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ON THE COVER:

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING
 The 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California, provided all the drama and excitement one would expect in a pressure-packed Olympic season, in a city rich in figure skating history. Emerging with gold medals and invitations to the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, are Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Chris Knierim, Bradie Tennell, Zachary Donohue and Madison Hubbell, and Nathan Chen. Coverage of the U.S. Championships begins on page 10.

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



National Get Up Day

FEBRUARY 1

#WeGetUp

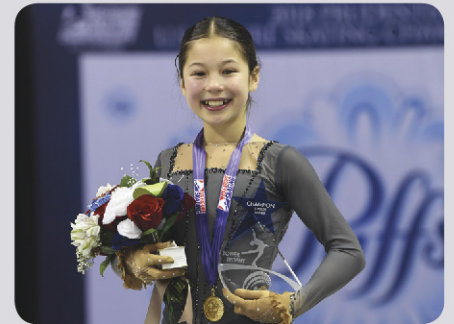
6 Second National Get Up Day celebrated.



33 Triangle Formation in North Carolina making some noise.



8 U.S. pairs, ice dance dominate Four Continents Championships.



50 STARS combine schedule announced.



San Jose hosted a magical competition

Longtime coach Tom Zakrajsek could hear the crowd at SAP Center cheering louder and louder as fan favorite Mirai Nagasu landed a triple loop near the end of her electric free skate at the 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California.

Many of the 10,321 spectators, now standing, gave the 24-year-old from Arcadia, California, an ovation that seemed to overwhelm her as she glided to the kiss and cry with tears in her eyes.

"That's one of my all-time favorite coaching moments," Zakrajsek said. "I started jumping up and down, because I witnessed how hard she had trained over the last four seasons for that moment of redemption. (In 2014, Nagasu finished third at the U.S. Championships in Boston but was not selected to the Olympic Team.) To share that experience so closely with her is truly an honor and something I'll never forget."

Her disappointment from four years ago fueled her commitment to making the 2018 Olympic Team, which she did.

"I think anyone watching skating and witnessing her story is affected, because we all can relate to moments in our life when we think we deserved something that we didn't get," Zakrajsek said. "Mirai has become a role model for perseverance."

Nagasu's climactic finish was just one example of the sheer excitement and drama that played out at these pivotal U.S. Championships, with the Olympics at stake.

Making the event extra special was the attendance of nearly all the past U.S. Olympic champions, as well as many of the Bay Area skating greats. Having them in the building created an almost magical, nostalgic feeling for the fans, former skaters and the current crop of athletes.

The event's chief referee, Anne Cammett, had a front-row seat for all the excitement, which started at Solar4America Ice at San Jose with the juvenile and intermediate competition.

"It was invigorating to see the ability and talent in our up-and-coming athletes," Cammett said. "I enjoyed seeing the delight and eagerness in our young athletes as they achieved personal bests or simply achieved goals they had set for themselves this season."

The buzz grew louder as the competition moved to SAP Center, with the junior free skates and championship-level events.

"There is something special about our nationals in an Olympic season," Cammett said. "There's so much excitement in the air and anticipation leading up to each championship event."

Some of her favorite takeaways were U.S. ladies champion Bradie Tennell's free skate to music from *Cinderella*. "It was magical and the music could not have been better matched," Cammett said. "As she successfully executed one element after another, you realized dreams really do come true."

U.S. silver medalist Ross Miner's momentum-building free skate reminded Cammett "of one's pure joy of skating." Watching U.S. men's champion Nathan Chen's "incredible jumps" and his connection with the music and audience was also a thrill, she said.

The intense battle of the top three ice dance teams was riveting, she said. "Just when it seemed like it couldn't get better, another team would perform and catapult the audience to their feet," Cammett said.

Cammett praised the crowds in San Jose for the energy they supplied throughout the competition, as well as the efforts of the city of San Jose, the San Jose Sports Authority, the SAP Center and all of the volunteers in making the competition one of the best ever.

"One of the wonderful benefits of being the chief referee is getting to know the groups and individuals involved in bringing an event like nationals to life, and San Jose was a fabulous partner in this endeavor," Cammett said.

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Editor
Troy Schwandt

Assistant Editor
Mimi McKinnis

Advertising
Brian Burns

Art Director
Andrea Morrison

Graphic Designer
Concetta Brooks

Printing
Quad/Graphics, West Allis, Wis.

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Miner entertains SC of Jackson Hole audience

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM HESSER

U.S. silver medalist Ross Miner took time from his busy training schedule leading up to the 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships to perform in the Holiday Spectacular on Ice "Swingin' in the Season!" hosted by Skating Club of Jackson Hole.

This annual holiday event celebrates the spirit of the season in the community of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, by highlighting local talent as well as the top skaters in the country. Past athlete-performers in the holiday show have included Mirai Nagasu, Angela Wang and Nathan Chen.

Miner performed his short program and a piece to "My Favorite Things" by Tony Bennett.

"SC of Jackson Hole skaters enjoyed the opportunity to watch Ross perform in San Jose weeks after performing on their home ice," said Faith Neenan, program director of SC of Jackson Hole. "What an inspiration and example of perseverance Ross is for our young skaters. Way to go!, Ross Miner!"



Learn to Skate USA powered by Toyota conducted two free learn-to-skate classes on Jan. 27 at Bryant Park in New York. More than 150 skaters, ranging in ages from 2 to 69, took part in the Saturday afternoon festivities. The event opened with an exhibition performed by the Sky Rink All Star Elves, which is a Skating Club of New York artistic ensemble team from Chelsea Piers Sky Rink in New York City.





PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY MASTI

"It's an honor to serve as captain for this talented and ambitious group of athletes," Bates said at the Jan. 25 announcement. "Together as Team USA we will represent our country with pride and bring home as many medals as we possibly can."

This Olympic Winter Games marked Bates' third, and his second with partner Madison Chock.

Bates serves at Olympic Team captain

Ice dancer Evan Bates served as team captain of the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Bates was elected by vote of his teammates.

U.S. Figure Skating celebrates second National Get Up Day

On Feb. 1, U.S. Figure Skating invited people around the United States to participate in the second annual National Get Up Day — a celebration of those who embody the Get Up spirit. People were encouraged to share their stories at WeGetUp.com, by using #WeGetUp or by contacting their local media outlets with their story, the story of a friend or loved one, or an organization that is doing inspiring Get Up work in their community.

U.S. Figure Skating encouraged media outlets around the country to share Get Up moments throughout the day, whether connected to the sport of figure skating or not, through feature stories, pictures, videos, social



media, etc. U.S. Figure Skating also invited the U.S. Olympic Committee and other national governing bodies of sport and their members and fans to participate.

Nearly 530 people and organizations supported the event through Thunderclap.it, with a total reach of nearly 4 million people simultaneously at noon ET on Feb. 1. On Twitter, the hashtag #WeGetUp was used 2,000 times and was delivered to more than 11 million timelines. The total reach was nearly 7 million people. Instagram had approximately 3,200 #WeGetUp posts.

U.S. Figure Skating celebrated National Get Up Day just one week prior to the start of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeong-Chang, South Korea, as a celebration of U.S. Figure Skating's Get Up campaign that will run through May of 2018.

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Left, Olympic champions Hayes Jenkins, Carol Heiss Jenkins, Peggy Fleming and David Jenkins share a special evening during 'Legacy of Ice,' part of the centennial anniversary of The Broadmoor Hotel. Right, 2010 and 2018 Olympian Mirai Nagasu models an Olympic podium jacket at the festivities.

Olympic champions honored during 'Legacy of Ice' at Broadmoor

Four U.S. Figure Skating Olympic champions traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Jan. 20 to honor their skating roots during The Broadmoor's "Legacy of Ice," the first of three events to celebrate the hotel's centennial.

Olympic gold medalists Hayes Jenkins (1956), David Jenkins (1960) and Peggy Fleming (1968) shared stories of training at the original Broadmoor World Arena under esteemed coaches Edi Scholdan (Jenkinses) and Carlo Fassi (Fleming). Olympic champion Carol Heiss Jenkins (1960), Hayes' wife and David's

sister-in-law, helped make it a star-studded family affair.

While "Legacy of Ice" celebrated the four sports — figure skating, hockey, speedskating and curling — competed on The Broadmoor grounds, the highlight of the evening's program was a "fireside chat" with Fleming, conducted by former U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Mike Moran. Noting there was no fireplace onstage, Fleming painted a fireplace on canvas, which was later auctioned off with her signature.

Allison Scott, The Broadmoor's communications director, was among those who envisioned and executed the lavish event.

"So much of our history — all things ice — started with that building," Scott said of the original Ice Palace, later named the World Arena. "It was an honor to be able to recognize

not only what became the Broadmoor Skating Club, but also the homes of Colorado College hockey, speedskating and curling. Having members of each sport all in attendance was truly an honor."

A longtime Friend of Figure Skating member, Scott also organized a unique auction to benefit the U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund and USA Hockey Foundation.

"To raise money for the Memorial Fund, particularly a few weeks before the Olympics, was key," said Scott, the mother of two-time Olympian Jeremy Abbott.

Four Olympians who train in Colorado Springs lent their support as well. Mirai Nagasu and Vincent Zhou helped display auction items, with Nagasu modeling a 2018 U.S. Olympic podium jacket, and Zhou hoisting a 1996 Olympic torch. Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Chris Knierim spoke to the crowd of more than 300 people about the importance and history of the Memorial Fund.

While the final amount was not yet calculated, a dinner for six with Fleming and husband Greg Jenkins earned the top bid of \$3,000.

The original Broadmoor World Arena was razed in 1994. The current Broadmoor World Arena, built four miles east of the hotel, hosts U.S. Figure Skating's annual Champs Camp.

— Barb Reichert



COURTESY OF LOGAN RIEV/BEAM IMAGINATION/ATLANTA BRAVES/GETTY IMAGES



COURTESY OF SUSI WEHRU MCLAUGHLIN

Learn to Skate USA, powered by Toyota, is on a mission to instill a lifelong love of skating in each of its participants. In an effort to bring skating to as many communities as possible, Learn to Skate USA hosted free SkateFest events across the country throughout the winter, bringing the ice to some unexpected places — like SunTrust Park, home of the Atlanta Braves; and Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs. Between the two events, nearly 200 skaters took to the ice and experienced all skating has to offer.

1



2



3



4



'ICING ON TOP OF THE CAKE'

Hawayek and Baker, Kayne and O'Shea highlight Team USA's medal haul

"We set out to give solid performances this week, and to come and show the consistency that we've been training for," Kaitlin Hawayek said. "Being on top of the podium is just the icing on top of the cake. It's a great honor."

Topping the field in ice dance, Hawayek and partner Jean-Luc Baker set the pace for Team USA, winning the first of four medals, including two golds, at the 2018 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, held Jan. 22–27 in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei.

Skating their final segment to "Liebestraum," composed by Franz Liszt and arranged by Maxime Rodriguez, the newly minted U.S. pewter medalists finished with a strong performance worth 105.21 points, earning all positive GOEs. They earned 174.29 points and their first ISU championships title.

Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter finished their Four Continents debut in fourth place with 160.12 points, ahead of training mates Rachel and Michael Parsons, who placed sixth with a score of 155.30.

Pairs skaters Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea earned Team USA's second title, leading silver medalists and teammates Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc. It has been 12 years since an American team won the event. Rena Inoue and John Baldwin captured the title in 2006.

Kayne and O'Shea, in third place after the short program, turned in a career-best performance of their free skate to *Swan Lake* (which included side-by-side triple Salchows and a throw triple Lutz) to earn their first ISU championships title — a victory sweetened by its punctuation to the duo's comeback story.

"Winning this event means so much to us — more than winning in any other year because of what we had to go through, coming back from injury," Kayne, who underwent knee surgery in February 2017, said. "This year was very tough. I spent many months off the ice while Danny was training by himself. Not only to be here as a competitor, but to have won the event is huge for us."

The duo bested their overall scoring record by 12.97 points, earning 194.42 points. Cain and LeDuc won the short program and finished second with a person-

al-best score of 190.61.

"We're extremely proud of ourselves," Cain said. "Being in first place after the short program was a really big thing for us, but we kept our goals the same and we just stayed connected."

Performing to music from *The Great Gatsby*, Cain and LeDuc also executed a throw triple Lutz, and a side-by-side triple Salchow-double toe-double loop series. They earned 123.85 points in the final segment.

Deanna Stellato and Nathan Bartholomay finished fifth with 178.38 points, rounding out an impressive week for American pairs. All three teams set personal-best scores across the board.

Fourth after the short program, Jason Brown moved up in the free skate to collect Team USA's fourth medal, a bronze, with 269.22 points. After finishing a disappointing sixth at the U.S. Championships in January, the podium finish marks Brown's first senior-level ISU championship medal.

"Nothing was easy about this year," Brown said. "I felt that I was chasing something — in this case it was kind of chasing the quad. That wasn't who I am. I think by the end of the season, I was done running. I was done chasing after that and I wanted to come to this event and strip out of that shell and be me, and be proud of what I am. This is what I did at this event. I was owning who I was and performing my heart out and trying to be the best version of myself that I possibly could be."

Brown's "Scent of Love" free skate opened with a triple Axel-triple toe combination, followed by seven additional jumping passes, including a triple Lutz-half loop-triple Salchow at the end of the performance. Each of his spins and step sequences earned Level 4, en route to a segment score of 179.44 — just ahead of compatriot Max Aaron, who finished fourth in the free skate with a score of 171.30. Aaron pulled up from a sixth-best short program to finish fifth with 255.45 points. Grant Hochstein placed 11th with 226.39 points.

Mariah Bell led the charge for Team USA's ladies, generating 185.84 points and a fifth-place finish. Competing in her second senior international event, Starr Andrews placed seventh with 172.65 points, while Angela Wang finished ninth with a score of 161.04.

1) Pairs champions Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea present their short program to *The Phantom of the Opera*.

2) Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc perform a lift in their free skate.

3) Ice dance champions Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker glide across the ice in their event-best free dance.

4) The United States finished 1-2 in pairs. (l-r) Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc, silver; Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, gold; Tae Ok Ryom/Ju Sik Kim, bronze

5) Bronze medalist Jason Brown gets the crowd going with his short program to music from Hamilton.



ONE FOR THE AGES

Dreams play out on biggest of stages in San Jose

BY BARB REICHERT

The Olympic year never seems to disappoint. The pressure, drama, hopes and dreams — some realized and some crushed — are why this unpredictable sport keeps fans on edge.

And so it was at the 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California, Dec. 29-Jan. 7.

These championships had it all:

- A real-life Cinderella: The little-known Bradie Tennell, skating to a *Cinderella* medley, earned her first U.S. title after being a late addition to Champs Camp and the Grand Prix Series in August.
- Controversy and redemption: Veteran Ross Miner put together the skate of his life to earn the silver medal, only to see his hopes of making the Olympic Team fade away in favor of Adam Rippon, who finished fourth. The tables were turned in the ladies event, as Mirai Nagasu — left off the 2014 Olympic Team after earning bronze in favor of fourth-place finisher Ashley Wagner — became a two-time Olympian with a silver-medal finish. Wagner, 26, again finished fourth, but this time was not selected to the Olympic Team.
- A feel-good story: The uplifting comeback of Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Chris Knierim, who missed last year's U.S. Championships due to Alexa's life-threatening illness and three abdominal surgeries. The wife-husband pairs team were in tears after winning their second U.S. title, thankful to be healthy again and named first-time Olympians.
- An ice dance upset: After earning four bronze medals at this event, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue nipped defending champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani, who led after the short dance, by just 0.19 point.

If you were among the lucky 107,318 fans inside the SAP Center Jan. 3-7, you can now brag to friends that "I was there" for Nathan Chen's final quad-filled competition before the Olympics, where he was considered a

gold-medal favorite.

And let's not forget the "Jimmy Ma moment," when the Queens, New York, athlete introduced the U.S. Championships to hip hop-electronica with his "Turn Down for What" short program by DJ Snake and Lil Jon's/DJ Snake's "Propaganda." While Ma finished a distant 11th, his head-bobbing, mean-mugging routine won't soon be forgotten.

This event was every fan's dream.

If you tuned in on NBC, you were among those who helped set an eight-year high for TV viewership, 5.4 million, which is the largest audience in the last two Olympic years.

Just as in 2012, the city of San Jose and the San Jose Sports Authority were exceptional hosts. With fans filling downtown hotels,



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

PAIRS CHAMPIONS ALEXA SCIMECA-KNIERIM AND CHRIS KNIERIM SHARE A SPECIAL MOMENT.

local families relishing the extended Christmas in the Park event (courtesy of the Sports Authority) and young and old alike enjoying Kristi Yamaguchi's palm tree-studded Downtown Ice, fans couldn't have asked for more.

"The U.S. Figure Skating Championships are the ultimate event any city can wish to host," John Poch, executive director of the San Jose Sports Authority, said. "Imagine asking an athlete to showcase their skill, dance ability and flexibility while at full-speed while on ice skates. It's absolutely amazing to see in person at the highest level in the most competitive of environments."

Plus, having Bay Area skating royalty Brian Boitano, Peggy Fleming, Rudy Galindo, Charlie

2018 U.S. OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATING TEAM

LADIES

Karen Chen, 18, Fremont, California
 Mirai Nagasu, 24, Arcadia, California
 Bradie Tennell, 20, Carpentersville, Illinois

MEN

Nathan Chen, 18, Salt Lake City
 Adam Rippon, 28, Los Angeles
 Vincent Zhou, 17, Palo Alto, California

PAIRS

Alexa Scimeca-Knierim, 26, Addison, Illinois
 Chris Knierim, 30, San Diego

ICE DANCE

Madison Chock, 25, Novi, Michigan
 Evan Bates, 28, Northville, Michigan
 Madison Hubbell, 26, Okemos, Michigan
 Zachary Donohue, 27, Madison, Connecticut
 Maia Shibutani, 23, Ann Arbor, Michigan
 Alex Shibutani, 25, Ann Arbor, Michigan





MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



TOP LEFT, BRADIE TENNELL, WITH COACHES JEREMY ALLEN AND DENISE MYERS, EXHIBITS SHEER JOY FOLLOWING HER FREE SKATE TO MUSIC FROM CINDERELLA. BOTTOM, LEFT, MADISON HUBBELL AND ZACHARY DONOHUE CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST U.S. ICE DANCE TITLE WITH COACH PATRICE LAUZON. RIGHT, COACH RAFAEL ARUTUNIAN LIFTS THE HAND OF HIS TWO-TIME U.S. CHAMPION NATHAN CHEN.

Tickner and Kristi Yamaguchi as ambassadors gave the event a star-studded quality. Along with Debi Thomas, this esteemed group won a combined five Olympic medals (three gold), 16 World medals (eight gold) and 19 U.S. titles.

Fans and competitors alike were treated to the quadrennial assemblage of U.S. Figure Skating's Olympic champions Dick Button, Tenley Albright, Hayes Jenkins, Carol Heiss Jenkins,

Peggy Fleming, Scott Hamilton, Brian Boitano, Kristi Yamaguchi, Tara Lipinski, Sarah Hughes, Evan Lysacek, Meryl Davis and Charlie White. (Dorothy Hamill and David Jenkins were unable to attend.)

"It wouldn't be the same without Dick's attendance," Boitano said of America's first and only two-time Olympic champion. "He was the impetus of inspiration needed for future

skating generations."

With that much inspiration under one roof, the newly named Olympians showed on the ice that they were ready for PyeongChang.

"I think our athletes really made a statement that Team USA will be a force to be reckoned with in Korea," U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier said. "This was certainly one of our best U.S. Championships ever."

MANY OF THE SPORT'S BIGGEST SUPPORTERS HELPED SEND OFF THE 2018 U.S. OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATING TEAM TO PYEONGCHANG, SOUTH KOREA, DURING A RECEPTION ON THE FINAL NIGHT OF THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS.



JAY ADEFI/US FIGURE SKATING

'PERSEVERANCE AND GRIT'

Tennell wears glass slipper in San Jose; Nagasu, Chen claim silver and bronze

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Denise Myers has spent the last 10 years coaching Bradie Tennell.

"I always knew there was something special about her," Myers said on the final night of the 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. "I think she has the perseverance and grit."

Myers then shared a story of when she and Tennell were at their first regional championships together and found themselves walking behind a mother and her skating daughter. The mother — knowing that Tennell and Myers were within

earshot — turned to her daughter and said, "You never have to worry about that Bradie Tennell."

"Bradie heard it," Myers said. "I told her, 'You don't have to worry about that, just be the best you can be. It's not about anybody else, it's really about you.'"

Well, the best she can be is the 2018 U.S. champion and a 2018 Olympian.

Tennell rode a wave of momentum that started just last summer into San Jose, and delivered two sparkling and technically clean programs en route to the coveted title and an Olympic berth.

"She set lofty goals and she met them here, that's for sure," said Myers, who coaches Tennell with Jeremy Allen at the Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion in Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

Tennell (Skokie Valley SC), who turned 20 on



BRADIE TENNELL

SENIOR LADIES



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

(L-R) MIRAI NAGASU, SILVER; BRADIE TENNELL, GOLD; KAREN CHEN, BRONZE; ASHLEY WAGNER, PEWTER

Jan. 31, won both segments of the event and finished with a total score of 219.51.

Mirai Nagasu (Pasadena FSC), the 2008 U.S. champion and 2010 Olympian, ignited the crowd with a triple Axel in her arsenal to secure the silver medal with 213.84 points. The 24-year-old earned a return trip to the Olympics after a disappointing ending to the previous Olympic cycle. Karen Chen (Peninsula SC), the 2017 U.S. champion, locked up the bronze medal and an Olympic berth despite being sick in bed before the free skate. The 18-year-old generated 198.59 points after settling on using last season's programs. She edged three-time U.S. champion and 2016 World silver medalist Ashley Wagner (SC of Wilmington) by 2.40 points.

"It's been kind of a long journey over the past two years," Tennell told reporters. "I've been injured (stress fracture in her back). I was out for a total of six months between the past two years. Going into this year, my main goal was to stay healthy. I knew it was an Olympic year, and I knew that somebody had to go so

I just kind of kept it in the back of my mind all season. I just tried to put out clean programs and rely on my training."

Tennell, ninth at the 2017 U.S. Championships, led Nagasu by .70 point after her short program to music from the *Taegukgi* movie soundtrack composed by Lee Dong-Jun. She followed that performance by skating to music from a childhood favorite fairy tale: the *Cinderella* soundtrack by Patrick Doyle.

The poised and elegant Tennell, on the biggest stage of her career, delivered a nearly perfect program that combined exquisite footwork and spins with seven triple jumps, including an opening triple Lutz-triple toe loop combination. Her segment score of 145.72 was nearly five points better than the next-best effort.

"Going into it I could really feel the intensity of the arena and all the energy," said Tennell, who skated last in the field of 20 ladies. "I knew I had to rely on my training, and I did."

Tennell's *Cinderella* moment was a crowning achievement for a season that caught the majority of the skating world by surprise. Tennell flew under the radar entering the 2017-18 campaign, and was a late addition to U.S. Figure Skating's Champs Camp in August after being named to Skate America, in which only the championship-level skaters with international assignments got invited to audition their new programs.

