She was very capable of doing it. I knew if she could go out and do her job, that she was going to give everyone a run for their money."

Gambill admits that it was hard to sleep that night after Chen's victory.

"I was really excited," Gambill said. "I was getting texts from all over, many from people I didn't realize were even watching and hadn't heard from for so long; they were so happy. It's a great feeling, hard to describe. I'm still smiling."

— Troy Schwindt



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Blast from the past

When 31-year-old Dennis Phan took the ice in Kansas City, it had been seven years since his last U.S. Championships appearance. After taking a year off to travel at the conclusion of the 2010 championships and failing to advance past the Pacific Coast Sectional in his first comeback attempt in 2012, Phan decided to make another run at the national stage in 2017 — this time, on his own terms.

"Last year I was talking to Doug Mattis about how to move past the negativity that I felt when I looked back at my skating career," Phan said. "He gave me two choices — work through it emotionally or come back, skate for myself and go for a do-over. Now I'm competing for the love and joy of it again. I decided that I'd try to make it to the championships, but if I didn't, at least I enjoyed performing one more time."

When he arrived in Kansas City, Phan was greeted by overwhelming love from the skating

community, including a group from Friends of Figure Skating, who all sported "Pfan Club" buttons throughout the weekend.

"It's been amazing to have that support," Phan said. "It's felt nice and warm and welcoming and I really appreciate that from all the fans."

— Mimi McKinnis

Berton, Brubaker find their calling — together

Just a few years ago, Stefania Berton and Rockne Brubaker were in the midst of their respective competitive pairs careers, with Berton representing Italy, and Brubaker, a two-time U.S. champion.

Today, they are married, living in Chicago and coaches of the 2017 U.S. champion pairs team of Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier. It's a career that they didn't necessarily envision while competing, but it's one they've come to embrace.

Brubaker thought he would stay involved in the sport in some fashion, but not necessarily as a head coach. Toward the end of his career, though, he felt he wanted to try coaching.

"I spent a lot of time studying my coaches, how they coached me," Brubaker said. "And I was so grateful to work with people like Mr. (John) Nicks, Marina Zoueva, Todd (Sand) and Jenni (Meno) and Dalilah (Sappenfield). They really helped to prepare me with all those experiences. So between our competitive experiences and learning from them, it's given us the foundation we have now."

Berton, with former partner Ondrej Hotarek, won several international medals, including the 2013 bronze medal at the European Championships.

"Honestly, if I would have stayed in Italy, I would have removed myself from the sport," Berton said. "I wouldn't have coached. I didn't think I had a place there. But coming to the U.S. and having the opportunity to work with Rockne; he's not only my husband but I'm honored to work with him every day. Not only do we coach together, we direct the rink we coach at and codirect another rink. I'm blessed to have someone so inspiring and hard-working by my side. I want to thank this country for giving me the opportunity to find myself, because the more I do it, the more I like it."

— Troy Schwindt



Zhang makes successful return

Good job, Caroline Zhang!

After undergoing major hip surgery and months of rehabilitation, the 23-year-old from Anaheim, California, accomplished her goal of returning to the U.S. Championships in Kansas City.

But not only did she return after missing the 2016 U.S. Championships, she shone brightly, turning in two virtually clean programs and finishing fifth overall.

"It's great just being back out there," Zhang, the 2009 U.S. bronze medalist, told icenetwork. "It's something I've worked for this whole year. I completed the goals I set to come back."

Zhang had struggled with excruciating pain in recent seasons, placing 19th in the U.S. in 2014 and 17th the following year.

"My hip hurt, and it started impacting my everyday life," she said. "I couldn't do cardio leading into 2014. I couldn't do off-ice training at all."

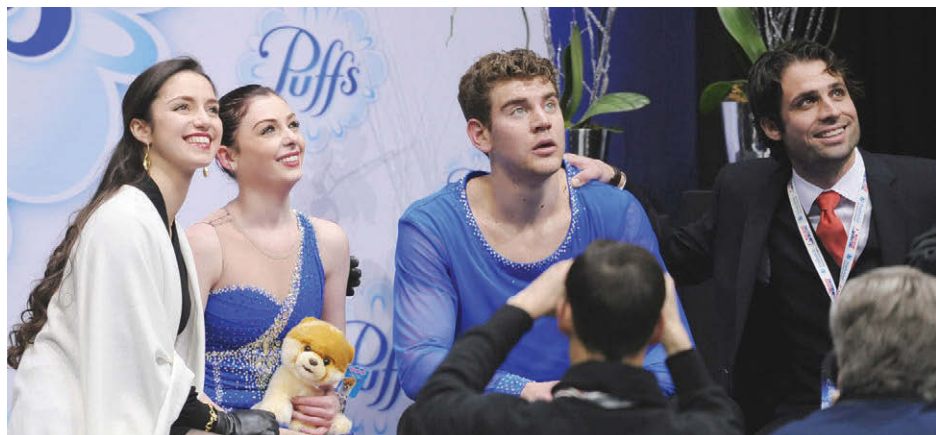
Zhang's comeback is even more impressive when one considers what her life looks like today. In addition to her training, she coaches, attends Cerritos College and is engaged to two-time U.S. pewter medalist and 2016 Worlds competitor Grant Hochstein.

"I have to make the time in my day, earn the money to afford to skate and train," she said.

Her coach, Peter Oppegard, said his long-time pupil appreciates skating more now than ever before.

"It's all coming from a different place now, a place inside of her that's very strong," Oppegard said. "She really appreciates her ice time and is protective of it. She wants to be a better skater when she gets off the ice than when she got on. She is very disciplined, very motivated."

— Troy Schwindt





Jackie Wong's top 10 moments from the 2017 U.S. Championships

The U.S. Championships has always proven to be a memorable event, and this year's edition was no different. The week was full of fantastic skating and produced incredible moments. Here are my top 10 moments, in no particular order.

1) Nathan Chen leaves everyone speechless

Everyone expected Nathan Chen to win, and he lived up to everyone's expectations and then some. He made history at every turn, becoming the first person ever to land five clean quads in one program, and established a new standard in American skating.

2) Cain/LeDuc and Stellato/Bartholomay turn old into new

Four veterans returned to the U.S. Championships with a new outlook and a new start. Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc and Deanna Stellato/Nathan Bartholomay breathed new life into the pairs short program and established themselves as ones to follow going into the Olympic season.

Cain, LeDuc, and Bartholomay all competed pairs with other partners over the past few years, but Stellato is brand new to pairs and hadn't been to the U.S. Championships since 2000. Old is the new new.

3) Karen Chen mesmerizes with minimalism in the short

It's a program that requires perfection, and that's exactly what Karen Chen delivered in her *On Golden Pond* short program. It was a career-defining, and perhaps career-changing, performance that guided her to her first U.S. title.

4) The Shibs show how hip-hop is done

I've noted that their hip-hop short dance was underappreciated all season, but Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani certainly got their due at the U.S. Championships. Not only are they students of the genre, but they also have the swagger to make this short dance their own.

5) Wagner-Nagasu-Zhang back again

They did it in 2008 and 2009, but who would have thought it would take eight years for Ashley Wagner, Mirai Nagasu and Caroline Zhang to all finish in the top five at the U.S. Championships again? Who would have even thought it would happen again? Such resilience and longevity — it was inspiring to witness.

6) Chock/Bates bring a different look

They wanted inspiration and they got it. Madison Chock/Evan Bates turned to Christopher Dean and Rohene Ward to overhaul their look this season. Their free dance, to David Bowie's "Under Pressure," marked a huge risk and a huge departure, but the result is the kind of dance that will set them apart from the rest.

7) Brown finds his triple Axel at the right time

After a stress fracture threatened to ruin his World team chances, Jason Brown trusted in his

team and their plan for him to peak at the right moment in Kansas City. And to the surprise of almost everyone, he started landing clean triple Axels at the very end of the week for his free skate, and he would not have made the World team without them.

8) Rabbitt fires up the crowd

It was a showstopper. Sean Rabbitt skated the free skate of his career and brought the crowd to its feet, showing everyone what it means to sell a program and have everyone in the audience give him all the cash in their pockets for it.

9) Hicks shakes off disastrous short

A medal contender coming in, Courtney Hicks found herself in 18th place after a mistake-filled short program. But she rediscovered her form with a sixth-place free skate. And while her chances were out the window after the short, her free showed her resilience, fight and will to #GetUp.

10) Phan returns for the love of skating

A former U.S. junior champion, Dennis Phan never had the senior career he imagined. So after some soul-searching, he returned after retiring in 2010 and skated for the love of the sport. He said he wanted to inspire others, and by the sounds of the audience, he most certainly did.

Jackie Wong is a figure skating analyst at Rocker Skating and a frequent guest host of icenetwork's podcast Ice Talk. He has been involved in figure skating for more than 20 years as a skater, coach, choreographer and judge. You can find him at rockerskating.com and on Twitter and Instagram for comprehensive coverage of figure skating events all season long.



U.S. junior ice dance champions Rachel and Michael Parsons are the recipients of the seventh annual Ron and Gayle Hershberger Award. The award, which rotates among the four skating disciplines, is given to the athlete(s) who have the highest total program component scores at the U.S. Championships at the junior level. The Ron and Gayle Hershberger 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. Hershberger served as U.S. Figure Skating president from 2005 to 2009. He sat on the board of directors from 1990 to 2010. He and Gayle presented the Parsons award during a break in the action in Kansas City.

Kansas City natives Mike Coughlin, his son and U.S. Championships event cochair John Coughlin, and former Kansas City resident and judge Lorrie Parker attended the U.S. Figure Skating officials dinner in downtown Kansas City. More than 100 officials attended the event, hosted by the local organizing committee.



SKATING magazine Editor Troy Schwindt presented the Michelle Kwan Trophy to Readers' Choice Award winners Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani during a break in the action at the Smucker's Skating Spectacular.

EXTRAS



Representatives of the Southport Skating Club in Gurnee, Illinois, and the Jefferson City Figure Skating Club in Jefferson City, Missouri, received Prudential Skating Fund awards in Kansas City. The Fund, established by U.S. Figure Skating and Prudential Financial in 2013, provides \$25,000 in financial support to eligible U.S. Figure Skating member clubs and/or programs that are addressing social needs or directly benefiting underserved groups and communities within the sport of figure skating. Southport SC Vice President Elaine Johnson and Macey Staff, a Therapeutic Skating participant, received Prudential's Building Block Award for \$15,000 from Mark Sears, managing director of the Prudential Greater Heartland Financial Group. Southport SC, a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization, will use the money to build an inclusive skating program through a partnership with the Special Education District of Lake County, eliminating barriers and creating recreational opportunity for skaters with disabilities. Jefferson City FSC's Victoria Karr and Anna Penn received the Enrichment Award of \$10,000 from Mark Bigbee, manager of development at Prudential. The purpose of this gift is to provide funding that will allow for significant enhancements and/or increased participation to an existing or repeating project that shares the mission of the Prudential Skating Fund. Jefferson City FSC will use the money to enhance their existing adaptive skating program, replacing equipment and covering the cost of ice time for students following U.S. Figure Skating's Therapeutic Recreational Skating track.



Brian Boitano, 1988 Olympic champion and celebrity chef and mixologist, hosted a 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships happy hour at Kansas City's eatery Cleaver & Cork. Boitano, while mixing his signature KC Gold cocktail, mingled with guests, posed for pictures and signed autographs before everyone headed over to Sprint Center for the historic men's short program.

BOITANO'S KC GOLD

Ingredients

- 1½ oz. bourbon
- ¾ oz. Montenegro
- 1 tsp. honey simple syrup (recipe follows)
- 1 tsp. fresh lime juice
- Lime peel for garnish

Simple syrup

Combine ¼ cup honey and ½ cup boiling water in a bowl and stir until honey is dissolved.

Make the cocktail

Mix all ingredients in a cocktail shaker except the lime peel and serve in a tumbler glass with one large ice cube or three regular-size ice cubes. Garnish with lime peel.



Following their competition, skaters, coaches and parents at the intermediate and juvenile levels took part in Future U. (University), where they received tools that they can apply in their journey up the competitive ladder. Five-time U.S. ice dance champion and Olympic silver medalist Tanith White was the guest speaker. Information about boots and blades, and nutrition was also included in the program.

CARLY GOLD/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

2017 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

EXTRAS



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Members of the 2017 Scholastic Honors Team were recognized during the U.S. Championships on Jan. 21. Ten outstanding student-athletes were honored for not only their talent on the ice, but also their acumen in the classroom. The Scholastic Honors Team members received scholarships and jackets that represented their inclusion on the team. The program is funded through the generosity of the Pioneer Fund, the legacy of the late Helen McLoraine. Pictured are (l-r) Liddy Kasrain, Alicia Lu and Paul Yeung. Not pictured are Whitney Elmlinger, Audrey Laude, Grace Joone Lee, Hanna Tuomi, Megan Wessenberg, Ryan VanDoren and Vincent Zhou. U.S. Figure Skating President Samuel Auxier and National Vice Chair for Program Development Jonathan Geen presented the awards.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Madison Chock and Evan Bates delivered one of the many entertaining performances at the Smucker's Skating Spectacular in Kansas City. Chock and Bates performed to "Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen)" by Baz Luhrmann.



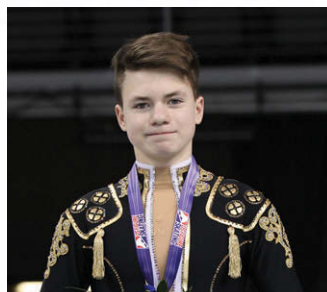
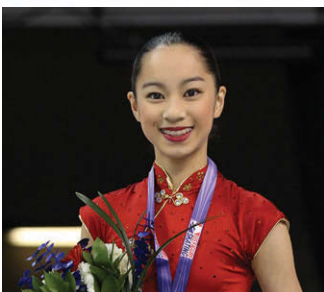
CARRY GOLD/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

U.S. bronze medalist Jason Brown and veteran competitor Ross Miner sign autographs on the concourse of the Sprint Center. Fans got to meet their favorite skaters and take pictures with them throughout the week.



CARRY GOLD/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Skylar, Starr and Toshawa Andrews were the guests of honor at the Memorial Fund reception on Jan. 21. Starr, a junior ladies competitor, went on to win the silver medal later in the week. Her mother, Toshawa, talked to the audience about how the Memorial Fund has allowed Starr to pursue her skating dreams. Memorial Fund Chair Bill Coyle, right, emceed the event that attracted 60 generous donors.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Angelina Huang and Maxim Naumov, the novice singles champions, are the 2017 Cecilia Colledge Memorial Fund Award recipients. The Colledge Award is given 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.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Amber Glenn, Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc were three of the 30-plus U.S. Figure Skating athletes who attended the Friends of Figure Skating Breakfast on Jan. 21. The breakfast in Kansas City was an opportunity for the sport's most avid fans to meet their favorite athletes. Great food and interactive games between Friends and athletes highlighted the event.



“The fans mean everything.”

- JASON BROWN, 2015 U.S. CHAMPION



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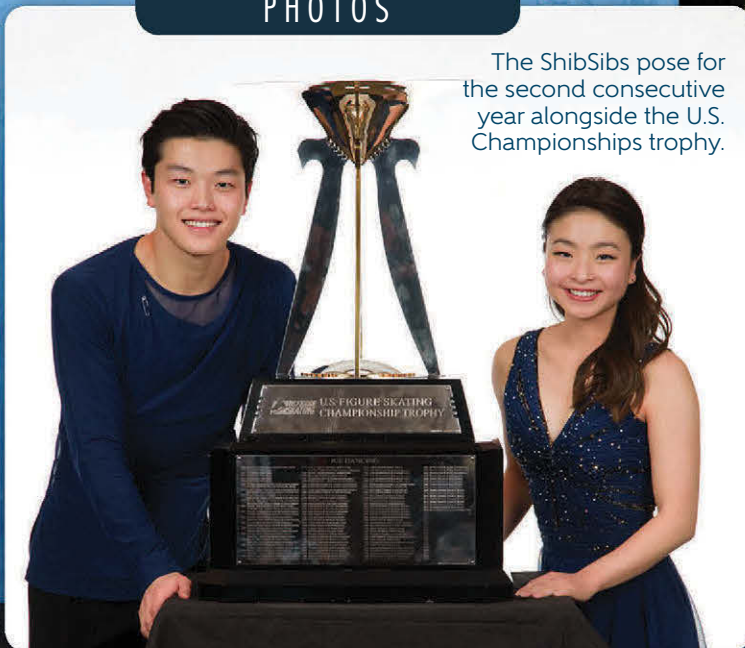
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PHOTOS



Karen Chen soars through the air, just as she did to her first U.S. title.



The ShibSibs pose for the second consecutive year alongside the U.S. Championships trophy.



Scott Hamilton and many distinguished U.S. Figure Skating alumni greeted fans for an autograph session preceding the ladies short program.



U.S. silver medalist Marissa Castelli and Mervin Tran perform a soaring twist lift in the Smucker's Skating Spectacular.



Douglas Razzano, Stefania Berton, Rockne Brubaker and Greg Zuerlein take a break from their official duties to catch up at the Athlete Alumni Reception.



Nathan Chen hits the ending pose of his free skate after making history as the first man in the world to land five quad jumps in a performance.



A happy fan shows off autographs from the ladies and ice dance medalists. Some fans waited for more than an hour to meet their favorite athletes.



Nathan Chen is the 2017 U.S. champion. His total score of 318.47 points represents a U.S. record.

PHOTOS



Mirai Nagasu meets fans at the annual Friends of Figure Skating Breakfast. More than 250 "Friends" attended the breakfast along with dozens of athletes.



Karen Chen won her first U.S. title after winning both segments of the competition. The Bay Area native will look to defend her title in 2018 in San Jose, California.



Tanith White, Charlie White, Michael Weiss and John Coughlin hosted ICE Desk shows throughout the weekend live from the Sprint Center concourse



Two-time U.S. champions Maia and Alex Shibutani have a moment on the ice after performing their "Evolution" free dance.

Nathan Chen addresses the media after setting an American short program record score of 106.39 points.



Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier won their first U.S. title a year after missing the entire 2015-16 season due to injury.





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Maia & Alex Shibutani

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JUNIOR

PROMISE
REIGNS
SURPEMEBig-time performances
highlight event

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Kaitlyn Nguyen and Starr Andrews proved that they are right on schedule to represent the United States down the road in the ISU Junior Grand Prix Series with their efforts in Kansas City.

The two skating dynamos finished first and second, respectively, with impressive technical packages that included triple-triple jumps. They also displayed presentation qualities that promise to evolve as they mature.

"They brought strong performances," said Justin Dillon, director of high performance development at U.S. Figure Skating. "Starr did her second triple jump with her arms over her head. That is what we see other countries doing, so it was nice to see her taking that risk and it paying off for her."

Nguyen is too young to compete internationally as a junior, but she will once again represent the United States in an advanced novice competition this spring.

"She shows a lot of promise," Dillon said. "Her technical content is right on par with where we want an athlete at the junior level internationally — she's right there in terms of the jumps she executes."

Emmy Ma also turned heads, showing the complete package in winning the short program.

"She had all the choreography, beautiful spins, great jumps," Dillon said. "A 60-point short is very good for a junior."

On the men's side, gold medalist Alex Krasnozhon and silver medalist Camden Pulkinen put up big scores thanks to their powerful jumps, which included sound triple Axels.

It was Krasnozhon's third time as a junior at the U.S. Championships. He came in having competed at the Junior Grand Prix Final in December.

"In making the Final (JGP Final), I think he really upped the game with some of the other competitors," Dillon said. "Camden's break-



Junior ladies (l-r) Starr Andrews, Kaitlyn Nguyen, Ashley Lin, Emmy Ma; Junior men (l-r) Camden Pulkinen, Alex Krasnozhon, Ryan Dunk, Eric Sjoberg; Junior pairs (l-r) Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, Nica Digerness/Danny Neudecker, Alexandria Yao/Austin Hale, Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon; Junior ice dance (l-r) Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, Chloe Lewis/Logan Bye

through short program showed that the competition was going to be head-to-head and tough. Both have showed a lot of progress over this past season."

All the junior medalists and those seniors assigned to the World Junior Championships were scheduled to participate in the inaugural Junior Camp in February. Alternates to the World Junior Team were also scheduled to skate at the camp, all performing in front of a judging panel.

In ice dance, Rachel and Michael Parsons enjoyed a breakthrough competition, winning the event for the first time in five tries at the junior level. They had finished behind their training mates, Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, in Wheaton, Maryland, since joining the junior division.

"Everyone has had a chance to shine," Dillon said. "We are looking forward to next season and the next quad. They've all had success, which builds their confidence level when they move up. Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko have really made great strides, and the teams below these three are ready to come on strong next season."

In junior pairs, teams executed more difficult elements such as side-by-side jumps, double Axels and triple twists.

Nica Digerness and Danny Neudecker led the way with a technical and performance package that should serve them well at the World Junior Championships.

"They have two throw triples, a split triple twist and side-by-side double Axels, so they have the arsenal to be competitive as juniors," Dillon said.

MEDALISTS

LADIES

Gold | Kaitlyn Nguyen
Silver | Starr Andrews
Bronze | Ashley Lin
Pewter | Emmy Ma

MEN

Gold | Alex Krasnozhon
Silver | Camden Pulkinen
Bronze | Ryan Dunk
Pewter | Eric Sjoberg

PAIRS

Gold | Nica Digerness/
Danny Neudecker
Silver | Elli Kopmar/
Jonah Barrett
Bronze | Alexandria Yao/
Austin Hale
Pewter | Lindsay Weinstein/
Jacob Simon

ICE DANCE

Gold | Rachel Parsons/
Michael Parsons
Silver | Christina Carreira/
Anthony Ponomarenko
Bronze | Lorraine McNamara/
Quinn Carpenter
Pewter | Chloe Lewis/
Logan Bye

JUNIOR LADIES

Champion Nguyen
always smiling

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Coaches Ivan Dinev and Angela Nikodinov never worry about having to motivate Kaitlyn Nguyen (Los Angeles FSC) when the 13-year-old shows up to train at The Skating Edge Ice Arena in Harbor City, California.

"She comes with a smile on her face every day," Dinev said. "The attitude. She works every day to get better. She's dedicated to everything she does."

That commitment to excellence paid off in her native state — she was born near St. Louis in Hazelwood, Missouri — as Nguyen rallied from third place after the short program to easily win the free skate and title with an impressive score of 170.16 points.

"She's was prepared to compete here," Dinev said. "She's been skating clean programs. While it wasn't perfect, she displayed so much confidence." Nguyen had to withdraw from the U.S. Championships last year in the novice ranks because of a fever.

Nguyen entered the free skate 2.51 points behind short program leader Emmy Ma (SC of Boston).

Her free skate to the musical *Chess* was well skated and the most technically challenging program of the event, featuring seven triple jumps. She opened with a triple Lutz-single loop-triple Salchow that generated an event-best 11.40 points. Nguyen followed that jumping pass with a triple loop-double toe loop combination. A dou-

ble Axel-triple toe also generated big points. Two of her spins and her footwork received Level 4s.