But Tennell, the 2015 U.S. junior champi-

on, quietly started building a case for inclusion at Champs Camp by winning the Broadmoor Open in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Skate Milwaukee and the Philadelphia Summer International. Then came a breakout finish internationally, where Tennell placed fourth in a tough Lombardia Trophy field in Italy.

"I could see the confidence building," Myers said. "I could see the scores getting better, and then when she went to Lombardia, that was an amazing skate in itself."

The take-notice moment, though, for many, came over Thanksgiving weekend in historic Lake Placid, New York, when Tennell won the bronze medal at Skate America, out-dueling Chen, an injured Wagner and a strong international field with personal best scores across the board.

"I just felt really prepared," Tennell said. "I went out there knowing that in my mind I could do it, and I think that showed."

Looking back after her triumph in San Jose, Tennell did not miss a triple jump in her last three competitions. That consistency was unmatched by any other skater, a testament to her training and the competition simulations that Myers has incorporated into her practice sessions.

"We prepared her for all situations," Myers said.

Nagasu, who hails from Arcadia, California, and trains in Colorado Springs under coach Tom Zakrajsek, produced powerful and captivating programs that weren't perfect, but displayed her trademark athleticism, skating skills and unyielding competitive spirit. She placed second in both segments.

"Wow," Nagasu said after the free skate. "I'm usually not one to be at a loss for words. I am super happy with how things have gone. With mistakes, I scored the highest that I've scored in a U.S. Championships, and right now I'm proud of myself."

Zakrajsek said he met with Nagasu after the 2017 U.S. Championships in Kansas City — she fell from second place after the short program to finish fourth overall — to map out a more effective competition strategy.

"Her bronze medal at Four Continents in PyeongChang was a huge confidence boost for her," Zakrajsek said. "She came away from that test event more determined than ever to be her best in every way. When we sat down to plan for the season, we covered every base from nutrition to off-ice training and recovery to choreography and, most importantly, technique. The theme for our season was to leave no stone unturned. We explored everything that could possibly help her be the best."

"What I saw at nationals was Mirai laying down some programs in practice that could

not only win the national championship but put her on the Olympic and World podium. Her ability to handle absolutely anything in a constructive way was the difference when she competed. Though she was not flawless in either program and did not win, she was the story of the competition for so many fans.”

Nagasu came to San Jose planning to open her programs with a triple Axel, a jump only two other U.S. ladies in history have ever landed — Tonya Harding (1991) and Kimmie Meissner (2005). Nagasu had landed the jump earlier this season in competition. In San Jose, she rotated the triple Axel in both programs, but stepped out of the landings.

But like the fierce competitor she is, Nagasu gathered herself and skated virtually clean the rest of the way. Right after the triple Axel in her free skate to music from *Miss Saigon*, she landed a triple flip-triple toe loop combination, followed by a triple Salchow. Her spins and footwork all received the highest levels as she exhibited full command of the ice.

“I train to do my programs even when I make a mistake, and so I was able to erase it very quickly and when I landed forward — when I stepped out — I was like, ‘Wow, I’m a cat. I’m still on my feet,’” she said after the short program.

Winning the silver medal and being named to the Olympic Team was a dream come true for Nagasu, who placed fourth in her Olympic debut in 2010 in Vancouver, but was not named to the Olympic Team headed to Sochi in 2014 despite finishing third at the U.S. Championships in Boston. The selection committee named Wagner — who placed fourth — instead, based on her body of work.

It was a heartbreaking time for Nagasu, but one that lit her competitive fire even more.

Before officially being named to the Olympic Team in San Jose, Nagasu reflected, “I have always believed that I am an amazing skater regardless of what the results say, and I think that determination and confidence has kept me in the game so long. I’m aware that I’m the oldest [at the press conference] here tonight, but I really feel like I’m the comeback kid, and I can’t wait for the decision to come out because I can’t wait to be that 5-year-old girl who began this journey.”

Chen’s road this season to the U.S. podium and an Olympic berth was filled with potholes and caution signs.

In the hours leading up to the ladies free skate, the Bay Area native became extremely sick with a virus, was stuck in bed all day and couldn’t practice. Doctors, including a sports psychologist and an acupuncturist, did their best to help the young athlete.

“I was in so much pain and I was extremely worried because I wanted to feel 100 percent and be able to skate my absolute best with no regrets,” said Chen, who sat in third place after the short program, clinging to her spot by 2.48 points. “I took the day to focus on my mental health, visualize the perfect skate and focus on the positives.”

While her free skate wasn’t perfect — four of her jumps received negative marks — it was good enough for Chen to finish fourth in the segment, hold onto third place and realize her Olympic dream.

“I’m just so proud of myself that I was able to forget about all the pain I was in and just keep reminding myself that I trained so hard for this moment and I’m not going to let some stupid sickness win, and I am going to keep fighting until the end.”

A cloud of uncertainty also hovered over the defending champion when she arrived in San Jose. A disappointing showing in the Grand Prix Series and indecision regarding her programs left everyone wondering how she would fare in this pivotal competition.

Chen, coached by 2017 PSA Coach of the Year Tammy Gambill in Riverside, California, ultimately fell back on her programs from last season — music from *On Golden Pond* for her short program and “Jealousy Tango” for her free skate.

“I remember starting off the season thinking that last season was pretty crazy,” Chen said. “But this season so far has been even

MIRAI NAGASU

KAREN CHEN

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crazier. It’s literally a stock market; there’s ups, downs and it’s unpredictable. I know I started the season with new programs and new hopes, but I ended up coming back to this short program and this long program because I felt like it was something I’m comfortable with and it’s something that I really loved and I know works for me.”

Wagner placed fifth in the short program and third in the free skate, in which she debuted her program to music from the *La La Land* soundtrack. With the exception of singling an intended triple Salchow in a combination jump,

Wagner produced a technically solid free skate that placed only behind Tennell and Nagasu.

Her program components score, however, didn’t receive the credit it deserved, Wagner told reporters.

“I am absolutely furious,” she said moments after receiving her scores. “I know when I go and I lay it down, and absolutely I left one jump on the table, but for me to put out the two programs that I did at this competition, as solid as I skated, and to get those scores, I am furious, and I think deservedly so. I am a performer, and that second mark is just not there.”



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NATHAN CHEN

'ALL THAT I DREAMED OF'

Chen repeats, makes good on childhood prediction; Miner, Zhou secure silver, bronze

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

Nathan Chen (Salt Lake Figure Skating) won his first U.S. title in 2010. After performing in the post-event exhibition — one that celebrated the Olympic Team set to compete the following month in Vancouver — the newly crowned novice champion sat down with NBC's Andrea Joyce for a backstage interview.

"Which Olympics are we going to see you in?" Joyce asked.

"2018," he responded.

It was a bold prediction for a 10-year-old looking eight years into the future. But when Chen earned his second consecutive U.S. title and a nomination to the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team at the U.S. Championships in San Jose, he had fulfilled a prophecy that actually began eight years prior, in February 2002, when the Olympic Winter Games were held in Chen's hometown of Salt Lake City.

"It's been a fun journey since 2002," Chen said. "This is exactly where I wanted to be. This is all that I dreamed of. I'm really happy that I took all the right steps, and I put the work in to get myself to where I am now. It's all happening so fast. It seems like it was yesterday that I first stepped onto the ice. I still need time to wrap my head around everything, but I'm so happy with everything that's already happened."

Chen, undefeated in his 2017-18 campaign, attained his latest achievements with two impressive performances worth a combined 315.23 points. His free skate alone, set to music from *Mao's Last Dancer*, topped the field by more than 25 points.

"I'm happy with tonight," Chen said. "I laid out a five-quad program, which I hadn't been able to do all season. Obviously, I have things to take back home ... but ultimately, I'm happy with tonight and I think I really did my job here."

The rest of the men's free skate showcased figure skating's unpredictable nature, keeping fans, fellow athletes and the media on the edge of their seats. In the end, Ross Miner (SC of Boston) rose from a sixth-best short program to be crowned silver medalist, and Vincent Zhou (Pasadena FSC), just 0.11 point

MEN'S MEDALISTS
 (L-R) ROSS MINER,
 SILVER; NATHAN CHEN,
 GOLD; VINCENT ZHOU,
 BRONZE; ADAM RIPPON,
 PEWTER

ahead in fifth place after the short, took bronze.

Adam Rippon (SC of New York), a competitor alongside Chen at the last two Grand Prix Finals, dipped two spots from his second-best short program to finish fourth with a total score of 268.34.

Flawed performances from other athletes like Max Aaron (Broadmoor SC) and Jason Brown (Skokie Valley SC), both of whom also had successful outings on this season's Grand Prix circuit, made for an unpredictable U.S. podium and an indefinite Olympic Team. While Aaron finished ninth with 224.20 points, Brown, in third place after the short program, ended up sixth with a score of 253.68.

"I am disappointed. It's that simple," Brown said. "I know that I am capable of so much more. The warm-up felt great, and I am definitely disappointed in the skate that I put out, but I know that I'm just going to continue to get stronger from this event and keep moving forward with the most positive attitude that I can."

But where others faltered, Miner shone. In an exquisite performance, he turned in the best free skate of his career, bringing everyone at SAP Center to their feet.

"I had one of the most fun nights I've ever had on the ice," Miner said. "That's what I do in training at home, so it was such a good feeling to put it out there at the big game and show what I'm capable of, and that's what I do all the time. It was pretty special."

Highlighting the special moment, set against a medley of music by Queen, Miner performed 13 near-perfect elements, including



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a quad Salchow, triple Lutz-triple toe, and two triple Axels — one in combination with a double toe. His footwork and three spins all were awarded Level 4. Miner's free skate score of 185.60 and overall total of 274.51 marked career-best scores for the 27-year-old Bostonian; this was the first time he bested his domestic scoring totals since 2013.

Zhou also enjoyed valiant redemption after a flawed short program, competing a five-quad effort to music from *Moulin Rouge!*. Though three quads were judged underrated and one downgraded — including a quad toe that also received a deduction for a fall — he earned a segment score of 184.81 and finished with a total of 273.83 points.

Rising two spots in the final segment to earn his second U.S. medal in as many years at the championship level, Zhou credits his comeback to determination and the encouragement he received from the crowd at SAP Center.

"Tonight was pretty special," Zhou said. "The crowd was awesome, and the energy was flowing through my veins, if that's even possible. I know I made a few mistakes, but overall I'm proud of myself for fighting all the way through tonight."



ROSS MINER

VINCENT ZHOU

JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Rippon received a fall deduction for his attempt at a quad Lutz, and he singled the final two intended triples of his “Arrival of the Birds” free skate.

“For what I did today, I take full responsibility,” Rippon said after his free skate. “I felt really good this whole week, and I think over the past few years I’ve had one bad skate — not even in competition. On the first quad, I just kind of felt like I was losing my right foot a little bit, and I just let that feeling get the best of me toward the end.”

But when it came time for the nine-member International Committee Management

Subcommittee to nominate the men’s Olympic Team, Rippon’s scores and placements over the last two seasons ultimately earned him a nomination alongside Chen and Zhou, who won the World Junior title with a score that would have landed him just two placements below Chen at the senior World Championships last season.

“I think we have the right team,” U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier said. “Last night I think we saw exciting, somewhat flawed at times performances from our men, complicating the process of selecting the Olympic Team. Clearly, Nathan was up there in nosebleed territory with another great performance. It was clear he needed to be number one on the team. But then the process got a little difficult. We went through the criteria in great detail, looking at various statistics in terms of average scores over the season. ...

We feel we have a strong team, the right team, based on the selection criteria.”

While the nomination marked the first Olympic berth for all three men, Chen, Rippon and Zhou headed to PyeongChang as veteran competitors, with two Four Continents titles, three World Junior titles, five World Championships appearances and 11 U.S. titles across all levels among them.

“It’s been a dream of mine to be selected and on the U.S. Olympic Team for as long as I can remember,” Chen said. “The Olympics have really motivated me ever since I started skating as a little kid. I’m so excited to be a part of this team. A huge congrats to both of these guys (Rippon and Zhou). I’ve seen how they train and I’ve competed with them for a long time, and I think all three of us really deserve to be on this team.”



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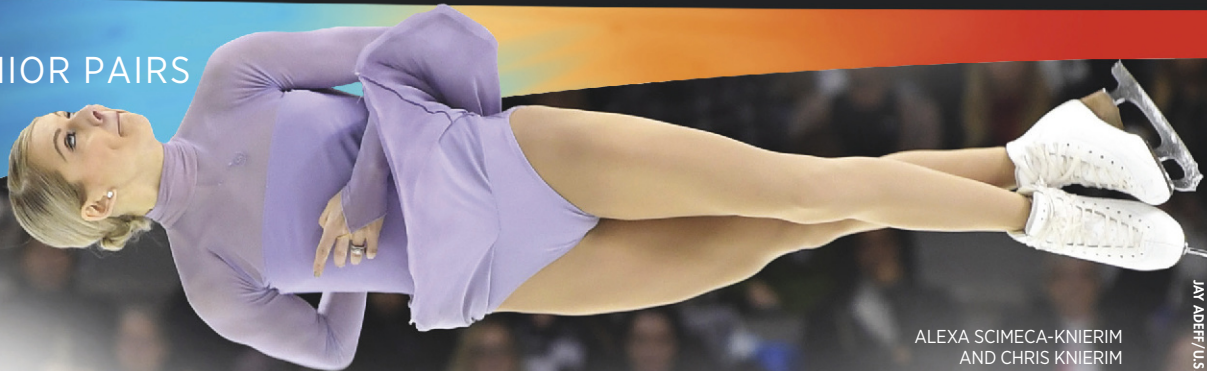


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ALEXA SCIMECA-KNIERIM
AND CHRIS KNIERIM

JAY ADEFF/ U.S. FIGURE SKATING

'EVERYTHING'S COMING TOGETHER'

Knierims overcome hard times to claim second title; Kayne and O'Shea rebound, Stellato and Bartholomay move up

BY SORA HWANG

If you need a source of inspiration, just look to the 2018 U.S. pairs podium.

Every team standing on the podium on Jan. 6 in San Jose, California, had a unique story of both struggle and triumph. Those stories made the medal that hung around each athlete's neck much more than just a competition result.

For two-time and reigning U.S. champions Alexa Scimeca-Knierim (DuPage FSC) and Chris Knierim (Broadmoor SC), returning to the top of the podium was a culmination of two years' worth of perseverance, hard work and faith. The married couple overcame a sudden life-threatening illness, family heartbreak and a persistent injury to win their second U.S. title.

"We're just happy that everything's coming together, because it's been a long two years," Knierim said following their short program to "Come What May" from the *Moulin Rouge!* soundtrack, which earned 71.10 points.

That time span has included Scimeca-Knierim undergoing three abdominal surgeries, withdrawing from the 2016 ISU Grand Prix Series and 2017 U.S. Championships, and returning to competition for an inspirational sixth-place finish at the 2017 Four Continents Championships.

Right when things seemed to be on track with a top-10 finish at the 2017 World Championships, just their second competition in their comeback, Knierim lost his father.

"I thought the heartache was over after almost a year of pain," he shared in an open social media post after returning home from the 2018 U.S. Championships. "In April of 2017, my father passed away. I was crushed. Devastated. Broken. But again, I was brave on the outside. After all, we were heading into the Olympic season and there was no time to cry."

During those preparations in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with coach Dalilah Sappenfield, Knierim



(L-R) PAIRS MEDALISTS
 TARAH KAYNE/DANNY
 O'SHEA, SILVER; ALEXA
 SCIMECA-KNIERIM/CHRIS
 KNIERIM, GOLD; DEANNA
 STELLATO/NATHAN
 BARTHOLOMAY, BRONZE;
 ASHLEY CAIN/TIMOTHY
 LEDUC, PEWTER



JAN ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



suffered a knee injury and only started to feel 100 percent again heading into San Jose.

When one thinks about everything the couple has endured in just their first year and a half of marriage — what should've been a blissful, carefree period — it's easy to understand Scimeca-Knierim's explosion of tears when they received their winning marks for their "Ghost The Musical" free skate.

It was one of the rare times Scimeca-Knierim was left speechless. The segment's 135.50 score gave the team a total of 206.60 points and their first U.S. title since 2015.

After everything life has thrown at the Knierims, they have proven themselves as the top U.S. team again, earning the sole U.S. Olympic pairs berth.

"I came here really wanting to make the Olympic Team, obviously, but to say I didn't care if we would be champions or not would be a lie," Scimeca-Knierim said. "It was important to me to win again."

Silver medalists Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea (Southwest Florida FSC) experienced similar triumph, coming back from injury and surgery that forced Kayne off the ice for months.

After withdrawing from the 2017 U.S. Championships following the short program due to a concussion, Kayne underwent knee surgery in February 2017 to address an injury she had been dealing with that entire season.

"The pain that I experienced made our normal

training style impossible to achieve," Kayne shared in an honest blog during the offseason in the midst of her recovery.

Post-surgery, Kayne temporarily moved to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to focus on her recovery, with her skates and partner back at home in Ellenton, Florida. Though the 2016 U.S. champions were back on the ice together by August with coaches Jim Peterson and 2010 Olympian Amanda Evora, it took even longer to get back the pairs elements that had come so easily before.

"It's been about two months of all the elements so far," O'Shea said after receiving 68.93 points for their short program to music from *The Phantom of the Opera*. "We're happy that we're kind of hitting our stride. It was a little later than what we hoped for, but better than what was predicted, so that was good news for us."

"I was off the ice for five months," Kayne added. "It's really nice to get off the ice just feeling good about ourselves, because I think we've both been struggling with the fact that we go into competitions from last season and we get disappointed. I was really injured and didn't put in the training that we needed to, and that showed in the results."

In January, finally healthy and reinvigorated, the team skated off the ice at SAP Center feeling excited about what they were able to do. But with a serious injury in the rearview mirror and a mere few months of training, it took immense mental preparation.

SENIOR PAIRS

TARAH KAYNE
AND DANNY O'SHEA

"I just decided to stop being afraid," Kayne said. "Part of my fear was stuck in, 'Am I going to get hurt again? Is my knee going to be OK? Is this going to involve surgery or is it all right?'"

"At nationals this year, I just decided to give every element my all and get rid of that voice in my head. One thing my coach said to me was, 'One element should never ruin *Swan Lake*. A triple Salchow shouldn't affect the whole picture. It's a paint stroke on a painting.'"

With that approach — and clean triple Salchows — Kayne and O'Shea generated 131.87 points in their free skate to *Swan Lake*, earning a total score of 200.80 and the silver medal in their return to the biggest domestic stage.

Deanna Stellato and Nathan Bartholomay (Southwest Florida FSC) joined training mates

DEANNA STELLATO
AND NATHAN
BARTHOLOMAY

Kayne and O'Shea on the podium, taking a step up from their fourth-place finish in 2017. This achievement marked the team's second U.S. medal in their second season together.

"Last year, we had skated pairs for six months. Now, we've been skating pairs for a year and a half, so now I have a little bit of muscle memory," Stellato said moments after their free skate set to a U2 medley, which received 129.81 points. Added to their 67.84 short program score, the Florida-based team secured the bronze medal with a total score of 197.65.

Hearing Stellato say how short a time she and Bartholomay have been together on the ice puts things into perspective, making it all the more impressive that they earned the highest technical marks of the free skate. Despite an unsuccessful throw quad Salchow attempt, they racked up the points with all Level 4 lifts and spins.

"Last year, we said we were going to go home and work harder and push the envelope technically and do the best we could to grow and develop as a team doing what we love to do," Bartholomay recalled. "And that doesn't change. That never changes for us."

It's evident how strongly the duo is driven by a love for the sport. After all, Stellato returned to competition after a 16-year retirement from singles skating and decided to give the gutsy discipline a try for the first time ahead of the 2016-17 season. She teamed up with Bartholomay, who previously competed at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games with Felicia Zhang.

"When you do what you love, it's easy to get through the training every day and improve," Bartholomay said. "We're one place higher than we were last year, ahead of different teams, behind different teams. We just

want to keep moving forward."

Pewter medalists Ashley Cain (SC of New York) and Timothy LeDuc (Los Angeles FSC) had a rocky start to their competition, placing eighth in the short program with 60.03 points for their performance to "I'll Take Care of You" by Joe Bonamassa.

After dealing with naysayers criticizing Cain's height and their abilities since the start of their partnership in May 2016, the team approached their free skate to music from *The Great Gatsby* soundtrack with a new mentality.

"We wanted to step over the fear and anxiety that can sometimes hold you back when you want to skate freely," LeDuc said. "We know what we can do when we skate to our potential and we didn't do that in the short. It's important for us to show that we're here and we're ready to go."

The pair, based in Texas under the watchful eye of Cain's parents, Peter and Darlene, was able to accomplish that with the fourth-best free skate of the night. With a segment score of 127.11 and 187.14 total, Cain and LeDuc catapulted from behind for their second consecutive podium finish at the U.S. Championships.

It's overwhelming for one to think of how far the two have come from their previous chapters. LeDuc had turned to performing on cruises in 2014, thinking his competitive career was over. And Cain had stepped away from pairs — not exactly on her terms — in 2012.

"That's what I think this year was more about for us, was experiencing some of the difficulties and some of the ups and downs and learning how to work through them as the team that we are," LeDuc said. "We've come out on the other side stronger, so we're just going to keep going on our trajectory and getting stronger."



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AT LONG LAST, IT'S GOLD FOR HUBBELL AND DONOHUE

Shibutanis, Chock and Bates collect silver, bronze in tight race

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

When Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue struck ice dance gold after four bronze and two pewter medals, it wasn't only due to their superb on-ice performances. The U.S. title may have been won in a Whole Foods café, a short walk from SAP Center in San Jose.

In past competitions, the skaters' compelling style and chemistry brought them within striking distance of their goal, but mistakes — most notably, a fall in their free dance at the 2017 World Figure Skating Championships — knocked them down a peg. After their morning practice the day of this free dance, they made up their minds: that's not happening here.

"We didn't have a lot of time, so we didn't bother going back to the hotel, we just went over to Whole Foods and got a snack and found a little corner where we could be quiet with each other and talk about the goals of the day," Hubbell said.

"We know we can't control the results; all we can do is our best. We really love performing, and that can be a pro or a con. Sometimes it gets too exciting and we leave our little bubble between the two of us. Our goal today was being present."

Hubbell and Donohue (Lansing FSC) did that and more in a silky rendition of their free dance to the instrumental "Across the Sky" and singer Beth Hart's bluesy Rag 'N' Bone Man's "Caught Out in the Rain" that gained five Level 4 elements and mostly +3 Grades of Execution for its slinky step sequences and subtle lifts. They earned 118.02 points, including the event's highest program component scores, despite leaving several points on the table when their spin dropped to a Level 2.

When added to their second-place short dance score of 79.10 points, the free dance was just enough to overtake

MADISON HUBBELL AND
ZACHARY DONOHUE

SENIOR ICE DANCE



JAN ABERF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING

(L-R) ICE DANCE MEDALISTS MAIA SHIBUTANI/ALEX SHIBUTANI, SILVER; MADISON HUBBELL/ZACHARY DONOHUE, GOLD; MADISON CHOCK/EVAN BATES, BRONZE; KAITLIN HAWAYEK/JEAN-LUC BAKER, PEWTER

two-time defending champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani (SC of New York) for gold.

2015 U.S. champions Madison Chock (All Year FSC) and Evan Bates (Ann Arbor FSC), silver medalists the past two seasons, won the free dance event but had to settle for bronze.

Remarkably, just 0.52 points — less than the value of a missed level — separated the three teams.

“There is always that moment of doubt before emotions catch up to you and take you away,” Donohue said.

“Understanding we really put our hearts out there on the ice today, that was the culmination of everything.”

Hubbell and Donohue, teamed by former coaches Pasquale Camerlengo and Anjelika Krylova in 2011, moved from Detroit to train in Montreal under Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon in 2015. There, they share the ice with Canada’s Olympic and World champions Tessa Virtue and Scott

Moir, and two-time World champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France.

In Montreal, the skaters changed their diets, off-ice fitness regimen and training habits, and their French-Canadian coaches refined their technique and added more speed and sophistication to their routines. Once romantically involved off the ice, the skaters settled into a deep friendship but retained their steamy on-ice connection.

“Marie-France and Patrice have really taught us that to ensure you can stay on top, you have to be able to beat people not skating your best,” Hubbell said. “Not only were we able to become champions this week, we did it losing levels and making mistakes in both programs. We feel like our training has really paid off. We see the progress we were hoping for.”

The Shibutanis led by 3.23 points after an electrifying Latin short dance to Perez Prado selections that exploded midway through with a four-part twizzle sequence, its 20 revolutions executed in perfect time to Prado’s “Mambo No. 8” countdown.

“We are always trying to push the boundaries,” Alex said of the high-risk maneuver. “The Olympics is all about pushing yourself; it’s not about being careful.”

For their free dance, the Shibutanis chose Coldplay’s “Paradise,” the third of a trio of

programs — including their emotionally raw 2015–16 routine to Coldplay’s “Fix You,” and last season’s contemplative “Evolution” — that fueled their growth as performers and athletes. But a rare slip by Maia during the diagonal step sequence cost them several points. They placed third in the free dance with 114.60 points, and their 196.93-point total was 0.19 points under Hubbell and Donohue’s.

“Today we had a mistake in the diagonal, which was unfortunate, but we had each other’s backs out there,” Maia said. “There were a lot of things about the program I’m proud of. We’re going to keep working hard.”

Chock and Bates entered the free dance nearly five points off the lead. Their short dance to a Marc Anthony medley had exotic flavor and the event’s best lift, but their technical elements score and program components were a shade below those of the other two couples.

“It was a little hard; they were the first of the top three to skate, and they had to warm up the audience,” the couple’s coach, Igor Shpilband, said. “Obviously, we are going to ask why we didn’t get [Level 4s] on the footwork, which is huge points. That would have brought us into the 80s.”

The couple skated a majestic yet intimate and tender free dance, choreographed by 1984 Olympic ice dance champion Christopher



MADISON CHOCK
AND EVAN BATES



MAIA SHIBUTANI AND
ALEX SHIBUTANI

Dean, to John Lennon's "Imagine." It had the event's most spectacular lifts and earned the highest technical score in the field. Still, its score of 118.99 was not enough to rise from third place, and they ended with 196.60 points.

"We're really proud of how we skated today and just in general the way we've been fighting and will continue to fight," Bates said. "The results haven't gone our way. Particularly this week, we would have loved a different result."

San Jose was the second time this season that less than a point separated the three couples. At the Grand Prix Final in Nagoya, Japan — where the Shibutanis won bronze, with Hubbell and Donohue placing fourth, and Chock and Bates fifth — there was a difference of just 0.85 point.

"The last two competitions were very intense," Hubbell said. "I think we all know whoever skates the best on those days is going to be the one who wins. We're very close to each other. We're all going to go home and keep working to widen the gap, but we know the other teams are doing the same, so who knows what will happen in PyeongChang."

Kaitlin Hawayek (Detroit SC) and Jean-Luc Baker (Seattle SC), the 2014 World Junior champions who placed fifth last season in Kansas City, skated a superb rendition of their "Liebestraum (Dream of Love)" free dance and won the pewter medal with 187.61 points.

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Members of the 1988 U.S. Olympic Team gathered in San Jose for a 30-year reunion, organized by Team Leader Joan Gruber. They were recognized during the AAC Reception and attended many off-ice events over the championships weekend. (l-r) assistant Team Leader Howard Silby, Gruber, Brian Boitano, Peter Oppegard, Jill Watson, Caryn Kadavy, Paul Wylie, Susie Wynne, Suzanne Semanick-Schurman, Scott Gregory, Natalie Seybold, Wayne Seybold, Todd Waggoner.



MELANIE HEANEY/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Bay Area skating greats (l-r) Kristi Yamaguchi, Brian Boitano, Rudy Galindo, Peggy Fleming and Charlie Tickner are recognized during the Opening Ceremony of the U.S. Championships. A video played on the jumbotron that featured the legacy of skating in the San Jose area, followed by another of Galindo's hall of fame career, including his improbable victory at the 1996 U.S. Championships in San Jose. Boitano and Yamaguchi delivered the event's welcome address and introduced Fleming, America's Golden Girl, who laid the foundation for Bay Area greatness in skating with her Olympic gold medal in 1968. The five legends served as ambassadors for the competition, and spent the week in demand from media and fans.



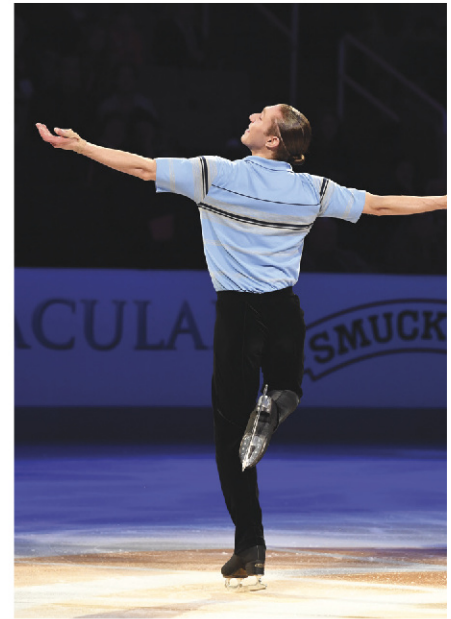
Before the start of the pairs free skate, major donors of Friends of Figure Skating received a VIP backstage tour. One of the tour highlights included a photo opportunity with the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy.



Fans stood in line to meet U.S. ladies champion and Olympian Bradie Tennell at the Friends of Figure Skating Breakfast in San Jose. Most of the event's top performers attended the event in the South Room of the SAP Center, where they interacted with this special group of supporters. More than 250 FOFS members had the chance to meet their favorite skaters, get an autograph and take a selfie with them. Ryan Bradley, the 2011 U.S. champion, introduced Team USA. Four-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott also spoke of his gratitude for FOFS support during his career.



Always a crowd favorite, Jason Brown continued to showcase his love of musical theater in San Jose, following up his short program to music from *Hamilton*, with a performance in the Smucker's Skating Spectacular to music from *Dear Evan Hansen*.

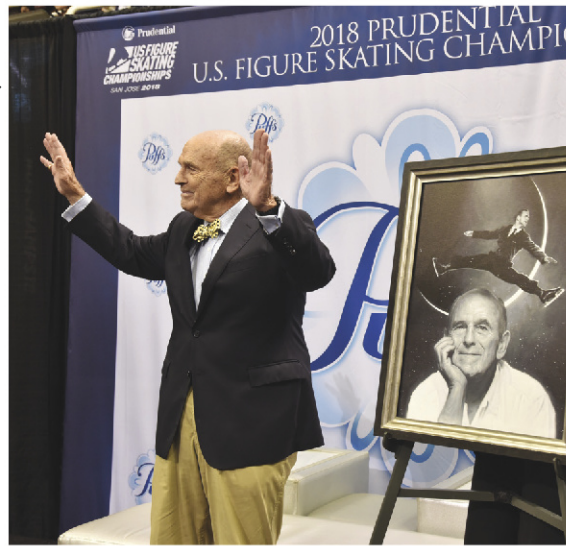


U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier and Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi, far right, helped induct new members to the U.S. Hall of Fame during an on-ice ceremony. From left, the new Hall of Famers (with their presenters in parenthesis) are: Michael Weiss (Gregor Weiss), Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman (Evelyn Kramer), Sarah Kawahara (Scott Hamilton), Claire Ferguson (Michelle Kwan) and Katherine Healy Burrows (accepting for the late Peter Burrows).



JAN ADER/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

American icons Dick Button and Peggy Fleming were celebrated for their many contributions to the sport of figure skating, both as competitors and as longtime broadcasters. During the ladies and men's short programs, respectively, U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier presented Fleming and Button with original artwork by Robert Carter, commissioned by U.S. Figure Skating. Button, the only American to earn two Olympic gold medals in figure skating, was celebrating the 70th anniversary of his 1948 Olympic championship. Fleming was celebrating the 50th anniversary of her Olympic gold medal from the 1968 Games.



JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Making the 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships extra special was the attendance of nearly all of U.S. Figure Skating's Olympic champions. This elite group attended the ladies free skate and participated in many off-ice events during the event's final weekend. (l-r, top row) Dick Button, Charlie White, Scott Hamilton, Hayes Jenkins, Evan Lysacek, Brian Boitano; (l-r, bottom row) Sarah Hughes, Meryl Davis, Kristi Yamaguchi, Tara Lipinski, Carol Heiss Jenkins, Peggy Fleming, Tenley Albright. Dorothy Hamill and David Jenkins were unable to attend.



JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Two-time and reigning U.S. champion Nathan Chen spends time with new friends — Tank and Dozer — in the Milk-Bone Athlete Lounge in San Jose. Located backstage during competition, the lounge was a key broadcast position during NBC Universal's coverage of the event, serving as the backdrop for post-competition interviews and live look-ins as skaters and coaches relaxed before and/or after a performance while watching their competitors. Fans had the opportunity to share inspirational stories about their dogs across social media using #DogsInspireMore. Images submitted through social media appeared in the lounge throughout the competition.



Members of the 2018 Scholastic Honors Team were honored in San Jose. Ten outstanding student-athletes were recognized not only for 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) National Vice Chair for Program Development Jonathan Geen, MacKenzie Caputo, Joshua Fendi, Gabriella Izzo, Joonsoo Kim, Rick Lee, Emmy Ma, Alica Qiao, Alice Yang and U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier. Not pictured are synchronized skaters Alexis Bolner and Naomi Kim.



JAY ADEFF / U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Always a fan favorite, Michelle Kwan poses with a young girl on the concourse during the ladies event. A nine-time U.S. champion, Kwan spent time signing autographs and mingling with fans at the SAP Center.



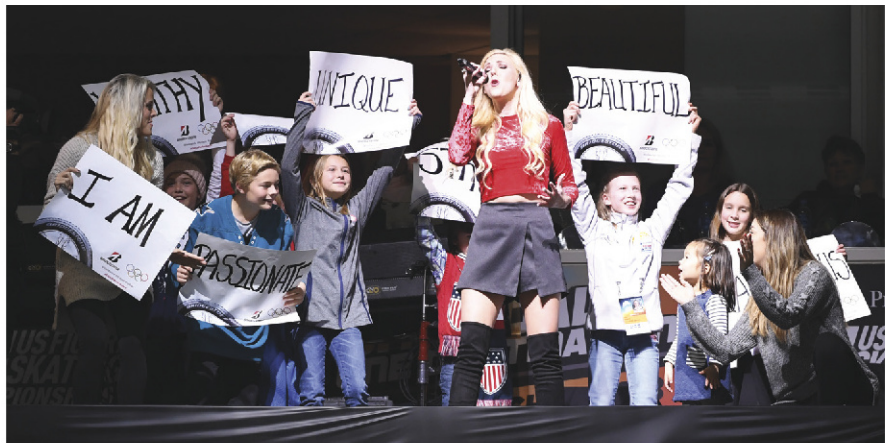
Miss California Jillian Smith, left, and Miss California Outstanding Teen Violet Joy Hansen joined fans from around the country at SAP Center to help kick off the U.S. Championships in San Jose. Hansen performed the national anthem prior to the ladies short program, and both she and Smith met with young adoring fans for an autograph session on the concourse before the competition began.



U.S. pairs champions and Olympians Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Christopher Knierim make a young fan's day during an autograph session on the concourse. All of the medalists in each of the four disciplines signed autographs, took photographs and visited with fans during the competition.



Bailey Coats, a rising pop star and songwriter from Birmingham, Alabama, joined the festivities in San Jose and performed her hit song "American Girl" multiple times throughout Championships weekend. "I wrote 'American Girl' to celebrate the diversity, strength and individuality of women and girls," Coats said.



JAY ADEFF/US FIGURE SKATING



Throughout the U.S. Championships, fans both in the arena and streaming at home got some additional insight into the competition via icenetWORK's Ice Desk. Each segment featured expert discussions and special guests, including (l-r) writer, host and sports expert Nick McCarvel, 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie, two-time Olympian Michael Weiss and Olympic ice dance champion Charlie White.



For the second consecutive year, U.S. Figure Skating honored local individuals and organizations who embody the Get Up spirit with a Get Up award. Recipients in San Jose included local skaters Erica Machida and Erina Yamaguchi, along with the nonprofit organization The Family Giving Tree and Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation. (l-r) Erica Machida, Erina Yamaguchi, Polina Edmunds (representative for The Family Giving Tree), Jennifer Cullenbine (chief executive officer and founder, The Family Giving Tree), Kristi Yamaguchi.



Three of figure skating's premier judges and officials were honored in San Jose. Bob Horen, Gale Tanger and Joe Inman each received the prestigious International Skating Union (ISU) Gold Award of Merit pin. Former U.S. Figure Skating President and ISU Council member Pat St. Peter presented the pins during a break in the action. The ISU Gold Award of Merit is bestowed on individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the ISU sports disciplines for at least 15 years. The trio all served in various roles that week at the U.S. Championships.



U.S. junior pairs champions Audrey Lu and Misha Mitrofanov received the eighth 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 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, and sat on the Board of Directors from 1990 to 2010. He and Gayle presented the award during a break in the men's event.

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Check STARScombine.org for 2018 dates and locations near you.



KRISTI YAMAGUCHI MEETS TANK.



#DogsInspireMore

The Athlete Lounge is always a center point of backstage action at the U.S. Championships. In addition to housing icenetwork and NBC interviews, the space serves as the backdrop for TV live shots of the competition's current leaders, and a space for athletes and coaches to sit, regroup and refocus amid the event's constant action.

This year's lounge took stress relief to a whole new level, courtesy of its new sponsor: Milk-Bone.

As athletes prepared to compete, or cooled down after an intense performance, they were greeted by Dozer and Tank, adoptable puppies from Heading Home Animal Rescue — a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding homes for shelter animals throughout the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay areas.

The puppies, who each received official event credentials, both calmed and entertained throughout the event's championship-level competitions. Tank even found his forever home in the process — and not just any home, but the home of 1992 Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi, her husband, Olympian and Stanley Cup champion Bret Hedican, and their daughters Emma and Keara.

"Introducing our newest family member — Tank!" Yamaguchi shared on Instagram after the event. "He was introduced to us at the U.S. Champs thru @headinghomerescue and the girls fell in love. Here we go!"

— Mimi McKinnis

Ma goes viral

Although he finished the event in 11th place, nearly 100 points behind the victor, Jimmy Ma (SC of New York) walked away from the

U.S. Championships as one of the most talked-about competitors, after his short program, set to "Turn Down for What" by DJ Snake and Lil Jon, went viral.

His program notched 75.28 points — and headlines on "Deadspin," *USA Today*, "Mashable," "PopSugar," *Billboard*, *Teen Vogue*,

Jimmy Ma Retweeted
 Barry Jenkins @BarryJenkins - Jan 12
 so I've been getting a few requests for these Jimmy Ma joints. If anybody wants one jump in the mentions here, not sure how many? I ship but make your own decisions



357 48 410

BuzzFeed, Huffington Post, *Cosmopolitan*, "E!" and *Sports Illustrated*, among others. Tweets about the performance skyrocketed Ma to trending status on social media, with Barry Jenkins, director of the Academy Award-winning Best Picture *Moonlight*, tweeting sweatshirts he had printed with Ma's likeness and the tagline "Jimmy Ma is that dude."

"Figure skating is an extreme sport," Ma, who performed to the music of rapper Eminem last season, told *USA Today*. "I want the most amount of people to see that it is both an awesome art form and also an awesome sport. The whole point was to get people hyped. Get older people hyped and for younger people to think it is cool."

— Mimi McKinnis

Tennell's coach reflects on special moment

On Jan. 18, 28 media outlets arrived at the Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, to interview, video and photograph Olympian Bradie Tennell, U.S. Figure Skating's new leading lady.

It's been a whirlwind time for the just-turned 20-year-old, who before Bridgestone Skate America in Lake Placid, New York, over Thanksgiving weekend, was a relative unknown to those outside the skating world.

It's also been a frenzied time for her coach, Denise Myers, who has also flown under the radar during her coaching career. Myers, who lives in Twin Lakes, Wisconsin, coaches skaters of all ages and abilities and has never been thrust into the world spotlight before now.

"I truly love coaching," she said in San Jose. "I miss my babies at home. I find it a



challenge to bring something out of them that maybe they don't know is there."

On the final night of the U.S. Championships, the significance of the moment hit her.

"I was emotional today," Myers said. "I thought back to my own skating and the sacrifices that my parents made for my skating, so it kind of hit me today that I wish they were here today to see it."

Myers, who coaches Tennell with Jeremy Allen, has a great support system. Her husband, Larry, is a "hockey guy" from Canada and has been a positive voice for her, as have been her four adult children, who live all over the country.

Her 91-year-old mother-in-law in Canada has also been in her corner.

"She has all of her friends watching at The Heights (retirement community)," Myers said.

"I am truly blessed."

— Troy Schwandt

At long last, Sappenfield books Olympic trip

Dalilah Sappenfield, who has trained pairs teams for 15 years, has a long résumé: PSA Coach of the Year. Coach of four U.S. senior pairs champions, who combined to win six titles. Developmental coach to countless U.S. medalists in the juvenile through junior ranks.

Now, she adds another accolade: Olympic coach. After missing out on chances to take skaters to the 2010 and 2014 Games, the Colorado Springs-based Sappenfield will bring Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Chris Knierim to PyeongChang.

"Dalilah has been an Olympic-level coach



COACHES DALILAH SAPPENFIELD AND EDDIE SHIPSTAD, WITH ALEXA SCIMECA-KNIERIM AND CHRIS KNIERIM, RECEIVE THE TEAM'S FREE SKATE SCORES AT THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SAN JOSE.

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

for a long time; it just hasn't worked out the last few Olympic cycles," Chris said. "I've been with her since I was 17. She brought me up in pairs."

Alexa and Chris, who were teamed by Sappenfield in April 2012, consider the coach a part of their family. She officiated at their wedding in June 2016, and supported Alexa through a serious abdominal illness that year that required three surgeries.

"She was with me in the hospital room so many times; she took me to the ER a few times," Alexa said. "We can never thank her enough. Being able to bring her (to Pyeong-Chang) as part of our team is a huge deal. When her mom came to Colorado Springs after the last Olympic cycle, I told her Chris and I wanted to be the team to take Dalilah to the Olympics. Her mom is at the rink every day watching us practice, and I'm so excited to make that dream a reality."

— Lynn Rutherford

Going live on 'Today' show

Every Olympic Team announcement is a whirlwind. It's nonstop for Team USA from the minute they get the coveted and confidential text message informing them of their nomination to the U.S. Olympic Team.

For the ladies, it was a sleepless night in San Jose following the end of their competition on Jan. 5. By midnight, around four hours after the free skate had ended, Karen Chen, Mirai Nagasu and Bradie Tennell had received the good news. By 4 a.m. local time, they were back at SAP Center, the site of their powerful performances that had landed them on the U.S. podium and secured their spots on the Olympic Team.

The ladies announcement, the first of four disciplines over championship weekend, was live on the "Today" show, meaning Chen, Nagasu and Tennell were just getting started by the time the segment wrapped at 6 a.m.

Following that, the three Olympians had a busy day of interviews, autograph signings and official meetings. Their schedule included greeting fans at Team USA WinterFest, filming on-camera interviews with NBC's Mike Tirico and, of course, cheering on their friends in the pairs and men's free skates that same day.

It's busy being an Olympian.

— Sora Hwang



Andrews does it all in debut

Starr Andrews did more than just perform her free skate to Whitney Houston's song "One Moment in Time."

"The first half of the song I sang and the second half Whitney Houston sang," Andrews told reporters. "I think it's amazing that I skated to my own music. Not a lot of people do that, so I think it's cool."

It was Andrews' first time competing at the championship level, and although she didn't feel well, the 16-year-old managed to place fifth in the free skate and eighth overall.

"I proved to myself I can do anything no matter how I feel," she said.

— Troy Schwandt



Castelli reports a happy ending to 'nightmare'

The skates and dresses are back! The San Francisco Police Department recovered Marissa Castelli's possessions just over a week after they were stolen.

A fun day of sightseeing in San Francisco didn't end on the same note for Castelli and Mervin Tran.

The pair took advantage of the 2018 U.S. Championships' close proximity to the city after competition wrapped in San Jose on Sunday, Jan. 7. They hopped in a rental car with family the following day, and drove up to see the "Full House" home, cable cars and more. When they returned to the car after a nice dinner in Japantown, they discovered smashed windows and missing bags.

"One of those bags contained my skates and my costumes. I am heartbroken," Castelli tweeted. Sympathy poured in immediately from fans and athletes, including fellow competitors Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea, and Mirai Nagasu.

Though everything stolen was replaceable, Castelli described the incident as "the worst nightmare for a skater."

Fortunately, a happy ending was around the corner. Nine days later, Castelli's belongings were back in the right hands. The 2014 Olympian took to social media to share the good news and thank the San Francisco Police Department.

— Sora Hwang

Parsonses look to past greats for inspiration

When it comes to choreography, sibling ice dancers look beyond passionate tangos and romantic movie themes to more unique creative outlets. For their U.S. senior debut, Rachel Parsons and Michael Parsons chose "Ghost Dances," a Latin American folk dance set to a medley from Inti-Illimani.

"It's about a struggle against an oppressive regime, a history of people disappearing and political unrest," Rachel said.

"We're trying to tell a story about people fighting for a spot in this world, where it seems everything is against them," Michael said.

Choreographed by their coach Elena Novak, the program is based on Christopher Bruce's 1981 work "Ghost Dances," a celebrated contemporary dance piece. It is also inspired by French-Canadian siblings Isabelle Duchesnay and Paul Duchesnay's free dance "Missing," created by 1984 Olympic champion Christopher Dean, which honored thousands of people who "disappeared" during the Pinochet regime in Chile in the 1970s and 1980s. The Duchesnays won World silver with "Missing" in 1990 and World gold with "Missing II" in 1991.

"The Duchesnays are one of our biggest inspirations, in terms of teams we try to emulate," Michael said. "I think they are one of the greatest teams in history."

The Parsonses, winners of the 2017 World Junior title, placed fifth in San Jose and earned an entry to the 2018 Four Continents Championships.

"That was our main goal this season, so we're happy," Michael said.

— Lynn Rutherford





2018 ATHLETE ACCELERATION SUMMIT

U.S. Figure Skating's High Performance and Athlete Development Departments are excited to announce a brand new camp dedicated to helping athletes improve their performance, personality and poise on ice. For the first time, all four disciplines (singles, pairs, dance and synchronized skating) will be invited to participate in this two-day camp! In a competitive sport, it can be challenging to stand out from the rest.