She received minor deductions on an under-rotated triple Lutz and on a triple loop.

"I feel really happy," Nguyen, who moved to California last spring from her home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, said. "I did a clean program. I couldn't have done this without my amazing coaches."

Nguyen's competitive nature came out even as she exited the ice after her free skate.

"She was happy, but mentioned details that she can make more perfect," Dinev said.

Starr Andrews, (Los Angeles FSC), sixth in novice in 2016, stepped up her game this season to secure the silver medal with 155.14 points.

Andrews finished second in the short program and third in her free skate to music from the movie *Black Swan*. The erratic music offered Andrews a tough challenge, which she handled nicely.

"We really based the program off the character in the movie," coach and choreographer Derrick Delmore said. "Since the character is so erratic — the movie is a bit erratic as well — we wanted to capture that feel, which is why it really doesn't follow the classical progression from the ballet or anything like that."

"I thought she did a pretty good job of handling it today. There were times I thought there was some hesitation, which got her in a little trouble. She did a good job fighting all the way through. Overall, I'm pleased."

Program highlights included an opening triple Salchow-triple toe loop-double toe loop combination that generated 10.90 points, two other triple jumps in combination, two Level 4 spins

and Level 3 footwork. She hit a rough patch in the middle with an edge call on a triple Lutz and a single flip on a planned triple-double combination.

"I felt great," Andrews said. "I felt prepared. I would have liked to have put out a little better of a free skate, but at least I tried my best, did everything I could."

Ashley Lin (Dallas FSC) jumped from fifth place after the short program to grab the bronze medal with 153.34 points. She placed fourth in novice last year and seventh in intermediate in 2015.

"I think I've grown, developed more," Lin said of her progress. "I'm more confident with myself; all of the support of friends and family have been really helpful to me. I think self-confidence was really the key and to believe in your training."

Performing her "Sandstorm" free skate, Lin was skating a nearly clean program until she fell hard on double Axel-triple toe loop combination midway through her routine.

"That was a rough landing," she said. "It didn't really hurt at the time, but now that I'm done, I'm definitely feeling pretty sore."

Despite the fall, Lin landed six triple jumps and recorded the second-best free skate of the event.

Looking ahead, Lin, an eighth grader at Hunt Middle School in Frisco, Texas, said she is considering staying at the junior level next season, and credited her teachers for being so supportive.

"Especially Ms. Jewell," she said.

Ma, who turned in a stellar short program, struggled with her jumps in the free skate and ended up with the pewter medal.



Kaitlyn Nguyen



Starr Andrews



Ashley Lin

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Redemption served for Krasnozhon

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

Second after the short program, Alex Krasnozhon (Dallas FSC) knew gold wouldn't come easily. After letting the 2016 title slip through his fingers, the 17-year-old upped the technical ante in his free skate, lifting him to the title despite two falls in the final segment.

"I can't believe it," Krasnozhon said. "I came here expecting to do my best. I had some mistakes, but this was my best for today and I'm so happy to walk away with the gold."

The title was a story of redemption for Krasnozhon, who settled for a disappointing third-place finish at last year's championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota. After bursting onto the scene with regional and sectional titles, topped off with the U.S. junior pewter in 2015, all eyes were on Krasnozhon to take home gold last season. But a disastrous short program left the Texas-based skater with bronze — a consolation prize that has motivated Krasnozhon throughout the 2016–17 campaign.

"Last year was really difficult for me because I really came expecting to win," Krasnozhon said. "Then, all of a sudden, I fell twice in my short program and it was all over. I came back strong in the free skate, but it wasn't enough. Since then, I've realized how to calm my nerves. I had a strong season, and I went to the Junior Grand Prix Final. I learned that nationals is one competition, and it was time to win."

Giving it everything he had to Aaron Copland's "Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes: III," performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, Krasnozhon put his demons to rest with a strong free skate that featured eight triple jumps, including two triple Axels, one in combination with a triple toe. Although he tumbled on quadruple loop and double Axel-triple loop attempts, he earned a personal-best segment score of 144.16, en route to a personal-best overall score of 211.05.

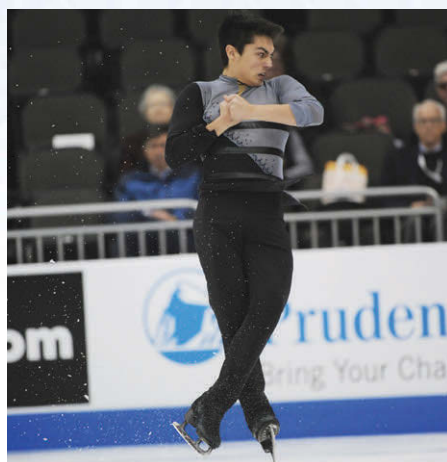
"We came back from nationals last year and got right back to work," Krasnozhon's coach, Peter Cain, said. "I didn't want him to sit and think too much because he was pretty down. Right from the first competition this season, he really kicked into a different gear. You could tell he wasn't going to be disappointed again. He started getting comfortable and feeling confident and kept that up all season long. We're really proud of him and what he was able to do here."

The Broadmoor SC's Camden Pulkinen also marked monumental growth over the last season, going from an 11th-place finish in 2016 to the silver medal in Kansas City.

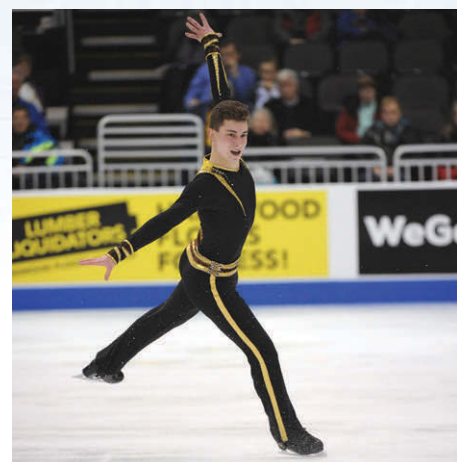
"It feels great because I know I still have a lot more room to grow," Pulkinen said. "This year was just a springboard for next year. To go from 11th to second is a big accomplishment for me, but more than that, placements aside, I'm so happy with how much my skating has improved. I learned the triple Axel, and I learned how to do



Alex Krasnozhon



Camden Pulkinen



Ryan Dunk

triple-triple combinations. Now I'm excited to start working on quads."

An Arizona native who now trains in Colorado Springs, Colorado, under the direction of Tom Zakrajsek, Pulkinen won the short program before leaving with silver and a combined 197.65 points — a total more than 25 points higher than bronze medalist Ryan Dunk (Baltimore FSC).

Dunk, who placed fifth in the novice event at the 2015 U.S. Championships, pulled up from

a fourth-best short program to stand on the podium with 172.22 points.

"I've been working really hard on taking one element at a time," Dunk said. "When I heard the other scores before me, I knew I could move up and get the bronze if I just did my job. I went out there and I did it, so I'm very happy."

Rounding out the top four, Eric Sjoberg (Los Angeles FSC) earned 170.61 points and the pewter medal.

JUNIOR PAIRS

Performance carries Digerness and Neudecker to title

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Legendary Russian pairs coach Tamara Moskvina has visited several of the hotbed training camps for U.S. pairs skating in recent years, and one of the things she stresses to coaches and skaters is maintaining the quality of the skating no matter what mistakes are made.

That message served Nica Digerness (Broadmoor SC) and Danny Neudecker (Seattle SC) well, as the second-year team upheld the integrity and pureness of their performance to the piano works of “Liebestraum” (“Love Dream”) despite falls on their two triple throws. Their event-best component score helped lift them to the title with a total 153.35 points.

“Regardless of the elements, good or bad, making sure the quality of skating, unison and interpretation stay strong,” their coach Dalilah Sappenfield said of Moskvina’s philosophy.

Neudecker said it was the best they’ve performed the program all season.

“Ben (Agosto, a coach at the Broadmoor SC) calls it the butter,” he joked.

“I was trying to fight for every point, trying to sell it and perform it as best I could,” Digerness told icenetwork. “By the end, I was on autopilot, doing what I always do in practice.”

Digerness, 16, and Neudecker, 20, have come a long way in a short time. Early in the season, they weren’t sure if they would be competing in the junior ranks.

But with hard work and the help of a community of renowned coaches at the Broadmoor SC, the duo hit their peak in Kansas City.

“A shout out goes to Larry (Ibarra) for his High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) in the gym,” Neudecker said. “Ryan (Jahnke) and Ben on the component side, with edges and interpretation, and Drew (Meekins) with choreography.”

The champions also have made major strides on the technical side, Sappenfield said, adding throw triples, double Axels and a triple twist this season.

Elli Kopmar and Jonah Barrett (Southwest Florida FSC) continued their rise up the pairs ranks with a silver-medal finish. Kopmar, 13, and Barrett, who turned 20 on Jan. 28, arrived in Kansas City having won the novice and intermediate titles the past two seasons.

They trailed the champions by .65 point heading into the free skate.

Kopmar and Barrett’s free skate to “Flying” from the *Peter Pan* soundtrack opened with a triple twist and included a throw triple Salchow, double Axels, solid lifts and two Level 4 spins. They finished less than one point behind the champions in the technical score, but nearly six points back in program components with a total of 147.90 points.

“We left some points on the table, but I



Nica Digerness and Danny Neudecker



Elli Kopmar and Jonah Barrett



Alexandria Yao and Austin Hale

thought they skated well,” coach Jim Peterson said. “Having to go first (in the last group) and trying a lot of senior-level elements is a challenge, especially when you’re 13.”

“They’ll be eligible for a Junior Grand Prix next year, which I’m excited about,” Peterson continued. “Obviously we’ll be looking forward to building on the component mark and their skating skills. This year was really about acquiring elements that would put them on the podium at a Junior Grand Prix, and now it’s about developing the skating skills, and I think they’ll be in great shape come September.”

For the third consecutive season in junior pairs, with three different partners, Austin Hale emerged with the bronze medal.

Hale (Fort Wayne ISC) and Alexandria Yao (Peninsula SC) finished third in both segments of the event, scoring 144.64 points. Free-skate highlights to the powerful music “Heart of Courage” and “Somewhere in Time” included an opening

triple twist, two Level 4 lifts, two double throws and strong footwork. Yao fell on her side-by-side double Axel.

The two came together in August and have already developed chemistry on the ice.

“I did novice pairs for two years and then took a year off because I couldn’t find a partner,” Yao, 16, said. “When I found Austin I jumped at the opportunity and moved to Fort Wayne. Alena (Lunin) has been a big help and supportive. I want to say she’s micromanaging, but in a good way. She knows what to do and if I have a question I can just ask her.”

Despite having only competed together twice, Hale said he and Yao make a good team.

“We have a nice flow and elegance about our skating,” Hale, 20, said. “The tricks are going to come with time, but we need to continue to work on our basic skating and power.”

Lindsay Weinstein (DuPage FSC) and Jacob Simon (Skokie Valley SC) earned the pewter medal.

Sublime Parsons win long-sought gold

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

Great as their free dance was in Kansas City, Rachel Parsons has at least one idea for how it could be better.

"I won't punch Michael in the face next time," she laughed. "I did that about 10 seconds into the second half, kind of a wild flying arm thing."

"She was making sure I was paying attention," her brother said.

No one watching noticed the whack, certainly not the judges. After three consecutive podium finishes, including silver medals the last two seasons, Rachel and Michael (Washington FSC) capped their U.S. junior career with gold. It was another step in a dominant 2016–17 campaign that also saw them win the Junior Grand Prix Final.

"This season, we've been really good at building up our confidence, which in turn is making the skates better," Michael said. "Now it's a matter of keeping up the work ethic, making sure we're still improving, and making sure the best skate we have all year is at (junior) Worlds."

In Kansas City, the Parsons' sublime routine to Sophia Sin's contemporary ballad "Singing in the Rain" was fluid and intricate, full of interesting positions and impeccable lines. It gained six Level 4 elements and earned 103.91 points. Combined with their short dance score, it gave them 176.33 points total, outstripping the field by more than 11 points.

"Before, we would only try to skate through the steps," Rachel said. "I think this year, especially, we're really trying to live our programs. We have to tell a story."

The free dance told only part of the tale. The siblings, who won the World Junior silver medal last season, built a near two-point lead with their dynamic short dance to songs from Fergie and Lana Del Rey. They showed deep edges in their blues sequences before transitioning into hard-hitting hip-hop movements that came courtesy of their work with Baltimore, Maryland, street dancer Esperanto Bean.

"The coaches have really been pushing us on the hip hop interpretation and not letting it down near the end of the program, to just explode and get everything out," Michael said.

Those coaches, who hail from the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA) in Maryland, think the siblings can be even stronger this month at the 2017 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Chinese Taipei.

"We will continue to work on more connections, on bigger movements, on power, on projection," Alexei Kiliakov, the team's primary coach, said.

The Parsons, who teamed up in 2010 after skating with different partners, began training at WISA as young children. Throughout their careers, they practiced side-by-side with Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter, the reigning World Junior champions and two-time (2015, 2016) U.S. junior titlists. Their finishes were a



Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons



Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter

rung lower than the other couple's until the Junior Grand Prix Final this season, where McNamara and Carpenter won bronze to the Parsons' gold.

In Kansas City, McNamara (Peninsula SC) and Carpenter (Washington FSC) entered the free dance within striking distance of their longtime rivals. But Carpenter fell during a diagonal step sequence in their dramatic routine to a rock medley, a mistake that cost them more than six points. Second after the short dance, they placed third overall with 163.63 points.

"If you're always careful, you won't know how far you can push your performances and how much is too far," McNamara said. "Our goal is to really push it as far as possible, see what happens, and see how expressive we can make it."

"[The fall] has never happened before, but I think they did their best skate of the year," Kiliakov, said. "Maybe with the emotions and excitement, that [caused the fall] a little bit. They feel good, they feel they achieved what we were working on, so hopefully they will do much better at junior Worlds."

Third after the short dance, Christina Carreira (SC of New York) and Anthony Ponomarenko (SC of San Francisco), who train with Igor Shpilband's



Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko

group in Novi, Michigan, took full advantage of McNamara and Carpenter's costly mistake. Their elegant free dance to "Exogenesis: Symphony Part III" by Muse built in intensity, earning straight Level 4s for all elements and racking up 98.29 points. The couple, fourth at the Junior Grand Prix Final, won silver with 165.06 points.

"Our coach (Shpilband) really told us we needed to hit the musical accents, that it would help us look more mature, since senior teams always hit their accents," Ponomarenko said.

"Igor always tells us we really need to feel the music and skate to the music," Carreira said.

Ponomarenko's parents, 1992 Olympic ice dance champions Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, coaxed him onto the ice in their hometown of San Jose, California, when he was 4.

"When I first got onto the ice, it was pretty funny," Ponomarenko said. "I was crying, 'I want to go home.' The more I skated the more I loved it. The passion for the sport grew."

Chloe Rose Lewis (All Year FSC) and Logan Bye (SC of NY), seventh in this event last year, claimed the pewter medal with 148.43 points.

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NOVICE

'BEST EVER'

Novice ladies simply sensational

BY TROY SCHWINDT

The novice ladies left quite an impression on coaches and fans with their jumping prowess, skating skills and overall performance package.

Six of the 12 girls in the field attempted triple-triple combinations. All tried at least one triple jump.

U.S. Figure Skating awards bonus points for novice skaters' triple-triple combinations as well as for each different triple jump, including underrotated or imperfectly landed attempts.

"This is one of the strongest ladies groups that we've ever seen," coach and choreographer Scott Brown said. "I've had many novices throughout the years. You have to think back a few years ago: You could do a triple Salchow and triple toe and repeat them and keep yourself competitive. There were six girls trying triple-triple. It was an outstanding group of ladies."

Coaches Tammy Gambill and Alex Ouriashev agreed.

"This is the best group of novices that I've ever seen," Gambill said. "They are so strong, and they are really fierce. It's great for the U.S. to have so many young kids coming up with so much potential."

"The practices for these novices were amazing," Ouriashev said. "It's a really big improvement. The American girls are getting very strong."

The other disciplines also shined, with several standout performances. Maxim Naumov rolled to the men's title with a score nearly seven points higher than that of last year's novice champion. His triple flip-single loop-triple Salchow combination earned an event-best element score of 12.90 points. In his free skate, Naumov completed seven triple jumps, four of which were in combination or part of a series, to win the title by more than 11 points.

In pairs, the first-year team of Erin Coleman and Derrick Griffin separated



Ladies (l-r) Ting Cui, Angelina Huang, Pooja Kalyan, Alysa Liu; Men (l-r) Joseph Kang, Maxim Naumov, Dinh Tran, Joonsoo Kim; Pairs (l-r) Ainsley Peterson/Kristofer Ogren, Erin Coleman/Derrick Griffin, Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, Eliana Secunda/Blake Eisenach; Ice dance (l-r) Katarina DelCamp/Maxwell Gart, Jocelyn Haines/James Koszuta, Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov

themselves from the rest of the field with their difficult elements and overall skating skills. The Florida team's score of 134.44 was about eight points more than that of last year's novice titlists.

"With all of the work we are putting in and great coaching, we can become a great team," Coleman said.

First-year ice dance teams Jocelyn Haines and James Koszuta, and Katarina DelCamp and Maxwell Gart, finished on top of a field that included several veteran teams. Their performances help ensure that the future of U.S. ice dance is healthy and still burgeoning.

"We had no expectations," Haines and Koszuta's coach, Bianka Sziogyarto, said. "There are so many great teams here and teams that have been together for so long. This is all new to us, and we didn't really know where we would fit into the field. We wanted to just do our best and enjoy the experience."



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

MEDALISTS

LADIES

Gold | Angelina Huang
Silver | Ting Cui
Bronze | Pooja Kalyan
Pewter | Alysa Liu

MEN

Gold | Maxim Naumov
Silver | Joseph Kang
Bronze | Dinh Tran
Pewter | JoonSoo Kim

PAIRS

Gold | Erin Coleman/
Derrick Griffin
Silver | Ainsley Peterson/
Kristofer Ogren
Bronze | Greta Crafoord/
John Crafoord
Pewter | Eliana Secunda/
Blake Eisenach

ICE DANCE

Gold | Jocelyn Haines/
James Koszuta
Silver | Katarina DelCamp/
Maxwell Gart
Bronze | Sophia Elder/
Christopher Elder
Pewter | Elizabeth Tkachenko/
Alexei Kiliakov

NOVICE LADIES

Huang delivers on demanding program

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Following a fourth-place finish at the 2017 Midwestern Sectionals, high school sophomore Angelina Huang (St. Peters FSA) received a free-skate overhaul from her coach Damon Allen.

The upgrade to more difficult elements, including a triple loop and a triple Lutz-loop-triple Salchow combination, helped to push Huang to the top of the podium.

"It's a completely different program," Allen said. "We completely backloaded it. So for her to perform it for the first time on this big stage is really impressive, showing how great of a competitor she is."

Huang, fourth as an intermediate in 2016 and fifth as a juvenile in 2015, skated two virtually clean programs en route to a total score of 143.19.

"I've been really working on getting my jumps solid," Huang, who trains at the World Arena Ice Hall in Colorado Springs, Colorado, said. "Since they've added the bonuses, it's really encouraging us to try new things."

Huang, second after the short program, performed her free skate to the soundtrack of *Kung Fu Panda 3*, choreographed by Massimo Scali and Catarina Lindgren. Her free skate included six triple jumps (three in combination), a double Axel and three Level 3 spins. She received a one-point deduction for a time violation. Her program component score was second-best of the event.

"I'm Chinese and I know a lot of Chinese dance," she said of her musical choice for her free skate. "I found this music and thought, 'Why not skate to it.' I skated to Chinese music as a juvenile and it was nice to bring it back."

Huang gets daily inspiration, she said, training alongside some of the country's top skaters at the Broadmoor SC, including 2008 U.S. champion and 2010 Olympian Mirai Nagasu, who practices the triple Axel.

"It would be cool if I could do that someday," Huang said.

Ting Cui (Baltimore FSC), third after the short program by 1.26 points, overcame an early fall on a triple Lutz to finish strong and claim the silver medal with 142.68 points. Cui, who earned the event's best program component score, performed her free skate as Dorothy to music from *The Wizard of Oz*. She rolled up an event-best free skate total of 95.05 points and a total score of 142.68.

"The sign of a good competitor to me is that when the chips are down, how they recover, not letting one mistake turn into two, into three," Cui's coach Chris Conte said. "The triple Lutz has been good for her and strong recently, so when she fell on the Lutz I was afraid that she may become unraveled a little bit. But instead, she came back much stronger with that triple flip, which was a jump she had trouble with in the warm-up. That shows me she's becoming a strong competitor every competition."



Angelina Huang



Ting Cui



Pooja Kalyan

Cui didn't qualify for the U.S. Championships in 2016 and was fourth in intermediate in 2015.

Pooja Kalyan (Ozark FSC) jumped from fifth place after the short program to secure the bronze medal with 131.77 points. Kalyan lives in Arkansas but trains in Chicago with coach Alex Ouriashev.

Kalyan's "Samson and Delilah" free skate included five triple jumps, although three received

negative marks. She closed with back-to-back Level 4 spins.

"It was OK, but not her best," said Scott Brown, one of her coaches and choreographers.

Kalyan didn't qualify for the U.S. Championships in 2016 and was ninth in novice in 2015.

Short program leader Alysa Liu (St. Moritz ISC), who is the 2016 intermediate champion, won the pewter medal with 131.68 points.

Naumov stands tall en route to title

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

Maxim Naumov's season resembled his free skate at the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Both started out shaky. Both required perseverance. Both finished with a U.S. novice title.

After winning the novice bronze medal at the 2016 U.S. Championships, Naumov (Charter Oak FSC) was assigned to his first international competition, winning the novice title at Gardena Spring Trophy in Bolzano, Italy. From there, he encountered a string of minor injuries his father and coach Vadim Naumov pins to a three-inch growth spurt.

"When we came back from Italy, he really started to grow," said Vadim, the 1994 world pairs champion with Maxim's mom, Evgenia Shishkova. "Then everything fell apart completely. Within the month, he had lost pretty much all of his jumps. He was really struggling and had all of these aches and small injuries as a result of his growing. He finally got on track, but it was too late to be ready for any summer competitions. He's competed at regionals, sectionals and nationals this year. That's it."

After adjusting to his newfound stature and getting his training back on track, Naumov showed up in Kansas City ready to go with his eyes set on gold.

"Before I even skated today, I woke up and I thought 'This is it. Today is going to be the day,'" Naumov said after his free skate. "I knew what I had to do and I had my mind made up."

First after the short program, Naumov opened his "Spanish Flame" free skate with a wobbly triple Lutz-double toe loop that received negative GOEs across the board. As he did with his season, Naumov persevered, executing an otherwise clean performance that included seven triple jumps.

"You have to leave the past behind," Naumov said. "Everything that happened in the past? Forget about it, because you can't change it. That's what I did this season and that's what I did after the Lutz."

"It's been a tough season, but I'm so proud of how he's handled it," Vadim said. "He's learned to keep fighting and never give up. Obviously winning is a great accomplishment, but as his coach and as his dad, I'm more proud of the way he pulled himself out of that tough spot. He pulled himself back together, and that's a bigger accomplishment to me."

Naumov finished the week with 177.85 points — more than 11 points ahead of silver medalist Joseph Kang (University of Delaware FSC) and more than 28 over bronze medalist Dinh Tran (SC of San Francisco).

Kang experienced growing pains of his own this season, both in height and in skating levels. As the 2016 U.S. intermediate champion, he admittedly felt extra pressure to continue his success, despite battling growth spurts and the muscular imbalances that followed.



Maxim Naumov



Joseph Kang

"Joseph's had a strong season, but an unfortunate time between sectionals and now," Kang's coach, Pam Gregory, said. "Because he was so well-trained, I think that pulled him through. We've had to take it very slow, but I'm very proud of him for doing what he did here."

"I'm proud of what I did today, especially with what I've been through and with moving up a level from last year," Kang added.

Kang earned a total score of 166.59.

Third after the short program, Tran survived a rocky free skate and finished with a total score



Dinh Tran

of 149.41 points. Despite a popped Lutz and a fall on a triple flip in the final segment, the California native was excited to finish on the podium, a victory sweetened by the memory of failing to qualify for last year's championships.

"It definitely motivated me to come back stronger," Tran said. "I've been taking my training seriously and not fooling around as much."

JoonSoo Kim (DuPage FSC) rounded out the top four, moving up from a fifth-best short program to finish the week with 147.95 points.

NOVICE PAIRS

A match made in Florida; Coleman, Griffin win gold medal

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Erin Coleman and Derrick Griffin (Panthers FSC) don't have much of a track record together as a pairs team, but their victory in Kansas City provided a glimpse of what could be a bright future.

The Pembroke Pines, Florida-based team won both segments of the competition, claiming the event by nearly 14 points with a score of 134.44.

"This is how they practice, but we weren't sure how they'd do," coach and 2010 Olympian Jeremy Barrett said. "This is their first nationals, so we weren't sure how they'd handle the nerves but they handled them really well."

Coleman, who was a singles skater last season, displayed those fearless pairs girl characteristics, while Griffin, a former ice dancer who stands out at 6 feet 3 inches and athletic, showcased his strength and agility.

"They are a great match," Barrett said.

Coleman, 15, and Griffin, 20, led by nearly six points heading into the free skate. For their free skate to *The Piano Guys'* "Beethoven's 5 Secrets," they received a Level 4 for their double twist and one of their lifts, landed their double Axels, and received high marks for their footwork. They easily had the top component score of the event.

Their friendship, Griffin said, has been a catalyst for their instant chemistry on the ice.

"We go everywhere together," he said. "Once off the ice, we go grab breakfast, we work out together, we get in the car and go somewhere. We're one big, happy family."

The two receive daily inspiration from the French pairs team of Vanessa James and Morgan Ciprès.

"We see how Morgan and Vanessa do it, how they attack anything they go into," Griffin said. "They attack with emphasis and that's what our coaches stress to us. Just go and attack and the results will happen."

For silver medalists Ainsley Peterson (All Year FSC) and Kristofer Ogren (Kansas City FSC), this competition held some sentimental meaning, since Ogren hails from the Kansas City area.

"Competing in my hometown has been so amazing," said Ogren, who with Peterson, trains in Colorado Springs, Colorado, under coaches Dalilah Sappinfield and Drew Meekins. "The support here has been spectacular. I was super emotional performing for them."

Second in both segments of the event, Peterson and Ogren showed a bit of nerves near the end of their free skate to music from *The Addams Family*. Their final lift and spin received negative grades of execution after a clean and entertaining program up to that point. They finished with 120.86 points.

"They have been a little sharper in practice," Sappinfield said. "That last lift is such a good lift for them. I think there were a little bit of nerves skating in front of your hometown, and wanting to skate well for your club."

Together for two seasons, Peterson and

Ogren finished eighth in novice in 2016.

"Our next thing is getting double Axels," Sappinfield said. "He can do double Axels; she's very close. We've started throw triples. This year was a lot of development still, because we didn't have a lot of time last year since they got together very late."

"There was a lot of focus on quality this year," Meekins added. "Their quality has improved a lot, which was a priority of theirs."

The brother-and-sister team of Greta Crafoord and John Crafoord (Los Angeles FSC) finished third in both segments of the event, scoring 112.03 total points. The twins are coached in Aliso Viejo, California, by Jenni Meno and Todd Sand.

For their Aaron Copland "Rodeo" free skate, the Crafoords executed a nice opening lift, double loops and strong footwork. The 16-year-olds, who finished second as juveniles in 2014 and were fifth in 2015 in intermediate, have physically matured to handle some of the tougher pairs elements.

"Definitely, the lifts and twists have gotten easier," said Greta, who worked through a hip injury early in the season to compete. "We are able to do them more correctly."

"I was really satisfied with the flow, and our interpretation of the music has improved a lot," John said of the team's free skate. "We are smiling and happy."

When they are not skating, Greta and John attend Aliso Niguel High School in Aliso Viejo, where Greta runs middle distance, the 1600-meter run and pole vaults. John plays hockey.

"They are great kids, a great family," Meno said. "They are good skaters, have great edges. They skate very fast, so we've worked on smoothing them out. John has grown a ton this year. This year they've started doing some of the bigger lifts, but it wasn't really a priority as much as just developing them at their own pace."

Eliana Secunda and Blake Eisenach (Rocky Mountain FSC) earned the pewter medal with 104.47 points.



Erin Coleman/Derrick Griffin



Ainsley Peterson/Kristofer Ogren



Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord

PHOTOS BY JAY ADEFFI/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

New kids on the block claim title

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

When Jocelyn Haines and James Koszuta (Amherst SC) took the ice in Kansas City, they had only six months and two competitions under their belts. Unlike the majority of their competitors, they don't train among a camp of other teams, opting instead to train solo in Amherst, New York, motivated by only each other and coach Bianka Szijgyarto.

In a field of ice dance veterans, one that included reigning bronze medalists, two-time U.S. champions and a slew of more-tenured teams, Haines and Koszuta came out on top, winning the title by more than five points.

"I'm honestly not sure how they did it so fast, but these two have the work ethic," Szijgyarto said. "They train by themselves. There's no other teams around them. We came here just to enjoy, celebrate the hard work they've put in and hopefully beat their personal-best scores. To finish as champions — we're overwhelmed."

Leading after the pattern dance segment, which consisted of the Viennese Waltz and the Blues, Haines and Koszuta cemented their standing with an effortless free dance to music by Frank Sinatra and Thomas Newman. They finished without a single negative GOE, demonstrating elegance, poise and a technical savvy much beyond their infant partnership, good for a total score of 114.66.

"I'm thrilled and honored and just so excited," Haines said.

"It's a nice feeling to get off the ice and feel good about what you've done," Koszuta added. "We knew we had done what we were supposed to do and we work so well together. It's been a great week."

Katarina DelCamp (Dallas FSC) and Maxwell Gart (All Year FSC) claimed the silver medal after, like the champions, teaming up just seven months prior to the event. The duo, who sat in fourth place after the pattern dances, pulled up to the second spot after an impressive Bollywood-style free dance to music from *Slumdog Millionaire*.

"They're natural performers," Matthew Gates, who coaches the team with Svetlana Kulikova in Simsbury, Connecticut, said. "We were actually really happy with the results of the pattern dance because they're a new team. Pattern dances are so technical and those difficult steps are so hard to master quickly, but they love music. They love to perform. The free dance came together much easier for them."

They earned a segment score of 66.78, en route to a combined total of 108.97.

Less than a point behind, siblings Sophia Elder and Christopher Elder (Louisville Skating Academy) persevered through growth spurts this season to maintain their standing and repeat as bronze medalists with 108.79 points.

"I've grown at least two inches and he's grown more than that, and we've definitely tried



Jocelyn Haines/James Koszuta



Katarina DelCamp/Maxwell Gart

to take advantage of that," Sophia said. "You always want your performance to be huge, making your movements as big as you can with every part of your body. There's more of us to perform now, so we're definitely working to maximize those points as we grow up."

"We're happy. We've really improved a lot over the last season, even if our placement is the same," Christopher added.



Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder

The siblings sat first after their Blues pattern dance, set to "Black Velvet" by Alannah Myles, and finished with a powerful free dance to "Masquerade Waltz" by Aram Khachaturian.

Elizabeth Tkachenko and Alexei Kiliakov (Washington FSC), who won U.S. juvenile and intermediate titles in 2015 and 2016, respectively, finished with the pewter medal, scoring 100.41 points.



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RISKY BUSINESS

Skaters capitalize on bonus-point structure

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Things are lookin' up in the juvenile and intermediate ranks.

A bonus scoring system that rewards risk and is more forgiving of mistakes has helped to elevate these young athletes to new heights.

In Kansas City, the top eight girls in the juvenile division landed two double Axels in their programs. There was only one fall, total. The juvenile boys were great too, as all the medalists landed two double Axels.

"It is exciting to see them at that young age push the envelope and be excited to compete against one another," Justin Dillon, director of high performance development at U.S. Figure Skating, said of the juvenile boys. "There's always that camaraderie with the boys. It's fun to see them come through the ranks as that next generation and be lifelong friends as well as competitors."

In intermediate ladies, there were more triple jumps landed — and bonus points awarded — than in any previous U.S. Championships. Last year's juvenile girls champion Stephanie Ciarochi won the intermediate title with two triple jumps in her short program (one in combination) and four in her free skate (two in combination).

"[Intermediate] skaters performed triple loops, triple flips and triple Lutzes. You don't often see that in intermediate ladies," Dillon said. "This really shows the promise of our athletes moving forward."

Mitch Moyer, senior director of athlete high performance at U.S. Figure Skating, said someone watching the intermediate ladies event might think they are watching the novice ladies because of the high quality of technical elements and overall skating.

Dillon and Moyer also heaped praise on the pairs and ice dancers, who showed that same progress and promise.

After their competition was over, the



Juvenile girls (l-r) Tamnhi Huynh, Madison Nguyen, Haley Scott, Elise Freezer; Juvenile boys (l-r) Robert Yampolsky, William Annis, Kai Kovar, Liam Kapeikis; Juvenile pairs (l-r) Josephine Hagan/Evan Whitlow, Sydney Flaum/Chase Finster, Jasmine Wong/Danylo Siianytsia, Ashley Fletcher/Cayden McKenzie-Cook; Juvenile ice dance (l-r) Alice Serbin/Kenan Slevira, Nastia Efimova/Jonathan Zhao, Elliana Peal/Ethan Peal, Sarah Dutton/Emmett King

juvenile and intermediate skaters, along with their coaches and parents, attended Future U. (University), a program that offers them tools they can apply in their journey up the competitive ladder to the novice and junior levels.

Five-time U.S. ice dance champion and Olympic silver medalist Tanith White was the guest speaker.

"She talked to the skaters about not only having success and being a complete athlete but the importance of being a complete person," Dillon said.

Information about boots and blades, and nutrition also headlined the Future U. event.

On the ice, White provided instruction to athletes and their coaches on the importance of edge quality, power and speed, as well as proper posture and carriage.

"We want to make sure that athletes coming from the developmental levels understand that when they get to the U.S. Championships that quality is important," Dillon said.

MEDALISTS

GIRLS

Gold | Madison Nguyen
Silver | Tamnhi Huynh
Bronze | Haley Scott
Pewter | Elise Freezer

BOYS

Gold | William Annis
Silver | Robert Yampolsky
Bronze | Kai Kovar
Pewter | Liam Kapeikis

PAIRS

Gold | Sydney Flaum/
Chase Finster
Silver | Josephine Hagan/
Evan Whitlow
Bronze | Jasmine Wong/
Danylo Siianytsia
Pewter | Ashley Fletcher/
Cayden McKenzie-Cook

ICE DANCE

Gold | Nastia Efimova/
Jonathan Zhao
Silver | Alice Serbin/
Kenan Slevira
Bronze | Elliana Peal/
Ethan Peal
Pewter | Sarah Dutton/
Emmett King

JUVENILE

GIRLS

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

"It was like a war. Everyone was so fierce!"

As silver medalist Tamnhi Huynh (Dallas FSC) reflected on the strength of the juvenile girls event at the 2017 U.S. Championships, she recalled what a difficult fight it was for the title. Even with a near-perfect program, Huynh finished less than one-tenth of a point away from gold. In fact, less than a point separated all four medalists, with Madison Nguyen (Dallas FSC) taking top honors with 58.95 points.

"She was solid. She made no mistakes," Nguyen's coach Olga Ganicheva said. "Everyone did such an amazing job today, but I think Madison's personality really made the difference. She's a really hard worker, plus she smiles through everything."

In addition to spirit, Nguyen's technical element score of 32.00 set her apart from an impressive pack of clean performances. While each of the top eight girls landed seven double jumps, including two double Axels, Nguyen completed five of her jumps in the second half of her tango-themed program, earning bonus points en route to the title.

"I think my facial expressions make a big difference, but my technical elements set me apart today," Nguyen said. "It was a close one, but I think I was solid, and that made a big difference."

Winning silver with 58.90 points, Huynh bagged the highest program components score of the event, earning 27.90 points for a playful and strong performance to "East West Harmony" by Bijan Mortazavi. Huynh showcased finesse in her transitions and was awarded a Level 4 for both of her spins — a feat consistent among each of the top eight programs.

"All the girls have worked very hard, and today you needed to be clean," Huynh's coach Andrei Zharkov said. "Tamnhi had a very slight mistake, a little shaky landing on a double Axel-double toe combination, and something that small probably cost her the gold. She did a wonderful job in a really great event for everyone."

"To be second best in such a great group is pretty awesome," Huynh said. "It took the support of my family, my coaches and my school. Plus, Kansas City really gave us a great environment. It was a lot of fun."

Haley Scott (First Coast FSC) brought home bronze, earning 58.82 points for her performance to *The Nutcracker*. Scott demonstrated impressive spunk and speed between elements, but her remarkable arsenal of technical elements, including a double Axel-single loop-double loop jump series, gave her the third-highest technical score of the event (31.92).

"I think there are special qualities about all of these girls and their skating," Scott's coach Karl Kurtz said. "Haley did a great job today. I'm so proud of her. Everyone brought their A game and made it a really special event."

Elise Freezer (Los Angeles FSC) earned 58.49 points and claimed the pewter medal for her energetic program to music from *Star Wars*.

BOYS

BY TROY SCHWINDT

William Annis (Yarmouth Ice Club) arrived in Kansas City confident and prepared to showcase his program to a Gipsy Kings medley.

"I have been really working on raising my components score," said Annis, a sixth-grader from Duxbury, Massachu-



Madison Nguyen



William Annis

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JUVENILE

sets, who trains at the Bog Ice Arena in Kingston, Massachusetts, and at Hobomock Arena in Pembroke, Massachusetts. “I thought I did a good job of getting higher components than I usually do. I’ve been working on improving my landings, movements, interpretation, holding positions longer.”

Annis’ attention to detail paid off with the event’s top components mark and overall score of 58.13 points.

“He skated a fantastic program,” said Karen Lehmann, who, with Debbie Minahan, coaches Annis. “We couldn’t be more proud of him. He nailed that first combination beautifully like he does in practice. He had a slight bobble on a double-double combination, but he threw in an extra combination at the end. It was an outstanding performance in our eyes.”

Annis, the Eastern Sectional champion, was fifth last year at sectionals and failed to qualify for the U.S. Championships.

“I think all year he’s had a very defined goal for himself and that drove him to improvement and kept it up all year long,” Minahan said.

Robert Yampolsky (North New Jersey FSC) landed seven double jumps, including two double Axels, to grab the silver medal with 54.78 points.

Performing to “Sikuriadas” by Incantation,

Sydney Flaum/Chase Finster



JAN ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Yampolsky attacked the demanding program, which ended with a change-foot combination spin that received a Level 4. His big point-maker was a double Axel-loop-double flip that generated 7.01 points.

“I like the jumps the most and the satisfaction when I land them,” he said of his overall skating. “I’m usually not afraid of them.”

Yampolsky, who is coached by Anton Nimenko and lives in Livingston, New Jersey, finished second at the Eastern Sectional Championships behind Annis. Last year, he placed second at regionals and sixth at sectionals.

Kai Kovar (Wasatch FSC) turned back the clock with an entertaining ’70s pop program produced by The Piano Guys. The fifth-grader from Ogden, Utah, landed two double Axels, one in combination, and received Level 4 for two spins, en route to a score of 54.62 and a bronze medal.

“It felt great,” said Kovar, who wore a costume with the King of Pop Michael Jackson in mind. “I just wanted to be on the podium this year.”

Last year, Kovar placed sixth at sectionals and failed to qualify for the U.S. Championships.

“I thought he really stepped up as far as performance and execution of the program,” said his coach and mother, Amanda Kovar. “He wanted to leave his mark and be remembered.”

Kai is also coached by his father, Karel, and Genia Chernyshova, who coached 2017 U.S. men’s champion Nathan Chen early in his career.

“She became part of our team a year ago,” Amanda Kovar said of Chernyshova. “She’s been an incredible help to him and to us. It takes a team to develop a great skater. She helps him to have confidence in himself.”

Liam Kapeikis (Wenatchee FSC) secured the pewter medal with 53.46 points. Kapeikis, who is also coached by his parents, won the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships, with Kovar placing second.

Kapeikis landed two double Axels, one in combination.

PAIRS

BY RENEE FELTON

In the case of the newly crowned juvenile pairs champions, distance makes the heart grow fonder. Long daily commutes are the norm in skating — stories of homework and meals in the car going from rink to rink are common — but Sydney Flaum (Broadmoor SC) and Chase Finster (Northern Kentucky SC) are making a cross-country partnership work for them.

Skating together since September, Colorado-based Flaum and Kentucky-based Finster train together for a stretch every month when Finster goes to Colorado Springs to work with Flaum and coaches Dalilah Sappenfield and Drew Meekins.

“When I’m in Kentucky I train for singles,” Finster explained. “When I’m in Colorado I train for pairs. I try to go out there every month for at least two or three weeks to train with Sydney.”

For her part, Flaum has traveled to Kentucky once in the young partnership, but said she is working on going more, especially now that they have the hardware to prove their arrangement is working.

“This is my second time at nationals and my first time getting in the top three,” she said. “I’m getting a fancy medal and it’s been very fun.”

Sappenfield credits the quick rise to the top of the juvenile ranks, a title they won with a free skate score of 46.64 after performing to *Singin’ in the Rain*, on their look, skating styles and desire to have fun.

“Both are really strong singles skaters and they get along really well so we have a lot of fun,” Sappenfield said. “They both love doing pairs and it was a good match. They skate similar and they have a good height difference. It’s always nice when you have a team that likes to skate together and have fun together, especially at this level.”

For silver medalists Josephine Hagan and Evan Whitlow (Louisville Skating Academy), their biggest challenge has proven to be meshing their styles as individual skaters.

“The toughest part is the blending of styles and timing with each other,” coach Kelley Morris-Adair said. “We’ve worked really hard on the matching and it’s been a great year.”

Performing to music from *The Mummy*, Hagan and Whitlow, who teamed up last May, earned a free skate score of 45.59 points. Their score at the U.S. Championships was four points

JUVENILE

higher than their mark at Midwestern Sectionals.

"It means a lot because we have been working so hard this year and the hard work pays off," Hagan said.

Finstler and bronze medalist Danylo Siianytsia (All Year FSC) have the distance thing in common. While Siianytsia isn't making a regular cross-country commute, he moved halfway across the world last fall when he relocated to Minnesota from Ukraine.

The understandably shy Siianytsia, who didn't know English upon arrival in the United States, and his partner Jasmine Wong (Dakotah FSC) started skating together in August. It's their first foray into pairs, and Wong has also only been skating since April of 2015.

Coach Trudy Oltmanns spoke glowingly of her young team.

"Jasmine and Danylo have done a terrific job," she said. "They're both learning how to skate and how to skate pairs at the same time. It's a lot to take in and can be overwhelming but kids do a great job of making the transition."

Less than two points separated the bronze medalists from the champions as they earned a score of 44.47 points for their *Cirque du Soleil* free skate.

Ashley Fletcher and Cayden McKenzie-Cook (Orange County FSC) claimed the pewter medal with a score of 40.57.

ICE DANCE

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

Partner together for three years, and you can practically finish each other's sentences.

Take Nastia Efimova and Jonathan Zhao, for instance. The skaters had just won the juvenile ice dance title with a sassy Latin medley, and an ebullient Efimova could barely contain her excitement.

"I was just expressing myself, acting with the music . . ." she began.

"When the music is happy, you've got to be happy," her partner cut in. "When it's slow, you've got to be a little slower."

Efimova and Zhao, who both represent the SC of North Carolina, led from start to finish, dominating the two pattern dances —

Fourteen-step and Willow Waltz — and surviving a stumble from Efimova to earn Level 4s on four of the five elements in their free dance. Their 88.02-point total marked a significant improvement over their seventh-place finish last season, and they won the event by nearly five points.

"We did pretty good," Zhao said. "I thought the spin and lifts were awesome. We trained really hard."

"Overall, it was a strong skate, and I'm happy with the work they've done this season," their coach, Nathan Truesdell, said. "I try to make them competitive with the next level up (intermediate). Their confidence is growing, and that's a big thing."

The tiny Efimova comes by her talent naturally. Mom Natalia, a former ice dance competitor for the Soviet Union and longtime Holiday on Ice performer, coaches the team alongside Truesdell.

Efimova's older sister, Alina, and her partner, Alexander Petrov, placed seventh in junior ice dance in Kansas City. The two teams skate together five days a week, for up to two to three hours a day.

"Sometimes we kind of argue a lot, because we are sisters," Nastia said, as her partner, Zhao, cringed.

"They push each other and motivate each other, especially on the days it's not so much fun," Truesdell added with a laugh. "They're sisters, there are times they bicker, but they are always there for each other."

Second after the two pattern dances, Alice Serbin (Colonial FSC) and Kenan Slevira (All Year FSC) skated a high-energy free dance to an African samba from *The Lion King*, highlighted by well-done twizzles and a challenging straight-line lift. They placed third in the segment with 40.04 points, but were able to hang on to second place and gain the silver medal with 83.15 points.

"I think today was one of the best skates we've ever done in competition," Serbin said after the free dance. "We took what we practiced and put it on to the competition ice."

Both skaters added that their true love was performing the program for audiences.

"I love the music; it's so much fun to skate to," Slevira said. "I remember in the beginning of

the season when our coach (Dmitri Boundoukin) found it. It's just so much fun to do, it almost makes training seem easy."