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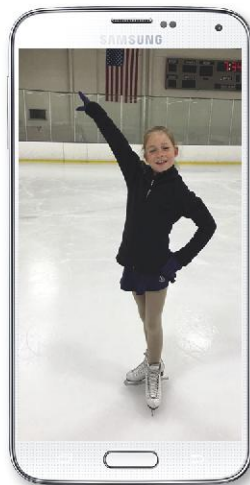
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LADIES (L-R): POOJA KALYAN, SILVER; ALYSA LIU, GOLD; TING CUI, BRONZE; HANNA HARRELL, PEWTER



MEN (L-R): DINH TRAN, SILVER; CAMDEN PULKINEN, GOLD; RYAN DUNK, PEWTER; MAXIM NAUMOV, BRONZE



PAIRS (L-R): SARAH FENG/TJ NYMAN, SILVER; AUDREY LU/MISHA MITROFANOV, GOLD; LAIKEN LOCKLEY/KEENAN PROCHNOW, BRONZE; NADINE WANG/SPENCER HOWE, PEWTER



ICE DANCE (L-R): CAROLINE GREEN/GORDON GREEN, SILVER; CHRISTINA CARREIRA/ANTHONY PONOMARENKO, GOLD; CHLOE LEWIS/LOGAN BYE, BRONZE; ELIANA GROPMAN/IAN SOMERVILLE, PEWTER

Liu stands tall, wins title with sterling free skate

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Diminutive 12-year-old Alysa Liu (St. Moritz ISC), competing last in the free skate, put on a show for her Bay Area supporters and everyone else at SAP Center, with a commanding and nearly flawless performance to music from *Les Misérables*.

The youngest athlete in the field, from nearby Oakland, California, Liu racked up 184.16 points in winning both segments of the competition, despite being ill. Pooja Kalyan (Ozark FSC) earned the silver medal, while Ting Cui (Baltimore FSC) claimed bronze.

"My coach (Laura Lipetsky) always says

'Fake it to make it,' so that's why I looked relaxed," said the 4-foot-7-inch Liu, who finished fourth at the novice level last year. "But I'm actually sick. I had a fever and my throat is hurting right now."

Liu got sick the night before the free skate and struggled to sleep. She experienced a bad headache and did everything she could to shake her bad cold.

"I took Advil and I drank wheatgrass juice," she said. "My dad makes it. It's supposed to help your immune system. It's gross. I also drank lemon juice with honey for my sore throat, but that didn't work that well, so

I took cough drops. Before I skated, I drank Chinese medicine to help the throat and I ate a few cough drops."

Although she felt under the weather, Liu appeared vibrant and animated throughout her free skate to the classic's powerful music. She landed seven triple jumps in the second half of the program, including triple Lutz-triple toe and triple flip-loop-triple Salchow combinations. Her tight spins and lively footwork all received Level 3s and Level 4s. Her performance, composition and interpretation of music led the way to her event-best components score of 51.83.



JAN ADERF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

ALYSA LIU

She won the event by nearly 18 points. Lipetsky, who started coaching Liu seven years ago, said her pupil continued to challenge herself following her pewter-medal finish in 2017. “We wanted to not only improve on the jumps, but improve on the presentation as well,” Lipetsky said. “So all aspects. We also look at the World champions and see what they are doing and strive toward our big goal of trying to make it to the Olympics.” Liu, the 2016 intermediate champion, watches the top Russian skaters, especially, for inspiration. “I find them so motivating, because they are so young and have such good jumps and I aspire to be like them,” Liu said. Her favorite skater is 2016 and 2017 World champion Evgenia Medvedeva. “Her jumps are amazing and her skating skills are perfect,” Liu said. “I want to be just like her when I get older, or try to be like her now.” Kalyan, bronze medalist at the novice level in 2017, was also impressive in her piano composition free skate to Satie’s “Gymnopédie No. 1.” The 15-year-old floated powerfully yet effortlessly from one element to the next to place third in that segment and second overall with 166.53 points. She landed six triple jumps, including

a triple toe-triple toe combination. Her spins and footwork received Level 3s and Level 4s, and she earned all positive GOEs.

“The first thing I wanted to do was land my jumps and skate a clean program, but I also wanted to perform to the audience and make sure I use up the space as much as I can, because it’s such a big arena,” Kalyan said. “I wanted to smile and skate with as much joy as possible, and bring that joy to the crowd.”

Kalyan is coached by Jennifer Kelly and Robin Aprea in Springdale, Arkansas, and works regularly with her primary coach Alex Ouriashev in Chicago. While there are only two ice rinks in Arkansas, Kalyan has always felt the support of her rinkmates, coaches and family, she said.

“The people who I skate with at home (in Arkansas) help me become better as a skater and I can move around them but also learn from them. It’s pretty amazing how much my parents and coaches have supported me through this journey and I feel thankful for all of that. A lot of them have already texted me to say congratulations.”

Cui, second at the novice level last year, rallied from 11th after the short program to place second in the free skate and third overall with a score of 165.51.

“I was kind of disappointed going into the free after the short,” Cui said. “I just let go and it ended up going really well.”

That’s an understatement. She turned in the best technical score of the free skate — 68.53 points and barely finished behind Liu in program components.

Performing to a Chopin medley, Cui landed seven triple jumps, including a triple Lutz-loop-triple Salchow. Her spins received Level 4s, while her footwork earned Level 3.

Cui, 15, trains in Aston, Pennsylvania, under coach Vincent Restencourt, whom she started with following the 2017 U.S. Championships.

“I think it’s working really well,” she said. “I added a lot of arm variations to my jumps and my consistency on my flip, Lutz and loop have gone up.”

Hanna Harrell (Dallas FSC) earned the pewter medal with a score of 154.36.



POOJA KALYAN



TING CUI

‘Hungry’ Pulkinen satisfies gold medal appetite

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

Silver in junior men at the 2017 U.S. Championships. Silver at 2017 Junior Grand Prix Poland. Silver at the 2017 Junior Grand Prix Final. When Camden Pulkinen (Broadmoor SC) came to San Jose, he was hungry for one thing — gold.

“You know when you haven’t eaten for a few days, then you see an In-N-Out Burger? That’s how hungry I am. That’s how bad I want this title,” Pulkinen said.

Two performances later, though neither one perfect, Pulkinen won the 2018 U.S. junior men’s title — a goal he was determined to meet for an entire year.

“Last year, coming in second to [Alex] Krasnozhan was a big step in my career,” Pulkinen said. “That season was a big leap, and I wanted to springboard that success into this season. I wanted to become national champion. As soon as I got second last year, I told myself, ‘I’m not going to lose next year.’ This whole season, that’s been in my mind.”

After a short program well below his capability, which included a fluke fall after a singled toe loop in his triple flip combination, Pulkinen attacked his Frederic Chopin free skate with a quiet confidence, working through a few bobbles to rebound with an otherwise stellar performance worth 151.41 points.

“Of course this wasn’t the performance that I wanted, but I think the big difference between today and yesterday is that today, everyone watching felt a sense of security,” Pulkinen said. “Yesterday I wasn’t confident. No one watching that performance felt confident in what I was doing. Today wasn’t exactly perfect, but I stayed present, did two beautiful triple Axels, hit a new personal-best total score, and did a triple Axel-triple toe for the first time in competition. There were a lot of good things to take away.”

Pulkinen, who trains with Tom Zakrajsek alongside notable stars on the senior circuit like Max Aaron, Mirai Nagasu and Vincent Zhou in Colorado Springs, Colorado, earned a personal-best 219.29 points for the week — more than 19 points ahead of silver medalist Dinh Tran (SC of San Francisco).

Unlike Pulkinen, Tran trains solo under the guidance of Jeffrey Crandell.

“Sometimes I can get upset when I’m training. It’s hard to find motivation when you train by yourself, but in the end, there’s nothing you can really do about it,” Tran said. “You have to find that drive within yourself. I think that’s the most important thing. I know what I need to do, and I love where I train.”

And while he may go it alone day to day, Tran had the entire crowd behind him in San Jose, bringing the audience to its feet long before the conclusion of his free skate to “Poeta” by Vicente Amigo. Tran earned a total of 199.95 at SAP Center — just one hour away from his home and training base in San Francisco.

“I was a little nervous before I went on for the warm-up, but after landing a couple jumps, the fans were making so much noise,” Tran said. “It took my mind off everything and made the whole experience so much fun. Toward the end, I knew that the crowd’s reaction was going to be really fun for me. I just tried to enjoy the moment.”

The bronze medal went to Maxim Naumov (SC of Boston), who battled an ankle injury all season to earn 179.00 points.

“About a year and a half ago, I landed a Lutz and my upper body kept moving but my feet stayed in the same place,” Naumov said. “I had surgery done on the fracture in April and it healed, but it kept hurting. I’ve been pushing through it and trusting the process. I do a lot of exercises off the ice and I’ve learned to take care of my body. I think all of that together led me to today.”

The 2017 U.S. novice champion faltered on the opening triple Axel and triple flip-triple toe combination in his free skate to “Who Wants to Live Forever” by Canadian Tenors, but pushed through, as he has all season long, to earn a segment score of 114.93.

Ryan Dunk (Baltimore FSC) earned the pewter medal, turning in the third-best free skate as redemption to a 10th-best short program. The 2017 U.S. junior bronze medalist finished the week with 172.68 points.



CAMDEN PULKINEN



DINH TRAN



MAXIM NAUMOV

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



MELANIE HEANEY/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

AUDREY LU AND MISHA MITROFANOV



SARAH FENG AND TJ NYMAN



LAIKEN LOCKLEY AND KEENAN PROCHNOW

Healthy again, Lu and Mitrofanov pull away for first title

BY SORA HWANG

Audrey Lu and Misha Mitrofanov (Dallas FSC) widened their 2.13-point advantage after the short program to a 17.74-point margin en route to not only their first U.S. title, but also their first U.S. Championships medal.

A tough injury kept the pair apart and off the ice last season, so being able to stand on top of the podium together in San Jose felt like sweet satisfaction.

"Last season, I dislocated my shoulder and I had to get surgery and then recover for six months," Mitrofanov said. "We started to skate together again in February or March and we had to try to get into our routine since it wasn't just 'season ends, skate, stay healthy and keep on going.' It was definitely difficult at first."

Their comeback included two Junior Grand Prix assignments — Belarus and Poland — this season, where they finished fifth in both outings.

"We stayed confident and we stayed focused," Mitrofanov said. "And then after Poland, we knew we had sectionals. We just prepared how we prepare for every competition, went through sectionals, and then same thing for nationals."

Keeping it business as usual with coaches Aleksey Letov and Olga Ganicheva worked in San Jose.

"It feels really good," Lu said.

Less than a year after Mitrofanov's return to the ice, the duo wasn't expecting to win, especially in such dominant fashion.

"It feels like we accomplished a lot of things," Mitrofanov said.

Those things include setting all personal bests and earning all positive GOEs with the exception of two elements in the entire competition. Lu and Mitrofanov displayed their technical strength with a triple Salchow-double toe-double toe combination in their free skate to music from *Cats*, and Level 4 spins in both programs.

The team of Sarah Feng (SC of San Francisco) and TJ Nyman (Broadmoor SC) continued their successful debut season with a second-place finish and 155.57 points.

"We have really high expecta-

tions as a team and we were definitely expecting placement at nationals, but we weren't really expecting a top-two finish," Nyman, originally from Florida, said. "We're happy to make it this far and be on the podium."

Feng, who enjoyed being back in her home state of California, attributed their accomplishments to their individual strengths and ability to work together.

"I think we're both pretty strong singles skaters," Feng said. "I've done [ice] dance before and he's had a little bit of pairs experience, so when we came together, it felt natural."

Feng previously competed in ice dance with Anthony Ponomarenko, who also had a successful trip to the 2018 U.S. Championships with partner Christina Carreira. As for Nyman, that "bit of pairs experience" was back in 2014 when he won the juvenile bronze medal. "We didn't do any overhead lifts or twists," Nyman recalled, "so, twists and overhead lifts are brand new."

Luckily, Feng and Nyman have learned from some of the best of U.S. pairs. They train alongside two-time U.S. champions and Olympians Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Chris Knierim in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with coach Dalilah Sappenfield.

"[Alexa and Chris] motivate us every day just to go do our best and to never give up and fight. They're really leaders to show that," Nyman said.

With 153.04 points, Laiken Lockley and Keenan Prochnow (DuPage FSC) improved upon their fifth-place finish in 2017 to win the bronze medal.

"We knew that we needed a lot of improvement," Lockley said. "We really had to improve our skating skills, so that was one of the main things we focused on."

With well-trained focus under the watchful eyes of Rockne Brubaker and Stefania Berton came results.

"Coming here, we wanted to skate two clean skates and hopefully win, but we came away with a medal and we're happy with that," Prochnow said. "We have improved a lot since last year."

Nadine Wang (SC of New York) and Spencer Howe (Los Angeles FSC) finished fourth with 135.96 points.

Carreira, Ponomarenko step up to gold

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

When Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko have a tough practice day at Novi Ice Arena in Michigan, they have many places to turn for inspiration.

There's their head coach, Igor Shpilband, who always tells them to attack their elements. Two-time World medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates, their training partners, often lend encouragement. And then there are Ponomarenko's parents, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, who won three World ice dance titles and three Olympic medals, including gold in 1992.

"They are very supportive of me," Anthony said. "They share so many stories of when they skated. Soviet times were interesting, and I love hearing their stories. They make me think I'm going to have a better day tomorrow. 'Keep going,' they tell me. 'You can do it.'"

"Calling them after a rough day is great," Carreira said. "They make you feel better, because they've been through a lot worse."

Klimova, who coached her son earlier in his skating career, was a bundle of nerves watching him and his partner in San Jose, the family's hometown.

The skater's mom soon breathed a sigh of relief. Carreira (SC of New York) and Ponomarenko (SC of San Francisco), the 2017 World Junior ice dance bronze medalists and silver medalists at the Junior Grand Prix Final, were the class of the field, winning both the Latin short dance and free dance, and capturing the crown with 159.18 points. It was their third U.S. junior medal; they won pewter in 2016 and silver last season.

The couple stepped up to gold with a powerful yet sensitive free dance to romantic selections from the *WE* soundtrack that showed off their deep edges, superior flow and refined style, and earned four Level 4 elements from the technical panel.

"We have wanted this for a while, and now it's finally happened," Carreira said.

Siblings Caroline Green (SC of Cleveland Heights) and Gordon Green (Washington FSC), the two-time U.S.

novice champions who placed fifth in juniors last season, were second in the short dance and won silver with a polished, technically demanding free dance to Borodin's "Polovtsian Dances." Each move was finished and secure, with the lifts, twizzles and spin gaining Level 4. They finished with 146.72 points.

"Today was a breakthrough; we showed the judges we are really more mature than we used to be," Gordon said. "We've stepped it up a little."

The Greens, who began skating together in 2009, train at the Wheaton Ice Skating Academy (WISA) in Rockville, Maryland, where they are coached by Alexei Kiliakov, Elena Novak and Dmitri Ilin. Caroline especially credited Novak, WISA's primary choreographer, for their success this season.

"She has really worked with us this season to show our maturity as a team and our artistic ability," Caroline said. "Now that we have, I think, a strong base and technicality in our skating, we're showing the judges that even as a brother and sister team, we can connect at a different level."

Chloe Lewis (All Year FSC) and Logan Bye (SC of New York), the 2013 novice champions who placed fourth in juniors last season, captured the bronze medal with a lyrical free dance to music by Coeur de Pirate that capitalized on their strong on-ice connection. Highlights included a superb opening straight-line lift, and they finished with 143.21 points.

"Our expression was everything we hoped it would be," Lewis said. "We got all of the levels we were hoping for, so we feel good about that, too."

Lewis and Bye, who teamed up in August 2010, made a coaching change after their Junior Grand Prix events, and now train in Canton, Michigan, under Marina Zoueva and Massimo Scali.

Eliana Gropman (Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights) and Ian Somerville (Washington FSC) performed an energetic flamenco free dance marred when both ice dancers fell on a transition move. They recovered with a fine rotational lift, and placed fourth with 138.90 points.



CHRISTINA CARREIRA AND ANTHONY PONOMARENKO



CAROLINE GREEN AND GORDON GREEN



CHLOE LEWIS AND LOGAN BYE

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LADIES (L-R): EMILEA ZINGAS, SILVER; BEVERLY ZHU, GOLD; VIOLETA USHAKOVA, BRONZE; CALISTA CHOI, PEWTER



MEN (L-R): MAX LAKE, SILVER; GOKU ENDO, GOLD; NICHOLAS HSIEH, BRONZE; LUCAS ALTIERI, PEWTER

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PAIRS (L-R): JOANNA HUBBART/WILLIAM HUBBART, SILVER; JADE HOM/FRANZ-PETER JEROSCH, GOLD; MASHA MOKHOVA/IVAN MOKHOV, BRONZE; ELLIE MCCLELLAN/JIM GARBUTT, PEWTER



ICE DANCE (L-R): GIANNA BUCKLEY/JEFFREY CHEN, SILVER; KATARINA WOLFKOSTIN/HOWARD ZHAO, GOLD; CAROLINE LIU/KENAN SLEVIRA, BRONZE; ELIZABETH TKACHENKO/ALEXEI KILIAKOV, PEWTER

Zhu simply brilliant in U.S. Championships debut

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Fifth at the sectional championships the last two seasons, Beverly Zhu (All Year FSC) entered the 2017-18 campaign more determined than ever to qualify for her first U.S. Championships.

Not only did she qualify to compete at the big show in San Jose, the high school sophomore from Calabasas, California, obliterated the novice ranks at Solar4America Ice at San Jose with a score of 167.69 points, a whopping 35 points more than her nearest challenger.

The stunning result caught Zhu by surprise.

"I didn't really realize how much I've improved, because I was so focused on getting to nationals," she said.

Derrick Delmore, her coach from the beginning of her competitive career, said Zhu demonstrated that extra drive all season.

"She's really stepped it up with her technical abilities and I think she's really worked hard on the component side as well," he said. "It all came together nicely this year."

First after the short program, Zhu's delivered a spectacular free skate to music from *Miss Saigon*. She opened with a triple flip-triple toe loop combination worth 13.00 points and a triple Salchow-loop-double flip worth 9.20

points. She landed a total of six triple jumps, received a Level 4 for her three spins and a Level 4 for her step sequence. The program received all positive GOEs.

"We had another program planned, but we went back to my old version (two weeks before the U.S. Championships) which I was more confident with," Zhu said.

Delmore coaches Zhu with Ivan Dinev at The Skating Edge Ice Arena in Torrance, California. He said Zhu continues to prove that she's a strong competitor.

"I saw some traces of that when she was younger, but in these last couple of years, in multiple high-pressure situations, she's really



MELANIE HEANEY/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

BEVERLY ZHU



EMILEA ZINGAS



VIOLETA USHAKOVA

stepped up to the challenge," Delmore said.

Zhu, who attends public school and takes online courses, practices her craft in the afternoon.

"I'm super proud of her," Delmore said. "She's been with me a long time and it's been a long journey. For us to see her do this well is amazing."

Emilea Zingas (St. Clair Shores FSC), a sophomore at Grosse Pointe South High School in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, also enjoyed a breakthrough competition. Making her U.S. Championships debut, Zingas rallied from sixth place after the short program to place third in the free skate and finish as the silver medalist with a score of 132.68.

"It's surreal," she said minutes after stepping off the ice. "Last year I didn't make it out of regionals. I kind of had a mind block with regionals, but making it past that point and performing well at sectionals and nationals is just crazy for me and it's like a beginning to my career."

Zingas performed a strong and fluid free skate to "Malaguena" by 101 Strings Orchestra that featured four triple jumps, one in combination. She missed her triple Salchow combination, but added the double toe loop to the end of her double Axel toward the end of the program.

"Quick thinking probably put her in second rather than third or fourth," said Brooke Castile O'Keefe, who coaches Zingas with Lindsay Page-O'Donoghue.

Page-O'Donoghue witnessed a lot of fight and determination from Zingas following her short program, in which she faltered on her opening triple Lutz-double toe loop combination.

"She didn't feel great coming off the ice yesterday after a mistake and I think she wanted to prove to herself that she was better than that," Page-O'Donoghue said.

Seventh-grader Violeta Ushakova (SC of New York) improved upon her sixth-place finish at the intermediate level last year by claiming the bronze medal with a score of 131.52.

The 13-year-old sustained a back injury earlier in the season, but was able to heal up in time and qualify for the U.S. Championships.

"She didn't have her best skate; she didn't pop, she didn't fall, but she was a little bit shaky," said her coach and mother Kelly Ushakova. "Her legs were a little bit nervous, but I'm proud of her."

In her free skate to music from *Samson and Delilah*, Violeta received Level 4 for her spins and footwork, but doubled a combination late in the program.

"I was still able to keep going and finish everything off the way it was supposed to be," Violeta said. "I'm very happy I placed third."

Calista Choi (Skokie Valley FSC), who had the second-best free skate, earned the pewter medal with 131.20 points.

‘Learning experience’ results in title for Endo

BY MIMI MCKINNIS

It was a roller-coaster year for Goku Endo (Los Angeles FSC). After placing sixth in the intermediate men’s competition at the 2017 U.S. Championships, the 14-year-old made the leap to the novice division, won the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships, placed 14th in his international debut at JGP Croatia, and finished it all off with the U.S. novice men’s title — despite placing second in both segments of competition.

“I wanted to win, but I didn’t think I could,” Endo said. “I just wanted to do good programs and give an overall good performance. That was my focus — not the result. My main goal was to learn a lot for next season.”

Mistakes on the triple loop and triple toe in his free skate aside, Endo finished the event strong to the tune of *Moulin Rouge!*’s “El Tango de Roxanne,” earning a final segment score of 102.03 and an overall total of 156.14 — enough to top the podium, if only by 0.37 point.

“I feel amazing right now, even though I did pop a jump and fall on another,” Endo said. “I think I thought too much about the jump and it got away from me. I hesitated and I lost speed. Not a good combination.”

But in a season devoted to learning, Endo, who trains in Harbor City, California, with Ivan Dinev and Angela Nikodinov, walked away with this advice for future seasons: “Have fun. Relax when you perform.”

With a score of 155.77, Max Lake (All Year FSC) left with silver — a marked improvement from failing to qualify for the Championships last year, and a feat the 15-year-old attributes to a renewed work ethic heading into this season.

“I didn’t make it to nationals last year, because I realized I hadn’t worked hard enough,” Lake said. “That pushed me to start training a lot harder. I feel like after last season, I committed myself to my practice 110 percent, every single day. It seems to have paid off pretty well.”

Third after the short program, Lake, who trains with Jonathan Cassar and Colleen Mickey in Carlsbad, California, earned the highest free skate score of

the day, notching 103.11 for his program to “Cello Concerto in E Minor” by Elgar. His performance was highlighted by a triple Axel that didn’t receive a single negative GOE.

“I was hoping for the top three, but I mainly just wanted to land my triple Axel,” Lake said. “I didn’t think about it being a competition when I was out there, I just thought of every element, one at a time — including that one.”

Nicholas Hsieh (SC of Wilmington) snagged bronze despite a sixth-best free skate, putting the 2.64-point lead he amassed after the short program to good use.