Fourth after the pattern dances, siblings Elliana Peal and Ethan Peal (Skokie Valley SC) claimed the bronze medal with 76.25 points. Their charming routine to music from *Mary Poppins* was judged the second-best free dance of the event.

"There were some things we can improve on and definitely work towards for next year, but I'm happy that all of our hard work really paid off," Ethan said.

"I'm working on my (facial) expressions," Elliana said. "I try to really sell the program and get things right on the music. I just really enjoyed my time here."

Skating is a true family affair for the Peals; their father, Robert, a former U.S. competitor, is also their coach.

"It's hard as a parent to be able to stand back and let them go out and do their thing," Robert said. "I think it's more nerve-wracking for me to watch than for them to compete."

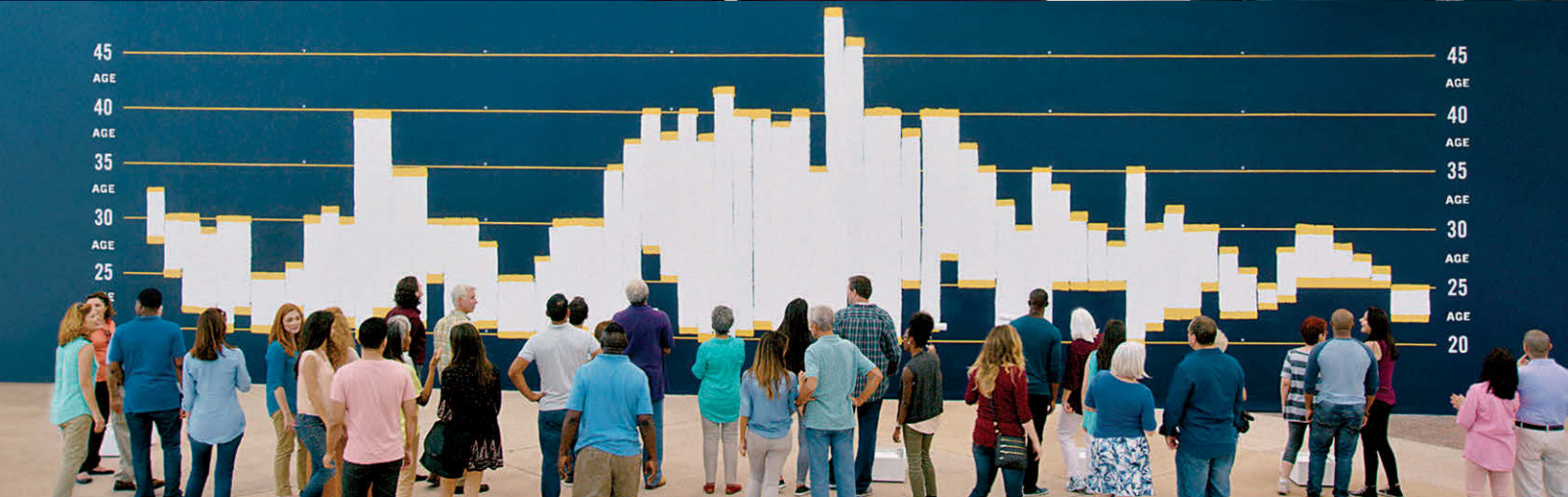
Sarah Dutton (Louisville Skating Academy) and Emmett King (Louisville Skating Academy) placed fourth, taking home the pewter medal with 72.50 points.

Nastia Efimova/Jonathan Zhao



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INTERMEDIATE

'SHE'S A WORK MACHINE'

Ciarochi repeats as champion

BY TROY SCHWINDT

If Stephanie Ciarochi isn't skating, she might be baking an angel food cake, constructing a skyscraper from a Lego Architecture set or watching her little brother at a hockey tournament.

But when she's on the ice, the eighth-grader from the Dallas Skating Club is all business. Ciarochi earned her second U.S. title in as many years with a victory on Jan. 15.

Ciarochi, according to her coach Olga Ganicheva, wakes up every day at 4 a.m. and is on the ice by 6 at the Dr Pepper StarCenter in Plano, Texas. She skates for one hour before heading to school, returning to the rink from 3 to 6 p.m. Throw in off-ice training, ballet and, of course, homework, and there's not much time left for life's simple pleasures.

"She's a work machine," said Ganicheva, who, with Aleksey Letov, has coached Ciarochi to juvenile and intermediate titles over the last two seasons. "She's very determined, knows what she wants. She will not leave or stop until she reaches her goals. She takes in every word."

The short program leader, Ciarochi delivered a free skate to Michael Kamen's music from the *Don Juan DeMarco* soundtrack that included three triple jumps (two in combination) a Level 4 combination spin and excellent footwork at the end.

Her only negative moment came late when she fell on a triple toe loop. Ciarochi, though, responded immediately by landing a triple Salchow.

"I'm most proud of her confidence and the way she responded after the mistake," Ganicheva said.

Ciarochi, who has a younger sister who skates, finished second in the free skate behind pewter medalist Emily Zhang (Richmond FSC) and on top overall with a



Intermediate ladies (l-r) Emilia Murdock, Stephanie Ciarochi, Ariela Masarsky, Emily Zhang; Intermediate men (l-r) Nicholas Hsieh, Ilia Malinin, Philip Baker, Daniel Argueta; Intermediate pairs (l-r) Jade Esposito/Franz-Peter Jerosch, Masha Mokhova/Ivan Mokhov, Isabelle Martins/Ryan Bedard, Altice Sollazo/Paul Yeung; Intermediate ice dance (l-r) Layla Karnes/Jeffrey Chen, Katarina Wolfkostin/Howard Zhao, Paulina Brykalova/Daniel Brykalov, Maria Soldatova/Faddey Soldatov

score of 126.54.

"This one feels good, but my first title is more special," Ciarochi said.

Next for Ciarochi, Ganicheva said, will be to move up to the novice and junior levels and improve upon her jumps and overall skating.

Securing the silver medal, Emilia Murdock (SC of Boston) matched Ciarochi with the best component marks of the free skate. Her program to music from the British drama film *My Week with Marilyn* included two triple Salchows (one in combination), Level 4 spins and fine footwork.

Murdock, an eighth-grader, is coached by Mark Mitchell and Peter Johansson at the Mitchell Johansson Method in Boston. She finished sixth at sectionals last year and was the U.S. juvenile silver medalist in 2015.

"She's comes in, worked really hard, got a couple of jumps clean and has worked a lot on everything," Mitchell said. "She pulled it all together and competed like she has all year."

MEDALISTS

LADIES

Gold | Stephanie Ciarochi
Silver | Emilia Murdock
Bronze | Ariela Masarsky
Pewter | Emily Zhang

MEN

Gold | Ilia Malinin
Silver | Nicholas Hsieh
Bronze | Philip Baker
Pewter | Daniel Argueta

PAIRS

Gold | Masha Mokhova/
Ivan Mokhov
Silver | Jade Esposito/
Franz-Peter Jerosch
Bronze | Isabelle Martins/
Ryan Bedard
Pewter | Altice Sollazo/
Paul Yeung

ICE DANCE

Gold | Katarina Wolfkostin/
Howard Zhao
Silver | Layla Karnes/
Jeffrey Chen
Bronze | Paulina Brykalova/
Daniel Brykalov
Pewter | Maria Soldatova/
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“I think she’s on a good path. She had only one triple jump, but has good GOEs, good components. She has the whole package. The other jumps will come and she’ll be someone to be reckoned with.”

Ariela Masarsky (DuPage FSC) landed five triple jumps in her program to “Moonlight Sonata” en route to 120.55 points and the bronze medal. The Glenbrook (Illinois) High School freshman is coached by Alex Ouriashev, who coached two-time U.S. champion Gracie Gold early in her career.

“It could have gone better but it was probably my best long program of the season,” Masarsky said. “It was the first time putting the triple loop into my program.”

Zhang, the pewter medalist, won the free skate by completing six triple jumps — three in combination — including a triple Salchow-loop-triple Salchow that generated an

event-best 10.52 points for a single element. The high school freshman was eighth after the short program, but recorded 83.58 for her free skate.

MEN

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

When you ask Ilia Malinin (Washington FSC) if he thought he could win back-to-back U.S. titles, the answer is simply, “Yes.”

At just 12 years old, Malinin is now a two-time U.S. champion, following his juvenile title in 2016 with the intermediate title in Kansas City. But Malinin didn’t just win, he took home gold in convincing fashion. Bringing a 2.99-point lead into the free skate, his total score of 125.44 was nearly 14 points higher than his nearest challenger.

“He likes to compete, loves the pressure,” his father Roman Skorniakov, who coaches Ilia with

wife Tatiana Malinina, said. “It was really hard out there but he pulled out an awesome skate.”

Performing his free skate to music from the *Puss in Boots* soundtrack, Malinin landed three triple jumps in the final segment, including a triple Salchow that received bonus points for being in the second half of the program, despite a slightly wobbled landing. He earned 80.59 points for the segment, nearly 10 points ahead of silver medalist Nicholas Hsieh (SC of Wilmington).

In third place after the short program, Hsieh pulled himself up a spot with a strong free skate to “Piano Concerto No. 2” by Sergei Rachmaninoff. In an on-ice career that spans fewer than four years, Hsieh has already gained valuable experience, bouncing back from a disappointing sixth-place finish as a juvenile to stand on the intermediate podium with 111.66 points.

“I was really motivated after not having a good skate at nationals last year,” Hsieh said. “I

Stephanie Ciarochi



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Ilia Malinin



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

INTERMEDIATE

came back and worked really hard to get where I am now, and I'm really excited to get my first medal here."

"He's only been skating for about three and a half years," Hsieh's coach, Viktor Pfeifer, said. "The fact that he qualified to compete at nationals last year was amazing, but in his mind he could have done better. Of course it motivated him to do better, but he's the kind of kid that loves to skate, so he does well with that kind of fuel in the fire. He's always motivated. Even in the toughest times, he's always positive. He loves what he's doing."

Philip Baker (SC of Boston) also pulled up a spot after the short program, securing the bronze medal with 108.20 points. Baker finished fourth in the juvenile event at last year's championships and used his experience to boost his performance in Kansas City.

"This year I was more relaxed," Baker said. "I went out there and did the best I could. I focused on myself and did my job. I'm excited to be the U.S. silver medalist and I'm ready to go home and get back to work."

Baker performed his free skate to music from the Tony award-winning musical *Hamilton*, which even received praise from the show's star and creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda, on Twitter after a video of his performance was shared.

"I picked *Hamilton* because I wanted to do something different," Baker's coach, Mark Mitchell, said. "It was a hot show, but at first I didn't know if it was really skateable. Then I listened to the soundtrack a lot and found the pieces that worked well together and could make a cohesive

program. I think it works well."

"We've all seen the tweet," Mitchell added. "We were so excited about it. I think it's fabulous."

Daniel Argueta (Texas Gulf Coast FSC) took home the pewter medal, earning 107.46 for his efforts.

PAIRS

BY TROY SCHWINDT

For coaches Oksana Yakusheva and Andrey Mokhov, watching their children — 10-year-old Masha Mokhova and 17-year-old Ivan Mokhov (Lansing Skating Club) — claim the intermediate pairs title on Jan. 15 was an overwhelming experience.

"It's hard, it's challenging, it's difficult, but we have fun," Yakusheva said. "I'm full of emotion right now."

"I'm proud of my kids, and students," Andrey Mokhov added.

The sister-and-brother team have been skating together for a year and a half at the Suburban Ice Arena in East Lansing, Michigan. They didn't compete at the sectional championships, and unveiled their free skate to music from *Cipollino*, a Russian ballet, for the first time in Kansas City.

The siblings, second after the short program, delivered a nearly flawless program to secure the title with a total score 97.11.

"We are happy we skated clean," Ivan Mokhov said. "That was our main goal."

Their program included a throw double Salchow, a double Salchow-single Axel combination and a forward inside death spiral that achieved a

program-best grade of execution of 1.40.

Mokhova is a fourth-grader, while her brother is a high school senior. Ivan Mokhov has competed at the U.S. Championships six times as a singles skater. They plan to move up to the novice ranks next season. After the competition, the family loaded up the car and drove halfway home to Mason, Michigan.

"It's about 700 miles," Andrey Mokhov said. "We'll drive halfway and stay in a hotel and let them swim. We'll do something fun when we get back home to celebrate."

Short program leaders Jade Esposito and Franz-Peter Jerosch (Colonial FSC) finished second in their free skate to songs by Michael Bublé and secured the silver medal with 95.61 points.

"They both went out there and fought the whole time and put 100 percent into their skate," coach Carrie Wall said. "They were a little disappointed like any athlete would be. They wanted to stay in position, but they gave it their best effort and that's all we can ever ask of them."

Esposito and Jerosch executed solid lifts and a throw double Salchow in their free skate.

"It was a great program from them to show some of their diversity from their short program, which was more of slow ballad, and this is a little more upbeat and has a nice feel to it for them. They enjoyed skating to it," Wall said.

Wall expects the team to continue to develop their partnership and basic skating, in addition to improving the technical elements needed for the novice level.

Juvenile champions from a year ago, Isabelle Martins (Chicago FSC) and Ryan Bedard

Masha Mokhova/Ivan Mokhov



JAN ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

INTERMEDIATE

(Northern Ice SC), garnered the bronze medal with 91.77 points.

Their free skate to music from *Mary Poppins* included an opening double flip, a Level 4 combination spin and a throw double loop.

"I think what is important is that they achieved two clean programs under pressure," said Stefania Berton, who, with husband Rockne Brubaker, coaches the young team.

"They are one of the younger teams," Brubaker added. "With their ability, they are going to continue improving and moving up in level, but I think for a long time they will be one of the younger teams, so having things that are fun and exciting and keep it light really goes with their age and maturity level. Stefania choreographed both programs and did an awesome job. I'm excited how they responded."

The team, Brubaker said, experienced several firsts in Kansas City, including skating last in the event.

"It was a tight race," he said. "Before this year they had never done throw doubles or overhead lifts, so it was a good challenge for them throughout the week. They are both competitors and they thrive on that."

Altice Sollazo and Paul Yeung secured the pewter medal with 88.87 points.

ICE DANCE

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

Katarina Wolfkostin and Howard Zhao, who won the ice dance crown by nearly 17 points over the field, make quite an impression on their coach, Pasquale Camerlengo.

"Oh, they are impossible to train," joked Camerlengo, who puts the youngsters through their paces at the Detroit Skating Club.

"Actually, I'm kidding," he quickly added. "They are the kind of skaters that when you explain something, they understand it right away, and the moves are magically there. It's just a pleasure to have them in our group."

Ever since moving to Detroit last summer, Wolfkostin (Peninsula SC) and Zhao (Detroit SC) have drilled their technical elements and steps with Camerlengo and his associate Natalia Annenko-Deller. It showed in the event's two pattern dances, the European Waltz and Rocker Foxtrot, where the couple gained all Level 4s and amassed 52.81 points.

"We're a little bit of a small team, so we're always trying to skate bigger and more mature, so we can keep up with bigger teams," Zhao said.

They further distanced themselves from the field with their free dance to *Mary Poppins*, showing off quick feet, smooth gliding and a speedy closing rotational lift. They garnered all Level 4s, except for a Level 3 for the diagonal step sequence, and finished with an impressive 107.19 points.

"Our coaches really worked on the lines and the straightness of our skating, and overall pizzazz of the performance," Wolfkostin said.

The skaters, who are both home-schooled, spend most of their days at the rink, where they take ballet classes and work out in the gym after their skating practices.

"We're the youngest skaters at DSC, and

that's really nice," Zhao said. "It's good to skate with teams in upper levels, so you have someone to look up to."

"They are very precise on their execution, and I'm glad they were rewarded here," Camerlengo said. "Now, though, we must work on the skating skills for novice. I told them, 'The hard work is about to start.'"

Layla Karnes (All Year FSC) and Jeffrey Chen (Peninsula SC), winners of the juvenile title last season, settled for the silver medal here with 94.53 points.

Second after the pattern dances, the couple — who are coached by Christine Fowler-Binder in Southern California — performed a smooth and fluid free dance to Johann Strauss' "Blue Danube Waltz," choreographed by 1984 British Olympic ice dance champion Christopher Dean. They had a bit of trouble with their twizzles, but gained Level 4s for their spin and rotational lift.

"It was a real honor to work with Christopher," Karnes said. "We really appreciated the opportunity."

Dean is famous for designing difficult ele-

ments, which tested the youngsters' limits.

"It was a challenge to get under time and hold those positions," Chen said of the free dance's rotational lift, which gained Level 4. "It took a lot of work."

It was a big week for Chen's family. His older sister, Karen, won the U.S. ladies title.

Siblings Paulina Brykalova and Daniel Brykalov (St. Paul FSC) rose from fourth place after the pattern dances to win the bronze medal with 89.25 points after a fun and creative free dance to music from the *Kung Fu Panda 3* soundtrack.

The skaters, who train in Novi, Michigan, under Igor Shpilband and Greg Zuerlein, showed off long lines as well as intricate steps.

Daniel said training alongside stars like Madison Chock and Evan Bates, as well as international couples, provides daily motivation.

"The environment is amazing," he said. "It inspires us to be the very best we can be."

Another brother-and-sister team, Maria Soldatova and Faddey Soldatov (Washington FSC), garnered the pewter medal with 82.20 points.

Katarina Wolfkostin/Howard Zhao



JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING



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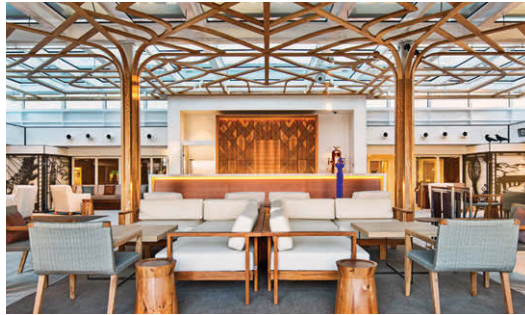
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Skate to life experiences

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

Rise, fall, rise again. No matter who we are or what challenges we've faced, we can all take our first steps onto the ice and achieve greatness. While Learn to Skate USA is proudly endorsed by U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey and US Speedskating, the program's therapeutic track is also supported by Special Olympics, giving everyone the chance to be transformed, forge friendships and experience all the ice has to offer.

Through Learn to Skate USA's therapeutic program, athletes with permanent physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities can take to the ice and reap the benefits, including fun fitness and cardiovascular conditioning, increased strength, improved balance, better flexibility, socialization and increased self-esteem.

Sixteen-year-old Harrison Sokol knows the benefits of ice skating better than most. After multiple setbacks and diagnoses, he has persevered to become one of the few athletes to compete in both Special Olympics and U.S. Figure Skating events.

This is Harrison's story in his words.

I've had to overcome a lot of obstacles in my 16 years. I was diagnosed developmentally delayed at age 2, so I've had to work harder than my non-disabled peers just to reach normal milestones. I am diagnosed with autism and I strive to be a role model for people with disabilities.

At age 3, I put on a pair of skates, jumped up and said one of my first full sentences: "Mommy, I like my shoes. Mommy, I really like my shoes!" I've been skating ever since.

When I was 10 years old, I had to come off the ice to have corrective surgery on my pronated feet. The doctors lengthened both of my Achilles tendons and put titanium implants between the bones of the arches of my feet. When I got back on the ice, I had to learn how to skate all over again.

Since then, I've become one of very few skaters who have competed on both the Special Olympics track and U.S. Figure Skating's standard competitive track. I've won gold medals at Special Olympic events around my hometown of Scottsdale, Arizona, and competed in ice dance at my first U.S. Figure Skating sectional championships last year.

I've gone from a self-contained special education classroom in a preschool to honors/AP dual enrollment in high school. I just earned my driver's license and I'm working toward an associate degree from Paradise Valley Community College, that I plan to receive at the same time as my diploma from Horizon High School. In 2018, I want to pursue a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University.

More than that, I plan to skate as long as life will allow and would one day like to represent Team USA in international competition. I have an innate desire to learn and do well. I strive to inspire others to do the same. The ice has taught me that life's obstacles do not get in the way of achieving my hopes and dreams. Through skating, I know the joy of getting better every time I try something new. I know that when I fall, I get right back up, and I know that challenges can be overcome to achieve greatness.



Alyssa Stump and Harrison Sokol perform in the juvenile ice dance division.



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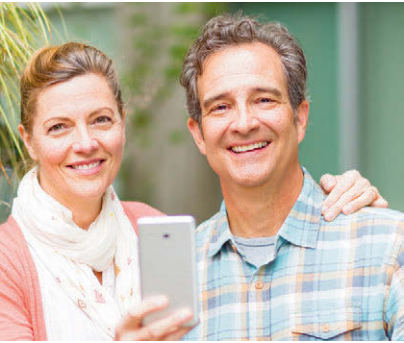
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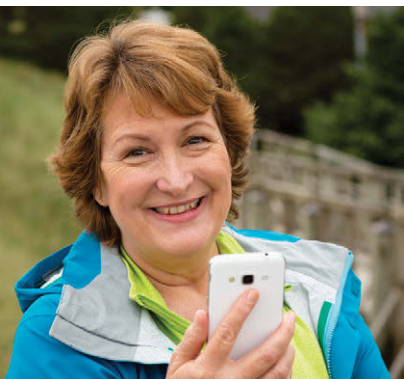
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Editor's note: In each issue of SKATING magazine, one of the country's top skate technicians will provide their expertise on skating boots, blades and related industry equipment.

Causes, prevention of some common injuries

BY JOHN HARMATA

Injuries can be acute, chronic or acute-on-chronic. Acute injuries are those that happen suddenly: tripping over the toe pick and falling, or landing wrong on a jump. Chronic injuries can be unrelated to any specific incident, although they may start out as an acute occurrence. Chronic injuries don't go away, and they usually worsen as time goes on, ending up in the category of overuse injuries, which account for most long-term injuries to figure skaters.

Overuse injuries happen when a skater consistently works hard, is aggressive and persistent in training, and aggravates the same area of the body, usually joints or muscles, over and over. The fact that most skaters have young, growing bodies only adds to the problem.

Osgood-Schlatter's

Osgood-Schlatter's is one of the most common injuries among young teenage skaters in the midst of a growth spurt, and may continue on and off until the skater is done growing. It is characterized by pain, swelling and tenderness just below the knee, over the shin bone. The notorious bump under the knee is a dead giveaway for Osgood-Schlatter's.

This injury usually becomes more noticeable during activities such as jumping, running and going up and down stairs. A reduction in the amount of time spent practicing jumps, sit spins and moves requiring deep knee bends — such as dance moves or jump landings — will help prevent Osgood Schlatter's.

Achilles tendinitis

Sudden starts, stops and repetitive jumping increase the risk for Achilles tendinitis. The swelling of the Achilles tendon is occasionally caused by an improperly fitted boot or by forcibly pushing and pulling

the heel in and out of the boot. If too much force is applied, the Achilles tendon eventually becomes irritated, causing inflammation. Persistent Achilles problems often have a biomechanical origin. Excessive pronation and supination can both be factors. Achilles tendinitis may also occur when practicing off-ice exercises, such as box jumping, jumping rope and jumps. In rare cases it may result from improper use of off-ice conditioning equipment.

Plantar fasciitis

Misalignment caused by abnormalities in the structure of the feet or poorly fitted boots can lead to plantar fasciitis. Other causes include repetitive jumping and running, and boots that do not fit correctly, including off-ice gym shoes, flip-flops and winter boots.

John Harmata, aka Mr. Edge, is a former X-ray technologist. He has serviced figure skaters for nearly four decades. Applying his medical and scientific training to his business practices, John discovered a more accurate way to fit boots and mount and sharpen blades. In the fall of 2000, a member of U.S. Figure Skating heard about John's work and asked if he would be interested in contributing an article to SKATING magazine. John's "Ask Mr. Edge" column was featured in SKATING for more than 10 years. In 2012, John released his first book; titled *Anatomy of a Figure Skating Injury*. He is working on revising and updating that book, with plans to release it this year.



ask the expert

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
SKATE TECHNICIAN
U. S. OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATING TEAM

Q: How many sharpenings can one expect in a blade?

Greta, 13,
Las Vegas, Nevada

The short answer is probably 10 to 16 times. The primary controlling factor, relating to blade life, is how much metal is removed from your blades each time they are sharpened. Blades that get nicked a lot or become rusty between sharpenings need to have more metal removed than blades that don't. A skate technician who gets the edge you like in six or seven passes will allow you more sharpenings than someone who needs 10 or 12 passes to achieve the same feeling. Both how well you take care of your blades and the skill of your skate technician play a role in how many sharpenings you can expect in your blade.

product spotlight: John Wilson blades

Editor's note: In each issue of SKATING magazine, a skating equipment manufacturer will profile one of its products. This is not an endorsement from U.S. Figure Skating or SKATING magazine.

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a Wilson blade and a softness that helps me feel my best while performing." This responsiveness allows the skater to give the impulsion of a jump and the certainty of a forgiving landing.

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K.C. gets into the 'Get Up' spirit

By Troy Schwindt

Members of the Kansas City community participated in U.S. Figure Skating's Get Up campaign, and a select few individuals and organizations were recognized in the kiss and cry during a break in the men's short program on Jan. 20.

Get Up Kansas City honorees included Tricia Melland and the organization Operation Breakthrough.

Melland spent her early childhood years skating at Pepsi Ice Midwest in Kansas City.

"It's a funny story as to how I started skating [she was 18 months old]," Melland said. "My older brother was there for a birthday party and I threw a tantrum because my mom would not let me get on the ice. Finally, she rented skates that were four sizes too big and let me go out there. She was afraid I would come off the ice crying, but I loved it and stayed out there. From then on, I've always had a love for skating."

While having fun on the ice, she remembers the feeling of the breeze on her face, and how skating allowed her to forget about everything else.

"It inspired me a lot," Melland said.

Melland's life, though, started to change dramatically when she was 7 years old and became ill. At first, doctors had no answers for her condition. Eventually, she was diagnosed with intestinal failure, anemia of chronic disease, myopathic pseudo obstruction, adrenal insufficiency and a life-threatening chronic illness known as mitochondrial dysfunction.

"Doctors claim there is no cure for what I have, but I like to believe that there is no cure yet," she said. "I

believe there is a cure waiting to be discovered any day and I hope to be part of finding that solution."

With her condition, Melland can't eat solid food. Her fluid and nutrition are delivered intravenously through a central line that goes to her heart. She has a service dog named Kenny, who detects her low blood sugar.

Despite this challenging prognosis, Melland is able to live a productive and meaningful life. She graduated last year from St. Teresa's Academy in Kansas City, and is enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where she's studying to become a biochemistry major. She's also a member of the Chi Omega sorority.

"I am grateful for my figure skating background and training," she said. "I learned at an early age how to get up and keep going whenever I would fall down. I know this lesson has contributed to my resiliency and success in life."

One of the great success stories in Kansas City is that of Operation Breakthrough. This organization, started by two nuns in 1971, serves more than 400 needy children daily in its early learning and after-school programs, and provides education, health care and social services to low-income Kansas City families.

"My CEO [Mary Esselman] says that this is the most important work one will ever do," said Tyler Baker, who runs the organization's elementary program. "What we do in Operation Breakthrough is we focus on a two-generation model, so we help mom and dad as well as the kids, because you can't have a successful kid without a successful mom or dad. So



Tyler Baker of Operation Breakthrough and college student Tricia Melland are congratulated by Kansas City Mayor Sylvester "Sly" James Jr. and Olympic champion Scott Hamilton for their inspirational "Get Up" stories.

through family advocacy, social work and through little things like diapers all the way to big things like getting a job, housing, getting a GED for mom, that's how we impact our friends, neighbors and, more importantly, the kids of Kansas City."

There are countless success stories, Baker said, of graduates of Operation Breakthrough who return to volunteer and help the cause.

"When my 13-year-olds graduate from me, they become volunteers," Baker said. "So I have a child from 3 months all the way to 13, and they don't just say 'Thanks a lot,' and walk away. They come back and give their time and volunteer with us."

Operation Breakthrough helps children and their families get up and keep going in the face of adversity.

"Our children and families often fall because of circumstances beyond their control," Esselman said. "Our job is to offer that hand up that says, 'Come on. You can do it! Get back out there.' And they do."

TOP PRACTICES SHARED LEADING UP TO MAJOR EVENTS

BY LEXI ROHNER

There exists virtually no one in this sport who is not a type A personality. We all determine we will achieve that jump, spin, judging appointment and so on, and fearlessly — or otherwise — chase it. It matters not that the end result fluctuates daily. In fact, this renews our efforts. The pursuit is the pleasure, even with the falls, and we remain.

When you want something, do you go for it? Do you set goals? Do you wait for something to happen? Whatever your method, or lack of one, preparing for anything such as a musical performance, a school exam or an athletic pursuit, requires focus.

Below is a collection of the top practices adult skaters apply for competition preparedness leading up to adult sectionals and U.S. Adult Championships.

GOAL-SETTING

Goal-setting can always be a useful tool. Having measurable, attainable and specific goals can assist you in achieving your target. Consider writing them down.

"There is a huge power in writing your goals down," bestselling *New York Times* author and personal development speaker Michael Hyatt said. "When you write something down, you are stating your intention and setting things in motion."

Pinar Gürel aims for clean programs but knows that is not always realistic. Kathleen Westmoreland works with a sports psychologist and, in two weeks, noticed a positive change in her practices.

Hyatt advises sharing goals selectively.

"Share with those who are committed to helping you achieve them," Hyatt said.

OFF-ICE

Many skaters use cross-training, weight lifting and other cardio activities to maximize their on-ice efforts.

"Rigorous off-ice includes cardio, intervals, weights and plyometrics," Rachel Firlik said. While this is typical, unusual means also prevail. Sharidan Williams-Sotelo and Julie Gidlow swear by extreme steak training, filling up on tasty protein to fuel their skating.

Michael Tongko makes sure he glues more rhinestones on costumes.

"The E6000 scent seems to calm me down during competitions," Tongko said. "It's the little things."

"Rest is a crucial part of training," said Merry Neitlich, cautioning on not overtraining.

ON THE ICE

A popular way to train close to competitions is tapering off.

"Two to three months before competition, I perform my program every session, increasing to four times weekly," Joanna Ramberg said. "Back-to-back double run-throughs begin six weeks prior."

Tapering off usually entails little training the week before events, allowing the body recovery time. Firlik also does double program run-throughs, but during the second run, only the jumps and spins missed.

"Train the way you perform," Dranae Jones said. "I go full throttle every program."

Connie Achtenberg seconds the frequent run-throughs, even pushing through before the 2016 nationals while sick. "I told myself, 'If I'm still sick or got sick, what would I do?'" Achtenberg said. "Skate because withdrawing isn't an option."

Zuzka Polishook finds programs easier after many run-throughs, adding five to 10 minute gaps between double programs. Marlene Bernstein likes practicing programs five minutes into a session to simulate competition. Kara Mackowiak also includes interval training.

In contrast to tapering off, Aimée Ricca increases practice time from one to two hours daily, six days weekly. "First stroking, then program without music, then music," Ricca said. "Then anything that needs attention, and program again." Gidlow chooses quality over quantity, leaving her first program if it was clean or near-clean. "It's more important to leave the ice confident and have a real experience to visualize going forward," Gidlow said.

MENTAL PREP

Often skaters point to nerves, confidence and getting in their own way at competition. At any age, being prepared mentally is necessary. Find what works for you, or try these suggestions.

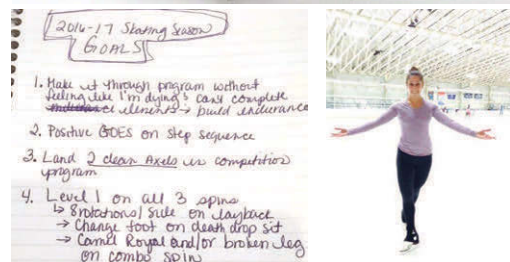
Follow through with a planned workout, then concentrate on elements and mental cues. "Stay in the moment and be aware of your calm," Terry Allen said. "Closer to events, I do less repetition and hard training, so I don't beat myself up physically or allow the possibility of injury."

"In the shower, when you go to sleep at night and whenever you have a moment to just close your eyes, visualize," Ann Orsolini said. "Just not when you're driving!"

Dranae Jones recommends walking



Aimée Ricca



Pinar Gürel

through your steps everywhere. Skaters have been seen in retail establishments plotting footwork and practicing lifts, so perhaps this works.

Beyond visualizing physical skills, Deirdre Russell digs into the character she portrays. "If I believe my performance is worth sharing, it helps me get past nerves and technical aspects," Russell said.

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Not to be overlooked, and likely the most important component of training, is a competitor's health and well-being.

"Off-ice interval cardio, stretching and good nutrition are a must for me," Polishook said.

Carlie Sanders knows healthy eating habits are crucial. "The better you feel, the better you skate," Sanders said. Michele Lynn adds lots of sleep to that end.

Achtenberg agrees with exercise and eating healthy. "Getting enough sleep and sticking to my off-ice strength-training schedule with stretching makes a huge difference."

Aviva Cantor takes a different angle with sleep. "I'm an evening skater and I anticipate morning events, which helps me prepare," said Cantor, who also trains at the coldest rink in town for conditioning and programs. "If I can skate clean there, I can anywhere."

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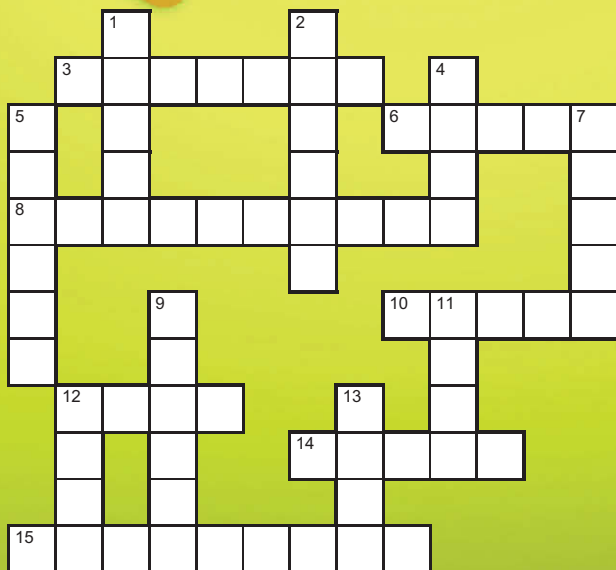
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Answers to the crossword puzzle and word find appear on page 88.

Puzzles by Joel Kaplow



ACROSS

- To get to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the top skaters from nine regional competitions across the country then go on to the Eastern, Midwestern or ___ Coast Sectional Championships, and the top skaters from those go for the "big one."
- Nathan Chen wowed the Kansas City crowd in January when he landed a world-record five clean quads in his free skate: a quad Lutz, quad flip, quad Salchow and two quad toe ___.
- Ross Miner displayed his signature glide during his free skate in Kansas City. It's done with the toes facing away from each other, knees bent, and the body leaning back, parallel to the ice. What's it called?
- Even though Nathan Chen brought the world to its feet with his astonishing quad collection, he still didn't catch Yuzuru Hanyu's world-record total score of 330.43, which he earned at the 2015 Grand Prix Final. What country is Hanyu from?
- Noticeably absent from the U.S. Figure Skating Championships were last year's men's champ and ladies silver medalist, Adam Rippon and Polina Edmunds. Both were out with a ___ injury.
- Nathan Chen is well on his way to his goal of winning gold at the U.S. Championships, Olympics and ___ Championships.
- Karen Chen and Nathan Chen seem to have a lot in common. They share a last name (but aren't related), both grabbed their first U.S. Championships gold in January, and they are both now ___ years old.

DOWN

- Pairs skaters ___ Denney and Brandon Frazier grabbed their first senior-level U.S. gold in Kansas City. Haven needs one more to match her big sis Caydee, who has two U.S. pairs golds.
- Ashley Wagner's U.S. Championships medal collection grew again in January when she grabbed her first ___ to go with her two pewter, two bronze and three gold medals.
- After placing second in Kansas City, ice dancers Madison Chock and Evan Bates now have bragging rights to ___ U.S. silver medals as a team.
- At the U.S. Championships, three of the four disciplines were won by first-timers, but the ShibSibs ice danced their way to the gold for the ___ time.
- If you add up all of Nathan Chen's 2017 U.S. Championships short program and free-skate quads, how many do you get?
- Not skating at 100% due to a stress fracture in his right fibula (a bone between the knee and ankle), Jason Brown still managed to grab the men's ___ medal in Kansas City.
- It's easy to tell when a skater does an ___ because it's the only jump that takes off with the skater gliding forward instead of backward.
- Rachel and Michael Parsons came away from the U.S. Championships with the junior ice dance gold. When asked how their free skate could be improved, Rachel said, "I won't punch Michael in the ___ next time." (See article)
- U.S. ladies champ Karen Chen grew up in the same town as the 1992 ladies champ, Kristi Yamaguchi. Fremont, California, is just north of San ___, site of the 2018 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

WORDS ON ICE

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

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!

CANTILEVER
 FLUTZ
 GRANT HOCHSTEIN
 KAREN CHEN
 MARIAH BELL

MARISSA CASTELLI
 MERVIN TRAN
 QUAD TOE LOOPS
 TRIPLE FLIP
 VINCENT ZHOU

Go Figure

by Gene Browning



August Perthus

Age: 9

Hometown: Bermuda Dunes, California

Club: All Year FSC

Level: Pre-preliminary, preliminary moves in the field

Coach: J. Scott Driscoll

Favorite moves: Axel, camel spin, loop jump combinations

Goal: To compete at the World Championships

Favorite memories: Doing my Lutz for the first time, watching the 2016 World Championships in Boston and meeting with some of my favorite skaters

Favorite skaters: Misha Ge, Adam Rippon, Yuzuru Hanyu

How I got started: I always loved to dance to music. When I was 5 years old my parents took me to the ice rink and I started to skate and dance to the music there. I love skating!



**KIDS
SPOTLIGHT**



Catherine Chandler

Age: 10

Club: North Jersey FSC

Level: Free skate 5, preliminary moves in the field

Coach: Deana Sroka

Goal: To land my double jumps

Favorite skaters: Gracie Gold, Ashley Wagner

Favorite moves: Axel, split jump, flip

Memorable moment: Going to see the "Stars on Ice" show

How I started: When I was 5, I took my first learn to skate class with my best friend and have been skating since.

Hobbies: Reading, crafting

MORE FAVORITES

Food: Caprese salad

Singer: Shawn Mendes

Color: Light blue

Place to visit: Lake Placid, New York

If you would like to be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to mterry@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.



St. Clair Shores FSC member steps up to help sinkhole victims

Peyton Kalka, a member of the St. Clair Shores FSC in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, was busy this winter raising money for families who lost their homes in a sinkhole tragedy in Fraser, Michigan, on Christmas Eve.

Kalka, 10, a fourth-grader at Salk Elementary School in Clinton Township, Michigan, came up with the idea to help because one of her friends was affected by the tragedy.

"It was really sad to see everything they worked so hard for lost," Kalka said.

To raise money, she went into neighboring communities with her parents to collect recyclable bottles and cans at designated drop-off sites.

Kalka hit her January goal of \$3,000 and decided to extend her campaign through the middle of March, with a new goal of \$6,000.

She is pre-preliminary level skater.

"Peyton is an asset to our club," club member Tina Miano said. "She is a kind soul and works hard on and off the ice. Peyton comes to the rink every day with a smile that lights up a room. What she has done to help the families in Fraser is an amazing example of the word community, and at such a young age. Just a beautiful child, and I am happy she is a part of the skating community."



Film on Yvonne Dowlen's life on ice released

Nothing could keep Yvonne Dowlen off the ice. Not a serious car accident. Not a stroke. And now a short film, *Edges*, pays tribute to her life on the ice.

Dowlen began skating as a young girl in Denver, Colorado. After skating competitively, she joined the Ice Capades as a performer. Even after retiring from show skating, Dowlen never stepped away from skating. She continued to compete in adult competitions around the U.S. and was at the rink five days a week until her passing on May 2, 2016. Dowlen was 90 years old.

Her passion for skating was evident, Katie Stjernholm, codirector of *Edges*, said.

"After surviving both a car accident and a stroke, Yvonne was convinced it was 'easier to skate than walk,'" Stjernholm said. "Regardless of how she was feeling physically, she rarely missed a day of going to the rink."

The film was produced by Balcony Nine Media, based in Boulder, Colorado. *Edges* premiered at the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival in May, 2016, shortly after Dowlen's passing. Her personality made for a compelling on-screen presence, explained Jonathan Hill-



er. Hiller served as codirector of *Edges* and is also a cofounder of Balcony Nine Media along with Stjernholm.

"Yvonne was unashamedly herself," he said. "Steeped in a society with a penchant for criticism, she managed to keep her curiosity and passion close to her heart. It is what kept her spirit bright and her legs strong."

Fans can watch *Edges* in its entirety on Vimeo, and more information about the film can be found at www.EdgesFilm.com. Stjernholm hopes the film will be a celebration of Dowlen's place in skating.

"She modeled for me that committing to what you love every day accumulates into a life well lived."








To watch *Edges*, visit: <https://vimeo.com/198875141>.

— Kama Korvela Stigall



Three great friends and major supporters of U.S. Figure Skating — Carolyn Kruse, Susan Bonn and Maggie Iobst — have some fun in the Puffs kiss and cry in Kansas City during the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

IDENTIFY THE SKATING TERM: By Heather Driscoll

 JUMP			CROSS ○○○○
			

Top Row: Split Jump; Spiral; Free Skate; Crossover; Circles
Bottom Row: Axel; Spread Eagle; Bunny Hop; Swing Rolls

ANSWERS:

BEYOND THE BLADE

U.S. FIGURE SKATING 2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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Kristine Yamaguchi
Jim & Carol Yamaguchi
Brooks & Jane Stewart
Nancy Brooks
Marianne Stoery
Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion
Madeline Zillmer
Steven Sher
“IN SUPPORT OF”
Alex Benoit
Patricia Yamanouchi
Julia Biechler & Damian Dodge
Beth Weiner
Hannah Miller
Marie Miller
Haley Scott
Jonathan Scheffter
Starr Andrews
Stan Kimer
Madison Hubbell &
Zach Donohue
Georgene Trosseth

Our Skaters
Carolyn Kruse
“IN HONOR OF”
Carol Heiss Jenkins
Carol Seaburg
Roger Stuart
Lansing Skating Club
Douglas Razzano
Dawn Elmer
Christopher Bowman
Troy Goldstein
Gayle Glennon
Joan Calderin
Evan Lysacek & Frank Carroll
Melinda Camp
Debbie Martin
Ted & Noel Gessner
Virginia Mount
Jeremy Abbott & Allison Scott
Judith Edmunds, Leonard
Colarusso, Susan Haugh, Cheryl
Litman, Michael Rowland
Central Carolina Skating Club



A special thank you to all U.S. Figure Skating staff, Memorial Fund Committee Members and U.S. Figure Skating Board Members who donated to the Beyond the Blade Campaign.

AAC HOSTS ATHLETE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECEPTION

Each year at the U.S. Championships, the Athletes Advisory Committee (AAC) hosts the Athlete Alumni Association reception. This year's event took place in the Sprint Center's Founders Club, with more than 30 former athletes in attendance.

The event, hosted by 1988 Olympic champion Brian Boitano, helps former athletes and coaches stay connected to the sport.

At the upcoming Governing Council in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the AAC will once again host its fund-raising dinner. Money raised goes to the AAC's Athlete Alumni Ambassador (3A) award, which is a scholarship program that recognizes skaters who have achieved figure skating excellence while actively volunteering.



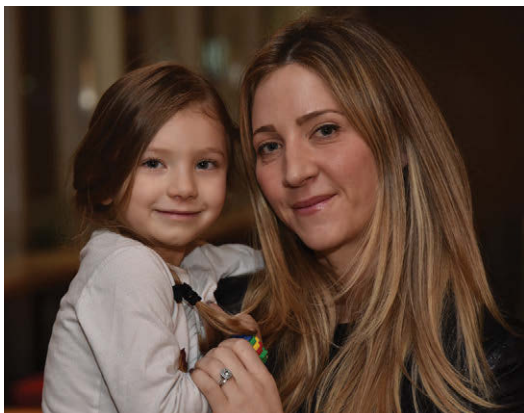
Olympian Emily Hughes, "Mr. Debonair" Richard Dwyer and Kansas City skating fan and longtime U.S. Figure Skating supporter Aud Gillespie get reacquainted.



Olympic champion Brian Boitano and 1987 World bronze medalist and four-time U.S. medalist Caryn Kadavy both competed at the 1985 U.S. Championships in Kansas City.



AAC Chair Pilar Bosley, left, AAC ice dance representative Nick Traxler and PSA President Christine Fowler-Binder enjoy a break in the skating action at the reception.



Angela Nikodinov and her daughter, Audriana, 4, enjoy the festivities.



Former Team USA members Justin Dillon and Angela Nikodinov, and her husband Ivan Dinev, talk Bay Area skating at the reception.



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'Representing Team USA'

SKATERS SHARE THEIR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION EXPERIENCES

Compiled by Kyleigh Gaff

When competing for Team USA internationally, there can be pressure and excitement when hearing "Representing the United States of America" for the first time. This season, Team USA has 219 athletes on 11 synchronized skating teams, with 74 representing the United States for the first time. Team USA also has four athletes who hold citizenship in a different country.

Olivia Marshall, who skates for the Skyliners junior team in New York, represented the U.S. for the first time with trips to 2017 Cup of Berlin and 2017 French Cup. She recalls her experience of attending the Cup of Berlin, where the Skyliners won the gold.