“I knew that if I could skate two clean programs, I could win, so I’m a little disappointed in the free skate,” Hsieh said. “I know I could have done better. I’m still happy I got a medal, though. That’s what I really wanted. That short program was really important, obviously, and I’m glad I fought through to hang on to a good standing in the end.”

Skating to “Exogenesis: Symphony, Parts 1 and 2,” by Muse, 15-year-old Hsieh pushed through three falls in the final segment to earn the second-highest components score of the event (48.84) — a skill he said he learned at his international debut at JGP Belarus, where he placed 13th earlier this season.

“I learned a lot from my JGP,” Hsieh, who trains in Wilmington, Delaware, under the direction of Viktor Pfeifer, said. “I really learned how to perform to the judges and the audience, and how to fight through programs that aren’t so great. That came in handy here.”

Hsieh finished the segment with 94.89 points, and the week with a score of 151.64.

With the guidance of coaches Douglas Haw and Iliona Melnichenko in Coral Springs, Florida, Lucas Altieri (Panthers FSC) moved up a spot from last year’s Championships, winning the pewter medal with 144.63 points. His free skate, set to “Hey You” and “Another Brick in the Wall” by Pink Floyd, earned 95.98 points, en route to matching his highest-career U.S. Championships finish.



GOKU ENDO



MAX LAKE



NICHOLAS HSIEH

MELANIE HEANEY/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



MELANIE HEANEY/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

JADE HOM AND FRANZ-PETER JEROSCH



JOANNA HUBBART AND WILLIAM HUBBART



MASHA MOKHOVA AND IVAN MOKHOV

Champs Hom and Jerosch eye bright future together

BY SORA HWANG

Jade Hom (Colonial FSC) and Franz-Peter Jerosch (North Atlantic FSC) dealt with the unexpected, putting their focus to the test when they followed Jasmine and Joshua Fendi's (Los Angeles FSC) free skate in the novice pairs event.

Jasmine suffered an injury during the twins' performance, resulting in an additional ice resurface and delay in competition. She received stitches and is fine.

Hom and Jerosch, though, put the blinders on and got the job done to win their first U.S. title in only their second competition together. Coming off a win at the 2018 Eastern Sectional Championships, the Massachusetts-based pair earned not only the highest marks in the field overall with 126.99 points, but also in each segment.

They credited repetition and training with coaches Carrie Wall and Bobby Martin for their successful outing.

"Every day, we just consistently ran our programs," Jerosch said after their free skate to music from the movie *Pocahontas*.

The duo skated to The Piano Guys' cover of One Direction's "Story of My Life" for their short program.

"Not all of them were clean, but as long as we got that mileage in running those programs, we felt really confident in our stamina, our strength and ability to fight through them," Jerosch said.

The fight paid off. Hom and Jerosch earned positive GOEs on eight of 11 elements in their free skate and the highest program components marks both nights.

After advancing through the discipline's levels with a couple of different partners, Jerosch is excited for what's to come with Hom.

"I think we handled [our first U.S. Championships] pretty well and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish," he said.

The rest of the novice event was tight and unpredictable.

With only 1.26-points separating third and eighth place after the short program, virtually every team took the ice for the free skate with high hopes for a medal.

Joanna Hubbart and William Hubbart (Champions' Edge SC) took advantage of the tight race to win the silver medal with 118.31 points, despite being in seventh place

after their short program to music from the movie *Gladiator*.

"I knew it was really close, so I knew we had a shot [to medal]," William said of their mentality heading into their free skate to "Exogenesis: Symphony Part II" by Muse. "You know what, we weren't perfect, but we fought for everything and I'm proud of that."

The siblings' silver medal rounded out a successful week for the family. Younger brother Nick Hubbard (Champions' Edge SC) won the intermediate pairs title with partner Zoe Larson earlier in the week.

Nick cited watching his siblings as the reason he was inspired to give the discipline a try. When asked, the Hubbarts' love for pairs is evident.

"The speed is so fun," Joanna said. "And just getting lifted, the flow of it — it's a really good time. And I like the team atmosphere of it."

For the sibling duo, being a team is more than just a partnership on the ice. William said, "I think it really helps skating with your sibling. You know how to work out problems at the rink, or even at home. You have a lot more time together. I think there's a big advantage to it."

Another team showcased that advantage of skating with family by clinching the bronze medal. Siblings Masha Mokhova and Ivan Mokhov (Lansing SC), intermediate champions in 2017, made small mistakes in the free skate, but had enough from their second-place effort in the short program to finish on the podium with a total score of 116.64.

"We skated our short program clean and like we expected," Mokhov said. "For our long program, we did all the hard elements that we were a little bit more concerned about, but the easier ones, we kind of stumbled on them."

"When I fell on the double Sal[chow] throw, it was an accident because I did it a hundred times before," Mokhova agreed and quickly shrugged it off by adding, "It happens."

Ellie McClellan and Jim Garbutt (Champions' Edge SC) won the pewter medal to cap off their first season together — and McClellan's first trip to the U.S. Championships. They rallied from eighth place after the short program to post an overall score of 113.84.

Wolfkostin, Zhao leap to win with 'La La Land'

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

When he's not on the ice or studying, Howard Zhao can be found playing X-box with fellow skaters at Detroit Skating Club. His partner, Katarina Wolfkostin, takes care of her pets: a bird, three cats and a snake.

"And I like to draw dragons," Wolfkostin said.

"She's a really good drawer," Zhao added.

Together, they make a really good team. Intermediate champions last season, Wolfkostin (Peninsula SC) and Zhao (Detroit SC) climbed from second after the pattern dances to win the novice title with a sparkling free dance to the *La La Land* soundtrack that included five Level 4 elements and earned 73.54 points. All told, they earned a career-best 122.41 points.

"The program is based loosely on the characters in the movie, but we added our own style to it," Zhao said.

"The jazzy music and love story really spoke to us," Wolfkostin said.

Paul Bellantuono, one of their coaches at DSC, recalled an "instant connection" when the youngsters first teamed up two seasons ago.

"They have a great respect and understanding for each other that started the moment they stepped onto the ice together, looked at each other and held hands," Bellantuono said. "They're amazing kids, both from very supportive families. It's such a serious sport but they always want to find the fun."

The team, who are also coached by Angelika Krylova, Pasquale Camerlengo and Natalia Annenko Deller, are planning their move to the junior ranks next season.

"We're already practicing the (pattern) dances," Zhao said.

"Our skating is evolving," Wolfkostin added. "We're working to look more mature on the ice."

Gianna Buckley (Seattle SC) and Jeffrey Chen (Peninsula SC) led by more than three points after winning both the Argentine Tango and Quickstep pattern dances. But a mistake on twizzles in their free dance to music from *My Sweet and Tender Beast* by Eugen Doga cost them several points, and they placed fifth in that segment. They won the

silver medal with 116.77 points.

"It was all right; it wasn't our best," Buckley said. "We got a bit far apart on our twizzles, and I tried to catch up and it caused us to lose levels."

"Gianna missed the twizzles; if not for that, they probably would have done better," Marina Zoueva, who with Massimo Scali coaches the couple in Canton, Michigan, said. "They have skated together only eight months. It really takes two or three years [to gel]."

Chen started out as a singles skater but switched to ice dance with the encouragement of his older sister Karen Chen, 2017 U.S. champion and 2018 Olympian.

"It's been a challenge; I've always felt I've been known more as Karen's kid brother than myself," he said.

Both skaters praised their training in Canton, where they share the ice with two-time U.S. champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani.

"Marina is amazing," Buckley said.

"She really makes sure we're prepared for every situation, so when we go to competition we can be relaxed."

Caroline Liu (Hickory Hill FSC) and Kenan Slevira (All Year FSC), who sat fourth after the two pattern dances, captured bronze with a lyrical free dance to "Alegria" from Cirque du Soleil that was rated second-best of the night. They earned 67.49 points in the free dance and 115.56 overall.

"There was definitely room for improvement," Slevira told icenetwork. "For example, the twizzles could have been better, but overall, it was one of our best performances."

"It was equally exciting and stressful," Liu said. "This was our first nationals as a team, and my first in ice dance, and I am really proud of what we accomplished."

The skaters, who teamed up in 2017, train under primary coach Dmitri Boundoukin in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

Winning the pewter medal for the second consecutive year were Elizabeth Tkachenko and Alexei Kiliakov (Washington FSC) with 112.95 points. Kiliakov's father, Alexei, is one of the team's coaches at Maryland's Wheaton Ice Skating Academy.



KATARINA WOLFKOSTIN/HOWARD ZHAO



GIANNA BUCKLEY/JEFFREY CHEN



CAROLINE LIU/KENAN SLEVIRA

MELANIE HEANEY/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

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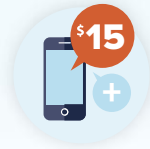
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DAN CRAWFORD/DC ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY



1) Members of the pre-juvenile team show great expression in their competition routine. 2) Open juvenile silver perform at a local exhibition. 3) Open juvenile Teal work on their unison off the ice. 4) Sixty-one skaters make up the five teams of the burgeoning Triangle Formation.

SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

TRIANGLE FORMATION MAKING NOISE IN THE SOUTH

Synchronized skating is gaining some serious traction in the South with the creation of Triangle Formation in the Raleigh–Durham–Chapel Hill region of North Carolina.

Upon consolidation of two synchronized skating programs — Triangle Ice Gliders and Raleigh Rockers — Triangle Formation launched last spring with five competitive teams, 61 skaters and seven coaches. Teams practice four days a week at three different rinks.

Jannika Lilija, a former competitive skater with one of the world's perennial top teams, Marigold IceUnity, of Helsinki, Finland, was brought on board by Jackie Hobgood, skating director at Polar Ice House Cary, to help coach the younger teams.

Lilija saw a perfect storm for success in this burgeoning area of the country when she arrived in 2016.

"Carolina Ice in Hillsborough already had a firm history of synchro in the area, and the infrastructure was right," Lilija said. "With seven rinks and one new one on the way, this location is the perfect place to foster a growing community like synchro."

But first, restructuring had to take place. When Lilija came to the area, Triangle Ice Gliders and their three tight-knit teams shared one hour of ice per week and were searching for someone to replace outgoing coach Josie Bodle. The Raleigh Rockers and their four teams also were seeking a new direction.

"Both programs decided it was in their best interest to unify, and thus Triangle Formation was

born," Lilija said.

At the start of its inaugural campaign in the spring of 2017, Triangle Formation hit some expected logistical speed bumps. Securing ice time in a hockey-centric area was difficult. Area coaches were tasked with increasing their awareness of synchronized skating and its moves requirements to best instruct and prepare students. Dance coaches found themselves in much higher demand. Inexperienced synchronized skaters had to learn to practice individually and in pairs alongside freestyle skaters, which proved daunting at times.

"The entire rink culture needed to adapt to synchro's increased presence in the community," Lilija said.

Building a more competitive program also meant attending additional competitions and practices, which impacts not only the skaters but

parents and siblings, too. For some, the prospect of the increased financial commitment paired with more absences from school and time spent away from home was intimidating.

"The majority of our families live in either Wake Forest or Cary, and were used to a maximum rink commute of 15 minutes one time per week," Lilija said. "Needing parents to travel 15 to 50 minutes, two to three times a week, was a big ask."

"Most of the area's school districts operate on a year-round schedule with three different tracks. Some of our skaters attend schools using a traditional calendar, while others attend private schools. This can become a parent's organizational nightmare."

But rather than being overwhelmed, parents met and devised an intricate and forever-improving carpool system. Teams travel in packs,





2



3

DAN CRAWFORD/DC ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY

and skaters know which moms bring the snacks. Siblings serve as mascots and are future team members.

The team slogan is “It takes a village.”

Lilija has helped to instill in her skaters some of the lessons that she learned as a young skater in Finland.

“These years instilled in me the value of dedication, hard work and an intractable commitment to my teammates,” she said. “Following failure, we found strength in each other to get up and skate on.”

Those relationships still exist today, she said.

“It is exactly this, the opportunity of investing in a lifelong community of support and encouragement that I want to pass on to new generations of young people,” Lilija said.

“We ask that our skaters commit themselves to their teammates, not just at the beginning of every season, but at every moment throughout, applying a firm focus on compassion and appreciation of the effort of others.”

Helping to spread this message of camaraderie and support is a group of coaches; some of them have strong backgrounds in high-level competitive skating, and others have extensive experience coaching in the area. The coaching staff is composed of Caroline Zubieta, a former Hockette; Anne Marie Misesy, a Miami University alum; McKenzie Taylor, a past Haydenette; and Madeline Grissom, of Triangle Ice Gliders.

Robin Harger-Quigley and Hobgood are both experienced freestyle coaches and were involved in the early years of Raleigh Rockers and Triangle Ice Gliders.

In an attempt to build an even stronger leadership group, a coach trainee program has been established.

“Applications were accepted from our two oldest teams, and seven skaters were selected to shadow coaches and assist at the practices of younger teams,” Lilija said. “Coach trainees attend monthly sessions where they debrief on challenges they’ve experienced and practice skills

like choreography and program planning.”

Triangle Formation is also looking to the outside to build its competitive program. At the Cape Cod Classic in Massachusetts, the group watched Les Suprêmes of Canada perform.

“That was a watershed moment for many of our skaters, who had never before seen synchro performed at such a high level,” Lilija said. “They saw an example of what their futures could hold and were inspired to work hard with a commitment they hadn’t experienced before. We believe that by exposing our teams to the best the sport has to offer, they can galvanize themselves and reach for whichever stars they set their sights on.”

Next season, Triangle Formation plans to debut its first team that will compete using the international judging system, as well as host clinics and camps.

“The road ahead is long and uphill, but together we are determined to spread the gospel of synchro past the plexiglass walls of the Northeast and Midwest,” Lilija said.

AAC ELECTION PROCESS TO GET UNDERWAY THIS MONTH

Athletes Advisory Committee (AAC) members volunteer their time to be the voice of figure skating's athletes on various committees, boards and working groups.

The 2018–19 AAC election cycle started on March 1, with Phase 1 (intent to serve on the AAC) beginning March 14. All eligible athletes

(see Article XXII of the U.S. Figure Skating by-laws) have the opportunity to participate in one or more phases of the process. If you feel you meet the definition but did not receive an email on March 1, contact Kathy Drevs at kdrevs@usfigureskating.org.

At the conclusion of the election, there will

be 50 athletes — 10 per discipline in men, ladies, pairs, ice dance and synchronized skating — elected to serve a one-year term beginning after the 2018 Governing Council in May.

With Saint Patrick's Day right around the corner, meet six members of the current AAC who share their lucky charms.



MIRAI NAGASU (ladies)

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado
Last championship event: 2018 Olympic Winter Games
What is your lucky charm? My dog, Lincoln, is my lucky charm.
Quote to live by: Jump off the cliff now and build your wings on the way down.
 — Ray Bradbury



RYAN DEVEREAUX (ice dance)

Hometown: Belleville, Michigan
Last championship event: 2016 Warsaw Cup
What is your lucky charm? My gold necklace with an elephant charm on it. I have worn it for more than 15 years. My mom gave it to me at my first U.S. nationals.
Quote to live by: A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." — Lao Tzu (My dad would say this every morning when he would wake me up.)



ASHLEY MULHERN (synchronized skating)

Hometown: New Canaan, Connecticut
Last championship event: 2015 World Synchronized Skating Championships
What is your lucky charm? My lucky hairagami! I wore it for every competition from high school through my final World Championships. Aside from making a great bun, it gave me confidence and brought my team and me luck every time we stepped on the ice.
Quote to live by: "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." — Phil Jackson



ALEXANDER JOHNSON (Men)

Hometown: Minnetonka, Minnesota
Last championship event: 2018 U.S. Championships
What is your lucky charm? I don't have any lucky charms; maybe I'd be luckier if I did.
Quote to live by: I want my money. I want my check. I'm going to finish this program and I'm going to be awesome, and that's what I did.
 — Adam Rippon

AUDREY MCQUADE

(synchronized skating)

Hometown: White Plains, New York
Last championship event: 2015 World Synchronized Skating Championships
What is your lucky charm? A pair of socks my friend Rachel Terry



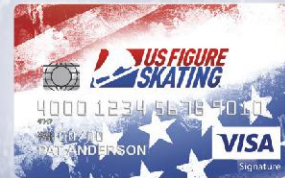
gave me before competing at our first international event as Team USA in 2008 with the Skyliners. I wore them every short program competition day for the rest of my synchro career, as a Skyliner and Haydenette, and wore them to all my law school exams.
Quote to live by: "It is the individual who can and does make a difference in this increasingly populous, complex world of ours. ... So give freely of yourself always to your family, your friends, your community and your country. The world will pay you back many times over."
 — Justice Sandra Day O'Connor



ASHLEY CAIN (pairs)

Hometown: Coppell, Texas
Last championship event: 2018 Four Continents Championships
What is your lucky charm? I always wear four rings. I never take them off. I have three on my right ring finger that say "never give up," "dream big" and "be strong." My grandparents on my mother's side bought them for me in Lake Placid. Then on my left middle finger, I wear a heart ring from my boyfriend, Dalton.
Quote to live by: "Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire." — Unknown

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ROLLING STONES

SKATERS SHARE INSIGHT ON STONING A COSTUME

BY LEXI ROHNER

Say the words *stone* or *gross* to a skater, and visions of sparkle and talk of patterns, sizes, color and optimal light are the responses. Stones are the key to a skating costume's appeal and a necessary component of planning a program. While many costumes are made by retail costume-designing shops and individuals, many adult skaters make and/or design their own. Stoning them and the details involved are topics heavily discussed among adult skaters.

Casting the first stone

For Rochelle Revor, it all starts with a single stone.

"Seriously, though, half the battle is just confidently determining your design before you start gluing," Revor said. "You will get faster with the actual stoning the more experienced you get."

Despite the many pre-competition hours spent designing and gluing, Revor can often be found still stoning her dress at competitions.

"I have a newfound respect for super stoners like Teresa Dentico and Rochelle Revor," Cindy Crouse said. "After fooling around for over an hour and a half, I have glued one Swarovski to my competition dress. At this rate, I'll be ready for the 2019 sectionals!"

For beginners, Bonnie Goranowski offers advice to lay out some stones to feel comfortable with one's design.

"Snap a photo and rearrange stones multiple times to decide which (design) you like best," Goranowski said. "Then break out the E6000 (glue) and go to town."

Pattern dance

Most of those who stone their own costumes suggest that the design come before stoning. However, if you do not know what you want, here are some tips.

"You can draw your pattern on the dress with chalk," Kathleen Westmoreland said. "There are also purple fabric markers specifically designed to draw patterns."

What works for one may not work for all, Cara Scudner pointed out.

"I love stoning dresses," Scudner said. "Sometimes I have a plan and other times I just start gluing stones and seeing where it ends up."

Stoning dresses for others as well, Scudner enjoys the creativity when clients tell her

to "just sparkle it, whatever you think will look best."

Finding a technique that works for you before starting to glue is a good idea, she added.

Technical marks

The most important element to stoning a costume is choosing the right stones. Ordering and finding them can take time. Deciding where they all belong to catch the light and portray the desired design is tricky. Kim Ellsworth stoned her free skate dress from scratch and became frustrated waiting for several orders of stones to arrive when her local store ran out.

"It was dance recital time in town and this really slowed me down," Ellsworth said. "I'd change the design and need more/different stones, then ordered wrong ones."

In her estimation, she technically had enough stones on it for U.S. Adult Championships, but wasn't satisfied.

Terry Lee Allen has used strict designs and free-form designs.

"Each style has been fun," Allen said. "The scariest design was stoning mesh on a quarter-inch-square grid with about 20-gross of stones and the dress laid flat, no seams sewn."

Allen was worried about the fit after the bodice and sleeves were stoned and then the dress was sewn together.

"After close to 30 hours of stoning, that would have been painful," Allen said. "We stoners are a strange bunch. I find it almost like meditating."

A *gross* — 144 stones — seems like a large amount, yet, it takes many gross to cover a costume properly.

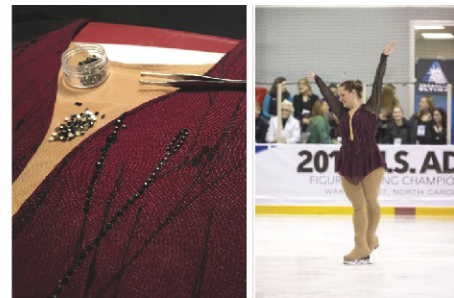
"This year I did a geometric design that required precision," Julie Gidlow said. "I bought water-soluble fabric pencils to draw the design, which provided enough of a guide that I felt comfortable stoning at a quick clip."

Using about 1,300 stones, Gidlow completed it in about four nonconsecutive hours using E6000 in a syringe, and toothpicks with wax on the ends to lift and place the stones.

While the process is generally tedious, Karen Burgner and Meaghan Baitel find stoning to be great meditation.

"It plays to our meticulous nature well," Burgner said.

Stephanie Senterfit finds it relaxing as well. Hopefully it's not just the E6000 fumes, she joked.



Bonnie Goranowski



Stephanie Hao

Stephanie Hao tried out stone patterns and wondered why it is so difficult.

"My dressmaker allowed me to stone the dress on her mannequin," Hao said, laughing. "When I'm not there, though, I've just been putting it on and gluing them in place on me."

Super stoners

Then there are those who do it up in ways the rest of us aspire to do.

"The first time I realized I had a problem was the first time I had access to unlimited stones," Dentico said. "I picked up two dresses from my seamstress; one wasn't finished."

The seamstress knew Dentico had limited time and offered her stones to use.

"An hour later, and one boot cover was complete," Dentico said. "That was the year of the \$100 boot covers; and a monster was created."

Samantha Lindenberg calls her best friend Jessica Wu for help.

"Sometimes I can figure out a pattern on my own and just go with it," Lindenberg said. "If I have music I can usually picture what I want my dress to look like."

Lindenberg then sketches and chooses stone colors.

"But really, I almost always end up calling Jessica," Lindenberg said.

Wu chimes in that "rhinestone munchies" do exist and one should have Red Vines on hand for emergencies.



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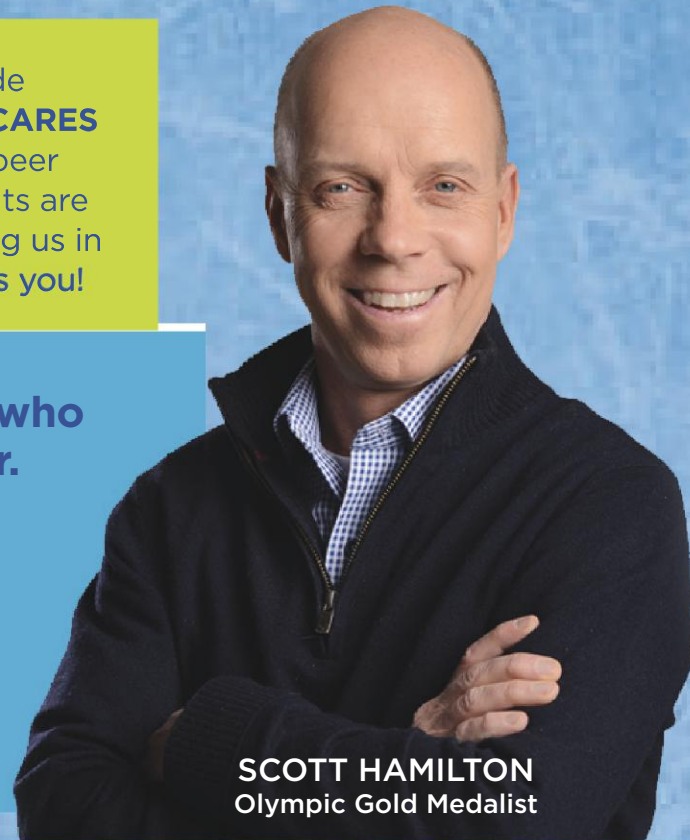
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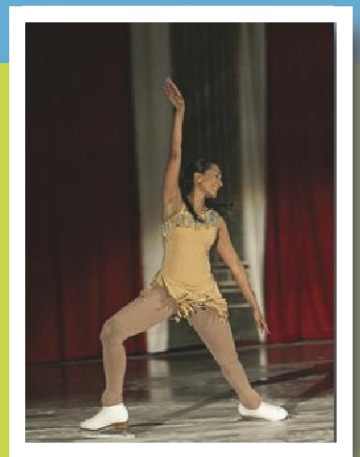
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Anita



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Ice House in Hackensack hosts send-off show for its 11 Olympians

The Ice House, the bustling four-arena facility based in Hackensack, New Jersey, hosted an Olympic send-off show titled “Ice Dreams” in January for 11 of its international skaters who train there, all of who competed at the 2018 Olympics.

This standing-room-only event featured performances by Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje, two-time Canadian World ice dance medalists; Alexia Paganini, the 2018 Swiss titlist; Nicole Rajicova, the three-time Slovak

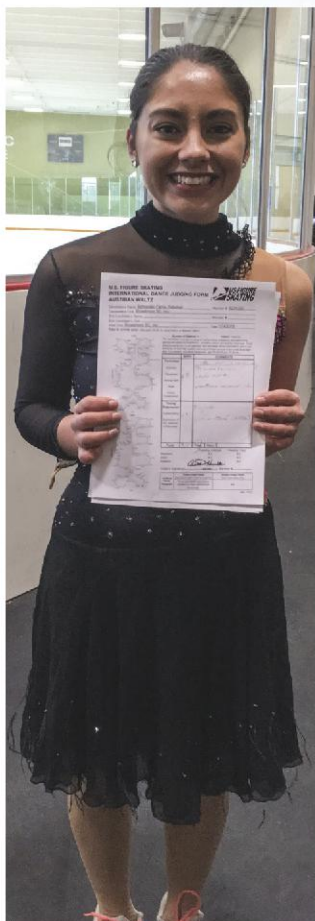
champion; Brendan Kerry, six-time Australian gold medalist; Alexei Bychenko and Daniel Samohin, international medalists from Israel; Paige Conners and Evgeny Krasnopolski, pairs skaters from Israel; and Adel Tankova and Ronald Zilberberg, ice dancers from Israel.

Hackensack Mayor John P. Labrosse Jr. and Deputy Mayor David Sims attended the send-off event.

“We are so incredibly proud of our skaters, coaches and supporters that train here at the Ice House,” said Craig Maurizi, director of figure skating at the Ice House and coach of Alexia Paganini. “I take immense pride in what these athletes have done and the path they’ve taken to get to the Olympics.”

The celebration also helped mark the 20th anniversary of the Ice House.

— Liz Leamy



Rebekah Schneider-Farris holds up her successfully completed Austrian Waltz test.

Colorado skater checks off international dance

Rebekah Schneider-Farris of the Broadmoor SC in Colorado Springs, Colorado, earned her sixth U.S. Figure Skating gold medal when she passed the last of the 10 international ice dances, the Austrian Waltz, on Jan. 14. She is also a gold medalist in senior moves, senior solo free dance, senior pairs, gold dance and senior free dance.

“The last international ice dance became a challenge, and in total it took me three times to pass,” Schneider-Farris said.

This victory was especially sweet for her. After taking almost two years off from skating, Schneider-Farris began working with 2006 Olympic silver medalist Ben Agosto on the international ice dances in January of 2017. Then, in the summer of 2017, she spent time in Sun Valley, Idaho, working with two-time U.S. bronze medalist Brent Bommentre. She ended up testing, and passing, nine of the international dances with Bommentre, all at one test session in Sun Valley.

— Kama Stigall



Colonial FSC steps up to help coach

The skating community in Boxborough, Massachusetts, is lending a helping hand for one of its own.

Jessica Dupuis, a coach who teaches at the Colonial Figure Skating Club, was recently diagnosed with cancer. The club held a skate-a-thon and silent auction to not only raise funds for the young coach, but also to show their support.

“Her courage, strength and determination in the face of her diagnosis have been an inspiration to everyone around her,” said Sarah Rosenfield, who is the development director of the Learn to Skate USA program at the club.

Despite inclement weather on

the night of the event, it was an emotional and financial success. There were 64 items up for auction, including two tickets to a Boston Bruins game.

Dupuis has already undergone surgery and is in the middle of a seven-week treatment of radiation and chemotherapy.

“I think the event showed Jessica how many people truly care about her, and it provided our community with a way to give back to Jessica for all that she has given us — her friendship, laughter and creativity,” Rosenfield said. “It was our small way of honoring her and letting her know how much we support her.”

For more information on donations, please visit www.gofundme.com/jessicasliftup

— Kama Stigall



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Answers on page 72

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Y P O D I U M S W E E P Z W U
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WORD SEARCH

Hi skaters! Try to find and circle the listed words 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!

ALEXA AND CHRIS
DANNY O'SHEA
MADISON HUBBELL
MIRAI NAGASU
PODIUM SWEEP
QUAD SALCHOW
TARAH KAYNE
TRIPLE AXEL
VINCENT ZHOU
ZACH DONOHUE



KIDS SPOTLIGHT

Violet Ee

Age: 8

Hometown: Atlanta

Club: Georgia FSC

Levels: Pre-preliminary (free skate), juvenile (moves in the field)

Coach: Elizabeth Wright-Johnson

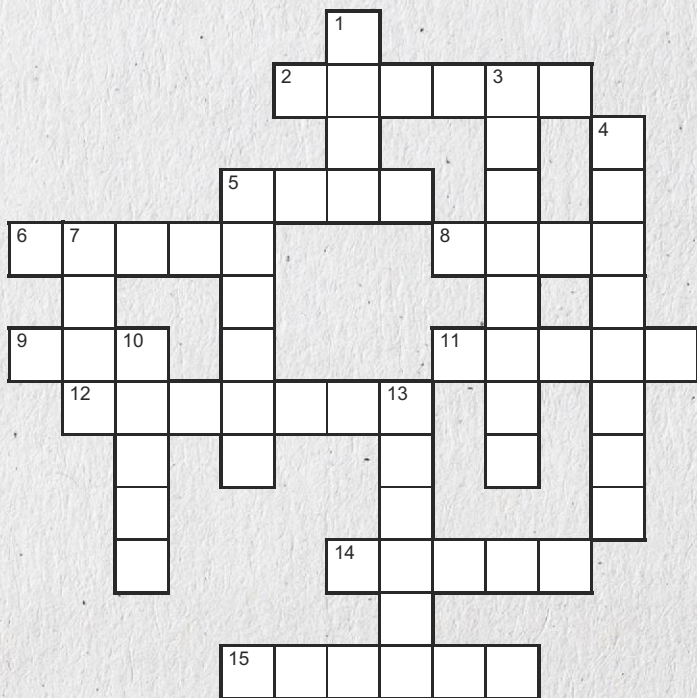
Favorite skaters: Nathan Chen, Maia and Alex Shibutani, Alina Zagitova

Favorite moves: Double loop, sit spin variations

How I got started skating: My parents brought me to check out the local ice rink when I was 3 years old. I fell in love with this sport and they enrolled me in the Snowplow Sam program right away.

Most memorable moment: Winning the no-test free skate event at the Eastern Great Lakes Regional Championships





ACROSS

- 2 At the 2018 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Mirai Nagasu snagged the ladies ___ medal, ensuring a ticket to her second Olympic Games.
- 5 At January's Four Continents Championships, three U.S. pairs couples scored higher in the short program, free skate and total than ever before, resulting in a personal ___ across the board for each.
- 6 Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc ___ of the U.S. ice danced their way to the gold medal at Four Continents.
- 8 Veteran skater ___ Miner surprised many by grabbing the U.S. men's silver medal in San Jose.
- 9 At the U.S. Championships, Mirai Nagasu missed a clean landing of her triple

- Axel in her short program but didn't succumb to gravity, thinking, "Wow, I'm a ___. I'm still on my feet."
 - 11 Feb. 1 was National ___ Day, a celebration of people who have not let adversity get them down and keep them down, just as a skater will rise from a fall. (2 wds)
 - 12 Ice dancer ___ Hubbell teamed up with Zach Donohue in 2011. Four bronze and two pewter U.S. Championships medals later, they finally struck gold in San Jose, edging the ShibSibs by .19 point.
 - 14 How many U.S. ice dance couples earned a spot on Team USA for the 2018 Winter Olympics?
 - 15 After a disappointing sixth-place finish in San Jose, Jason Brown redeemed himself at Four Continents, and brought the men's ___ medal home with him.
- DOWN**
- 1 At the U.S. Championships, when pairs skaters Alexa Scimeca Knierim and Chris Knierim heard that they had won the gold in the ___ and cry — cry Alexa did! Chris did most of the talking to the interviewer.
 - 3 The Four Continents Championships has a counterpart. Elite skaters from countries such as France, Italy, Sweden and Russia compete at about the same time at the ___ Championships.
 - 4 "Stoner" can mean different things. In skating circles, it's someone who glues rhinestones artistically to skaters' ___.
 - 5 ___ Tennell, the 2015 U.S. junior ladies champ now wears the crown of reigning senior champ, and was one of three ladies chosen for Team USA at PyeongChang.
 - 7 At 28 years, veteran U.S. men's skater ___ Rippon was the oldest rookie singles skater to represent the U.S. at the Olympics since 1936. He just gets better with age.
 - 10 Winning silver at the U.S. Championships and gold at Four Continents, pairs skaters ___ Kayne and Danny O'Shea had a pretty good finish to the season.
 - 13 After grabbing the gold at both of his Grand Prix assignments, the GP Final and U.S. Championships, ___ "Mr. Quad" Chen was a podium favorite in PyeongChang.

If you would like to be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to mmckinnis@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.

KIDS SPOTLIGHT

Cora Sibulkin

Age: 14

Hometown: Calabasas, California

Club: All Year FSC

Level: Pre-juvenile

Coach: Bianca Marro Weissman

Favorite skaters: Ashley Wagner, Mirai Nagasu, Bradie Tennell, Karen Chen

Favorite moves: Axel, double flip, back camel spins

How I got started skating: One day when I was 6 years old my mom took me to an outdoor ice skating rink and I saw a figure skater spinning in the middle and asked my mom if I could learn how to ice skate.

Most memorable moments: Getting fourth place at the Pasadena Open and my Theatre On Ice team (Pacific Edge), getting fourth place at National Showcase



'A MAGICAL SPORT'

SKATING COMMUNITY RALLIES TO BRING A SMILE TO CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN

BY AMY ROSEWATER

On a typical day at the rink, Audrey Weisiger concerns herself with the takeoff of a skater's Lutz or Axel. As a skating coach who guided Michael Weiss to two Olympic Games, and mentors skaters around the country, Weisiger certainly sweats the details.

But on this particular day, Weisiger is not too worried about medals or upcoming competitions.

She just wants these particular skaters to enjoy their time on the ice, and escape the everyday routine of doctors' visits and hospital stays.

Weisiger and her team of coaches and skaters at the Fairfax Ice Arena in Fairfax, Vir-



Former Team USA ice dancers Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin McManus hang out with Madeline Peris (right) and her sister, Violet, from the Casey Cares Foundation. Madeline suffers from cystic fibrosis.



Oliviah Hall from Casey Cares spends time with Olympic champion Scott Hamilton before his benefit skating show and gala in Cleveland.



Tara Sankner, wearing a Casey Cares T-shirt, hits the ice with Sylvie Hautbois, right, and Audrey Weisiger, coaches at the Fairfax Ice Arena. Sankner has been diagnosed with an astrocytoma, a type of brain tumor. She turned 13 on Feb. 17.

ginia, have donated their time to take families with critically ill children onto the ice for group skating parties for the last three years. The rink has generously provided the ice-skate rentals and admission to public skating sessions, and Weisiger and her team provide individualized skating lessons and guidance.

"This is my profession, coaching skating, but [it's nice] to be able to do it in a way that's not about winning and medals," Weisiger told the *Fairfax County Times* (Virginia). "It's about helping people feel better about themselves, so it was a real opportunity for me to take my sport and help other people through my sport."

I should mention here that I have worked with Weisiger for years as a sports reporter and have written about her and her skaters at times for *SKATING* magazine. I now work for an organization called the Casey Cares Foundation, which provides ongoing opportunities for families with critically ill children. When I started working there nearly three years ago, I called upon Weisiger because I wanted to connect my passion for skating with helping others.

What I envisioned initially was a way to help families with kids battling cancer, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell and many other debilitating illnesses. That goal was met immediately. What also happened, however, was that these opportunities made a lasting impact on the skaters and coaches. It took their minds off the grueling rigors of training while giving them a chance to give back to the community. For a couple of hours, the skaters and coaches were not so worried about triple jumps or twizzles, and the kids and families were not thinking about chemo.

Among the skaters who volunteered their time with the families was Antonio Maravilla,

an intermediate skater whose father is battling cancer.

Weisiger has given back plenty over the years through skating, helping efforts at the Fort Dupont Ice Arena in Washington, D.C.; and last year, along with 2011 U.S. champion Ryan Bradley, Weisiger helped organize a benefit show for Olympic pairs skater Jeremy Barrett, whose wife, Lucy, was diagnosed with leukemia.

Weisiger is not the only one from the skating community who has partnered with Casey Cares. Weiss invited one Casey Cares child and her family to his annual Michael Weiss Foundation skating show a few years ago, and he recently performed at the Pandora Ice Rink in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, where Casey Cares families skated along with him. He even performed his signature backflip for the families, which, of course, was a huge hit.

"I feel like a gesture to show your support can maybe inspire a little," said Weiss, a three-time U.S. champion who was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame this year.

The University of Delaware, thanks to coach Jeff DiGregorio and assistant athletic director James Kaden, invited several families to the rink's annual send-off show for the U.S. Championships.

One young girl named Anastasia found her passion for skating several years ago after attending a skating party with Casey Cares. Anastasia had never skated before, and fell in love with the sport with her first step on the ice. Her mom bought her skates, and today she skates at Ice World in Abingdon, Maryland, (where World champion Kimmie Meissner got her start) and competes in free skate 4 and with the Chesapeake Synchro Level 2 team.

Anastasia is not battling an illness, but at Casey Cares, siblings of sick children are invited to events as well because often they get left out of the equation when parents have to focus on an ill child. Her brother, Quentin, is ventilator-dependent and suffers frequent seizures. When this opportunity came up, their mom, Verangela, juggled her schedule (she now works at Ice World) to make things happen for Anastasia.

After the show in Delaware, Anastasia and the other families enjoyed meet-and-greet opportunities with longtime international ice dance competitors Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin McManus, senior men's competitor Emmanuel Savary and U.S. novice men's competitor Jordan Evans.

"There are many times when you're an athlete training and your mind gets so lost in training and perfection," said McManus, who now coaches at Delaware with Cannuscio. "As athletes, you sometimes lose sight of the joy of skating and what it can do for people. Skating is a magical sport. For as much as Stasia and I focused on getting our technical scores as high as we could, we always focused on the way we connected with the audience on the ice. Skating is so personal to people, and I am always excited when I can be involved in these kinds of projects and give back through skating."

For Anastasia, the experience was a lasting memory. She giggled nervously as she met the skaters, and made sure she got tons of photos.

"I didn't want her to miss this," Verangela said.

One other skater to help has been Olympic champion Scott Hamilton, who has battled cancer himself. Hamilton has held an ice skating show benefiting cancer research programs at the Cleveland Clinic, where he has been treated, for 18 years.

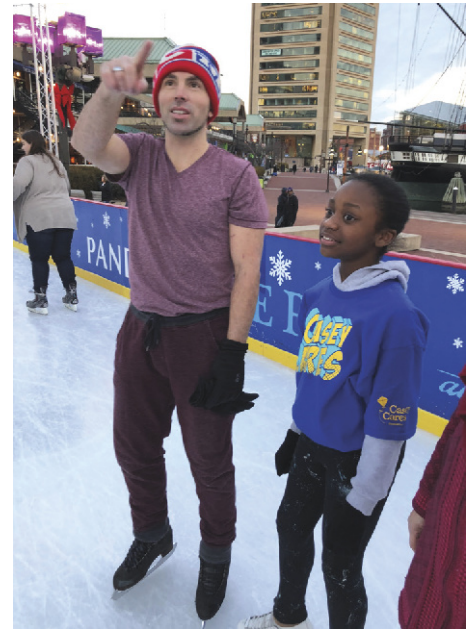
In November, he invited 9-year-old Oliviah, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and her family as special guests to his show. Not only did they receive on-ice tickets and a chance to check out the show's rehearsal, but also they enjoyed the after-show gala. As a bonus, two-time Olympic silver medalist Elvis Stojko stopped midway through his program and kissed her hand.

Oliviah met everyone from Olympic ice dance champion Meryl Davis to Olympic gold medalists Hayes Jenkins and Carol Heiss Jenkins, and she danced the night away with skaters and even one of her doctors. Of course, she met Hamilton, too, and she made him a thank-you note complete with a drawing of the two of them together. In addition, Hamilton invited another Casey Cares family to his show in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I loved meeting Oliviah ... what a great personality," said Hamilton, who estimated his shows, foundation and sponsorships have brought in an estimated \$50 to \$60 million for cancer research. "You look at this beautiful little girl and when they're kids, it's hard to believe they're sick at all. They just want to enjoy every moment. It's so inspiring when you see that with your eyes. They've gone through so much and

they just want to enjoy life and keep on living. It's a reminder to us to be like a kid. They're the smart ones."

For more information, please check CaseyCares.org.



Two-time Olympian Michael Weiss gives Anastasia Christy, whose brother, Quentin, is critically ill, some skating tips and pointers at the Pandora Ice Rink in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

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Hard work, sacrifice learned through skating paved the way for successful young professionals



Kara Mietlicki and her niece, Nora

Tatyana Rosalia

Editor’s note: As children, skating played a major role in their lives. Today, these two young women — Kara Mietlicki and Tatyana Rosalia — focus on grown-up lives and careers, but learning to “Get Up” when the going gets tough is still a lesson they hold on to.

BY JOANNE VASSALLO JAMROSZ

On May 17, 2004, Kara Mietlicki was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Mietlicki was 18 years old at the time, living in Wichita, Kansas, and busily preparing for her fall skating regional championships.

That year began a journey that included surgery, grueling chemotherapy and debilitating fatigue, but not once did Mietlicki stop skating.

“My best ‘Get Up’ moment would have to be battling cancer while still skating competitively,” Mietlicki said. “Skating saved my life. I wanted to be as normal as possible when I got diagnosed with cancer. I refused to stay off the ice. Continuing to skate while being so sick wasn’t easy, but it motivated me to push through and fight for my life. I turned to skating as my own form of therapy, and it turned out to be the best therapy.”

The determination Mietlicki learned through skating has served her well. She went on to pursue a degree in sports management, moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, and now works as a paralegal in a law firm that specializes in family law. And although she stopped skating competitively in 2010, the sport remains a big part of her life. She teaches Learn to Skate and private lessons, enjoys getting on the ice with her young niece Nora, and she looks forward to the day when her

newborn niece, Gemma, can join them. She also recently purchased her first home.

“The lessons I learned in skating have definitely helped me get where I am today,” Mietlicki said. “Without dedication, commitment, setting goals and being the best that I can be, which skating taught me, I wouldn’t have been able to move on after skating competitively and finish my college degree.”

Mietlicki credits skating with helping her embrace the good and bad days and persevere through the tough times. She is also proudly 13 years cancer-free.

“Every day is a new day and we can either make the best of it or the worst of it,” Mietlicki said. “The lessons I learned in skating have helped me cope in life when things were thrown my way that weren’t exactly in my plans. It’s important to understand that everything happens for a reason and, in the end, we come out stronger than before.”

When Tatyana Rosalia was just 2 years old, her dad purchased her a pair of size 11 children’s skates at a Salvation Army in Brooklyn, New York. The skates lay in wait until just short of her fifth birthday, when her parents took her skating for the first time at the Abe Star Rink in Coney Island.

So began her skating journey, one that included a daily commute to the Chelsea Piers Skating School, a commute that would discourage even the most seasoned New Yorker, but not Rosalia.

“It’s not easy to get up in the early morning to travel to the rink via mass transit, train for an hour and a half, go on to a full day of school, maintain my grades to be at the top of my class,

then press “Repeat” the next day for over 10 years,” Rosalia said. “It takes hard work, determination, devotion, perseverance and sacrifice.”

Rosalia graduated in the spring of 2015 with a master’s in publishing. Immediately after graduation, she accepted a production assistant position at Simon and Schuster’s Children’s Division.

“I started out reporting to two different directors while working on ordering reprint orders,” Rosalia said. “By the end of the year, I moved into my own office working on books that have yet to be published. After juggling two internships during each semester of graduate school, I’m ecstatic to have finally landed my dream job.”

Rosalia credits lessons learned in skating with getting her through the tough times, from all-nighters writing term papers to losing her dad to leukemia and watching her mom fight through uterine cancer; she has also figured out post-college goals, graduate school, job rejections and now waking up each morning to go to a real job. She was recently promoted to production associate.

“After all my hard work and determination, landing my job at a prestigious publishing company has been my ‘Get Up’ moment,” Rosalia said.

She is also engaged to her longtime boyfriend, Chris. The two will wed in April.

“I owe a great deal of my success to growing up as a competitive figure skater, with parents who wanted nothing but the best for me,” Rosalia said. “It’s interesting to look back on all those years training, dedicating so much effort into a sport. At that time, I didn’t realize how much training would affect the way I would live my life in the future.”