I started to become comfortable in my seat as the plane was about to take off and fly our team to Berlin, Germany, our first international of the season, and my first international competition ever. I

was excited, but also nervous, as we were representing our team as well as the United States of America. My bags were packed with my skates, skating pants and an abundance of Team USA gear. I was prepared and ready to conquer what was at hand, but more than seven hours stood between me and arrival in Europe.

As soon as we arrived, we collected our bags and loaded the bus to check into our hotel. Driving through East Berlin, we saw streets filled with men and women walking to work, along with many apartment flats. Snow covered the ground, as a warm feeling kicked in that Berlin had welcomed our arrival. While checking into the hotel, the thoughts of being in a different country sank in. We were here to represent our country. After settling into our rooms, we changed into our Team USA jackets, loaded the buses and headed to our first practice.

Entering the arena, we saw that the stands were filled with supporters from different countries. Flags from Finland, France, Germany and Switzerland waved in the air as the teams shouted cheers. Looking over at the United States section, it was unreal to see the number of parents and siblings there supporting not only the Skyliners, but Team USA. We were not just there to skate, but to show the rest of the world, in that arena, how amazing it is to be part of Team USA.

Competition day started like many normal competition days. Hair and makeup was done, and I proceeded to mentally prepare for the day at hand. As the bus drove to the arena, we sang our pre-competition song and danced our nerves away. It was time to show the rest of the world what we were capable of. Lacing up my skates in the locker room, the adrenaline kicked in, and as the crowd started to cheer, it was our moment to skate and represent

The Skyliners junior team took home the gold medal from Cup of Berlin. Olivia Marshall (second row, second from right) talks about her first international experience in this edition of In synch.





MOMENTS IN TIME PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the Hockettes show their patriotic spirit at Leon Lurje Trophy in Sweden.

the United States. The loudspeaker announced "Representing the United States of America, here are the Skyliners!" At that moment, all of the practices and hard work came into play.

As our team stood on the awards podium, I felt honored to represent our country in such an intense sport. With my hand over my heart, and listening to the Star-Spangled Banner, I was honored to be standing with my one and only team, experiencing a moment that will last forever.

— Olivia Marshall, Skyliners junior 2016–17

Svea Wagner, a member of the Hockettes junior team in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is a Swedish citizen. As a member of Team USA, competing at the 2017 Leon Lurje Trophy in Sweden was a unique experience. Wagner said she felt honored to represent Team USA and the Hockettes, who placed fifth.

I can still remember the last time I attended Leon Lurje, where the Hockettes also represented the United States. I remember how in awe I was of the programs and especially of the synchronized death spirals, which was something I had never seen before. How the American teams, from the moment they stepped off the bus, wore the same clothes and showed a certain confidence that was different from the Europeans. This experience left an impression that I still can remember. It was such an honor to later have the opportunity to experience it again, but from the other side.

At first it did feel a bit odd for me to be at a competition in my home country and represent the U.S., since the three other times I went to the competition I represented Sweden, but I got used to it and thought less of it as something that was weird. I focused more on the feeling of being at the rink,

representing my team and together doing the best we could on the ice, putting ourselves out there and showing the stories of our programs to the audience.

I realized that I missed speaking, reading and hearing the Swedish language when I was in the U.S. Since I haven't spoken Swedish for a long time, it was sometimes a bit of a struggle to come up with some words. Everything came back to me when I used it more and more, especially when I saw my old friends at the competition who I haven't seen for a long time. It was nice that I could see them earlier than planned and catch up with them in a way that reduced my homesickness that I get sometimes when I am in the U.S.

I will always treasure and remember this experience to be able to represent the U.S. together with my team that has become my second family over the course of the 1½ years since I joined. In the end we performed two clean skates that we are proud of with good skating skills and expressions, leaving our footprints all over the world during our short program, and telling a story about a boy who never grew up, in our free skate.

— Svea Wagner, Hockettes junior 2016–17



WORLD SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW

The 2017 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships is one month away. The first week in April, 26 teams from 21 countries will travel to compete for the title of the 2017 World Synchronized Skating champion. This event is returning to Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the first time since 2010. U.S. Figure Skating hosted the 2013 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships in Boston, where the Haydenettes (Team USA 1) captured their fourth World bronze medal. The 2016 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships were held in Budapest, Hungary, where the Haydenettes regained their bronze medal and also became the first U.S. team to win the free skate portion of the event. Miami University (Team USA 2), finished ninth.

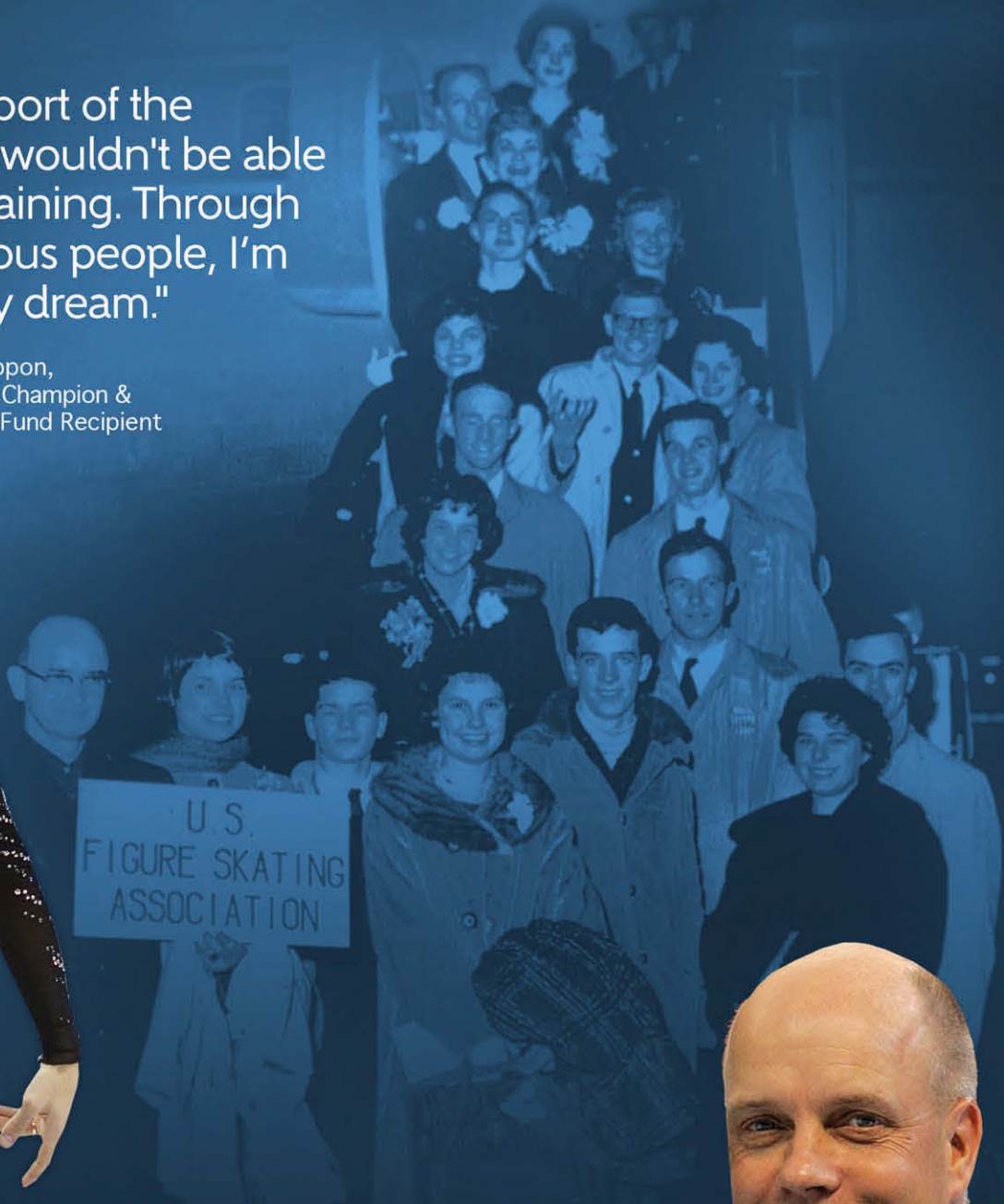
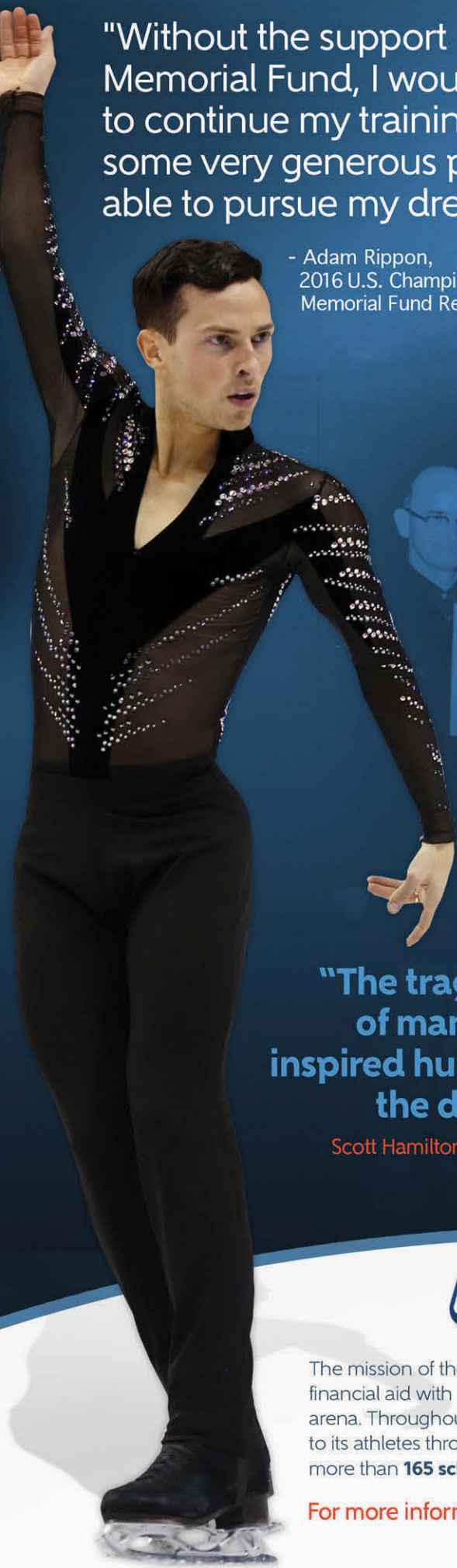
The 2017 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships will have the short program on April 7 and the free skate on April 8 at the Broadmoor World Arena. All-event tickets are on sale until March 1. For more information visit www.2017synchroworlds.com.



The Hockettes perform their short program at Leon Lurje Trophy in Sweden.

"Without the support of the Memorial Fund, I wouldn't be able to continue my training. Through some very generous people, I'm able to pursue my dream."

- Adam Rippon,
2016 U.S. Champion &
Memorial Fund Recipient



"The tragedy of Flight 548 took the lives of many talented skaters, but has also inspired hundreds of thousands to support the dreams of many young athletes."

Scott Hamilton, 1984 Olympic Champion and Memorial Fund Recipient



The mission of the Memorial Fund is to provide qualified U.S. Figure Skating members in need of financial aid with monetary assistance to pursue their goals both inside and outside the competitive arena. Throughout the 2016-17 season, U.S. Figure Skating will directly distribute **more than \$1 million** to its athletes through training grants and financial assistance. In 2015, the Memorial Fund awarded more than **165 scholarships** to athletes.

For more information or to give, visit www.1961MemorialFund.com



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Championship Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Karen Chen, 214.22, 1, 1
2. Ashley Wagner, 211.78, 3, 2
3. Mariah Bell, 197.92, 6, 3
4. Mirai Nagasu, 194.90, 2, 4
5. Caroline Zhang, 182.82, 7, 5
6. Gracie Gold, 179.62, 5, 9
7. Angela Wang, 175.13, 11, 7
8. Amber Glenn, 172.63, 12, 8
9. Bradie Tennell, 169.98, 9, 11
10. Tessa Hong, 168.74, 4, 14
11. Paige Rydberg, 166.92, 8, 12
12. Courtney Hicks, 165.19, 18, 6
13. Livvy Shilling, 161.90, 10, 15
14. Megan Wessenberg, 161.77, 16, 10
15. Franchesca Chiera, 158.41, 13, 13
16. Katie McBeath, 141.20, 15, 17
17. Rebecca Peng, 134.36, 19, 16
18. Hannah Miller, 134.24, 17, 18
19. Ashley Shin, 127.87, 14, 19

Championship Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Nathan Chen, 318.47, 1, 1
2. Vincent Zhou, 263.03, 3, 2
3. Jason Brown, 254.23, 4, 3
4. Grant Hochstein, 248.31, 5, 4
5. Ross Miner, 240.34, 2, 8
6. Alexander Johnson, 233.39, 9, 5
7. Timothy Dolensky, 228.76, 6, 9
8. Sean Rabbitt, 228.02, 11, 7
9. Max Aaron, 227.80, 12, 6
10. Jordan Moeller, 225.85, 8, 10
11. Andrew Torgashev, 225.35, 7, 11
12. Kevin Shum, 205.69, 14, 12
13. Emmanuel Savary, 200.73, 10, 16
14. Scott Dyer, 199.47, 16, 14
15. Tomoki Hiwatashi, 196.09, 13, 18
16. Daniel Kulenkamp, 193.74, 17, 15
17. Shotaro Omori, 191.53, 20, 13
18. Oleksiy Melnyk, 184.31, 19, 17
19. Dennis Phan, 181.14, 18, 19
20. Jimmy Ma, 181.07, 15, 21
21. Sebastien Payannet, 170.56, 21, 20

Championship Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 188.32, 2, 1
2. Marissa Castelli/Mervin Tran, 186.28, 4, 2
3. Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc, 184.41, 1, 3
4. Deanna Stellato-Dudek/Nathan Bartholomay, 173.50, 3, 5
5. Jessica Pfund/Joshua Santillan, 168.90, 7, 4
6. Chelsea Liu/Brian Johnson, 159.96, 8, 6

7. Erika Smith/AJ Reiss, 159.59, 6, 7
8. Cali Fujimoto/Nicholas Barsi-Rhyne, 138.90, 10, 8
9. Joy Weinberg/Maximiliano Fernandez, 132.57, 11, 9
10. Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, 61.80 WD
11. Alexandria Shaughnessy/James Morgan, 48.64 WD

Championship Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 200.05, 1, 2
2. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 199.04, 2, 1
3. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 191.42, 3, 3
4. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, 170.29, 5, 4
5. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 160.06, 4, 8
6. Anastasia Cannuscio/Colin McManus, 153.35, 8, 5
7. Julia Biechler/Damian Dodge, 152.19, 6, 6
8. Karina Manta/Joseph Johnson, 147.15, 7, 7
9. Charlotte Maxwell/Ryan Devereaux, 139.20, 9, 9
10. Elicia Reynolds/Stephen Reynolds, 103.57, 10, 10
11. Kseniya Ponomaryova/Oleg Altukhov, 93.29, 11, 11

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Kaitlyn Nguyen, 170.16, 3, 1
2. Starr Andrews, 155.14, 2, 3
3. Ashley Lin, 153.34, 5, 2
4. Emmy Ma, 149.88, 1, 5
5. Alexia Paganini, 147.60, 4, 4
6. Nina Ouellette, 136.25, 7, 6
7. Maxine Marie Bautista, 133.97, 6, 9
8. Elizaveta Kulik, 132.51, 8, 7
9. Brynne McIsaac, 127.51, 9, 8
10. Madalyn Moree, 108.89, 11, 10
11. Haley Beavers, 108.72, 10, 12
12. Shannon Porter, 107.94, 12, 11

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Aleksei Krasnozhan, 211.05, 2, 1
2. Camden Pulkinen, 197.65, 1, 2
3. Ryan Dunk, 172.22, 4, 3
4. Eric Sjoberg, 170.61, 3, 4
5. Sasha Lunin, 161.39, 5, 5
6. Mathew Graham, 158.96, 6, 6
7. Peter Liu, 154.82, 8, 7
8. Derek Wagner, 153.25, 7, 8
9. Kelvin Li, 147.69, 9, 9
10. Daniil Shamis, 135.55, 11, 10
11. TJ Nyman, 130.53, 10, 11

Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Nica Digerness/Danny Neudecker, 153.35, 1, 1
2. Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, 147.90, 2, 2
3. Alexandria Yao/Austin Hale, 144.64, 3, 3
4. Lindsay Weinstein/Jacob Simon, 137.22, 4, 5
5. Laiken Lockley/Keenan Prochnow, 135.67, 8, 4
6. Vanessa Chen/Eric Hartley, 131.46, 5, 7
7. Gabriella Marvaldi/Daniel Villeneuve, 130.25, 6, 8
8. Emma Coppess/Robert Hennings, 128.74, 9, 6
9. Isabella Gamez/Griffin Schwab, 127.23, 7, 9
10. Kate Finster/Brandon Kozlowski, 117.80, 10, 10
11. Jillian Smart/Matthew Rounis, 105.52, 11, 12
12. Hannah Klopstock/Daniel Arseneault, 101.79, 12, 11

Junior Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 176.33, 1, 1
2. Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, 165.06, 3, 2
3. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 163.63, 2, 3
4. Chloe Lewis/Logan Bye, 148.43, 4, 4
5. Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 129.82, 6, 5
6. Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, 127.90, 5, 6
7. Alina Efimova/Alexander Petrov, 118.90, 7, 7
8. Diana Avaz/Val Katsman, 117.56, 8, 8
9. Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, 115.90, 9, 9
10. Elizabeth Addas/Michael Valdez, 108.02, 11, 10
11. Lydia Erdman/Alexey Shchepetov, 106.31, 10, 11
12. Cassidy Klopstock/Jacob Schedl, 96.20, 12, 12

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Angelina Huang, 143.19, 2, 2
2. Ting Cui, 142.68, 3, 1
3. Pooja Kalyan, 131.77, 5, 4
4. Alysa Liu, 131.68, 1, 6
5. Alyssa Rich, 130.89, 4, 5
6. Hanna Harrell, 126.69, 10, 3
7. Isabella Miller, 121.45, 8, 7
8. Ilana Sherman, 117.72, 6, 9
9. Audrey Shin, 115.92, 9, 8
10. Emma Coppess, 110.79, 7, 10
11. Lily Sun, 102.37, 12, 11
12. Analise Gonzalez, 97.45, 11, 12

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Maxim Naumov, 177.85, 1, 1
2. Joseph Kang, 166.59, 2, 2
3. Dinh Tran, 149.41, 3, 6
4. Joonsoo Kim, 147.95, 5, 4
5. Lucas Altieri, 146.26, 6, 5
6. Paul Yeung, 144.38, 9, 3
7. Jordan Evans, 139.38, 4, 9
8. Patrick Frohling, 135.76, 12, 7
9. Jonathan Yang, 135.62, 11, 8
10. Alan Wong, 129.03, 10, 10
11. Alex Wellman, 127.24, 7, 12
12. Max Wang, 124.61, 8, 11

Novice Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Erin Coleman/Derrick Griffin, 134.44, 1, 1
2. Ainsley Peterson/Kristofer Ogren, 120.86, 2, 2
3. Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, 112.03, 3, 3
4. Eliana Secunda/Blake Eisenach, 104.47, 4, 5
5. Katherina Frantz/Nicolas Frantz, 103.08, 7, 4
6. Jasmine Fendii/Joshua Fendii, 101.56, 5, 6
7. Isabelle Goldstein/Keyton Bearinger, 98.97, 6, 7
8. Cora DeWyr/Jacob Nussle, 88.54, 8, 8
9. Lauren Ball/Scott Dudley, 80.19, 9, 10
10. Ashley Haywood/Alec Schmitt, 79.43, 11, 9
11. Hilary Asher/Nathan Rensing, 73.65, 10, 11

Novice Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

1. Jocelyn Haines/James Koszuta, 114.66, 1, 4, 1
2. Katarina DelCamp/Maxwell Gart, 108.97, 3, 6, 2
3. Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 108.79, 2, 1, 3
4. Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 100.41, 4, 2, 5
5. Isabella Amoia/Cory Fraiman, 95.84, 6, 8, 4
6. Allie Rose/Spencer Emerson, 91.07, 8, 3, 8
7. Molly Cesanek/Nikolay Usanov, 88.18, 5, 11, 6
8. Isabel Blahunka/Will Shawver, 87.15, 10, 5, 7
9. Cherri Chen/YuanShi Jin, 83.54, 7, 7, 10
10. Leah Krauskopf/Caleb Niva, 80.35, 11, 9, 9
11. Claire Purnell/Lucas Purnell, 75.18, 9, 10, 11
12. Susan Talbot/Ryan O'Donnell, 60.41, 12, 12, 12

Intermediate Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Stephanie Ciarochi, 126.54, 1, 2
2. Emilia Murdock, 122.00, 2, 4
3. Ariela Masarsky, 120.55, 4, 3
4. Emily Zhang, 119.82, 8, 1
5. Christina Lin, 119.70, 3, 5
6. Violeta Ushakova, 111.39, 5, 7
7. Noelle Rosa, 108.49, 10, 6
8. Amie Miyagi, 106.68, 7, 8
9. Jessica Lin, 102.66, 11, 9
10. Caroline Harris, 98.76, 9, 10
11. Calista Choi, 96.76, 6, 12
12. Ashley Leahy, 92.10, 12, 11

Intermediate Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Ilia Malinin, 125.44, 1, 1
2. Nicholas Hsieh, 111.66, 3, 2
3. Philip Baker, 108.20, 4, 3
4. Daniel Argueta, 107.46, 2, 4
5. Payton Winkler, 92.42, 9, 5
6. Goku Endo, 92.04, 5, 7

- Matthew Nielsen, 90.79, 6, 8
- Daniel Turchin, 85.91, 11, 6
- Matthew Kennedy, 85.20, 8, 11
- Samir Mallya, 84.28, 10, 10
- Henry Privett-Mendoza, 83.60, 7, 12
- Timothy Pomares, 80.77, 12, 9

Intermediate Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Masha Mokhova/Ivan Mokhov, 97.11, 2, 1
- Jade Esposito/Franz-Peter Jerosch, 95.61, 1, 2
- Isabelle Martins/Ryan Bedard, 91.77, 4, 3
- Altice Sollazo/Paul Yeung, 88.87, 3, 6
- Georgia Bush/Timmy Chapman, 88.10, 5, 5
- Zoe Larson/Aidan Brown, 87.47, 7, 4
- Cate Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell, 84.75, 6, 7
- Paige Ruggeri/Steven Rossi, 79.21, 8, 8
- Katie Luong/Nathan Luong, 75.32, 10, 9
- Gwen Bloesch/Ethan Hall, 74.40, 9, 10
- Zoe Villanueva/Jake Pagano, 71.89, 11, 11
- Carolyn Bartel/Alfred Bartel, 59.23, 12, 12

Intermediate Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

- Katarina Wolfkostin/Howard Zhao, 107.19, 1, 1, 1
- Layla Karnes/Jeffrey Chen, 94.53, 2, 2, 3
- Paulina Brykalova/Daniel Brykalov, 89.25, 4, 6, 2
- Maria Soldatova/Faddey Soldatov, 82.20, 11, 3, 4
- Cordelia Pride/Benjamin Lawless, 82.16, 8, 4, 5
- Claire Cain/Andrei Davydov, 82.00, 3, 5, 7
- Anna Nicklas/Max Ryan, 78.88, 6, 7, 6
- Olivia Sebastiani/Dillon Berry, 74.39, 5, 10, 9
- Dana Vulaj/Volodymyr Patsukevych, 69.70, 12, 9, 8
- Anna Pettersson/TJ Carey, 69.20, 9, 11, 10
- Maria Brown/Marius Driscoll, 67.00, 10, 12, 11
- Oona Brown/Gage Brown, 66.43, 7, 8, 12

Juvenile Girls

Pl. Name, TS

- Madison Nguyen, 58.95
- Tam nhi Huynh, 58.90
- Haley Scott, 58.82
- Elise Freezer, 58.49
- Gloria Xia, 57.43
- Lindsay Thorngren, 56.39
- Jessica Housen, 53.57
- Nicole Chong, 52.02
- Indi Cha, 50.54
- Samantha Bray, 49.81
- Macie Rolf, 45.97
- Saya Kimura, 44.31

Juvenile Boys

Pl. Name, TS

- William Annis, 58.13
- Robert Yampolsky, 54.78
- Kai Kovar, 54.62
- Liam Kapeikis, 53.46
- Daniel Martynov, 51.24
- Joseph Klein, 43.48
- Lawrence Winters, 41.51
- Ethan Kohn, 39.30
- Bryan Lehmann, 38.70
- Anthony Mugg, 37.93
- Alexander Liu, 34.37

Juvenile Pairs

Pl. Name, TS

- Sydney Flaum/Chase Finster, 46.64
- Josephine Hagan/Evan Whitlow, 45.59
- Jasmine Wong/Danylo Siianytsia, 44.47
- Ashley Fletcher/Cayden McKenzie-Cook, 40.57
- Sarah Burden/Daniel Tioumentsev, 37.05
- Emilina Jarvis/Damian Jarvis, 32.52
- Kayla Black/Kamden Black, 31.77
- Kylie Flanagan/Christopher Shields, 29.82
- Isabella Costa/Noah Laformara, 26.61
- Gemma Flaming/Anthony Mugg, 25.44
- Samantha Edwards/Blake Edwards, 25.15
- Claire Flemming/Jack Liu, 23.44

Juvenile Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

- Nastia Efimova/Jonathan Zhao, 88.02, 1, 2, 1
- Alice Serbin/Kenan Slevira, 83.15, 2, 1, 3
- Elliana Peal/Ethan Peal, 76.25, 6, 3, 2
- Sarah Dutton/Emmett King, 72.50, 4, 4, 5
- Sabrina Foti/Christian Bennett, 67.17, 3, 5, 6
- Emily Winter/Anthony Haddad, 62.98, 5, 6, 7
- Elizabeth Rubinsky/Benjamin Starr, 58.19, 9, 9, 4
- Shanae Stirling/Marcellus Krueger, 54.60, 7, 8, 10
- Ashley Cohen/Camden Rider, 52.37, 10, 7, 8
- Hope Noelle Lassiter/Luke Anderson, 47.26, 8, 12, 9
- Eliana Sheykhet/Daniel Zhukov, 42.95, 12, 10, 11
- Gianna Sasmore/Clayton Ramsey, 39.45, 11, 11, 12

Cup of Berlin 2017

Berlin, Germany, Jan. 5-7

Pl. Name, Nation, Points, SP, FS

- Marigold IceUnity, FIN, 195.11, 1, 1
- Haydenettes, USA, 188.08, 2, 2**
- Crystalletes, USA, 166.70, 3, 3**
- Team Berlin, GER, 153.82, 4, 4
- Olympia, CZE, 120.38, 5, 5
- Cool Dreams, SUL, 103.74, 6, 6
- Team Ice United, NED, 90.5, 7, 7
- Team Spirit, GBR, 69.03, 8, 8

Mozart Cup 2017

Salzburg, Austria, Jan. 19-22

Pl. Name, Nation, Points, SP, FS

- Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 192.38, 1, 1
- Miami University, USA, 155.88, 2, 2**
- Skyliners, USA, 147.19, 4, 3**
- Revolutions, FIN, 144.08, 3, 4
- Hot Shivers, ITA, 126.26, 5, 5
- Team Passion, HUN, 123.60, 6, 6
- Zagreb Snowflakes, 95.33, 7, 7
- Kometa, CZE, 90.56, 8, 8
- Team Illumination, NED, 80.45, 9, 9
- Sweet Mozart, AUT, 79.02, 10, 10
- Team Spirit, GBR, 69.32, 11, 11

2017 Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Giant Center/Hershey Arena

Hershey Pennsylvania, Jan. 26-29

Competition Officials: William Beharrell, Michele Blatt, Erin Bridge, Ann Buckley, Leonard Colarusso, Jeanette Davey, Laura Days, Judith Edmunds, Ann Fauver, Rebecca Finder, Jo Ann Hall, Shirley Holdsworth, Carylyn Landt, Elizabeth Lee, Nancy Mar-ron-Asti, Lisa Marsocci, William Mein, Dennis Morrill, Lauren O'Toole, Matthew O'Toole, Ashleigh Renard, Cathleen Renzi, Elliot Schwartz, Barbara Shostak, Thomas Sobell, Sharon Watson

Juvenile

Pl. Name, TS

- Skyliners, 48.21
- Mini Mates, 45.39
- Team Delaware, 43.81
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 41.20
- Team Image, 39.87
- DC Edge, 38.88
- Team Ashburn, 37.51
- Richmond Synchro, 37.33
- Synchroettes, 34.94
- Precisely Right, 30.89
- Snowflakes, 29.35

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Team Delaware, 112.02, 2, 1
- Team Ashburn, 109.70, 1, 2
- Synchroettes, 105.90, 3, 3

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

- Skyliners, 76.90

- Ice Mates, 68.06
- Team Image, 58.72
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 53.66
- DC Edge, 52.86
- Chesapeake Synchro, 50.92
- Synchroettes, 46.42

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Team Excel, 117.90, 1, 1
- Chesapeake Synchro, 97.90, 2, 2

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

- DC Edge, 55.90
- Esprit de Corps, 55.72
- Team Delaware, 55.17
- The Colonials, 49.52
- Team Excel, 48.64
- Ocean Blades, 42.20
- Team Image, 41.65
- Gotham City Synchro, 38.29

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

- Skyliners, 66.62
- Star Mates, 63.72
- Team Image, 60.70
- Team Delaware, 60.00
- DC Edge, 59.47
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 54.57
- Team Ashburn, 52.48
- Team Excel, 49.80
- Mirror Images, 48.47
- Synchroettes, 46.48
- Synchro Stars, 43.03
- Icing on the Cape, 42.98
- Superettes, 42.30
- National Blades, 41.96
- Richmond Synchro, 39.67
- Central Park Ice, 39.19
- Precisely Right, 38.58
- The Colonials, 36.99

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

- University of Delaware, 74.74
- Metroettes Collegiate, 65.70
- University of Massachusetts, 52.20
- Boston University, 49.80

Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Esprit de Corps, 4/1
- Team Delaware, 6/2
- DC Edge, 7/3
- Essex Blades, 6/4
- Gotham City Synchro, 7/5

Open Adult

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Genesee Synchronized, 4/1
- Team Reflections, 5/2
- Cutting Edge, 5/3
- DC Edge, 5/4
- DownEasters, 7/5

Open Collegiate

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Princeton University, 6/2
- University of NH, 4/2
- Liberty Univ Flames, 4/4, TOM 13
- Mirror Images, 4/4, TOM 15
- UM Terrapins Black, 6/5
- Boston College, 4/5
- Oswego Ice Effects, 4/7
- Cornell University, 4/8, TOM 28
- Univ of Vermont, 4/8, TOM 30
- Orange Experience, 4/9
- UM Terrapins Red, 7/11

Open Juvenile

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- DC Edge Red, 6/1
- CNY Blizzard, 4/3

- DC Edge Blue, 5/5
- Rainbow Connection, 4/5
- Steel City Blades, 4/6, TOM 13
- Sparklers, 4/6, TOM 17
- Team Excel, 4/6, TOM 20
- Mirror Images, 4/6, TOM 21
- Team Esprit Blue, 5/8
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/9
- Ice Illusion, 4/10
- CDNY Leading Edge, 6/11

Open Juvenile Teams A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- CNY Blizzard, 5/2
- DC EDGE Blue, 4/2
- Rainbow Connection, 4/3
- Ice Illusion, 7/4
- Richmond Synchro, 4/4
- Island Waves, 4/6
- Munchkins, 5/7, TOM 31
- Philly Spirit, 5/7, TOM 32

Open Juvenile Teams B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- DC EDGE Red, 6/1
- Steel City Blades, 6/2
- Team Excel, 5/3
- Team Esprit BLUE, 6/4
- Shadows, 4/4
- SCW Blades, 6/6
- Triangle Ice Gliders, 5/7
- Central Park Ice, 5/8
- Chevy Chase Black, 7/9
- Team Esprit RED, 7/10

Open Juvenile Teams C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Sparklers, 5/2
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 5/3, TOM 10
- CDNY Leading Edge, 5/3, TOM 12
- Mirror Images, 5/4
- Southern Stars, 4/5
- Syracuse Symmetry, 4/6
- National Blades, 6/7
- Starcatchers, 4/7
- Gardens Synchro, 6/9
- Raleigh Rockers, 7/10

Open Masters

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Philly Spirit, 5/1
- Mirror Images, 5/2
- Philadelphia, 5/4
- The Colonials, 4/4
- Precisely Right, 5/5, TOM 21
- Team Delaware Dazzle, 5/5, TOM 22

Pre Juvenile Final

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Skyliners, 6/2
- DC Edge Blue, 4/3
- DC Edge Red, 6/4
- Shooting Stars, 6/5
- CNY Storm, 5/6
- Philadelphia, 4/6, TOM 14
- Synchro Stars, 4/6, TOM 19
- NJ Black Diamonds, 4/8
- Shimmers, 5/9
- Team Exel, 6/10
- Team Ashburn, 4/10
- CDNY Cutting Edge, 4/11

Pre Juvenile Teams A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Team Ashburn, 4/1
- Shimmers, 5/2
- Team Excel, 5/3
- CDNY Cutting Edge, 4/5, TOM 15
- Starcatchers, 4/5, TOM 17
- Team Delaware, 4/6, TOM 16
- Starlings, 4/6, TOM 19
- Syracuse Symmetry, 4/7
- Saint Sensations, 7/9

Pre Juvenile Teams B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Shooting Stars, 6/2
- Synchro Stars, 4/2
- CNY Storm, 6/4
- NJ Black Diamonds, 5/4
- The Colonials, 6/5
- Icing on the Cape, 4/6
- Triangle Ice Gliders, 6/7
- Synchroettes, 4/7
- Southern Stars, 7/9

Pre Juvenile Teams C

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Skyliners, 5/1
- DC EDGE Blue, 4/2, TOM 6
- DC EDGE Red, 4/2, TOM 7
- Philadelphia, 5/4
- Sparklers, 7/6
- Precisely Right, 4/6
- Valley Forge Cad, 4/7
- Steel City Blades, 6/8
- Central Park Ice, 5/9
- Gardens Synchro, 7/10

Preliminary FINAL

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Skyliners, 6/2
- DC EDGE Blue, 4/2
- Team Excel, 5/3
- Shooting Stars, 5/4
- Synchroettes, 4/6
- Team Ashburn, 5/7
- The Colonials, 5/8
- DC EDGE Red PT, 6/9
- Skyliners Pre, 5/10, TOM 33
- Richmond Synchro, 5/10, TOM 42
- Chesapeake Synchro, 5/11
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 7/12

Preliminary Team A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Skyliners, 7/1
- Chesapeake Synchro, 4/3
- Team Ashburn, 5/4
- DC EDGE Red, 4/4, TO 29
- Carolina Ice Synchro, 4/4, TO 31
- Richmond Synchro, 6/6
- Team Image, 4/6
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/7
- Team Esprit, 7/9
- Raleigh Rockers, 7/10

Preliminary Teams B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- DC EDGE Blue, 6/1
- Synchroettes, 6/3
- Shooting Stars, 4/3
- The Colonials, 5/4
- Team Excel, 6/5
- Skyliners Pre, 4/5
- NJ Black Diamonds, 5/7
- Team Delaware, 5/8
- National Blades, 4/8
- Precisely Right, 7/10
- Hershey Kixx, 7/11

2017 Midwestern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Ralph Engelstad Arena

Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Jan.27-28

Competition Officials: Kristin Abbott, Rita Cerny, Charles Cope, Carolyn Drzewiecki, Suzanne Ford, Carla Golubski, Felicia Haining-Miller, Elizabeth Harty, Audrey Kamm, Caren Kirsch, Dann Krueger, Cheryl Litman, Susan McClines, Hannelore Murphy, Rachael Naphtal, Pamela Pangle, Daren Patterson, Richard Perez, Stephanie Pusch, Mary Lou Rothman, Tiffani Shipley, Dorothy Tank, Hazel Wecal, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Steve Wolkin

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

- Capital Ice Chips, 61.15
- Starlights, 58.07
- Saint Louis Synergy, 55.99
- Crystallettes, 52.04
- Allegro!, 50.67
- SwanSyncSation, 50.62
- Wisconsin Edge, 49.52
- Creative Edge, 49.37
- Starfire, 46.89
- Ice Diamonds, 46.72
- Dazzlers, 45.39
- Icestars, 45.33
- Northern Fusion, 45.08
- Kansas City Illusion Intermediate, 44.16
- Synchro St. Louis Diamond Edges, 43.32
- Fond du Lac Blades, 40.95
- Chicago Skates, 40.09
- Windjammers, 36.89
- Cleveland Edges, 34.82
- Team Diamond, 34.35

Juvenile

Pl. Name, TS

- Capital Ice Connection, 44.97
- Chicago Jazz, 43.53
- Teams Elite, 43.16
- Starlights, 42.94
- Hockettes, 42.05
- Saint Louis Synergy, 40.71
- Crystallettes, 39.32
- Fond du Lac Blades, 36.04
- Dazzlers, 34.91
- Cleveland Edges, 34.63
- Wisconsin Edge, 29.19
- Onyx, 25.49
- Evolution, 23.42

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Fond du Lac Blades, 115.80, 1, 1
- Shattuck-St. Mary's Team Sabres, 97.98, 2, 2

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Miami University Junior Varsity, 137.12, 1, 1

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

- Crystallettes, 70.00
- Teams Elite, 63.78
- Starlights, 63.02
- Hockettes, 59.48
- Dazzlers, 56.16
- Onyx, 51.92
- Chicago Jazz, 51.62
- Braemar Panache, 45.02
- Cleveland Edges, 43.54

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

- Crystallettes, 48.31
- Starlights, 44.90
- Chicago Radianc, 38.72

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

- Miami University, 74.00
- University of Michigan, 71.36
- Michigan State University, 66.90
- Western Michigan University, 65.42
- Adrian College Varsity, 62.70
- Team North Dakota, 54.36
- University of Illinois, 46.94

Masters Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Allegro!, 7/1
- Goldenettes SST, 7/2
- Braemar Panache, 6/4
- Wisconsin Edge, 5/4
- Ice Connect, 7/5

results

Open Collegiate Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Miami Univ. Club Team, 4/1
2. Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 4/2
3. Adrian College Varsity, 5/3
4. University of Missouri, 6/4
5. The Fighting Irish, 4/5
6. Lindenwood University, 5/6
7. Grand Valley State, 4/6

Open Adult Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Capital Ice Alumni, 6/1
2. Infinity Onyx, 5/2
3. Austintatious Stars, 6/3
4. Rhythm And Blades, 6/4
5. Kansas City Illusion, 5/5
6. Revolution, 4/6
7. Hockettes, 7/7

Open Juvenile Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Starlights, 5/2
2. Auroras, 5/3
3. Dazzlers - Blue, 4/3
4. Capital Ice Chill, 5/4
5. Dazzlers - Silver, 4/4
6. Metallites, 4/6, TOM 17
7. Allegro!, 4/6, TOM 21
8. Team Velocity, 4/7
9. Kicks, 5/9, TOM 39
10. Windjammers, 5/9, TOM 40
11. Crystallettes, 5/10
12. Madison Ice Diamonds, 7/12

Open Juvenile (QR) Group A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Starlights, 4/1
2. Dazzlers - Blue, 4/2
3. Kicks, 5/4
4. Madison Ice Diamonds, 5/5
5. Allegro!, 4/5
6. Metallites, 5/6
7. Emerald Blades, 5/7
8. Northern Fusion, 7/8
9. Chicago Skates, 6/9
10. Glistening Edge, 7/10

Open Juvenile (QR) Group B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Auroras, 4/1
2. Dazzlers - Silver, 4/2
3. Capital Ice Chill, 4/3, TOM 8
4. Windjammers, 4/3, TOM 11
5. Crystallettes, 4/4
6. Team Velocity, 6/6
7. Hockettes, 6/7
8. Miami Skating Academy, 5/8
9. Starfire, 5/9
10. Revolution, 4/9

Open Masters Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Evolution, 7/1
2. Revolution, 7/2

Pre-Juvenile Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 4/1
2. Capital Ice Crystals, 4/3, TO 27
3. Starlights, 4/3, TO 30
4. Starfire, 5/4
5. Allegro!, 4/4
6. Cleveland Edges, 5/6
7. Chicago Skates, 4/6
8. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/7
9. Braemar Panache, 4/7
10. Hockettes, 5/10
11. Madison Ice Diamonds, 5/11
12. Dazzlers, 4/11

Pre Juvenile (QR) Group A

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 6/1
2. Allegro!, 5/2
3. Starlights, 6/4
4. Madison Ice Diamonds, 5/4
5. Chicago Skates, 4/4
6. Dazzlers, 7/6
7. Sapphire Blades, 4/7
8. Stars, 4/8
9. Team Velocity, 5/9
10. Magic Picks, 4/9

Pre Juvenile (QR) Group B

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Hockettes, 7/1
2. Cleveland Edges, 4/3, TOM 9
3. Capital Ice Crystals, 4/3, TOM 10
4. Starfire, 4/3, TOM 11
5. Braemar Panache, 5/5
6. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/5
7. Evolution, 5/7
8. Precicettes Elite, 4/8
9. KC Illusion, 6/9
10. Windjammers, 4/10
11. Cutting Edge, 7/11

Preliminary Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Crystallettes, 4/1
2. Chicago Jazz, 4/2
3. Starlights, 4/3
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 5/5
5. Capital Ice Cadence, 4/6, TOM 17
6. Wisconsin Edge, 4/6, TOM 19
7. Starfire, 4/7
8. Fraser Eclipse, 5/8
9. Chicago Radiance, 4/9
10. SwanSyncSation, 6/10
11. Chicago Skates, 5/10
12. Northern Fusion, 6/11

2017 Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Ralph Engelstad Arena

Thief River Falls Minnesota, Jan.27-28

Competition Officials: Kristin Abbott, Rita Cerny, Charles Cope, Carolyn Drzewiecki, Suzanne Ford,

Carla Golubski, Felicia Haining-Miller, Elizabeth Harty, Audrey Kamm, Caren Kirsch, Dann Krueger, Cheryl Litman, Susan McInnes, Hannelore Murphy, Rachael Naphtal, Pamela Pangle, Daren Patterson, Richard Perez, Stephanie Pusch, Mary Lou Rothman, Tiffani Shipley, Dorothy Tank, Hazel Weal, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Steve Wolkin

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Del Sol, 56.72
2. California Gold, 54.26
3. Denver Synchronicity, 48.54
4. Fusion, 44.83
5. The Rockers, 43.14
6. California Edge, 38.09
7. Star Lit Blades, 36.36
8. Rose City Crystals, 34.07

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Silver Stars, 75.76, 1, 1

Senior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. California Gold, 121.64, 1, 1

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Tremors of San Francisco, 42.44

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 45.98
2. California Gold, 42.05
3. Tremors of San Francisco, 40.26
4. Washington Ice Emeralds, 31.17

Masters Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Denver Synchronicity, 6/1
2. IceSymmetrics, 7/2

Open Juvenile Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. San Diego Shining Blades, 4/1
2. ICE'Kateers, 5/3
3. Silver Stars, 4/3
4. Washington Ice Emeralds, 4/4, TOM 10
5. Rose City Crystals, 4/4, TOM 15
6. Tremors of San Francisco, 7/6
7. Flatirons Sparks, 6/7
8. Ice-Cadettes, 7/8

Open Masters Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Cold Fusion Synchro, 7/1

Pre-Juvenile Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. San Diego Shining Blades, 7/1
2. Denver Synchronicity, 4/2
3. Tremors of San Francisco, 5/3
4. The Rockers, 7/4
5. EPIC EDGE, 5/5
6. Washington Ice Emeralds, 7/6

Preliminary Championship

Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Tremors of San Francisco, 7/1

appointments

Bronze Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Sonia Avila, Irving, Texas; Karen Farinella, Wynnewood, Pa.

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Heather Correa, Riverside, Calif.; Kathleen Westmoreland, Irving, Texas

Gold Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Cherie Alexander, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Stephanie Baxley, London, Ontario, Canada

Gold Dance Test Judge

Cherie Alexander, Toronto, Ontario, Canada;

Stephanie Baxley, London, Ontario, Canada; JoAnn Delaney, Syracuse, N.Y.; Susan Scott, Belmont, Mass.

Regional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Cherie Alexander, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Katherine Werner, Madison, Wis.

Novice Sectional Dance Competition Judge

Cherie Alexander, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Senior Sectional Synchronized Competition Judge

Rachael Naphtal, Boston, Mass.

Nonqualifying Theatre On Ice Judge

Nicholas Bond, Burlington, Vt.

National Novice Theatre On Ice Judge

Suzanne Ferguson, Mount Juliet, Tenn.

Sectional Dance Referee

Kathaleen Cutone, Reading, Mass.

Regional Accountant

Laura Mitchell, Glenside, Pa.

Sectional Accountant

Joe Pope, Saint Paul, Minn.

Level 2 Technical Accountant

Bryan Keller, Solana Beach, Calif.

MARCH

12 | Reisterstown Sportsplex 9th Annual Basic Skills Competition held in Reisterstown, MD, sponsored by Reisterstown Learn To Skate. Contact kirsten@rtownsports.com for more information.

12 | 17th Annual Wagon Wheel Learn to Skate Competition held in Crystal Lake, IL, sponsored by Wagon Wheel FSC. Contact lannyww@sbcglobal.net for more information.