Lucy O'Neill
Rising from shyness
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RESULTS

2018 PRUDENTIAL U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SAP Center at San Jose

San Jose, California, Dec. 28-Jan. 7

Competition officials: Lisa-Marie Allen, Judy Blumberg, Gretchen Bonnie, Aristeo Brito, Todd Bromley, Anne Cammett, John Cole, Katherine Conrad, Scott Cudmore, Deborah Currie, Kathaleen Cutone, Richard Dalley, Melissa Dillenbeck, Janis Engel, Alexander Enzmann, Wendy Enzmann, Joshua Fischel, Whitney Gaynor, Leslie Gianelli, Roger Glenn, Lynn Goldman, Troy Goldstein, Dana Graham, Peggy Graham, Eric Hampton, David Hamula, Kathleen Harmon, Charlotte Heidenreich, Victoria Hildebrand, Dana Hordyszynski, Robert Horen, Joseph Inman, Kerry Jennings-Cooper, Laurie Johnson, Hannah Katz, Melissa Kent, Linda Leaver, Laurie Lind, Hal Maron, Stefanie Mathewson, Kathleen McBride, John Millier, Heather Nemier, Alexandria Newman, Richard Perez, Karen Terry Perreault, Connacht Peterson, Julia Rey, Philipp Rey, Robert Rosenbluth, Kevin Rosenstein, David Santee, Libby Scanlan, Elliot Schwartz, Coco Gram Shean, William Smith, Katherine Specht, Gale Tanger, Jennifer Thompson, Marc Weitzman, Steve Winkler, Diana Wisner, Carol Wooley

Championship Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Bradie Tennell, 219.51, 1, 1
2. Mirai Nagasu, 213.84, 2, 2
3. Karen Chen, 198.59, 3, 4
4. Ashley Wagner, 196.19, 5, 3
5. Mariah Bell, 192.34, 6, 6
6. Starr Andrews, 189.91, 8, 5
7. Angela Wang, 188.01, 4, 7
8. Amber Glenn, 168.06, 9, 9
9. Courtney Hicks, 165.48, 11, 8
10. Tessa Hong, 156.86, 13, 11
11. Caroline Zhang, 156.38, 10, 14
12. Franchesca Chiera, 150.99, 14, 13
13. Hannah Miller, 149.14, 12, 16
14. Kaitlyn Nguyen, 146.20, 17, 12
15. Brynne McIsaac, 145.54, 20, 10
16. Emmy Ma, 138.02, 18, 15
17. Megan Wessenberg, 131.73, 22, 17
18. Katie McBeath, 124.64, 15, 18
19. Vivian Le, 122.60, 16, 19
20. Emily Chan, 104.43, 19, 20
21. Polina Edmunds, 63.78
22. Ashley Lin, 42.33

Championship Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Nathan Chen, 315.23, 1, 1
2. Ross Miner, 274.51, 6, 2
3. Vincent Zhou, 273.83, 5, 3
4. Adam Rippon, 268.34, 2, 4
5. Grant Hochstein, 255.31, 4, 5
6. Jason Brown, 253.68, 3, 6
7. Timothy Dolensky, 236.33, 7, 9
8. Alexander Johnson, 232.62, 10, 8
9. Max Aaron, 224.20, 12, 10
10. Aleksei Krasnozhan, 223.58, 8, 13
11. Jimmy Ma, 222.41, 11, 11
12. Tomoki Hiwatashi, 217.53, 15, 7
13. Andrew Torgashev, 217.01, 9, 14
14. Sean Rabbitt, 214.46, 13, 12

15. Jordan Moeller, 180.21, 20, 15
16. Ben Jalovick, 178.33, 19, 16
17. Daniel Kulenkamp, 177.95, 18, 17
18. Emmanuel Savary, 177.13, 14, 18
19. Sebastien Payannet, 172.89, 16, 20
20. Scott Dyer, 172.04, 17, 19
21. Kevin Shum, 163.33, 21, 21

Championship Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Alexa Scimeca-Knierim/Christopher Knierim, 206.60, 1, 1
2. Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, 200.80, 2, 2
3. Deanna Stellato-Dudek/Nathan Bartholomay, 197.65, 3, 3
4. Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc, 187.14, 8, 4
5. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 186.32, 4, 5
6. Marissa Castelli/Mervin Tran, 182.38, 6, 6
7. Chelsea Liu/Brian Johnson, 167.47, 5, 9
8. Jessica Pfund/Joshua Santillan, 163.62, 7, 10
9. Jessica Calalang/Zack Sidhu, 162.23, 12, 7
10. Erika Smith/AJ Reiss, 159.03, 11, 8
11. Nica Digerness/Danny Neudecker, 154.10, 9, 11
12. Winter Dearnodoff/Max Settlege, 145.66, 10, 13
13. Caitlin Fields/Ernie Utah Stevens, 142.12, 13, 12
14. Alexandria Yao/Jacob Simon, 128.12, 15, 14
15. Allison Timlen/Justin Highgate-Brutman, 126.05, 14, 15

Championship Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 197.12, 2, 2
2. Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, 196.93, 1, 3
3. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 196.60, 3, 1
4. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 187.61, 4, 4
5. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, 176.07, 5, 6
6. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 175.19, 6, 5
7. Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit, 167.98, 7, 7
8. Alexandra Aldridge/Daniel Eaton, 153.93, 8, 8
9. Karina Manta/Joseph Johnson, 151.00, 9, 9
10. Julia Biechler/Damian Dodge, 136.37, 10, 10
11. Elicia Reynolds/Stephen Reynolds, 110.92, 11, 11
12. Cassidy Klopstock/Jacob Schedl, 89.28, 12, 12
13. Ashley Bain/Oleg Altukhov, 79.42, 13, 13

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Alysa Liu, 184.16, 1, 1
2. Pooja Kalyan, 166.53, 4, 3
3. Ting Cui, 165.51, 11, 2
4. Hanna Harrell, 154.36, 5, 4
5. Emily Zhang, 149.83, 2, 8
6. Gabriella Izzo, 148.24, 3, 7
7. Angelina Huang, 143.84, 6, 9
8. Akari Nakahara, 143.41, 7, 6
9. Audrey Shin, 140.50, 10, 5
10. Emma Coppess, 139.30, 8, 10
11. Lily Sun, 137.75, 9, 11
12. Jenna Shi, 114.50, 12, 12

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Camden Pulkinen, 219.29, 1, 1
2. Dinh Tran, 199.95, 2, 2
3. Maxim Naumov, 179.00, 3, 4
4. Ryan Dunk, 172.68, 10, 3
5. Tony Lu, 166.57, 4, 7
6. Alex Wellman, 160.69, 8, 6
7. Paul Yeung, 158.71, 11, 5
8. Sasha Lunin, 148.67, 9, 8
9. Peter Liu, 143.63, 5, 11
10. Patrick Frohling, 138.43, 12, 10

11. Kendrick Weston, 136.83, 6, 12
12. Justin Wichmann, 135.95, 13, 9
13. Luke Ferrante, 129.58, 7, 13

Junior Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Audrey Lu/Misha Mitrofanov, 173.31, 1, 1
2. Sarah Feng/TJ Nyman, 155.57, 3, 2
3. Laiken Lockley/Keenan Prochnow, 153.04, 2, 3
4. Nadine Wang/Spencer Howe, 135.96, 5, 4
5. Elli Kopmar/Jonah Barrett, 132.90, 4, 5
6. Ainsley Peterson/Griffin Schwab, 124.21, 6, 6
7. Sarah Rose/Ian Meyh, 115.54, 9, 7
8. Evelyn Grace Hanns/Kristofer Ogren, 114.62, 7, 9
9. Meiryla Findley/Matthew Rounis, 113.82, 8, 8
10. Eliana Secunda/Blake Eisenach, 100.74, 10, 10
11. Sapphire Jaeckel/Matthew Scoralice, 88.92, 11, 12
12. Cora DeWyre/Jacob Nussle, 85.44, 12, 11
13. Juliette Erickson/Nathan Grundhofer, 64.86, 13, 13

Junior Dance

Pl. Name, TS, SD, FD

1. Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, 159.18, 1, 1
2. Caroline Green/Gordon Green, 146.72, 2, 2
3. Chloe Lewis/Logan Bye, 143.21, 3, 3
4. Eliana Gropman/Ian Somerville, 138.80, 4, 5
5. Avonley Nguyen/Vadym Kolesnik, 134.31, 7, 4
6. Emma Gunter/Caleb Wein, 132.89, 5, 6
7. Jocelyn Haines/James Koszuta, 126.59, 6, 7
8. Alina Efimova/Alexander Petrov, 120.92, 8, 8
9. Katarina DelCamp/Maxwell Gart, 116.65, 9, 10
10. Isabella Amoia/Luca Becker, 116.08, 10, 9
11. Sophia Elder/Christopher Elder, 111.02, 11, 12
12. Molly Cesane/Nikolay Usanov, 106.60, 13, 11
13. Allie Rose/J.T. Michel, 103.55, 12, 13

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Beverly Zhu, 167.69, 1, 1
2. Emilea Zingas, 132.68, 6, 3
3. Violeta Ushakova, 131.52, 3, 5
4. Calista Choi, 131.20, 10, 2
5. Noelle Rosa, 130.86, 5, 4
6. Sophia Chouinard, 125.99, 8, 6
7. Christina Lin, 125.58, 2, 8
8. Sarah Jung, 123.08, 9, 7
9. Jessica Lin, 118.50, 7, 10
10. Ariella Masarsky, 117.79, 4, 11
11. Maddie Weiler, 117.56, 11, 9
12. Amie Miyagi, WD

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Goku Endo, 156.14, 2, 2
2. Max Lake, 155.77, 3, 1
3. Nicholas Hsieh, 151.64, 1, 6
4. Lucas Altieri, 144.63, 4, 4
5. Chase Finster, 142.44, 9, 3
6. Jordan Evans, 136.74, 5, 8
8. Jonathan Yang, 136.50, 6, 7
9. Henry Privett-Mendoza, 119.08, 8, 10
10. Daniel Argueta, 116.83, 12, 9
11. Joshua Simkin, 112.09, 11, 11
12. Eric Prober, 105.14, 10, 12

Novice Pairs

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Jade Hom/Franz-Peter Jerosch, 126.99, 1, 1
2. Joanna Hubbard/William Hubbard, 118.31, 7, 2
3. Masha Mokhova/Ivan Mokhov, 116.64, 2, 5
4. Ellie McClellan/Jim Garbutt, 113.84, 8, 4
5. Hilary Asher/Nathaniel Dennler, 112.84, 4, 6

RESULTS

- Ashley Haywood/Alec Schmitt, 110.74, 10, 3
- Jasmine Fendi/Joshua Fendi, 110.03, 3, 7
- Isabelle Goldstein/Keyton Bearinger, 106.90, 5, 9
- Georgia Bush/Timmy Chapman, 106.36, 9, 8
- Sarah Burden/Jake Pagano, 106.17, 6, 10
- Isabelle Martins/Ryan Bedard, 94.75, 11, 11
- Paige Ruggeri/Christopher Aaron Singletary, 86.76, 12, 12
- Milena Markin/Matthew Essigmann, 69.55, 13, 13

Novice Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, P2, FD

- Katarina Wolfkostin/Howard Zhao, 122.41, 2, 2, 1
- Gianna Buckley/Jeffrey Chen, 116.77, 1, 1, 5
- Caroline Liu/Kenan Slevira, 115.56, 4, 3, 2
- Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 112.95, 3, 4, 4
- Oona Brown/Gage Brown, 106.48, 6, 10, 3
- Isabel Blahunka/Will Shawver, 99.68, 5, 6, 8
- Maxine Weatherby/Dmitry Bogomol, 99.11, 9, 8, 6
- Cordelia Pride/Benjamin Lawless, 96.43, 8, 5, 10
- Anna Pettersson/TJ Carey, 94.40, 10, 7, 9
- Jordan Lin/Morgan Sletten, 93.68, 12, 9, 7
- Paulina Brykalova/Daniel Brykalov, 90.16, 7, 12, 11
- Isabella Flores/Mikhail Gumba, 86.84, 11, 11, 12

2018 ISU EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Moscow, January, 15–21

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Alina Zagitova, RUS, 238.24, 1, 1
 - Evgenia Medvedeva, RUS, 232.86, 2, 2
 - Carolina Kostner, ITA, 204.25, 3, 4
 - Maria Sotskova, RUS, 200.81, 4, 3
 - Loena Hendrickx, BEL, 176.91, 8, 5
- (24 ladies qualified for the free skate)

Men

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Javier Fernandez, ESP, 295.55, 1, 1
 - Dmitri Aliev, RUS, 274.06, 2, 2
 - Mikhail Kolyada, RUS, 258.90, 4, 3
 - Deniss Vasiljevs, LAT, 243.52, 3, 5
 - Alexei Bychenko, ISR, 238.44, 8, 4
- (24 men qualified for the free skate)

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SP, FS

- Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov, RUS, 221.60, 5, 1
 - Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov, RUS, 211.01, 3, 2
 - Natalia Zabiakova/Alexander Enbert, RUS, 210.18, 2, 3
 - Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, FRA, 210.17, 1, 4
 - Valentina Marchei/Ondrej Hotarek, ITA, 204.20, 4, 5
- (14 pairs competed)

Ice Dance

Pl. Name, Country, Points, SD, FD

- Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron, FRA, 203.16, 1, 1
 - Ekaterina Bobrova/Dmitri Soloviev, RUS, 187.13, 4, 2
 - Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin, RUS, 184.86, 2, 3
 - Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte, ITA, 180.65, 3, 5
 - Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri, ITA, 177.75, 5, 4
- (20 teams qualified for free dance)

FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Taipei City, Taipei, Jan. 22–27

Ladies

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

- Kaori Sakamoto, JPN, 214.21, 2, 1
- Mai Mihara, JPN, 210.57, 3, 2
- Satoko Miyahara, JPN, 207.02, 1, 3

- Dabin Choi, KOR, 190.23, 5, 4
 - 5. Mariah Bell, USA, 185.84, 4, 5**
 - Hanul Kim, KOR, 173.10, 6, 8
 - 7. Starr Andrews, USA, 172.65, 7, 7**
 - Alanie Chartrand, CAN, 172.41, 8, 6
 - 9. Angela Wang, USA, 161.04, 9, 11**
 - Xiangning Li, CHN, 160.40, 10, 10
- (23 ladies competed)

Men

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

- Boyang Jin, CHN, 300.95, 2, 1
 - Shoma Uno, JPN, 297.94, 1, 2
 - 3. Jason Brown, USA, 269.22, 4, 3**
 - Keiji Tanaka, JPN, 260.31, 3, 5
 - 5. Max Aaron, USA, 255.45, 6, 4**
 - Misha Ge, UZB, 248.96, 8, 7
 - Kevin Reynolds, CAN, 241.50, 13, 6
 - Elladj Balde, CAN, 238.20, 12, 8
 - Nam Nguyen, CAN, 237.52, 7, 10
 - Han Yan, CHN, 227.93, 5, 12
 - 11. Grant Hochstein, USA, 226.39, 15, 9**
- (30 men competed)

Pairs

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

- 1. Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, USA, 194.42, 3, 1**
- 2. Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc, USA, 190.61, 1, 2**
- Tae Ok Ryom/Ju Sik Kim, PRK, 184.98, 4, 3
- Liubov Ilyushechkina/Dylan Moscovitch, CAN, 179.00, 5, 5
- 5. Deanna Stellato/Nathan Bartholomay, USA, 178.38, 6, 4**
- Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor, AUS, 178.10, 2, 6
- Camille Ruest/Andrew Wolfe, CAN, 159.73, 9, 7
- Miu Suzaki/Ryuichi Kihara, JPN, 157.27, 7, 8
- Sydney Kolodziej/Maxime Deschamps, CAN, 153.57, 8, 9
- Riku Miura/Shoya Ichihashi, JPN, 126.19, 10, 10

Ice dance

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SD, FD

- 1. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, USA, 174.29, 1, 1**
 - Caroline Soucisse/Shane Firus, CAN, 164.96, 3, 2
 - Kara Muramoto/Chris Reed, JPN, 163.86, 2, 3
 - 4. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, USA, 160.12, 4, 4**
 - Shiyue Wang/Xinyu, CHN, 158.21, 5, 5
 - 6. Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons, USA, 155.30, 6, 6**
 - Yura Min/Alexander Gamelin, KOR, 151.38, 7, 7
 - Sarah Arnold/Thomas Williams, CAN, 140.10, 9, 8
 - Haley Sales/Nikolas Wamsteeker, CAN, 139.48, 8, 10
 - Misato Komatsubara/Tim Koleto, JPN, 138.18, 10, 9
- (14 teams competed)
- U.S. officials:** Kathleen Harmon, Whitney Gaynor, Doug Williams, Troy Goldstein, Deborah Currie, Peggy Graham

2018 MIDWESTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kansas, Jan. 24–28

Competition officials: Lauren Bracken, Leanne Cluff-Richardson, Charles Cope, Jeanette Davey, Suzanne Ferguson, Rebecca Finder, Elizabeth Harty, Wayne Hundley, Audrey Kamm, Kristy Kasapis, Carylyn Landt, Elizabeth Lee, Lois Long, Alexandra Mahler-Haug, Hannelore Murphy, Daren Patterson, Mary Lou Rothman, David San-tee, Tiffani Shipley, Jennifer Simon, Gale Tanger, Sharon Watson, Hazel Wecal, Mary Ann Wilcox, Steve Wolkin

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

- Teams Elite, 67.83
- Capital Ice Chips, 66.65
- Crystallettes, 61.71
- Starlights, 59.94
- Saint Louis Synergy, 55.83
- Starfire, 54.72
- Allegrol, 54.59
- Dazzlers, 48.96
- Ice Diamonds, 48.93
- Fond Du Lac Blades, 48.30
- Auroras, 47.43
- Chicago Jazz, 46.69
- Hockettes, 44.86
- Cleveland Ice Storm, 43.38
- Houston Elite, 43.08
- SwanSyncSation, 42.48
- Chicago Skates, 42.01
- Windjammers, 40.71
- Kalamazoo Kinetic, 39.88
- Kansas City Illusion, 39.31
- Northern Fusion, 38.84
- Madison Ice Diamonds, 37.99

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

- Northernettes, 106.94, 1, 1

Juvenile

Pl. Name, TS

- Teams Elite, 48.23
- Starlights, 46.37
- Chicago Jazz, 44.28
- Crystallettes, 40.23
- Capital Ice Connection, 37.85
- Saint Louis Synergy, 36.76
- Hockettes, 35.87
- Starfire, 35.23
- Cleveland Ice Storm, 33.06

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

- Teams Elite, 72.82
- Starlights, 66.22
- Crystallettes, 56.24
- Hockettes, 54.18
- Dazzlers, 50.30
- Capital Ice Chill, 49.08
- SwanSyncSation, 47.80
- St. Louis Diamond Edges, 44.90
- Cleveland Ice Storm, 43.20
- Onyx, 43.08

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

- Crystallettes, 53.84
- Starlights, 42.31
- Infinity Onyx, 38.70
- Leather and Laces, 35.21
- United Ice, 34.05
- Chicago Radiance, 33.11
- Kansas City Illusion, 32.87
- Wisconsin Inspire, 31.04

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

- University of Michigan, 87.16
- Miami University, 73.42
- Adrian College, 72.98
- Western Michigan University, 68.74
- Michigan State University, 67.56
- University of Illinois, 51.78

Masters

Pl. Name, TS

- Allegrol, 7/1
- Goldenettes, 6/2
- Braemar Panache, 7/4

RESULTS

4. Evolution, 7/5
5. Hockettes, 6/5
6. Rhythm and Blades, 7/6

2018 PACIFIC COAST SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kansas, Jan.24-28

Competition officials: (See Midwestern results)

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. Denver Synchronicity, 44.64
2. Washington Ice Emeralds, 26.53

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Del Sol, 58.64
2. Matrix, 53.74
3. Fusion, 50.24
4. California Gold, 44.53
5. Tremors of San Francisco, 44.23
6. Denver Synchronicity, 42.51
7. Star Lit Blades, 41.01
8. California Edge, 33.36

Juvenile

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Del Sol, 40.82
2. Park City Icing, 27.33

Masters

Pl. Name, TS

1. Ice Symmetrics, 5/1
2. Denver Synchronicity, 7/2
3. Washington Ice Emeralds, 7/3

2018 EASTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Germain Arena, Estero, Florida, Jan.17-20

Competition Officials: Robert Bauer, Erin Bridge, Ann Buckley, Martha Buckley, Leonard Colarusso, Jeanette Davey, Laura Days, Deveny Deck, Judith Edmunds, Ann Fauver, Susan Haugh, Devon Hensel, Megan Walsh Jackson, Dann Krueger, Cheryl Litman, Nancy Marron-Asti, Summer Nagy, Rachael Naphtal, Lauren O'Toole, Matthew O'Toole, Richard Perez, Stephanie Pusch, Elliot Schwartz, Barbara Shostak, Steve Wolkin

Juvenile

Pl. Name, TS

1. Skyliners, 52.25
2. Mini Mates, 48.13
3. DC EDGE, 46.32
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 42.97
5. Team Image, 42.25
6. Team Delaware, 39.96
7. Synchroettes, 37.80
8. Team Excel, 34.12
9. The Colonials, 33.18
10. IceLiners, 22.25

Intermediate

Pl. Name, TS

1. Skyliners, 69.75
2. Team Image, 64.76
3. Star Mates, 63.45
4. Chesapeake Syncho, 60.56
5. DC EDGE, 54.91
6. Team Excel, 51.74
7. Team Delaware, 51.06
8. Central Park Ice, 50.95
9. Team Ashburn, 47.54
10. Mirror Images, 43.80
11. Richmond Synchro, 43.36
12. Icing on the Cape, 42.52
13. Synchro Stars, 42.27

14. Precisely Right, 37.65

Junior

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. DC EDGE, 122.23, 1, 2
2. Team Delaware, 114.92, 2, 1
3. Philadelphia Symmetry, 102.72, 4, 3
4. Synchroettes, 99.79, 3, 5
5. Team Excel, 98.30, 5, 4

Novice

Pl. Name, TS

1. Team Image, 70.80
2. Ice Mates, 70.50
3. Skyliners, 67.99
4. DC EDGE, 60.51
5. Team Delaware, 50.60
6. Philadelphia Symmetry, 49.67
7. Team Ashburn, 44.44
8. Mirror Images, 43.57
9. Synchroettes, 40.95

Adult

Pl. Name, TS

1. DC EDGE, 58.67
2. Esprit de Corps, 56.32
3. Team Excel, 56.02
4. Team Delaware, 54.83
5. The Colonials, 51.82
6. Ocean Blades, 43.80
7. Team Image, 43.51
8. Gotham City, 39.43

Collegiate

Pl. Name, TS

1. University of Delaware, 76.20
2. University of Massachusetts, 53.99
3. Boston University, 50.80
4. Liberty University Flames, 41.65

Masters

Pl. Name, TS

1. DC EDGE, 6/1
2. Esprit de Corps, 5/2
3. Team Delaware, 4/3
4. The Colonials, 5/4
5. Essex Blades, 5/5
6. Gotham City Synchro, 4/6
7. Philly Spirit, 7/7

NEUCHATEL TROPHY

Neuchatel, Switzerland, January 19-21, 2018

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Helsinki Rockettes, FIN, 202.96, 1, 1
2. Team Unique, FIN, 186.57, 2, 4
3. **Haydenettes, USA, 185.83, 3, 2**
4. Nova, CAN, 182.32, 4, 3
5. Lumineers, FIN, 159.81, 6, 5
6. **Crystallettes, USA, 159.53, 5, 6**
7. Olympia, CZE, 96.49, 7, 7
8. Ice Storm, AUS, 90.22, 8, 8

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Fantastic, FIN, 160.58, 1, 1
2. Team Mystique, FIN, 152.60, 2, 2
3. **Hockettes, USA, 114.94, 3, 3**
4. Cool Dream, SUI, 97.16, 4, 4
5. Ladybirds, ITA, 82.44, 5, 5
6. Iceskateers Elite, AUS, 73.53, 7, 6
7. Shining Blades, ITA, 69.57, 6, 7
8. Southern Sky, AUS, 54.26, 8, 8

LEON LURJE TROPHY

Gothenburg, Sweden, January 27-28, 2018

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. **Haydenettes, USA, 197.13, 1, 1**
2. Team Surprise, SWE, 192.11, 2, 2
3. **Miami University, USA, 156.84, 3, 3**
4. Boomerang, SWE, 139.96, 4, 4
5. Unity, SWE, 125.88, 5, 5
6. Ice Storm, AUS, 102.28, 6, 6

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Sunrise, RUS, 170.16, 1, 1
2. **Lexettes, USA, 158.29, 2, 2**
3. Nexxice, CAN, 152.80, 3, 3
4. Fire Blades, FIN, 136.78, 4, 4
5. **Chicago Jazz, USA, 127.33, 7, 6**
6. Spirit, SWE, 124.56, 9, 5
7. Ice Steps, FIN, 121.94, 6, 7
8. Seaside, SWE, 117.77, 8, 8
9. Nova, SWE, 117.46, 5, 9
10. Solway Stars, GBR, 97.13, 11, 10
11. Moonlights, SWE, 95.61, 10, 11
12. IceSkateers Elite, AUS, 87.91, 12, 12
13. Mirum, ESP, 81.14, 13, 13

MOZART CUP

Salzburg, Austria, Jan. 25-28

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Les Supremes, CAN, 185.12, 1, 1
2. **Skyliners, USA, 179.92, 2, 2**
3. Lumineers, FIN, 168.78, 3, 3
4. **Adrian College, USA, 147.28, 4, 4**
5. Hot Shivers, ITA, 127.44, 6, 5
6. Team Passion, HUN, 124.60, 5, 6
7. Skating Graces, GER, 105.46, 7, 8
8. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 101.12, 8, 7
9. Nova, AUS, 88.80, 10, 9
10. Team Viola, GBR, 84.70, 9, 10
11. Flying Angels, ITA, 77.26, 12, 11
12. Sweet Mozart, AUT, 77.26, 11, 12
13. Wight Jewels, GBR, 61.56, 13, 13

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Junost, RUS, 172.82, 1, 2
2. Crystal Ice, RUS, 165.84, 2, 1
3. Les Supremes, CAN, 158.72, 3, 3
4. Musketeers, FIN, 132.50, 4, 4
5. **Fond du Lac Blades, USA, 115.60, 6, 5**
6. Hot Shivers, ITA, 109.20, 5, 6
7. Team Darlings, CZE, 103.32, 7, 7
8. Sun City Swing, FIN, 100.44, 8, 8
9. Black Diam's, FRA, 87.36, 9, 9
10. Flying Angels, ITA, 71.68, 10, 11
11. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 71.66, 12, 10
12. Southern Sky, AUS, 60.12, 14, 12
13. Team Magic, HUN, 60.08, 13, 13
14. Ice Fire, POL, 58.90, 11, 14

CUP OF BERLIN

Berlin, Germany, January 19-21, 2018

Senior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Skyliners, USA, 180.74, 1, 1
3. Miami University, USA, 162.32, 2, 3

Junior

Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS

1. Skyliners, USA, 165.73, 1, 1
2. Starlights, USA, 140.56, 2, 2

APPOINTMENTS

Intermediate Figure Test Judge

Jennifer Medeiros, Spring Branch, Texas

Bronze Singles Test Judge

Charlotte Elster, The Plains, Ohio; Jessica Lovich-Sapola, Avon Lake, Ohio; Claudia Sipan, Centennial, Colo.