16-19 | 2017 Denver Invitational held in Centennial, CO, sponsored by Denver FSC. Contact lisacmay@gmail.com for more information.

17-18 | 14th Annual South Florida Challenge held in Coral Springs, FL, sponsored by Panthers FSC. Contact pinkymdr@aim.com for more information.

17-18 | Cody Skatestravaganza 2017 held in Cody, WY, sponsored by Absaroka FSC. Contact codyfigure-skating@gmail.com for more information.

17-19 | Howard E. VanCamp Invitational Competition held in East Lansing, MI, sponsored by Lansing SC. Contact Ramsby904@gmail.com for more information.

17-19 | 2017 Pacific Coast Adult Sectional Figure Skating NonQualifying Competition held in Burbank, CA, sponsored by Los Angeles FSC. Contact carlagolubski@hotmail.com for more information.

17-19 | Cleveland Invitational Championships held in Lakewood, OH, sponsored by Winterhurst FSC. Contact kristinebrickel@yahoo.com for more information.

18 | Challenge Cup 2017 held in Burlington, VT, sponsored by Champlain Valley SC. Contact SJennings@burlingtonvt.gov for more information.

18 | Battle of the Blades & Central MN Competition Series held in Alexandria, MN, sponsored by Alexandria FSC. Contact kjuettner02@gmail.com for more information.

18 | Southern CT/Terry Conner's Rink Learn to Skate Competition held in Stamford, CT, sponsored by Terry Conner's Skating School. Contact helaine.walker@skatescsc.com for more information.

18 | Wallace Spring Synchro Classic held in Fitchburg, MA, sponsored by Wallace FSC. Contact morgy1130@comcast.net for more information.

18-19 | Pennsylvania Figure Skating Championships held in York, PA, sponsored by White Rose FSC. Contact abugov@msn.com for more information.

18-19 | Chicagoland Skate USA Championship held in Naperville, IL, sponsored by Figure Skating School of Skokie. Contact kmmurphy@skokieparks.org for more information.

18-19 | 2017 University of Delaware Intercollegiate Figure Skating Competition held in Newark, DE, sponsored by University of Delaware FSC. Contact kgask8s@yahoo.com for more information.

18-19 | 2017 Skate Challenge held in Cicero, NY, sponsored by SC of Central New York. Contact nmartin48@me.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.

18-19 | Spring Fling held in El Segundo, CA, sponsored by Toyota Sports Center. Contact gabriellaweyssmann@gmail.com for more information.

18-19 | Massena Invitational Competition held in Massena, NY, sponsored by Massena FSC. Contact tsavage2@twcny.rr.com for more information.

19 | 8th Annual Skylands Ice World Learn to Skate Competition held in Stockholm, NJ, sponsored by

North Jersey FSC. Contact rfb skate@optonline.net for more information.

19 | South Shore Open — 10th Annual Katy Hayden held in Rockland, MA, sponsored by South Shore SC. Contact katecampbell164@gmail.com for more information.

19 | Long Island Basic Skills Championships held in Hauppauge, NY, sponsored by The Rinx. Contact cathryn@therinx.com for more information.

19 | Sunflower Classic held in Minnetonka, MN, sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC. Contact cummings55345@gmail.com for more information.

23-25 | Glacier Challenge 2017 held in Missoula, MT, sponsored by Missoula FSC. Contact pkhergett@gmail.com for more information.

23-26 | 2017 W.I.M. Competition held in Milwaukee, WI, sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC. Contact fourds282@aol.com for more information.

25 | Fiesta Skate 2017 held in Kirkland, WA, sponsored by Sno-King Ice Arena Kirkland. Contact lisa@snokingkirkland.com for more information.

25 | 34th Garren Invitational Figure Skating Competition held in Troy, NY, sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC. Contact jpalladino2@nycap.rr.com for more information.

25 | Rocket City Junior Classic held in Huntsville, AL, sponsored by The SC of Huntsville. Contact hssta@hs-viceplex.org for more information.

25-26 | Michigan High State Championship held in Rochester Hills, MI, sponsored by Detroit Metro Skating Council. Contact marjoriebanner@gmail.com for more information.

25-26 | Learn to Skate USA Team Competition held in Scottsdale, AZ, sponsored by Ice Den Scottsdale. Contact joonbug11@cox.net for more information.

26 | Shamrock Skate held in Pittsburgh, PA, sponsored by RMU Island Sports Center Skating Academy. Contact sutton@rmu.edu for more information.

31-2 | Morris Open 2017 held in Morristown, NJ, sponsored by SC of Morris NJ. Contact Kkd.davis@verizon.net for more information.

31-2 | 2017 Skate Kansas City held in Independence, MO, sponsored by Kansas City FSC. Contact kejluliana@outlook.com for more information.

31-2 | Fort Collins Classic held in Fort Collins, CO, sponsored by Fort Collins FSC. Contact sinjinaz@icloud.com for more information.

APRIL

1 | Ice World's Basic Skills & Beyond Competition 2017 held in Abingdon, MD, sponsored by Ice World Learn to Skate. Contact smckahan19@gmail.com for more information.

1 | The Winner's Circle Compete USA Competition held in Austin, TX, sponsored by Chaparral Ice Learn to Skate. Contact kathy@chaparralice.com for more information.

1 | Janice Smith Basic Skills Competition held in Hamburg, NY, sponsored by Skate Great Inc. Contact coachjess51@yahoo.com for more information.

1 | Compete USA Team Competition held in Chandler, AZ, sponsored by Ice Den Chandler. Contact coachdanette@gmail.com for more information.

1-2 | Sugar Skate 2017 held in Sugar Land, TX, sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC. Contact mler119@sbcglobal.net for more information.

1-2 | Glacier At Iceland held in Paramount, CA, sponsored by Glacier Falls FSC. Contact sparkysk8s@aol.

com for more information.

1-2 | Knoxville Invitational held in Knoxville, TN, sponsored by Knoxville FSC. Contact drdenise@comcast.net for more information.

1-2 | 2017 U.S. Intercollegiate Championships held in Oxford, OH, sponsored by Miami University. Contact ZAPSK8ER1996@AOL.COM for more information.

1-2 | Cardinal Classic 2017 held in Dale City, VA, sponsored by SC of Northern Virginia. Contact melissamahle@verizon.net for more information.

2 | Compete USA South Florida Basic Skills Series held in Lake Worth, FL, sponsored by Palm Beach Skate Zone. Contact audra@pbskatezone.com for more information.

2 | Solo Dance/Morris Open held in Morristown, NJ, sponsored by SC of Morris NJ. Contact Kkd.davis@verizon.net for more information.

2 | Spring Fever held in Indian Trail, NC, sponsored by Extreme Ice Center Skating School. Contact jenny@xicenter.com for more information.

6-9 | 32nd Annual Florida Open held in Orlando, FL, sponsored by Central Florida FSC. Contact cindyark1998@gmail.com for more information.

7-9 | 20th Biennial Genesee Invitational held in Rochester, NY, sponsored by Genesee FSC. Contact lghayes@rochester.rr.com for more information.

8 | Pond Basic Skills & Beyond Competition held in Newark, DE, sponsored by The Pond Ice Arena Basic Skills. Contact olympix88@gmail.com for more information.

8 | The Rinks at Shelton Spring Classic held in Shelton, CT, sponsored by Upper Fairfield Skating Academy. Contact jmelotto@snet.net for more information.

8 | 2017 Hodag Skate Classic held in Rhinelander, WI, sponsored by Rhinelander FSC. Contact joysk8mom@yahoo.com for more information.

8-9 | The Curtain Call held in Simi Valley, CA, sponsored by All Year FSC. Contact lisaedwards0707@gmail.com for more information.

8-9 | Powerade State Games of North Carolina 2017 Figure Skating Championship held in Greensboro, NC, sponsored by Summit FSC of NC. Contact niceskate18@gmail.com for more information.

8-9 | 2017 Eastern Iowa Invitational held in Cedar Rapids, IA, sponsored by Eastern Iowa FSC. Contact Jamie.achey@gmail.com for more information.

9 | Arctic Basic Skills Competition held in Canton, MI, sponsored by Skaters Edge. Contact mckendry316@gmail.com for more information.

9 | Dreams Begin Here held in Antioch, TN, sponsored by Scott Hamilton Skating Academy. Contact ptrujillo@nashvillepredators.com for more information.

9 | 17th Annual Ice House Basic Skills Competition held in Hackensack, NJ, sponsored by Ice House of New Jersey FSC. Contact icesk8boy@aol.com for more information.

9 | Skate in to Spring 2017 held in San Antonio, TX, sponsored by Northwoods Learn to Skate. Contact bstandifer@northwoodsice.net for more information.

9 | Spring Preview 2017 held in Vacaville, CA, sponsored by Vaca Valley FSC. Contact marcellshomes@aol.com for more information.

9 | 6th Annual Southport Spring Classic held in Gurnee, IL, sponsored by Southport SC. Contact elainejohnson67@sbcglobal.net for more information.

BUSHEY

Elaine G. Bushey, a national referee and judge for more than 50 years, passed away on Jan. 16, 2017. She was 79. Elaine resided in Greenville, South Carolina, and was a member of the Greenville Figure Skating Club.

She was devoted to her family and active in the churches and communities in which she lived. She graduated from the Honors College at Michigan State University.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Floyd and Inza Biederick Geyer.

Surviving are her husband, Richard Bushey; son, Ronald Bushey (wife, Marion) of Leslie, Michigan; daughter Janet Przystas (husband, Richard), of Dimondale, Michigan; six grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the PEO Foundation, 3700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312 or the Library Fund at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Road, Greenville, SC 29605.

DODSON

Dorothy [Glazier] Dodson, who enjoyed an outstanding amateur skating career and was a distinguished judge for more than seven decades, passed away on Dec. 27, 2016. She was 93.



She was born on Aug. 21, 1923, the daughter of Leslie Gordon Glazier and Gertrude Louise Kenney. She grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, later moving to Lincoln, Massachusetts.

In 1933, Dorothy started what would eventually become an 83-year figure skating career. As an amateur competitor, Dorothy [Glazier] competed in eight U.S. Championships and won two titles: the 1940 U.S. junior pairs title with Stephen Tanner and the 1943 junior ice dance title with Lyman Wakefield. At the conclusion of her amateur career in 1944, Dorothy received an appointment as a judge. She became a national judge in 1971 and a national referee in 1979. At the conclusion of her judging career in 2016, she had judged 2,430 figure skating tests and judged or refereed hundreds of competitions.

Dorothy entered Radcliffe College in pursuit of a major in chemistry. At the beginning of World War

II, she left Radcliffe and enrolled in the Boston Children's Hospital Nursing School. She told her family that she wanted to help the war effort and that there was a shortage of nurses. She became a surgical nurse and worked for the famous cardiac pioneer Dr. Michael Gross until she moved from the Boston area in 1950.

In 1948, while working at Boston Children's Hospital, she met Dr. William Percy Gillette Dodson, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, who was completing his dental internship. They married on Dec. 17, 1949 in Boston. Throughout their marriage, Dorothy supported Bill's 50-year successful orthodontic practice as the bookkeeper and assistant with patients. She was also involved with the Northern Virginia Dental Society's Woman's Auxiliary, serving several positions, including president.

Dorothy supported WETA, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and delivered meals for Meals on Wheels. She was a greeter at Christ Church Episcopal in Alexandria, Virginia, and is remembered for her homemade bread for the early service-goers. Having grown up with Newfoundland dogs and Maine coon cats, she took care of a variety of barnyard and four-legged animals that found their way to her home. She was also a supporter of the National Zoo. Dorothy

enjoyed traveling; she visited countries all over the world. She regularly attended the opera, symphonies and theatre. Lastly, she enjoyed tailgating and attending many Redskins football games.

Dorothy lived a long and fulfilling life. She remained in excellent health until April 2016, when she was diagnosed with myelodysplastic leukemia.

She is survived by her three children, Richard Glazier Dodson of Fredericksburg, Virginia (wife Virginia Thames Dodson); John Arthur Dodson of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (wife Donna Fogle Dodson); and Ann Louise Lindsay of Benicia, California (husband David Lawrence Lindsay); her sister, Leslie Glazier Holmes of Mount Airy, Maryland; four grandchildren, Michael Dodson, William Dodson, Alexander Dodson and Sarah Lindsay Gray; and her great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann Gray. Her husband of 55 years, William Dodson, died in September 2004.

Rather than flowers, donations are suggested to the Lazarus Ministry outreach program of Christ Church Episcopal, Attn: Lazarus Ministry, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or The Capital Caring Resource Development (Hospice) 2900 Telestar CT, Falls Church, VA 22042.

tests passed

Senior moves in the field

Chloe Amoroso — Strongsville SC
 Kendall Angstadt — U. of Delaware FSC
 Amanda Bernard — Martha's Vineyard FSC
 Myra Bhatena — Wilmington FSC
 Hannah Bieber — U. of Delaware FSC
 Vanessa Bird — Roseville FSC
 Liza Birnbaum — Skokie Valley SC
 Katherine Boyce — Strongsville SC
 Emma Buckley — Duluth FSC
 Madelyn Buderger — N. Kentucky SC
 Hailey Burn — Salt Lake Figure Skating
 Allison Butler — SC of Wilmington
 Leanne Byer — Jersey Coast FSC
 Grace Caicco — Arctic FSC
 Camryn Canada — Westland FSC
 Nadia Castillo — DuPage FSC
 Mandy Chiang — All Year FSC
 Olivia Clarke — Salt Lake Figure Skating
 Emma Coppess — All Year FSC
 Maddie Deets — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
 Elise Descheneaux — North Star FSC
 Abby Donahue — Onyx-Suburban SA
 Hunter Evans — Nittany Valley FSC
 Molly Evans — Onyx-Suburban SA
 Christine Farnberg — Rochester FSC
 Devon Feicht — Glacier Falls FSC
 Helen Feng — Washington FSC
 Francesca Gerard — North Jersey FSC
 Sarah Germer — Rochester FSC
 Sara-Kate Giles — SC of Huntsville
 Shari Goldberg — SC of Southern NJ
 Jasmine Gudin — Cleveland Edges SC
 Ashley Harkins — Skating Club of Boston

Hannah Herrera — Cottonwood Heights FSC
 Sydney Horenstein — Philadelphia SC & HS
 Elizabeth Johnson — Orange County FSC
 Holly Jones — University of Delaware FSC
 Jocelyn Jones — Individual member
 Eleanor Kagel — SC of New York
 Edith Kamme — San Diego FSC
 Samantha Katz — Colonial FSC
 Meghan Lapointe — Gate City FSC
 Nicole Lattimore — SC of Cent. New York
 Olivia Laskoe — Skokie Valley SC
 Celeste Lee — Peaks FSC
 Chloe Li — Glacier Falls FSC
 Kathy Lin — Peninsula SC
 Tiffany Lu — Colonial FSC
 Samir Mallya — Los Angeles FSC
 Milena Markin — Los Angeles FSC
 Megan McEvoy — Jersey Coast FSC
 Kaylah Melo — Los Angeles FSC
 Charlene Mills — Salt Lake Figure Skating
 Anesley Middlekauff — Arctic FSC
 Khushi Morparia — Hayden Rec. Centre FSC
 Emma Nigrelli — DuPage FSC
 Chloe Oman — Chisholm SC
 Monica Onishi — SC of Wilmington
 Esmie Otter — Dallas FSC
 MiaBella Polistina — Springfield FSC
 Emma Potts — Carolinas FSC
 Emily Pyagay — All Year FSC
 Anna Ramsby — Lansing SC
 Maddie Ratkowski — Northern Ice SC
 Lillian Reddmann — Fraser FSC

Dani Reiser — Northern Blades NSC FSC
 Lucie Reizian — Alpine SC
 Brynn Roberts — FSC of Park City
 Peyton Ross — Texas Gulf Coast FSC
 Jacqueline Ruan — SC of San Francisco
 Lianne Short — Individual member
 Isabella Skoblik — Red River Valley FSC
 Rachel Skof — Memorial SC of Houston
 Kenan Slevira — All Year FSC
 Aleah Spivey — Colonial FSC
 Lindsey Steffens — Onyx-Suburban SA
 Emma Tang — FSC of Park City
 Alexandra Tien-Smith — SC of San Francisco
 Lillian Valiquette — SC of New York
 Grace Walton — Philadelphia SC & HS
 Sarena Yeung — St. Peters FSA
 Madelyne Yu — All Year FSC
 Ava Zarewych — Detroit SC
Adult gold moves in the field
 Ruben Aguilar — Pines FSC
 Jennifer Ballinger — Fort Wayne ISC
 Cheri Boer — SC of Phoenix
 Jacqueline Waugh — Champlain Valley SC
Senior free skate
 Gwyneth Collins — Washington FSC
 Lucy Gund — Colonial FSC
 Afton Gustafson — Ice in Paradise FSC
 Christina Hall — SC of Northern Virginia
 Makayla Krajewski — Rochester FSC
 Madeleine Li — SC of San Francisco
 Emily Nguyen — North County FSC
 Madeline Plank — Central Pennsylvania FSC
 Alexandria Schmainda — South Bay FSC

Eliana Secunda — Rocky Mountain FSC
 Soucci Taylor — Atlanta FSC
 Sydney Ullman — Northern Blades NSC FSC
 Georgia Van Offeren — St. Paul FSC
 Alisha Wang — ISC of Indianapolis
 Elise Wellman — Fort Wayne ISC
 Bria Yanez — Los Angeles FSC
Adult gold free skate
 Julie Moore — SC of Northern Virginia
 Serafin Ong — All Year FSC
Gold dance
 Helena Bonavita — SC of Central New York
 Bailey Boyce — Cottonwood Heights FSC
 Johanna Jan — Rye FSC
 Stefanie Page — Washington FSC
 Amanda McClure — Central Carolina SC
 Jana Raisner — Philadelphia SC & HS
 Rachael Roth — Shaker FSC
 Haley Smith — FSC of Park City
 Rebecca Stout — Peninsula SC
Solo gold dance
 Jessica Cai — Pasadena FSC
 Julie Gidlow — Los Angeles FSC
 Eva Pate — Strongsville SC
 Yasemin Taban — Glacier Falls FSC
Senior solo free dance
 Kaela Helland — Northern Lights FSC
 Elizabeth Herman — U. of Delaware FSC
 Allison Murphy — IceWorks SC
 Kate Nuzzolo — Skating Club of Boston

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¹ To earn first use bonus, purchase must be made within 90 days of account opening. Accounts must be open and in good standing to earn and redeem rewards and benefits. Upon approval, please refer to your Cardmember Agreement for additional information. Bonus will be credited to your account 6-8 weeks after the end of the promotion period. This offer may not apply if your credit card has changed to a different type of card within the last 12 weeks or changes before bonus is applied.

² Net purchases are purchases minus credits and returns.

³ Cash back is redeemed in the form of a statement credit. Important Note: Points redeemed for a statement credit will reduce the account balance, but will not count toward your minimum payment due.

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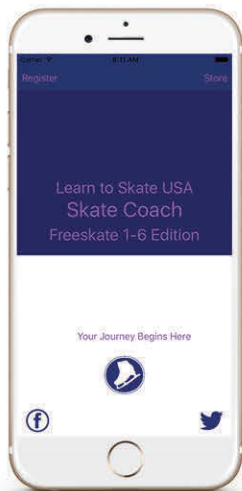
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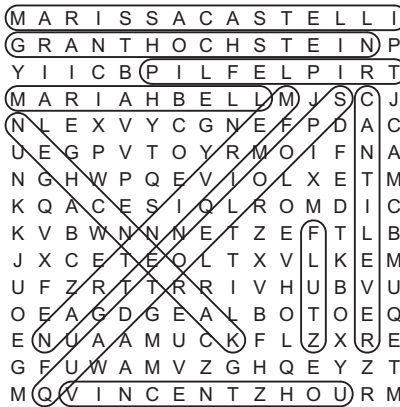
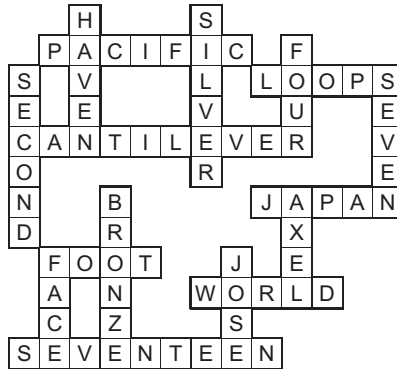


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FROM PAGE 70**



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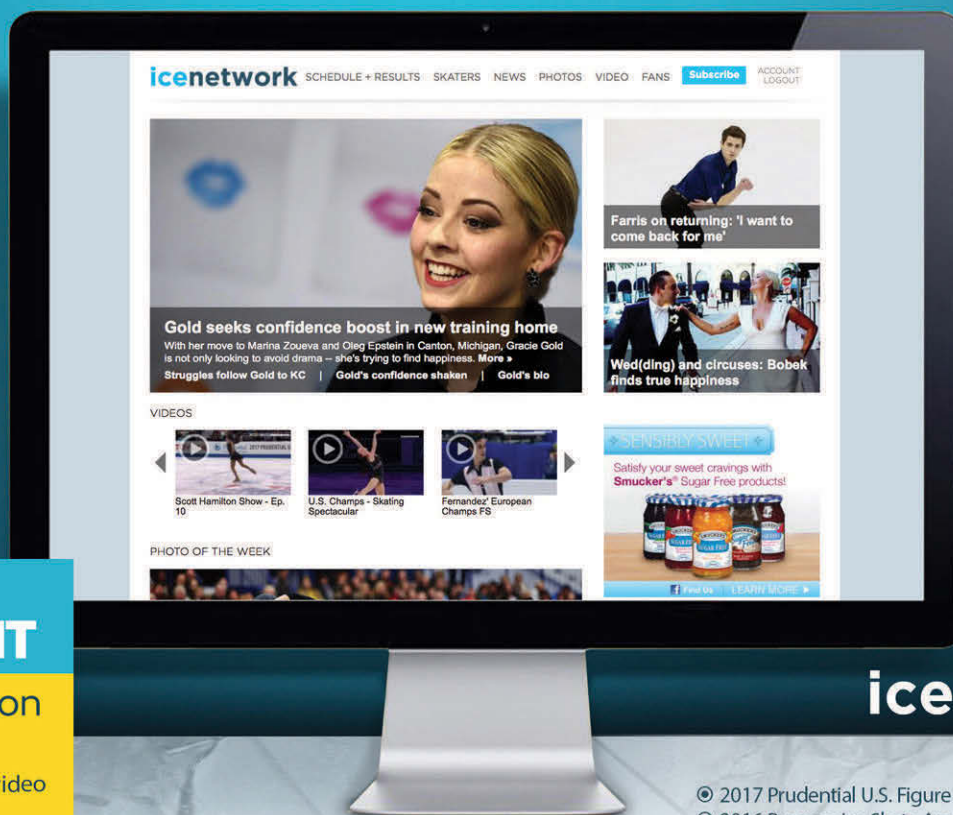
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