Silver Singles Test Judge

Rainer Kokotakis, Santa Monica, Calif.; Zoe Perez, San Marino, Calif.; Scheherezade Redmond, Oak Park, Mich.

Gold Singles Test Judge

Marilyn Day, Shallotte, N.C.; Susan Scott, Belmont, Mass.; Nancy Strahan, Baltimore, Md.

Bronze Dance Test Judge

Ellyn Kestnbaum, Bethesda, Md.; Cheryl Litman, Fairfax Station, Va.

Silver Dance Test Judge

Nancy Ginkus-O'Connor, E Greenville, Pa.; Karri Meyers, Manalapan, N.J.; Carrie Tremble, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Gold Dance Test Judge

Wayne Hundley, Riverside, Calif.
Sectional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge
William Tran, Monterey Park, Calif.

Nonqualifying Synchronized Competition Judge

Scheherezade Redmond, Oak Park, Mich.

Sectional Singles/Pairs Referee

James Webb, Toluca Lake, Calif.

Certified 6.0 Accountant

Kelly Gillette, Ames, Iowa

Regional Accountant

Elizabeth Harty, Albert Lea, Minn.; Andrea Shorin, Ambler, Pa.

Regional Music Coordinator

Gordon Zaft, Chandler, Ariz.

Nonqualifying Singles/Pairs/Dance Video Replay Operator

Srivitta Kengskool, Pasadena, Calif.

MEMORIAL FUND

Area of Greatest Need/ General Donation

Anonymous
Elizabeth Alkire
Dianne Blakely
Galina Cohen
Anne and Tom Curzon
David Fedor
Betty Govatos
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Vicki Jerozal
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DeDe Disbrow

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Megan Berntson's students
Megan Berntson

Susan Bonn

Steven Wasserman

Karen Boornazian

Sue Miller

Tamie Campbell

Janet Carpenter

Claire Ferguson

Janet Carpenter

Becky Finer

Meghan Schenker

**Matthew Lind,
Coach and Choreographer**
Imara Dole

Juliet Newcomer, Ginny McNally and Molly Marron

2018 National Trial Judges

Deborah Martin

Noel Gessner

Ginny McNally

Meghan Schenker

Daren Patterson and Pam Pangle

Capital Critique Trial Judges

Shirley Sherman

Chicago Figure Skating Club
Skokie Valley Skating Club

Jackie Vargo, Sara Kastner, Jen Hartley, Kevin Rosenstein and Laurie Johnson

2018 National Trial Judges

"In Support Of"

Elliana Pogrebinsky and Alex Benoit
Patricia Yamanouchi

Jasmine and Joshua Fendi
Andy and Evelyn Depew

CALENDAR

MARCH

10 | Northern Lights Figure Skating Club's Basic Skills Skating Competition held in East Grand Forks, MN, sponsored by Northern Lights FSC. Contact janakaye5@yahoo.com for more information.

10 | Love To Skate held in Eugene, OR, sponsored by Eugene FSC. Contact cgbrown5@comcast.net for more information.

10 | Pot O' Gold held in Rolling Hills Estate, CA, sponsored by Ice Chalet Skating Academy. Contact sk8njjo@gmail.com for more information.

10 | 2018 Spring Thaw Compete USA Competition held in Peoria, IL, sponsored by Heart of Illinois SC. Contact agp_skater_pekin@hotmail.com for more information.

10-11 | Skate Challenge held in Cicero, NY, sponsored by SC of Central New York. Contact nmartin48@me.com for more information.

11 | Malone Figure Skating Club Basic Skills Competition held in Malone, NY, sponsored by Malone FSC. Contact julie@flemingsfurniture.com for more information.

11 | Reisterstown Sportsplex 10th Annual Basic Skills Competition held in Reisterstown, MD, sponsored by Reisterstown Learn To Skate. Contact kirsten@rtownsports.com for more information.

11 | 29th Annual Eau Claire Figure Skating Synchronized Competition held in Eau Claire, WI, sponsored by Eau Claire FSC. Contact southwak@hotmail.com for more information.

11 | 2018 Colorado High School Team Figure Skating Championships held in Centennial, CO, sponsored by Denver FSC. Contact rlat4parker@msn.com for more information.

11 | Diversity Classic held in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena. Contact mnewberry@fdia.org for more information.

11-15 | NCA National Capital Area Compete USA Series held in Waldorf, MD, sponsored by Capital Clubhouse Skating Academy. Contact sberge@capitalclubhouse.com for more information.

16-17 | 15th Annual South Florida Challenge held in Coral Springs, FL, sponsored by Panthers FSC. Contact pinkymdr@aim.com for more information.

16-18 | 2018 Cleveland Invitational Championships held in Chagrin Falls, OH, sponsored by Euclid Blade & Edge FSC. Contact cbarker56@yahoo.com for more information.

17 | Southern Connecticut Learn to Skate USA at Terry Conners Rink held in Stamford, CT, sponsored by Terry Conners Skating School. Contact helaine.walker@skatescsc.com for more information.

17 | 2018 St. Patrick's Day Competition held in Wake Forest, NC, sponsored by Triangle FSC. Contact terry.schnurr13@gmail.com for more information.

17 | Ellenton Ice In House Competition held in Ellenton, FL, sponsored by Ellenton Ice & Sports Complex. Contact sraley.ellentonice@gmail.com for more information.

18 | 2018 Shamrock Skate held in Pittsburgh, PA, sponsored by RMU Island Sports Center Skating Academy. Contact sutton@rmu.edu for more information.

18 | Sunflower Classic held in Minnetonka, MN, sponsored by Lake Minnetonka FSC. Contact jcummings@eminnetonka.com for more information.

18 | Wisconsin High School Series State Final held in Schofield, WI, sponsored by Timberline SC. Contact dgrab_87@yahoo.com for more information.

18 | South Shore Open — 11th Annual Katy Hayden held in Rockland, MA, sponsored by South Shore SC. Contact sarahwarren74@yahoo.com for more information.

22-24 | Glacier Challenge 2018 held in Missoula, MT, sponsored by Missoula FSC. Contact pkhergett@gmail.com for more information.

23-24 | North Star Open 2018 held in Westborough, MA, sponsored by North Star FSC. Contact 2018NewEnglandRegionals@gmail.com for more information.

24 | Galactic Ice Spring Skate held in Altoona, PA, sponsored by Galactic Ice Learn To Skate. Contact Coachjohn88@gmail.com for more information.

24 | Fiesta Skate 2018 held in Kirkland, WA, sponsored by Sno-King Ice Arena Kirkland. Contact lisa@snokingkirkland.com for more information.

24 | The Rinks at Shelton Spring Classic held in Shelton, CT, sponsored by Upper Fairfield Skating Academy. Contact jmelotto@snet.net for more information.

24 | 35th Annual Garren Invitational Competition held in Troy, NY, sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC. Contact jpalladino2@nycap.rr.com for more information.

24-25 | Massena Invitational Competition held in Massena, NY, sponsored by Massena FSC. Contact tsavage2@twcny.rr.com for more information.

25 | Spring Fever 18 held in Indian Trail, NC, sponsored by Extreme Ice Center Skating School. Contact jennyg@xicenter.com for more information.

APRIL

4-8 | Fort Collins Classic held in Fort Collins, CO, sponsored by Fort Collins FSC. Contact sinjinaz@icloud.com for more information.

5-8 | W.I.M 2018 Competition held in Milwaukee, WI, sponsored by Greater Milwaukee FSC. Contact fours282@aol.com for more information.

5-8 | Fort Collins Classic held in Fort Collins, CO, sponsored by Fort Collins FSC. Contact sinjinaz@icloud.com for more information.

6-8 | Cardinal Classic held in Dale City, VA, sponsored by SC of Northern Virginia. Contact melissabmahle@gmail.com for more information.

6-8 | 2018 Morris Open held in Morristown, NJ, sponsored by SC of Morris NJ. Contact Kkd.davis@verizon.net for more information.

7 | 2018 Hodag Skate Classic held in Rhineland-

er, WI, sponsored by Rhineland FSC. Contact cbrunette33@gmail.com for more information.

8 | 2018 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.

8 | Dreams Begin Here held in Antioch, TN, sponsored by Scott Hamilton Skating Academy. Contact ptrujillo@nashvillepredators.com for more information.

12-15 | 2018 Florida Open Championship held in Orlando, FL, sponsored by Central Florida FSC. Contact tlbcffsc@gmail.com for more information.

12-15 | 43rd Annual Ladybug Competition held in Flossmoor, IL, sponsored by Glenwood FSC. Contact mayfsc@aol.com for more information.

12-15 | 2018 Skate Kansas City held in Independence, MO, sponsored by Kansas City FSC. Contact kjunger@me.com for more information.

13-14 | Bellingham Blades Invitational 2018 held in Bellingham, WA, sponsored by Sportsplex Skate Academy. Contact kerif@bellingshamsportsplex.com for more information.

14 | 14th annual Mountain Town Classic held in Mount Pleasant, MI, sponsored by Mt. Pleasant FSC. Contact gpsk8r@gmail.com for more information.

14-15 | Eastern Iowa Invitational held in Cedar Rapids, IA, sponsored by Eastern Iowa FSC. Contact Boezinger@me.com for more information.

14-15 | Philadelphia Areas held in Havertown, PA, sponsored by Crossroads FSC. Contact kafarinella@comcast.net for more information.

14-15 | Powerade State Games of North Carolina 2018 Figure Skating Championship held in Greensboro, NC, sponsored by Summit FSC of NC. Contact niceskate18@gmail.com for more information.

14-15 | 2018 Spring Funtastics held in Arvada, CO, sponsored by Mile High Figure Skating Assoc. Contact cmzeles@aol.com for more information.

15 | Freeport Spring Challenge held in Freeport, NY, sponsored by Freeport Skating Academy. Contact lizeaskate@gmail.com for more information.

15 | Basic Skills held in Canton, MI, sponsored by Skaters Edge. Contact jengoen@comcast.net for more information.

20-21 | Blades in Decatur held in Decatur, AL, sponsored by Point Mallard FSC. Contact driverbernadette@gmail.com for more information.

20-22 | Tri-States Figure Skating Competition held in Chelsea, MI, sponsored by Chelsea FSC. Contact megansalomon7@gmail.com for more information.

21 | Dogwood Blossom held in Reston, VA, sponsored by Reston Skating Academy. Contact spaterson@skatequest.com for more information.

21 | 7th Annual Southport Spring Classic held in Vernon Hills, IL, sponsored by Southport SC. Contact elainejohnson67@sbcglobal.net for more information.

CALENDAR

21-22 | Pigtail Classic 2018 held in Springdale, AR, sponsored by Ozark FSC. Contact rkaicesk8@yahoo.com for more information.

22 | Skate into Spring 2018 held in San Antonio, TX, sponsored by Northwoods Learn to Skate. Contact bstandifer@northwoodsice.net for more information.

27-28 | Blades in Decatur held in Decatur, AL, sponsored by Point Mallard FSC. Contact driverbernadette@gmail.com for more information.

27-29 | Spring Fling 2018 held in Strongsville, OH, sponsored by Strongsville SC. Contact cigoih41@gmail.com for more information.

28 | Vineyard Open held in Oak Bluffs, MA, sponsored by Martha's Vineyard FSC. Contact janelizabeth.taylor@gmail.com for more information.

28 | Compete USA Martha's Vineyard held in Oak Bluffs, MA, sponsored by Martha's Vineyard FSC. Contact bethboconnor27@gmail.com for more information.

28-29 | Cascade Ice Classic held in Renton, WA, sponsored by Sno King Arena in Renton. Contact kimaderickson@hotmail.com for more information.

29 | 11th Annual North Jersey FSC Learn to Skate Competition at the Ice Vault Arena

held in Wayne, NJ, sponsored by North Jersey FSC. Contact skate531@hotmail.com for more information.

29 | Spring Classic held in Bethpage, NY, sponsored by SC of New York. Contact cathryns@therinx.com for more information.

CORRECTION

On page 32 of the January issue, the photo of Shae Cardenas' family was taken by Jane Victoria Photography

OBITUARY



JOHNSON

Susan Nancy Anderson Johnson, an Olympic and World judge and longtime member of the Atlanta Figure Skating Club (FSC), passed away on Jan. 17, 2018. She was 81.

"[She] was an incredible woman who contributed immeasurably to our sport as an international judge, club officer and volunteer extraordinaire," the Atlanta FSC's monthly newsletter *Freestyler* said in its condolences.

Susan judged three World Championships and the ladies event at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

Figure skating became Susan's primary interest at age 12. She enjoyed membership in the FSC of Minneapolis from 1949 to 1961. From 1950 to 1953, she skated summers in St. Paul and performed in the thrice-weekly Pops Concerts.

She became a U.S. Figure Skating low-test judge on her 18th birthday in 1955. Following her move to Atlanta, Susan joined the Atlanta FSC in 1961. She became a national Judge in 1977, an international judge in

1984 and an ISU judge in 1993. Susan judged numerous test sessions, 185 nonqualifying competitions, 39 regional championships, 26 sectional championships, 14 national championships, 28 international competitions and 10 ISU championships.

Susan contributed articles for SKATING magazine, her favorite being "And Then There Were None," a fond remembrance of compulsory figures in the World Championships. She held many positions within U.S. Figure Skating, including tests committee chair and judges committee chair. Susan served as the International Committee's monitor for Sarah Hughes in 2002, the year Hughes became Olympic champion.

Susan served on the Atlanta FSC's board of directors for 16 years, as well as in many other roles within the club. With friend Ginny Ford, Susan co-chaired the 1980 U.S. Championships in Atlanta. She served as a member of the local organizing committee for the 2004 U.S. Championships in Atlanta.

Her impact on the sport and on other judges and officials was immeasurable.

"Susan was my special and personal mentor in the high level of judging," longtime national and ISU judge and official Joseph Inman said in his online condolences. "Her support resulted in my appointment as a World judge after taking the exam. I fully give her credit for this unique part of my life."

"Susan was a special lady in our sport of figure skating," Doug Williams, a former competitor, a veteran judge and official both domestically and internationally, said online. "She was there as a friend and mentor during many of my firsts. . . . Each step along the way, she was supportive and ever mentoring to help me become the best skater and judge that I could be. Her kindness and support will forever be remembered and cherished."

Susan was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the eldest of three daughters of Alden Clifton Anderson and Thelma lola Stein Anderson. She studied the violin for many years

and played in the high school orchestra. She was assistant editor of Edison High School's 1953 yearbook, *The Wizard*, and graduated third in a class of more than 300 students.

In 1953, she enrolled at the University of Minnesota as a chemistry major. She graduated magna cum laude in 1957. She attended graduate school at Northwestern University.

In August 1960, Susan married Ronald Carl Johnson, a fellow chemistry graduate student; their marriage lasted 57 years, until her death. Susan and Ron completed their Ph.D. studies at Northwestern under advisor Fred Basolo.

They moved to Atlanta in January 1961 after Ron accepted a teaching position at Emory University. Susan became the first woman to teach freshman chemistry at Georgia Tech, in 1961. She continued teaching and performing postdoctoral research with Henry Neumann from 1961 to 1964. After daughters Erica and Laura were born in 1964 and 1966, Susan threw herself into motherhood and stayed at home with her daughters for 10 years.

Susan held part-time jobs with Emory University's Chemistry Department for more than 25 years, working for professor Larry Clever, and later for professor Lanny Liebeskind as an editorial assistant for the chemistry journal *Organometallics*.

Susan was a member of Decatur Presbyterian Church. Other interests included reading, sewing, foreign languages, tennis, duplicate bridge and pet-parenthood to miniature poodle Fitzgerald.

She is survived by husband Ron; daughters Erica and Laura; sisters Judy Hadler and Nancy Tykwinski; sister-in-law Carolyn Johnson; brothers-in-law Bruce Hadler and John Tykwinski; nephews Richard Johnson, Bryan Homzik, Justin Hadler, and Jordan Hadler; niece Nicole Burke; and poodle Fitzgerald.

Donations in her honor be made to U.S. Figure Skating or to the Atlanta FSC.



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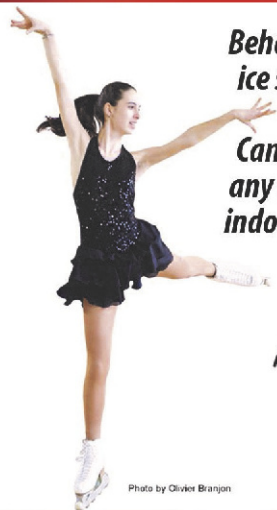


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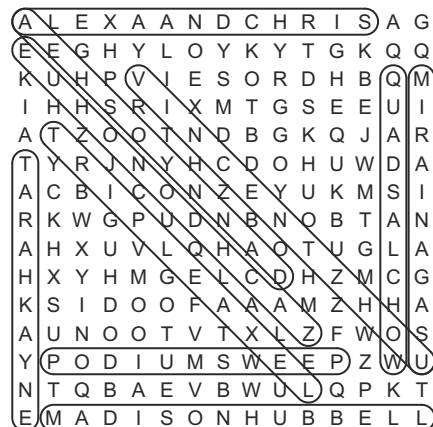
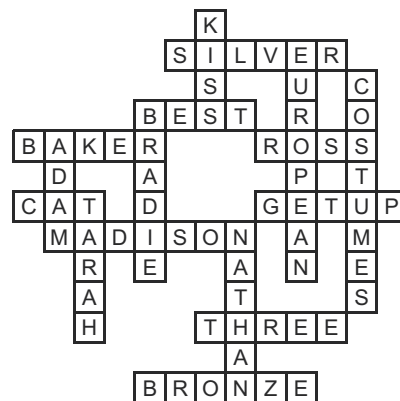
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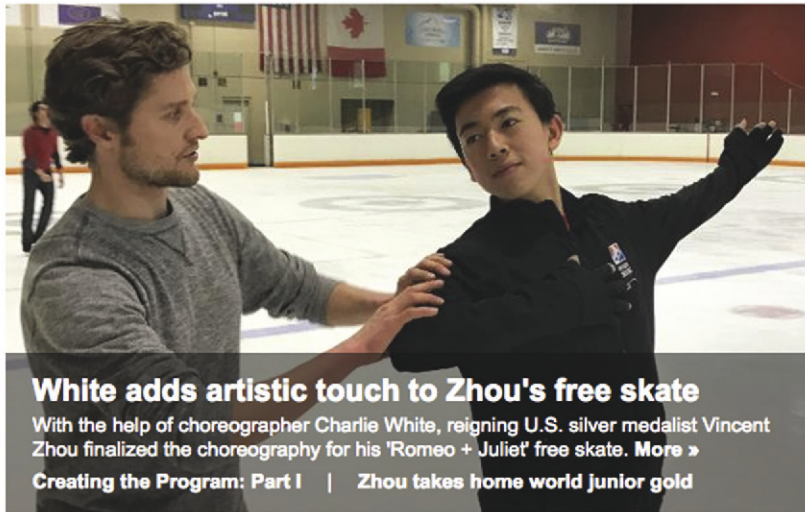
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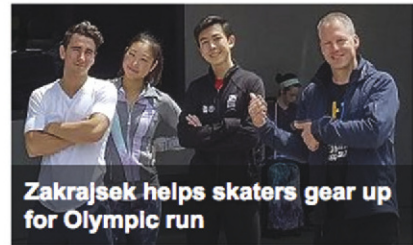


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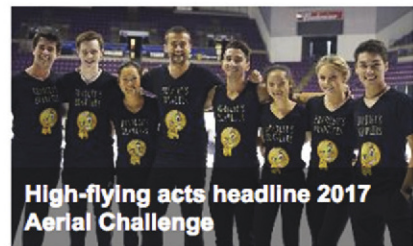


White adds artistic touch to Zhou's free skate

With the help of choreographer Charlie White, reigning U.S. silver medalist Vincent Zhou finalized the choreography for his 'Romeo + Juliet' free skate. [More »](#)
 Creating the Program: Part I | Zhou takes home world junior gold




Zakrajsek helps skaters gear up for Olympic run



High-flying acts headline 2017 Aerial Challenge


VIDEOS

- 


U.S. Open Champs - Group 1
- 

U.S. Open Champs - Group 2
- 

Skaters discuss favorite healthy snacks



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